

CIVIC MONITORING PROGRAMME
integrating the
FOSENET Food Security monitoring



**Community Assessment of Socioeconomic
Development and Food Security in Zimbabwe**

June and July 2004

For the executive summary please go to page 13
This report is based on monitoring of food security and social welfare at community level by the Civic Monitoring Programme. Monthly monitoring is complemented by a more detailed focus in quarterly monitoring of specific areas of social welfare. The next quarterly report will be produced in August /September on employment and incomes. Proposals for issues to monitor are welcomed and should be sent to fsmt2@mweb.co.zw

Background

The Civic Monitoring Programme aims to provide community based information to inform programmes aimed at socio-economic development and food security in Zimbabwe.

Civic organizations have through the monitoring group of the National NGO Food Security Network (FOSENET) been monitoring food security in Zimbabwe since July 2002. In 2004 this monitoring was widened to cover other social and economic conditions, recognizing the wide range of conditions influencing social and economic wellbeing. The Civic Monitoring Programme is implemented through NGOs based within districts and through community based monitors. Monthly reports from all areas of the country are compiled to provide a monthly situation assessment of food security and social welfare to enhance an ethical, effective and community focussed response to social and economic challenges and to inform civil society- state interactions on social and economic development.

This eighteenth round of monitoring nationally covers the months of **June and July 2004**. It is drawn from **166 monitoring reports** from **58 districts in June** and **142 reports from 51 districts in July** from all provinces of Zimbabwe.

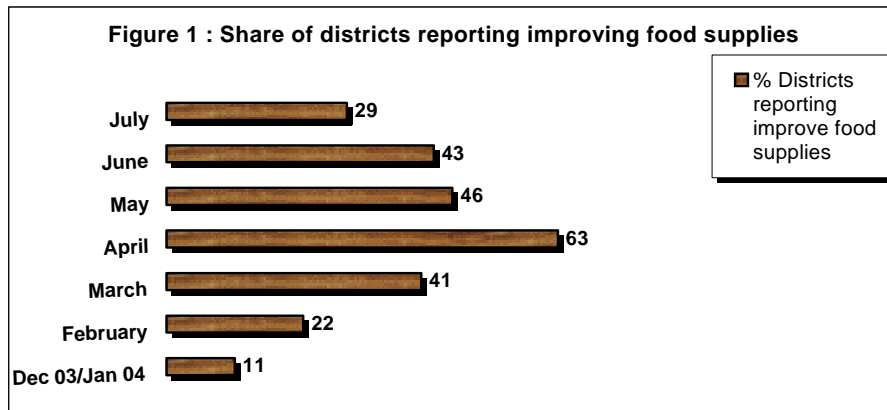
The monitoring information is collected from sentinel wards within districts. Data presented is cross validated through two or more site reports on any indicator. The Training, review by monitors and peer review is being continuously implemented in 2004 to improve both coverage and data quality.

Queries and feedback on these reports is welcomed and should be directed to the Civic Monitoring Programme at fsmt2@mweb.co.zw.

The food security situation

Households continue to rely on their own harvests for food. About two thirds of households (60%) reported to be sourcing food from their own harvests in June and July 04. Urban households are reported to be sourcing food from improved commercial supplies and maize grain sales from rural areas.

A falling share of districts reported improvements in food availability in June and July, with less than 29% reporting this in July.



Communities reported in 23% of districts that food supplies from local harvests will last until around October 2004 for the majority of households in these sites.

The share of districts noting improvement in the food supply situation fell from 46% in May 2004, to 43% in June 2004 and 29% in July 2004. This signals that gains from the current harvests are beginning to disappear, with twenty districts (34%) in June and twenty- two districts (43%) in July reporting a worsening situation.

Falling food availability was reported from 22 district sites, mainly in Masvingo, Manicaland, Matebeleland South and North Provinces. This was reported to be associated with lower crop yields in these areas, with reports of poor rains and shortages of inputs (fertilizer and maize seed) in the 2003/2004 planting season. Average to good harvest yields were reported in sites in central areas of the country.

Figure 2: Districts sites reporting no improvement in food situation June 04

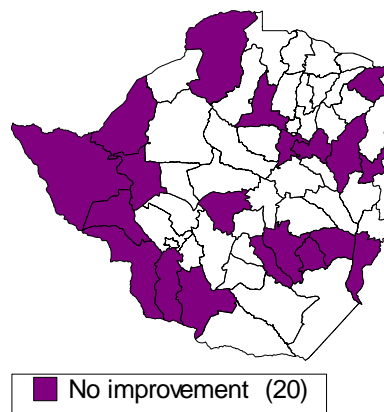


Table1: Share of sites reporting improved and worsening food supplies Jan 04 to July 04

Month	% districts reporting improved food supplies	% districts reporting worsening food supplies
December 03/January 2004	11	79
February 2004	22	58
March 2004	41	59
April 2004	63	29
May 2004	46	37
June 2004	43	34
July 2004	29	43

The share of districts reporting no improvement in food supplies rose from 34% in June 04 to 47% in July 04. **The SADC FEWS NET Zimbabwe Monthly Food Security Update in June 2004 supports these findings from the CMP, and noted that 22 rural districts were estimated to have produced insufficient cereals to meet the needs of their populations.**

The majority of districts reporting no improvement or worsening food situations are in Masvingo, Manicaland, Matebeleland South and North Provinces. (See Table 1 and 2 and Figures 1 and 2). The worsening situation in these districts is reported by communities to be linked to poor crop yields, and attributed to a shortage of inputs (fertilizer and maize seed) in the 2003/2004 planting season. Twenty-one district sites (36% of districts) reported that crop yields were poor, with average to good harvest yields reported from district sites in the central part of the country.

Table 2: District sites reporting no improvements in food situation

Province	District: June 2004	District: July 2004
Manicaland	Chipinge, Makoni, Mutasa	Chipinge, Makoni
Mashonaland East	Marondera rural, Seke, Mudzi,	Goromonzi, Chikomba, Hwedza
Mashonaland Central		Bindura , Mt Darwin, Shamva, Mazowe
Mashonaland West	Hurungwe, Zvimba	Hurungwe, Kariba, Norton, Zvimba
Midlands	Gweru rural	Chirumhanzu, Gweru rural, Mberengwa, Gokwe, Zvishavane
Masvingo	Bikita, Chivi, Zaka, Masvingo rural	Bikita, Masvingo, Chivi
Matebeleland North	Lupane, Tsholotsho, Hwange, Binga	Hwange
Matabeleland South	Bulilimangwe, Gwanda, Matobo	Gwanda, Umzingwane

Some districts, including Chipinge, Makoni, Hurungwe, Zvimba, Gweru rural, Bikita, Masvingo, Chivi, Hwange and Gwanda have reported poorer food availability for more than one month.

Food sources have not changed significantly in the period. In June 2004 59% of wards reported that households were sourcing food from their own harvests, while 60% were reported in July 2004, similar to the 63% reported in May 2004 and still higher than the 44% reported in April 2004. No site reported any households relying on relief food. Only three sites reported households relying on GMB food. Improved commercial supplies and maize grain sales from rural areas was reported in June and July to have resulted in a stable food supply in urban areas. (See Table 3)

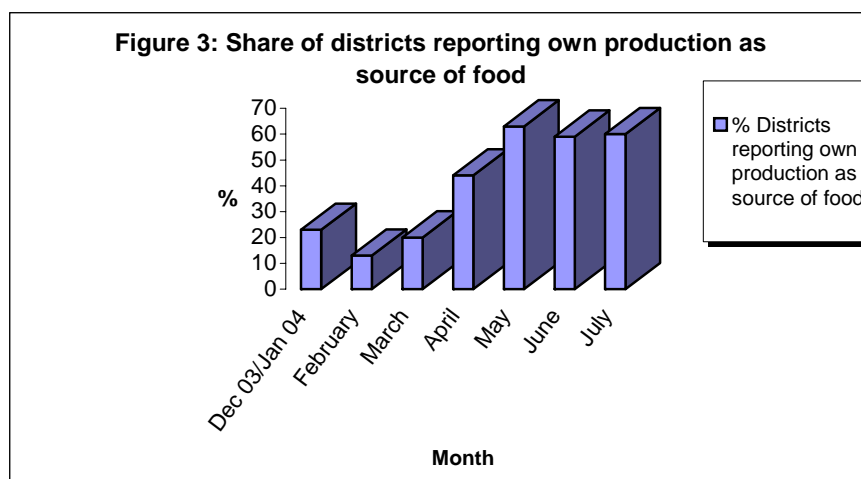


Table 3: Districts reporting households sourcing food from own production

Month	% districts reporting
December 03/January 2004	23
February 2004	13
March 2004	20
April 2004	44
May 2004	63
June 2004	59
July 2004	60

'With crop yields shrinking, most families have got a month's food supplies hence there is need for more reserves'

Zvimba

Food stocks have remained relatively low, with sentinel wards reporting in July 04 that 39% of households have stocks of less than a month and that 29% of households do not have any food in stock, a slight increase on levels reported in May and June 2004.

A total of 68% of households have food stocks of less than one month slightly different compared to 63% reported in June and 62% in May 2004.

People did not have a good harvest hence life is a little bit difficult for them

Chipinge

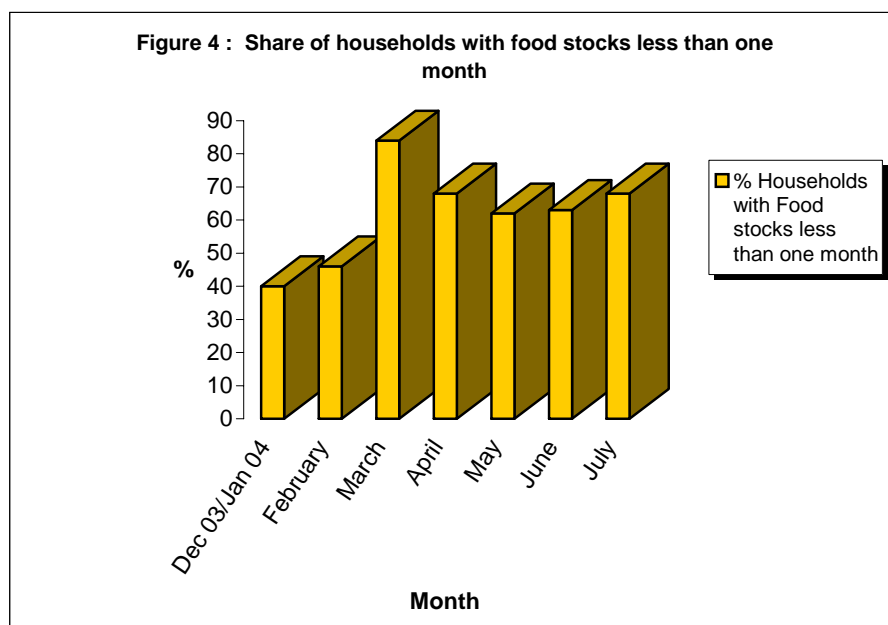


Table 4: Share of households with stocks of less than one month

Month	% households
December 03/January 2004	40
February 2004	46
March 2004	84
April 2004	68
May 2004	62
June 2004	63
July 2004	68

The reported food security situation is better than at the same period in 2003, as also observed in the UN Zimbabwe Food Security Brief issue no.4, May 2004. Community reports note that despite this some areas and some households are food insecure. Provinces with higher food insecurity have been noted above. Households reported to be more vulnerable to food insecurity are child headed households, people ill with AIDS and TB, unemployed people and the elderly.

'Generally people have food to take them to early September - after that aid is needed'.

Binga.

Production inputs

Maize seed availability has improved in June and July 04, while fertilizer availability is reported to have fallen slightly in the same period. Sorghum seed was only reported to be available in 5% of districts.

The prices of fertilizer and maize seed were reported to have remained stable between January and June 04, and while fertilizer prices remained stable in July 04, significant increases were reported in maize seed costs in July. Monitors report that with cost inflation, households with sufficient funds seek

to secure inputs early, but that for many of the poorest rural households, the costs of commercial seed and fertilizer make this unaffordable.

Because of price which is going up day and night people are saying if we can get maize seeds and all seeds we can plant well.

Mhondoro

Fertiliser was reported to be available in 43% of districts in June (an increase on the 25% reported in May 04) but fell to a reported 35% of districts in July 04. Half of districts (51%) noted maize seed to be available in July, a steady improvement on the 45% reported in June 04 and the 31% reported in May 04. Only 5% of the districts reported sorghum seed to be available.

Maize seed prices have started to rise sharply in July 04 after relatively stable prices since the beginning of 2004, while fertilizer prices have remained stable. (See Figures 5a and b and Table 5 below)

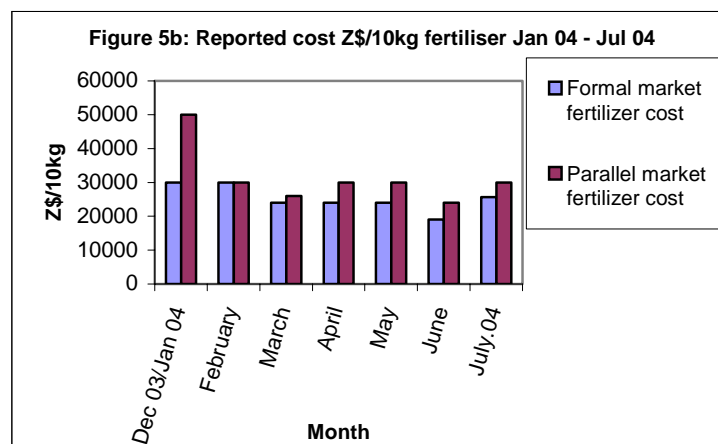
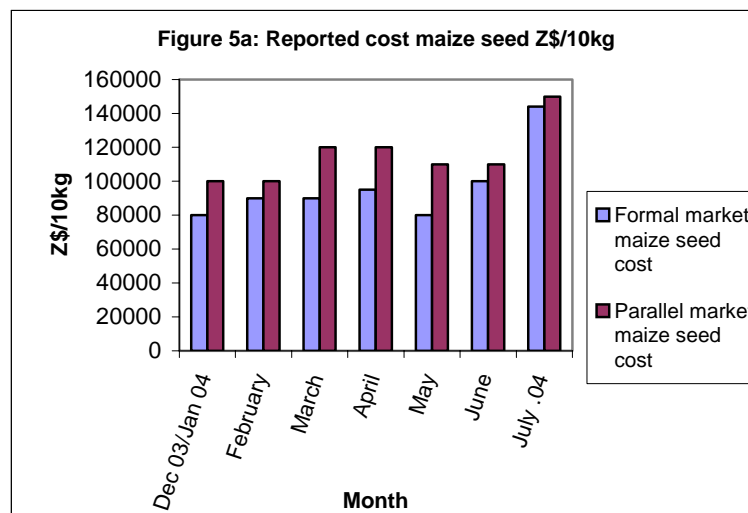


Table 5: Reported prices of maize seed and fertilizer, Jan 04 to July 04

Month	Fertiliser Cost Z\$/10kg		Maize seed Cost Z\$/10/kg	
	Formal market	Parallel Market	Formal market	Parallel Market
Price range January 04	10400 -30000	14000-50000	20000- 80000	35000-100000
Price range February 04	9000 -30000	13000-30000	29000- 90000	40000-100000
Price range March 04	12000- 24000	14000-26000	38000-90000	45000-120000
Price range April 04	12000 - 24000	16000 - 30000	40000 – 95000	52000 - 120000
Price range May 04	12000 - 24000	14000 - 30000	36000 – 80000	65000 – 110000
Price range June 04	14000 - 19000	19000 - 24000	45000- 100000	70000 - 110000
Price range July 04	14000 - 25600	19000 - 30000	63200 - 144000	75000 - 150000

GMB deliveries

GMB deliveries were reported to rise slightly in July, after falling deliveries reported from April to June.

GMB deliveries fell across April (21% districts), May (17% districts) and reached extremely low levels in June 04 (8% of districts reporting) with a small increase in July 04 to 13% of districts reporting GMB deliveries.

An average of 0.07 deliveries per sentinel site ward was reported in July 2004 with an average delivery volume of 1.8 tonnes, a fall in the frequency of deliveries but increase in the volume over June 04 (0.19 deliveries per site an average delivery volume of 0.45 tonnes per sentinel ward). **Communities note that GMB deliveries are important for food security for households with poor harvest yields. Despite price controls, costs of GMB grains were, however, reported to be unaffordable for the most vulnerable households with poor food supplies, including child headed households, the elderly and people ill with AIDS.** There appears to have been some increase in reported GMB food prices with prices of up to \$7000/10kg reported, but the number of districts with GMB deliveries are too few to be clear about a trend. (See Table 6)

Table 6: Reported costs of GMB maize, Z\$/10kg

Province	Price range in Z\$/10kg			
	July 2004	June 2004	May 2004	June 2003
Manicaland	1700	2700	1500– 4400	2600
Mashonaland East	n.a	n.a	1500	2600
Mashonaland central	7000	n.a	n.a	2000 – 2600
Mashonaland West	n.a	n.a	3200	2600
Midlands	6000	1600 - 4400	1700	2600
Masvingo	n.a	n.a	n.a	2140 – 2400
Matabeleland North	n.a	n.a	1600	n.a
Matabeleland South	n.a	n.a	n.a	2600
Cities; Harare and Bulawayo	n.a	n.a	2400	2000

Commercial food

*'Some people did not harvest anything, cost of living is too high, goods too expensive'.
Tsholotsho.*

Commercial food availability has continued to be high in June and July 2004, and is at levels similar to that reported in June and July 2003. High and increasing prices of commercial foods are reported to be a major problem for food security in a third of districts, particularly for poor households in urban areas for whom commercial food is a major source of food. (See Table 7)

Table 7: Reported market availability of foods, July 2004 and June 2004

% of districts reporting food present	Maize meal			Oil		
	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jun 03	Jul 04	Jun 04	Jun 03
Manicaland	71	86	63	71	86	100
Mashonaland East	55	100	44	100	100	89
Mashonaland Central	83	80	67	83	80	100
Mashonaland West	71	78	50	57	78	100
Masvingo	88	88	29	100	88	71
Midlands	80	88	80	100	88	100
Matabeleland North	66	86	20	100	100	100
Matabeleland South	100	88	33	100	88	66

The reported price of maize meal in commercial markets has risen between June and July 04 in seven provinces by an average of \$3 000 / 10kg.

Prices reported from CMP monitoring indicate that reported maize meal prices in commercial markets have been rising at the same rate as the Central Statistics Office Food Consumer Price Index (CPI), but appear to fall below the food CPI during months when harvest yields provide food (April, May) and rise above the food CPI when food from harvests are less available (February, July).

The reported price of maize meal from commercial sources averaged \$26 000/10kg in July 2004, an increase over the average of \$23 000/10kg reported in June 2004. In June and July 2004 21% and 35% of the districts respectively reported that between a quarter and a half of the households in the sentinel wards cannot afford to purchase daily requirements of maize meal at current prices. (See Figure 6 and Table 7)

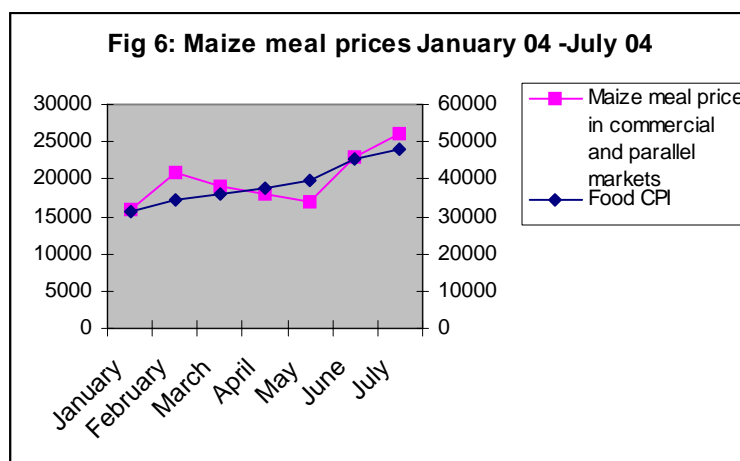


Table 7: Upper prices of maize meal in parallel markets June 03 and June 04

Province	Upper prices of maize meal in commercial and parallel markets Z\$/10kg			
	July 04	June 04	May 04	Jun/Jul 03
Manicaland	25000	25000	18000	8500
Mashonaland East	24000	20000	18000	10000
Mashonaland Central	25000	20000	20000	10000
Mashonaland West	30000	25000	18000	5000
Midlands	35000	25000	18000	n.a
Masvingo	30000	25000	20000	7000
Matabeleland North	21000	20000	n.a	7000
Matabeleland South	25000	22000	18000	n.a
Cities : Bulawayo and Harare	20000	25000	21800	7500

n.a =not available

Humanitarian Relief

'NGOs have stopped bringing relief food to the people, this may cause problems in the near future'.

Chimanimani

'People no longer receive food handouts while their harvests are insufficient'.

Chivi

Non government relief activities fell markedly in the period, with 50% of districts reporting relief activities in June 04 (compared to 61% reported in May 04) and 27% of districts in July 04. These activities now target pregnant

mothers, the elderly, school children, TB and AIDS patients and no site reported any general food distribution to households.

In June and July 2004 the government cash for work programme was reported to be operational in two districts and to have stopped in twelve districts, the reason reported being shortage of funds.

The districts with sites reporting funding problems for the cash for work scheme included; Kariba urban, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Makoni, Mutasa, Guruve, Rushinga, Makonde, Gokwe, Bikita, Masvingo rural, and Zaka. The cash for work scheme was reported operational in two districts, Shurugwi and Tsholotsho in June.

Plan International and G.M.B have stopped providing food and in the near future can cause starvation as very few have food

Mutasa

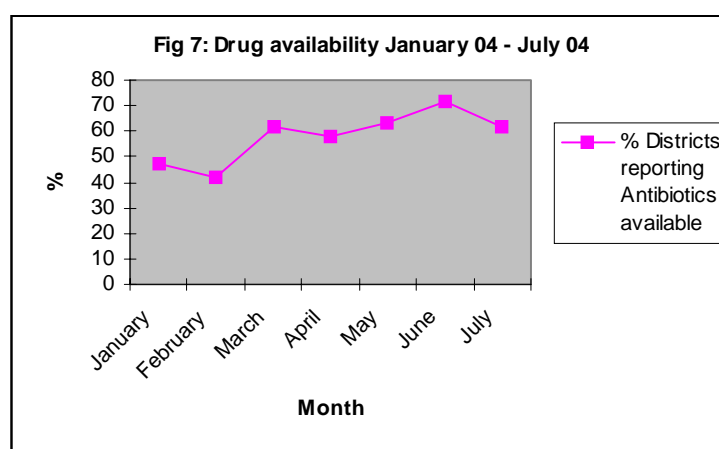
Relief food is still needed since some households did not yield anything meaningful to last.

Chikomba

As noted earlier, community reports note that some households are in need of relief food, either due to exhausting the small stocks of food from poor harvest yields or due to their vulnerability as child or elderly headed households or households with ill people. The Zimbabwe National Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVac) rural food security and vulnerability assessment of April 2004 confirms this community view and notes that approximately 2.3 million rural people will not be able to meet their cereal requirements in 2004/2005 marketing year.

Social Conditions

Drug availability reported in health services (using indicator drugs) has remained relatively stable since March 2004. 88% of sites report that their clinic has a nurse available. Fee charges reported at clinics continued to vary widely.



Communities continue to report that households find difficulties with purchasing drugs when they are not available from public health institutions.

Clinic fees reported show very wide ranges from Z\$120 to Z\$26 000 the lowest fees being reported in the rural areas and high fees in urban districts. Manicaland and Matebeleland North reporting the lowest range and Mashonaland East the highest (See Table 8).

Table 8: Reported clinic fees, and provision of staff and safe water at clinics by province June/July 2004

Province	Clinic fee range Z\$		% sites reporting	
	July 2004	June 2004	Clinic with nurse	Clinic with safe water
Manicaland	700 - 5000	120 - 5000	71	62
Mashonaland East	1500 - 26000	1000 - 26000	90	60
Mashonaland Central	500 - 10000	2000 - 5000	80	67
Mashonaland West	500 - 12000	300 - 12000	89	33
Midlands	120 - 13000	500 - 7500	75	42
Masvingo	120 - 6000	500 - 10000	100	50
Matabeleland North	2000 - 5000	120 - 7000	100	50
Matabeleland south	2500 - 5000	500 - 7000	83	50
Bulawayo, Harare	1200 - 15000	700 - 12000	100	100
Total	120 - 26000	120 - 26000	88	57

n.a = not available

Some children dropped out of school due to poverty. More charitable organisations are needed in the ward.

Chipinge

Reported fee charges and levies for primary schooling was also reported to vary widely with twenty fold differences from lowest to highest and highest fees in urban areas.

Primary school fees per term were reported to range from Z\$200 to Z\$100 000 and levies from Z\$5000 to Z\$150 000. Highest fees were reported in the cities and lowest in Matebeleland North. (See Table 9)

Table 9: School Fee level per term by province June/ July 2004

Province	Fees range	Levies range
Manicaland	3300 - 60000	30000 - 50000
Mashonaland East	10000 - 80000	30000 - 150000
Mashonaland Central	10000 - 100000	5000 - 50000
Mashonaland West	2000 - 85000	15000 - 50000
Midlands	3750 - 27000	25000 - 50000
Masvingo	2000 - 60500	6000 - 96000
Matabeleland North	500 - 25000	10000 - 50000
Matabeleland South	500 - 60000	5000 - 80000
Bulawayo, Harare	200 - 100000	10000 - 150000

Community reports from 46 districts noted that orphans and children of poor households find greatest difficulty with payment of school fees and that dropout from schools is concentrated in these groups.

Community and social responses

People in the ward are totally depending on gold panning and working for other serve those who have children working in towns.

Mudzi

One form of social response, particularly to economic pressures, has been that of migration. Population movements between districts have remained relatively constant with a quarter of districts reporting such movements.

Population movements between districts have remained relatively constant (25% in May, 26% in June and 29% in July). **The pull factors for movements include lower costs of living outside major urban centres and opportunities for earning incomes, such as from gold panning or migration to neighbouring countries. Push factors, mainly from urban areas, include the costs of services, rates and rentals.**

The reasons reported for the movements included; people moving from urban to set up homes in rural areas (Binga, Umguza, Chirumhanzu). People coming to live in the areas because of cheaper rentals (Mutare urban, Masvingo urban); movement for gold panning (Shurugwi, Guruve, Mt Darwin), young people migrating to neighbouring countries in search of employment (Bulawayo, Chiredzi, Lupane, Insiza) and people moving to settle urban outskirts because of high water and electricity rates in the cities (Harare).

The trend of basic commodities prices is rising beyond the reach of many such that people just end up settling for what they can afford and not what they really want.

Mudzi

Communities have used a range of strategies to respond to economic pressures:

- **Strategies to boost incomes** (eg: working on other peoples farms (Buhera, Nyanga, Bindura, Murehwa, Chikomba, Marondera, Gokwe, Mt Darwin) gardening and vending vegetables (Buhera, Makoni, Cities) buying and selling fish (Norton) gold panning (Guruve, Shurugwi). Wide spread buying and selling of goods has been reported in cities and smaller urban centres.
- **Strategies to use savings:** Household asset sales were reported from 41% of the districts a slight increase from the 37% reported in May 2004. Assets sold were reported to include clothes, furniture, tvs , radios, cell phones, livestock including production assets such as ploughs and ox-drawn carts.
- **Strategies to cut spending and consumption:** Buy in small quantities for single meals(Harare, Chitungwiza,) Receive food transfers from relatives in rural areas (Harare, Bulawayo,) reduce number of meals (Makoni)
- **Strategies to pool or reduce costs :** (forming groups and buy in bulk(Murehwa), working in the zunde ramambo), forming food committees (Rushinga)

Some of these reported strategies can create future problems for poor households:

- **Where reduced consumption affects goods and services essential for health and social development such as cutbacks reported in some areas in soap, food, schooling and health care**
- **Where household asset sales leave households with little reserves to meet shocks like AIDS and drought**
- **Where households cut back on production inputs, such as reported for fertilizer or sale of ploughs, as this has the effect of reducing future earnings.**

This makes strategies that boost incomes or reduce or share cost burdens an important target of support at community level. While many of the current reported income generating strategies appear to be implemented at the individual level, those aimed at sharing or reducing costs appear to be built on strengthening co-operative and collective mechanisms at community level. It is not clear how inclusive either set of strategies are of the most vulnerable groups.

Reported meetings in the past month between communities and councilors and their members of parliament were noted in 40% of the districts, mainly focused on school fees, food and 2005 elections. Very few urban sites reported any such meetings.

Summary

The June/July 2004 report is drawn from **166 monitoring reports** from **58 districts in June** and **142 reports from 51 districts in July** from all provinces of Zimbabwe.

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A falling share of districts reported improvements in food availability in June and July. Falling food availability was reported from 22 district sites, mainly in Masvingo, Manicaland, Matebeleland South and North Provinces. This was reported to be associated with lower crop yields in these areas, with reports of poor rains and shortages of inputs (fertilizer and maize seed) in the 2003/2004 planting season. Average to good harvest yields were reported in sites in central areas of the country. The SADC FEWS NET Zimbabwe Monthly Food Security Update in June 2004 supports these findings from the CMP, and noted that 22 rural districts were estimated to have produced insufficient cereals to meet the needs of their populations.

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The reported food security situation is better than at the same period in 2003, as also observed in the UN Zimbabwe Food Security Brief issue no.4, May 2004. Households

reported to be more vulnerable to food insecurity are child headed households, people ill with AIDS and TB, unemployed people and the elderly.

Maize seed availability has improved in June and July 04, while fertilizer availability is reported to have fallen slightly in the same period. Sorghum seed was only reported to be available in 5% of districts.

The prices of fertilizer and maize seed were reported to have remained stable between January and June 04. While fertilizer prices remained stable in July 04, significant increases were reported in maize seed costs in the month. Monitors report that with cost inflation, households with sufficient funds seek to secure inputs early, but that for many of the poorest rural households, the costs of commercial seed and fertilizer make this unaffordable.

Commercial food availability has continued to be high in June and July 2004, and is at levels similar to that reported in June and July 2003. The reported price of maize meal in commercial markets has risen between June and July 04 in seven provinces by an average of \$3 000 / 10kg. High and increasing prices of commercial foods are reported to be a major problem for food security in a third of districts, particularly for poor households in urban areas for whom commercial food is a major source of food.

Prices reported from CMP monitoring indicate that reported maize meal prices in commercial markets have been rising at the same rate as the Central Statistics Office Food Consumer Price Index (CPI), but appear to fall below the food CPI during months when harvest yields provide food (April, May) and rise above the food CPI when food from harvests are less available (February, July).

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Reported fee charges and levies for primary schooling was also reported to vary widely with twenty fold differences from lowest to highest and highest fees in urban areas.

One form of social response, particularly to economic pressures, has been that of migration. Population movements between districts have remained relatively constant with a quarter of districts reporting such movements. The pull factors for movements include lower costs of living outside major urban centres and opportunities for earning incomes, such as from gold panning or migration to neighbouring countries. Push factors, mainly from urban areas, include the costs of services, rates and rentals.

Communities have used a range of strategies to respond to economic pressures:

- Strategies to boost incomes including working on other peoples farms, gold panning, gardening and vending vegetables and fish
- Sale of household assets, including of livestock and ploughs, have been reported from a relatively constant share of districts since May 2004.
- Strategies to cut spending and consumption, including buying in small quantities for single meals, reducing the number of meals and food transfers from rural relatives
- Strategies to pool or reduce costs, including forming groups and buying in bulk, working in the zunde ramambo and forming food committees.

Some of these reported strategies can create future problems for poor households:

- Where reduced consumption affects goods and services essential for health and social development (eg) cutbacks in soap, food, schooling and health care)
- Where household asset sales leave households with little reserves to meet shocks like AIDS and drought
- Where households cut back on production inputs, such as reported for fertilizer or sale of ploughs, as this has the effect of reducing future earnings.

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