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Zimbabwe Stakeholder Mapping Report: Masvingo Province

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Summary

Masvingo Province is dedicated to a variety of activities, such as livestock production, irrigated farming, wildlife conservancy, and smallholder agricultural production. The province experiences frequent adverse climatic events, such as flooding and droughts. Considerable infrastructure efforts (dams) have been made for irrigation purposes; however, their use remains limited except in areas of commercial sugarcane production. Despite potential for agricultural production, the province experiences recurrent food deficit.

The stakeholder analysis is based on a review of the literature, complemented with insights gathered through focus group discussions, meetings with provincial leaders, and key informant interviews. This process led to the identification of stakeholders involved in food security programming.

This analysis evidences that there is a large presence of local and international NGOs in the province, given the frequent food security concerns. Key stakeholders undertake development and humanitarian work, the latter making their presence/programming temporary. Some programming efforts by international organizations take place under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF), which is coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with bilateral funding from a variety of donors.

The office of the Provincial Administrator has been active in interfacing actors in the food security sector and in generating food security information that is widely shared across stakeholders. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement (MLAWRR) play a critical role in coordinating all agricultural activities. The Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) works with farmers to promote and provide support for the adoption of good agricultural practices, particularly in capacity building related to climate change response.

The multi-stakeholder platform provides decisions in a consultative manner with specific feedback loops to the districts that are expected to act on agreed strategies. The traditional leaders are also an important constituency, and the President of the Chiefs Council hails from the province, making traditional issues of paramount importance in key socio-cultural and livelihoods activities of the population.

Table of Contents

Summary	3
List of Tables	5
List of Figures	5
List of Acronyms	6
1. Background	7
Introduction to Masvingo Province.....	7
Methodology and Analysis Framework.....	7
2. Summary of Key Policies, Strategies, and Plans	8
3. Summary of programs and projects	12
4. Stakeholders in Food Security and Nutrition in the Province	14
Stakeholder Network in Masvingo Province.....	14
Stakeholders and Their Roles.....	16
Gaps in Food Security in the Province.....	20
Opportunities for Leveraging Current Initiatives.....	21
5. Conclusion	23
References Consulted	25
Annex 1. Districts in Masvingo Province	28
Annex 2. Stakeholders in Masvingo Province	30

List of Tables

Table 1. Government-Related Institutions Operating in Food Security Matters	30
Table 2. Civil Society Organizations in Masvingo Province	31

List of Figures

Figure 1. Districts in Masvingo	7
Figure 2. Cluster Partners Activity Dashboard	19

List of Acronyms

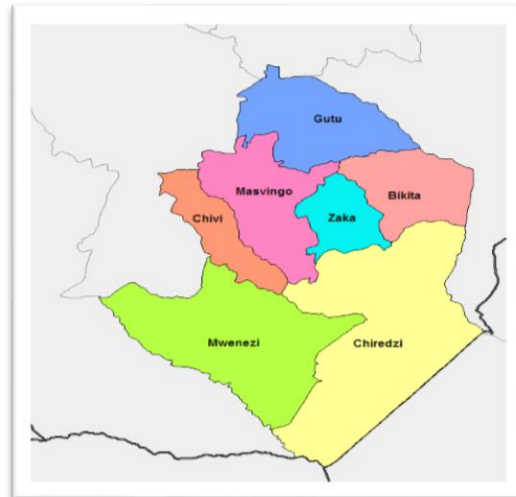
AGRITEX	Agricultural, Technical, and Extension Services
CSB	Corn Soya Blend
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFID	Department for International Development
DFSA	Development Food Security Assistance
ENSURE	Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FFP	Food for Peace
FTLRP	Fast Track Land Reform Program
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
LSA	Lean Season Assistance
MT	Metric Ton
MLAWCRR	Ministry of Land, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ORAP	Organization of Rural Associations for Progress
RDC	Rural District Council
SAFIRE	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WV	World Vision
ZESA	Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority
ZIMVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
ZRBF	Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund

I. Background

Introduction to Masvingo Province

Masvingo Province has a total of 56,566 square kilometers and it is divided into seven administrative districts. The districts include Mwenezi, Gutu, Zaka, Bikita, Chivi, Chiredzi, and Masvingo rural, which surround Masvingo administrative town (Figure 1). Gutu is in the north, and Mwenezi and Chiredzi are in the south and east, respectively. The province has 1.5 million inhabitants, who make up about 11.5 percent of the national population (ZIMSTAT, 2017). The province has a population density of 27 persons per square kilometer, against a national average of 31 persons per square kilometer.

Figure 1. Districts in Masvingo



Methodology and Analysis Framework

The research team undertook a literature review, gathering specific insights from a provincial perspective to ground the future food security programming in evidence. The team used the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID’s) definition of food and nutrition in the identification of stakeholders: “Food and nutrition security is achieved when adequate, safe, and nutritious food is available, accessible to, and well utilized by all individuals at all times to support a healthy and productive life.” The definition is identified by three distinct variables: availability, access, and utilization (USAID 1992). The research team conducted focus group discussions in the province, drawing on experts in a variety of programming areas that inform the local food security situation. The team also conducted individual interviews with leaders and heads of organizations in the public and private sectors and in civil society organizations. Furthermore, the team used the literature of the province to inventory and map stakeholders. The stakeholder analysis focused on the key players and their interactions, where decision-making power is located, who has the ability to influence decisions and who makes decisions, and also examined their source of funding for food security. In all the provinces, institutions and individuals with significant influence by virtue of their office and participation in the decisions and programs on food security were identified as important. The team’s approach involved learning about each institution, the nature of its food security work in the provinces, the history of its intervention, and the impact it has had on the food security programs. The team also used the stakeholder analysis to select key issues to explain the context and food situation in Masvingo. Understanding the nature of how stakeholders work, interact, and interface helped form the analysis of the possible impact pathways of their work. A description of the people that the stakeholders serve and influence in their food security programs was of paramount importance in analyzing the provincial literature, as well as in the field work undertaken at the provincial level with a variety of stakeholders.

To better understand the various players and stakeholders impacting food security in the province, the review also generated a list of stakeholders categorized by sector, level, areas of operations/programming, and nature of food security activity. The stakeholder analysis provides context

about the food security sector critical to understand when and whether a change in approach may be merited in the future. Influencing factors are based on an exposition of broader structural issues in the economy at large and in the agriculture sector in the province. This analysis of stakeholder performance is of paramount importance to understand food issues in the province and the desired scope of future interventions. Given the persistence of regression into food insecurity for most households in Masvingo province, the stakeholder mapping report widely assists in exploring linkages in food security practices, thus potentially contributing to an increased understanding of future programming potential. The province as a unit of analysis was adopted and appropriate to the current emphasis on decentralization of governance systems that is a priority in Zimbabwe.

2. Summary of Key Policies, Strategies, and Plans

This section describes the various policies, strategies, and plans informing food security interventions in Zimbabwe. Provincial and district plans are guided by these documents.

Zimbabwe's Food and Nutrition Security Policy

Food and nutrition security is a key priority for the Government of Zimbabwe. That commitment is evident in the prioritization of its Sustainable Development Goal 2, (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) as well as its 2013 Food and Nutrition Security Policy, to promote and ensure adequate food and nutrition security for all people at all times, particularly among the vulnerable and in line with Zimbabwe's cultural norms (Government of Zimbabwe 2013). Under the policy, cash is generally the preferred form of food assistance transfer, however, food may be more appropriate in food deficit areas or where markets are not working.

After the massive Cyclone Idai slammed into Zimbabwe in March 2019, the government, with technical support from the World Bank, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), began developing a Zimbabwe Recovery and Resilience Framework for multisectoral and sustainable recovery of cyclone affected communities. The focus is ensuring linkages between humanitarian and recovery/resilience building.

Zimbabwe National Nutrition Strategy, 2014-2018

A National Nutrition Strategy was developed to operationalize Commitment 5 of Zimbabwe's Food and Nutrition Security Policy. The Commitment states that government is committed to ensuring nutrition security for all through evidence-based nutrition interventions within a broad public health framework that includes health services, water, and sanitation. The strategy addresses infant malnutrition, stunting, young child malnutrition, nutrition related non-communicable diseases, and micro-nutrient deficiencies in children and adults.

Zimbabwe National Food Fortification Strategy, 2014-2018

Zimbabwe launched the Zimbabwe National Food Fortification Strategy in 2015. The food vehicles for industrial fortification included sugar, cooking oil, meal, wheat, and flour. The implementation of this strategy was heavily affected by foreign currency shortages in the country. The mandatory food fortification—a legal instrument that allows a variety of foods to be fortified—was passed on April 28, 2018. However, there has been a challenge on active engagement and participation of citizens. The Food Nutrition Council (FNC) pushed for an advocacy and communication strategy through a multisectoral approach that has a strong emphasis on awareness on the value of fortification. The business sector, mostly those involved in food processing, has been invited at various fora to promote fortification. Due to high pricing costs and slow sells, there has been a reduction in fortification, and it is usually prioritized within the context of donor assistance. The Ministry of Health and Child Care coordinates the food dietary guidelines aimed at promoting healthy eating and lifestyles. In times of food insecurity and shortages, these could be set aside as fighting hunger becomes a key priority.

The Transitional Stabilization Program, 2018-2020

The Transitional Stabilization Program, 2018-2020, is a document that outlines policies, strategies, and projects that guide Zimbabwe's social and economic development interventions up to December 2020, simultaneously targeting immediate quick wins and laying a robust base for economic growth for the period 2021-2030. It is also underpinned by measures to stimulate agricultural production, with an emphasis on boosting farm productivity and farm yields for food security.

The Policy Framework for Productive Community Works

The Policy Framework for Productive Community Works and the Social Transfers Policy Framework identify two principal groups requiring social welfare assistance: households that are labor constrained and those that are able to provide labor. The first group is assisted through the Harmonized Cash Transfers Program, which incorporates a range of interventions including health and education grants, while the second group is supported through Productive Community Works, which provide short-term relief through the payment of wages in exchange for work. The idea is for the productive community works to contribute to longer-term economic growth through improvements to basic infrastructure and the restoration of the local environment, and ultimately enhance the livelihoods of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups through increased productivity and self-reliance (Government of Zimbabwe 2013). This policy discourages free handouts of food or cash to affected households, preferring routing support through participation in community works that create productive assets. Many development partners in Zimbabwe have already begun to support non-labor constrained households through Food/Cash-for-Assets projects.

USAID Food Assistance and Food Security Strategy, 2016-2025

USAID's 2016–2025 Food Assistance and Food Security Strategy's vision is, 'A world free from hunger and poverty, where people live in dignity, peace, and security,' with the goal of improving and sustaining food security, as well as promoting nutrition security. The strategy's focus on nutrition security signals the importance of a wide range of nutrition, sanitation, and health factors that, together with the stable availability of and access to nutritious food, contribute to improved food security outcomes. The strategy of Food for Peace also embraces the critical role of both in-kind and cash-based food assistance and the importance of building resilience. It prioritizes the use of modalities and project activities that

enable vulnerable households to manage risks and protect their productive assets as early as possible in the recovery process.

USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, 2014-2025

Among other things, the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy aims to reduce chronic malnutrition, measured by stunting of 20 percent or more, through long term malnutrition programming linked to humanitarian response in chronically vulnerable communities to enhance their resilience in the face of climate related shocks and stresses, among others. It emphasizes the importance of better coordination of nutrition efforts across health, agriculture, Office of Food for Peace, humanitarian and resilience programs, and making Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene more nutrition sensitive. It also supports maternal nutrition, optimal breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding through dietary diversity in children 6-23 months of age.

Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework, 2016-2020

Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) supports national development priorities and advances the attainment of SDGs as well as other international commitments, norms, and standards. Different agencies draw their mandate from this framework.

Food and Agriculture Organization Country Programming Framework, 2016-2020

The United Nations agency responsible for food security, FAO, is responsible for Outcomes 1 and 2 of ZUNDAF focus on promotion of food security in country. These two outcomes, as stipulated by the FAO Country Programming Framework, 2016- 2020, are:

1. Outcome 1: Food and Nutrition Security targeting households in rural and urban areas have improved food and nutrition security;
2. Outcome 2: communities are equipped to cope with climate change and build resilience for household food and nutrition security

Specifically, the framework places emphasis on:

- a multi-sectoral approach to address food and nutrition insecurity,
- facilitation of risk sensitive and sustainable agricultural production in line with international environmental obligation,
- prioritization of support to implementation of proven high impact interventions enabling households and communities to ensure maternal, adolescent, infants, and young children food and nutrition security,
- prioritization of capacity development of national institutions and support frameworks that increase agricultural production and productivity,
- promotion of interventions to improve post-harvest management and consumption of diversified nutritious food,
- facilitating access to resources for women and youth in order to increase food and nutrition security,

- strengthening climate adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk management, proper land use, and rehabilitation of productive assets to build community resilience, particularly for vulnerable populations in a gender sensitive way.

To address stunting, a multi-sectoral and targeted approach will be used: community engagement, coordination and collaboration across sectors to enhance convergence of interventions, behavior change communication for the uptake of nutrition services, and adoption of practices that promote good nutrition. Partnerships with the private sector and academics to support the implementation of the Food Fortification Strategy will be developed through Scaling Up Nutrition business networks. In line with the Food and Nutrition Policy and the National Nutrition and Food Fortification Strategies, the UN prioritizes delivery of high impact nutrition interventions based on global guidance and evidence. It is supporting Zimbabwe in its attainment of World Health Assembly targets for increasing rates of exclusive breastfeeding, reducing stunting, and controlling obesity by 2025.

UNICEF Country Program, 2016-2020

UNICEF's Country Program for Zimbabwe will focus on a number of thematic areas. The Health and Nutrition Program will contribute to equitable access to and use of high impact, cost effective, and quality health and nutrition interventions and practices among pregnant women, newborns, children, and adolescents. Interventions to address stunting will focus on maternal nutrition, timely initiation of and exclusive breast feeding for the first six months, continuation of breast feeding to 24 months with appropriate complementary feeding practices, addressing micronutrient deficiencies among children 6-59 months, and the management of severe acute malnutrition. The Water, Sanitation, and Health program will contribute to disaster risk preparedness and response, strengthening cross sector linkages, emphasizing child health, and prevention of stunting as well as rehabilitation of infrastructure.

World Food Program's Country Strategic Plan for Zimbabwe, 2017-2021

Through its Country Strategic Plan for Zimbabwe, WFP will maintain its humanitarian assistance capacity while sharpening its focus on supporting social protection and resilience agendas with a view to achieving zero hunger. WFP aims to build on its innovative work in knowledge and evidence generation while strengthening systems and institutions responsible for achieving zero hunger in Zimbabwe. In view of persistently high rates of chronic undernutrition, WFP will integrate consideration of nutrition issues into all parts of its portfolio. It will use gender and protection analyses to inform development and implementation of the Country Strategic Plan and ensure a gender-sensitive and "do no harm" approach throughout the portfolio. This Plan supports the Government in achieving the following strategic outcomes:

- Food-insecure people, including refugees, in the most affected districts are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during severe seasonal shocks or other disruptions.
- Children in prioritized districts have stunting rate trends in line with the achievement of national and global targets by 2025.
- Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030.
- Food-insecure rural households and smallholder farmers achieve food security and resilience to repeated exposure to multiple shocks and stressors.
- The social protection system enables that chronically vulnerable populations throughout the country are able to meet their basic needs all year round.

- Partners in Zimbabwe are reliably supported by world-class, cost-effective, and efficient supply chain services.

EU National Indicative Program, 2014-2020

The National Indicative Program for Zimbabwe focuses on three main areas, namely, Health, Agriculture-based economic development and Governance, and Institution Building. During the period 2014-2020, the EU's support to the agriculture sector will include three dimensions of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. The overall purpose is to create a diversified, competitive, and efficient sector which:

- assures increased resilience and food security at both the household and national levels;
- contributes to employment and income generation,
- improves the supply of raw materials for industry,
- contributes to improved export earnings and therefore to enhanced economic growth and stability

The EU will also play an important role in the sector through the development of value chains while contributing to the creation of an enabling business environment.

In this National Indicative Program, within the link between relief, rehabilitation, and development framework, the food assistance provided through EU humanitarian instrument has been replaced by the EU's developmental response, which attempts to address structural factors underpinning the food security crisis through support to improve agricultural productivity. EU assistance will mainstream environmentally friendly practices and adaptation to climate change in all sectors.

3. Summary of programs and projects

The Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund

One pillar of support toward resilience programming in Masvingo province is the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund, a long-term development initiative with an overall objective of increasing the capacity of communities to protect development gains in the face of recurrent shocks and stresses, and enabling them to contribute to the economic development of Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund is supported by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate, and Rural Resettlement (MLAWCRR), the EU, the Embassy of Sweden, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The interventions are all geared toward increasing community capacity to withstand shocks and stresses. The Fund is also supporting national surveys critical for resilience programming such as livelihoods and vulnerability assessments, poverty surveys, and agriculture related surveys. This objective is reached through multi-stakeholder implementation of three interlinked multi-sectorial outputs, namely:

- Application of evidence in policy making for resilience increased by setting up an independent base of evidence for program targeting and policy making (including M&E) and promoting capacity assessment and building of central and local government partners to improve application of evidence
- Absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacities of at-risk communities increased and improved by setting up the Multi Donor Fund, which allows partners to come together around the Resilience Framework and principles to improve adaptive, absorptive, and to a certain extent transformative capacities of the targeted communities.
- Timely and cost-effective response to emergencies rolled out via existing safety net and other relevant programs achieved by setting up a risk financing mechanism providing appropriate, predictable, coordinated, and timely response to risk and shocks to benefitting communities, from a resilience perspective.

The Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund program is being implemented across a number of provinces including Masvingo, Matabeleland North and Manicaland. The findings of an impact evaluation of the program in 2018 revealed that communities in these provinces still exhibit low levels of resilience, expressed in terms of various outcomes, including high rates of poverty as measured by the multi-dimensional poverty index, and poor rates of food security as measured by the food consumption score. The three types of capacities, absorptive, adaptive and transformative, were noted to be low. This was evidenced by lack of savings and limited access to formal and informal support services, limited diversification of livelihoods, low production of climate resilient crops, low access to key basic services such as veterinary and Agricultural, Technical, and Extension Services (AGRITEX), and low access to markets and infrastructure (Oxford Management Policy 2018).

The program provides important lessons on the challenges to food security, which is a donor priority. It is noted that a primary objective for most households within the smallholder sector is to produce staple crops for subsistence, which is why in the 18 districts of the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund this has been promoted. However, the great majority of the same households engage with the markets for white maize, that is a high preference. And though promoted, the market for small grains has shifted to be a delicacy of the affluent, consumed inconsistently. Development of a market for small grains, though excellent for climate responses and better for nutrition, lags in the larger markets. Few private sector companies have expressed an interest in small grain commercialization, thus NGOs and small enterprises engage in small-scale sales. In general, smallholders sell at least some of their produce and buy some of their inputs — tools, seed, fertilizer, agrochemicals, veterinary medicines, etc. Nonetheless, beyond the village lie sources of better livelihoods for farmers: improved technology embodied in inputs and machinery, irrigation equipment, technical advice, credit to finance investment and innovation on the farm, and markets for surplus produce. Hence when farmers link to input suppliers, banks, processors, traders, and exporters, they can benefit.

USAID/Food for Peace Development Food Security Activities

From 2013 to 2018 USAID funded a Food for Peace Development program aimed at addressing underlying causes of food insecurity in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. The program, Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE), was a US\$55 million project targeting 215,000 households implemented by World Vision, Care International, SNV Netherlands Development Organization, a not-for-profit international development organization based in the Netherlands, and Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE) to improve nutrition, increase income, promote community resilience, and bolster environmental sustainability and gender equality. ENSURE supported

pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five years of age, with a particular focus on those under two years as well as vulnerable households, through in-kind food assistance. Food/cash for assets was also applied as a means of supporting resilience-based infrastructure and environmental projects as well as agricultural production. The aim was to reduce high levels of stunting. Although significant achievements were registered in terms of behavior change on gender related norms on food consumption, task sharing, appreciation of the nutritious value of small grains, exclusive breast feeding, and infrastructure development through food for asset projects, Cyclone Idai erased many of these gains, destroying infrastructure and disrupting livelihoods.

Livelihoods and Food Security Program

The Livelihoods and Food Security Program (LFSP) includes components to strengthen agricultural markets, financial support services, and nutrition and social protection. The LFSP is a GBP45 million program funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and designed to improve food security and nutrition of Zimbabwean farmers and consumers. The LFSP targets smallholder farmers in eight diverse agroecological districts of Northern and Eastern Zimbabwe, addressing constraints to productivity, market participation and the supply and demand of nutritious foods. The LFSP-MD component facilitates access to markets for smallholder farmers in crop and livestock value chains by partnering private sector off-takers who take farmer produce from farm to fork. In Manicaland, the LFSP-MD component has contracted Molus Meats, which buys broiler chickens from smallholder farmers in Mutasa, Mutare and Makoni Districts. In Mount Darwin, the LFSP-MD is working with 558 Meats, which provides the off-take market for smallholder farmers in the communal areas of Mt Darwin in the goat value chain. Michview provides off-take markets in the goat value chain in Matabeleland north province. One of its main successes has been to push for the biofortification of staple foods to enrich nutrition. That has also spread to other districts and provinces.

4. Stakeholders in Food Security and Nutrition in the Province

Stakeholder Network in Masvingo Province

Masvingo Province has a variety of stakeholders supporting food and nutrition security programs that connect and interact in diverse ways, based on specific interests and mandates, and operate at high or low intensity, based on circumstance. These stakeholders operate at different administrative levels and include government units and public sector representatives (including the FNC and GMB); rural district councils; chiefs; NGOs; religious groups; private sector groups (businesses, private voluntary organizations, private trusts, etc.); traditional leaders and councilors; and provincial, district, ward, and village-level representatives and committees that focus on several food security-related matters.

Local authorities, RDCs, and municipalities are major drivers of development in the province. These institutions are expected to play a facilitative role, yet the strong central government inhibits them to financial resources. However, many local authorities in districts such as Chivi and Chiredzi, and communal areas in Mwenezi, Zaka, and Bikita, do not have revenue sources that pay for technical

capacity and for carrying out development work. The District Development Fund is too underfunded to be effective, and the RDCs no longer receive enough funds from the national treasury. Almost all the RDCs depend on service fees from residents just for their survival, and their services are usually poor. The prevailing economic crisis has forced local authorities to spend more time on revenue collection than on planning and strategizing about delivery of services. The local authorities have gone as far as issuing vending licenses to widen their base of revenue collection.

The private voluntary organizations are overseen by the Ministry of Public Services and Social Welfare, and private trusts are registered in the Deeds Registry under the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Some district-level committees are specific to those areas and influence food and nutrition in national government agencies and the non-state sector. A number of private companies also provide services and products, and these are registered under the local authorities, in accordance with the Ministry of Industry Companies Act.

Churches and religious organizations are a layer of importance in rural areas. Their roles in food security matters extend to helping the elderly and the highly incapacitated families. Social organizations such as Burial Clubs have been transformed from their mandate to take a wider responsibility. In Masvingo, some of these clubs have been transformed into committees that are a platform for sharing of information, including issues of food deficits in households and mobilization of financial resources for helping fellow villagers. They are relatively neutral in the way they work and depend on self-mobilized funds by the households. Community ownership and participation in these clubs support the existence of these groups over time.

Traditional leaders in Masvingo are a powerful force, and they do coordinate among themselves on issues of food security and development. For example, in 2013, four Chiefs from Masvingo approached the President when they felt communities were sidelined on land allocation issues. They usually have direct access to the President on matters of their community interests. While they are usually involved in provincial and district committees, they also enjoy access to offices of influence, which provides them with leeway to influence government programs. Given that the majority of women live in rural areas and usually are the first to suffer from food shortages, women often depend on traditional leaders for food appeals to the Government. They are not involved in the physical distribution of food assistance, which is coordinated by the Department of Social Welfare and the Grain Marketing Board, with local agricultural, nutrition, and other relevant government extension workers.

Traditional leaders command respect in rural areas and serve as the interface between people and the government, traditional leaders can influence the allocation of government resources that are critical for food production. They exercise this role in communal areas in Masvingo. The Ministry of Local Government and National Housing usually encourage NGOs to negotiate directly with traditional leaders for their developmental work. A key tool is the responsibility for sanctioning NGOs to operate in their areas; traditional leaders prevail at the village level.

Stakeholders and Their Roles

Government

The Government of Zimbabwe has responsibility for food security, as a national priority, which cascades into provinces such as Masvingo. The most important structure of food security is the Provincial Administrator's office, which coordinates all food security-related work. In Masvingo, specific responsibilities are distributed across ministries, with the Department of Social Services coordinating food distribution for the most vulnerable people, such as the elderly, orphans, and the physically handicapped. In times of severe drought, the Department of Local Government coordinates with the Department of Social Services, with administrative assistance from other government departments such as AGRITEX and Veterinary Services, which focuses on livestock.

The districts are run by the Rural District Councils (RDCs), composed of members elected from wards within the districts. The districts have administrative and business centers located in areas of growth or small business centers. The national government operates largely at the RDC level through the different ministries and shares responsibilities with the local authorities. The second tier of government is the provincial administrator. The third tier is the district administrative office, which has responsibility for government services, including coordination of food security matters, in close collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare. This office is gaining importance in the context of Zimbabwe's decentralization agenda, as required under amendment 20 of its 2013 constitution. Traditional leaders also are an important constituency, and the president of the Chiefs' Council hails from Masvingo. As a result, traditional issues are of paramount importance in the provincial residents' major sociocultural and livelihood activities. The province has a fair share of private sector businesses, including street vendors (formal and informal), formal grocery shops, hardware shops, manufacturing businesses, producers of stock feeds, and retailers of agricultural inputs.

The governance and administration structures are intricately aligned in a centralized fashion that makes it possible for the national government to coordinate development matters. All the structures are within the scope of the Ministry of Local Government and National Housing, which among others, oversees the traditional authority (Chiefs' Council) with a strong say in governance and food security matters. The district administrative offices retain supervisory powers and are backed by the line ministries and the Public Services Commission. The commission plays an oversight role, in which it pays salaries and defines the conditions of service and expected outputs. When the national government receives donor assistance to improve food security and general livelihoods, it still retains this authority, which can operate outside its agreements with development partners. The coordination of all these efforts makes a difference in reaching residents who are most vulnerable to food insecurity.

Traditional chiefs, headmen, and village leaders are part of the structures of local government, and they fall under the Ministry of Local Government. Local authorities, such as the RDCs, ordinarily facilitate development work. However, the District Development Fund, which is in the office of the president and Cabinet, has a broader mandate covering rural infrastructure that is used to make food available in the province. The District Development Fund has limited resources to be effective, which leaves local authorities with the responsibility. Because of the prevailing economic crisis, local authorities hardly participate in food security matters, and the Provincial Food Security and Nutrition Committee is now in charge. The government usually dominates administration of the committees, which also exist at the district, ward, and village levels. Some NGOs participate in an ad-hoc manner in the committees, and it

was noted in the focus group discussions that this could be the most convenient platform for bringing stakeholders together. All development projects that come to the province should be cleared by the Ministry of Local Government at the national, provincial/regional and district levels. RDCs require that NGOs operating in their areas of jurisdiction sign a memorandum of understanding before starting any project.

The provincial government has paid attention to the delivery of emergency food in the lean season and the drought experienced from 2008 through 2019. The province made a specific appeal to scale up drought-relief interventions in Chivi, Zaka, Mwenezi, and Masvingo districts, which had the greatest need. The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee 2019 report noted that 925,652 people lacked food in the lean season from January to March 2019 in Masvingo, and that the province needed 136,977 metric tons of cereals in the same period. In general, the proportion of those in need was higher than 50 percent in Masvingo. The high level of need in an emergency situation adds to the regular annual requirements for food for vulnerable groups. The WFP works in Mwenezi (Mwenezi Development Training Centre), Chiredzi (Plan International) and Masvingo (Aquaculture Zimbabwe) to reach households in need with a basket of 55 kgs. of cereal, 1kg. of pulses and 3 kgs. of vegetable oil per month. This food assistance is complemented by development strategies from the WFP's Food Assistance for Assets initiative, which promotes the building or rehabilitation of assets that will improve long-term food security and resilience.

Development Partners Supporting Nongovernmental Organizations

A variety of international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have a presence in Zimbabwe. They operate at various scales (national or local), based on the resources they can mobilize from development partners. International NGOs got a significant headway during the Government of National Unity (GNU) between 2009 and 2013. The formation of the now-defunct Multi-Trust Donor Funds (MTDF) provided them with a mechanism for coordination of donor efforts and boosting government program through wide support to the health, education, and water sectors and the formulation of a raft of policies in the food and nutrition sectors. The UN agencies have played a greater coordination role in promoting policy development through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The private sector led in the coordination of donor funds through Crown Agencies and sectoral support from USAID through FINTRAC and Zimbabwe Agricultural Competitive Fund (ZIM-ACP). The coordination of donor efforts and role of NGO and private sector and UN agencies was critical to channel resources to the province.

In the last 10 years, they introduced the concept of consortiums, which means that many NGOs (experienced and inexperienced) come together to apply for funding, based on their relevance for defined actions. The USAID funding programs, such as ENSURE, were based on market linkages and a variety of approaches to address human poverty. A number of NGOs such as Care Zimbabwe, Red Cross, Christian Care, World Food Program, Plan Zimbabwe, Save the Children, SOLIDAR MED, Heifer International, Christian Care, World Vision, and a not-for-profit facilitating institution, PALLADIUM (formerly named GRM International) operate within the province. Since poverty levels are high in Masvingo province, it is a popular location for food security programming for a wide variety of development partners and their donors. One of the NGOs that operates in the province, Environment Africa, is in the field of lobbying and advocacy about natural and environmental issues. This will go a long way toward educating the local community about conservation of the environment and its benefits.

Apart from lobbying and advocacy, the organizations also promote environmentally friendly projects such as beekeeping and establishing tree nurseries.

Civil Society Organizations in the Food Security Sector

There are 13 NGOs in Masvingo province, which operate in fields including poverty alleviation, peace building, and livelihoods. For instance, the Rural Unity Development Organization has done remarkable work on livelihoods centered on food. In addition, many international NGOs provide food assistance in the province, including Christian CARE, Plan International, and World Vision. Annex 2, Table 3 shows the NGOs with their area of operation and the districts that they cover. In addition, churches such as the Catholic, Dutch Reformed, ZION, and Lutheran, and other faith-based organizations play a pivotal role in development activities and food disbursement.

There is a high density of development NGOs in the province, although it cannot be conclusively stated that they have addressed the region's high poverty levels, which are at odds with its natural resources. NGOs have been self-monitoring, due to the fear of disputes with local authorities when they try to hold organizations accountable (Physicians for Human Rights, 2012). The interaction between local and provincial authorities is key in determining the control and management of agriculture and food. The office of the Provincial Administrator plays a balancing act to ensure and guide NGOs in their work for targeting and effectiveness. The fact that NGOs come with funding makes them powerful players. In the focus group discussions, it was noted that the NGOs' accountability is directed upwards to their donors, and yet it should be redirected downwards to rural communities. How to achieve this redirection is a mammoth task, in a situation where there is hardly enough funding in both central government and local authorities to address food insecurity. Since the NGOs fill a serious funding void, questions about impact are not vigorously pursued, and local authorities are happy when "something" visible is happening, even though the scale is too small to make any significant impact. Development and food security are elaborate phenomena in Masvingo that are culturally specific to some groups, such as the minority Shangaan people in areas of Chiredzi district. The NGO interventions tend to be "one solution fits all" approaches that have conflicted impacts, because poverty has been a dominant and unending phenomenon in the province.

Private Sector

The private sector of Masvingo is very small. It is generally concentrated in the service sector, which consists locally of wholesalers, supermarkets, retailers, banks, private colleges, and health care providers. Prominent businesses in Masvingo include Tsungai, OK, and TM supermarkets, as well as Jagers, Tsungai, and N Richards wholesalers. While customer preference has switched to mobile banking from "walk-in" banks, the banking sector is dominated by traditional banks Barclays, Zimbank, CBZ, and Kingdom. Other private sector activity includes mining for lithium and gold. In farming, commercial sugar cane production is an important activity in the province. Other commercial products include cotton, citrus fruits, maize, soya beans, and livestock. There are some food processors.

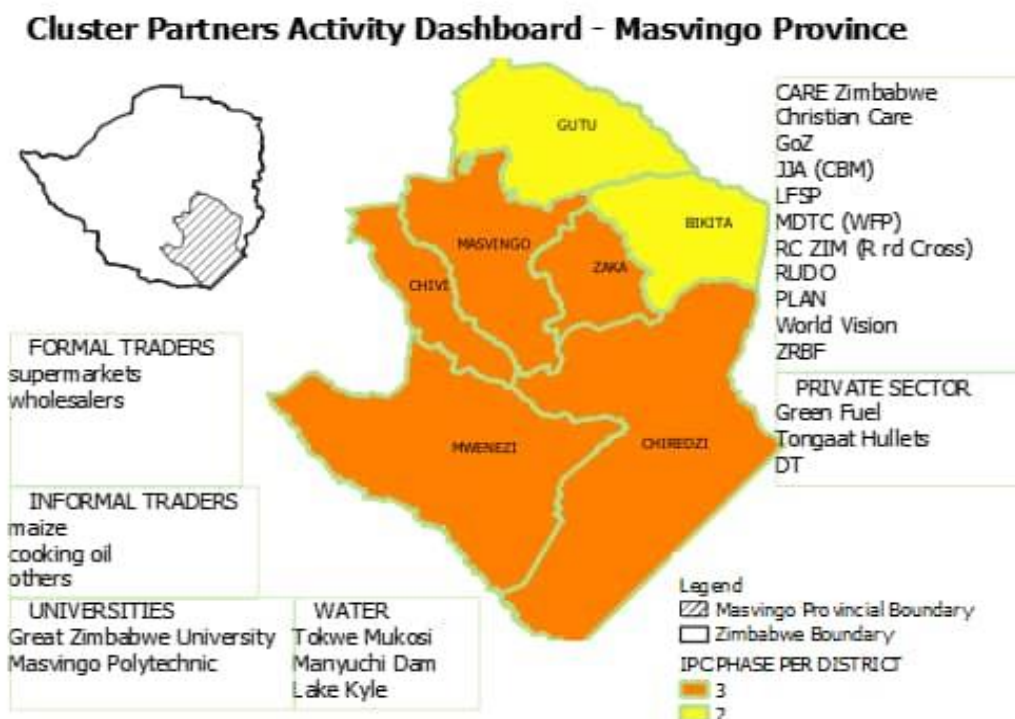
The private sector in the province remains on the periphery of development assistance and, by its very nature of profit-making, is not mainstreamed in the provincial development agenda. However, the government has been promoting the private sector as a possible source of mass employment and a means of anchoring commercial value chains. Large private companies—such as Tongaat Hullets, Greenfuels, and several mining companies in Chiredzi and Mwenezi districts—have been given extensive

government support. The Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund has been encouraging greater participation of the private sector in developing markets and strengthening smallholder linkages. These companies have been active in the province in engaging in Corporate Social Responsibility activities. Public-private partnerships can be another mechanism to support food security and poverty reduction in the province.

Research and Development in Food Nutrition and Security

Identification of stakeholders in nutrition and food security is of paramount importance, to have a reference point for evidence. While the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency and the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee collect data consistently, what worries stakeholders is that food insecurity in the country continues. The technical capacity of knowledge about nutrition has increased considerably within universities, and the Great Zimbabwe University and Midlands State University have been trying to help policy experts with data analysis and information about nutrition and food security. Many NGOs and international organizations have this same technical capacity. However, mechanisms to try to harness this capacity for the overall benefit of the country have met with limited success. A Nutrition Working Group was established in the 1990s with members from the government, international agencies, and NGOs to develop a common framework for operating and information sharing, and to develop guidelines for emergency food relief activities. The combined resources available for food and nutrition activities from the government and the international community were considerable. Unfortunately, the bulk of the resources were for assessments and establishing parallel NGO and international agency infrastructure for food-relief activities. Very little of the resources were earmarked for nutrition programs, beyond relief activities such as coming up with a viable and sustainable program for food self-sufficiency. Figure 2 provides an overview of the stakeholders presented in this section.

Figure 2. Cluster Partners Activity Dashboard



Gaps in Food Security in the Province

Severely Climate-Challenged Smallholder Production Systems

Masvingo province is semi-arid and falls in agroecological region 4-5, therefore is not suitable for some agriculture production, such as maize. It has zones that have high food insecurity, because harvests are either poor or nonexistent. Areas such as Chivi, Malipati, and Mwenezi districts receive erratic rains and the livelihoods in these areas are extremely precarious. Therefore, a strategic necessity would be to build a robust and sustainable livelihood initiative that promotes the cultivation of small grains that are drought-resistant and can thrive in these areas, and to promote other non-field enterprises.

It should be noted that while Masvingo province has the potential for livestock production, Zimbabwe always has had a dual agricultural system of crops and livestock. Over the years, there has been a decline in its crop sector, because of the adverse effects of climate change, poor agronomic practices, the unavailability of inputs, and an unattractive pricing system. With recurring droughts, rain-fed agriculture has become difficult, as very few areas are able to sustain crop growth up to maturity. Livestock therefore has become the main, if not the only viable, economic enterprise. However, previous livestock interventions have been carried out in a piecemeal manner, looking at only one part of the value chain at a time.

Agricultural markets are often promoted as possible pathways to rural development and poverty reduction. Rural development must take into account sectoral policy and incorporate it into local policy. Access to markets present local-to-global connections that can be both opportunities and challenges for rural households, which in Zimbabwe are usually found in areas distant to markets. Markets also present a range of other issues that affect the productivity of rural economies: access to finance, access to knowledge, information and technology, and access to labor. Building capacity and competence in these production factors would assist households in achieving resilience and give them a broader impact in local, meso, and national economies.

Developed and No Longer Functional Irrigation

There is need to revive several irrigation plans for the province that used to be operational but have been abandoned. This situation resulted from the government attempting a community-based irrigation management plan, which was not successful. Some potential irrigation development, through private sector and development partner efforts, include: the Manjinji Irrigation Plan in Malipati, Mushandike Irrigation, Charumbira, Citrus Estate in Chiredzi, and Panganayi Irrigation plan. The goal of these efforts is to alleviate poverty and food insecurity in the rural areas of the province.

Projects such as aquaculture not only serve as a livelihood, but also have trickle-down effects to other livelihoods, since they require water conservation through the construction of dams/ponds. The dams that are constructed for this purpose will double as a source of water for small gardens, which can be used both for subsistence farming and for income generation. There should be immediate efforts to support canal-based irrigation systems that do not require electricity. Community collaboration on the revival of the irrigation plans will ensure local management, participation, and financial benefit.

Social Factors

Women and youth in Zimbabwe have been marginalized from mainstream economic activities, despite the fact that women represent 52 percent of the population. Women and youth in Masvingo province are concentrated in the informal sector. Most of the youth are well-educated, but some with degrees have joined the informal vending business because of high rates of unemployment in the formal sector. Because the province is located close to the South African border, the informal sector is thriving, as people travel to South Africa with wares for sale. Therefore, there are high rates of migration of youth and women traders to South Africa in search of employment and income-earning opportunities. The women in Masvingo province's districts of Mwenezi, Bikita, and Masvingo mostly depend on cross-border trading.

In an effort to draw women to the formal sector, Zimbabwe's Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises has a revolving loan fund that is available to women with viable business ideas. Many women in Masvingo province are tapping these funds.

Opportunities for Leveraging Current Initiatives

Strengthening Household Assets and Enhancing Entrepreneurship

Social and economic development based on cultural development and influence of the Great Zimbabwe ancient city could form the anchor of progressive engagement on food security management cooperation in Masvingo province. Important lessons can be drawn from the implementation of the EU Zimbabwe Agriculture Growth Program in terms of effective inroads for smallholder farmer support; the SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), and the Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust (ZADT) for agro-dealer network and capacity building at the middle end of the value chain; the USAID Agri-Trade for financial services for agriculture; and the Zimbabwe Adding Value to Sustainable Agriculture Produce (ZAVSAP/CADS), for food security and micro-business development. To propel vulnerable rural households at the absorptive and adaptive stage into the transformative stage by benefiting from market access, climate smart value chains must be introduced. The most stable of these are livestock value chains from small livestock to large livestock. That gives farmers the option to produce subsistence crops, or livestock, or both. With a guaranteed output market, food security can be achieved by liquidating a singular livestock unit and converting its value into a carbohydrate, vitamin or micro-nutrient source with limited compromise on the nutritional value of household diet, and with minimum manual labor expended.

Models of enterprise development have been tried and tested with mixed results, i.e., Making Markets Work for the Poor and Participatory Market Systems Development, were aimed at unlocking smallholder sector potential. Further, Farming as a Business is an approach developed by many international development partners and governments to address the mismatch of production and markets. Bridging this gap is a model for our approach in strengthening resilience. To address incompatibilities and unequal development among different areas or peoples requires the rebuilding of community assets with the leadership of the people. Some areas to address include:

- **Building assets for women and youth.** Women in rural areas are more responsive toward marketing small livestock than cattle. Small stock has been a very effective vehicle for empowering disadvantaged women and children. Cattle in most instances are owned by men, but goats and sheep

can be owned by women and youth, therefore can be vehicles for empowering these disadvantaged groups. Funding production and marketing of small livestock has potential to grow the assets of women and youth and thus their economic livelihoods.

- **Building community and household economic assets.** A great challenge is the erosion of the capacity of the households and the attrition of labor that has increased poverty. In the context of climate change, the loss of significant assets such as livestock through droughts has reversed the gains made by rural households in the accumulation of livestock. In many cases, the households do not dispose commercially of relevant livestock resources, such as cattle, for traditional reasons. Yet, in the face of intense diseases and climate change, they are losing their important assets for the store of value and have limited options to rebound.
- **Investing in skills for food production and enhancing local capacity.** The province offers ample opportunities but lacks resources for turning toward the productive use of those resources. Reliance on traditional knowledge and limited public extension means that more rural households are unable to take advantage of new developments in agriculture and food production. The main challenges included limited skills, inadequate financing mechanisms, and high rural unemployment, in a province where employment opportunities are mostly informal
- **Facilitating entrepreneurship associations.** It is necessary to form associations of key players in the productive sector, especially in agriculture, to enhance food security and income. Associations are critical to manage surplus food production and commercial investments within the capacity of the smallholder sector. Such associations should be the vehicle for lobbying local authorities and financing organizations to provide more resources to association members. Civil society organizations can promote and assist in setting up of informal sector associations throughout the province, and a coordinating secretariat at the district level, the level of decentralization government promotes within the context and spirit of the 2013 constitution.
- **Engagement with policy makers.** It is imperative to identify key players in policy formulations and engage them on the peculiar challenges in the province. That process can start at the village level, making use of grassroots structures such as village development committees to permit villagers to express their ideas on issues. Those issues raised at the village level can then be taken up to the ward structures and so on, until they receive policy makers' attention. Development partners can also play a part by highlighting critical issues.
- **Engagement with the private sector.** Involvement of private sector partners in development is proving to be one of the most sustainable ways to perpetuate community development and business potential in Masvingo. The donor community has woken up to that possibility and many of them prefer public-private sector partnerships because they can ensure project continuity after donor funding ends. There is a need to incentivize the private sector to participate in community development projects, not just for public relations, but as social enterprises to bolster the communities from which they draw resources. Adequate policy instruments are needed to promote public-private partnerships that take into consideration business interests as well as social development priorities.

Improving Development Coordination and Food Security

Poor coordination and planning among stakeholders in development can be a potential threat to development entry. The provincial planning and visioning within the context of the devolution agenda requires support. Efforts to coordinate food security matters at the subprovince level are challenged by

a lack of resources to facilitate this coordination. The Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committee (PFNSC) meets regularly allowing for continuation of activities. However, the sub-province structures only become truly active when there is a food, health, or agricultural crisis. These structures should be empowered to meet more regularly and become more proactive than reactive. There is need for a strong institutional framework that calls for multidisciplinary interaction bringing together all relevant disciplines and ministries to integrate plans at the different levels. Possible development entry points include:

- **Provincial Platform for Information and Knowledge Sharing.** Many respondents were not knowledgeable about their province and are limited to either their disciplines or their geographical areas of operation. If knowledge and skills are shared, stakeholders can help each other define a vision and plan for the province. To that end, investing in communication and information gathering systems is key.
- **Synergies and Common Platforms.** Connections between the District Food and Nutrition Committee and the District Drought Relief Committee could also improve coordination of stakeholders on food security issues at the district level.
- **Social Cohesion Programming.** Considering the centrality of peace to food security issues and the need for coordination at the village level, innovative models for community engagement in food security issues are needed as efforts to promote coordination, including social cohesion and peace building. The province has invested in peace building as a mechanism for conflict prevention locally. When communities have stronger social cohesion, they are more likely to prevent harmful conflicts as they are usually related in the communities they live in rural areas. This may be especially relevant in areas of high conflict such as Zaka, Bikita, Gutu and Mwenezi.
- **Humanitarian Assistance.** One entry point for coordination of civil society organizations in the province can be through organizations that offer humanitarian assistance. That can create a platform for coordination of stakeholders in food assistance.

5. Conclusion

Masvingo lies in both a high poverty and productive zone, which is a contradiction caused by human factors and governance impinging on development. While Masvingo is well known for its famous tourist attractions, particularly the Great Zimbabwe ruins from which the name of the country is derived, there is little benefit to the people of the province for this iconic status. The combination of good soil and adequate water supply holds the potential for economic development. Multiple land use, such as livestock and sugar production, could transform the fortunes of the province. In an effort to harness agricultural opportunities in the area, irrigation has expanded and with it infrastructure such as dams. The Tokwe Mukosi, Lake Kyle and Manyuchi dams provide opportunity for large-scale crop production throughout the year. Yet, the ability of Masvingo province to respond is weak, and depends on the national government for utilization of the abundant water resources. The Provincial Administrator noted that some dams are 100 percent filled with water in the midst of the current drought. Failure to utilize those water supplies for irrigation and fisheries and is a significant lost opportunity.

Despite vast economic potential, the province is home to some of the poorest districts in Zimbabwe, Chivi and Mwenezi. Food deficits and food dependency, one NGO official said, have become a “culture,”

with some households loathe to try to produce their own food when poverty qualifies them for NGO food programs. Opportunists feed on the crisis and programs that fail to raise people from poverty come and go. The suffering of ordinary people persists year after year, despite their potential to produce food. This dependency syndrome damages the potential of those who can produce. Food prices have been increasing and more households need to rely on external assistance. Effective and efficient resource utilization will depend on the collaboration of civil society organizations and state institutions to ensure interventions are synergized with plans at the provincial level. Stakeholder platforms and initiatives involving different development agencies, local government, the private sector, and civil society organizations are currently limited. A provincial plan emerging from a provincial conference can provide hope for synchronizing and presenting a strong voice for change and defining a new narrative the most appropriate development strategy to tackle poverty in Masvingo province.

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Annex I. Districts in Masvingo Province

Chivi district has three main farming sectors and 29 wards, one small scale commercial farming areas and one old resettlement area. More than 90 percent of the district is made up of communal areas, making farming the largest livelihood activity, of which livestock rearing takes precedence over all other types of agriculture. The soils are better for crop farming in some parts than others (wards 24, 25, and 29 with heavy clay and with potential for gravity irrigation). Main crops include maize, pearl millet, sorghum, and finger millet legumes (cowpeas, groundnuts, and round nuts). Large-scale sugarcane production and cotton are among the large commercial activities. Livestock is essential and is used widely for draught power, milk production, manure, cash, meat, lobola, carting, hides, and transport, spiritual ceremonies. According to AGRITEX, average household size is 5.44 person, with a ratio of 0.6 cattle per person. More than 40 percent of households do not own cattle, making for high dependency on other animals such as donkeys for draught power and transportation.

Masvingo district is situated between the Shagashe and Mucheke Rivers, making it ideal for habitation and growth. Masvingo province is situated in the South East of Zimbabwe and has an estimated population of 1.5 million people, making it the most populated province in the country. Since Masvingo is equidistant from major centers like Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and Gweru, this makes it a center of the national highway network. In 2002, Masvingo district had an estimated population of 265,000. The district encompasses the Masvingo metropolis and the Great Zimbabwe National Monument, among other tourist attractions. The people of the district are mostly rural, communal farmers. They use water from nearby Lake Mutirikwi for irrigation and most have formed cooperatives for more effective use of resources. The Mushandike Cooperative is a case in point. Nemamwa Growth Point is a major center about 30km from the city center of Masvingo.

Zaka district is a mountainous region located 86 km southeast of Masvingo city center in the Ndanga communal lands. The growth point in the district is Jerera Growth Point. Subsistence farming is the main economic activity in the district. However, soil is generally poor and rainfall is erratic, averaging 600–800 mm per annum. The main crops grown are maize, groundnuts, cotton, sorghum, millet, sunflower and pumpkins. Zaka is the most densely populated rural district in the province with more than 65 people per square kilometer. The major rivers of Chivaka, Shange and Chiredzi flow through the district. Dams in the district include the Bangala dam. Jerera growth point houses district administrative offices and is the hub of business activity, with locally owned shops selling mainly groceries. Other activities include income generating projects like poultry raising, welding and soap making. NGOs such as CARE International engaged in humanitarian work in the district are also based at the growth point. Though the area suffers from frequent power outages, a GSM cellphone booster was recently installed at the growth point by Econet Wireless for its subscribers. A paved road passes through the district providing access to the nearby towns of Masvingo and Chiredzi.

Bikita district is located about 80 km east of Masvingo and has 31 wards. It is one of the most popular districts in Masvingo. The main forms of subsistence are livestock and maize. Households typically rear cattle, chickens, goats, and donkeys. The surrounding area is mined for lithium and is reputed to have large reserves of petalite. Nyika Growth Point is the business center servicing the district. Food insecurity in the district occurs due to several factors, such as crop failure, unpredictable rains, heat waves, short rain seasons, droughts, declining soil fertility, and inadequate institutional support.

Gutu district is in the northernmost district in Masvingo province; it has a population of 198,000 and is made up of five wards. Climatically, the area falls in agro-ecological region 3, indicating relatively high rainfall compared to other districts in the province. The terrain is rugged and suffers from poor soil due to overgrazing and diminishing pastures combined with deforestation and severe soil erosion. Mupandawana Growth Point is the district service center. It—together with such other places as Gokwe in the Midlands Province and Juru in Mashonaland East Province—was designated as a “growth point” in the early years after independence.

Mwenezi district is located close to the Mwenezi River, which provides irrigation water to sugarcane plantations in and around Rutenga Business Centre. The main road connects the border town of Beitbridge to Masvingo runs through the district. Main administrative offices are located at Neshuro Business Centre. The district has a population of about 126,000. The weather is hot and dry throughout the year, except during the summer rainy season. Mwenezi district lies in agro-ecological regions 4 and 5 indicating low mean annual rainfall patterns. The majority of households depend on agricultural production, including livestock. The low rainfall pattern in recent years has created a shift toward livestock farming, especially of cattle and goats. The major employer in the district are the sugar cane plantations in and around Rutenga Business Centre. Diamond deposits have been identified in Rutenga, although no major mining activity has yet occurred. Before the 2000 land reform program, cattle ranching was a major activity in the district. As is common in other rural districts in the country, many people are employed in the civil service. In recent years, many have migrated to South Africa due to the economic recession. Apart from the main highway to Beitbridge, the district is serviced by a network of gravel roads.

Chiredzi district is the major center for sugar production in the country and hosts the famous Hippo Valley Estate and the nearby Mukwasine Estate, both of which specialize in sugar cane and citrus fruit production. In terms of surface area, Chiredzi is one of the largest districts in the country, with over 95 percent of its area taken up by Gonarezhou National Park and Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve. A large portion of the district is characterized by agro-ecological region 5 aridity and uncertain rainfall patterns. With this climate, most people grow sorghum, a drought tolerant crop requiring minimal rainfall to grow to maturity.

Annex 2. Stakeholders in Masvingo Province

Table 1. Government-Related Institutions Operating in Food Security Matters

Key Institutions in Food security	Role	Operational matters	District of operation
AGRITEX	Delivery of crops (and mixed extension); advising farmers, training,	Underfunded; limited refresher courses;	Operates at village area based on the extension areas
Department of Veterinary Services	Animal health management. Diverse livestock extension services, treatment, quarantine	Unable to mobilize treatment for common diseases; shortage of fully animal management personnel	Has a district office. In some cases, the animal health work is integrated with the crop extension
Department of Health	Responsible for clinical and non-clinical aspects of nutrition; coordinates comprehensive vaccinations and oversees the nutrition needs of under 5 years and lactating and pregnant mothers		Village health workers are popular across all wards and a reference point for the collection of food security and nutrition information, as well as undertaking campaigns on the same
District Development Fund in the Office of the President and Cabinet	The department responsible for the delivery of rural infrastructure toward addressing food security; It does civil works on roads, water infrastructure, and leases large equipment for hire.	Antiquated equipment; High demands and high operational costs;	Operates in all districts of Masvingo
Provincial Food Security and Nutrition Committee (PFSNCs)	A specific nutrition and food security committee chaired by AGRITEX with Ministry of Health (Provincial nutritionist) providing secretariat services.	Most government departments, local authorities are part of the committee. The model is on better coordination of sectoral efforts to eliminate competition, manage beneficiaries, and manage costs through sharing equipment, strategies and knowledge on nutrition and food security etc.	The Food and Nutrition Security sub-committee operation in all the seven districts. Mwenezi and Chiredzi are special districts because there is where the Multi-Sectoral Based Approach to reducing stunting was implemented from 2015
Zunde Ramambo	Cultivation of crops (maize, small grains) on land set aside by the chief, and community members provide labor. The output is supposed to be the granary for the disabled, elderly and	The zunde works at the onset of the season because inputs are provided by government. There is less messaging and communication after the harvest. Stakeholders noted that though it's a good appropriate food security program, it needed more	All districts have such land set aside. I need to be identified into a data base to relate the production outputs to number of beneficiaries.

Key Institutions in Food security	Role	Operational matters	District of operation
	those who cannot undertake agriculture	transparency and accountability	

Table 2. Civil Society Organizations in Masvingo Province

Sector	Name of Organization	Field of Operation	District of operation
Relief	Lutheran World Federation	Development Education, Environmental Conservation, Poverty Alleviation	Chivi, Mwenezi
Child Education	Plan International	Growing Up Health Programs, Early Childhood Learning.	Chiredzi
Health	Zimbabwe Red Cross	Primary Health Care, Community Based Rehabilitation, Training Activities, Community Based Health	Masvingo, Mwenezi, Bikita
Livelihoods	Heifer Project International Christian Care	Distribution Of Livestock And Other Related Material Drought Relief, Livestock And Pasture Development Program	Chivi, Mwenezi,
Training	Mwenezi Development Training Centre Catholic Development Commission (CADEC)	Gender Awareness, Business Management And Organizational Skills Training Water and sanitation, Gender And Development Education, Housing	Mwenezi
Advocacy	Association of Zimbabwe Traditional Environmental Conservationists (AZTREC)	Lobbying For Advocacy On Natural And Environmental Issues, Poverty Alleviation	Mwenezi, Gutu
Poverty Alleviation	Rural Unity Development Organization	Environmental Conservation and Poverty Alleviation	All districts in Masvingo
Environment	ZIRRGON	Environmental Conservation	Bikita
Education	UNICEF	Education	Mwenezi
Water and Sanitation	Zvishavane Water Project	Environmental conservation	Chivi
Relief	Caritas	Water and Sanitation, Food Security, Humanitarian Assistance and HIV/AIDs	Gutu, Bikita, Mwenezi
Livelihoods	Care International	Food and nutrition security, livelihoods, economic development, Education and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Chivi, Mwenezi, Bikita, Zaka