



FAO IN ZIMBABWE RESILIENCE BULLETIN

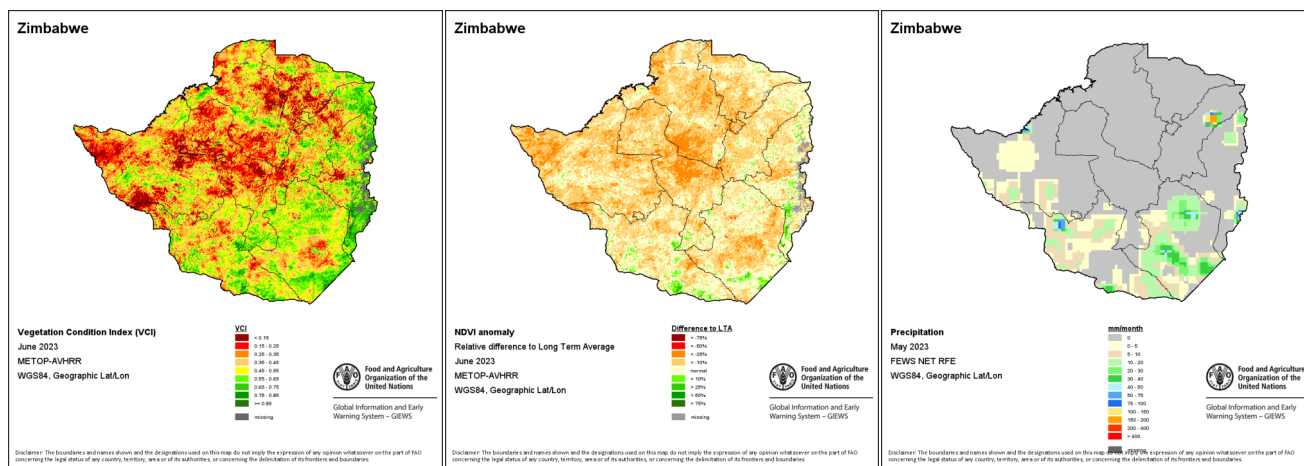


HIGHLIGHT

In this issue, we highlight the projected **El Niño** oceanographic phenomenon, the food security situation and other resilience issues

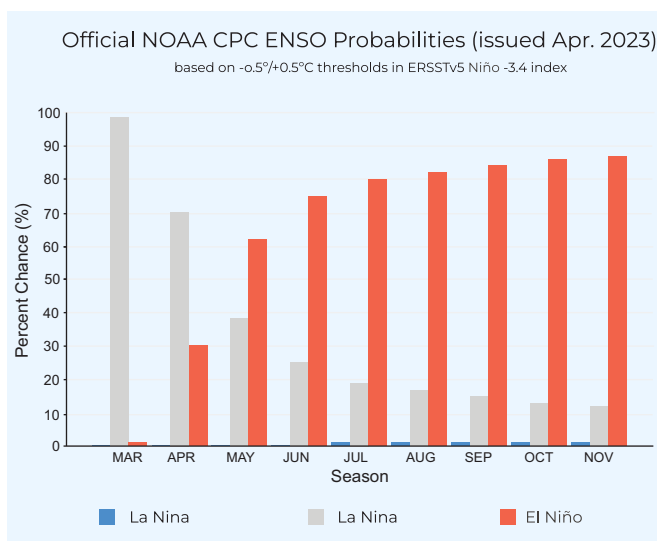
END OF 2022/2023 SEASON

As the 2022/2023 rainfall seasons is tailing off a negligible amount of rainfall was recorded in parts of Masvingo, Manicaland Mashonaland East, Matabeleland North and South in the month of May. Persistent high temperatures during the cropping season, and the effects of rainfall deficits, have resulted in generally low soil water reserves (especially compared to the same time last year), while remote sensing data also indicates that vegetation conditions are inferior to average levels. With the 2022/23 harvest period concluded, the poor vegetation conditions in grassland areas might affect livestock production.

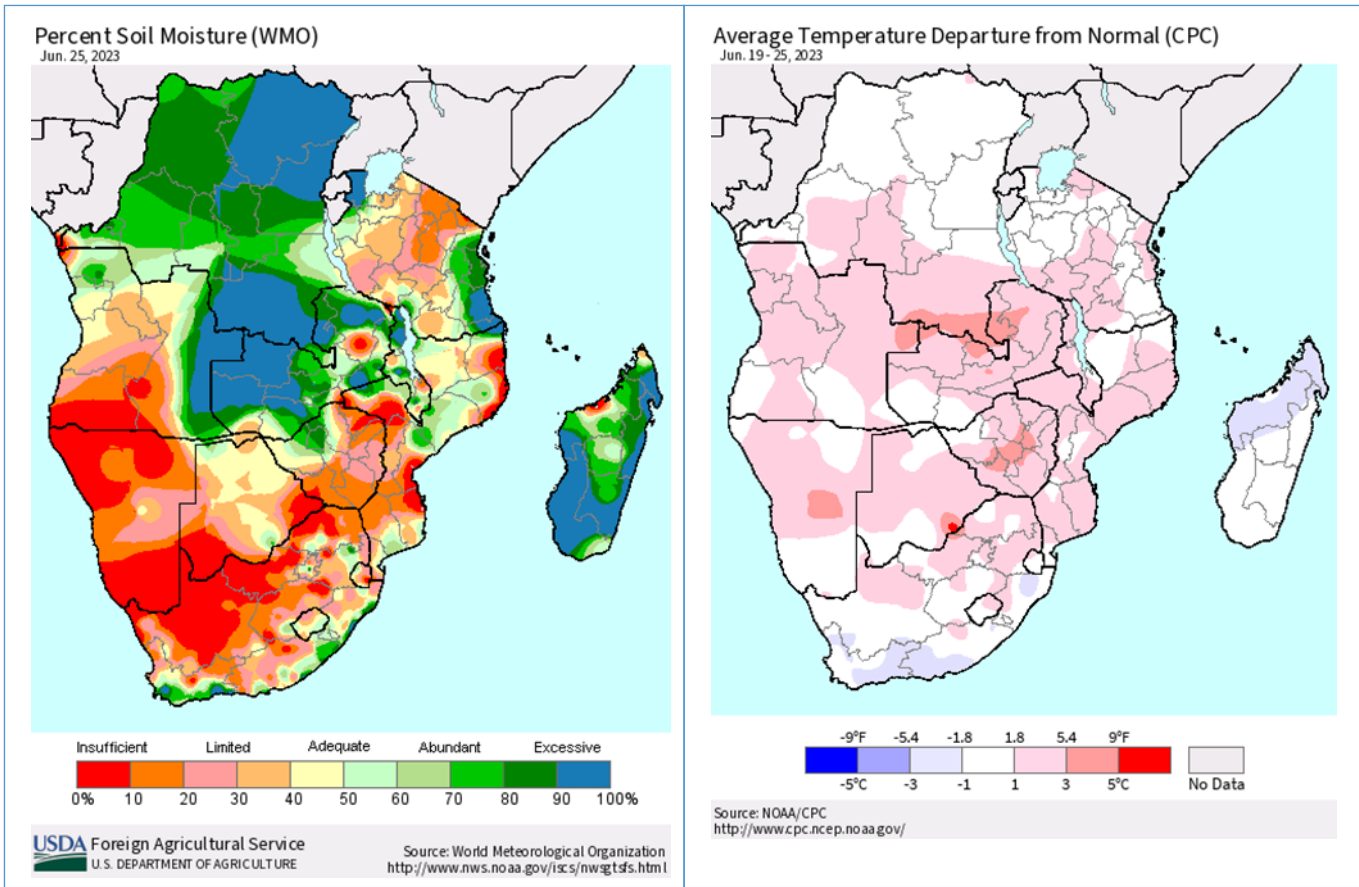


El Niño to return in 2023 after a three-year La Niña phase

The multi-year La Niña event officially dissipated in March 2023. According to the World Meteorological Organization¹, the onset of El Niño has begun, and there is a 90 percent probability it will continue during the second half of 2023. While uncertainty remains, at this stage, most models suggest that the El Niño will be of moderate strength. El Niño brings with it higher-than-normal chance of drier-than-average conditions during November-March period in Zimbabwe. This period coincides with the main agricultural season and could affect crop planting, growth and yields as well as water availability for livestock.

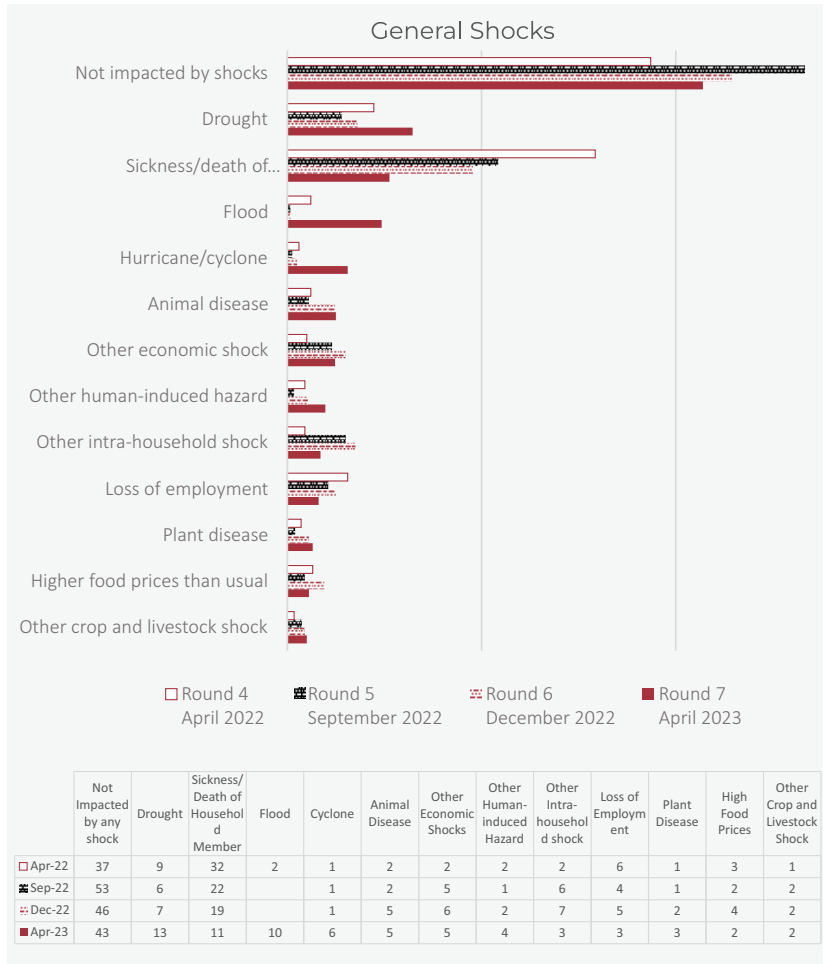


¹ <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/world-meteorological-organization-declares-onset-of-el-niño-conditions>



Shocks

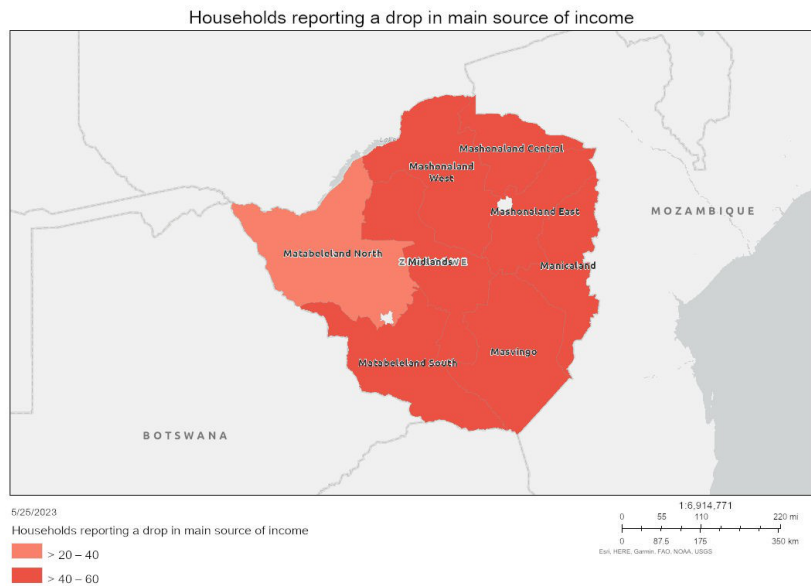
According to the June 2023 Data In Emergencies Survey (DIEM-7), the predominant General Shocks reported in the last 3 months were Drought/Heat stress (13 percent) followed by Sickness, accident, or death of a household member (11 percent) and Flood/Riverbank erosion (9.7 percent). However, 42.7 percent of households reported that they were not impacted by any shock.



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (April, September and December 2022, and April 2023). In: FAO Data in Emergencies Hub. Rome. Cited 2 February 2023. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Income Security

An estimated 5.4 percent of households had no main income, 57 percent had no second income and 71.8 percent had no third income. About 49.5 percent of households reported a decrease in their main income source, 40.6 percent for their second income source and 31.2 percent for their third income source.

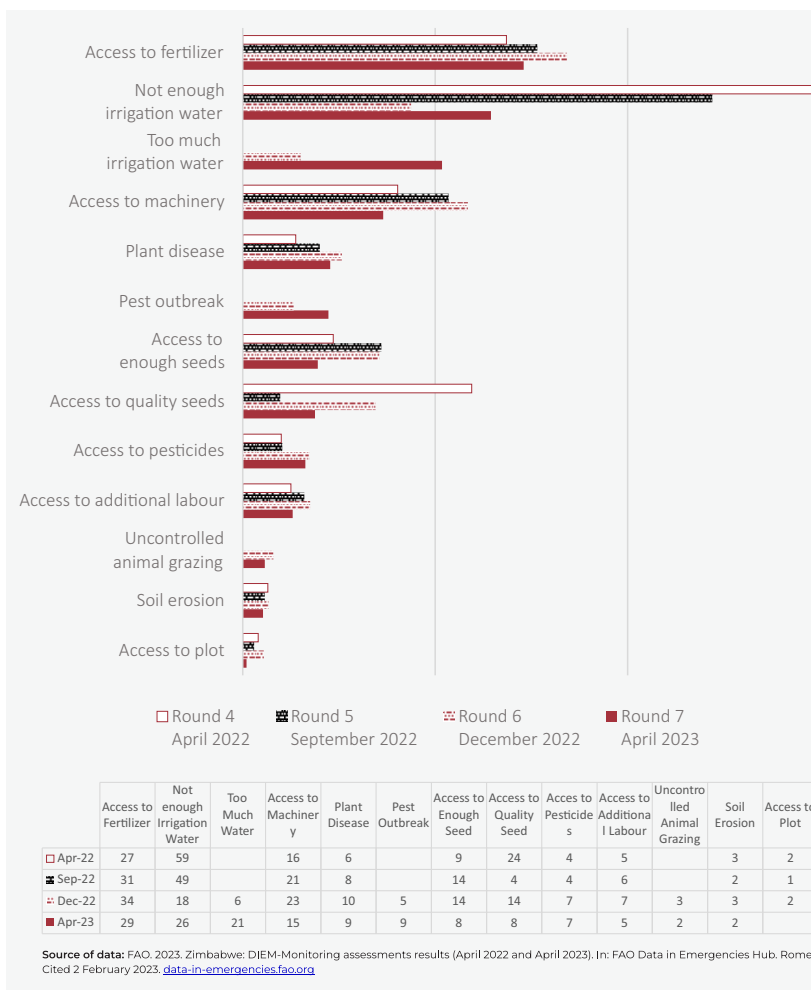


Food Security

DIEM-7 notes that, 48 percent of households experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in the four weeks preceding the survey while 4 percent experienced severe food insecurity on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).

The Households Hunger Score (HHS) indicates that the majority (62 percent) had a score of “0”, meaning they were facing little to no hunger; 14 percent had a score of “1”, indicating slight hunger; a combined 20 percent had a score of “2” or “3”, meaning moderate hunger; and another 5 percent had a score of “4”, “5” or “6” indicative of severe hunger. The majority (62 percent) of households had high dietary diversity, measured with the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), while 32 percent had medium dietary diversity and 7 percent had low dietary diversity.

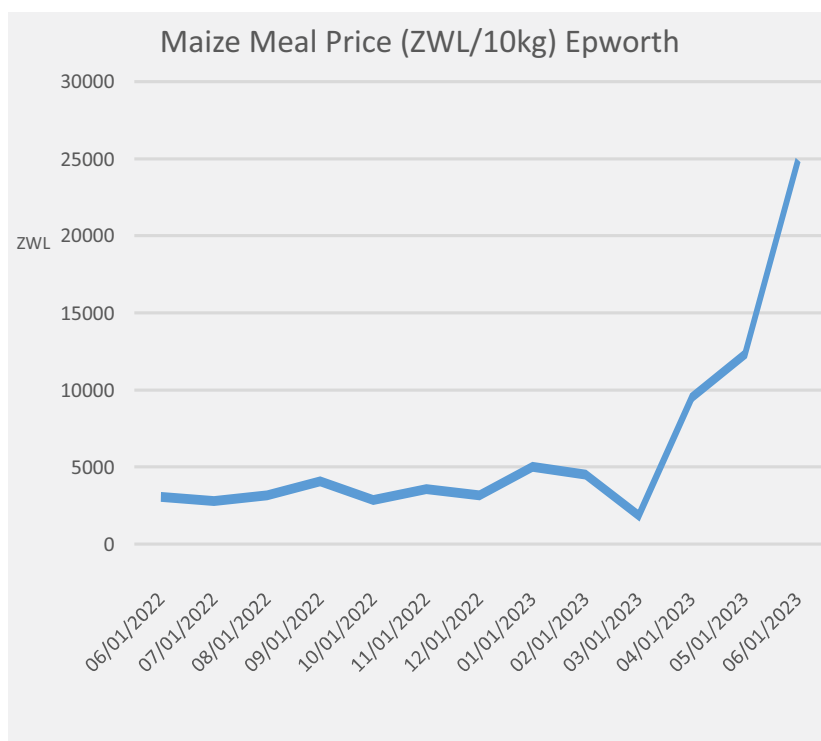
On the livelihood coping strategy index (LCSI), the majority of households (38 percent) were using emergency strategies, followed by crisis (30 percent) and stress (11 percent). Twenty-one percent did not employ any coping strategies. FAO² notes that the annual



² <https://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/regional-roundups/detail/en/c/164221/>
<https://fpma.review.fao.org/giews/fpmat4/zwe/#/dashboard/home>

Food Security

food inflation rate increased to 256 percent in June 2023, more than double the level of the preceding month. Similarly, the monthly food inflation rate also increased rapidly to 104 percent in June, up from 26 percent in May. At the commodity level, maize meal prices rose steeply, and in Harare prices in June were about eight times higher on a yearly basis. Much of the increase in the preceding months is attributed to currency instability and weakness, amid board money expansion, and high commodity prices on the international markets. Despite several policy measures introduced in 2023 to curb price rises, inflation has continued to grow, and this is having a severe detrimental impact on households' purchasing power, stressing food insecurity.



Key Policy & Programming Recommendations

Increase the rate of adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture in order to curb climatic challenges, and ensure food availability including:

- Water harvesting – in and out field and for livestock
 - Soil protection
 - Rangeland and catchment management
 - Focus on post-harvest handling to reduce food loss and waste
- In light of the El Niño:
 - Build up analytical capacities on forward-looking agricultural assessments including Earth Observation and Remote Sensing
 - Shift to Anticipatory Action – with community engagement
 - Scale up long term resilience building such productive asset creation through social protection programmes
 - Strengthen the revived National Early Warning Unit (agriculture) to provide farmers with timely information about the cropping season so that they proactively face upcoming challenges.
- The humanitarian sector should continue strengthening income security with community-based programming that focuses on diversifying income to reduce the number of households with only one income source.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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