



RUSHINGA DISTRICT RISK PROFILE

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FOREWORD

Over the years, extreme weather events such as prolonged dry spells, erratic rainfall and droughts have been impacting negatively on the livelihoods of the rural population in Zimbabwe. Furthermore reduced crop harvests coupled with the prevailing economic challenges and cash liquidity, have increased livelihood vulnerability, food insecurity, chronic poverty and malnutrition at an alarming pace in the most recent years. Consequently, it has become complex to distinguish between acute situations and the chronic given the interconnectedness of the contributing factors.

To address the above, the Government of Zimbabwe with support from Development and Humanitarian Partners have rightly been looking for evidence based information that would assist them not only to understand the manifestation of the current food security and livelihood challenges but also that could give them information on the causal relationships and linkages that compound the current crisis. There is a growing consensus that resilience building is one commendable way to link disadvantaged livelihoods to development pathways in a long term perspective. This needs objective and credible information based on evidence generated through sound methods, tools and analytical frameworks.

Thus Government under the coordination of FNC and the World Food Programme had to utilise a Three Pronged Approach (3PA) analytical framework to understand the underlying causes of chronic vulnerabilities and address the growing demand for evidence based information in support of resilience building initiatives. The approach is made up of the Integrated Context Analysis [a deeper overall overview at national level overlaying trend of food insecurity, nutrition and shocks combined with analyses of risks], Seasonal Livelihood Programming (a tool used to develop an integrated multi-year operational plan, showing which programmes to be implemented where, when, to whom, with what, and why – and by which partners) and Community Based Participatory Planning (communities identify integrated multi-year and multi-sectoral plans required to build resilience in the local areas). This analytical framework strengthens the design, planning and implementation of longer-term resilience building programmes, developed in partnership and aligned to national and local priorities.

To further understand chronic vulnerability and improve targeting at sub district level, on behalf of Government of Zimbabwe, the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) in collaboration with WFP Zimbabwe generated this profile to complement the 3PA approach.

This report provides a comprehensive sub district level overview focusing on infrastructure, water and sanitation, communication, livelihoods, poverty, climate, crops, livestock, markets, hazards and shocks, development indicators and priorities, food and nutrition security conditions and recommendations.

It our greatest hope that all stakeholders will find this information useful in further refining their programs and targeting criteria for the development of Zimbabwe.

Yours sincerely

George D. Kembo



FNC Director/ZimVAC Chairperson

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	5
Acknowledgements	6
Acronyms and Abbreviations	7
1. General Characteristics	3
1.1 Generic Features (infrastructure, boundaries, transport network and hydrology)	3
1.2 Administrative Information	4
1.3 Population Information	4
1.4 Vegetation Characteristics.....	5
1.5 Land Degradation	5
2. Development Indicators.....	5
2.1 Education Information	5
2.2 Health Facilities.	6
2.3 Nutrition	7
2.4 Prevalence of HIV/AIDS.....	8
3. Water and Sanitation Information	8
3.1 Water Sources	8
3.2 Sanitation Facilities	9
4. Transport and Communication	10
5. Main Livelihoods Sources	12
6. Poverty Levels	13
7. Climate Information	15
7.1 Natural Regions and Climate	15
7.2 Mean Annual Rainfall	15
7.3 Drought Prone Areas	16
7.4 Flood Prone Areas	16
7.5 Hydro-Ecological Conditions.....	16
8. Crop Information	16
8.1 Farming Sectors and Crops Grown.....	16
8.1 Irrigation Schemes	17
8.2 Crop Production Trends	18
9. Livestock Information	19
9.2 Main Livestock Diseases	21
10. Market Information	21
10.1 Livestock Markets	21

10.2 Crop and Food Markets	22
10.3 Marketing Challenges	23
11. Common Hazards	23
12. District Development Priorities	24
13. Food Insecure Population	24
13.1 Food Insecurity Trends	24
13.2 Chronic and Transitory Food Insecure Populations	25
13.3 Visible Vulnerabilities for the Socio Economic Groups	25
13.4 Coping Strategies	26
13.5 Foods Normally Consumed in the District	26
13.6 Ranking of Food Insecure Wards.....	26
13.7 Seasonal Calendar	27
13.8 Food Aid Trends	27
14. Development Partner Profiling	27
15. Key Issues for Consideration.....	28
Rushinga District Risk Profiling Team	30

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Prevalence of Malnutrition	7
Figure 2: Percent Household with Access to Toilet Facilities	10
Figure 3: Mashonaland Central Livelihood Zones	12
Figure 4: Poverty Prevalence by Ward	14
Figure 5: Natural Regions and Farming Syatems	15
Figure 6: Annual Rainfall Patterns (1971 – 2014)	15
Figure 7: Drought Prone Areas	16
Figure 8: Flood Prone Areas	16
Figure 9: Rushinga Food Insecurity Trends	24
Figure 10: National Food Insecurity Trends	24
Figure 11: Estimated Food Insecure Population	25
Figure 12: Estimation of Chronic, Transitory and Food Secure Beneficiaries	25
Figure 13: Seasonal Calendar for a Typical Year	27

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Rushinga Population Projections by Ward	4
Table 2: Distribution of Schools by Ward and Enrolment by Ward.....	5
Table 3: Distribution of Health Facilities	6
Table 4: Reported Diarrhoea and Dysentery Cases (2013 – 2015)	8
Table 5: Water Sources	8
Table 6: Distribution a Status of Boreholes per Ward	9
Table 7: Access to Toilet Facilities	10
Table 8: Coverage of Roads	10
Table 9: Network Coverage by Ward	11
Table 10: Major Livelihood Options per Ward	13
Table 11: Poverty Prevalence by Ward	13
Table 12: Main Farming Sectors in the District	17
Table 13: Irrigation Schemes by Ward	17
Table 14: Main Production and Cereal Adequacy	18
Table 15: Maize Production 2001-2014	19
Table 16: Small Grains Production 2001-2016	19
Table 17: Livestock Population in the District as of January 2016	19
Table 18: Livestock Populationper Ward	19
Table 19: Rushinga Cattle Production Trends from 2009 to January 2016	20
Table 20: Average Household Livestock Ownership	21
Table 21: Livestock Diseases	21
Table 22: Major Crop and Livestock Buyers	22
Table 23: Commodity Availability and Prices by Ward.....	22
Table 24: District Development Plans	24
Table 25: Food Insecurity Ranking by Cluster	26
Table 26: Summary of Ngos Operating in the District and their Wards of Operations	27
Table 27: Rushinga District Issues for Consideration	28

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Service
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CA	Communal Area
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
DDF	District Development Fund
DFID	Department for International Development
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
Ha	Hectare
HH	Household
LPD	Livestock Production Department
LSCA	Large-Scale Commercial Area
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development
MOHCC	Ministry of Health and Child care
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NR	New Resettlement
RDC	Rural District Council
RWIMS	Rural Wash Information Management System
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SSCA	Small Scale Commercial Area
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme
ZAR	South African Rand
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

RUSHINGA

District Overview



12%

Chronically Food Insecure Population

82%

Population Living in Poverty

Main Livelihoods

The livelihoods of people of Rushinga are agro-based, main crops are maize and cotton. Other sources of livelihood include selling fish from neighbouring Mozambique and gold panning. In 2015 poverty levels in the constituency were estimated at 84.2%, compared to the national rural average of 76%.

Water and Sanitation



405

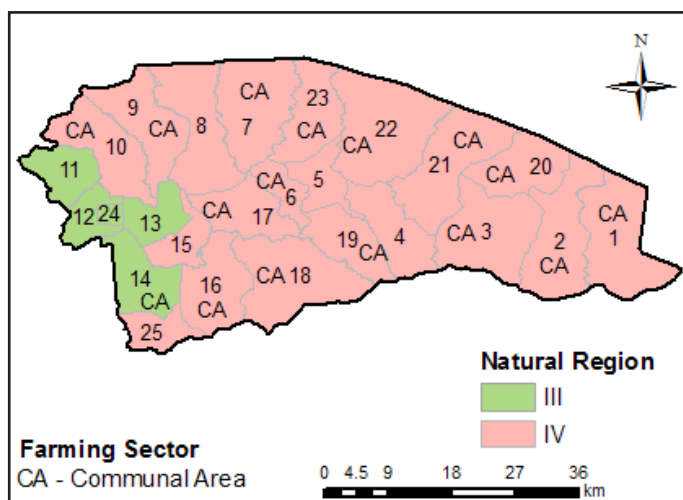
Boreholes



46%

Safe Latrines

The district has 80% households with access to any type of toilet which is higher than the national rural average of 60% (ZimVAC 2014). There are some villages which were declared Open defecation free. There is need for continued promotion of good sanitation and hygiene projects in the district.



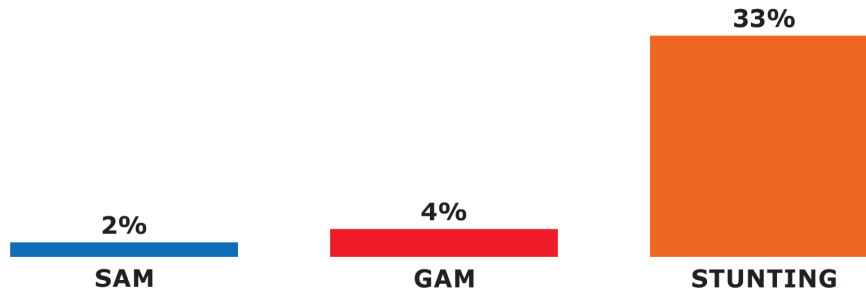
Agro-Ecological Zones and Farming Sectors

Rushinga district lies in agro ecological Natural Region 4 (area receives on average) with some parts in region 3 (wards, 11, 12 and 13). Natural region 4 covers 93% of the district while region 3 covers only 3%. The whole district is composed of communal farming.

Education

There are **48** primary schools, **16** secondary schools, **7** high schools, and **1** Vocational training centre. The schools are well distributed and the children do not need to travel longer distances to schools.

Health and Nutrition



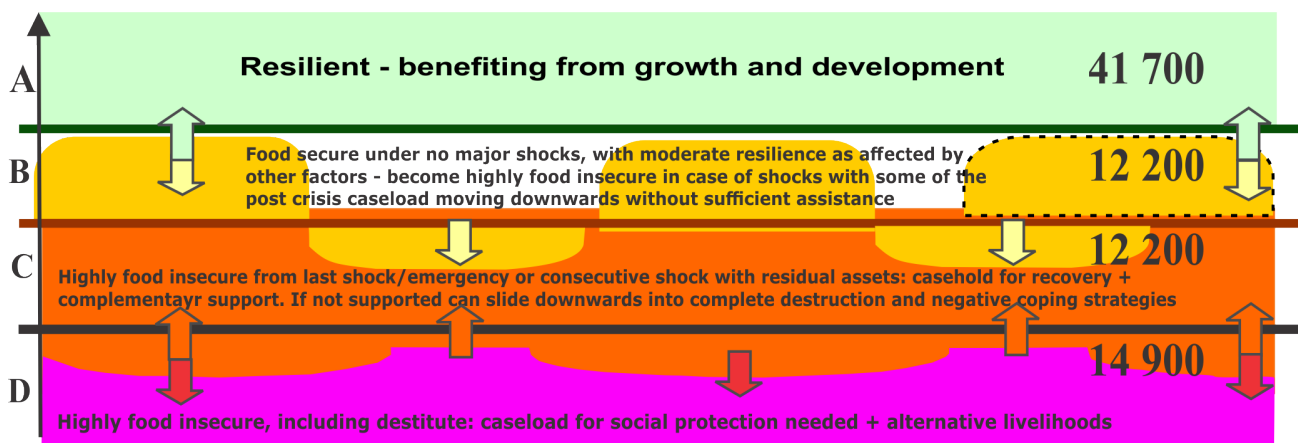
Source: ZimVAC 2016

Stunting is the nutrition challenge in the district at 33% above the national average of 27%. There is need for a collaborative approach in addressing the stunting challenge.

There are 12 health facilities within the district which are distributed fairly well to cover the whole district. The staff coverage at the health facilities are adequate and able to provide efficient service delivery. All the health centres are fairly serviced in terms of accessibility by roads, good communication networks, power supply and fire protection.

The district has an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 12.6% and is classified as moderate as compared to the national average of 15.7% (Ministry of Health and Child Care, 2014 HIV/ AIDS estimates).

Food Security Classification



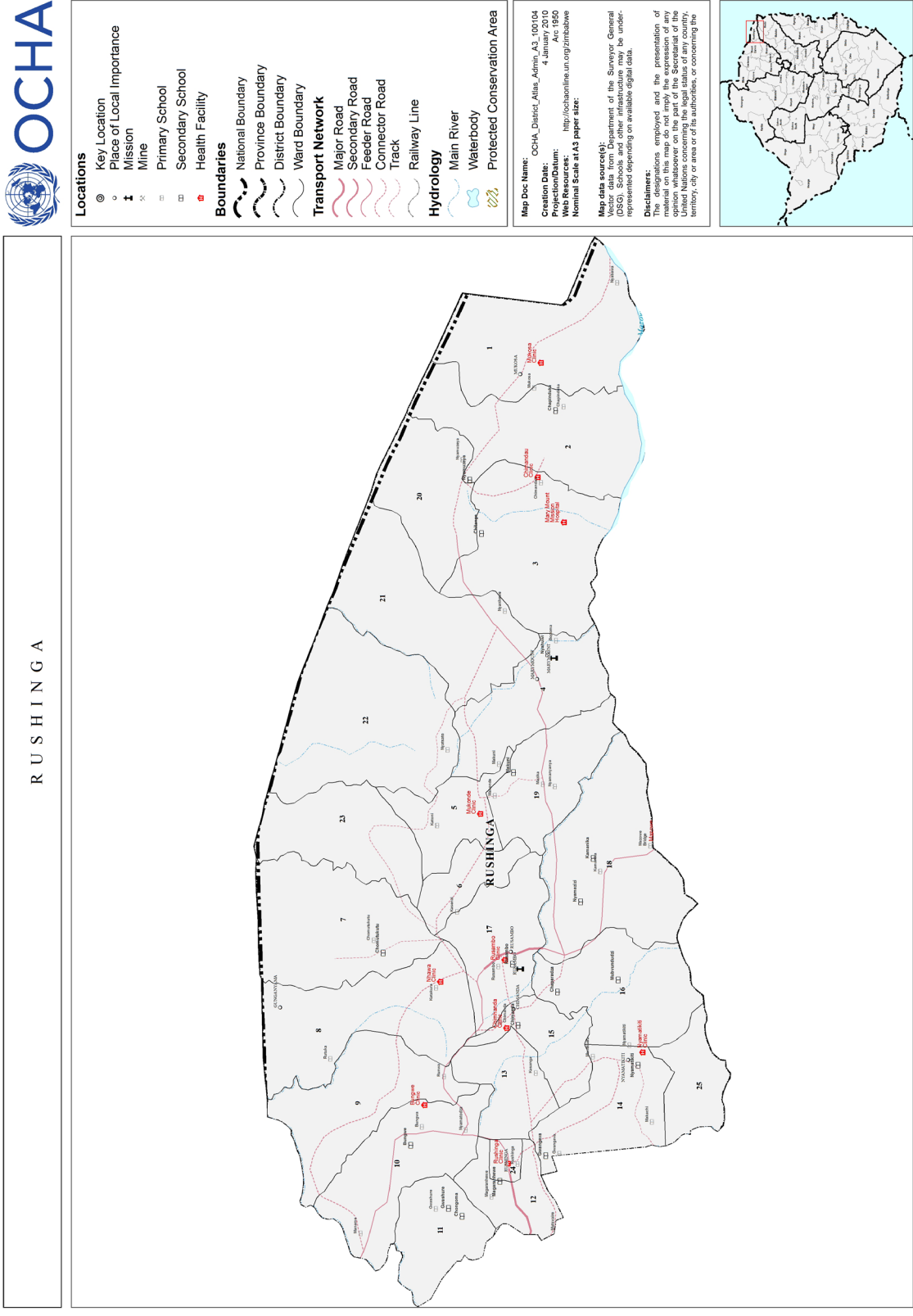
- 10,100 (12.5%) chronically food insecure
- 10,000(12.5%) vulnerable to shock and have little asset base
- 9,300 (11%) food insecure under major shocks and moderately resilient to minor shocks
- 51,600 (64%) food secure and resilient to shocks

Key Humanitarian and Developmental Needs

- Construction of clinics in those wards that currently do not have
- Construction and rehabilitation of safe water systems
- Construction of more secondary schools and improvement of the standard of education provided by secondary schools in the district.
- Construction and establishment of community centres and a stadium within the district.

1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Generic Features (Infrastructure, Boundaries, Transport Network and Hydrolog



Source: ORCHA

1.2 Administrative Information

Rushinga district is located in Mashonaland Central province. It shares border with Mt. Darwin district to the west, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe to the south, Mudzi to the south east and Mozambique to the North. Rushinga District lies on the north eastern side of Zimbabwe and is located between 16° 15' to 17° 00 South and 32° to 32°15' East, bordering with Mount Darwin to the western side, Uzumba-Maramba District on the southern side and Mozambique on the eastern side. The altitude of the district ranges from 600m to 1050m i.e. 600m at Mary Mount and 1030m at Rushinga service centre.

The district is 216km from Harare and 129 km from Bindura the Provincial capital. Rushinga's administrative offices are located at Rushinga and Chimhanda growth points. All the government ministries are well represented both at district and at ward levels. There are 3 Chiefs namely Makuni, Rusambo and Nyakusengwa boarded by 6 headmen namely Magaranhewe, Chipara, Chitange, Chimhanda, Gwangwava and Katevera. The total land size is 229,800ha and the district has 25 wards. The 25 wards are all communal wards except ward 24 which is urban. Notable major service centres are Rushinga (Ward 24), Chimhanda (ward 15), Bopoma (ward 4), Chomutukutu (ward 7) and Nyamatikiti (ward 25).

1.3 Population Information

The district has a 2016 estimated population of 81,090 people based on the Census 2012 population of 74,040 and an estimated annual growth rate of 2.3% (**Table 1**). Of the total population, 48% are male and 52% are female.

Table 1: Rushinga Population Projections by Ward

Ward	2012 Male Proportion	2012 Female Proportion	2012 Pop-ulation	House-holds	Average HH/Ward	Estimated 2016 Population	Proportion of Population
1	49%	51%	2,565	591	4.3	2,809	3%
2	50%	50%	1,601	367	4.4	1,753	2%
3	49%	51%	3,227	745	4.3	3,534	4%
4	48%	52%	3,375	805	4.2	3,696	5%
5	51%	49%	1,381	319	4.3	1,513	2%
6	49%	51%	1,932	414	4.7	2,116	3%
7	48%	52%	4,955	1126	4.4	5,427	7%
8	48%	52%	3,655	843	4.3	4,003	5%
9	47%	53%	3,195	686	4.7	3,499	4%
10	48%	52%	4,067	917	4.4	4,454	5%
11	48%	52%	2,578	593	4.3	2,823	3%
12	48%	52%	3,872	888	4.4	4,241	5%
13	47%	53%	2,969	657	4.5	3,252	4%
14	48%	52%	3,449	815	4.2	3,777	5%
15	46%	54%	3,620	873	4.1	3,965	5%
16	47%	53%	3,351	766	4.4	3,670	5%
17	47%	53%	2,932	677	4.3	3,211	4%
18	48%	52%	3,981	925	4.3	4,360	5%
19	46%	54%	2,573	657	3.9	2,818	3%
20	49%	51%	2,353	536	4.4	2,577	3%

Ward	2012 Male Proportion	2012 Female Proportion	2012 Population	Households	Average HH/Ward	Estimated 2016 Population	Proportion of Population
22	49%	51%	3,292	728	4.5	3,605	4%
23	48%	52%	2,061	461	4.5	2,257	3%
24	46%	54%	3,081	851	3.6	3,374	4%
25	49%	51%	1,240	250	5	1,358	2%
Total	35,504	38,536	74,040	17,125	4.3	81,090	100%

Source: Census 2012

1.4 Vegetation Characteristics

The district has tree bush savanna type of vegetation with tree species mainly being masau, baobab, Acacia and combretum. The most prevalent grass species is the spear grass (*Heteropogon contortus*). Acacia tree species are leguminous and nutritious to livestock. Therefore the type of vegetation signifies the potential livestock production opportunities for the communal peasant farmers with livestock as the mainstay livelihood activity.

1.5 Land Degradation

The main causes of land degradation include overgrazing and deforestation which has resulted in high levels of soil erosion. Rivers and dams are silted and this is mainly prevalent in areas around ward 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20 and 25. There is need to for initiatives that promote reforestation.

2. DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

2.1 Education Information

Rushinga has 48 primary schools, 16 secondary schools, 7 high schools, Rushinga vocational training centre run by the Ministry of Youth, Empowerment and Indigenisation and no other tertiary institutions. Only one secondary school is owned by the government and the rest are administered by the Rural District Council. There are 9 satellite secondary schools and 5 satellite primary schools. There are 93 pre-schools and 48 of these are at schools while 45 are in villages. According to the 2012 Census, a total of 4,313 people comprising 2,218 males and 2,095 females between the ages of 3 and 24 years never attended school. In Rushinga. The Vocational Training Centre has 15 females and 5 males giving a total of 20 students. The major reason for drop outs is due to hunger that will eventually affect attendance and also punctuality. Staffing issues could not be availed as there is staff rationalisation currently underway by the Public Service Commission. There are no contract extensions unless one is in possession of Mathematics and Science subjects. Understaffing is Subject based.

Table 2: Distribution of Schools by Ward and Enrolment by Ward

Ward	Primary Schools	Boys	Girls	Total	Primary Teachers	Secondary schools	Boys	Girls	Total	Teachers
1	2	395	410	805	15					
2	3	408	471	879	19	2	256	239	495	20
3	2	375	398	773	17					
4	1	438	427	865	19	1	235	203	438	17
5	2	308	290	598	15	1	200	202	402	18
6	1	311	360	671	14	1	69	63	132	5

Ward	Primary Schools	Boys	Girls	Total	Primary Teachers	Secondary schools	Boys	Girls	Total	Teachers
7	2	680	709	1,389	32	1	282	237	519	16
8	3	624	593	1,217	28	1	85	96	181	6
9	2	222	282	504	12					
10	4	1,080	1,021	2,101	49	2	343	321	664	28
11	2	377	389	766	16	1	92	82	174	7
12	2	425	418	843	20	1	144	154	298	15
13	1	157	148	305	7					
14	1	435	418	853	22	1	355	284	639	30
15	2	610	618	1,228	28	1	177	166	343	16
16	3	520	516	1,036	23	1	131	97	228	6
17	1	210	199	409	12	1	138	143	281	13
18	3	515	511	1,026	23	2	118	169	287	12
19	2	432	434	866	19	1	178	172	350	13
20	1	90	74	164	4					
21	1	288	297	585	14					
22	3	549	500	1,049	26					
23	1	314	322	636	14	1	102	107	209	8
24	1	577	601	1,178	26	1	246	264	510	21
25	2	523	496	1,019	23	2	262	328	590	30
	48	10,863	10,406	21,269	497	22	3,413	3,327	6,740	281

Source: Ministry of Education

2.2 Health Facilities.

There are 12 health centres in the district. Of these health centres, 3 of the clinics and 1 hospital are owned by government while the other 9 clinics are owned by the district council and 1 Mission hospital. The distribution of the health centres is generally fair to provide health services to every inhabitant (**Table 3**).

Table 3: Distribution of Health Facilities

Ward	Health Facility	Responsible Authority	Catchment Area (Wards)	Source of Power	Distance from Chimhanda (KM)	Water supply	Communication
13	Chimhanda district hospital	Government	6-18, 23 and 25	ZESA	0	Piped Borehole &	Radio & Cell
4	Marymount Mission Hospital	Mission	1-5 and 19-22	ZESA	40	Piped	Radio & Cell
10	Bungwe clinic	Council	9 and 10	Solar	18	Borehole	Radio & Cell
24	Rushinga RHC	Government	11, 12, 13 and 14	ZESA	20	Piped	Radio & Cell
17	Rusambo RHC	Council	17	Solar	7	Piped	Radio & Cell
13	Chimhanda RHC	Council	13, 15 and 16	Solar	3	Piped	Radio & Cell
5	Mukonde RHC	Government	5 and 23	Solar	30	Borehole	Radio & Cell

Ward	Health Facility	Responsible Authority	Catchment Area (Wards)	Source of Power	Distance from Chimhanda (KM)	Water supply	Communication
25	Nyamatikiti RHC	Government	16 and 25	ZESA	26	Piped	Radio & Cell
8	Nhawa RHC	Government	7 and 8	Solar	12	Borehole not functional	Radio & Cell
1	Mukosa RHC	Government	1	Solar	75	Piped	Radio & Cell
2	Chimandau RHC	Government	2 and 3	Solar	63	Piped	Radio & Cell
18	Mazowe Bridge RHC	Government	18	ZESA	25	Piped	Radio & Cell

Source: Ministry of Health and Child Care

All the health centres are fairly serviced in terms of accessibility by roads, good communication networks, power supply and fire protection. There are enough doctors for the 2 hospitals. There are 3 Registered Nurses, 1 Nurse Aid, 1 General hand and 1 EHT at each of the Health institutions. However, all clinics are understaffed. About 5 km is the distance the communities have to travel to the nearest clinic. There are clinics that are under construction to reduce the distance of travel and these are Chomutukutu clinic in ward 7, Chongoma clinic in ward 11, Nyatsato clinic in ward 22, and Katoni clinic in ward 23.

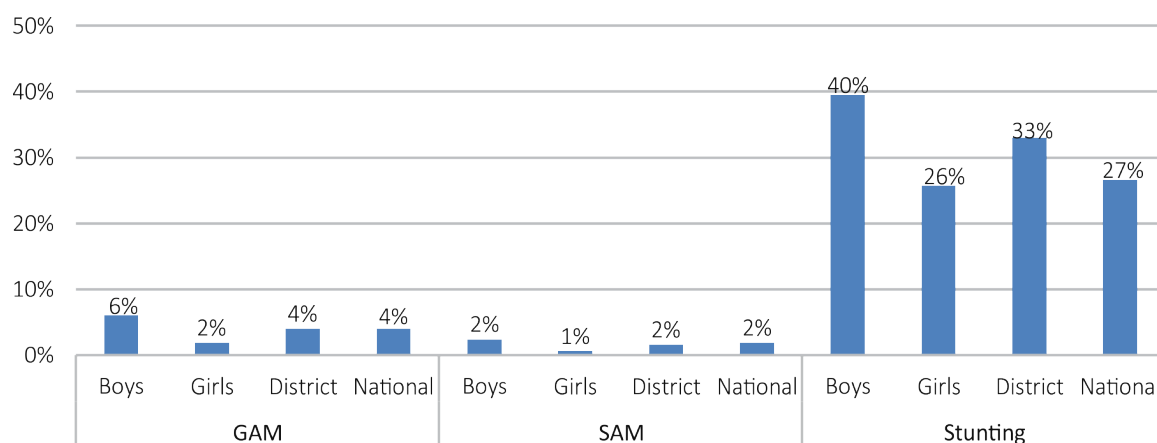
The most common and prevalent diseases in the district are malaria and diarrhoea.

2.3 Nutrition

2.3.1 Prevalence of Malnutrition

The district is amongst the top district with the highest proportion of children who are stunted (ZimVAC 2016). The stunting rate for the district (33%) and is higher than the national average of 27% (Figure 1). Boys were reported to be more stunted (40%) than girls (26%). There is need for initiatives to address the stunting challenge in the district.

Figure 1: Prevalence of Malnutrition



Source: ZimVAC 2016

a) Pregnant and Lactating Women

According to the information collected from Chimhanda hospital,

- In 2014 there were 1,728 total deliveries giving a 51% of the expected pregnancy.
- There were 217 who were below 2.5kgs giving a 13%.

- There were 1,492 above 2.5kg giving an 86%.
- In 2015 there were 1,393 total deliveries totaling 40.4%. 94 were below 2.5kgs giving a total of 7% while 1,299 were above 2.5kg giving a 93.2%.

b) Diarrhea

The increase in diarrheal cases is mainly attributed to a large number of broken down boreholes and as a result people resort to unprotected water sources as well as poor household practices.

Table 4: Reported Diarrhoea and Dysentery Cases (2013 – 2015)

Year	Diarrhea Cases	Dysentery Cases
2013	1816	310
2014	6185	745
2015	5139	628

Source: Ministry of Health

In 2014 there were 4,003 cases giving a total of 37.2% of the under 5s, while in 2015 there 2,818 cases amounting to 26%.

2.4 Prevalence of HIV/AIDS

The HIV prevalence rate in Rushinga is 12.6% and is classified as moderate as compared to the national average of 15.7% (Ministry of Health estimates, 2014). High prevalence rates were recorded at Chimhanda, Rushinga, Mukonde and Chimhanda RHC. This is attributed to growth points and have urban environments. Low prevalence rates were recorded at Mukosi which is the farthest from Chimhanda and Rushinga.

3. WATER AND SANITATION INFORMATION

3.1 Water Sources

Boreholes are the major source of water in the district with 74% of households relying on boreholes or protected wells as their major source of water. 11% rely on unsafe water from unprotected surface water sources like dams or streams or rivers (**Table 5**).

Table 5: Water Sources

Water Source	On Premises	< 500m	500m to 1km	>1km	Missing Data	Total	HHs	Percentage of HH Using Source
Piped Water inside house	100	0	0	0	0	100	308	2%
Piped Water outside house	72.8	22.8	2.3	2	0	100	692	4%
Communal Tape	2.5	84	13.6	0	0	100	81	0%
Well/Borehole protected	0.4	24.2	44.2	30.7	0.6	100	12706	74%
Well-unprotected	1.1	27.1	41.5	30	0.3	100	937	5%
River/Stream/Dam	0.1	9.9	37.2	51.7	1.1	100	1839	11%
Other specify	0	0	0	50	50	100	2	0%
Missing	0	1.4	4.3	2.3	92	100	560	3%
Total	5.1	21.9	39.3	30.1	3.6	100	17125	100%

Source: ZimVAC 2016

Although there are fewer boreholes in the eastern side of the district than the western side, generally the boreholes are distributed in line with the population distribution. Some boreholes dry up during the dry season. **Table 6** shows the total number of boreholes per ward and their current functionality status.

Table 6: Distribution and Status of Boreholes per Ward

Ward	Proportion of population	Total in ward	Functional	Seasonal	Broken down	Collapsed	Dry
1	3%	15	8	2	0	4	1
2	2%	12	9	0	3	0	0
3	4%	21	11	1	7	2	0
5	2%	15	6	0	8	1	0
6	3%	8	6	4	1	1	2
7	7%	19	11	6	1	1	0
8	5%	15	5	6	1	0	3
9	4%	25	15	7	2	0	1
11	3%	19	8	1	6	3	1
12	5%	26	11	3	3	2	6
13	4%	16	14	0	1	0	1
14	5%	9	6	2	0	1	0
15	5%	13	8	1	4	0	0
17	4%	12	8	2	0	0	2
18	5%	11	3	4	1	3	0
19	3%	8	1	3	2	0	3
20	3%	8	6	1	1	1	0
21	4%	15	5	2	4	1	3
22	4%	18	9	3	3	1	1
23	3%	13	2	6	6	0	0
24	4%	2	1	0	0	1	0
25	2%	9	5	0	3	1	0
Total	85%	309	158	54	57	23	24

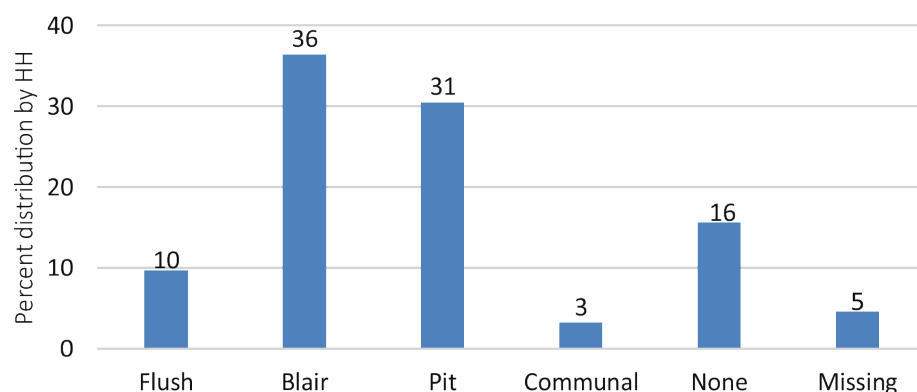
Source: District Development Fund

There are 405 boreholes in the district. The major challenges leading to the malfunctioning of boreholes are exacerbated by lack of financial resources to purchase spare parts and maintenance. The seasonal low water table and inadequate qualified technicians also contribute to the rampant breakdown of boreholes.

3.2 Sanitation Facilities

Access to sanitation facilities is still a challenge with 80% reported to have access to a toilet facility. 16% was reported to have no access and 4% the data is missing. 4,033 or 36% of the households have access to Blair toilets, 31% to pit latrines, 10% to flush and 3.2% to communal.

Figure 3: Percent Household with Access to Toilet Facilities



Source: Ministry of Health and Child Care

Table 7 shows access to toilet facilities is very low for households in the sampled wards with most of them below the national rural average of 60% (ZimVAC 2014), the only ward above is ward 24 with a prevalence of 71%. The high cases of diarrhoea recorded in the district might be as a result of open defecation which is high in the district. There is need for initiative to assist households to own latrines. Schools have high coverage of toilet facilities, those with less than 100%, this has to do with the adequacy of toilet facilities at the school.

Table 7: Access to Toilet Facilities

Ward	Households	% access HH	% access Business Centres	% access schools	% access others
1	212	26%	66%	100%	80%
2	303	38%	13%	100%	0%
4	338	19%	56%	100%	98%
5	556	42%	82%	94%	2%
8	983	35%	62%	96%	80%
10	876	32%	75%	1002%	37%
13	539	34%	85%	90%	75%
17	225	31%	100%	100%	85%
18	273	24%	100%	85%	41%
24	849	71%	97%	96%	
25	365	50%	80%	95%	57%

Source: Ministry of Health and Child Care

4. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

All roads are trafficable in Rushinga. The road network covers all areas. The roads are mainly gravel and in need of maintenance and rehabilitation. The Mount-Darwin – Rushinga road links Rushinga with Uzumba Maramba Pfunde and Mudzi districts. Roads are the only transport networks available in the district. The district only has less than 22km of tarred road and the rest of all road networks are gravel.

Table 8: Coverage of Roads

Infrastructure	Coverage (km of travel)
Earth roads Council	348 km
DDF roads	284km
Department of roads	107.8km
Department of roads Tarred	22km
Total	762.6km
Bridges/causeway	25
Foot bridges	1

Source: DDF

There is no fixed telecommunication coverage. Major telecommunication providers are Econet, Telecel and Netone. The mobile telecommunications service providers have poor/little coverage of the district. Only Rushinga urban is well serviced and approximately 10% of the district is well covered. Telecel covers the western wards 9, 10, 11, 13, 12, 14, 15) and Netone covers wards 12, 24, 1, 10. Econet is the major service provider but has pockets in some wards (**Table 9**). The low network coverage in some wards have an impact on cash based transfers through mobile networks. It is recommended that the service providers strengthen the coverage of their services in the district.

Table 9: Network Coverage by Ward

Ward	Food distribution Point	Econet	Netone	Telecel
1	Nyabawa Primary	No coverage.	Coverage	
1	Mukosa Primary	No coverage.		
2	Chimandau Primary	No coverage.		
3	Chitange Primary	No coverage.		
4	Bopoma Primary	60% coverage in ward, reliable coverage at the FDP and there are Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		
5	Makuni Secondary	No coverage		
6	Kasenzi Business Center	70% coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		
7	Chomotukutu Primary	30% coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		
8	Katakura Primary	30% coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP		
9	Rutuka Primary	No coverage		Coverage
10	Bungwe Primary	50% coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.	Coverage	Coverage
11	Chongoma Primary	80% coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		Coverage
12			Coverage	Coverage
13	Kasanga Primary	95% coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		Coverage
14	Gwagwava Primary	98% coverage in the ward and reliable coverage at the FDP and there are Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		Coverage
15	Kasanga Primary	95% Econet coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Agents at the FDP.		Coverage
16	Mubvundudzi Primary	30% coverage in ward and reliable coverage at the FDP but there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		

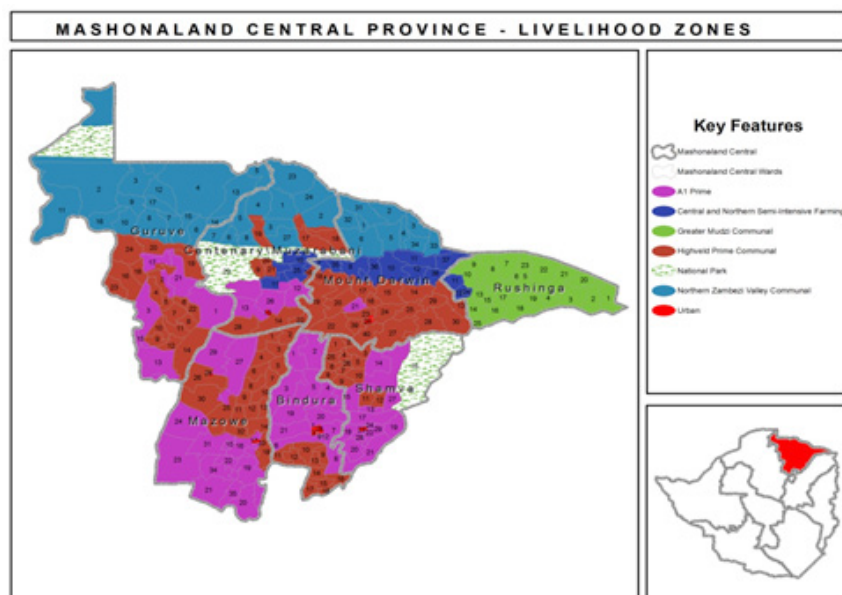
Ward	Food Distribution Point	Econet	Netone	Telecel
17	Rusambo Primary	80% Econet coverage in the ward. There is reliable coverage at the FDP and there is an Ecocash Agent at the FDP.		
18	Kamanika Primary	No coverage.		
19	Nyamanyanya Primary	40% coverage in ward and no reliable coverage at the FDP and there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		
20	Kasika Primary	No coverage		
21	Nyanhewe Primary	30% coverage in the ward and no reliable network coverage at the FDP.		
22	Nyatsato Primary	10% Econet coverage in the ward. There is no reliable coverage at the FDP and there are no Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		
23	Katoni Primary	No coverage.		
24			Coverage	
25	Nyamatikiti Primary	50% coverage in the ward and reliable coverage at the FDP and there are Ecocash Agents at the FDP.		

Source: DDF

5. MAIN LIVELIHOODS SOURCES

The whole of Rushinga district falls under the greater Mudzi Livelihood zone (**Figure 4**). The livelihood zones cover activities such as livestock sales, crop sales and gold panning. The livelihoods of the Rushinga are homogenous throughout the district. There are no distinct differences.

Figure 4: Mashonaland Central Livelihood Zones



Source: Zimbabwe HEA Baseline Report, 2012

From the total population about 44,755 are above 15 years and 27,748 are economically active representing an activity rate of 62.05%. The employment sectors in the district are the Civil service, Entrepreneurship and casual labour. There are currently no casual labour opportunities for the general populace who heavily rely on farm casual labour due to the prevailing drought situation in the district. There is also very little formal employment opportunities in the district with the Ministry of Education being the biggest employer.

Table 10 Summarises the Livelihood Options per Ward.

Table 10: Major Livelihood Options per Ward

Livelihood activity	Wards
Limited Cash crop production - cotton	12,10,11,9,8,7,6,5,4,20,1,23
Limited Cash crop production - groundnuts	19,18,16,15,13,14,25
Limited Cash crop production - tobacco	19,18,16,15,13,14,25
Gold panning along Mazowe River	25,16,18,4,19,3,21
Cross border trading to Mozambique (fish)	20,1,21,22,23,7,8,9,10
Horticulture production	15
Petty trade, part time jobs, formal employment in the growth points	15,24,
Subsistence farming	All wards but less pronounced in ward 24

Source: Agritex

Livelihood Challenges Include:

- Low producer prices for crops. e.g cotton and tobacco.
- Inadequate water supply for livestock.
- Long distances to the markets.
- Limited rainfall for widespread and fruitful cash crop production.
- Limited markets for horticultural produce.
- Poor markets for livestock sales and cash crops.
- Continuously fluctuating cotton prices.
- Drought that significantly affects harvests for subsistence farming.

According to the Poverty Atlas, 2015, Rushinga District had a poverty prevalence of 81.9%. Ward 25 had the highest poverty prevalence of 88%. All wards except ward 24 (60%) and ward 15 (73%), had poverty prevalence of above the national rural average of 76% (**Table 11**). Ward 24 is the area that covers the growth point.

Table 11: Poverty Prevalence by Ward

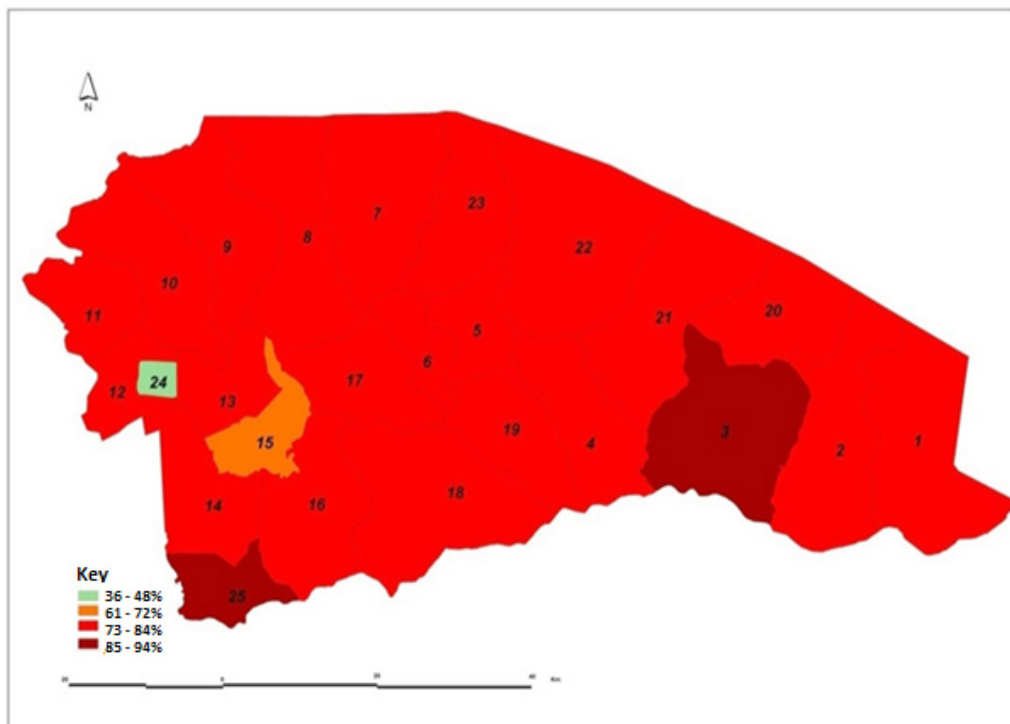
Ward	Proportion of population	2012 Households	Poor Households	Poverty Prevalence
1	3%	591	499	84.8%
2	2%	367	311	85.8%
3	4%	745	649	87.5%
4	5%	805	666	83.2%
5	2%	319	257	81.6%
6	3%	414	354	85.5%
7	7%	1126	954	84.8%

Ward	Proportion of population	2012 Households	Poor Households	Poverty Prevalence
8	5%	843	685	81.4%
9	4%	686	578	84.5%
10	5%	917	744	81.4%
11	3%	593	483	81.5%
12	5%	888	688	77.7%
13	4%	657	533	81.6%
14	5%	815	644	79.8%
15	5%	873	637	73.4%
16	5%	766	635	83.5%
17	4%	677	561	83.3%
18	5%	925	790	85.5%
19	3%	657	527	80.3%
20	3%	536	460	86.4%
21	4%	635	535	84.6%
22	4%	728	626	86.4%
23	3%	461	392	85.0%
24	4%	851	506	59.7%
25	2%	250	221	88.4%
Total	100%	17,125	13,935	

Source: Poverty Atlas 2015

Poverty prevalence gradually increases moving from the west to east (Figure 5). Eastern wards generally had higher poverty prevalence compared to the rest of the district.

Figure 5: Poverty Prevalence by Ward



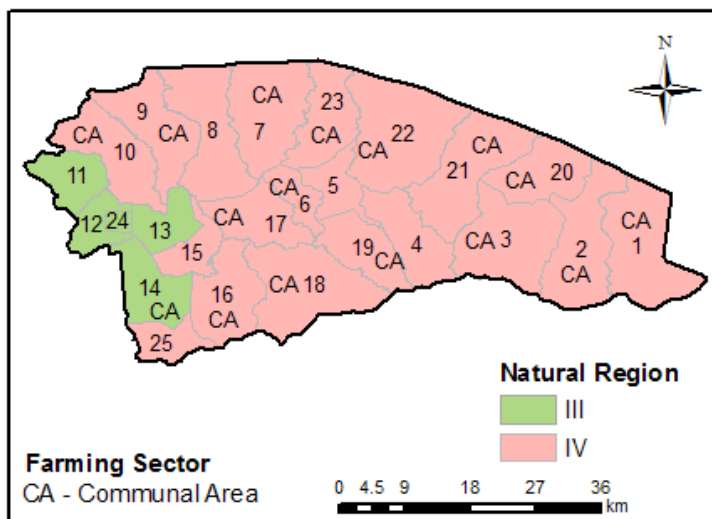
Source: Poverty Atlas 2015

7. CLIMATE INFORMATION

7.1 Natural Regions and Climate

Rushinga district lies in agro ecological region IV with the exception of a ward 11, 12 and 13 which lie in agro ecological region III covering 7% of the district area. Agro-ecological zone III covers wards 10, 11, 12 and part of 14 while zone IV covers all the other wards (**Figure 6**).

Figure 6: Natural Regions and Farming Systems

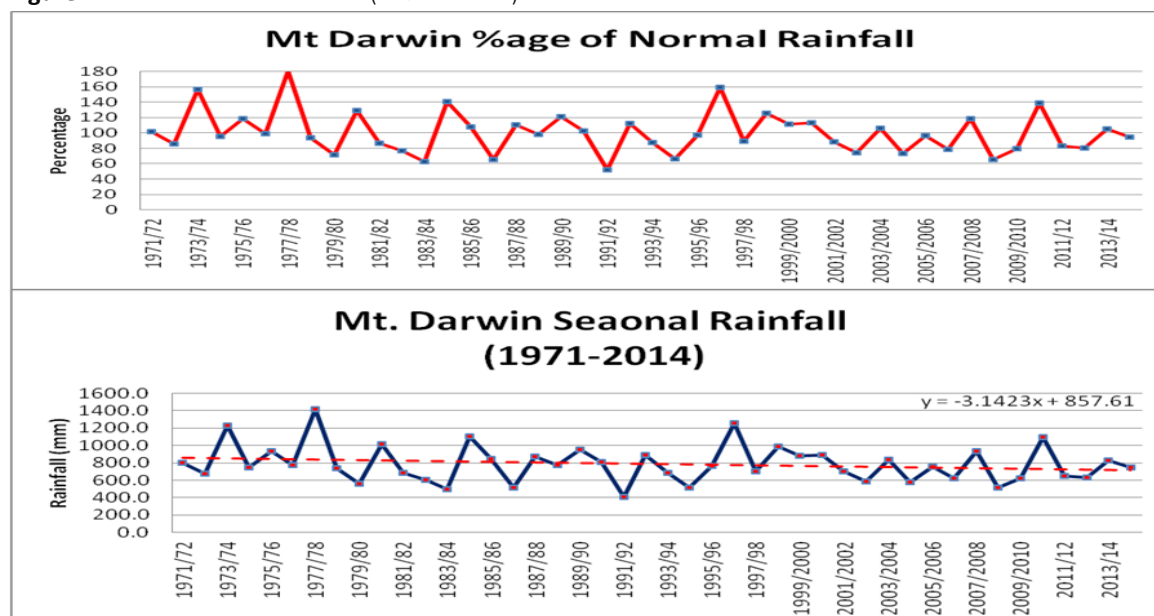


Source: Meteorological Department of Zimbabwe

7.2 Mean Annual Rainfall

The greater part of the district receives a mean annual rainfall of between 450 mm to 650mm and the wards in region III receives between 500mm and 800mm. The rainfall season normally starts in October but significant rains are received in December and the season normally tails off in March. The rainfall distribution is normally poor and unevenly distributed across the district. The Mount Darwin base station was used to collect annual rainfall from 1971 to 2014 (**Figure 7**). The district has been receiving between 60 – 80% of the highest expected rainfall of 800mm. Temperatures are at times as high as 45°C. Dry spells are a usual occurrence in the district and these occur during the mid-season. i.e January and February.

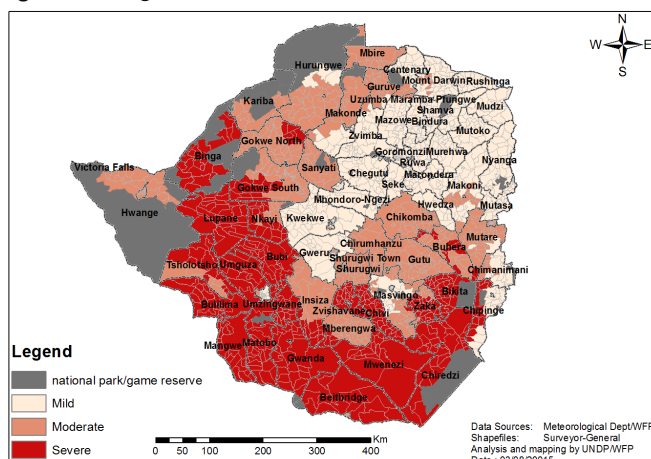
Figure 7: Annual Rainfall Patterns (1971 – 2014)



7.3 Drought Prone Areas

According to UNDP Hazard Profiling, 2015, the district is moderately prone to drought (**Figure 6**). The Eastern and central wards are usually the most affected. Currently the most affected wards are 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 16, 17 and 18. These experienced 2 long dry spells. There is a shift in the wards affected each season, hence there is no trend. Every season has its own peculiar wards affected. In a good year, there are less wards that benefit and these are in natural region III. Their production lasts longer than those in natural region IV.

Figure 6: Drought Prone Areas

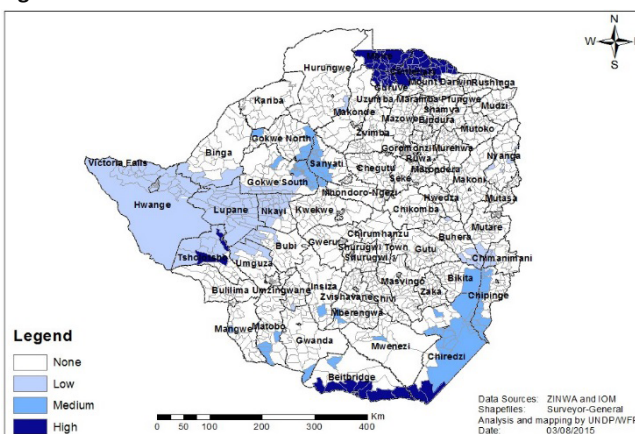


Source: UNDP Hazard Mapping, 2015

7.4 Flood Prone Areas

The district is at no risk of flooding and classified as none according to the UNDP 2015 hazard mapping (**Figure 7**).

Figure 7: Flood Prone Areas



Source: UNDP Hazard Mapping, 2015

7.5 Hydro-Ecological Conditions

Rushinga is one of the dry districts in Mashonaland Central. It largely falls under agro-ecological region IV covering 93% of the district. The climatic conditions which characterise the district make it prone to persistent droughts and subsequently the water tables are very low and has resulted in severe stress in both surface and underground water especially during the dry season.

There are only 2 perennial rivers in the district. i.e. Mazowe and Ruya which are at the boundaries of the district with other districts. The other rivers in the district are seasonal. There are a total of 45 functional dams spread across most of the wards. (1 big dam, 5 medium dams and 39 weir dams). The biggest dam is Chimhanda. Of these dams, 8 are perennial dams in the district and these are Chimhanda in ward 15, Maguwo in ward 14, Chimandau in ward 3, Mukonde in ward 5, Ndakupamwana in ward 18, Mukuhununu in ward 19, Nyanhewe in ward 21 and Nyamatikiti in ward 25. According to the Ministry of Health, 57% of the total population access to clean water.

8. CROP INFORMATION

8.1 Farming Sectors and Crops Grown

Sandy soils are prevalent in the district. With approximately 40% of the soil being sandy loam which is found in isolated patches in the southern part of the district. Dolomitic soils cover 20% of the western part of the district. Loam soils are found in the northern part of the district and cover 60%. 60% of the district has areas with homogenous characteristics of soils. The northern part of

the district is more crop productive compared to the southern part.

All the land is communally owned (**Table 12**). The land holding per household ranges from 4 to 8 hectares. The average land holding size by wealthy groups is 8ha for the better off, 5 ha for the middle class and 3ha for the poor. Crop sales and livestock production. The farming sector is wholly communal and is 100% subsistence farming. Crop production is mainly for household consumption and very limited sales.

Table 12: Main Farming Sectors in the District

Farming Sector	Area (ha)	%	Population	%
Communal	229,800	100	81,090	100
Old Resettlement	0	0	0	0
LSCFA	0	0	0	0
SSCFA	0	0	0	0
A1	0	0	0	0
A2	0	0	0	0
Urban	0	0	0	0
State Land*	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	229,800	100	74,040	100

Source: Agritex

The main crops grown in the district are small grains, maize, cotton, tobacco and groundnut. Maize normally occupies the largest area.

8.2 Irrigation Schemes

There are a total of 45 functional dams spread across most of the wards and Chimhanda dam is the largest within the district. **Table 13** shows the irrigation schemes within the district. Some wards have more than one irrigation schemes. There is need to support irrigation schemes which are not functional as this will supplement rain fed agriculture and improve crop productivity.

Table 13: Irrigation Schemes by Ward

Irrigation Schemes/ Projects	Ward	Size (ha)	Plot Holders	Comments
Nyabawa Irrigation	1	4	60	Partially functional-2ha under production
Nyamuzeya	2	2	28	Summer cropping.
Chimandau Irrigation	3	2	38	Functional
Chitange Community garden	3	1	11	Operations stopped because of inadequate water
Nyabvedzi	6	1.8	25	Preparing to plant winter crop.
Chomutukutu	7	2	27	Summer crop. Low water level
Katakura	8	2	33	Rain fed crop. Water level very low.
Nyanhikiti	10	1.5	56	Summer cropped. Preparing winter cropping.
Hakata	11	2	80	Full utilization. Planting winter crops.
Zviruku	11	2	47	Rain-fed crop. No water in the dam
Mudziviri irrigation project	12	4	1	Functional-0.5 ha under crop
Karirira family garden	12	1	1	Marketing vegetables.

Irrigation Schemes/ Projects	Ward	Size (ha)	Plot Holders	Comments
Mukunde irrigation project	13	1.5	2	Functional (gravity 0
Maguwo	14	2	64	Fully utilized.
Chimhanda irrigation scheme	15	72	145	Functional (Sprinkler)
Mubvududzi	16	1.6	64	Rain-fed crop was a write off.
Kaponda	16	0.5	40	Productive.
Mwera	16	0.4	35	Winter cropping.
Huruma	16	1.8	170	Winter crop preparations in place.
Kaponda	16	1.8	24	Rain-fed crop was a write off.
Huruma	16	1.5	57	Preparing for winter cropping
Manyeredzi	17	2	88	Fully utilized. Summer crop in garden.
Kamutibiri	17	2	72	Summer cropped.
Simukai	17	1	15	Winter planting
Zvido	17	1	19	Winter planting
Tasimuka	17	1	15	Winter crop planting.
Kamanika	18	2	33	Summer cropped
Magoro	19	1	13	No activity. No water captured.
Nyanhewe gardens	21	3	190	Summer crop write off

Source: Agritex

8.3 Crop Production Trends

Maize is the main crop grown and is the main cash crop for the district (**Table 14**). Maize sales support household requirements such as school fees, clothes and other basics. Maize sales take about 25% of the total harvest thereby resulting in households have less to consume and relying more on markets resulting in the district becoming vulnerable to food insecurity year after year. The average number of months own cereal has lasted over the past 10 years is less than 8 months.

Table 14: Main Production and Cereal Adequacy

Year	Maize (Tonnes)	Small Grains (t)	Total Cereals (t)	Food Required (t)	Surplus / Deficit (t)	Consumption Period (Months)
2005	5,200	1,630	6,830	10,661	-3831	7
2006	20,644	3,839	24,483	10,661	13,822	27
2007	19,550	3,407	22,957	10,661	12,296	25
2008	5,882	1,715	7,597	10,661	-3,064	8
2009	6,703	2,763	9,466	10,661	-1,195	10
2010	6,680	4,032	10,712	10,661	1	12
2011	3,051	1,268	4,319	10,661	-6,342	4
2012	5,604	2,338	7,942	10,661	-2,719	8
2013	5,227	1,794	7,021	10,661	-3,640	7
2014	8,679	2,628	11,307	10,661	-646	12
2015	7,508	2,722	10,280	10,661	-381	11

Source: Agritex

Small grains grown in the district are sorghum and pearl millet. According to the 2015 First Round Crop Assessments Rushinga District is among the most food insecure districts in the country; characterised by low average yields of 0.4t/ha for maize, sorghum, 0.35t/ha, groundnuts 0.5t/ha. Due to these low yields, households in the district experience longer hunger periods and more chronic food shortages.

Table 15: Maize Production 2001-2014

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Area (ha)	16,910	15,541	13,750	12,306	26,000	25,805	23,100	24,507	25,949	22,267	22,850	16,465	17,071	16,465	14,508	16,465
Yield (/ha)	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.15	0.2	0.8	0.85	0.124	0.26	0.3	0.13	0.52	0.30	0.52	0.52	0.52
Prod. (Mt)	13,528	10,879	5,500	1,846	5,200	20,644	19,550	5,882	6,03	6,680	3,051	8,679	5,127	8,679	7,508	8,679

Table 16: Small Grains Production 2001-2016

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Area (ha)	1,670	396	491	4,37	6,308	8,247	4,800	6,799	12,968	12,334	11,803	9,586	9,586	7,373	6,475	2,088
Yield (ha)	1.23	0.4	0.55	0.12	0.26	0.47	0.71	0.25	0.21	0.33	0.11	0.25	0.25	0.35	0.42	
Prod. (Mt)	2,050	158	271	484	1,630	3,839	3,407	1,715	2,763	4,032	1,268	2,418	2,418	2,628	2,772	

9. LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

Main types of livestock reared in the district are cattle, goats, sheep and chicken. According to **Table 17** the districts has fewer sheep, pigs and donkeys compared to cattle, goats and cattle.

Table 17: Livestock Population in the District as of January 2016

Livestock	Population
Cattle	47,025
Goats	42,725
Sheep	5,502
Pigs	4,179
Donkeys	447
Indigenous Hens/Chicken	67,973

Source: LPD

The district has a cattle population of 47,107 registered at dip-tanks with ward 5 having the largest herd of 5,747 cattle while ward 3 has the smallest herd of 1,972 which is not proportionate to the distribution of the households (**Table 18**). The constituency has a total of 23 dip tanks which are well distributed within each ward. On average each dip tank caters for 2,048 cattle. The district should have a total of 7 animal health management centres which serve all the dip tanks in the district but currently there are 6 in the district. Most of the dip tanks depend on water from rivers, streams and dams. There can be challenges in accessibility of water for the dip tanks during times of low rainfall.

Table 18: Livestock Population per Ward

DIPTANK	Ward	BULLS	STEER/OXEN	HEIFERS	COWS	CALVES	TOTAL CATTLE	SHEEP	GOATS	PIGS	DONKEYS	POULTRY
Mukosa	1	280	606	395	890	530	2,701	330	7,402	580	15	5,001
Nyabawa	1	120	177	204	571	159	1,231	130	1,512	390	7	2,090

DIPTANK	Ward	BULLS	STEER/ OXEN	HEIFERS	COWS	CALVES	TOTAL CATTLE	SHEEP	GOATS	PIGS	DONKEYS	POULTRY
Bopoma	4	128	596	334	669	250	1,977	200	1,200	400	11	2,700
Mukonde	5	381	505	419	585	266	2,156	231	421	57	5	3,096
Kasenzi	6	239	489	339	549	256	1,872	208	352	42	3	3,201
Chomotukutu	7	137	418	316	427	175	1,473	180	1,017	152	25	2,349
Nhawa	8	185	830	321	442	378	2,156	293	2,017	44	13	2,954
Tobve	8	74	324	234	336	219	1,187	243	972	81	21	939
Bungwe	10	69	227	344	560	500	1,700	118	2,370	105	14	2,254
Maname	10	69	379	249	412	205	1,314	134	2,334	74	29	1,978
Chongoma	11	158	460	594	464	200	1,876	155	1,168	183	10	2,843
Nyahando	12	160	568	449	509	278	1,964	162	2,160	86	14	2,371
Chikwakwa	12	241	790	629	982	221	2,863	169	1,698	108	19	3,121
Urere	15	154	531	381	536	252	1,854	271	2,117	76	11	3,182
Mubvundudzi	16	157	904	324	982	419	2,786	112	2,23	89	16	5,029
Mahutwe	17	120	774	390	408	234	1,926	392	2,332	57	11	2,741
Ndakupamwana	18	158	604	546	561	355	2,224	302	2,187	141	19	1,993
Mukuhununu	19	123	579	304	600	238	1,844	110	998	261	18	1,654
Chiromba	19	100	405	204	489	194	1,392	176	832	376	14	2,040
Nyamamono	22	246	368	228	414	217	1,473	206	423	92	9	3,114
Katoni	23	149	263	255	526	264	1,457	183	1,003	54	17	2,136
Nyaukurungo	23	121	406	591	890	492	2,500	351	2,500	370	8	4,090
Makachi	25	45	237	179	804	64	1,329	364	1,213	92	60	2,110
Nyamatikiti	25	158	534	327	919	412	2,350	288	1,126	139	27	3,937

Source: LPD

Breeding programmes are lacking in the district and no breed improvement has been done in the district for many years. Livestock in the district is in abundance but is of poor breeds due to poor nutrition and unfavourable climate. Livestock nutrition as a special focus is challenged due to the current drought situation which has resulted in below average rangelands with the traditional nutritional base during the dry season also threatened due to crop failure and as a result Rushinga is threatened by livestock deaths due to starvation since there are no other sources for nutritional supplementation.

The calving rates in the district are low compared to the national calving rates (**Table 17**). The recommended National Beef production which is used as standard for comparison is 90% calving rate and 2% herd mortality rate. Calving rate calculations have been deliberately used surviving calves taking into consideration pre-weaning and post weaning mortalities which in most are not disclosed by farmers. Communal farmer district and suspicion of assets censuses in Rushinga especially livestock numbers is also a factor.

Table 19: Rushinga Cattle Production Trends from 2009 to January 2016

Year	Total Cattle	% Change of Total	Total Cows	Total Surviving Calves	Calving RATE	Comparison of Calving Rate to National Standards
2009	49,191	-	15,741	6,866	43.6%	48.4%
2010	48,665	-1.1%	16,059	7,066	44%	48.9%
2011	52,302	7.5%	18,306	8,421	46%	51.1%
2012	46,306	-11.5%	14,355	6,029	42%	46.7%
2013	46,745	0.9%	14,491	6,159	42.5%	47.3%
2014	44,134	-5.6%	12,358	4,820	39%	43.4%
2015	45,191	2.4%	14,009	6,024	43%	47.8%
2016	47,025	4%	15,028	6,955	46.3%	51.4%

Source: LPD

The average household livestock ownership is 3 for cattle, 3 for goats and 5 poultry. This however varies by wealthy groups.

Table 20: Average Household Livestock Ownership

Livestock	Average per Household	% of the District Livestock Population	Wealthy	Average	Poor
Cattle	3	28%	10+	4	0
Goats	3	25%	16	8	
Poultry	5	41%	16	8	3
Sheep	-	3.30%	16	8	
Other	-	2.70%			

Source: LPD

There are 17 125 farmers and 3 organised farmer groups that practise bee-keeping in the district.

9.1 Main Livestock Diseases

Tick borne diseases constitute about 70% of cattle deaths. This is due to water challenges for replenishment of plunge dips. There is development of acaricides resistance due to overuse of 1 acaricide tick-buster.

Table 21: Livestock Diseases

Livestock class	Major diseases
Cattle	Black leg, Anaplasmosis, Bovine Babesiosis.
Goats	Pulpy kidney, internal parasites
Chicken	Newcastle, Coccidiosis, infectious coryza and other respiratory diseases

Source: LPD

10. MARKET INFORMATION

The main service centers for horticulture are Rushinga ward 24, Chimhanda ward 15, Chomutukutu ward 7, Mary Mt ward 4 and Nyamatikiti ward 25. These serve the surrounding and neighboring wards. The main centres cater for wide catchment areas. The main service centre for cattle is Chimhanda while for small livestock is Rushinga.

10.1 Livestock Markets

There are informal markets in the district and these constitute livestock vendors or middle men. Formal markets characterised by sales pens and the auction system are dysfunctional. Currently, there are no formal livestock markets in the district resulting in domination by livestock vendors despite the hype with which public auctions had been accepted at the inception. There are several sales pens in the district. There are 3 small livestock sales pens in the district and are not functioning. There are 4 cattle sales pens in the district but are not fully functional. The structures are not being maintained. The agro-ecological conditions favour livestock production. There is lack of proper stakeholders' communication in as far as markets are concerned. There is need for training for both farmers and stakeholders. Due to the absence of the formal auction system middlemen are rampant and the purchased livestock are sent to Koala and Surrey where average prices for Super grade is \$3.50 per kg, Commercial is going for \$3.25, Economy is going for \$3.15 and Manufacturing is going for \$2.20.

The average price for cattle by January 2016 was \$300, and \$ 4 per bird for poultry. 70% of the offtake is cash between the farmers and middlemen. 30% is barter trade in exchange for maize which is the current situation. The terms of trade are not being negotiated on the same level. Prices are being dictated by the middlemen. There is lack of bargaining power for the farmers especially during droughts.

10.2 Crop and Food Markets

The main buyers of crop produce in the district are summarized in **Table 22**:

Table 22: Major Crop and Livestock Buyers

Type of market	Characteristics
GMB	Cash not always available, low buying prices compared to other players on the market, sub depots are distant from the majority of the farmers
Private buyers	Not always available, offer poor prices of livestock and crops
Cotton buying companies	Numerous and have good coverage of the district, however offer low buying price
Local buyers	Scarce and where available offer poor prices

Source: Agritex

Cereals are not available in the district except those supplied by GMB but not all farmers are accessing it due to the prohibitive price of \$22.50/50kg bag. Other food staffs other than cereals are available in the district. Supplies of vegetables are diminishing because some water bodies did not recharge this season so the community leaders decided to use the water for domestic use and livestock only. Irrigation is not allowed. Retail shops have basic commodities but cash is not available to access them

Maize meal is not readily available in most wards except ward 4 and 15, maize grain is also not readily available in most wards except ward 4, a3 and 15. **Table 23** gives a summary of the typical availability and prices of food commodities.

Table 23: Commodity Availability and Prices by Ward

Ward	Commodity						Price				
	Maize Meal	Maize Grain	Cooking Oil	Beans	Other Small Grain	Rice	Maize Meal \$/10kg	Maize Grain \$/buck-et	Cooking Oil \$/2ltre	Beans \$/500g	Other Small Grain \$/bucket
1	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.50	-	n/a
2	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4..00	-	n/a
3	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	4.00	1.00	n/a
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	-	9.00	4.00	1.00	n/a
5	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.00	-	n/a
6	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.00	-	n/a
7	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	4.00	1.00	n/a
8	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	4.00	1.00	n/a
9	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	3.50	-	n/a
10	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	3.50	-	n/a
11	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.00	-	n/a
12	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	4.00	1.00	n/a
13	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	-	10.00	4.00	1.00	n/a
14	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	4.00	1.00	n/a

Ward	Commodity						Price				
	Maize Meal	Maize Grain	Cooking Oil	Beans	Other Small Grain	Rice	Maize Meal \$/10kg	Maize Grain \$/bucket	Cooking Oil \$/2litre	Beans \$/500g	Other Small Grain \$/bucket
15	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	7.00	10.00	3.50	1.00	n/a
16	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.00	-	n/a
17	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.00	-	n/a
18	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	3.50	-	n/a
19	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.00	-	n/a
20	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	4.00	-	n/a
21	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	3.50	1.00	n/a
22	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	3.50	1.00	n/a
23	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	-	-	3.50	-	n/a
24	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	7.00	8.00	3.50	1.00	n/a
25	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	3.50	1.00	n/a

Source: Agritex

10.3 Marketing Challenges

Marketing challenges for both livestock and horticulture include the following:

- Shortage of resource mobilisation capacity to support logistical activities for livestock auctions.
- Poor buyer mobilisation.
- Low buying prices-Lack of bargaining power.
- Distant buying points.
- Few competitive buyers
- Low market perception by farmers leading to confusion, lack of confidence and at times duping by buyers.
- No buyers in some areas of the district
- Poor livestock auction system.

11. COMMON HAZARDS

Chronic Hazards

- Low rainfall totals and poor distribution leading to low yields
- Pests and diseases
- Poor soils for cultivation (leached)
- Crop destruction by wild animal
- Water shortage poor availability
- Competition of water between humans and livestock
- No water troughs at boreholes

Periodic Hazards

- Mid-season dry spells
- Drought are some of the hazards.
- The length of the rainy season is on average three months.
- Mean minimum and maximum temperatures are 14.1°C and 28.6°C, respectively.

12. DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The following are the development priorities and plans for the district.

Table 24: District Development Plans

Development priority	Location
Clinics	Wards 22, 7, 23 and 11
Improved road network	Eastern part of the district
Safe drinking water	All wards
Small and large dams	Eastern part of the district
Secondary schools of acceptable standard	Whole district
Stadium and community hall	Rushinga centre

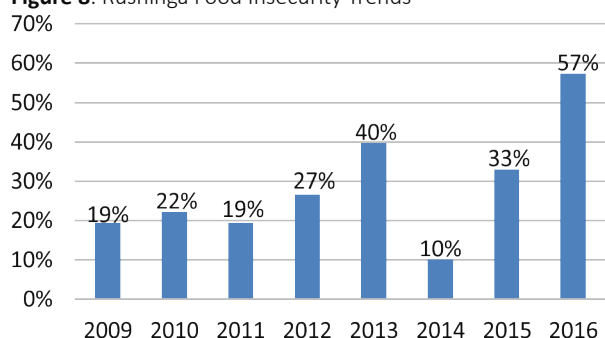
Source: District Administrator's Reports

13. FOOD INSECURE POPULATION

13.1 Food Insecurity Trends

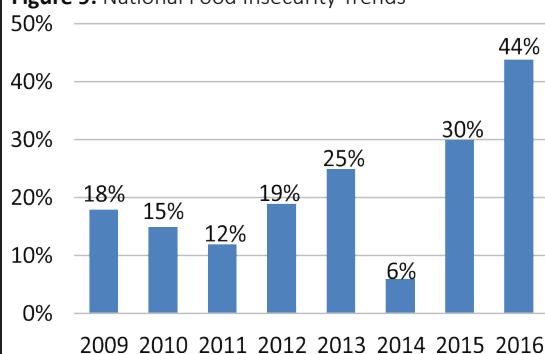
According to the Zimbabwe vulnerability assessment committee (ZimVAC) reports, the food insecurity for the district has been above the national average and the district is considered highly food insecure (**Figure 8 and 9**). The food insecurity trends have generally been on an upward trend reached its highest 2016 estimated at 57% compared to the national average of 44%.

Figure 8: Rushinga Food Insecurity Trends



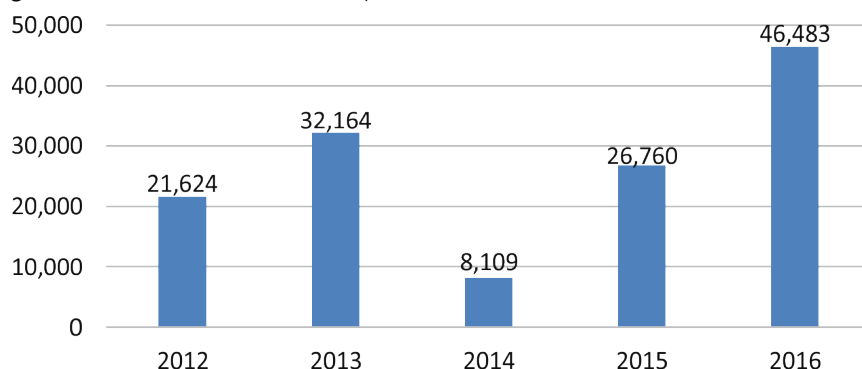
Source: ZimVAC Reports (2009 – 2016)

Figure 9: National Food Insecurity Trends



The highest number of food insecure population of about 46,483, was recorded in 2016 (**Figure 10**). The cropping season for the 2015/16 agricultural season suffered the impacts of the El Nino and resulted in low harvest. This reinforces the point that the district requires poverty alleviation programmes to reduce over reliance on agriculture. Also support in irrigation schemes will result in improved crop production.

Figure 10: Estimated Food Insecure Population

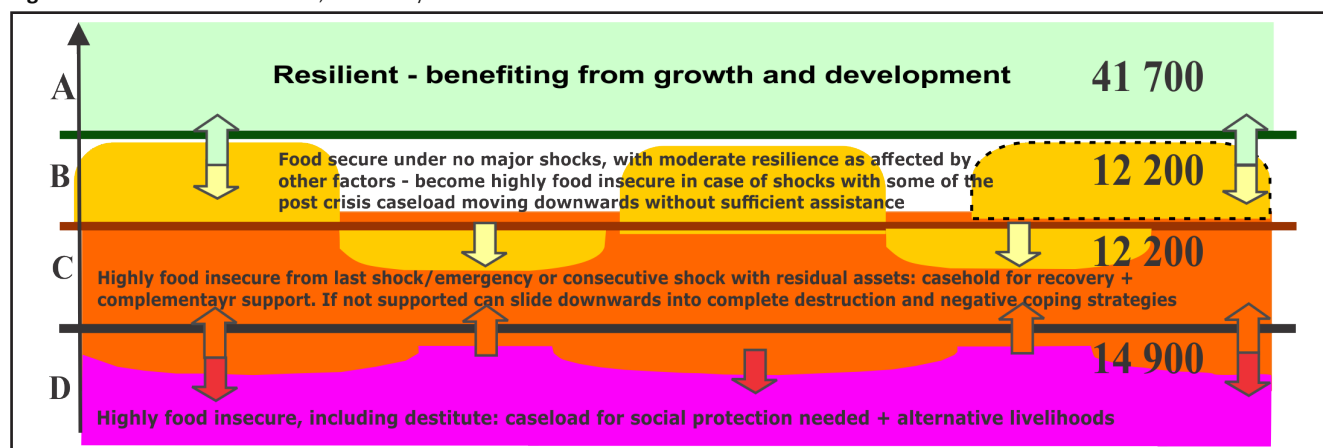


Source: ZimVAC Reports (2009 – 2016)

13.2 Chronic and Transitory Food Insecure Populations

Rushinga has a 2016 estimated population of about 81,090 and according to the WFP analysis, the 14,900 people are chronically food insecure, 12,900 are transitorily and only becomes food insecure when there is a shock, 12,200 are more resilient and becomes food insecure when there is a major shock and 41,700 are resilient and are able to absorb and shock without major effects to their food security status as illustrated in **Figure 11**.

Figure 11: Estimation of Chronic, Transitory and Food Secure Beneficiaries



Source: WFP Integrated Context Analysis

Key:

Category A: Households in category A would not require any food assistance.

Category B: Households in category B could require relief assistance during times of acute stress.

Category C: Household in category C and D represent an important niche for **recovery** activities. Households in category C would particularly benefit from productive recovery activities, such as resilience building risk reduction and disaster preparedness.

Category D: Households in category D, on the other hand, are an ideal ground for both protective and productive safety nets i.e. a mix of social protection and livelihood enhancement measures. A period of Conditional Transfers (CTs) in the form of asset building (CFA or FFA) may follow a period of Unconditional Transfers (e.g. GFD or cash transfers) that may be required to stabilize consumption needs for a specific part of the year. To determine this, however, a seasonal analysis of livelihood patterns would be required to establish the best combinations of response options and the support modalities (i.e. CFA, FFA, GFD etc.) required.

13.3 Visible Vulnerabilities for the Socio Economic Groups

Poor Households

- Households share food among themselves

- Compromised number of meals (eating vegetables and drinking tea only)
- Petty trading, purchases, barter trade, vending, gifts, remittances, government support and NGO support.
- In drought years people resort to one meal per day
- Resort to gold panning
- Collection of wild fruits
- Herd cattle for middle to rich households in return for one beast for a year's work.
- Casual labour normally comes during weeding time and harvesting time
- Brick moulding.

13.4 Coping Strategies

- Gardening and vegetable sales
- Reduction of meals consumed per day e.g. 1 or 2 meals per day instead of the usual 3 meals
- Casual labour – especially in the growth points where civil servants, extension workers employ limited number of people
- Drying of Vegetables in summer.
- Selling of livestock
- Casual labour.
- Reducing pot sizes
- Cross border trading for people in peripheral wards.
- Gold panning

13.5 Foods Normally Consumed in the District

Maize is the staple food for the entire district. However, during dry spells, the general populace goes for less preferred foods such as sorghum and finger millet. The types of vegetables mostly consumed are pumpkin leaves, okra Kapishe, Nyevehe, cowpeas leaves (munyemba), ground bellies called Manyanya. At the onset of the summer season, people in the district feed on baobab leaves. During dry spells people heavily rely on baobab fruits and prepare porridge called bozo. The deliberate ban of the baobab fruit selling is a clear indication of the importance of the commodity as it is a reliable coping strategy.

13.6 Ranking of Food Insecure Wards

Ranking of insecure wards was done by the DDRC in September 2015 and wards were clustered using food security indicators such as household crop production, ownership or access and custody of livestock, external support such as remittances, household dependency ratio and income opportunities and livelihood activities. Wards were grouped into five clusters using food security indicators.

Table 25: Food Insecurity Ranking by Cluster

Cluster	Wards	Rating
Cluster 1	5, 6, 9, 20	1
Cluster 2	1, 2, 38, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25	2
Cluster 3	7, 10, 14, 15, 21	3

Cluster	Wards	Rating
Cluster 4	11, 4	4
Cluster 5	12, 24	5

Source: Agritex

13.7 Seasonal Calendar

The main activities that are carried out through the year mainly include planting, weeding, harvesting and marketing (**Figure 12**).

Figure 12: Seasonal Calendar for a Typical Year

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug
Planting												
Weeding												
Harvesting												
Marketing												
Horticultural prod (ward 15)												

Source: Agritex

13.8 Food Aid Trends

Programme	Year	Wards	Households			Beneficiaries		
			Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
PRIZE (USAID)	2010-2013	All 25	1,850	1,560	3,410	9,250	7,800	17,050
Lean Season Assistance	2013-2014	All 25	1,897	2,510	4,407	10,876	10,429	21,305

Source: District Administrator's Reports

14. DEVELOPMENT PARTNER PROFILING

Table 26: Summary of NGOs Operating in the District and their wards of Operations

Development Partner	Activities	Number of Wards/ Beneficiaries
World Vision (Area Development Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Sanitation Health: Borehole rehabilitations, supply of tools for boreholes in the ADP areas and Borehole drilling. • Agriculture: Rehabilitation of dip-tanks and construction of new dip-tanks. • HIV/AIDS: Promoting dialogue and supporting HIV related events and advocacy. • Child Sponsorship and Protection: Bursaries and attachments of child-beneficiaries to sponsors and institutions. 	9 ADP wards(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 21, 22, 23, 20)

Development Partner	Activities	Number of Wards/ Beneficiaries
Caritas Chinhoyi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and Sanitation Health, community latrines Borehole rehabilitations, supply of tools for boreholes in 2 wards and Borehole drilling. 	Wards 13, 23
Save the Children International (I am Learning Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education: Rehabilitation of infrastructure in selected schools. They are also giving books to schools and providing teacher refresher courses across the district. 	Selected Schools in the 25 wards of Rushinga district.
Camfed (Campaign for Female Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girl-child sponsorship: Fees, uniforms, stationery, sanitary pads to disadvantaged girl children. 	All Schools in 24 wards
ZAPSO: Behaviour Change Communication on HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of Condoms, Behaviour Change interventions, Male circumcision, PMTCT, ART, Condom use, HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxes (PEP). 	All 24 Wards in Rushinga district
CTDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lean Season Assistance and Productive Asset Creation. 	All wards except 24 for LSA and wards 8, 10, 11, 16, 17 for PAC.

Source: District Administrator's Reports

15. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Table 27: Rushinga District Issues for Consideration

Thematic Area	Comments
Crop and Livestock Development	Encourage production of traditional and drought resistant food crops such as sorghum and sweet potatoes by strengthening and expanding seed multiplication schemes and farmer extension in the low potential areas of Rushinga and more traditional crops such as maize in high potential areas; provision of early warning and food information system; promote production and marketing of cash crops through the formation of marketing groups and associations and revamping the cotton industry through the creation of a viable local market.
Water Supply	74% of households relying on boreholes or protected wells as their major source of water. 11% rely on unsafe water from unprotected surface water sources like dams or streams or rivers there is need to increase safe water supply, community capacity building to ensure proper utilization and management of water systems.
Environmental Management and Conservation	Due to the high levels of erosion and siltation in the district there is need for soil and water conservation initiatives; support agro-forestry related practices including the promotion of alternative renewable sources to reduce pressure on trees.
Health and Nutrition	The district has moderate malnutrition rates however figures on malnutrition in this part of the country could be hugely distorted as a good number of the community is of the apostolic Christian faith and seeking medical attention is against the rule of the church.

Thematic Area	Comments
Health and Nutrition	The HIV prevalence rate in Rushinga is 12.6% again this figure could be an underestimation due to the reasons stated above. There is need for the community to be sensitised on the importance of seeking health care as well as campaigns on HIV/ AIDS, prevention of malnutrition and other health related issues as a preventative measure against such.
Education	There is a good number of primary schools but fewer secondary schools than required. This results in more secondary school kids having to travel long distance to attend school. The district also has a high teacher- student ratio This goes to show that more trained teachers are needed in the district in order to reduce the teacher to pupil ratio for more efficient .
Trade and industries	Improvement business environment by facilitating access to credit such as through establishment of district loans board and provision of collateral security; improvement in infrastructure; facilitating establishment of agro-based industries within the districts.
Roads	The road network and d most roads in Rushinga are in fair-good condition. The roads are mainly gravel and in need of maintenance and rehabilitation.
Energy	Expansion of rural electrification programs to supply other potential development areas to spur industrialization.
Communications	There are in fixed telephone lines within the district. There is need for the telecoms company to fix the lines to improve communication within the district. The rural areas have been largely marginalized in terms of provision of affordable internet services.

Source: District Profiling Team

RUSHINGA DISTRICT RISK PROFILING TEAM

Coordination Team		
Name	Designation	Organisation
George Kembo	FNC Director	Food and Nutrition Council
Joao Manja	Head of VAME	World Food Programme
Blessing Butaumocho	Head of Programmes	Food and Nutrition Council
Isaac Tarakidzwa	VAM Officer	World Food Programme
Technical Team		
Rudo Sagomba	VAM Officer/ Technical Team Lead	World Food Programme
Innocent Mangwiro	Data Analyst	Food and Nutrition Council
Arnold Damba	Chief Statistician	ZIMSTAT
Godfrey Tore	Agritex Officer	Agritex
Admire Mbundure	LPD Officer	Livestock Production Department
Linia Mashawi	Meteorologist	Meteorological Department
Tendai Mahove	CTDO	Rushinga
I Mupambwa	Agritex	Rushinga
Thabisani Moyo	Food Security Specialist	USAID
Angela Kafembe	Assistant National Technical Manager	FEWSNET
Kudzai Akino	Head of M&E	World Food Programme
Preacherd Donga	Program Policy Officer	World Food Programme
Herbert Matsikwa	Program Policy Officer	World Food Programme
Brian Mandebvu	Program Associate	World Food Programme
Farai Mukwende	Program Associate	World Food Programme
Mollyn Butaumocho	Program Assistant	World Food Programme
Sherita Manyika	Program Associate	World Food Programme

RUSHING - Summary by Ward

Ward	HH	Health Facility	HIV/AIDS (High, Medium, Low)	Access to Safe Water	Access to Toilets	Poverty Level	No. of Poor HH	No. of Non Poor HHs	Livelihood Zone	Livelihood Zone Description	Agro-Ecological Zones	Source of Income	Coping Strategies	Cereal Production	Drought Prone	Flood Prone
1	591	Yes	Medium	Limited	26%	83.3%	503	86	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
2	367	Yes	Medium	Limited	38%	85.0%	308	55	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
3	745		Medium	Limited		81.4%	629	113	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
4	805	Yes	Medium	Limited	19%	81.4%	685	116	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
5	319	Yes	Medium	Limited	42%	88.4%	188	127	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
6	414		Medium	Limited		86.4%	358	56	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
7	1126		Medium	Limited		84.8%	954	171	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
8	843	Yes	Medium	Limited	35%	84.8%	687	155	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
9	686		Medium	Limited		73.4%	531	153	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
10	917	Yes	Medium	Limited	32%	85.8%	800	114	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
11	593		Medium	Limited		80.3%	475	117	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region 111 , 500- 800mm, semi intensive agriculture, suitable for livestock and crop production	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
12	888		Medium	Limited		83.2%	737	149	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little cotton production	Region 111 , 500- 800mm, semi intensive agriculture, suitable for livestock and crop production	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
13	657	Yes	Medium	Limited	34%	85.5%	480	173	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region 111 , 500- 800mm, semi intensive agriculture, suitable for livestock and crop production	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
14	815		Medium	Limited		84.5%	657	150	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
15	873		Medium	Limited		81.6%	733	135	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low

Ward	HH	Health Facility	HIV/AIDS (High, Medium, Low)	Access to Safe Water	Access to Toilets	Poverty Level	No. of Poor HH	No. of Non Poor HHs	Livelihood Zone	Livelihood Zone Description	Agro-Ecological Zones	Source of Income	Coping Strategies	Cereal Production	Drought Prone	Flood Prone
16	766		Medium	Limited		81.5%	619	142	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
17	677	Yes	Medium	Limited	31%	81.6%	550	124	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
18	925	Yes	Medium	Limited	24%	87.5%	793	131	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
19	657		Medium	Limited		79.8%	548	108	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
20	536		Medium	Limited		86.4%	460	72	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming and cross border trading	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
21	635		Medium	Limited		83.5%	505	128	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming and cross border trading	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
22	728		Medium	Limited		77.7%	590	134	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming and cross border trading	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
23	461		Medium	Limited		84.6%	390	71	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming and cross border trading	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
24	851	Yes	Medium	Limited	71%	85.5%	707	142	Greater Mudzi Communal	Petty trader, part time jobs, formal employment	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low
25	250	Yes	Medium	Limited	50%	59.7%	221	29	Greater Mudzi Communal	Subsistence farming, very little groundnuts and tobacco production	Region IV , 650 - 800mm, semi extensive agriculture, drought resistant crops and livestock	1. Crop and livestock sales 2. Casual labour 3. Gold panning	1. Reduce meals 2. Selling of livestock	Deficit	Mild	Low