



Exploring Threats to Human Security – Poverty and Water in Southern Africa

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Introduction



“The value of living is in the living itself, and this implies the ability to secure the basic necessities of life” Amartya Sen (1995).

Human security

Human security is at a low ebb in the country.

Zimbabweans are grappling with

1. reduced access to basic services,
2. the aftermath of several years of drought,
3. the economic meltdown and
4. the effects of Aids.

The government is thus struggling to provide the basics that are needed by all to participate in society: health, education, water, housing and employment. These are essential factors that make up the concept human security.

Human Security in Zimbabwe

- The UNDP 1994 report defines human security in 7 categories: economic, food, health, environmental, community, personal and political security.
- The quality of life has declined dramatically for Zimbabweans as most of them experience rather severe shortages of all basic necessities.
- Currently, more than 65% are living below the poverty datum line of 1.2 million dollars [214 dollars].
- Current inflation figures (official rate 1043%), the high unemployment rate (over 80 %) and acute shortages of water, power and gasoline have left everyone vulnerable.

HDI trends in Zimbabwe

Year	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2004	Change mean	Change 1975-2004
HDI	0.548	0.576	0.643	0.659	0.591	0.525	0.491	0.576	0.057

- Many of the areas in Zimbabwe are now ‘spatial poverty traps’ (Bird et al 2002a:25) with low geographic capital [the natural, physical, social and human capital of an area that limits the chances to escape from poverty.
- Recent policy developments, migratory patterns and dwindling resources, have all contributed to the rise in urban poverty.
- In the same way that the Millennium Development Goals (1990-2015) are inter-related, poverty is also a result of inter-related factors that cut across all the eight goals.



■: **Table 2: Zimbabwe development indicators 2006 (2004 data)**

Zimbabwe's gini index is	50.1
Life expectancy	36.6
School enrolment	52.4
People without access to improved water source	19
Children underweight for age (0-5)	13

Source: Human Development Report 2006 (2004 data)

Zimbabwe development indicators contd

- In 1990/1991, national estimates (Bird et al 2005)
- 25% of the citizens were poor
- 7 % were very poor
- In urban areas, less than 10 % were poor, just under 2% being very poor
- In rural areas, 31% were poor and 9% very poor
- Even though 71% of the population was resident in the rural areas, rural poverty accounted for 88% of the poverty in the country.

Access to Water

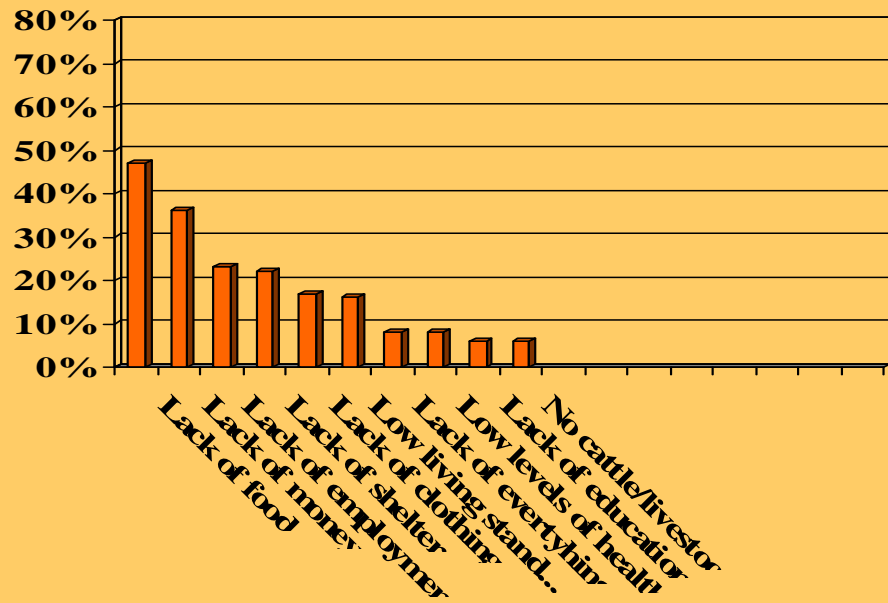


Before 2004, rural areas were divided into 3 categories:

- Communal areas- semi-arid to arid, natural low levels of capital-poverty high 33%
- Resettlement areas –poverty 41%
- Commercial farms.

Area	Pop(mill)	Shallow wells	Deep wells	Boreholes	Coverage %	VIP latrines	Coverage %
Urban areas	3.1				100		100
Communal areas	5.4	7, 463	6,157	10,494	55	187 000	21
Resettlement areas	0.3		310	1,735	100		19
LSCF areas	1.5	26, 000 water points			70	60 000	24
State land	0.3				80		
Total	10.6				73		44

Understandings of poverty (2005)



In your opinion, what does it mean to be poor?

What Poverty Means to Southern Africans

Poverty	Botswana	Lesotho	Malawi	Namibia	South Africa	Zambia
Lack of food	39	53	74	54	60	53
Lack of shelter	32	9	16	32	44	21
Lack of clothing	17	30	41	18	10	28
Lack of money	19	19	56	41	47	43
Low living standards	20	16	22	13	6	22
Lack of social amenities	0	2	4	0	1	1
Lack of education/knowledge	4	2	2	7	5	12
Lack of employment/jobs	23	29	5	36	41	17
Low levels of health	2	2	4	2	2	4
Lack of agricultural inputs (land/fertilizers/seeds)	2	3	7	2	0	9
Laziness/person who won't work	1	2	1	1	0	8
Lack of family/social support network	2	4	1	5	4	8
No water	0	4	3	1	5	3
No cattle or livestock	1	1	1	4	5	1
No land	31	27	3	7	0	2
Lack of everything/not having anything	1	18	2	2	0	2
Lack of everything/not having anything	9	13	0	4	7	3

Question wording: In your opinion, what does being poor mean to you? (2003 Afrobarometer survey)

Food shortages



Category	%
Often	40%
Sometimes	19%
Once or twice	17%
Never	19%

Question Wording: 2005- Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: A. Enough food to eat

Experiential Poverty by Habitat (rural/urban) 2005



		Water 2005	Food 2005	Medical Care 2005	Cash income 2005
Urban	Never	32	35	21	11
	Just once or twice	29	24	15	23
	Several times	15	17	17	20
	Many times	13	12	23	28
	Always	11	12	23	18
Rural	Never	35	11	9	4
	Just once or twice	18	14	10	9
	Several times	19	20	18	15
	Many times	15	29	32	35
	Always	14	27	30	37

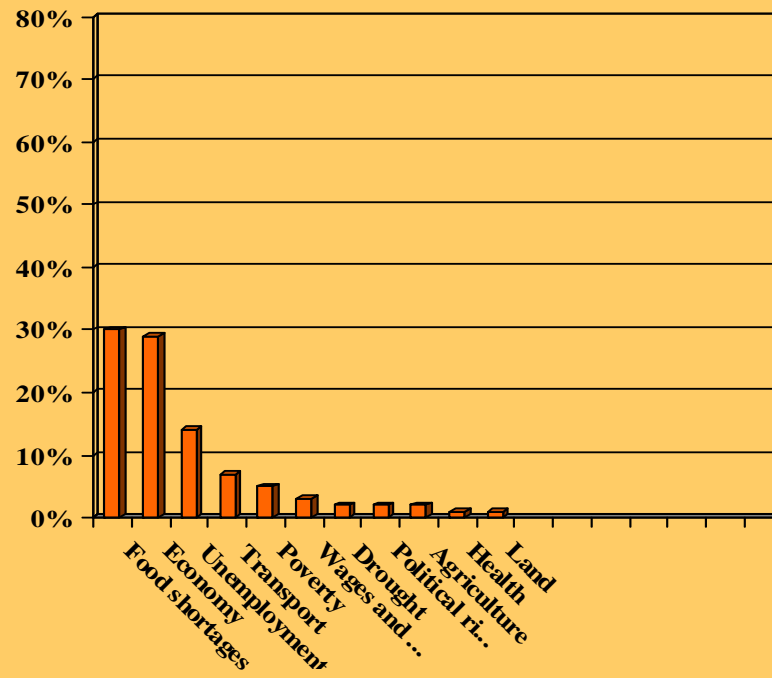
Lived Poverty



Province	LP cash income	LP food	LP medical care	LP many times/always Water
Zimbabwe	62	43	56	41
Harare	43	26	39	30
Bulawayo	54	26	40	22
Midlands	61	33	58	43
Masvingo	73	42	81	46
Mashonaland East	66	28	39	39
Mashonaland West	57	35	71	49
Mashonaland Central	83	63	53	39
Matebeleland South	75	81	75	64
Matebeleland North	44	53	52	36

Lived poverty refers to actual experiences of basic shortages/poverty

Most important problems



In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing the country that government should address? [up to 3 answers accepted]

Human Development Index by Habitat 2001



Location	Life expectancy	Average yrs of schooling index	Education index	Income index	HPI %	HDI
Urban	40.6	0.543	0.825	0.426	26.4	0.504
Rural	35.5	0.307	0.687	0.303	31.1	0.388



Human Poverty Index by Habitat 2001

	% in cohort not surviving to 40 yrs	Adult literacy rate %	Under weight chrn 5yrs 1999 %	Pop without access to safe water %	Pop without access to healthcare%	Living standard deprivation %	HPI %
Urban	38	0.0	7.5	0.1	6.3	7.3	26.4
Rural	44	16.9	15.6	15.0	4.1	8.8	31.1



Table 10 HPI indicators 1995-2001

HDI trend across provinces

Province	HPI 1995	HPI 2001	Change	No access to safe water 1995	No access to safe water 2001	Change
Harare	22.3	25.7	-3.4	1.5	0.4	1.1
Bulawayo	20.9	23.7	-2.8	0.1	0.0	0.1
Midlands	22.9	28.1	-5.2	31.4	14.6	16.8
Masvingo	21.7	20.3	1.4	31.8	20.4	11.4
Mashonaland East	25.2	28.9	-3.7	41.4	11.4	30.0
Mashonaland West	26.5	32.9	-6.4	22.6	7.4	15.2
Mashonaland Central	28.8	30.2	-1.4	28.4	6.0	22.4
Matebeleland South	23.8	24.9	-1.1	28.8	10.3	18.5
Matebeleland North	23.4	34.6	-11.2	23.9	13.3	10.6
Manicaland	23.2	30.2	-7.0	30	12.0	18

Table 11: HDI trend across provinces



HDI trend across provinces

Province	HDI 1995	HDI 2001	Change
Harare	0.587	0.511	0.076
Bulawayo	0.564	0.513	0.051
Midlands	0.512	0.425	0.087
Masvingo	0.461	0.406	0.055
Mashonaland East	0.471	0.411	0.060
Mashonaland West	0.467	0.410	0.057
Mashonaland Central	0.450	0.400	0.050
Matebeleland South	0.494	0.445	0.049
Matebeleland North	0.472	0.433	0.039
Manicaland	0.439	0.406	0.033



In the last month, how much of the time: Have you been so worried or anxious that you have felt tired, worn out, or exhausted?

Mental toll on citizens

	Urban	Rural
Often	12	12
Sometimes	6	5
Rarely	6	6
Never	3	4

Physical and mental health of Zimbabweans



Harare	Many times	14	16	15	24
	Always	10	11	10	13
Bulawayo	Many times	7	23	8	19
	Always	1	7	3	14
Midlands	Many times	13	23	14	32
	Always	9	7	14	21
Masvingo	Many times	11	21	7	18
	Always	16	1	9	20
Mashonaland East	Many times	7	15	6	24
	Always	23	14	21	17
Mashonaland West	Many times	14	35	17	40
	Always	5	5	11	17
Mashonaland Central	Many times	9	18	9	21
	Always	3	18	5	27
Matebeleland South	Many times	6	18	5	11
	Always	6	5	6	14
Matebeland North	Many times	6	22	9	11
	Always	5	3	4	14
Manicaland	Many times	13	24	9	27
	Always	23	5	20	6

Question Wording: In the last month, how much of the time: Has your physical health reduced the amount of work you normally do inside or outside your home? Have you been so worried or anxious that you have felt tired, worn out, or exhausted?



Table 16 GDP of Zimbabwe 1999-2006

GDP Trends in Zimbabwe 1999-2006

Year	GDP
2006	\$25.05 billion
2005	\$25.69 billion
2004	\$24.37 billion
2003	\$24.03 billion
2002	\$26.07 billion
2001	\$28.00 billion
2000	\$28.20 billion
1999	\$26.50 billion



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