

**Report on
Internally Displaced Farm Workers
Survey**

**Kadoma, Chegutu and KweKwe
Districts**

Zimbabwe Community Development Trust

February 2003

P.O. Box HR 8885
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263-4-797916-9
Fax: +263-4-797918

Executive summary

Zimbabwe has the greater part of its population forming the agrarian community. Generally, the farming community used to be a peaceful community before the February 2000 constitutional referendum. The population of Zimbabwe voted overwhelmingly against the government's purported people-driven constitution and all hell broke loose. From February 2000 until to date, Zimbabwe had experienced the worst violence, torture, harassment and illegal eviction of commercial farmers and the farm workers under the guise of a land redistribution programme, which was later, code-named "Fast Track Land Resettlement" programme.

Lack of planning and the haphazardness of the process itself rendered the programme null and void of the initial ideas and major objectives of land reform in the country. Civil society in the country dismissed the land resettlement programme as a violent way of fast tracking disenfranchisement, hunger, starvation, abject poverty and destitution in Zimbabwe- an analysis that the government vehemently denied.

The reality on the ground is that the violence and lawlessness associated with the programme drove many displaced farm workers into the jungle. (By 'jungle' we mean remote areas of the country where there is no infra-structure - no schools, clinics, electricity, running water and the like.) There they are languishing in poverty and facing famine whilst the absence of formal employment means that they are struggling to make ends meet. These farm workers have become seriously impoverished as a direct result of their displacement and the violent eviction of the commercial farmers.

Non-governmental organisations, particularly Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe (FCTZ), Farm Orphans Support Trust (FOST) the Zimbabwe Community Development Trust (ZCDT), have works established to respond to the needs of the farm workers and their families.

This report is an analysis on the plight of farm workers and their families and is born out of the need to know what is going on so that we can be better able to make our humanitarian response more appropriate. There has been a dearth of reliable information on the plight of these people. Jonathan Moyo, the Information minister has even denied that such a class of people exist. The survey aimed at answering some of the questions that remained unanswered pertaining to the plight of farm workers and the effects of the land reform in an intellectually rigorous way. We believe that its findings can be defended as free from bias to the kind of politicking that has muddied the waters in the debate over the present agrarian reform programme.

Chegutu, Kadoma and Kwekwe districts house several commercial farms, which were invaded and later on gazetted for resettlement. Some are still operational (though at a lower scale), some have closed down completely, some divided into plots and some taken entirely by the powerful elite in the ruling Zanu (PF) party. The districts straddle an area that had both highly intensive cropping and less intensive livestock farms. While some of their commercial farms would have had large farm worker populations per farm there would have been others with considerably less. Added to this is the fact that the area had

its share of real violence making it potentially representative of and appropriate to the wider Zimbabwean picture.

Therefore, the findings of the research will be used to make interventions more effective.

2.0. Methodology

The methodology used for the research was based on indications of areas where displaced farm workers were reported to be moving into following the acquisition of commercial farms for resettlement by the government. A list of farms known to have received large numbers of displaced farm workers was sourced through a partner organization Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe working in the same area. In the process of interviewing displaced farm workers the teams were able to identify areas where respondents had local knowledge of other displaced persons. This gave valuable information on the whereabouts of people who had gone through mass exodus from their commercial farm homes and compounds.

2.1. Structured Questionnaire

A structured questionnaire was administered in the farm compounds at household level. The respondents were supposed to have reliable and correct knowledge about their household especially if they were not the heads of these households. The structured questionnaire solicited information on the household demographics, current activity if any on the farms, alternative livelihood strategies, food security, education, coping mechanisms and the required assistance on a wide spectrum.

2.2. Sampling

A simple random sampling method was used to collect data from the displaced farm workers. This was coupled with the availability sampling (*popularly known as catch-as-catch can in social sciences*). This method depended much on the respondents themselves since they had more knowledge and information about the farms, which were affected, the places where most displaced farm workers went into and also the availability of some ex-farm workers from other farms among themselves.

3.0. Introduction to the rationale behind the survey

The displaced farm workers' survey was sanctioned by Zimbabwe Community Development Trust (ZCDT) in the stipulated geographical areas to find out how the commercial farming community was affected by the fast track land reform programme code-named the "Third Chimurenga".

Zimbabwe Community Development Trust (ZCDT) is a non-governmental Christian organization whose present mandate is, in part, to mitigate the suffering of displaced farm workers. It does this through provision of humanitarian assistance, advocating for their rights and their inclusion into the land redistribution. Since the beginning of land invasions, there has been massive unemployment and movement of farm workers and their families into towns, into informal settlements and across the border into

Mozambique. Thus, it was imperative that most of these farm workers would need food, shelter, and school fees for school going children, clothes and blankets for those who lost everything during the invasions.

The present policy of the ZCDT is to provide assistance for a limited three-month period. The organization, to be effective, has to make necessary plans for the future of the displaced farm workers after this initial three months. Working towards the plans, which will also have an advocacy component, formed the major driving force of the survey. The survey has unfolded the hidden truths about the state of displaced farm workers in a particular area and will provide a platform for recommendations for strategic and effective intervention procedures that are meant to recapacitate and empower these farm workers.

3.1. National Statistics of Farmer/Farm Worker Disturbances

To date an estimated 900 000 people from the farm worker community have been displaced by the fast track land redistribution programme. The Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) (2003) claimed from their latest statistics that only 80 000 farm workers are currently employed by the commercial farming sector from a total of 500 000 who were employed by the sector before commercial farmers were violently evicted. About 2 900 white commercial farmers were ordered to vacate their farms on 10 August 2002 as part of the land reform programme which was aimed at redistributing land to “landless” blacks. According to Justice for Agriculture (JAG 2003, a lobby group aiming for fairness and transparency in land redistribution), about 600 commercial farmers out of the 2 900 issued with eviction notices remained farming by December 2002. This automatically transfers to the reality that 420 000 commercial farm workers were left jobless, homeless and are currently scavenging for food which is acutely in short supply nationwide.

The non-productivity and the non-activity which characterised the state of commercial farms within the past two years has led to the acute shortage of basic food commodities in the country which seems to be having no concrete solution in sight.

3.2. Summary of the research’s findings

One thousand one hundred and seventy three questionnaires were completed during the four-day survey period. A summary of the findings is as follows:

- In the areas surveyed over a thousand children who would/should be at school no longer go. This confirms a long held suspicion by concerned humanitarian aid workers that across the country thousands of young people are going to be adversely educationally disadvantaged. The long-term ramifications are horrific in this highly competitive world.
- In the areas surveyed, most of the affected or acquired farms are those that are very fertile, have mining claims, have good infrastructure and are near to roads. In the majority of these farms, most farm workers have been chased away. On the other hand, where farms are less fertile, farm workers have been allowed to stay in the compounds even if the farm has been acquired for resettlement.

- Where new farmers have acquired farms, small numbers of farm workers have been engaged as casual workers, whilst the majority are no longer working on these farms. Linked to this, former farm workers working as casuals for the new farmers complain of low payments and in some cases non-payment of work done.
- In Kadoma district, on acquired farms, which have been taken by new farmers, most farm workers have moved away and are now engaged in gold panning activities. This has created problems of prostitution on gold panning centres, land degradation and dangers to human life, as shafts are prone to collapse.
- Most farms accessed have been acquired, and overwhelmingly the farm workers are not working, some have already left the farms for unknown destinations and some of them are engaged in gold panning activities to sustain themselves. The gold panners' main problem is that they do not have anywhere to buy food. They also do not have a clean source of water and toilets. This poses a major health hazard.
- On the majority of farms acquired for resettlement, the new farmers have yet to take up their plots. Former farm workers are still on these farms and are in dire need of food assistance. The researchers noted with great concern the land degradation caused by gold panners who are digging up the few pieces of arable land remaining in search of the precious metal.
- About 50 percent of all farms acquired are under the 'A1' - model scheme. Of all farms with new farmers under the 'A2' model, only 30 percent are operational. Most of the original workers are relying on piece work (*maricho*) from nearby farms, which have not been acquired, and/or those acquired and are operational. (A1 involves a farm being broken into many small units and has many settlers, A2 means that the farm is kept in tact and a single farmer/owner replaces the previous owner. While in the majority of cases the replacement of a white by a black farmer political affiliated to MDC has caused some black commercial farmers to lose their farms).
- On farms, which have been subdivided, the workers are also divided. Some are working for the old farmer and some are working for the new farmer.
- On farms, which have been taken under the A1 model scheme the farm workers were left without land. So the farm workers rely on piecework from the settlers, of which they are not being paid well.

4.1. Specific Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the displaced farm workers' survey were:

- To find out the number of displaced farm workers in the chosen geographical area.
- To find out how many children were affected by the farm invasions and how the invasions affected them
- To find out about the effects of the displacement (socially, culturally, economically and politically)
- To pave the initial way for the formation of constituencies of displaced farm workers and communication networks in preparation for the commencement of the advocacy and information process with these farm workers

- To make recommendations from the findings for assistance to the displaced farm workers for example (in the form of training, capacity building, relief and gender-related emancipation, civic education, lobbying and advocacy)
- To facilitate the expansion of the pilot initiative into other affected areas based on the findings of the baseline (the pilot project).

5.0. Methodology

The research was carried out from the 10th to the 13th of February 2003. The research covered the districts of Chegutu, Kadoma and Kwekwe. The total of 1173 questionnaires completed were divided as follows:

Chegutu – 508,

Kadoma – 361

Kwekwe – 304

Lists of farms known to have received large numbers of (ex) farm workers were sourced through organisations working in the area as well as through local authorities. Besides having the list of farms, the research team extensively used availability sampling (*catch-as-catch can*). Information on the whereabouts and the availability of displaced farm workers was also gathered from other respondents who had full knowledge of what could have happened on the neighbouring farms. This made it easier for research assistants if they were fortunate enough to find the respondents in a large group where they could then conduct their interviews on a single locality.

6.0. Specific Findings

6.1. Demographics

A total of 1173 households were accessed with Kadoma having 30 percent, Chegutu 43 percent and Kwekwe 26 percent of the population. From these households, a total of 5 684 people from the commercial farm worker community were displaced from their jobs and compound homes by the fast track land redistribution programme. The figures stand as Chegutu 2 459 (43,3%), Kadoma 1 854 (32,6%) and Kwekwe with 1 371 (24,1%) (Make reference to table 1 below).

Table 1: District Analysis by Number of Displaced farm Workers and their Families

	Chegutu	Kadoma	Kwekwe	Total
Number of displaced people	2 459	1 854	1 371	5 684
Percent	43,3%	32,6%	24,1%	100%

Table 2: District Analysis by Country of Origin

District	Zimbabwe	Malawi	Mozambique	Zambia	Other	Total
Kadoma	191	69	58	40	3	361
Percent	16.3%	5.9%	5.0%	3.4%	.3%	30.8%
Chegutu	147	183	119	55	3	508
Percent	12.6%	15.6%	10.2%	4.7%	.3%	43.3%
Kwekwe	257	28	10	5	5	304
Percent	21.9%	2.4%	.8%	.4%	.1%	25.9%
Total	595	280	187	100	11	1173
Percent	50.8%	23.9%	15.9%	8.5%	.6%	100.0%

The overall distribution shows that while 50 percent of all households interviewed were Zimbabweans by origin, the other 50 percent were of foreign origin. It is interesting to

note that for Chegutu district the relative proportions of Zimbabweans, Malawians and Mozambicans were almost equal unlike in other districts where Zimbabweans dominated.

Table 3: District Analysis by Household Type

District	Female headed	Male headed	Child headed	Total
Kadoma	88	273		361
Percent	7.5%	23.3%		30.8%
Chegutu	62	440	4	508
Percent	5.4%	37.5%	.3%	43.3%
Kwekwe	78	220	3	304
Percent	6.6%	18.8%	.3%	25.9%
Total No.	229	933	7	1173
Total per	19.5%	79.5%	.6%	100.0%

About 20 percent are female headed and only 0.6 percent (7 Households) of all households sampled were child- headed. Male headed households account for the majority, with 80 percent. Fifty-one percent of all households have up to 4 members and 95 percent have up to 9 household members. The average household size is 4.5, which is consistent with findings from other research in this community. This scenario is interesting in that the household size is a clear indication of the consumption levels required for such a household and also how households have taken in some individuals to be their members due to deaths of parents, displacement from other commercial farms and for purposes of running survival projects such as gold panning together.

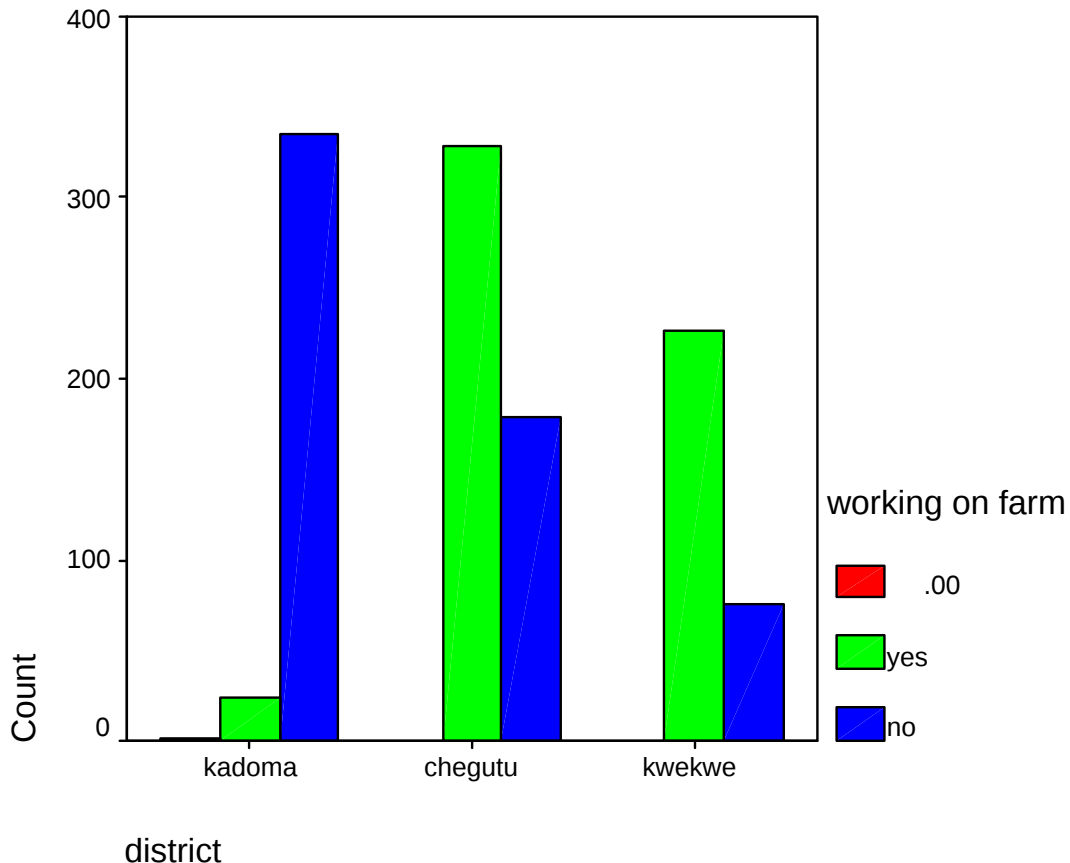
Table 4: District Analysis by Number of Dependants

District	Total Number of dependants (Below 18 yrs)	Number of Dependants going to school	Number of Dependants not going to school
Chegutu	1 243	661	582
Percent		53,2%	47,1%
Kadoma	930	487	443
Percent		52,4%	47,6%
Kwekwe	644	363	281
Percent		56,4%	43,7%
Total	2 817	1 511	1 306
Percent	100%	53,6%	46,4%

The overall distribution shows that of the 2 817 children below 18 years within the households accessed, 54% (1 511) of them are going to school and 46% (1 306) are not in school. This scenario is consistent with the observations that civil society made during the start of the land reform programme that government did not put in place the required infrastructural arrangements to foster continuity of the lives of the displaced farm

workers and their children. The main reason why children are not going to school is that their parents cannot find school fees for them since they are out of employment now and do not have a source of income that can sustain all their financial expenses. The conclusion is that the girl child will be most affected by the lack of resources to pay fees. Another reason was that the farm schools had closed down since the farmers left since they were the ones who financed them and paid the teachers who provided their services for the benefit of the farm workers' children.

Analysis of numbers working on their original farms



Overall, 53 percent of all farm workers in districts accessed are currently employed. This means that almost 50 percent have lost employment. The district distribution in terms of employment varies significantly with Kadoma having less than 10 percent of farm workers working on farms while in Chegutu and Kwekwe districts a higher proportion of farm workers are currently employed. This confirms the decline in productive levels on the commercial farms following the eviction of white commercial farmers. The majority of farm workers' incomes have been cut by half since farm wages used to be their major source of income. These are farm workers who do not have any major skill in any economic sector.

Table 5: District Analysis by Tenancy on Farm

District	Yes	No	Total
Kadoma	356	5	361
Percent	30.6%	.3%	30.9%
Chegutu	497	10	507
Percent	42.7%	.9%	43.6%
Kwekwe	265	20	285
Percent	23.3%	2.1%	25.5%
Total No.	1124	39	1153
Total Percent	96.6%	3.4%	100.0%

Despite a significant proportion of farm workers interviewed being out of employment, most are currently living on the farm (96 percent). These are, however, under constant threat from the settlers to leave the premises. Their main reason for being at the farms is that they do not have anywhere to go because some have spent all of their lives on these farms and have no alternative homes to move into. Some have also reported that they are staying on the farm compounds in anticipation that the farm owners can pay them their packages if ever they will return so that they can plan from then.

Table 6: District Analysis by Direction of Movement

District	Other commercial farm	Urban area	Communal area	Other	Total
Kadoma	21	2	20	3	46
Percent	18.9%	1.8%	18.0%	2.7%	41.4%
Chegutu	12				12
Percent	10.8%				10.8%
Kwekwe	15	1	22	15	53
Percent	13.5%	.9%	19.8%	13.5%	47.7%
Total	48	3	42	18	111
Percent	43.2%	2.7%	37.8%	16.2%	100.0%

Ten percent of all households interviewed have moved from their original homes. Of these forty-three percent have come from other commercial farms. In Chegutu district in

particular, all the households who have moved have come from commercial farming areas. In Kadoma district, equal proportions have moved from commercial farms and communal areas with 18 percent each. This explains the mass exodus of commercial farm workers from one farm to another in search of safety and/or piece jobs after being chased away from their original homes by the settlers who had occupied the farms. Also, the eviction of these farm workers was often very violent so that they had their homesteads burnt down during the heated scuffles with the war veterans and the settlers.

Table 7: District Analysis by Reason for Moving

District	Lost employ ment	Evicted	Harassed	Other	Total
Kadoma	21	10		17	48
Percent	28.4%	13.5%		23.0%	64.9%
Chegutu		9	1	1	11
Percent		12.2%	1.4%	1.4%	14.9%
Kwekwe	8	1		6	15
Percent	10.8%	1.4%		8.1%	20.3%
Total	29	20	1	24	74
Percent	39.2%	27.0%	1.4%	32.4%	100.0%

About 60 percent of all households, which moved from their original residence, had either lost employment (40 percent) or had been evicted (27 percent). A mere 1 percent cited harassment and this proportion related to Chegutu and Kadoma districts only. Incidents related to the harassment of farm workers were reported sometime in the year 2002 in these two districts and some of the victims of this harassment could have been participants in the survey. An interesting thing to capture in future can relate to the time of harassment, any incidents of torture and violence during the evictions and the participation of law enforcing agents in the process of eviction and whether they tried to mitigate in any manner to prevent more violence and bring the perpetrators to book. The worst affected district was Kadoma where about 65 percent of all movements have taken place. Such movements leave us worried about the whereabouts of the bulk of the other displaced farm workers who did not participate in the research and were nowhere near to be seen physically during the process.

Table 8: District Analysis by Receipt of Package

District	Yes	No	Total
Kadoma	48	310	358
Percent	4.3%	27.9%	32.2%
Chegutu	153	353	506
Percent	13.8%	31.7%	45.5%
Kwekwe	29	219	248
Percent	2.6%	19.7%	22.3%
Total	230	882	1112
Percent	20.7%	79.3%	100.0%

In the three district covered, 20 percent of sample had received packages on retrenchment with the biggest proportion of those who received coming from Chegutu district with 13.8 percent of all recipients.

Table 9: District Analysis by Use of Package

District	Bought food	Started business	Repaid debts	Banked it	Fees	Lobola	Furniture/assets	Other	Total
Kadoma	48	1			5			4	58
	18.8%	.4%			2.0%			1.6%	22.7%
Chegutu	117	2	2	18	9	4	9	9	170
	45.9%	.8%	.8%	7.1%	3.5%	1.6%	3.5%	3.5%	66.7%
Kwekwe	23		2					1	27
	9.0%		.8%					.4%	10.6%
Total No.	188	3	4	18	14	4	9	14	255
Total per.	73.7%	1.2%	1.6%	7.1%	5.5%	1.6%	3.5%	5.5%	100.0%

Most of the money given as packages was used for purchasing food, 73 percent, while 7 percent banked the money and 5 percent paid fees for their children. Another explanation that was given by some commercial farmers in the districts about the huge expenditures by commercial farm workers on food was that these farm workers did not produce any maize for their consumption on the plots that the farmers normally provide for their workers. Commercial farmers used to give their workers maize meal at subsidised rates when they were farming their farms and the workers then did not spend any money buying maize meal because it was readily available (*Also see graph on page 12*).

Table 10: District Analysis by Reasons for not Receiving Package

District	Still employed	Yet to get it	Worked short period	Contract worker	Farmer disappeared	Other	Total
Kadoma	16	27	18	101	30	90	282
	2.3%	3.9%	2.6%	14.5%	4.3%	12.9%	40.5%
Chegutu	81	57	20	55	15	65	293
	11.6%	8.2%	2.9%	7.9%	2.2%	9.3%	42.0%
Kwekwe	38	37	25	8	5	9	122
	5.5%	5.3%	3.6%	1.1%	.7%	1.3%	17.5%
Total No.	135	121	63	164	50	164	697
Total per,	19.4%	17.4%	9.0%	23.5%	7.2%	23.5%	100.0%

Nineteen percent of all sampled had not received packages because they are still employed while another 17 percent are yet to receive it. Over 20 percent did not receive because they were contract workers while another 9 percent had worked for a short period.

Seven percent indicated that the farmer had disappeared because of the violent threats they received and the deadlines that they got from the invaders-cum-settlers to leave the farms.

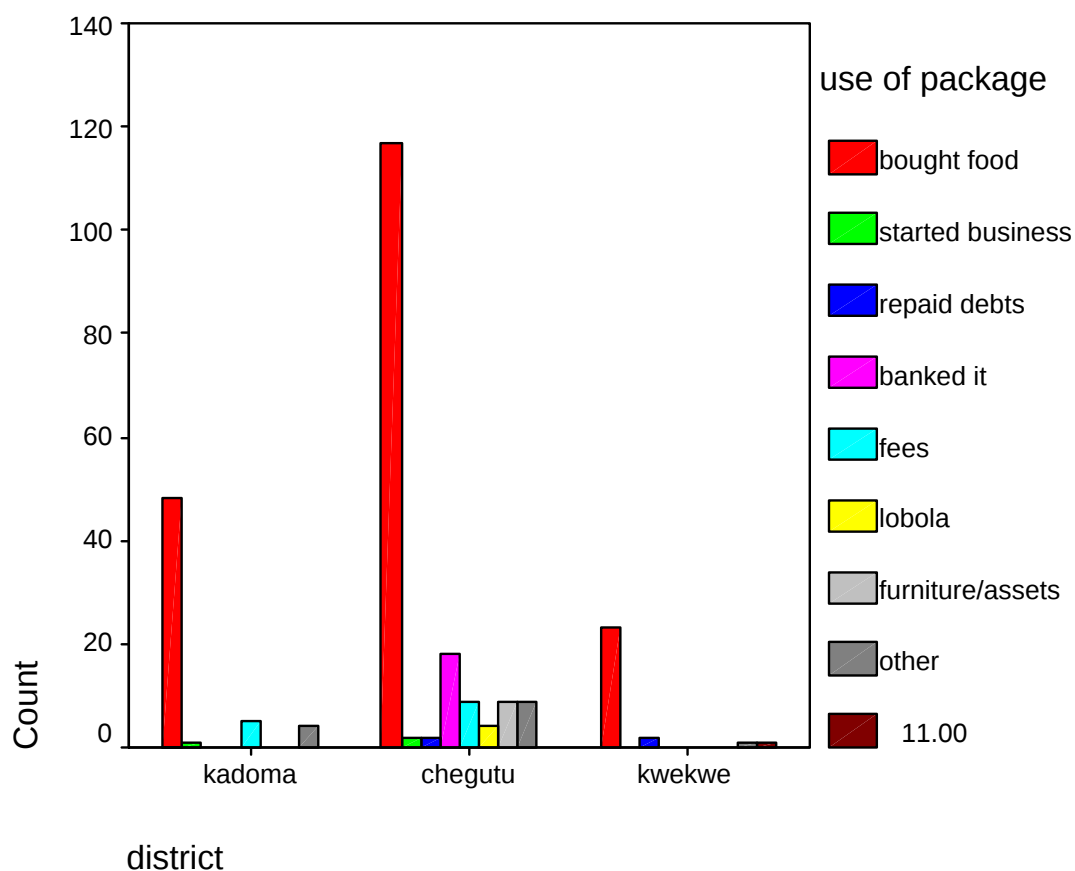


Table 11: District Analysis by Employment

District	Yes	No	Total
Kadoma	28	332	360
Percent	2.4%	28.7%	31.1%
Chegutu	350	157	507
Percent	30.2%	13.6%	43.8%
Kwekwe	219	71	291
Percent	18.9%	6.1%	25.1%
Total no.	597	560	1158
Total per	51.6%	48.4%	100.0%

About 50 percent of all sampled are employed and of these 58 percent are still employed by the old farmer and another 40 percent by the new farmer. Other institutions employ a mere 2.6 percent. However their employment status has greatly changed in that most of those employed especially by the new farmers are casual workers who are hired to weed the fields for a small fee. This is popularly known as *Maricho* (piece jobs)

Table 12: District Analysis by Type of farmer

District	Same	New	Other	Total
Kadoma	21	5	1	27
Percent	3.5%	.8%	.2%	4.5%
Chegutu	184	153	12	349
Percent	30.5%	25.3%	2.0%	57.8%
Kwekwe	148	77	3	228
Percent	24.5%	12.7%	.5%	37.7%
Total no.	353	235	16	604
Percent	58.4%	38.9%	2.6%	100.0%

Table 13: District Analysis by Type of Job

District	Farm manager	Foreman	Cook	Gen hand	Security	Other	Total
Kadoma		1	2	15	1	8	27
		.2%	.3%	2.5%	.2%	1.3%	4.5%
Chegutu	2	16	5	235	45	44	347
	.3%	2.7%	.8%	39.2%	7.5%	7.3%	57.9%
Kwekwe	2	12	1	121	33	56	225
	.3%	2.0%	.2%	20.2%	5.5%	9.3%	37.6%
Total No	4	29	8	371	79	108	599
Total perc	.7%	4.8%	1.3%	61.9%	13.2%	18.0%	100.0%

Sixty-one percent of all interviewed were employed as general workers while another 13 percent were in security. Sixty-two percent of all sampled have no other source of income other than the farm employment. Of those with other sources of income these were mainly gold panning and informal trading. In Kadoma district about 50 percent indicated they relied on informal trading to supplement incomes. Nearly 40 percent relied on wages through piecework.

Table 14: District Analysis by Type of Sources

District	Wages	Gold panning	Remittances	Informal trading	Sale of agric	Other	Total
Kadoma	40	108	3	78	5	3	237
Percent	7.7%	20.9%	.6%	15.1%	1.0%	.6%	45.8%
Chegutu	69	5	2	55	4	20	155
Percent	13.3%	1.0%	.4%	10.6%	.8%	3.9%	30.0%
Kwekwe	92	10	3	10	3	7	125
Percent	17.8%	1.9%	.6%	1.9%	.6%	1.4%	24.2%
Total no	201	123	8	143	12	30	517
Percent	38.9%	23.8%	1.5%	27.7%	2.3%	5.8%	100.0%

Seventy-five percent indicated that there are no employment prospects in the area and the main reason given for this scenario was the fact that the farms had been resettled and the new farmers did not have the capacity to absorb them and the resources to maintain their old salaries they were given by the white farmers. In a number of plots/farms now owned by the ruling elite in society, farm workers reported that the new farmers had cut their salaries by 75%. For example some workers who were getting Z\$12000 per month before the eviction of the white farmer were now getting Z\$3000 per month and the new farmer had told them out rightly that he can not afford to pay them the old salaries.

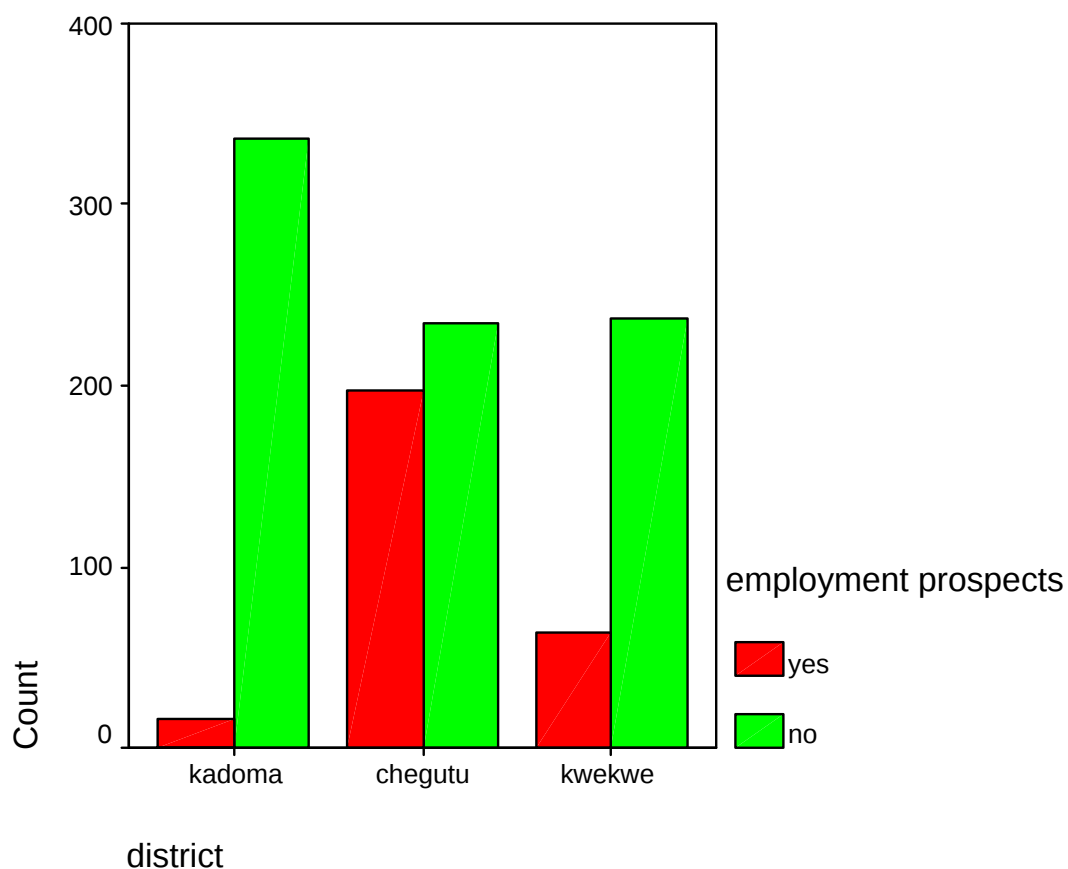


Table 15: District Analysis by Reasons for Lack of Employment Prospects

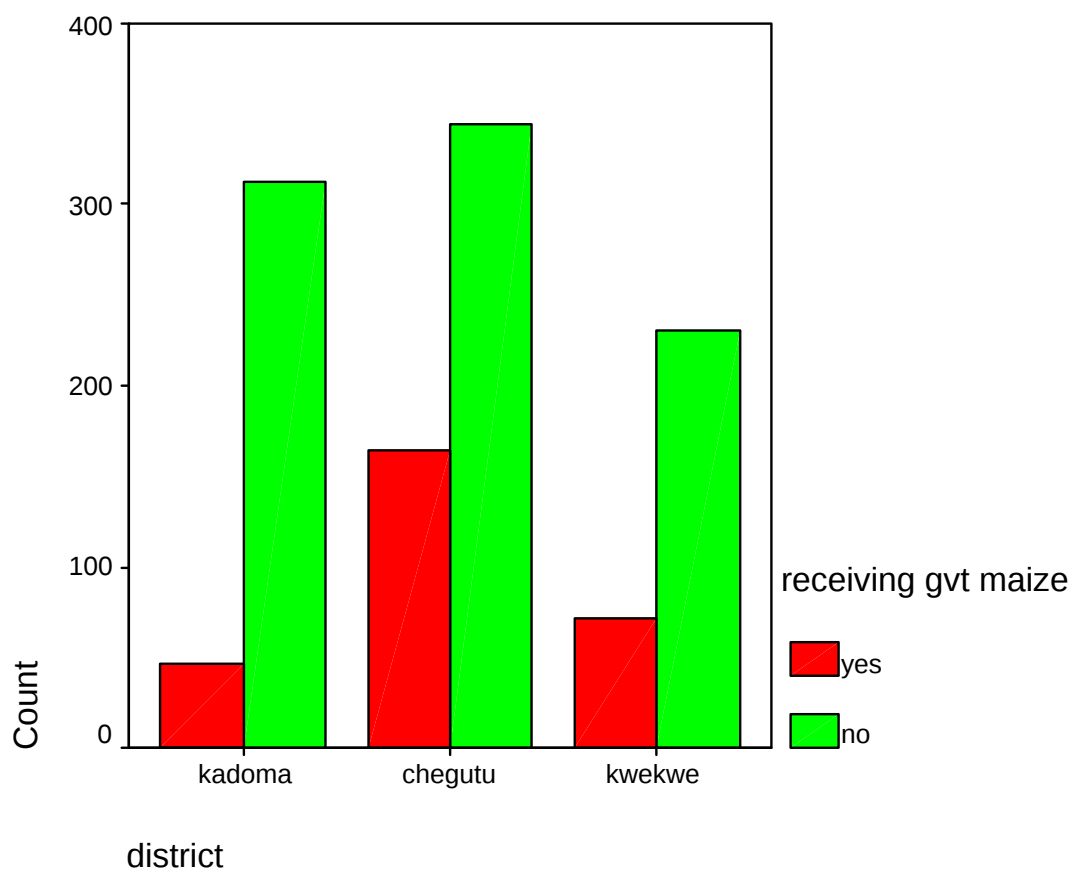
District	Farm resettled	Farmer scaled down	Other	Total
Kadoma	273	30	32	335
Percent	34.0%	3.7%	4.0%	41.8%
Chegutu	189		46	235
Percent	23.6%		5.7%	29.3%
Kwekwe	100	2	130	232
Percent	12.5%	.2%	16.2%	28.9%
Total no.	562	32	208	802
Total per	70.1%	4.0%	25.9%	100.0%

In the three districts covered, there was overwhelming concurrence on the fact that employment was difficult to get now in the commercial farming areas. The unplanned resettlement of the commercial farms was cited as the major contributory factor to lack of employment opportunities in the districts (70,1%). Those who remained operational have scaled down their operations (4%) because of the uncertainty of their future on these farms.

Table 16: District Analysis by Major Expense

District	Food	Clothing	Food	School fees	Health	Other	Total
Kadoma	349	2		5		2	358
Percent	29.8%	.2%		.4%		.2%	30.6%
Chegutu	507			1			508
Percent	43.3%			.1%			43.4%
Kwekwe	293	2	1	6	1	1	304
Percent	25.0%	.2%	.1%	.5%	.1%	.1%	26.0%
Total no	1149	4	1	12	1	3	1170
Total perc	98.2%	.3%	.1%	1.0%	.1%	.3%	100.0%

Major expense is unanimously food with over 98 percent of all households indicating that this was so. This has been compounded by the current drought in the country and more so by the non-activity and the non-productivity that characterised the state of commercial farms for the past two years since farm workers depended much on the food that the farm owners gave them for a subsidised fee and sometimes for free.



Less than 25 percent are receiving government maize and the main reason given was politics with 84 percent. The government and its departments have a strong belief that ex-commercial farm workers are supporters of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and therefore they should not receive assistance from the government. This basically forms the whole politics surrounding the distribution of government's subsidised maize in the farming areas especially in areas where displaced commercial farm workers are currently staying (*see table below*).

Table 17: District Analysis by Reasons for not receiving Gvt Maize

District	Politics	Gainfully employed	Children working	Don't know	Total
Kadoma	285	1		31	317
Percent	31.7%	.1%		3.4%	35.3%
Chegutu	331	3		12	346
Percent	36.8%	.3%		1.3%	38.5%
Kwekwe	143		1	92	236
Percent	15.9%		.1%	10.2%	26.3%
Total	759	4	1	135	899
Precent	84.4%	.4%	.1%	15.0%	100.0%

Table 18: District Analysis by Source of Food Assistance

District	Relatives	Ngos	Churches	Friends/neighbours	Other	Total
Kadoma	12	191		1	1	205
Percent	4.9%	78.6%		.4%	.4%	84.4%
Chegutu	10	4	2	4	1	21
Percent	4.1%	1.6%	.8%	1.6%	.4%	8.6%
Kwekwe	12	2		1	2	17
Percent	4.9%	.8%		.4%	.8%	7.0%
Total no.	34	197	2	6	4	243
Total per.	14.0%	81.1%	.8%	2.5%	1.6%	100.0%

Ngos are providing most of the food to these communities. Those not receiving from NGOs are mainly relying on purchases and working for food. Government itself is not doing anything at all to see to it that displaced farm workers have access to its subsidised maize meal as is happening in districts where Zanu (PF) still believe that it has support.

The major expense for these communities before and after displacement is food accounting for over 90 percent in both cases but increasingly becoming important after displacement, rising to 95 percent from 92 percent because the farm workers can no longer food supplements from the farms and those they used to produce on their pieces of arable land they were given by the farm owners (*see the graph overleaf*).

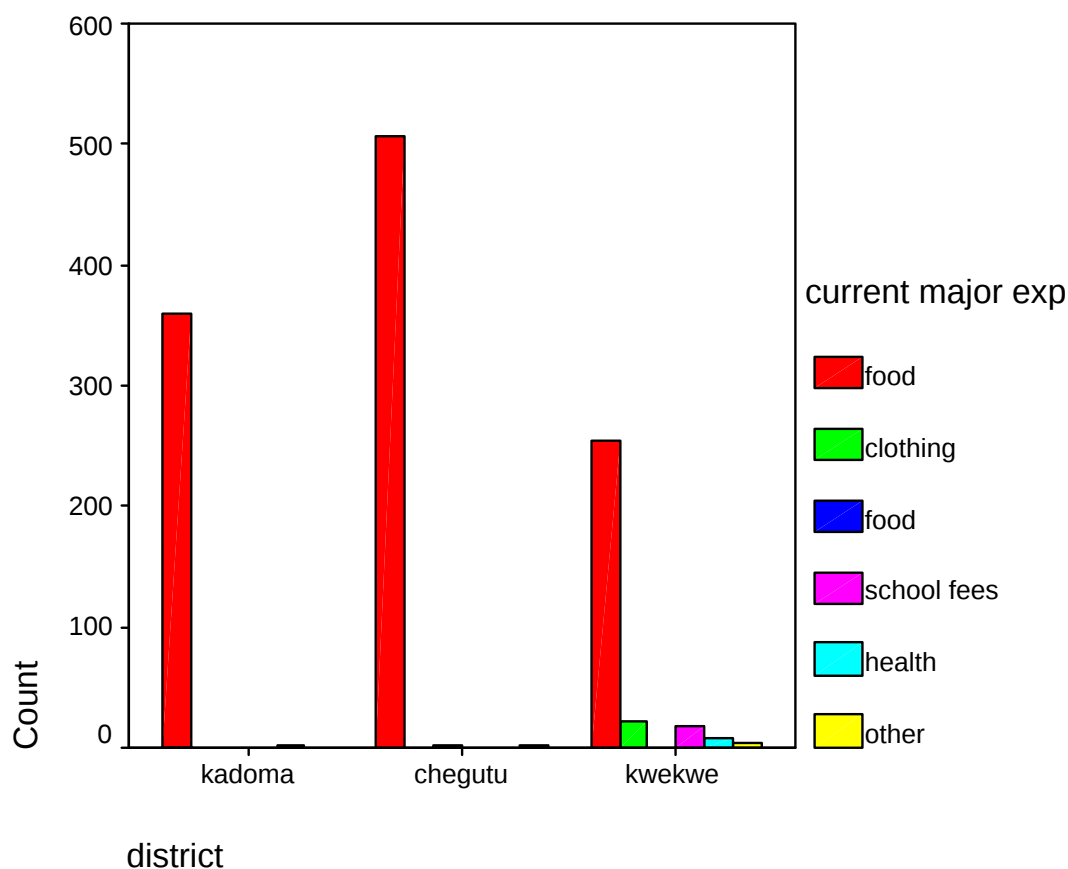


Table 19: District Analysis by Access to Land

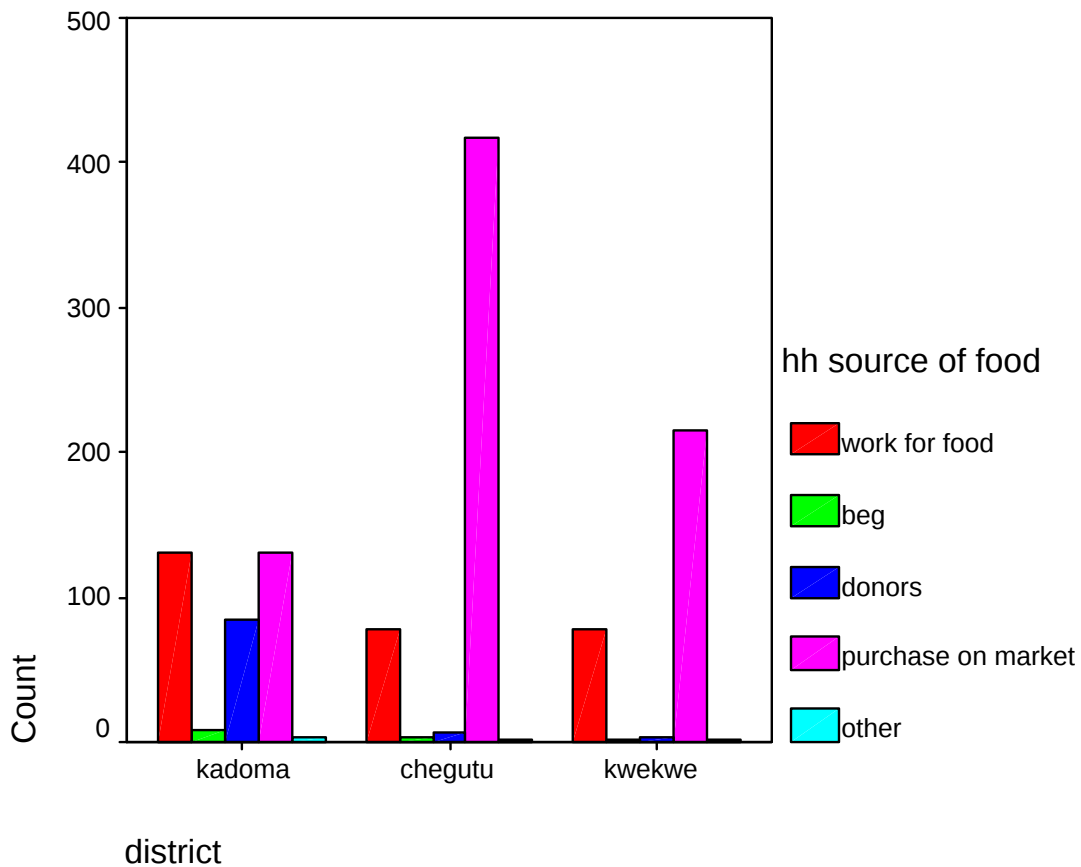
District	Yes	No	Total
Kadoma	82	278	360
Percent	7.0%	23.7%	30.7%
Chegutu	244	264	508
Percent	20.8%	22.5%	43.4%
Kwekwe	65	236	303
Percent	5.6%	20.2%	25.9%
Total no.	391	778	1171
Total per.	33.4%	66.4%	100.0%

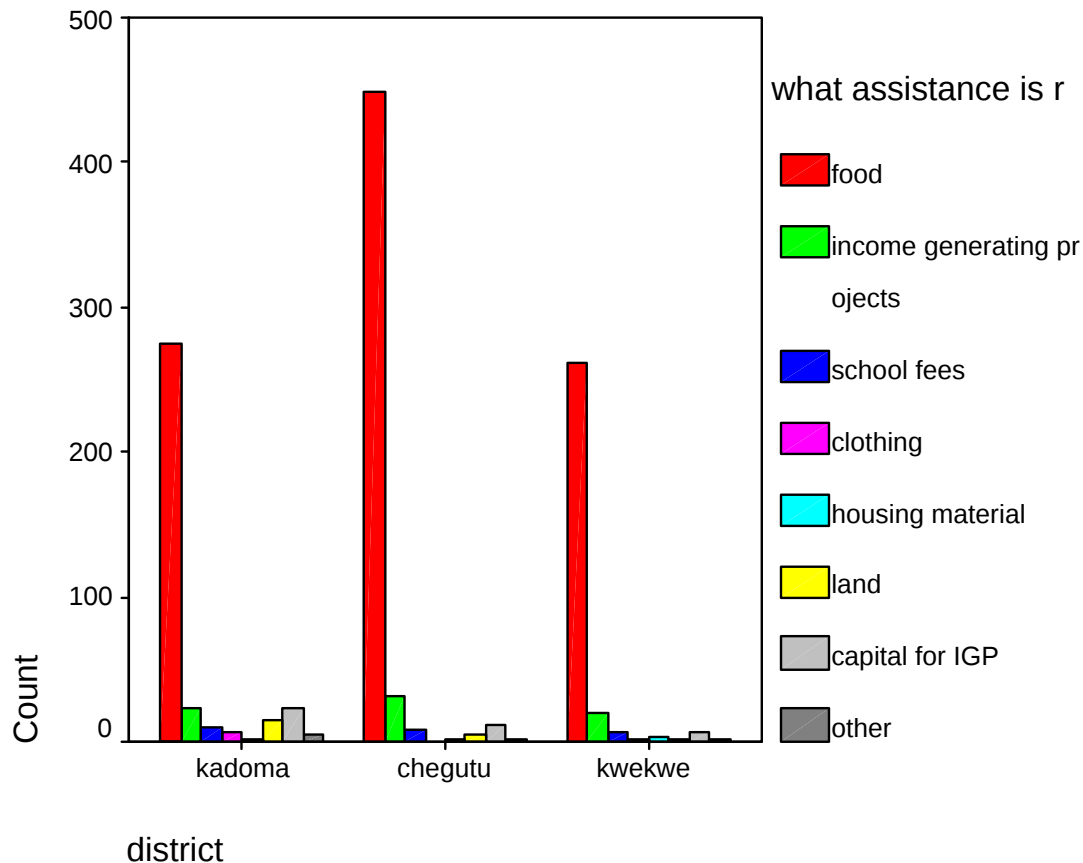
Only a third of all households interviewed have access to land and of these 78 percent have less than 2 acres each. Accessibility to arable land among the commercial farm workers is not easy because the land resettlement programme did not come out in the open about the inclusion of farm workers and what proportion of the acquired land they were supposed to get as happened to the war veterans who were told that they were to get

20% of all acquired arable land for their resettlement. This defeats the whole purpose and idea of giving land to the landless because the displaced farm workers are among the genuine landless persons in the country. Not including them in any clause of the land reform document leaves a lot to be desired.

Table 20: District Analysis by Size of Land

District	0-2 acres	2-4 acres	4-6 acres	6-10 acres	Over 10 acres	Total
Kadoma	65	8	6	2	4	85
Percent	16.4%	2.0%	1.5%	.5%	1.0%	21.4%
Chegutu	242	3		1		246
Percent	61.0%	.8%		.3%		62.0%
Kwekwe	5	8	8	9	36	66
Percent	1.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.3%	9.1%	16.6%
Total No.	312	19	14	12	40	397
Percent	78.6%	4.8%	3.5%	3.0%	10.1%	100.0%





Eighty-five percent of all households need assistance in the form of food followed by equipment for income generating projects (6 percent) and capital for income generating projects (3 percent). This means that the first assistance plan to the displaced farm workers has to prioritise relief food and services on the top of the agenda before looking at other secondary needs for assistance.

7.0. Conclusion and recommendations

From the information collected in the research and the physical observation that was made by the officers, displaced farm workers face imminent starvation that might lead to death if no concrete solutions are brought forward to coordinate the implementation of relief programmes in the areas studied. Several respondents reported that they had gone for days without eating food especially the staple sadza. Some were cooking the wild okra (*derere*) into a thick porridge and drink it as their main meal. Children have dropped out of school because of hunger. Parents reported that their children were fainting at school so much so that they have decided not to send them to school until they have a reliable supply of food and other nutrients. It is therefore concluded that:

- The displaced farm workers in these districts are facing very difficult conditions socially and economically and therefore they need urgent assistance.

- Over 50 percent of the commercial farm workers have lost employment but most of these are still living in these communities despite the threats from settlers for them to vacate. Those people of foreign origin have no rural home to go to.
- Of those who have lost employment only 25 percent have received retrenchment packages most of which has since been used to buy food.
- Employment opportunities are almost non-existent and so is security of tenure in these commercial farming areas, which are now resettled farming areas/villages.
- The major assistance needed by these communities is food, as most of them are not benefiting from government maize due to political reasons.
- Some of the people are getting food assistance from NGOs but a significant number are not covered by this arrangement and rely on gold panning and part time work for food

7.1. Recommendations

Zimbabwe's viable commercial farming sector has now gone. Both white and some black commercial farmers and their workers have lost immensely from the fast track land reform programme. The government itself has failed to run a just and equitable land reform policy that benefits its people and the economy. It is now too late to do anything that will make sure people will have food on their tables without outsiders' assistance. The assessment of the plight of farm workers and the ongoing attitude displayed by government confirms the belief that the government should accept responsibility for the crisis and resign. The long-term intervention strategies need coordination, integration and networking with a good government, its agencies and all stakeholders in creating a vision for the future based on a just, lasting settlement of the land question and on sound policies. ZANU (PF) has pandered to the greed of the new rich oppressors and closed its ears to the cry of the poor.

Assuming the government will not accept failure and resign the following **recommendations to the ZANU PF government** are made. They are aimed at making an immediate difference in the lives of the displaced farm workers.

- That food gets to these communities. This will be very important and should aim at preventing malnutrition among the children especially those aged below the age of five.
- That government allow these people to stay on the farms without harassment. This is because these displaced farm workers are confronted by a situation where they are forcibly being pushed out of the designated farms without anywhere to go. This is a grossly unjust practise because it punishes those who are innocent victims of a problem first created by the colonial governments as far back as the 1930's. ZANU (PF) has 'corrected' injustice by more injustice.

Recommendations to a new government. These recommendations are made because it is clear the present regime is morally bankrupt. Nonetheless the problems they have created need to be addressed if we are to recreate a vibrant and wholesome community and society.

- That more information should be made available to the authority/government and its departments as a matter of urgency about the need for shelter and safety for the displaced farm workers who face a future marred by acute uncertainty.
- That assistance should be given to the sizeable number of the respondents who want to acquire pieces of arable land for crop production.
- That lobbying and advocacy initiatives be developed based on current and correct information about the plight of the displaced farm workers.
- That civic education become part of the advocacy process. Displaced farm workers are a people who are not very much aware of their rights and how they go about identifying and reporting human rights violations. ZCDT should alert NGOs in that field to start considering particularly the issue of polling constituencies of displaced farm workers.
- That the issues of human rights violations, violence and torture and how these impact negatively on the lives of the displaced farm workers and their families is addressed. It is going to be a vital arena of response in the future. Violence gets internalised if it not brought out but therapy and this issue poses a threat to national stability and lasting peace. It is a paramount concern that victim and perpetrator come to some sort of closure about the (recent) past.
- That the possibility of assisting the displaced farm workers with the payment of school fees for the education of their children be seriously considered. The financial plight of the parents means they cannot afford to send them to school. This crisis particularly disadvantages the girl children in the communities.
- That assistance in the form of finance and training for income generating projects is found. This recommendation is made in relation to one of the research's specific objectives. After the formation of the displaced farm workers' constituency, there is need to facilitate skills training so that the displaced farm workers are equipped with skills which can help them to start income generating projects. Meaningful work will have a therapeutic effect on these displaced farm workers and facilitate vital moral support as well as salvation from present impoverishment.