
Contemporary Rural Livelihood Challenges and Post-Crisis Reconstruction in Zimbabwe

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Round Table on Re-thinking aid policy in response to Zimbabwe's protracted crisis

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About the Work

Work from which the examples used in this presentation are drawn done with Phil Woodhouse (University of Manchester) assisted by Martin Prowse and Lucy McFarland and in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Zimbabwe. Funded by ESRC grant to the Global Poverty Research Group



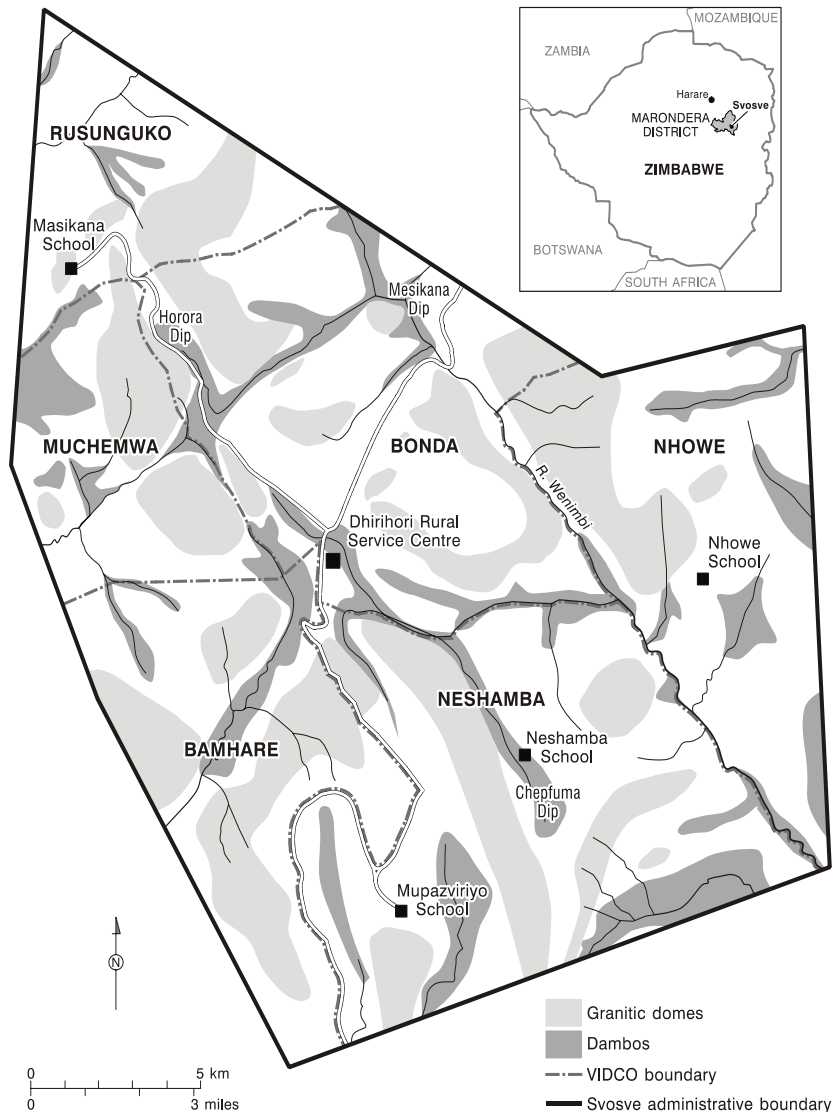
Livelihoods Dimension of the Crisis

- By the time the crisis started in 2000, it was already known that:
 - Rural livelihoods were diversified- for some groups up to 45% non-farm and off-farm income
 - Agriculture was still the dominant means to make a living but its success prior to year 2000 spurred on the emergence of off-farm and non-farm activities
 - Agricultural productivity and production was stalling after initial post-independence rebound (attributed to 10% of small holders)
 - Most rural households already had consumption incomes below the TPCL but above the FPL
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• In this presentation focus on the livelihoods during the crisis drawing on a case study from region 2.



Location of Svosve Communal Lands and Methods



Location

90km S.E of Harare

Straddles regions 2a(18+pentads) and most is 2b (16-18 rainy pentads per season)

750-1000mm/season

Research Methods

- 82 households captured in survey of January 2006
- 7 life histories
- Comparison with Elliot (1987) and Gambara (1997) for Svosve but also drawing on experiences from own recent work (April 2007) in the North West of Zimbabwe
- Drawing out key features only to illustrate key aspects of argument
- Any generalisations indicative rather than statistically relevant

Declining Livelihoods and Income Poverty

Mean consumption income and sources for 2004/5 season)

Income group	N	Mean Values (million Z\$) of income from different sources (includes value of production for own consumption)				
		Total	Crop	Livestock	Remittances	Non-farm
<90mZ\$	56	28.9	21.2	1.9	2.4	3.4
91 - 156mZ\$	17	114.6	100.3	7.2	3.5	3.6
>156mZ\$	9	273.9	170.0	7.9	87.9	8.2
All groups	82	73.6	54.0	3.6	12.0	4.0

Livelihoods Composition:

- Most households (90%) living below the TCPL
- 62% living lived below the the FPL
- minimum reported Z\$300 000 maximum Z\$530.9million

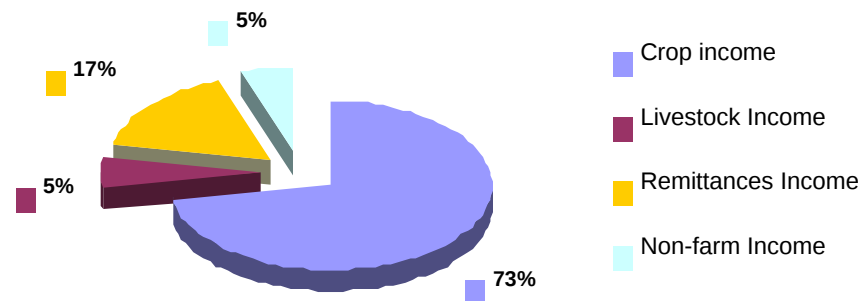
(TCPL Z\$156million old currency) (1US\$=Z\$100 000 at the time of the field work vs 110 000 (000) current rate)

Source: Chimhowu and Woodhouse 2007

Rural Dimensions of the Crisis: Rural Institutions

Livelihood Composition 5 years into the Crisis

Figure 1 Mean Household Consumption Income Composition in Svosve 2004/5



Source: Small Scale Survey 2006

Livelihood Composition

- Unusually high reliance on agriculture related income-78% even for region 2b
- Income from off-farm non-farm activities (from local economy) almost insignificant : indicator of agricultural decline? Non-farm activities follow agricultural activities
- Remittance income low and in decline? In 1997 some 67% of households had access 2004/5 only 32.9% In fact only three households account for 81% of remittance income
- Unusually low livestock income-theft and collapse in extension and dipping services-general decline in state institutions

Crop Production 2004/5 Season (based on 2006 Survey)

<i>Crops Produced in 2004/5</i>	<i>Number of Households</i>	<i>Households selling officially</i>
Maize	77	13
Groundnuts	37	0
Sorghum	4	0
Millet	3	0
Soya beans	2	0
Tobacco	11	9
Tomatoes	4	0
Paprika	4	0
Sweet potatoes	10	0
Round nuts	1	0

Crop Production

- Most households producing for own consumption. No evidence of local sales-too poor to farm?
- Low productivity- Expected AP of 2metric tonnes/ha. 1997 was 1.7t/ha but by 2006 was 061/t/ha
- Households with more land able to produce for the market-All 13 households had access to more land-7.5acres + Vs average land holding of 2.6 acres
- All thirteen had access to remittances
- Collapse in horticultural activities-high input costs, no transport to Marondera

Rural Dimensions of the Crisis:

Key Changes to the Zimbabwean rural space economy since 2000

- More farmers small scale and even A2 farmers but declining production-are most people too poor to farm? (about 15% of respondents arrived after 2000)
 - Increased rural land hunger: irony of displaced farm labourers moving into communal areas
- Declining state institutions and services: Arex, Vet, DDF
- Declining rural infrastructure
- Changing demographics
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Some Emerging Observations

- **Spatial disjunctures in the space economy-disrupted networks and flows of labour and resources between communal and commercial farm economy; rural and urban economies- income and consumption smoothing**
- **Emergence of new socially excluded vulnerable groups ‘in limbo’**
 - **Displaced former farm workers (both Zimbabwean and ‘foreign’) – share and labour tenancy on communal lands**
 - **Displaced urban families**
 - **ZimVAC’s OVC’s especially HIV/AIDS related**
- **Emergence of ‘New Big Men’-gatekeepers closing down local democratic spaces? –emergence of local level personal rule**
 - **Securocrats**
 - **Bureaucratic and political elite**
 - What sort of institutions for democratic rural governance?**
- **What role for the non-state sector in view of declining social space to operate? Apart from HIV/AIDS few local civic groups able to operate - vulnerability of internationally funded NGOs**