AN INVESTIGATION INTO FOOD SECURITY LEVELS IN WARD 17 OF GWANDA DISTRICT

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DATE: MAY 2015
APPROVAL FORM
The undersigned certify that they have read this project and have approved its submission for
marking after confirming that it confirms to the department requirements.

................................................. .................................................
Supervisor                                                           Date
DECLARATION

I, SIBANDA BLANTINA .C do hereby declare that this project is herein my own work and has not been copied or lifted from any source without acknowledgement.

Signed…………………………………….            Date……………………………………….
DEDICATION

For my parents Elizabeth and Kudakwashe Sibanda
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I thank the Almighty who helped me till the end without Him I wouldn’t have been able to complete this dissertation. I’m grateful to my supervisor Mr. Mavhura for his supervision which was valuable and forthcoming for the duration of my study. I also would like to thank the ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, ZIMSTAT as well as the various participants who took part in the study. Last but not least I would also want to thank my beloved husband for his moral support and continuous encouragement.
ABSTRACT

The study focused on food security levels in ward 17 of Gwanda District. To better understand the levels of food security the researcher used case study which combined both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Questionnaire, interviews, observation and document analysis were used for data gathering purposes in the field. The target population consisted of community members, key informants from different government departments and non-governmental departments. Simple random sampling was used to select the respondents from the different households in the ward. The sample consisted of 120 respondents from different households, and 8 from government and non-governmental organisations. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 was used for data analysis. Data presentation and interpretation was done using tables, pie charts and bar graphs. Findings revealed that ward 17 of Gwanda District has high levels of food insecurity due to a number of factors which include low rainfall, illiteracy, poor food distribution, high birth rates as well as culture and traditions. The community has employed a number of strategies to enhance food security these include mining, migration, garden plots, and traditional methods such as gathering of wild fruits and worms such as mopane worms, cross boarder trading, irrigation schemes and other diversified income generating activities such as welding, carpentry. The government through its various policies and strategies have played a role in enhancing food security. Non-governmental organisations through their various projects and food aid have also played a role in enhancing food security in the area. The study recommended that the community should adopt measures to eradicate any kind of discriminatory practices, especially with Respect to gender, in order to achieve adequate levels of nutrition within the household. Enhance capacity building of rural farming communities. Governments, civil society, academia and the private sector must all work together toward solutions to help smallholder farmers fulfil their expanding role in feeding the hungry and fighting food malnutrition.
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Measures of Enhancing Food Security................................................................. 17
Figure 2.2: Sustainable Livelihood Framework........................................................................ 33
Figure 2.3: Food Security Trend (2009-2014) ................................................................. 30
Figure 2.4: Food Security Levels In Zimbabwe ............................................................. 31
Figure 4.1: Household Food Security Levels in Ward 17 Gwanda District .................... 45
Figure 4.2: Monthly Food Security Levels in Ward 17 Of Gwanda District ............... 46
Figure 4.3: Causes of Food Insecurity ............................................................................. 47
Figure 4.4: Food Security Coping Strategies in The Community .................................... 49
Figure 4.5: Number of Meals Before Humanitarian Assistance ........................................ 56
Figure 4.6: Number of Meals After Humanitarian Assistance ......................................... 58
LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 4.1: Role of NGOS.................................................................54
LIST OF PLATES

Plate 4.1: Food Distribution................................................................. 55
LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire.................................................................68

Appendix 2: Interview guide for the key informants in government and NGOs departments….70

Appendix 3: Interview guide for the community leaders............................71
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL FORM</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF PLATES</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER ONE</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Background of Study</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Statement of the Problem</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Significance of the Study</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Aim of the Study</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Specific Objectives of the Study</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Research Questions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8 Delimitation of the Study</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 Definition of Terms</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 Organisation of Study</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.11 Chapter Summary</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER TWO</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Introduction</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Food Security</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4 Food Security Coping Strategies within the Community ........................................ 48
4.5 State Intervention in Food Security ....................................................................... 52
4.6 The Role of NGOs in Enhancing Food Security in Ward 17 ................................. 53
4.7 Effects of Food Insecurity on the Community ...................................................... 58
4.8 Conclusion ........................................................................................................... 59

CHAPTER FIVE ........................................................................................................ 60

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ................................. 60

5.1 Introduction ......................................................................................................... 60
5.2 Discussion .......................................................................................................... 60
5.3 Conclusion .......................................................................................................... 61
5.4 Recommendations .............................................................................................. 61
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CARE Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDC Center for Disease Control
CSO Central Statistics Office
EMA Environmental Management Act
FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation
FTLRP Fast Track Land Reform Programme
GMB Grain Marketing Board
HFS Household Food Security
IFPRI International Food Policy Research Institute
MDG Millennium Development Goals
MHFS Monthly Household Food Security
NEPAP Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan
NGOs Non-Governmental Organisations
SAPs Structural Adjustment Programmes
UN United Nations
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UZ</td>
<td>University of Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZIMSTAT</td>
<td>Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter portrays the background of the study, problem statement, aims and objective, purpose, hypothesis as well as significance of the study. It also seeks to bring out the assumptions and delimitations of the study and give a clear view of the study with definition of key terms that are indefinite to the study.

1.2 Background of Study

Food insecurity exists whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways is limited or uncertain. The World Food Summit (1996) defines food security as a situation in which all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active healthy life. Food insecurity is caused by a complexity of factors. These include unstable social and political environments that preclude sustainable economic growth, war and civil strife, macroeconomic imbalances in trade, natural resource constraints, poor human resource base, gender inequality, inadequate education, poor health, and natural disasters, such as floods and locust infestation, and the absence of good governance. All these factors contribute to either insufficient national food availability or insufficient access to food by households and individuals. (Smith, 1998)

Food insecurity has become an issue of global concern. Achieving food security in its totality continues to be a challenge not only for the developing nations, but also for the developed world. The difference lies in the magnitude of the problem in terms of its severity and proportion of the population affected. In developed nations the problem is alleviated by providing targeted food security interventions, including food aid in the form of direct food relief, food stamps, or indirectly through subsidized food production. These efforts have significantly reduced food insecurity in these regions. Similar approaches are employed in developing countries but with less success. The discrepancy in the results may be due to insufficient resource base, shorter
duration of intervention, or different systems most of which are inherently heterogeneous among other factors. FAO (2002)

According to Patnaik (2007), the recent rise in global food prices has sharply affected the capability of the poor to access food. Most people agree that the current world food price escalation has evoked a massive that it reflects a supply mismatch in relation to global demand, and have attributed this to a range stocks due to bad weather-induced harvest failures especially with reference to Australia, the rise of farm input costs induced by oil price escalation, the diversion of grain utilisation to agro-fuels, and commodity speculation Analysis of the sources of the food price increase have attempted to distribute national responsibility for inducing price increases, as well as to balance the weights of the casual factors

IFPRI (2008) argues that various explanations have been put across over the food crisis, the Asian overconsumption of grain being the problem this being caused by rapid increase in population levels, while others argue that prices more than doubled over the past two years due to the rising cost of oil hence blaming the OPEC countries. The depreciation of the US dollar and the prolonged drought in Australia has also been blamed for the global food crisis. The use of food for agro-fuel production and oil related increases in farm inputs prices are central to food price escalation. This is largely true because finance capitals commodity speculation has been an underlying driver. However, one will agree that the above crisis has not spared the poor developing nations and the SADC region is not an exception to this trend. (Mitchell, 2008).

The extent and depth of food insecurity in the developing world at the turn of a new century and millennium remains unconscionable. About 800 million people one sixth of the developing world’s population do not have access to sufficient food to lead healthy, productive lives. Around 280 million of these food insecure people live in South Asia; 240 million in East Asia; 180 million in Sub-Saharan Africa; and the rest in Latin America, Middle East, and North Africa. FAO (2002)

Although progress is being made in tackling food insecurity, it is slow. And in Sub-Saharan Africa the number of food insecure people has actually doubled since 1969–71. According to recent projections from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the
World Food Summit goal of halving the number of food insecure people from 800 million in 1995 to 400 million by 2015 will not be achieved until 2030. Anderson et al (1990).

Developing countries face an even greater risk of food insecurity owing in large part to declining investment in agriculture, the burden of disease, limited and inequitable economic growth and their ability to predict assess and cope with the emergencies that impact in physical and economic access to food sufficient for productive and healthy life. For instance the recent food price spikes in 2010/2011 are reported to have pushed some 44 million more people in agriculture dependent economies into poverty. Furthermore, by undermining children’s immunity to diseases, malnutrition contributes to more than a third of all deaths of children under the age of 5. Nearly half of the women in developing countries and over 60% of children in Africa are anaemic. Eradicating hunger and malnutrition is thus a major and developmental imperative.

The root cause of food insecurity in developing countries is the inability of people to gain access to food due to poverty. While the rest of the world has made significant progress towards poverty alleviation, Africa, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind. Projections show that there will be an increase in this tendency unless preventive measures are taken. Many factors have contributed to this tendency including the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, civil war, strife and poor governance; frequent drought and famine; and agricultural dependency on the climate and environment. (Food and Nutrition Policy for Zimbabwe, 2012) Food security on the continent has worsened since 1970 and the proportion of the malnourished population has remained within the 33 to 35 per cent range in Sub-Saharan Africa. The prevalence of malnutrition within the continent varies by region. It is lowest in Northern Africa (4 per cent) and highest in Central Africa (40 per cent).

With the rising global food prices increasing demand and the threat to climate change, there is a danger that food insecurity will increase and millions of people will suffer the consequences. Downing (1992) argues that the potential impact of climate change on food security has been examined in a number of countries including Kenya and Zimbabwe. The results point to a possible reduction of yields and deteriorating food security as global warming occurs.
With regard to Zimbabwe, statistics on hand show that the proportion of people in the country who are unable to meet their own food requirements has increased by 15% between 1995 and 2011. Over the past decade, the rates of chronic malnutrition have been steadily increasing, rising by 52% between 1994 and 2010 according to ZDHS report. Research has shown that in every three children in the country under the age of 5 is chronically malnourished, while an estimated 25% of children deaths are attributed to nutritional deficiencies. All this is as a result of food insecurity within the country. Food and Nutrition Policy for Zimbabwe (2012)

The prevalence of poverty in Zimbabwe was estimated at 63% with 16% estimated to be in extreme poverty. Poverty is more widespread in rural households (76%) compared to the 38% in the urban areas. A total of 30% of the rural people are extremely poor compared to 6% in urban areas.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Food insecurity has become an issue of global concern. Achieving food security in its totality continues to be a challenge not only for the developing nations, but also for the developed world. While the rest of the world has made significant progress towards poverty alleviation, Africa, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind. Projections show that there will be an increase in this tendency unless preventive measures are taken. FAO (2004)

Food hunger is a threat to life as it unravels the social fabric; poor people have (Narayan, 2000). Extreme poverty, which manifests as hunger has increased the number of school dropouts, as well as child morbidity and mortality to unprecedented levels. Food insecurity in wards 17 of Gwanda is associated with hunger, famine, loss of life malnutrition, migration, school drop outs as people would rather use their income to buy food for survival rather than on education.

Starvation has triggered myriad forms of social decomposition in Gwanda District such as prostitution, unwanted pregnancies, crime and a host of other socio-economic and political challenges. The poor have been forced to depend on food hand outs from humanitarian organizations such as World Vision International. The broad question the researcher wishes to address is whether levels of food insecurity will decrease or increase considering the available food insecurity mitigation methods and these measures can play a meaningful and sustainable role in the alleviation of poverty under circumstances of this kind.
1.4 Significance of the Study

This study provided an in depth investigation into the levels of food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District. The information collected will be of utmost importance as it will generate data pertaining to causes of food insecurity in Gwanda, the relevancy of the policy framework used to ensure food security in Zimbabwe, the role of key actors involved in food security in Gwanda.

The information that was gathered researcher will be of utmost importance in providing the point of reference key actors involved in food security. It is relevant to a wide range of stakeholders. it will be used to by local authorities in enhancing food security within their community, government departments in coming up with policies and relevant mitigation methods that will help in attaining food security in the area and other areas that are food insecure, community members, Non-governmental organisations who are involved in different projects within the area to come up with the most suitable projects to curb the impacts of food insecurity in the area. It will also help different universities as it will act as source of desk research.

Food insecurity is an issue of global concern. Developing countries are however more prone to the impacts of food insecurity. Gwanda which is in natural region 5 is vulnerable to droughts which are a natural disaster in this area making the area food insecure. According to ZIMVAC report this area is one of the areas with the lowest levels of food security in the country hence the need to conduct this research. The information gathered if put to good use will help in addressing the issue of food security in various areas and also in helping in reviewing the available drought mitigation methods and thereby reducing the levels the of food insecurity.

1.5 Aim of the Study

➢ To investigate the levels of food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District.

1.6 Specific Objectives of the Study

➢ To examine food security levels
➢ To Identify the causes of food insecurity in Gwanda
➢ To identify the mitigation measures of food insecurity.
1.7 Research Questions

- What are the levels of food security in ward of Gwanda District?
- What are the causes of food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District?
- What are the available mitigation measures on food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District?

1.8 Delimitation of the Study

The research investigated the levels of food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District. The area was chosen because it continuously receives aid all year round and its low agricultural output leading to food insecurity considering the fact that Zimbabwe is dependent mainly on agriculture for food. The population of the study included, major Government departments and Non-Governmental organisations dealing with food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District, the community leaders as well as the community members.

1.9 Definition of Terms

**Food Security**

It refers to the availability of food and access to it. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. Food security exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary need and food preferences for a healthy and active life. IFPRI (2002)

1.10 Organisation of Study

The study is divided into 5 chapters which are: Chapter 1 which Introduced and highlighted the background of the study, presented the problem, justified the study, outlined the specific objectives and clearly gave an outline of the aim of the study, the specific objectives as well as the research questions. Chapter 2 Reviews related literature used in the study and gives a discussion on the levels of food insecurity and available food insecurity mitigation measures. Chapter 3: Describes Methods, Materials and Data Analysis. Chapter 4: Research Findings Chapter 5: discussion, conclusion and recommendations
1.11 Chapter Summary
The chapter was mainly concerned with the background information, statement of the problem and the rationale. It also highlighted the aim and objective of the study. What emerges is that food security is an issue of concern which requires effective measures for it to be achieved.
CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter will review relevant work done by other researchers, published or unpublished. It will help define the problem and expose the gap that this research intends to fill. The aim of this chapter is to present the reader important concepts and theoretical knowledge regarding the subject of this study. The main objective of this study is to contribute to the understanding of the levels of food insecurity and available food insecurity mitigation methods in ward 17 Gwanda district. Various resources were used including journals; development studies books and the internet to come up with different views of experts in the field.

2.2 Food Security

The most widely accepted definition of food security at the individual level is that from the World Bank which highlights the aspects of secure access by all people at all times to enough food for a healthy, active life (Shapouri and Rosen, 2001).

In 1996 the World Food Summit adopted the following definition of food security ‘when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preference of food insecurity are being felt in the poor developing countries of the world where up to 90% of household income is spent on food. Sanchez et al (2005) define food security as a term relating to the condition that exists when people do not have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious and culturally accepted food to meet their dietary needs to lead an active and healthy life. According to Tweenteen and McClelland (2005), access to food is closely related to poverty and lack of economic growth. The poor usually do not have adequate means to gain access to food in the required quantities.
Hubbard (1995) and Lado (2001) give rather a different definition from the above. They argue that it should be a scenario where people should have the economic right to be physically able to obtain the food they need to be healthy and active, wherever they acquire it and however it is provided. This definition gives clarity that people should be confident that adequate food will be available at all times. Sijm (1997) describes food security at household level as primarily people’s access to food and the distribution of available food supplies among households and other members.

According to Young and Jaspars (1995), food availability is a situation whereby food is physically available as a result of local production, processing, or importation, for example food availability in the markets and shops, its production on local farms or its availability as part of food aid.

In view of the above discussion, food security can be defined as all groups of people having the physical and the economic means to have access at all times to food in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their nutritional needs. This description means that as food becomes available, people have the means to obtain it at all times and use it to their benefit.

2.3 Components of Food Security

Food security has three aspects; food availability, food access and food adequacy (Pinstrup-Aderesen 2002),

2.3.1 Food availability

Food availability has to do with supply of food. Food should be sufficient in quantity and quality as well as a variety should be provided. Maziapita et al (2004) regard food availability as the physical availability of food within the proximity of a household. Tweeten and McClelland (1997) view it as the supply of food present from production, imports or stocks. Food availability can also be debated to be the sufficient supply of food for all people at all times. Food can be available to a household or nation through individual production, procurement from markets and through food aid interventions. Food availability is a necessity, but is not sufficient to ensure food security for a household without access (Benson, 2004).
2.3.2 Food accessibility

Food access addresses the demand for food. It is influenced by economic factors, physical infrastructure and consumer preferences. Food availability, though elemental in ensuring food security, does not guarantee it. For households and individuals to be food secure, food at their disposal must be adequate not only in quantity but also in quality. Food accessibility also refers to the manner in which people acquire food. Food accessibility is the effective demand to acquire available food from earnings or inability to access food even if they have the means to pay for it (Tweenten and McClelland, 1997). Runge et al (2003) argues that people lack access to food due to wars, inadequate income and political advantage. Tweenten and McClelland (1997) conclude that while food availability entails the supply of food at the national level and production and inventory at the farm level, food accessibility therefore means the effective demand and purchasing power of consumers.

2.3.3 Food adequacy

Food adequacy should ensure adequate, consistent and dependable supply of energy and nutrients through sources that are affordable and socio-culturally acceptable. Food security should translate to an active healthy life for every individual. This can only be achieved when a nutritionally adequate diet should be biologically utilized so that adequate performance is maintained in growth, resistance or recovery from disease or physical work (Pinstrup-Aderesen 2002). Food security emphasises permanent access to sufficient food by all people at all times for an active, productive and healthy life. However, the following question remains: Why does the world experience food insecurity?

2.4 Causes of Food Insecurity

Debates concerning the causes of food insecurity in the SADC region remain polarized. Many scholars insist that internal policy weaknesses drives the food crises while some recognise the external factors, especially since the recent global food crises has been unveiled. The SADC countries food policies were initially based on strategies to attain national self-sufficiency. Since the adoption of the structural adjustment programs (SAPs) in the 1990s, they became less interventionist. Bird et al (2002) points out that since the 2001-2003 food harvest failures, national policies became slightly more interventionist. Despite these policy changes, chronic
food insecurity has persisted among at least 40% of the region’s population and these being the extremely poor, both as a cause and effect of food insecurity.

There are various factors that can cause food insecurity in various parts of the world. These causes may be political, economic and socially motivated conditions. These may include natural disasters, population growth, land scarcity, lack of good governance. The discussion that follows emergencies are the result of a combination of problems that range from drought, adverse weather patterns, civil conflict, to political economic crises, HIV and AIDS and poor policy decisions. No single factor is uniquely responsible. That being said a key intervention in which we think about food insecurity came from Amartya Sen. His entitlement approach argues that famine is not due to shortage of food but due to failure of entitlements. He argues that a person suffers from food insecurity when his entitlement set does not contain enough food to enable him to avoid starvation in the absence of non-entitlement transfers such as charity. Sen (1989) observes that famine is not so much the deficient food output as it is the absence of influence to exercise those entitlements. He points out those who die in famines succumb to disease, not to starvation. In analysing the Great Bengal famine of 1943 and the more recent famines in Bangladesh and Ethiopia, Sen argues that Bengal military expenditures in urban areas and the consequent inflation in food prices were responsible for the famine. In conclusion Sen demonstrates that famine occurs not only from lack of food, but from inequalities built into mechanisms of distributing food. Amartya Sen has been credited with initiating the paradigm shift in the early 1980s that brought focus to the issue of access and entitlements to food. Food insecurity is no longer seen simply as a failure of agriculture to produce sufficient food at the national level, but instead as a failure of livelihoods to guarantee access to sufficient food at household level.

2.4.1 Natural disasters

Natural disasters such as droughts, floods, cyclones usually fuel food unavailability. When natural disasters occur, vulnerable groups tend to be hit hard Somalia, a country located in the horn of Africa, natural resources that it has no hope of developing. Somalia has desert topography whose main exports are grapefruit and camels. Somalia has always been hard hit by famines as self-sustainability in food security initiatives has proved impossible.
Climate change has been noted to be one of the key driving factors of food insecurity in Southern Africa (UNEP, 2000). UNEP (2000) highlights that 1980 to 1990 and 2000 have been cited as unity because of the frequency of droughts. These are the most catastrophic natural events to cause widespread famine in Africa. Apart from drought, floods are natural disasters that have contributed to the food insecurity in parts of Southern Africa. The UNEP (2000) gives an example of the 1997-8 flood that affected parts of East and Southern Africa, with being hard hit Mozambique. The major impact of the floods was destruction of crops, drowning of animals and the siltation of reservoirs. These have had a negative impact on food production, availability and food accessibility. Lado (2001) suggests the need for putting in place an early warning unit system as a disaster monitoring device of dictating impending disasters that cause food insecurity. Relief programmes that provide hand-outs should target vulnerable groups. It is of course crucial in the analysis of natural disasters to take into account Amartya Sen entitlement approach.

2.4.2 Land ownership

The land issue has always been a thorny issue in Africa. Unavailability of land has always been pointed to be the major cause of food insecurity. In various parts of the world women, especially rural women have limited land tenure rights to own and control as well as use land. (Women and land in Southern Africa). According to NEPAD News (2006) women own 2% of the land globally. The control of land has always been problematic to women whilst at the same time they are expected to be the primary users and managers of the resources (FAO 2002). NEPAD News (2006) bulletin observes that the rural economy of almost all countries on the African continent depend on women, but they are deprived of the right to own land. Women and Land in Southern Africa a non-governmental organisation that seeks to ensure that women are empowered by being given land and land rights highlights and advocates that the Land Act in Zimbabwe should be gender sensitive and take women on board in order to create a vibrant agricultural sector of the country. The organisation further highlights that women are not property but have a right to own land.

In Kenya women have no rights to acquire land and own land. No title deeds can be transferred to the wife once the husband is deceased (NEPAD News bulletin, 2006). Instead the land is given to the in-by unfavourable marital and inheritance laws, family and community norms. In
Uganda women account for the largest share of agricultural production but own only 5% of the land, and they often have insecure land tenure rights on the land they use. In Malawi widows can lose their land from land grabbing by the husbands family. In countries where women have the rights to land, for example in Mozambique, it is rather difficult for them to acquire it. Land ownership is fundamental to women who intend to use land as collateral to secure bank loans and access resources for food production.

At independence, Zimbabwe inherited a racially skewed agricultural land ownership pattern where white large-scale commercial farmers, consisting of less than 1% of the population occupied 45% of agricultural land. This comprised the high rainfall area of Zimbabwe, where the potential for agricultural production is high. Dating back to the Land Apportionment Act of 1930, white settlers set aside 51% of land for a few thousand of them and prohibited the indigenous people from owning and occupying land in white settler areas and the commercial white settler areas (Runge et al, 2003). The aim of the land reform in post-independence was to redress past land alienation through promoting equal access to land for the majority of the population. Addressing the land question is imperatively important to promote natural food security, self-sufficiency and agricultural development through labour intensive small farmer production, optimal land productivity, and reform to capital investment. However, the land reform program was implemented in a haphazard manner and the net effect was the collapse of agro-based industries as well as the aggravation of the food insecurity problem persisting in the country to date.

2.4.3 Political Unrest

Politics holds centre stage in current regional dramas in sub-Saharan Africa. Political unrest leads to food insecurity; this highly affects food availability and accessibility and affordability. Armed conflicts in Angola, Sudan, Ethiopia and Liberia can be cited as examples. War inevitably disrupts agricultural production as well as destroys infrastructure and marketing channels that are crucial for food supply and distribution. Thrupp and Megateli (1999) highlight that continuous conflict and famine have wrought devastation and have disrupted human ecologies, resource use and access arrangements for millions of people over large areas; the collapse of the states of Rwanda, Somalia and Liberia being examples. Due to war many people are internally displaced, and have no time to work in their fields and therefore have no food
harvest at all. UNEP (2000) has it that war removes able bodied men from agricultural production and places an extra burden on women. It diverts resources, directly and indirectly, from more productive and socially beneficial uses. As observed by Devereux (1993), war has been the most significant factor explaining persistent famine in Africa. In Eritrea and Angola for example parts of the country remain inaccessible due to landmines. War has created devastating effects on food production, and has also given birth to refugees who have no entitlements to food. The end up being dependent on food aid as there are categorized a vulnerable group.

2.4.4 Good Governance

Many scholars have recently argued that good governance is essential for attainment of food security. In Zimbabwe, failure of good governance both through the lack of accountability and an opposition of democratisation and in particular, the way in which the land reform programme was instrumentalised and implemented has resulted in a severe undermining of the previously robust agricultural economy. It is important to note that political unrest is mostly as a result of failure to uphold principles of good governance which also entail the upholding of the rule of law. Food security can best be achieved and attained in a peaceful, corruption free environment.

Chazan and Shaw (1987), highlight that the problems of food insecurity have been a result of ineffective government policies, and institutions. It is therefore important that these states there is need to ensure good governance as a way of state building. The World Bank (1992) defines governance as the means in which power is exercised in the management of a process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented. The term governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international, national and local governance. Government is one of the key players in governance. Some of the players that may also be involved are NGOs, research institutes, religious leaders, political parties and cooperatives just to mention a few.

Areas of good governance include: 1) public sector management, that is government’s effective management of its financial and personnel resources through appropriate budgeting, accounting and reporting systems and by rooting out inefficiency, particularly in the parastatal sector; 2) accountability, i.e. holding public officials responsible for their actions. This involves effective accounting and auditing, decentralization, micro-level accountability to consumers and the role
advance, these must be enforced, conflict must be resolved by an independent judiciary body and there must be mechanisms for amending rules when they no longer serve their purpose. Good for development. What the World Bank terms sound is the holding of democratic elections. This helps in ensuring a peaceful environment that is suitable for agricultural growth. Thus good governance should entail an efficient public service, an independent judiciary system and legal framework to enforce contracts, accountable administration of public funds, an independent public auditor, responsible to a representative legislature, respect for the law and human rights at all levels of government; a pluralistic institutional structure and a free press. Three strands of good governance are identified that is systematic governance is broader than government, involving the distribution of both internal and external political and economic power.

The context of starvation, hunger and poverty in various African countries is intricately related to governance issues which cut across areas of political, economic, corporate and institutional governance which need extensive improvement for example ensuring democratic political governance. That is political governance refers to a state enjoying both legitimacy and authority, derived from a democratic mandate and lastly administrative governance involves an efficient, open accountable and audited public service which has the bureaucratic competence to help design and implement appropriate policies and manage whatever public sector there is. When there is good political governance war, which Devereux (1993) cites as the most negative factor explaining persistence of famine in Africa, is reduced and more time will be spent on food security, productivity and provision of safety nets to vulnerable groups. In a majority of cases sustainable food security measures need to be protected from volatile political interests of leaders. Good governance is critical for economic development and ensuring food security, countries which uphold good governance principles tend to perform economically better.

2.4.5 Inequitable policies

Inequitable policies have greatly affected the food security situation of the district. The problem arises when the focuses of government policies are not participatory at all, that is policies, structures and institutions are put above those of minority groups. When policies are not inclusive in their design they tend to handicap the exempted lot by providing barriers. One way this can take place is uneven development where particular regions within a country are preferentially developed for political reasons at the expense of others; this has been the case in
Zimbabwe and Matabeleland region being a victim of that circumstance. Hence failure by government to provide safety nets for these vulnerable inhabitants left them with no option but to rely on food aid from World Vision international to complement its efforts.

2.4.6 Population growth

In 1798 the English political economist Thomas Robert Malthus put the proposition that population growth increased more rapidly than food supply. He explained this phenomenon by pointing out that population generally preceded expansion of the population services, in particular the primary resources of food. Malthus put forward a theory of population growth in his book Essay on Population. There mentioned was that the population of the world would grow faster than the world's food supply.

Barney (1980) highlights the fact that 90% of the population growth will occur in the poorest countries where the pressure on the environment and socio-economic resources is already severe. Various scholars such as Madeley (2000) dispute the notion that population growth is a cause of food insecurity. They argue that there is no connectivity between the prevalence of hunger in a given country and its population. Madeley (2000) further argues that population growth alone is not the main cause of food insecurity; the increasing threat of population explosion, especially in third world countries, is a contributing factor and partially causes the unsustainable use of population of 6 billion is projected to be 9 billion in 2054, that at the current pace 78 million people are added to the world population every year and that 97.5% of the increases in our population occur in developing countries.

According to Thrupp and Magateli (1999) high population growth rates are rooted in poverty, inequalities and lack of economic and educational opportunities for the poor. This notion is fully supported by the European Commission (2000) which highlights that population growth outstrips economic growth. It is however, important to control population growth as a sustainable method of ensuring food security. UNEP (2000) further elaborates that if the population continues to increase in the next century at the same rate that it grew this century, the earth will not be able to sustain the great number of people in view of the limited resources available.
2.4.7 Poverty

Poverty is wide spread and endemic. It is not the misfortune of a few individuals, but is a social phenomenon. As a multidimensional phenomenon, poverty is defined and measured in a multitude of ways. Poverty can be conceived as absolute or relative, as lack of income or failure to attain capabilities. It can be chronic or temporary, is sometimes closely associated with inequality, and is often correlated with vulnerability and social exclusion. The concepts used to define poverty determine the methods employed to measure it and the subsequent policy and programs to address it (Boserup, 1989). There are different philosophies around the main causes of hunger and poverty. According to the Marxist view, poverty is a product of unjust social structures and is the result of a history of slavery, colonialism and exploitation by the rich. Poverty does not result from the lack of only one thing, but can be attributed to many interlocking factors. At its simplest level poverty refers to a basic lack of the means of survival: the poor are those who lack, even in normal circumstance, the ability to feed and clothe themselves properly and risk death as a consequence (Macpherson and Silburn, 1998). Poverty is defined differently by various disciplines (Majola, 1999). Economists look at aspects such as living wage, income and poverty line. Sociologists focus on social barriers, social problems, coping mechanisms, human organisations, gender aspects and education issues. Urban development planners in turn tend to focus on physical manifestations of poverty, overcrowding, lack of service, unhygienic conditions and population movement patterns; however, there are not exhaustive approaches to defining poverty. Explaining why the poor remain poor in developing countries, Valdes and Mistiaen (2001) state physical, including social capital) and also in quality (for instance, low levels of schooling are usually combined with poor quality of schooling). The low productivity of assets is a result of a combination of many reasons like government failure and imperfect or income

2.5 Measures of Enhancing Food Security

There are various ways of enhancing food security. The Figure 2.1 below indicates in summary measures of enhancing food security.
2.5.1 Nutritional Interventions
Malnutrition has devastating effects on any population. It increases mortality and morbidity rates, diminishes the cognitive abilities of children and lowers their educational attainment, reduces labour productivity and reduces the quality of life of all affected. In addition to investing in short-term interventions, which are vital, African countries should increase their investment in long-term interventions such as dietary diversification, food sufficiency and bio fortification. These have lower maintenance costs, a higher probability of reaching the poor who are vulnerable to food insecurity, and produce sustainable results. Dietary diversification still remains the best way to provide nutritious diets to the sustainability of any population. It is possible to obtain the right mix of food to alleviate malnutrition from that which is locally produced. The probability of so doing is increased with increase in locally produced foods. Africa needs to increase its production of animal products, fruits; pulses and vegetables. Increased production would in part make these foods affordable to the poor and increase their protein, vitamin and mineral intake. (IFPRI, 2002). One sure way is to revisit the cultivation of traditional fruits and vegetables that are adapted to prevailing environmental conditions. Once produced, there is need for more constringent post-harvest loss prevention measures. In addition, East and Central Africa should increase their roots and tuber production so as to reduce their dependency on cereals. This reduces the risk of crop failure during droughts since tubers like cassava are relatively more drought tolerant. We must continue to strive for food sufficiency. Food insufficiency creates dependency on the supplier and could be used as a weapon to bend preferences to the master’s liking. If Africa is to be food sufficient it must produce more food not only in quantity but also in variety.

2.5.2 Facilitating Market Access

Removal of trade barriers. The focus by most African governments has been to open up markets in the hope that their people will benefit. Study shows that the projected gains of world trade liberalization tend to be minimal in Sub-Saharan Africa and that the income gains from trade liberalization will go to countries with a competitive advantage in the markets concerned. Perhaps it is time that Africans produced for Africans both within the continent and diaspora, increased their south to south trading, and consolidated their efforts on their comparative advantage for mutual benefit. We would have more control of the market if we acted as one. IFPRI (2002)
2.5.3 Rural Off-farm Opportunities

Rural off-farm opportunities will provide opportunities for both the landless rural poor and the group of non-adopters that fall out of business when the agricultural sector becomes more efficient. In addition, provision of off-farm opportunities will curb rural to urban migration and possibly induce some urban to rural migration. It would reduce the number of non-motivated farmers who took up farming just because they had no other options, thus paving the way for more efficient farming. Some of the opportunities that countries can look into include cottage industries that process food crops by value addition and/or enhancing shelf life through preservation techniques; production of small scale processing machinery; provision of credit; contract processing facilities; and market facilitation. (Rosegrant et al, 2005) Specific activities may include the production of items with enhanced shelf life that would allow for marketing in distant markets. These products may range from dairy products such as butter, cheese and ghee, to pre-processed and packaged cut vegetables such as carrots and shelled garden peas for the urban population; to dried fruits and vegetables. More sophisticated, yet relatively technically easy to produce products, such as starch and vegetable oils, may also be produced. For this to be achievable there is need for collaboration amongst the multi-stakeholders.

2.5.4 Capacity Building

There is need to focus on education, research and development, access to capital and infrastructure development. Measures to facilitate free primary education throughout Africa are urgently required. Education not only endows one with the power to read and hence be informed, but it also allows one to communicate. As an intervention to food security, education must go beyond the level of reading and writing to that of transfer of knowledge. To be useful, information transfer should be two-way. The poor have an idea of what would work for them and what they need. Since they are supposed to be the primary beneficiaries of food security related policies, it would be prudent to at least listen to them. In addition, education will open avenues to off-farm employment, thus acting as a safety net. (Pinstrup-Aderesen, 2002). It is time that Africans played an active role in research and development on matters that affect them. This includes food preservation at the village level, alternative medicine to make health more affordable to its people, creating more efficient agricultural extension, options for improving soil fertility, best approach to manage the different agricultural systems, and marketing strategies that
would work best for a given group of farmers. Care should be taken to modify available technology to suit community setting and not the other way round. For benefits to be realized in all areas, infrastructure development must be high priority.

2.5.5 Gender Sensitive Development

There is an intrinsic gender issue where poverty is concerned. One of the ways in which this is manifested is in the shift from woman lead leadership to man lead leadership as one moves from subsistence farming to market driven farming. Women are important as food producers, managers of natural resources, income earners and caretakers of household food security. Agricultural productivity has been said to increase by as much as 20 percent when women are given the same inputs as men. The education of women is known to produce powerful effects on nearly every dimension of development, from lowering fertility rates to raising productivity, to improving environmental management.

If women are to be fully effective in contributing to food and nutrition security, discrimination against them must be eliminated and the value of their role promoted. However, care should be taken not to aggravate the male gender while we pursue the noble task of empowering women. If we do not have the support in the local communities, public investments in education are less effective. We should, as much as it depends on us, avoid imposing our preferences on society without taking time to understand the existing cultural structure (IFPRI, 2002). As and when possible, an inclusive approach where men and women complement each other to achieve set objectives should be used. One way to do this is by having open communication and group meetings. Nothing facilitates suspicion more than a breakdown in communication. If both men and women had more equal schooling, incomes, and therefore the economy, would grow faster.

When only half of the labour force is able to read and write, obtain credit, develop a work skill and obtain work, it is hardly surprising that there will be losses in output. There is, without question, a need to address issues related to women’s low status that is evident in their minimal access to resources like inputs, land, and credit and the fact that they have low income and low literacy. There is a tendency for planners and policymakers to think that rural women do not know their own problems. These women can clearly articulate their problems based on their own experience. We need to use methods like focus group discussions that capture this. It is not
enough for the poor to have property rights over land, water, trees, or other assets unless there are services to make those assets productive. Such services include roads, transport, access to market, and communications.

**2.5.6 Good Governance**

While it could be argued that all the above interventions are part of good governance, special emphasis on the need for good governance is prudent. All the above strategies can only work in a peaceful, corruption free environment. Part of good governance is the provision of safety nets to vulnerable groups. It should also provide for the minority and be totally inclusive in its decision-making. There is need to delink political interests from the basic needs of a nation. More often than not sustainable food security measures are long-term strategies, which need to be protected from volatile political interests of leaders. (Kherallah et al, 2002) If this means that departments dealing with such issues need to be stable, then so be it. In addition, it is in everyone’s best interest to have only the best handling the issues at hand without political interference from governments and donors alike.

**2.6 Legislature towards Food Security**

According to Mudimu (2000), since the 1980’s, food insecurity due to falling per capita output of food production and recurrent droughts has been a major challenge for Zimbabwe. A number of strategies were adopted to address both chronic and transitory food insecurity and to lessen the impacts of droughts. The strategies can be put into two categories. The first were strategies adopted to stimulate increased production to improve national food security. The second types were strategies adopted to counter the impacts of droughts and to address household food and nutrition insecurity.

The strategies can be divided into three periods. In the period 1980 - 1985, strategies adopted were geared to stimulate increased food production to meet the national food security needs. This was in response to a general shortfall in national food stocks because of reduced output due to the intensification of the war of liberation during the years 1970-1980. Thus in the early 1980, the government food security strategy was for the country to be self-sufficient. This was achieved through central storage and marketing and by maintaining a strategic maize reserve in case of drought.
The thrust of the 1980-1985 agricultural strategies while well intended may not have achieved desired effects on national and household food security. This can be attributed to the agricultural policy formulation process:

- The emphasis of the agricultural pricing policies has been upon the individual commodity and not based on a comprehensive nor cohesive food and agricultural policy. There was also no compatibility between rural development strategies and the commodity pricing strategies. The prices were administrative and politically set because of a "knee-jerk" reaction to political pressure brought to bear by the farming community, particularly the large-scale commercial farmers.
- The establishment of commodity prices made little reference to target or desired farm income levels. It was implicitly held that increase in crop prices would contribute to raising farm incomes and rural welfare for the communal area sub-sector.
- Lack of a strategy focusing on rural and agricultural development based on improving agricultural productivity.
- Subsidies and large stocks of certain commodities led to rise in the fiscal deficit that in turn led to reduction in resource allocation to agriculture services.
- That increased crop prices have been detrimental to those households who are net buyers of food. The 1986-90 periods can be characterized, as the period of re-adjustment to focus at the household food security needs as opposed to national food security needs. This was in response to the impacts of recurrent droughts at the household level and the realization that a number of farming households were not able to meet their own food needs. Due to mounting levels of national stocks, the government encouraged farmers to diversify from food grains to non-food cash crop production to generate household income and foreign exchange earnings.

The period 1991-1995 is influenced by the economic reform or structural adjustment programme that ushered new grain marketing arrangements and the decontrol of food price controls, and reduction in food subsidies. This brought about new marketing arrangements for food flows into urban areas. The government, through the GMB, maintained control of maize marketing and pricing. The maize producer price was kept at lower than export parity. The intention was twofold, namely (a) reduce government expenditure on GMB stored maize, and (b) to reduce the
cost of grain for urban households. The outcome was that farmers were heavily taxed. Consequently, farmers started to shift from maize production as discussed earlier.

During the 1990-1995 period the approach to agricultural policy changed considerably. For the first time the country articulated a framework for agricultural policy with a focus on commercialization of the smallholder sub-sector. The framework was built upon the premises that the agricultural environment needed to be improved to perform better through reduction of government subsidies, commercializing operations of agricultural parastatals, placing more reliance on market forces and the private sector, and cutting back the size of the civil service.

The consequences of the reform of macro-economic policy on the development of the agricultural sector of the economy and food security have been mixed. On the positive side, the liberalization of the foreign exchange market involving the end of foreign currency allocations and the free availability of foreign exchange for current import requirements has facilitated much greater availability of imported farm inputs and generated a considerably greater degree of competition among the farm input suppliers.

This has had a significant benefit both in terms of the prices and availability of imported farm production requirements, both capital and current items. This led to the expansion of tobacco production following the much-improved prices of 1991 led to a high level of investment in tobacco curing barns and other facilities for tobacco production. This was enhanced by the provision of a large special foreign exchange facility for tobacco growers, which encouraged a substantial volume of investment in the range of specific capital equipment items for which this facility could be used. There has also been a steady and significant growth in investment in horticulture - particularly in the production of flowers and citrus fruits that are of a capital-intensive nature. Even smallholder farmers responded by switching tobacco and other cash crops.

This partly contributed to the reduction in maize production and erosion of maize stocks at both the national and household levels. On the negative side, the need to reduce the fiscal deficit influenced the level of resources available for the basic agricultural services- veterinary, research, extension, the development of improved access to water, etc. Not much public and private sector investment went into agriculture in the post ESAP era. Some problems that arose as a result of structural adjustment in agriculture include (i) the increased cost of food that may
have worsened food insecurity of many households, (ii) increased input cost particularly fertilizer prices (prices have risen by about 300% since 1991), (iii) loss of formal employment and the worsening unemployment in both the rural and urban sectors,

However, an assessment of the impact of the economic structural adjustment programme on food security situation has to take into account other factors. When the government of Zimbabwe started implementing the structural adjustment programme, this coincided with the worst drought the country has ever experienced in the century. It is clear from the present crises that Zimbabwe’s reliance on maintaining food supplies at the national levels was not sufficient to ensure food security. There is needed to have adequate reserve for imports.

Since independence, professional civil servants in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement have been responsible for developing agricultural strategies related to food security. Most of the strategies were developed in response to concerns expressed by the politicians or actions called for by the cabinet. Although the Ministry consulted key stakeholders (farmers’ organizations) or in some cases called for their positions, the domain of policymaking was dearly held to be one for the civil servants. Typically, the civil servants adhered to the principle of secrecy to prevent information leakage. Some pronouncement took farmers by surprise. This was done to forestall any speculation. Rukuni (1994)

In the late 1980’s, the UZ/MSU Food Security Research in Africa Project working in partnership with the Ministry and other stakeholders (Nutrition Unit in the Health Ministry, official in the Ministry of Finance, SADC Food Security) undertook a series of research to unveil the issues of food security at household, national and regionally levels. The results were presented and debated on at an annual food security conference. These efforts are attributed to changes in food security based on household self-sufficiency to one that incorporated market based strategies.

Up until 1990, the Ministry had adequate organizational capacity to develop and implement strategies on food security. The influence of donors became more visible in the 1991-1995 period with the development and launch of the Structural Adjustment document. Donors were involved in providing funding for consultative meetings that led to the drafting of the Zimbabwe

2.7 Food Security Issues in European Countries

Food security is an issue of global concern hence European countries are not exempted. Over 5% of Australians experience personal food insecurity. This means that approximately 1.2 million people cannot regularly provide themselves with a culturally appropriate, safe and nutritious food supply from a non-emergency source. There are many factors that contribute to this situation including financial stress, homelessness, unemployment, illness, geographic isolation, minimal access to transport and lack of education around food and nutrition. For Australia, food security is inextricably linked to the political stability of our region and has the potential to affect our national security. Food security also affects our status as a premier food exporting nation and the health and wellbeing of our population. FAO (2009)

According to Tarasuk et al (2012), 12.6% of Canadian households, or 1.7 million households representing 2.8 million adults and 1.15 million children under the age of 18, experienced some level of food insecurity during the previous 12 months. This means that 16.5% of children under 18, or about one in six, lived in households that experienced food insecurity during 2012. Household food insecurity has risen significantly since 2008, and since 2011 an additional 130,000 Canadians were living in food insecure households, bringing the national total to over 4 million people (4,005,000) and a prevalence of 12.5%.

2.8 Food Security Issues in Asian Countries

In Asia, food security is being fundamentally altered, as patterns of food consumption and production change alongside global trends like climate change in sustaining agricultural output. Providing enough safe and nutritious food remains a serious challenge for the region. The dynamics of food security are changing fast. However, after decades of stunning economic growth, rapid reduction in absolute poverty, expanding urbanization, industrialization, and a rising middle class, the region is still home to more than 60% of the world’s hungry. After years of relatively stable real food prices, the 2007/2008 global price hikes in food staples brought the issue of food security higher up the global agenda.
Already home to 56% of the global population, Asia will account for one-third of the projected 2.6-billion increase in global population between 2010 and 2050. Of this 853-million increase in Asia and, 71% will be in South Asia. In economic terms, developing Asia is also the world’s fastest-growing.

Yemen is ranked as the 11th most food-insecure country globally with one in three Yemenis suffering from acute hunger (IFPRI, 2011). Half of Yemen’s children are chronically malnourished and one out of ten does not live to reach the age of five. Such emergency levels of chronic malnutrition or stunting are second globally only to Afghanistan. The proportion of underweight children is the third highest in the world after India and Bangladesh. Multiple and simultaneous shocks have exacerbated the vulnerability of families and left millions trapped in absolute poverty and hunger. The number of severely food insecure households nearly doubled between 2009 and 2011, rising from 12 percent to 22 percent by December 2011. This means that an additional 2.7 million Yemenis have become severely food insecure during that tumultuous two-year period. Analysis of the change from 2009 to 2011 has shown several alarming results. People have drastically reduced their intake of micronutrient-rich foods including meat, fruits and vegetables, pulses, and dairy products. In some governorates, households consume half the amount of these food groups as they did two years ago.

Yemen is facing an increasingly complex and worrying humanitarian crisis. Families displaced by the conflict and refugees from the torn Horn of Africa continue to rely on humanitarian assistance for survival. At the same time the combined effects of the global food, fuel and financial crises have increased poverty in Yemen and have further exacerbated the vulnerability of a population that is already suffering from alarming rates of hunger and malnutrition. City, continuing conflict relating to the Al Houthi movement in the northwest and the growing influence of Al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula in the south, plus rising food and fuel prices have severely disrupted household access to food. That, on top of their already limited access, with one third of the population considered food insecure in 2009. The ramifications of these events have had two grave consequences: an erosion of an already poor diet and an accumulation of household debt.
Food security levels in the occupied Palestine territory, 33 percent of the total Palestinian household population continues to be food insecure, 13 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity, 21 percent are marginally secure and 33 percent are food secures. In absolute terms, it is estimated that 1.43 million people in the occupied Palestinian territory are food insecure. (FAO, 2013). The prevalence of household food insecurity in the Gaza Strip remains very high at 52 percent with an additional 13 percent of the households vulnerable to food insecurity. In absolute terms, an estimated 821,109 Gaza Strip people are food insecure. High food insecurity levels also persist in the West Bank with 22 percent of households who are food insecure and an additional 12 percent who are vulnerable to food insecurity. In absolute terms, an estimated 613,142 West Bank people are food insecure. By contrast, almost half of the households in the West Bank are food secure compared to less than one fifth of the Gaza households due to the fact that restrictions in accessing land which has remained insufficiently addressed and the consequences of Operation Cast Lead.

2.9 Food Security Issues in Africa

Food is the back bone of life. Its importance therefore cannot be underplayed. Access to food stands as a fundamental right as enshrined in the bill of rights. In September 2000, 189 world leaders attended the United Nations millennium summit and made commitments on pressing development needs. One of the key objectives of the MDGs is the eradication of poverty, hunger and halving the population living in hunger by the year 2015. UNFCCC (2008) Predicted that Africa will be hit the hardest by drought due to climate change.as a large part of the continent would face a yield decrease of over 50 % by the year 2020 as a result of hotter and drier climate. This would threaten food security and people’s livelihoods in most parts of the continent and thus resulting in food scarcity

While the rest of the world has made significant progress towards poverty alleviation, Africa, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag behind. Food insecurity remains the major challenge towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). According to the United Nations Report (2006) between September 2002 and March 2003, more than 14 million people in Southern Africa needed food aid amounting to 1,051,000 metric tonnes in order to avoid starvation. Projections have shown that there will be an increase in this tendency unless
preventative measures are undertaken. Food security has worsened on the continent since 1970 and the proportion of the malnourished population has remained within the 33 to 35% range in Sub-Saharan Africa (Rosegrant et al 2005).

After a study conducted in the Limpopo province of South Africa it was discovered that drought is one of the main challenges Limpopo province farmers will have to face for many years to come (Makhura et al 2004). It could become a major threat to food security, as it has a strong impact on food production, access and distribution. Limpopo province's average annual rainfall is 600mm and the threshold for rainfall agriculture is averaged at 250 mm annually. A decrease in rainfall was evident in the years 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2009. According to Duba (2009), the occurrence of drought in 2009 was the worst ever in Limpopo province.

According to the Post Harvest Survey by CSO in Zambia in 2008, production of staple crops which include maize, millet, sorghum and rice dropped by 22 percent from 1,134,319 tons on 2003/2004 to 884,575 ton in 2004/2005 planting season. The decline was mainly due to drought effects. Maize registered a drastic decrease of 233,234 tons or about from the previous year. This led to increased levels of food security in the country (Chizuni; 1994)

The impact of 1983/84 droughts in Ethiopia has resulted in total loss of the annual food production over the years, while in other areas the loss was as high as 50% of the annual total (NMSA, 1996). Death during the Wolo famine which occurred during the years 1972 and 1973 was estimated to be between 50000 and 100000 according to the study conducted by UNICEF. Historically Drought has affected the food security of Ethiopia adversely

2.10 Food Security Issues in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is predominantly an agriculturally based economy; it has negatively been affected by climate changes, which have resulted in droughts. This has resulted in the country being susceptible to high food insecurity of humanitarian proportions since 2000 to date. The current high levels of food insecurity are being attributed to various factors including adverse weather conditions, the unavailability and high cost of agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers and projected high cereal prices due to the poor maize harvest. WFP monitoring in rural markets has
found grain prices 15 percent higher than this time last year. In 2012, for the first time, the Government of Zimbabwe contributed some US$10 million worth of grain from domestic stocks towards a joint relief operation with WFP and partners. This programme provided food assistance to some 1.4 million people in 37 rural districts.

Figure 2.2: Food Security Trend (2009-2014) (Adapted from: ZimVAC Rural Livelihood Assessment Report2014)

The 2014/15 consumption year at peak (January to March) is projected to have 6% of rural household’s food insecure. This is a 76% decrease compared to the previous consumption year. This proportion represents about 564,599 people at peak, not being able to meet their annual food requirements.

The historical structural rigidities in the economy have persisted and the economy has not optimally diversified to become a dynamic economy. This economic context has generated and sustained high levels of poverty in the country. The recent experience of economic recession in the agricultural sector in the country is sobering; the net effect of the ill-advised agrarian reform
is that the has experienced stagnant and declining export earnings and this has all culminated in a severe balance of payments problem and declining economic growth.

The declining economy of Zimbabwe has worsened the situation of Gwanda District where poverty has become chronic and cancerous. The province of Matabeleland has been experiencing multifaceted social phenomenon that includes lack of access to productive assets, adequate food, health, education and other basic social amenities, all of which have characterised the prevailing atmosphere in the district.

Figure 2.3: Food security levels in Zimbabwe (Adapted from: ZimVAC Rural Livelihood Assessment Report 2014)

2.11 Key Actors in Food Security and Their Role in Food Security

Key actors in food security can be divided into two branches government and non-governmental organisations.

2.11.1 The role of the government in food security

Governments play an important role in helping achieve food security. The government through its various departments which include, Ministry of Agriculture, EMA, AREX, all contribute to
increased food security. The government of Zimbabwe responded to the food security issue with a range of policy measures. In 1980 the fast track Land reform was implemented. In the 1990s ESAP was implemented, during the period 2000-2015 irrigation and mechanisation programme, ZIMASSET, as well food and Nutrition Policy were implemented. Agriculture plays a vital role in the economy as well in enhancing food security.

2.11.2 Non-Governmental Organisations and their role in Food Security

The 1980s and 1990s have seen an increase in the number of NGOs active in relief and development. The rise of NGOs on the international scene is an important phenomenon which has implications for the development prospect for the poor marginalized rural households, for the future of these organisations themselves, and for the wider political economy of which they form a small but a growing part (Edwards, 1998).

NGOs have been conceptualized as something of a panacea for rural household food insecurity problems. Vivian (1994) in Edwards (1998) states that official agencies often see NGOs as a magic bullet which can be fired in any direction and though often without very much evidence, will still find its target.

NGOs have an important role to play in supporting the efforts of poor people to tackle the causes and effects of food insecurity. Throughout the 1980s alongside global and national policies for economy growth there has been an increasing emphasis on the potential role of NGOS in rural food security at households level (Sahley, 1997). A rapidly growing population of overseas aid resources is now flowing through indigenous NGOs in Africa a thriving and mature NGO sector is an important catalyst of self-reliant development activities, but can also become a permanent sector in society that influences policy, empowers grassroots organisations, forges links with public and private debates. It can become a permanent sector in society actively striving to create the conditions conducive to more equitable forms of development (Sahley, 1997)

2.12 Theoretical framework

The primary focus of the theoretical framework is on the household specifically the ways in which households uses its assets to undertake a range of livelihood activities so as to ensure food security as indicated by fig 2.2 below.
Sen (1981) asserts that the issue of livelihoods is central to the analysis of access and entitlement to Food Security. An assessment of Food Security involves the identification of risks facing particular social groups and mapping their vulnerabilities. In his hierarchy of needs Handy (1985) notes that food is the first need on Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, all other needs will not be met if food is not met. Livelihoods are essentially a source of food and cash to meet the household dietary requirement. Sen (1981) says that Food Security among households will be achieved when equitable growth ensures that the poor and vulnerable have sustainable livelihoods.

Livelihood comprise the capabilities assets (stores, resources claims and access) and activities required for a means of living, a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global view in the short and long term.
The framework is based on six livelihood assets which are human, financial, Physical Assets, natural, political and social.

- Human assets refer to the livelihood knowledge and capabilities possessed by individuals, in addition to the intangible character traits (ambition, drive, persistence, etc.) and health status that determine how effectively individuals apply their knowledge and capabilities to livelihood activities. Critical determinants of human assets include individual’s access to education and training, health services, sanitation, clean water and adequate amounts of nutritious food.

- Physical assets include the physical economic infrastructure along with the household’s productive and other assets that enable the household to pursue its livelihood. The physical economic infrastructure includes among other things, roads, rail networks, communication facilities, ports, etc. the household’s productive assets include land, machinery, tools and draft animals. Other household’s productive moveable assets that can be converted into cash or exchanged for goods or services such as jewelry, furniture, electronic appliances or animals. (Baumann and Sinha, 2001)

- Social assets are commonly referred to as social capital. Social capital is generated by the household ‘connections in social network, and the trust, reciprocity and resource sharing qualities of those connections. It can be activated by households to gain social support or social leverage, or by communities to facilitate organization and collective action. Social capita is a resource in which households can invest with the expectation of a future flow of benefits. (Davies, Susanna, 1993). Social capital is commonly viewed as a positive resource, but can become negative when used to exclude outsiders, impose social sanctions, or advance special interests that are detrimental to the greater good.

- Financial assets are financial resources that are available to the household and include savings, credit, insurance, remittances, pensions, cash transfers from social welfare programs and assets held as a store of value such as livestock or jewelry. To act as store of value, assets must be able to be saved and retrieved at a later time and have predictable value when liquidated or exchanged. (Alwang et al., 2001)

- Natural assets include the physical environment and the natural resources stocks that can be controlled by the household and used to expand or enhance livelihoods. Natural assets include land, water, wildlife, biodiversity and forests.
Political assets are defined as the ability to use power to further political or economic positions, which in turn affects outcomes (Baumann and Sinha, 2001). They refer to the legitimate distribution of power and rights and how illicit operations of power can frustrate efforts of households to access and defend entitlements. Illicit use of political power can divert significant resources away from vulnerable households.

2.13 Chapter Summary

Much literature has been written concerning food security. The chapter investigated the levels of food security looking at the causes, components and issues of food security at globally, regionally, and nationally level.
CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology applied in the research study. The focus of the study is to investigate the levels of food security in ward 17 of Gwanda district. The research method discusses the research design, the population under study and the sampling procedures. The research instruments to be used, the data collection plan and the analysis plan will also be highlighted. The research methodology is described in terms of the sections discussed below.

3.2 Study Area

The area understudy as indicated by Figure 3.1 is ward 17 of Gwanda district in Matabeleland South Province. The researcher chose this area because of its food crisis history and food insecurity in the area due to recurrent droughts. Climatic conditions of the District are such that the area is susceptible to regular droughts. The District has had eleven serious droughts since 1940 to date with the most recent drought being that of 2002. Realizing a potential human catastrophe at that time the Government of Zimbabwe declared Matabeleland South province, in which Gwanda is one of eight districts, to be a disaster area in terms of the food situation existing in February 2002.
3.3 Research Design

Leedy (2011), a research design is a strategy, the plan and structure of conducting a research project. From the above definitions one may conclude that indeed a research design is a plan of the study for it provides the overall framework for collecting data. It is relatively specific and consists of a serious of guideline for systematic data gathering. To better understand the levels of food insecurity in ward 17 the researcher chose case study.

Check and Schutt (2013) defines a case study as an intensive study of a single case or phenomenon on the assumption that is typical of other cases. A Case study has the main aim of deeply probing and analysing interaction between respondents. The in-depth data collected in the Case Study will be used to arrive at comprehensive understanding of the group studied. The use of fewer participants in this case study will help to reduce financial costs in terms of instruments and travelling.
3.4 Population

Population refers to a collection about which it is wished to make inferences (Sandelowski, 1995). The population under study comprised of major Government departments and Non-Governmental organisations dealing with food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District, the community leaders as well as the community members in ward 17 of Gwanda District. Ward 17 has population of 5955 people with 2721 females and 3234 males. According to ZIMSTAT Report 45.7% of the population are females while 54.3% of the population are males. The ward has 1276 households (ZIMSTAT Report, 2012).

3.5 Sampling

As defined by Haralambos and Holborn (2004) a sample is a representative selection of the group units of total population under study. Villages in the ward were taken as clusters. The researcher used random sampling to select 127 households from every village in the ward which represented 10% of the population so as to make sure the whole population is well represented. The researcher also interviewed one member from each department which were selected as key informants in the issues of food insecurity this was done after the researcher to the DA’s Office in order to ascertain the various institutions involved in food security and government and non-government were selected. Also the community leaders were interviewed. Observation was also used in all the villages.

3.6 Methodology

Both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies were used in this study. The use of both qualitative and quantitative methods in this research offered opportunities to compensate for inherent method weaknesses and capitalize on inherent method strengths, thereby offsetting inevitable method biases (Greene, 2007 cited in Conrad and Serlin, 2011).

The justifications of using both qualitative and quantitative methods in this research are that the methodologies can allow triangulation and expansion of the study. According to Clarke (2005), triangulation enables the convergence of results, whereas expansion according to Conrad and Serlin (2011) results into clarification of outcomes, thereby adding scope and breathe to the study.
3.6.1 Quantitative Research Methods

According to Aliaga and Gunderson (2000) cited in Conrad and Serlin (2011), quantitative research methods involve explaining phenomena by collecting numerical data that are analysed using mathematically based methods particularly statistics. In addition quantitative research methods attempt to maximize objectivity, replicability, and generalizability of findings, and are typically interested in predictability (Balnaves and Caputi, 2001). The research design employed the questionnaire as its quantitative research instrument. The questionnaire was used to explore the community’s opinions on the levels of food security as well as the available food insecurity mitigation methods in ward 17 of Gwanda District.

3.6.1.1 Questionnaires

A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a set of questions intended to capture responses from respondents in a standardized manner (Bhattaderjee, 2012). Quantitative data in this research was collected using a standardized household questionnaire. The method was chosen because it allows making of conclusions about a large group of people based on data drawn from a relatively small number of individuals in that group (Marshall and Rossman, 2006). The data collected allow statistical descriptions, explanations and variables of certain features in a population (Marshall and Rossman, 2006); in this case the target population is local residents of ward 17 in Gwanda District.

In this research, an open-ended questionnaire was used to get information from the community member. The questionnaire included questions on effects of food insecurity on the community, coping strategies, causes of food insecurity, who is helping them in terms of food aids.

3.6.2 Qualitative Research Methods

Qualitative research methods focus on discovering and understanding the experiences, perspectives and thoughts of participants (Hiatt, 1986) cited in Conrad and Serlin (2011). Qualitative methods are well suited for this study because they explore hidden reasons behind complex, interrelated, or multifaceted social processes, thereby augment quantitative evidence were may be biased, inaccurate, or otherwise difficult to obtain (Bhattacherjee, 2012).
According to Clifton (2001) qualitative techniques can bring results to life by providing the stories and examples that help us to understand what the numbers mean. In case of this research, the following qualitative methods were used; documents (secondary data sources), interviews and field observations. The methods aimed at exploring the key actors in food security issues and their role in reducing levels of food insecurity as well their level of participation. They also aimed at agricultural practices as well as community coping strategies.

3.6.2.1 Interviews

Interviews are defined by Khan and Cannel (1957) in Marshall and Rossman (2006) as conversations with a purpose. As such they are a more personalized form of data collection method (Bhattacherjee, 2012). For the purposes of this research, the data collection method was relevant due to its ability to yield data in quantity quickly (Bhattacherjee, 2012).

Semi-structured Interviews were used in this study to explore opinions and views of government and non-governmental organisation as well as community leaders on food security issues as well as measures of mitigating food insecurity. The method was useful in gathering information pertaining to food security as well as the available mitigation measures. However the method has its limitations and weaknesses. To counteract the weaknesses the interviews were combined with observations to increase the method’s effectiveness in gathering information (Marshall and Rossman, 2006).

3.6.2.2 Observations

Observations entail a systematic noting of events, behaviours, and artefacts (objects) in a social setting chosen for study (Marshall, 2006). It was an ideal method of collecting information for this research because it allows collection of data where and when an event or activity is occurring. Observations also do not rely on people’s willingness or ability to provide information (CDC, 2008).

For the purposes of this research participatory observation methods were used. The observations enabled the research to witness directly as food hand-outs were being administered to the community member. The researcher was also able to observe some of the community coping strategies and also through walking around the researcher observed the number of farms planted
and the type of crops grown in ward 17. This method was combined with photographing. The method however is time-consuming. Therefore the research complemented participatory observations with other methods in the form of questionnaire and interviews to cover other parts of the study areas and food security issues.

3.6.2.3 Document Analysis

Documentation is a method where documents such as memos, electronic mails, annual reports, financial statements, newspaper articles and websites are used as independent data sources for corroboration of other forms of evidence (Bhattacherjee, 2012). In this research information was collected from a wide variety of institutions that are operational in Gwanda District which the District Admin’s office, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and NGOs to review administrative documents. The documents include the preceding policy documents and various minutes and proceedings from meetings concerning food security issues.

The researcher distributed the questionnaires to the villagers and also conducted interviews with community leadership as well as key actors in the food insecurity issues within the community. The research was conducted within seven days.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Confidentiality: The respondent’s identity was kept confidential. Data collection and storage was done in strict confidentiality and was used for the purpose of the study alone. Informed consent: Respondents were informed of the purpose of the study and were free to tell the researcher if they were not interested to take part in the study.

3.8 Limitation of the Study

Every study has limitations particularly the researcher has no exception. During data collection problems some selected households were not at home for the interview and few others were hostile and refused to answer the questions, when this occurred the researcher replaced them with reserved households.
Financial constraints the researcher had to travel to the study area to conduct the research the researcher had to travel up and down in order to meet the set appointment with members of various institutions involved in food security from the study area since most of these institutions are located in Gwanda town.

Representative from some organisations such as NGO’s who are part of the targeted population have always a tight schedule for the researcher to conduct interviews. The researcher faces the difficult in interviewing them, although appointments have been made and this resulted to reschedule of interview dates.

3.9 Data Analysis

According to Miles and Huberman, (1994) data analysis is used to look for patterns and relationships in the data that is collected. Overall, data analysis involves organizing data that has been collected so that you make sense of it (Smit, 2002). Data analysis as a two way process as first it involves the selection of relevant data and then secondly the categorization or coding.

Raw data was validated, edited and cleaned, soon after the questionnaires were administered. This was done early so that any clarifications were sought while the researcher’s mind was still fresh. The researcher coded all unstructured responses. Coded data from both structured and unstructured questions was processed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). Individual households that responded to the questionnaire constituted a unit of analysis. Some initial checks were done for obvious errors. Every effort was made to ensure that non-available data were not treated as zeros but they were given an arbitrary value.

3.10 Data presentation

The data gathered was presented in tables, bar graphs and pie charts so that an overall picture of the results of the study is made visible at a glance. The responses would be converted into percentages in order to establish the highest frequency.

3.11 Chapter Summary

This chapter discussed the research design that was used. A qualitative research method was discussed at length as having been the most appropriate approach for the study. The research
instruments which include in-depth interviews and focal group discussions have been discussed. The chapter has also highlighted the population understudy, sampling procedures and the data presentation plan as well as the data analysis plan. The next chapter will present, and discuss the findings.
CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter consists of data from the research. Specialised attention will be given to the presentation and analysis of data collected by the researcher from the sampled household population within the study area. This chapter will analyse the levels of food security, causes of food insecurity and available mitigation measures of food security in ward 17 of Gwanda District.

4.2 Food Security Levels in Ward 17 of Gwanda District

Two methods were used to measure food security levels in ward 17 of Gwanda district. These methods include Household food Security (HFS) which measured the number of meals per day as well as the quantities and Monthly Household Food Security (MHFS) which measured the availability of food throughout the year as well as the quantities.

4.2.1 Household Food Security Levels

Fig 4.1 below indicates the household food security levels in ward 17 of Gwanda District. Food security levels were measured using number of meals consumed by a household on a daily basis.
The study indicated that 10% of the population responded as food secure a situation whereby they were able to eat three meals a day in the right quantities and quality as well food of their own preference these were food secure. It also showed 25% of the population were moderately food insecure these ate three meals a day in the right quantities and not quality. They ate food that they had but not food of their own preference. They have food in the right quantities but low quality. This group are not affected by hunger.

Moreover, 35% of the population were food insecure these have less than three meals a day and in low quantities and very poor quality. Food intake is very low such that the household members repeatedly experience the physical sensation of hunger. As shown by the research finding 30% the household were severely food insecure. This was indicated by the number of meals the family takes as well as the quality and quantity. This group can spend 24hrs without a meal they don’t even have food to give to children. These eat one meal per day or no meal at all in extremely low quantities and qualities.
4.2.2 Monthly Food Security Levels in the Ward 17 of Gwanda

Agriculture is the main food source in Zimbabwe. Fig 4.2 below shows the level of food security per household after harvesting.

![Monthly Household Food Security Levels](image)

Figure 4.2 Monthly Food Security Levels in Ward 17 of Gwanda District (Source: Author)

The study revealed that 20% of the population indicated as shown by fig 4.2 were food secure this was shown by the fact that they have enough food to eat all year round in the right quantities and qualities. This group indicated that they had enough food all year round.

It also indicated that 50% of the population revealed they were moderately food. These have enough food to eat for at least 6 months of the year. During certain months of the year they don’t have enough food to eat. The reason for their insecurity could a reduction in their low agriculture output and low food storages.

Furthermore, 30% of the population indicated that they don’t have enough food to eat all year round. This group as shown by the diagram above are food insecure.
4.3 Causes of Food Insecurity in Ward 17 Community Perceptions

The research findings show that there are a number of reasons which the community perceives as causes of food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District.

![Figure 4.3: Causes of Food Insecurity](Source: Author)

4.3.1 Low rainfalls

The research findings indicated that the reason for low output in their agricultural produce leading to food insecurity is caused by low rainfalls in the area. Most people did acknowledge that rains have been minimal in their area since long back but it has since gotten worse such that everything they planted they got absolutely nothing due to the low rainfalls. Hence people have stopped practising agriculture, thus increasing food insecurity levels.

4.3.2 Low incomes

The study showed that a number of community members attributed the increase in food security levels to low incomes due lack of employment opportunities. Some households who were dependant on the natural environment for wild fruits, honey and macimbi claimed there has been
a decline in the availability of these things hence they cannot raise income to buy food for their families thereby increasing food insecurity levels for the community.

4.3.3 Poor Distribution of Food

The research also indicated that some of the community mentioned poor distribution of food as the cause of food insecurity. They claimed they receive food help from various government and non-government institutions however the selection of the beneficiaries by the community leadership leads to some members not benefiting from these food packages hence increasing the levels of food security in the area.

4.3.4 Illiteracy and No Agricultural Training

The research also shows that quite a number of people blamed the high levels of food insecurity on the lack of education and no agricultural training. They just practice agricultural without the technical know-how hence leading to low output

4.3.5 Increase in Birth Rates

Respondents also indicated the increase in birth rates is leading to food insecurity in the area. Increase in population exerts pressure on food at household level. A bigger family means more food requirements hence with the little food households attain it strains their food stores hence increasing food insecurity at household level.

4.3.6 Culture and Religion

The research also showed respondent blamed the increase levels on certain suspicions or beliefs some claimed it was a way of God of punishing them cause of the increasing levels of witch craft in the area. Some claimed it was because of not worshipping ancestral spirits like people used to do long ago.

4.4 Food Security Coping Strategies within the Community

The study reveals that community members in ward 17 have ventured into different income generating activities ranging from off farm to on farm incomes. Most households interviewed participated in more than one income deriving activity as shown by Figure 4.4 below.
The various economic activities undertaken by the community are to reduce food insecurity at household level. The various food insecurity coping strategies undertaken by community members these include:

4.4.1 Migration

The most common coping strategy with the onset of the economic crisis was distress migration by villagers mostly to the bordering countries of South Africa and Botswana. About 80% of the households interviewed have a family member who migrated mostly to South Africa and Botswana. However the rate of migration has not been complimented by the equal receipt of cash remittances from these members. 80% of the households with a family member who migrated acknowledged receipt of cash and kind remittances at least once or twice in two months with some recording a more frequent receipt. However 20% of the households were recorded as never having received any form of remittance from their family members who have migrated.
4.4.2 Cross Border Trading

Women have also played a very important role as providers for their families as some of them engaged in cross border trading which was very lucrative and rewarding as most of the women claimed despite the high labour involved. Most development initiatives in the area have been attributed to cash remittances received by the different households, for example most of the small retail business initiatives in ward 17 have been attributed to investments from cash remittances from cross boarder trading initiatives undertaken in the area.

4.4.3 Traditional methods

To enhance food security in ward 17 people have also adapted to traditional ways this includes the gathering of a variety of indigenous fruits including ukhakuxhaku, umwawa, amavunguvungu, amaganu (marula), umnyi, amongst others for consumption or for resale. However fruit yields had either seized altogether or drastically reduced for most of these trees.

One village head during an interview said, Talking about wild fruits, ‘I got married in 1975, in my in-laws fields there were imiwawa fruit trees which were amazing, we used to harvest them and make 12 trays each individual. That thing brought us a lot of business because people used to come from far places to look for imiwawa fruit which had big healthy seeds. But after a while those trees started to skip some years without fruits, the ones with fruits would have quite a few. If you looked inside you would notice that the seeds were sticking because there was no rain.’

Many communities in Zimbabwe, especially in the Matabeleland region have traditionally relied on amacimbi (mopane worm) for their livelihoods. This worm is a nutritious delicacy used for relish across Matabeleland and other parts of Zimbabwe. Many families have traditionally made a livelihood not only through the consumption of the worm but also through selling it for income generation.

One community leader during an interview said, ‘I was born in 1973. When we were growing up we went to school using mopane worm’s money. We used to go with our grandmothers to harvest mopane worms all around this place. Our grandmothers would sell the mopane worms for us and we would also be able to buy blankets but now there are no mopane worms. Our region here had a lot of mopane worms. We never used to go far; we would literally go behind the hut to harvest. But now you cannot find anything. Mopane worms were our way of making a
living for people who do not have jobs to work. We knew we had money during the mopane worm’s season. We used to harvest twice, in April and in December but now there is nothing. We do not know what sent our mopane worms away. They were our wealth.’

4.4.4 Irrigation Schemes

Recurrent droughts in ward 17 have resulted in the increased investment in irrigation schemes by the government as well as personal initiatives. These irrigation schemes are mostly on the new resettlement areas and their existence is mostly for commercial purposes. Those practicing irrigation farming on the former white owned farms gained during the land redistribution of 2000 hire seasonal labour which is abundant given that a lot of the peasant farmers now only partially utilise their farm land and are constantly looking for part time income.

Though irrigation schemes have thrived in the past decade, they have also been met with their own fair share of challenges ranging from fuel shortages which affected mobility to transport farm produce especially to Gwanda town, high transport cost in the event of hiring transport, shortages and irregular rain patterns, highly priced farm implements, constant movements of hired labour some who just left without any prior notice, siltation of the two major dams in the area caused by river bank cultivation. Despite all the challenges, irrigation farming has been very profitable to farmers under the schemes and has enhanced the economic standing of these families in the community of Gwanda.

4.4.5 Garden Plots

Garden or greens plots as referred to by a key informant in ward 17 are a thriving business which has carried many families through the difficult times in the village. These garden plots are mostly under the care of women who do all the work in these plots. The most common things grown on these plots are vegetables, tomatoes, green peas, onions, chilli’s and pumpkins. Though some of the produce is consumed in the homes most of it is for resale in the surrounding communities. One female respondent had this to say: Though we have not got rich from our garden plots, we have managed to get a decent income to buy food, send our children to school and sometimes buy seeds and fertilizer for our fields
About 80% of the households owned a garden plot in the area and mostly were taken care of by women. These garden plots have been instrumental in the economic empowerment of women in the village as they now have an income to use for their own needs. Vegetable growing not only provides households with an alternative income, vegetable growing has promoted the improvement of the local diet.

4.4.6 Mining

Some villagers have ventured into small claims gold panning on previously white owned mines that were re-distributed under the FTLRP in 2000. Gold panning has become a very important income deriving source for some of the villagers in ward 17. Some mining investments have been very profitable and some households have managed to accumulate a lot of assets that at times include agricultural investments, livestock, building and household assets.

4.4.7 Other diversified Incomes

According to research findings in ward 17, hiring out own labour to on the farm and off farm for cash and kind remittances is very common. These range from clearing fields, harvesting, ploughing, heading livestock (cattle and goats), gathering firewood, guarding small grain fields by constantly chasing quail birds through making noises or practically chasing them away, household errands like washing and cooking and cleaning the homestead. These menial tasks are engaged in by both female and male villagers looking to make an extra income for their own personal use.

Research findings also revealed that, small businesses like wielding (making burglar bars, door frames, window frames), brick moulding, small retail businesses are also very affluent in the area, and most of the people in these activities are those of between 17-46 age groups. Selling of livestock has become a fundamental source of income for those households who own different livestock.

4.5 State Intervention in Food Security

In ward 17 of Gwanda district, the government through its various initiatives have played a role in mitigating food insecurity. Agriculture extension which is a government department offers agricultural training to community members they encourage the growing of drought resistant
crops and contour ridges. However due to low rainfalls in the area the productivity levels are low despite the training. The government through the GMB initiative tried to curb food insecurity. The community noted that it has been two full years since the government parastatal, Grain Marketing Board, dispatched maize meal to Ward 17. The survey revealed that even though the GMB tried to constantly supply the community with maize, there were irregularities and inconsistencies brought forth by the GMB institution. The study also showed that 80% of the beneficiaries highlighted that GMB food aid was expensive to procure hence making it out of reach for the ordinary poor in light of the socio-economic hardships gripping the country. Only the remaining 20% were in a position to buy from the GMB. Apart from the above mentioned challenges, beneficiaries were further required to provide their own transport to ferry their maize meal from the GMB depot to their respective wards a distance that approximates 200km. Transporters are also charging fares which in this case makes it impossible for impoverished households to buy. The informants at household level argued that given the average household size of 5-10 insufficient to meet the recommended calories required by human beings, even just for a week.

4.6 The Role of NGOs in Enhancing Food Security in Ward 17

There are a number of NGOs in the area each performing a certain to enhance food security as shown by the table below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>FIELD OF OPERATION</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAFIRE</td>
<td>Natural Resource management, irrigation, agro-forestry, Nutrition garden</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITDG</td>
<td>Agriculture Natural Resource Management Capacity Building</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran Development Services</td>
<td>Primary Schools Supplementary feeding water and sanitation dam construction, HIV/AIDS, livestock restocking, food for work</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Health Education Disaster Management, Youth and resource</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross Society</td>
<td>Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro Africa Development Trust</td>
<td>Small-medium dam, irrigation agriculture capacity building</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAP</td>
<td>Self-help income generating projects</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZWRCN</td>
<td>Information gathering and dissemination women empowerment</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands Development Organisation</td>
<td>Information management system developing strategic planning and local governance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Action</td>
<td>Agric- recovery support, seed multiplication drip irrigation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe Women and Land</td>
<td>Irrigation rehabilitation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Vision</td>
<td>Food aid and food for work projects, dam rehabilitation schemes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.1: Role of NGOs (Source: (Author))

World Vision is the major NGO enhancing food security in ward 17 of Gwanda district. Plate shows the food distribution to community members by World Vision.

Plate 4.1: Food Distribution in ward 17 (Source: Author)

Data from World Vision records indicates that 122 5 households were being assisted under the food aid safety net feeding program. Under the schools feeding programme, 33 243 pupils were being fed throughout the entire district. 1019 adults are responsible for preparing this food on behalf of the children; these adults are merely doing voluntary work however, they are also allowed to feed themselves simultaneously with pupils.

The food aid program consists of both food hand outs as well as other supplementary initiatives that aimed at improving household livelihoods. As of the 16 of December 2014 1,634,456 metric tonnes of nutritional assistance had been administered to the entire community of Gwanda District. Apart from the mega tonnages of food World Vision distributes to the district on a yearly basis, World Vision International implemented sustainable measures to ensure community self-reliance with regards to food security at household level. Communities in the respective wards were undergoing training in conservation farming methodologies with a view of helping them harvest in dry spells. The organisation is instrumental in rehabilitating some dams and irrigation schemes in a bid to attain sustainable irrigation farming as well as ensure sustainable food security.
When management key informants were asked about the food contents of the food hand outs, they highlighted that there were administering cereals such as bulgar wheat, corn-meal (yellow mealie meal), maize, pulses which are also known as pinto-beans, lentils, yellow peas and vegetable oil. They however highlighted that in the last seven months they were provisioning what they had in stock: Bulgar wheat, with each member of the household being entitled to a quantity of 10kgs each, 0.6 litres of cooking oil per person, 3kgs of sugar beans per person.

The above quantities stood as their monthly ration. Inquiring from the beneficiaries what they would have liked included on their monthly food allocation they implored that they would be delighted if salt and sugar was also provisioned to them on a monthly basis.

4.6.1. Number of meals per day before Humanitarian Assistance

Figure 4.5 below shows the percentage number of people who could afford no meals, one meal, two meals and three meals before the arrival of World Vision food aid.

Figure 4.5: Number of Meals Before Humanitarian Assistance  
Source: Author

56
The survey revealed that before World Vision intervention, over three quarters of the entire community households could not afford three meals a day. Fig4.5 above shows that 4% of the sample population was completely failing to afford a meal. 70% of the households could only afford a single meal. 20% could afford two meals and the remaining 6% could afford 3 meals a day. 4% of the population was completely failing to fend for itself. Besides temporary jobs in exchange for food, this fraction of people depended on donations from the few elite in the community, churches, and members of the business community.

The majority population could afford a single meal due to the general unavailability of food in the area. Only a few households (20%) could consistently afford two meals per day. Having two or one meal per day comes down to food rationing, which is one coping strategy for the people of Gwanda District as they could not access enough food for the number of meals they desire. Those who could access three meals a day were mainly households with family members in the diaspora and these could afford remitting to their loved ones on a regular basis.
4.6.2 Number of Meals per after the arrival of Humanitarian Assistance

Fig 4.6 below shows the number of meals after receiving food aid

![Pie chart showing the number of meals per day](image)

Figure 4.6: Number of Meals after Humanitarian Assistance (Source: Author)

As observed in fig 4.6 above, the number of households that could not access a single meal after World Vision began distributing food had declined to 0%. 16% could access at least one meal per day. Approximately three quarters of the population could access two meals and the remaining 10% could access three meals a day. The arrival of food hand outs from World Vision

4.7 Effects of Food Insecurity on the Community

Food insecurity in ward 17 of Gwanda District has adverse effects on the community. The research revealed that food insecurity in the area has led to hunger, famine, loss of life, malnutrition, migration, school drop outs
4.8 Conclusion

The chapter looked at the data presentation and analysis. The chapter helped the researcher to come up with conclusions and recommendations which is what the 5 and final chapter looks at.
CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter concludes the research study. The study introduced the background, statement of the problem, aims, motivation, and rationale of the study in chapter 1, explored the literature, theories, defined terms and the general concepts of food aid. Chapter 3 outlined and discussed the research methodology; chapter 4 presented and discussed the findings. This chapter therefore makes recommendations and concludes the study. This chapter will concentrate on the findings of this research and make conclusions based on the research findings. These Recommendations can be used as a basis of reducing food insecurity levels, as well as reducing the adverse impacts food insecurity has on the community in ward 17 of Gwanda District as well other areas with the same problem.

5.2 Discussion

Food security is an issue of global concern. The study investigated the levels of food security in ward 17 of Gwanda District. The research concentrated at household food security levels within the study area, monthly household food security levels, considered the causes of insecurity, food insecurity mitigation measures implemented by the community, government and well as non-governmental organisations.

The study revealed that ward 17 is facing problems this is indicated by the household food security levels which indicate that 35% of the population are extremely food insecure. The study revealed that the main cause of food insecurity in the area is low rainfall. Considering that agriculture is the major source of food in Zimbabwe. Monthly Household Food Security measurement was done to measure food security level on a monthly basis the results show that
only 10% of the population have enough food to eat all year round whilst 90% hardly have enough to eat making 90% of the population food insecure.

The research also showed that there are a number of reasons the community perceived as the major causes of insecurity these included low rainfall, low incomes, illiteracy just to mention a few with low rainfalls being perceived as the major cause. They are various measures being undertaken by the community, government as well as non-governmental organisation to enhance food security in the area. However despite all these measures food insecurity levels remain high in ward 17 of Gwanda and has adverse impacts on the community which are loss of life, hunger, malnutrition, schools drop outs just to mention a few.

5.3 Conclusion

The research findings indicated the area has high levels of food insecurity this was realised through investigating the average number of meals that the different households in the community take without humanitarian assistance. The key actors in food security issues in this area can be divided into government and its various departments and non-governmental organisations such as the church these provide food aid to the community, come up with different projects to enhance livelihood strategies and reduce food insecurity levels in ward 17 of Gwanda. However despite the various mitigation methods implemented by the government and non-governmental organisations at national as well as at ward level progress in terms of food security is still slow this could be due population growth, drought, lack of education, migration and a number of factors just to mention a few. The agricultural activity in the area has decreased drastically due to recurrent drought in the community. This has led to diversification as community members undertake different economic activities in order to be able to buy food for their families. Despite all the available mitigation methods food insecurity remains an issue of concern in ward 17 of Gwanda District

5.4 Recommendations

- Capacity building of rural farming communities. Much of the say is about free inputs from the Grain Marketing Board. That is not capacity building. It is not sustainable. Solution is on empowerment in the sector. Provide farmers with investment tools in the
form of transferable Certificate of Ownership (COOs) on land to enable farmers to access finance.

➢ Adopt measures to eradicate any kind of discriminatory practices, especially with Respect to gender, in order to achieve adequate levels of nutrition within the household; Women in their roles as producers and managers of household food security often bear primary responsibility for maintaining household consumption and nutrition in the face of mounting costs. However they are often impeded in their efforts by limited access to assets, traditional norms, and the challenges posed by their often competing roles. Therefore there is need for the community through the Ministry of woman affairs to be educated on the gender policy and also teach the community on the importance of allowing woman to work in order to enhance food security.

➢ Governments, civil society, academia and the private sector must all work together toward solutions to help smallholder farmers fulfill their expanding role in feeding the hungry and fighting malnutrition.

➢ Provide training and practical support Smallholder farmers need training in agricultural best practices and access to inputs, credit, storage and technology to increase their productivity in a sustainable way, which raises their own living standards and produces surpluses to help nourish others.
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APPENDICES

APENDIX 1

Pre Coded Questionnaire Guide

My name is Sibanda Blantina C, a graduate student at Bindura University of Science Education under the Faculty of Science in the Department of Geography. As part of the study programme, students are expected to engage in a field research and produce a project covering their areas of interest. I am, therefore, conducting an investigation into food security levels in ward 17 of Gwanda. I guarantee that the information gathered in this exercise will be strictly used for academic purposes, and the respondents ‘confidentiality will be respected. Your cooperation and support will be greatly appreciated Thank you in advance

N.B Questions require you to tick in the appropriate box and fill in were necessary

Section A Demographic Variables

1. Sex? Male [ ] Female [ ]

2. Age? <20 [ ] 20-35 [ ] 36-50 [ ] >50 [ ]

3. Level of education? Primary [ ] secondary [ ] tertiary [ ]

Section B Food Security Levels

1. How many meals per day does your family actually eat? 1 meal [ ] 2 meals [ ] 3 meals [ ]

2. When you eat do they satisfy their hunger? Yes [ ] No [ ]

2.1 If yes between now and the next season, will your family eat enough to satisfy its hunger? Yes [ ] No [ ]
2.2 If not how many months did your family satisfy its hunger (ie eat two meals per day) after harvest: less than 3 months __ 4-6 months __ 6-8 months __ 9-12 months __

3. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member have to eat a smaller meal than you felt you needed because there was not enough food? Yes __ No __

4. In the past four weeks, was there ever no food to eat of any kind in your household because of lack of resources to get food? Yes __ No __

5. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food? Yes __ No __

6. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member go a whole day and night without eating anything because there was not enough food? Yes __ No __

7. Is your area food secure? Yes __ No __

8. What do you think is the causing food insecurity in your area?
   - Low rainfalls __ low incomes __ poor distribution of food __
   - Illiteracy and lack of agriculture training __ Increase in birth rates __
   - Culture and religion __

Other (please specify):

......................................................................................................................................................
......................................................................................................................................................

13. How are you coping with the food insecurity?

Migration __ Cross border __ Traditional methods __

Irrigation schemes __ Garden plots __ Mining __

Other (please specify):

......................................................................................................................................................
......................................................................................................................................................
12. Has experience with food insecurity influenced your on-farm and off-farm activities?

Strongly Agree □ Agree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree □

14. Have you received food support from:

NGOs? Yes □ No □
Government? Yes □ No □

14.1 If yes, what type of support and which NGO or government department?

NGOs: ..........................................................................................................................................
......................................................................................................................................................

Government: ................................................................................................................................
......................................................................................................................................................

15. Number of meals before Humanitarian Assistance? 1 meal □ 2 meals □ 3 meals □

16. Number of Meals after Humanitarian Assistance? 1 meal □ 2 meal □ 3 meals □

17. What are the effects of food insecurity?

Loss of human life □ Hunger □ Famine □ Malnutrition □

School drop-outs □ Migration □

Others
specify..........................................................................................................................................
......................................................................................................................................................
APPENDIX 2

Interview guide for the key informants in government and non-governmental organisations.

1. Would you kindly give me a brief introduction into your work?

2. How would classify food security levels in ward 17 of Gwanda District?

3. What is your organisation doing to help enhance food security?

4. How is the support tailor-made to suit the needs of the community?

5. What are the challenges faced in providing help to the community members?

6. Does the community appreciate the help that you are offering?
APPENDIX 3

Interview guide for the community leaders

1. What are you doing to ensure that your capacity to cope with food insecurity is strong?

2. Are you receiving any support to cope with food insecurity from the government and NGOs?

3. What are the effects of food insecurity on your community?

4. What are the traditional and/or indigenous adaptation strategies that the local people use to enhance food security?