

Project Brief



Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprises

OVERVIEW

Launched in February 2014, Enhancing Nutrition Stepping up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE) initially a 5 year program implemented from July 2013 to June 2018, which has been extended to November 2020. The ENSURE project is a USAID-funded Title II Development Food Assistance Program and a shared commitment of 5 partners to achieve improved food and nutrition security of communities in 6 districts by 2018. Designed to mainstream gender across the three main themes of maternal and child nutrition, agriculture and economic empowerment and resiliency, the project aims to improve food security of communities and households in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces by 2020.

What we know

Disease outbreaks, drought and other public health emergencies have been alternating in Zimbabwe since 2012 to 2019. Flash floods and cyclones have also been a recurring phenomenon affecting communities. The January 2019 ZimVAC lean season food security assessment report projects Chivi, Zaka and Bikita district food insecurity proportions at 38%, 39.2%, and 54.2% respectively. There are several shocks and hazards affecting populations but drought at 54% is the highest followed by crop pest at 47% in Masvingo province. Livestock diseases are also a challenge, which threatens household food security. These high levels of food insecurity projections require a scaling up of food assistance programs by government and partners affecting self-reliance goals of project participants. El Nino effects that caused massive crop wilting followed by crop destruction due to Cyclone Idai in Bikita and Zaka Districts, add to the challenges faced by communities. Cereal from previous harvests deplete at the household level, while shortages of cash and high prices limit the ability of people to purchase food requirements. Food prices continue to escalate for example the average price of cooking oil increased from \$2.30 for 2liters in 2012 to \$11 for the same quantity. Gaps still exist in infrastructure, access to markets and finance and coverage of health and nutrition services.



cutting Objective of promoting gender equity in nutrition and agriculture. ENSURE focuses primarily on empowering and capacitating poor, rural households to become more food secure by way of the following three strategic objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1 (SO1): Improving nutrition among women of reproductive age and children under the age of five.
- Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): Increasing household income via improved agricultural production and marketing.
- Strategic Objective 3 (SO3): Increasing resilience to food insecurity of communities via improved disaster risk reduction and natural resource management.

What we are doing

The ENSURE Project aims to improve food and nutrition security and resilience for 215000 beneficiaries in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces in Zimbabwe. CARE as a partner within the ENSURE Consortium operates in Masvingo Province covering Bikita, Chivi and Zaka Districts. The ENSURE program interventions are organized around three important themes: maternal and child health (SO1), agriculture and economic development (SO2), and resilience (SO3). Complementing these themes and focusing on the current context in Zimbabwe, ENSURE will highlight the cross