



Over the past decade, Zimbabwe has experienced a number of unprecedented economic, environmental and political shocks and stresses. A sharp drop in GDP, hyper-inflation, deindustrialisation, closure of industries, large-scale lay-offs and disruption of public services, coupled with recurrent drought, floods and poor harvests, have contributed to chronic food shortages. Poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, and environmental degradation are serious challenges, particularly in rural areas.



Food insecurity has been exacerbated by climate change. Whilst the rains have come this year after previous droughts, there is now a danger that the crops will be washed away because of too much constant rain. No matter what efforts are made it is a complicated process to keep Zimbabwe food secure and it is with this that the Bishop's Lent Call will help.



The **Diocese of Masvingo** is largely rural and so, with the right amount of rain, its people can produce plentiful crops. However, the effects of climate change mean that they are finding it very hard to feed everyone. The Diocesan projects team has already planted some of the farming land at the Daramombe Mission. This land is near a river to help with irrigation so long as there is rain. They want to purchase two cows for dairy farming, too. The Chidzikwe Training Centre has market gardening, a piggery, poultry production and the trainees keep goats and sheep.

In addition, the Diocese is working to provide feeding programmes through its schools and wants to expand the provision of school gardens, designed to help feed families nearby and to provide an income for the school. It especially needs help to sink boreholes.

In the **Diocese of Manicaland**, almost a million people are in need of help to have enough to eat. The people of this area have been much affected by climate change and the effects of 2019's Cyclone Idai. In addition, COVID-19 has affected the economic situation of many. The Diocese wants to offer food assistance to 2,000 households in Mutare, the fourth largest city in Zimbabwe, providing them with food hampers. Mutare is the capital of Manicaland province and home to the Cathedral and Diocesan Offices. Those who will be particularly helped are the disabled, elderly, single parents, orphans and other vulnerable children.

It is estimated that US\$96.7 per month is needed for each household – about £72 a month. We cannot offer all the money that the Diocese needs but any amount we give would be gratefully received.

The **Diocese of Central of Zimbabwe** has also been affected by climate change, and, like the Diocese of Manicaland, by Cyclones Dineo, Idai and Charlene. Many households, especially those with school-age children, are in need of food assistance. The Diocese, working with the Mothers' Union and the Anglican Women's Fellowship, have established kitchen soup points in both urban and rural areas where children aged 12 or younger are being fed when resources are available.



Surveys have determined that many boreholes are not functioning as well as they might and the provision of reliable and clean water is a great challenge. The Coronavirus pandemic has further worsened the situation as there is greater demand for clean running water, which cannot be met. The Harben Park Diocesan Farm plot is being upgraded to become a Climate Smart and Food Security Training Centre. It will be a model for supplying clean domestic water, driven by solar power; a home for capacity-building, income-generating projects, and for the promotion of Church and community resources management.



The **Diocese of Matabeleland** is one of the driest regions in Zimbabwe and many households in rural Matabeleland struggle to have a single meal a day. To help communities cope, the Diocese has implemented a rural food security programme in partnership with Episcopal Relief and Development.

Many urban households are also food insecure, so urban parishes distribute foodstuffs to vulnerable homes when they can. Cyrene Farm, a Diocesan Trust farm located some 30km south of Bulawayo, aims to provide affordable vegetables to urban households. This enhances food security and good health. However, sustainability is key so the produce is sold so that the Diocese can recover its costs and keep the project running.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Rangemore, is a semi-rural parish with land and borehole water. The Diocese has started growing sugar, beans and sweet potatoes there. It is not far from the urban population and has helped greatly in achieving food security locally. More progress can be made if water from the borehole can be piped and an irrigation system established.

The Diocese is also restoring St Clare, Parklands, a former hostel, in order to provide an income to contribute financially towards food security in the Diocese. However, provision of water is necessary before the rooms can be rented.

For all these projects to succeed they will need help from us in the Diocese of Southwark, through our prayers and to purchase the materials that they need to keep things running. Please will you help by donating through the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call? [southwark.anglican.org/lentcall](https://southwark.anglican.org/lentcall)