

Chiedza-Adelaide Mavengere. Comparing the livelihood strategies between women teachers in food security in Harare, Zimbabwe. (Honours thesis in Disaster Risk Science, 2009)

During the past decade, Zimbabwe's economy has been gripped by severe recession that has resulted in shortages of food, fuel and other basic commodities. In the specific context of education, the adverse impact of escalating prices and shortages of basic commodities has not only been reflected in declining service delivery. It has also been directly experienced by the teachers themselves. While teachers in general have faced considerable livelihood stress due to constrained salaries in the presence of escalating living costs, those employed within the public sector have been particularly affected. As in many developing countries, Zimbabwean teachers are primarily female and among other duties are responsible for their household food security. The research project revealed that all the teachers' households suffered from chronic food insecurity before the dollarization of the Zimbabwe economy. The application of the livelihoods framework approach reveals that these women have comparative strategies that they employed in ensuring household food security. Access to different resources informs the strategy options available to the different teachers.