



Transnational labour Migration and Food Production in Matebeleland Zimbabwe.

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Dedication

To my family, thank you for believing in me. I love you so much.

Table of contents

Acknowledgements	ii
Dedication	iii
Table of contents	iv
List of tables	vi
List of figures	viii
Abbreviations	ix
Abstract	x
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction to the study topic	1
Chapter 2: Background information on migration and food production	2
in Matebeleland South province	2
2.1 Matebeleland South Province	2
2.2 The Research population	4
2.3 Food production in Matebeleland South	7
2.4 Transnational labour migration in Matebeleland South Province.	8
2.5 Reasons for migration for Matebeleland South migrants	9
2.6 Theoretical considerations about the effects of migration to household food production	11
Chapter 3. Research design	14
3.1 Research problem definition	14
3.2 The conceptual Framework	14
3.3 Research Objective	17
3.4 Research questions	17
Chapter 4. Research strategy and Methodology	18
4.1 Method of data collection	18
4.1.1 Primary Data collection	18
4.1.2 Sampling design	19
4.1.3 Survey	20
4.1.4 Key informants	22
4.1.5 Observation	23
4.1.6 Secondary data sources	23
4.2 Methods of data processing	24
Chapter 5. Research findings	25
5.1 Characteristics of respondents	25
5.1.1 Asset ownership of 30 respondents	27
5.2 Uses of remittances and food production	30
5.2.1 Uses of remittances	31
5.3 Impacts of migration on food production of the rural households	32
5.3.1 Labour	33
5.3.2 Trends in migration	34
5.3.3 Age distribution of the 34 migrants	34
5.3.4 Reliability of channels used to remit.	35

5.3.5 Cross cutting issues linked to migration and food production that reverse the positive gains.....	36
5.4 Ways in which the livelihoods and sources of income of farmers have been influenced by migration	36
Chapter 6. Results and Discussion.....	38
6.1 The uses of remittances by small holder farmers and effects on production	38
6.1.1 Productive investment:	38
6.1.2 Consumptive investment	39
6.1.3 Other investments of remittances	40
6.2 Impacts of migration on household food production of the rural communities in Matebeleland South province.	40
6.3 Reasons for migrating.....	45
6.3.2 Trends in migration	45
Chapter 7. Conclusion.....	48
7.1 Recommendations.....	49
Chapter 8. References	51
Annex 1 Questionnaire for interview with rural households in Mangwe district.....	55
Annex 2: Checklist for the key informants.....	60
Annex 3: Pictures	61

List of tables

Table 1 Institutions important for food security operating in Mangwe District:	5
Table 2: Summary of the push and pulls factors	9
Table 3 Summary of Justification for using various methods	19
Table 4: relevance of selected respondents' characteristics	20
Table 5 Surveyed Households Demographic Characteristics	25
Table 6: Age of the respondents:	25
Table 7: Household sizes	26
Table 8: Occupations For the 20 Female respondents (head of households).....	26
Table 9: Occupations for the 10 Male respondents (Head of households)	27
Table 10: Land holdings.....	27
Table 11: Farm Implements.....	28
Table 12: Livestock	28
Table 13: Other household possession	29
Table 14: Food Consumption -number of meals eaten per day	29
Table 15: Components of the meals eaten the previous day before the interview	30
Table 16: Demographics of the migrants	31
Table 17: Types of remittances	31
Table 18: Frequency of receiving remittances	32
Table 19: Crop Production.....	32
Table 20: Inputs used by the respondents:	33
Table 21: Quantity of harvested cereal.....	33
Table 22: Education of the 34 migrants	34
Table 23: Countries where migrants migrate to:	34
Table 24: Years of migration.....	34
Table 25: Monetary value of remittances received within 3 months. Amount is in South African rands.	35

Table 26: Channels used to remit (responses from 24 respondents)	35
Table 27: Changes encountered by farmers	35
Table 28: How the farmers' livelihoods are influenced by migration	36

List of figures

Figure 1 Map of agro ecological zones in Zimbabwe	3
Figure 2 Map of Bulilimamangwe District where Mangwe district is also found.	3
Figure 3 Summary of the impacts of remittances. Source Ellis 2003	12
Figure 4 Conceptual Framework	16
Figure 5 Causes of migration.....	37

Abbreviations

ADRA	Adventist Development & Relief Agency Zimbabwe
Cadec	Catholic Development Commission
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
ICRISAT	The International Crops research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISLT	Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Trust
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
ORAP	Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
Zimvac	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

Abstract

Migration is a common feature for the rural population of Matebeleland south region of Zimbabwe. It is increasingly becoming an important source of income and livelihood in the wake of the country's economic downfall, political crisis, recurring droughts since 1992 which have hit hard the region's mainstay that is livestock keeping and the unfavourable climatic conditions which have affected crop production and the decline in agriculture. Although migration is a significant livelihood for the people, it has also negative impacts for instance HIV/AIDS. Statistics in the study area shows that most of the migrants' wives tested HIV positive during voluntary testing and counselling. This is a negative impact which has detrimental effects on household labour and resources available for food production.

This study identifies the effects of migration on rural household food production. The study interviewed 30 random sampled respondents and 3 key informants and data was collected through a survey using questionnaires and checklists for informants. The data gathered was processed and summarised in tables and pie charts using micro soft word and excel sheet and analysed using the sub research questions and the main research question.

The findings shows that migration is an important component of the economy of the people of Matebeleland and given the trend it shows that it will continue to be a feature of the livelihoods of these communities. Also the results revealed that the remittances sent by migrants to families left back home have positive effects on food production as they are used on productive investments buying farm inputs such as fertilisers and seeds which could increase productivity. In addition the remittances could also be used to acquire assets such as livestock which could be used as draught power, manure for the fields and could also be disposed in times of shocks that may rise such as droughts. Also the remittances were used to buy food to increase own production thereby increasing food security among households and also to acquire other households possessions, send children to school, social gatherings as well as savings. Despite these positive effects, the results also revealed that delays by some migrants in sending remittances for farm inputs caused the farmers to miss early planting leading to late planting which negatively impacted on production.

Given that through remittances, the positive effects on food production outweighed the negative, the study gave recommendations to ORAP that they should consider migration as an essential component of food production. They should map out sustainable ways of promoting the flow and utilisation of remittances and encourage the farmers to grow small grains which are drought tolerant thereby ensuring food security in the district.

Key words: *Migration, Remittances, food production*

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction to the study topic

This research focuses on transnational labour migration and food production in Matebeleland South province of Zimbabwe. Migration to neighbouring countries is not a new phenomenon in Zimbabwe; it dates back to the colonial period. However an upsurge in the number of people migrating has been witnessed in the 21st century as a response to the downfall of the country's economy as well as political instability. Furthermore declining per capita agricultural output as a result of droughts and changes in rainfall patterns is also contributing to migration. Thus migration has become a major livelihood strategy available to rural households as a means of diversifying their economic base in the wake of declining agriculture in the country.

The migrants keep close ties with their families left behind and sent remittances in form of cash and in-kind. These remittances received are then used for productive investment as well as for consumption which then improves the food security at household level in terms of availability, accessibility as well as influencing a change in consumption patterns and local development of the communities. Nevertheless as much as migration can actually increase household income through remittances, it should be recognised that migration has also negative impacts which adversely reverse the positive gains.

This research was designed to investigate the effects of transnational labour migration on household food production in Matebeleland South province in Zimbabwe and contribute to sustainable food production by the small holder farmers. This is important in that it is useful to understand the circumstances in which farmers operate when their family members are involved in transnational labour migration. Although the research was carried out in Mangwe district the findings of this research may be generalised to other districts in Matebeleland South province which have related characteristics such as type of farming system, climatic conditions, geographical proximity to country of destination as well as similar cultural and historical links with country of destination.

This report is organized as follows; it starts with background information on Matebeleland South, food production then migration in the province followed by theoretical consideration. Then comes problem definition, research objective and research questions followed by methodology then presentation of findings and discussion. Finally conclusions and recommendations are drawn.

Chapter 2: Background information on migration and food production in Matebeleland South province

2.1 Matebeleland South Province

The research was carried out in ward 2 of Mangwe district in Matebeleland South province of Zimbabwe. The province has an area of 54,172 km² with a population of approximately 650,000 and 91 000 households Provincial Census 2002. The province is made up of 6 districts and the area falls under agro ecological zone region IV and V which is characterised by low and erratic rainfall < 560mm/year, mean annual temperature of 29 degrees Celsius and a long dry season from April to October Zimvac 2008. Hence the area naturally receives low rainfall amounts which make production of major crops such as maize a challenge. The region predominantly lies in agriculturally marginal and drought prone area in the country.(Maphosa 2009).

The province is arid and very dry. Opportunities for irrigation are minimal to complement rain-fed food production. Food production is further constrained by the soils which are marginal, infertile and dry weather conditions which makes crop production risky. The major crops grown in the area are maize, millet as well as sorghum. In the past the province relied on the surplus of food crops from other regions, however with the economic decline which has reduced the country to a point that each year deficit in cereals are recorded; it means the province is affected mostly. This is further elaborated by Fewznet 2011 which cited that the total maize production for 2010/11 agricultural season is estimated at 1.33 million tonnes which is 500 000 tonnes short of annual domestic requirements of around 1.8millions. Animal husbandry is suitable for the area and it used to be a viable livelihood activity, however many small holder farmers have been losing their cattle to droughts which have constantly hit the region. In addition, lack of water availability, a few reservoirs exist and money to buy the required medicines for prevention of livestock from diseases leaves the farmers with no option except to pursue crop production which is not suitable for the area given the factors mentioned earlier. Below is a map which shows agro-ecological zones in the country and as mentioned earlier Mangwe district falls under region IV and V.

Figure 1 Map of agro ecological zones in Zimbabwe

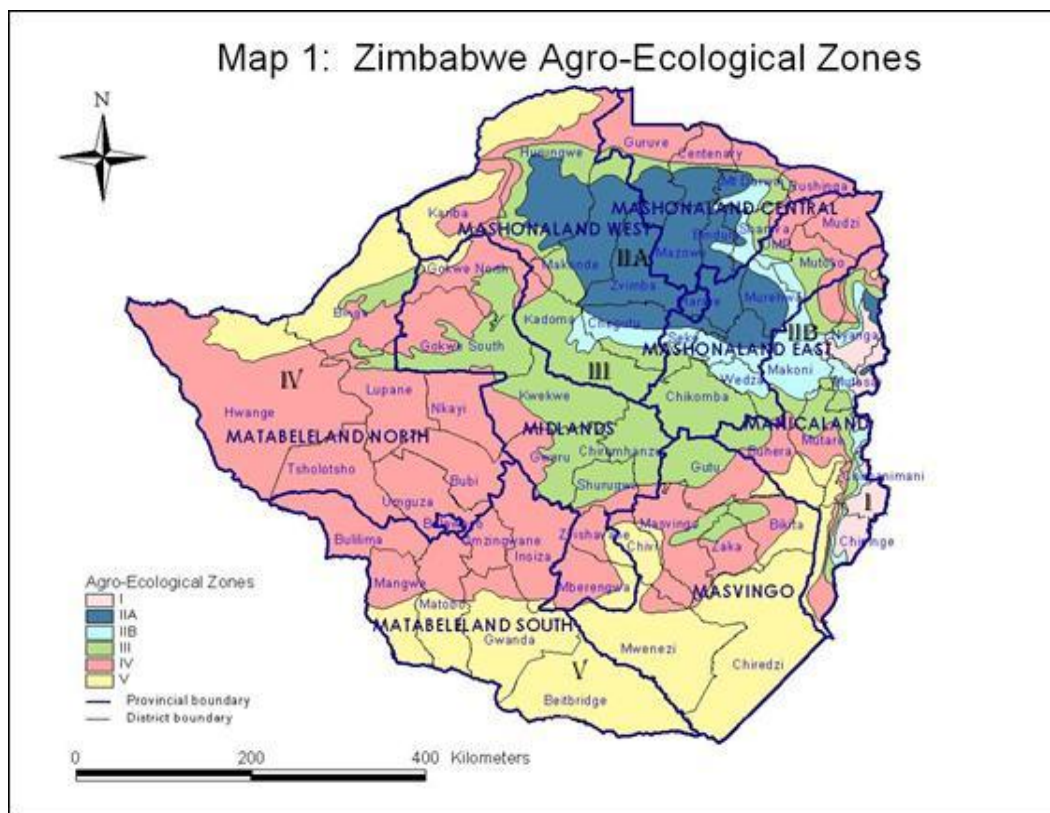
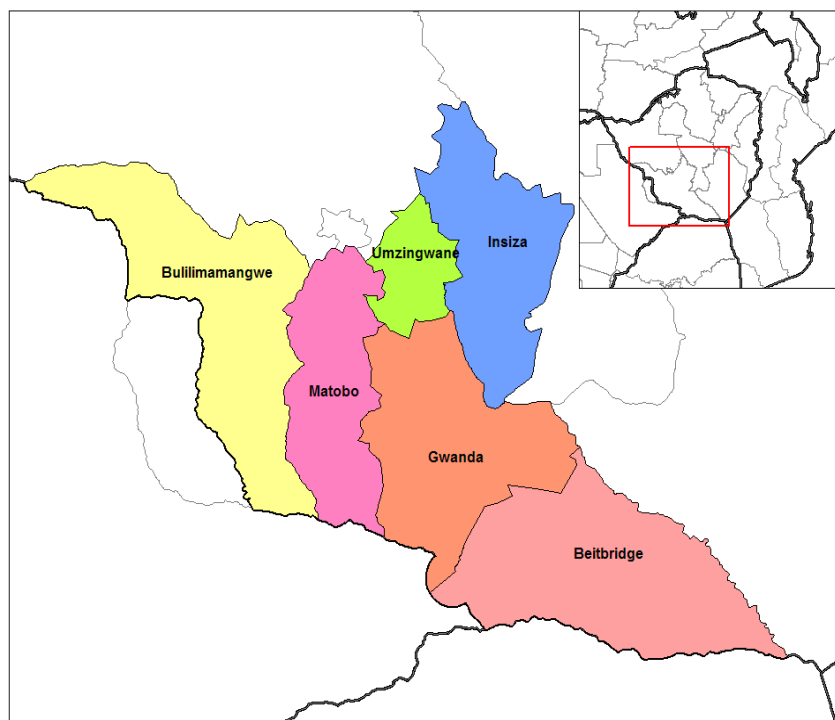


Figure 2 Map of Bulilimamangwe District where Mangwe district is also found.



Bulilimamangwe used to be one district but now they have been divided into two, Bulilima on its own and Mangwe on its own respectively. But there is no latest or updated map with the districts demarcated. Hence the map above shows Bulilimamangwe district but the lower part that's where Mangwe district is situated. Field work was carried out in Matebeleland South province in Mangwe district part of Bulilimamangwe in ward 2. The province is bordered by Botswana in the west and South Africa in the South. The reasons for selecting this research area were that due to the area's geographical proximity to neighbouring countries and the history of the people in Matebeleland South province most people in that area are bound to be involved in migration (Zinyama 2006). Most households in that area depend on migration as a livelihood strategy. Also the other reason why Mangwe district was chosen was because the researcher had access to the location in that ORAP a local NGO operating in the district gave permission to the researcher to carry out field work. The Mangwe district is comprised of 17 wards and ward 2 is made up of 6 villages.

2.2 The Research population

According to Best 1993, a study population refers to any group of people that have one or more characteristics in common and is of the interest to the researcher. Also, UN defined household as one or group of people living under the same roof dwelling, pool their money and resources together and at least share a meal together each day as well as acknowledging the authority of a man or woman who is the head of the household. Thus the study population for this research consisted of small holder farmers in ward 2 of Mangwe district of Matebeleland South province. There are 760 households in Ward 2 for all the 6 villages and research was done in 3 villages with 30 respondents.

The study population practice subsistence farming and they have on average 4 acres of land . The economy of the people in this district depends on rain fed agriculture and livestock is the mainstay of the economy though most of their incomes are now coming from migration due to the unfavourable climatic conditions which are making agriculture not viable (Maphosa 2006). They keep livestock which includes cattle, goats , donkeys, sheep, pigs and chickens for sale and household consumption. The main crops grown in the area are maize, millet and sorghum. The main farm implements they use include ploughs, hoes and carts. Irrigation schemes in the district are inadequate due to shortage of dams and there is also critical shortage of grazing land.

Other economic activities practised are selling Mopani worms, crafts, petty trading, carpentry, building, selling firewood and vegetables. Wage employment within the district is very low; most people are migrant workers outside the country. A study by Hobane 1999 in the same district indicated that 62% of the adults were employed in Botswana and South Africa and their remittances were an important source of household income. Most migrants

from the district are men leaving most households headed by women and this explains the reason why women are more in number than the males in the district.

The District has a number of natural resources which ranges soil, vegetation, and wildlife species (including kudus, elephants, lions, impalas, buffaloes, wildebeests and zebras), birds' species and Mopani worms. However these resources have been over-exploited for both trade and home consumption. This condition has been caused by the inadequacy or unavailability of income generating resource base in the community.

Table 1 Institutions important for food security operating in Mangwe District: 17 wards in the districts and study area is ward 2

Name of NGO	Activities	Role they play in food production
ISLT	Food aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide supplementary feeding to identified vulnerable households to complement their own production
ADRA	HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and increasing awareness on how the epidemic can adversely affect labour available in a household which can affect food production.
CADEC	Water and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training to farmers on how they can conserve their reservoirs so that their animals can have adequate water for drinking.
ORAP	Agriculture& food aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training on good conservation practices and encourage the cultivation of small grains which are drought tolerant • Livestock distribution to identified households. • Provide agricultural inputs (seeds & fertilizers)
Help Age Zimbabwe	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide agricultural inputs seeds and fertilisers to elderly taking care

		of OVC.
AREX	Extension services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical advice on good farming methods and how they can take care of their animals
ICRISAT	creation of efficient market systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links the farmers to different markets around the region other than the local markets.
Practical Action	Small livestock production, gender & HIV/AIDS mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train farmers on small livestock production • sensitize the farmers on the impacts of HIV/AIDS which can destroy their economic base.
GMB	Buy and sell grains (cereals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households with remittances can purchase cereals at lower price than from the local market. • Farmers with surplus can sell their grains to GMB and get some income
Farmers' cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides loans in form of inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide farmers with inputs as form of a loan and pay back after harvest.

Source: Catholic Relief Services progress report 2011

There are a number of organisations involved in agricultural production in the district. For instance ORAP is involved in inputs (seed & fertilizer) distribution, conservation farming, water and sanitation (rehabilitation of water resources). Other NGOs in the district are into research, development of local agriculture markets and technology transfer through small holder farmer training programmes. Extension services are provided by AREX officers from the Ministry of Agriculture. All these efforts are channelled towards ensuring food security in the district and increasing self-sufficiency among small holder farmers.

Although there is good presence of other institutions, food insecurity in rural Matebeleland South is a common feature as a result of the following factors. Most households lack farm implements, seed, fertiliser and herbicides due to limited livelihood options which can bring in some income. Livestock stocking rates have been reduced by the severe droughts in 1990s and that has reduced animal traction and thus most rural households use manual labour and

cannot fully utilise their farms and they get low harvests which cannot take them through the lean season October to April (Maphosa 2005).

HIV/AIDS has further exacerbated the level of poverty in rural Matebeleland. HIV/AIDS impacts on labour and this compromises household production. Losses in income reduce the quantity of agricultural inputs a household can buy and this adversely impacts on household food production (Crush 2006). According to Maphosa 2005 in a research carried out at a hospital in Matebeleland south province, the results indicated that 100% of migrants from Botswana who came for voluntary counselling and testing were HIV positive while 88% of those from South Africa tested positive. Such negative impacts destabilize capital available to the household and it exposes the households to shocks that may arise such as droughts and economic downfall.

2.3 Food production in Matebeleland South

According to Maphosa 2010, Matebeleland South has been declared national disaster four times due to failure to meet its food self-sufficiency. Of the main food crops produced maize, sorghum and millet are very important. However, their production has declined over time. FAO 2011 highlights that the agricultural sector has been experiencing challenging constraints since 2000. The country particularly Matebeleland province did not recover from the effects of floods (cyclone Eline) in the 1999/2000 season as well as the effects of a dry spell which followed in the 2000/2001 season. Thus periodic droughts, deteriorating macro-economic conditions compounded with HIV/AIDS drastically reduced output and productivity and increased exposure to recurrent food insecurity for smallholder farmers.

Of main importance is to ensure food security, first by own production and supplemented with access to markets. However due to persistent deficits in food to feed its own population, the area has relied in the past on trade flows from other regions that have surplus. However, this has changed in the last decade because even the regions which used to have surpluses are struggling to feed themselves throughout the year. Furthermore Maphosa 2009 highlights that even in a good year in terms of amount of rainfall very few households are left with surplus produce from which they can obtain income. According to IFAD agricultural production has suffered as a result of weak support services, lack of credit, and acute shortages of essential inputs such as seeds, fertilizer and fuel. In drier areas water scarcity is a major challenge for farmers. Hence affordability is one of the issues that affect food production in Matebeleland South province. According to FAO 2011 even if when inputs are available in the market, most rural households simply cannot afford them. This is worsened by lack of credit facilities in the district.

The farmers in ward 2 rely solely on rain fed for food production. According to FEWSNET 2010 estimated production for maize in Matebeleland South province was 71 145 metric tonnes for 2008/09 season and 58 290 metric tonnes for 2009/10 agricultural season yet

area cultivated was 95 919 hectares in 2008/09 and 139 643 hectares in 2009/10. This indicates a decline in productivity even though the total acreage had increased. Factors such as long dry spells and erratic rainfall accounted for such a decline. The same report shows that in 2010 50% in Matebeleland South were food insecure and most households had cereal supply which could not last them for 3 months.

2.4 Transnational labour migration in Matebeleland South Province.

Literature in this domain shows that it is difficult to define migration because of its accelerating and multifaceted nature (Black 2001). However according to Maphosa 2006 many definitions of migration use a combination of distance, time and purpose as the characteristics that distinguish one type of migration from the other (Zinyama 2006). Migration is a process that involves the geographical movement of people from their area of origin to take up temporary or permanent residence in another area. The 2000 era has witnessed an increase in the number of Zimbabweans migrating to other countries. Zinyama 2006 highlights that the economic and political conditions in the country has fuelled out migration.

People migrating from Matebeleland South to neighbouring countries dates back to the late 19th and 20th centuries during the colonial era where most men used to work in the mines. Labour migration was historically considered to be a male activity; nonetheless in the new millennium an increase in the number of women and men migrants to South Africa has been witnessed. Zinyama 2006 says the economic conditions in the country have gone down to an extent that the low-middle income households are finding it necessary to adopt a wide range of strategies to cope with hardships and migration is one of the available options to diversify their economic base. Konseiga highlights that labour migration is an important instrument in development strategy in the objective of reducing rural and total poverty.

Maphosa 2006 indicated that the most migrating age in Matebeleland ranges from eighteen to forty five and this includes school leavers, school drop outs and adults (productive age). Even young women are on the move to seek domestic labour in neighbouring countries. There are also different types of migrants involved in transnational migration. Zinyama (2002) highlights that there are legal migrants who move to neighbouring countries with official documents and some may even get work permits. However there are many undocumented migrants who pass through the border by illegal means called “border jumping” and some take legal entry but when they get to South Africa or Botswana they tend to overstay. Zinyama 2002 alludes that not only do these over-staying and undocumented migrants seek to secure employment in the host countries, but some even manage to obtain South African or Botswana citizenship and other official documents fraudulently. According to the South African High Commission in Harare, about 75,000 Zimbabweans were believed to be staying “illegally” in South Africa after the expiry of their

temporary residence permits during 1997, while an additional unknown number had entered and remained there without legal documents. This number is believed to have increased considering the economic decline in the new millennium.

2.5 Reasons for migration for Matebeleland South migrants

The table below shows a summary of the pull and push factors which makes the people of Matebeleland migrate to neighbouring countries. The effects of the economic downfall in the country, political crisis as well as declining agricultural productivity in the region are prime factors which are pushing the migrants out of their homes. These factors have limited the livelihood options of the people in Matebeleland and to diversify their economic base, they migrate to neighbouring countries. In addition prospects of getting jobs and higher wages are some of the pulling factors which are making the people to be on the move.

Table 2: Summary of the push and pulls factors

Push factors	Pull factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic (including unemployment) • Political instability (political beatings, and violence) • Declining agricultural productivity • Lack of income from agriculture • Peer pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospects of getting jobs and higher wages. • Potential for improved standards of living

Economic reasons which includes high rates of unemployment in the country has pushed the productive age to migrate to neighbouring countries in an effort to seek employment and increase household income and supplement household food production. According to the Index Mundi (ND) unemployment rate in Zimbabwe by 2009 was estimated to be above 80%. Zinyama (2002) highlighted that the high unemployment rates in the country exerted pressure on the productive age to migrate, hence making migration a livelihood strategy for many households in the province. In Mangwe district, statistics by CRS 2011 shows that 86% of the total households in the district has at least one member who has migrated to neighbouring countries as a coping mechanism given the economic conditions in the country. In addition, researches by UNDP 2010 and Maphosa 2006 indicate that more than 50% of respondents gave economic reasons as the main reasons to migrate to South Africa or Botswana.

It is worthy mentioning that reasons for migration by the people of Matebeleland South vary overtime. According to Moyo 2006 report migrants during the colonial times moved to South Africa to seek employment in the mines because they wanted higher wages. From 1982-1987 the Matebeleland people moved to South Africa as they fled the political unrest in the region. During this period it is estimated that 5000 people from Matebeleland migrated to South Africa or Botswana (Makina 2007). In the 1990s migrants moved as a result of widespread retrenchments caused by the effects of structural adjustment programmes. The 2000 era main reasons cited were economic and political crisis in the country. The political instability which includes political beatings, killing and tortures during the 2008 elections saw many adults fleeing the country to neighbouring countries.

Moreover the environmental stress caused by erratic rainfall and unfavourable climatic conditions are also some of the reasons which have seen migrants moving to neighbouring countries. As mentioned earlier that crop production is not economically viable due to harsh climatic conditions and animal husbandry which is suitable for the area has been reduced by droughts and shortages of grazing lands and to get income people have to look elsewhere and in the process they migrate outside. Thus decline in agricultural productivity and lack of income from agriculture have pushed people to migrate to neighbouring countries to seek employment.

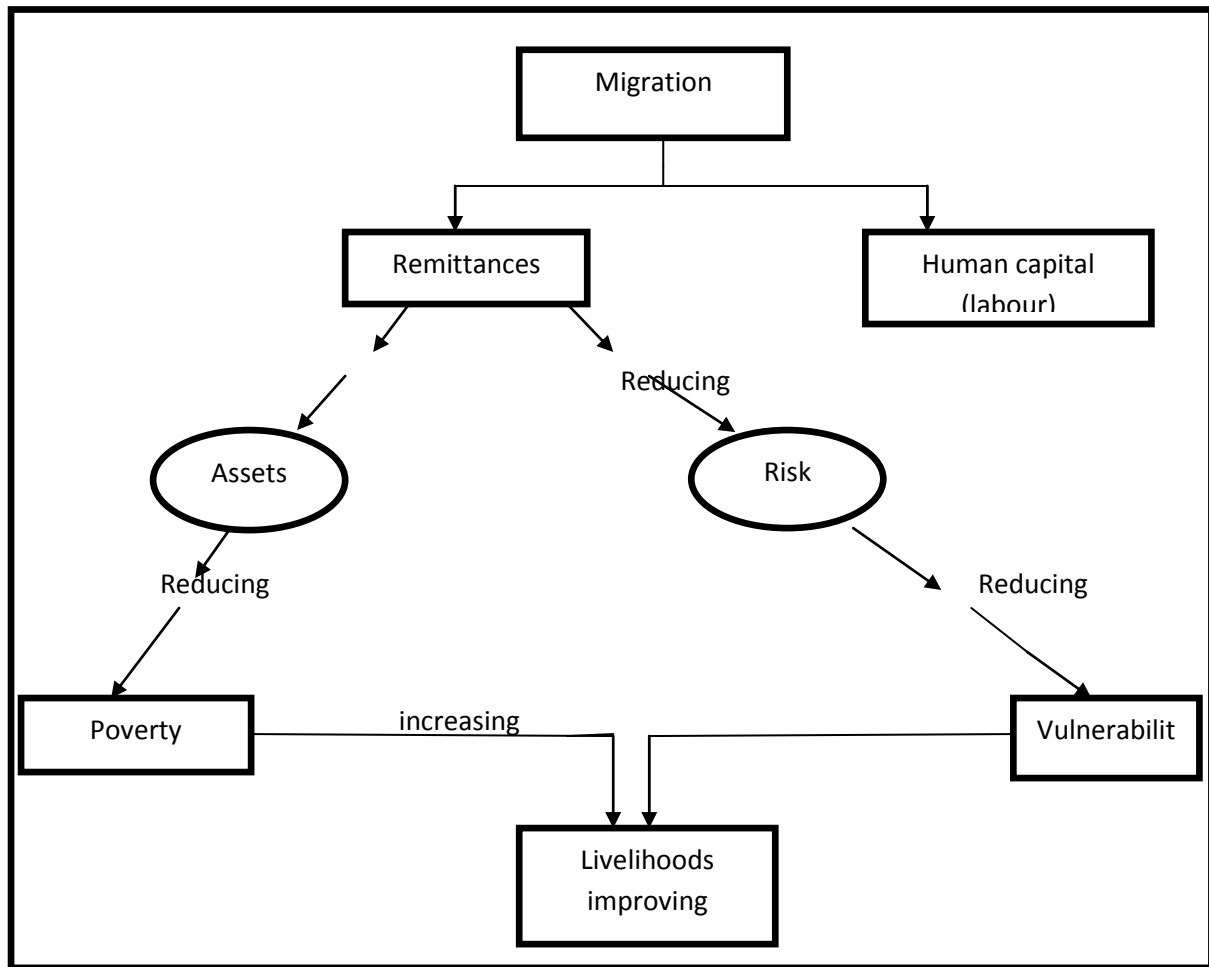
As South Africa is increasingly becoming the economic hub of Southern Africa, the prospects of higher wages and potential for improved standards of living are some of the factors pulling the people in Matebeleland into the country. The anticipation of better life, jobs and opportunities has pushed the people of Mangwe district to an extent of risking lives by being illegal migrants in the face of xenophobia attacks and deportations. Furthermore countries such as South Africa and Botswana their economies are growing strong and are stable. For instance in 2009 South Africa's economy was ranked 25th in the world with a GDP of \$488, 600 million and the same year unemployment rate in South Africa was recorded to be at 24% as compared to above 80% in Zimbabwe. Given such a scenario, most people close to the borders get attracted to migrate to countries like South Africa and Botswana with the hope of getting better opportunities and take care of their families left back home in Zimbabwe. In addition literature in this domain suggests that the geographical proximity of this province to South Africa and Botswana makes it easy for migrants to move to these areas. Parts of the Mangwe district are at the borderline with Botswana. (Maphosa 2006).

2.6 Theoretical considerations about the effects of migration to household food production

According to Maphosa (2006) the tangible link between migration and country of origin is the impact of remittance. Migrants sent remittance to countries of origin and that's a direct positive impact to migrant sending countries. As van Doorn states, remittances have the potential to create positive outcomes for the migrant source areas. Unlike other forms of aid remittances usually do not carry any obligations, constraints or preconditions and reach the intended beneficiaries, who are often low-income families, because of the absence of government interference (Stein, 2003). Taylor and Fletcher (2002) defined remittance as monetary or cash transfers and other transfers such as consumer goods, capital goods and skills and technological knowledge. Remittances come in various forms, it can be formal or informal depending on the type of channel through which they are transferred. Maphosa (2006) states that formal remittances refers to remittances sent through official means such as bank transfers, money transfer organisations while informal remittances are those that are sent through unofficial channels such as private money couriers, through friends and relatives. Zinyama (2006) purports that undocumented migrants are less likely to send their remittances through official channels than documented migrants out of fear of being caught by officials and face deportation. At the same time remittances can be sent individually and collectively.

Literature in this domain shows that remittances are used on different investments. Some households use remittances on productive investments such as capital goods, inputs as well as labour hire thereby increasing household food production. However others use remittances on consumptive investments, buying food to supplement to what they would have produced (Maphosa 2006). According to Ellis 2003 migrations brings remittances which helps the household to acquire assets thereby reducing poverty, shocks that may arise such as droughts, vulnerability as well as improving livelihoods of the household. In a study by INSTRAW 2008, remittances contributed to improvement in food security of receiving households. Even though migration has a loss of labour effect which can lead to low productivity, remittances can bring in income that can be used to pay labour or to buy food instead hence increasing household food security. Ratha 2003 indicates that remittances do not only raise food consumption but has also many effects such as increasing access to health and educational services as compared to non-receiving households. Remittances received can be used to buy inputs such as fertilisers, seeds and farm implements which include hoes, ploughs and carts. These inputs can increase food production and can also be hired in exchange for labour. Below is the summary of the impacts of remittances.

Figure 3 Summary of the impacts of remittances. Source Ellis 2003



The summary above shows that remittances can facilitate a family to acquire household assets which reduce poverty, risk as well as vulnerability and increase livelihoods of the household. However labour is also affected as one or more members migrates but this can be covered if the households sent money to hire labour.

The study by Gomez 2011 found out that the remittances were also used to buy assets such as cattle and not only did the cattle provide draught power, they also provided cow dung which was used as a manure in the fields. Also the cattle provided milk and most households would sell it and get an extra income. Dia 1992 describes migration as an efficient strategy to promote agricultural investments and reduce food insecurity and income risks by families thereby allowing the farmers to increase food production.

A report by Tsiko 2010 purports that labour migration had a negative impact on household food production particularly small holder farmer as it reduced farm labour which results in reduced farm productivity. Similar to Tsiko's findings Ghosh 2006 in his study found out that

remittances received by households left back at home had adverse effects on agricultural output considering that some households were able to live off remittances and completely abandon cultivation hence creating dependency syndrome. He goes on to highlight that remittances could create a way of life that could not be sustained through local labour thereby yielding a number of negative side effects such as income inequality, inflation, lost production and higher unemployment. However Taylor 1996 is of the view that migrant remittance can reverse or reduce the loss of labour effect if the migrants can send remittances enough to hire labour. Maphosa 2006 in his study found out there were no significant negative impact of labour migration on agricultural productivity. He indicated that Matebeleland has unfavourable conditions hence loss of labour had minimal effect on productivity and it would be difficult to measure impact of labour on agricultural productivity given that the income from agriculture was insignificant whether or not there was migration and there was no correlation between the size of the field cultivated and the migration of household members.

Cross cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS which are linked to migration had negative effects on food production (Crush 2010). This concurs with Maphosa 2005 who indicated that HIV/AIDS reversed the gains of migration and adversely affected food production. HIV/AIDS led to diversion of household income through medical bills and such losses in income limited the amount of agricultural inputs that the households could have bought and this compromised food production. Crush 2010 indicated that HIV/AIDS triggered a chain of negative reactions that undermined every form of capital available to the household and making the household incapable of dealing with shocks that may arise. In addition the disease had double negative impacts, besides the income, farm labour was also adversely affected for instance the woman would abandon the farm to take care of the sick husband and in the process undermine food production.

Chapter 3. Research design

3.1 Research problem definition

Labour migration of migrants to neighbouring countries will remain a feature of Matebeleland South region for a long time mainly because remittances are an significant source of income and livelihood (Maphosa 2004). While literature on labour migration in Matebeleland South exist, most of it dwelt on the nexus between remittances and development both at macro and micro level and no study has been done specifically on the effects of migration to rural household food production. This notion concurs with Maphosa 2004 in his study he recommended that studies on the impact of agricultural productivity should be done so as to assess the role of remittances in providing agricultural inputs, labour as well as farm implements and the effects on household food production.

A similar study was carried out by Tsiko 2010 in another region of Zimbabwe and his study focussed on the impact of migration to food security. However the findings of the study cannot be concluded or generalised for Matebeleland South region due to factors such as

different characteristics like climatic conditions, geographical proximity to country of destination and cultural and historical links with country of destination.

It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to do a research on the effects of remittances to household food production. This would assess the uses of remittances and find if they have any effects on food production. The findings of this study will be useful to ORAP a local NGO working in Matebeleland South province given that they are implementing a project focussing on small holder agriculture with the goal to increase household food production. At the same time the organisation has a programme on cattle production whereby they are distributing cattle to selected target beneficiaries as loans in an effort to improve food security in the region. ORAP lacks information on the effects of migration on household food production for Matebeleland South region and has commissioned the researcher to carry out this study.

3.2 The conceptual Framework

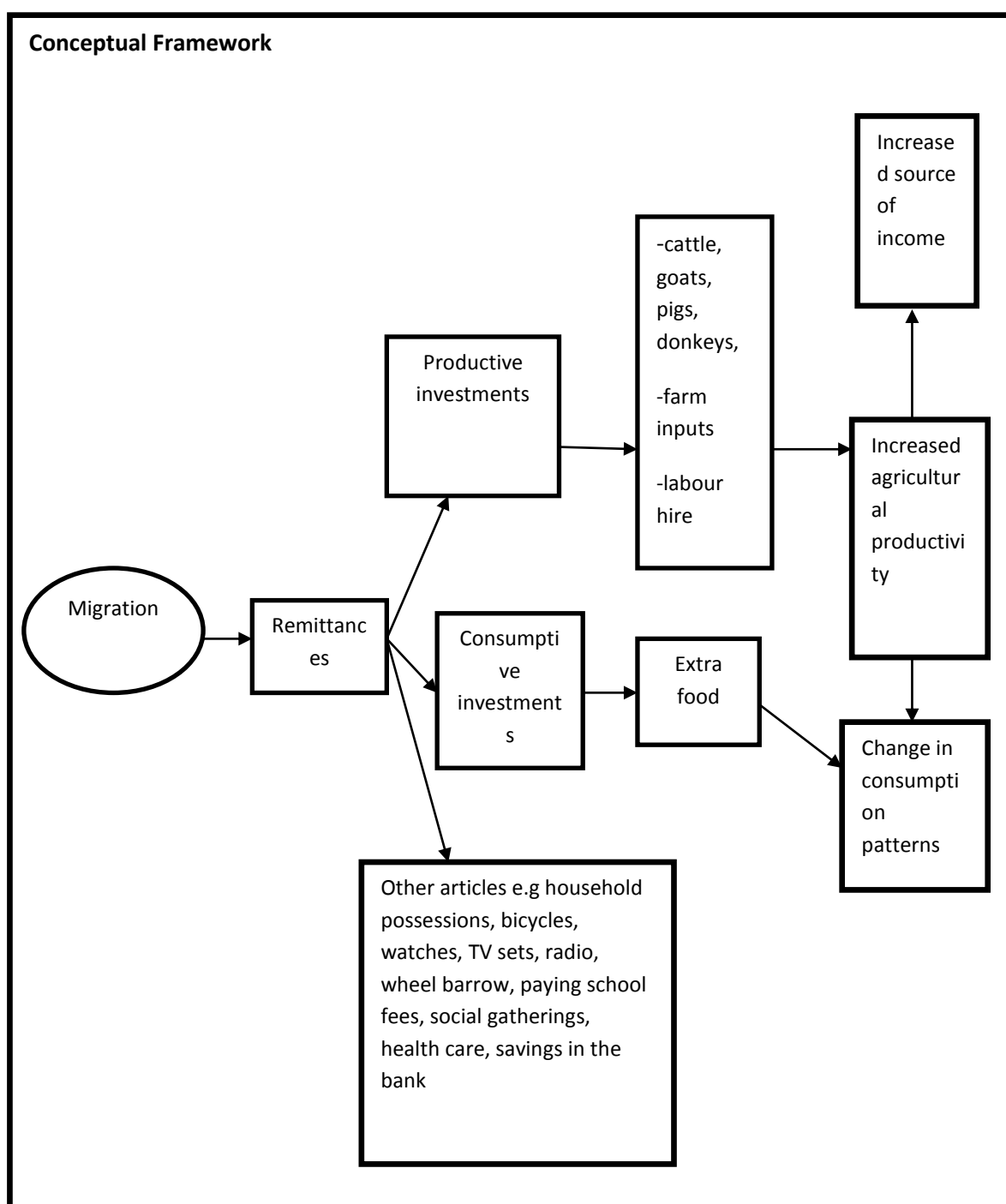
The conceptual framework has a focus on remittances which comes from migration and the uses of remittances that is productive investments which includes purchases of assets such as cattle, pigs, goats, donkeys, farm inputs, farm implements and also hiring labour, this will then leads to increased agricultural productivity which have effect on income and consumption patterns. Remittances are also perceived to be used on consumptive investment and non-consumptive investment and this takes into account purchases of extra food to supplement own production, school fees for children, basic needs such as paying medical bills, clothing as well as social gatherings like funerals, weddings and burial societies.

The most important aspects are the relationships that exist on each among the factors. For instance, remittances received as direct capital goods may assist in asset building which increases resilience of a household to disasters, and at the same time can be sold to purchase agricultural production resources such as fertilisers, seed and can be used to hire in labour. Availability of these resources will determine the level of food production.

Thus from the diagram shown above, migration brings remittance which can be in form of money and in-kind. According to previous literature the relationship between migration and home sending countries is remittance. The remittances received by households left back home in the country of origin can be used to on productive and consumptive and non-consumptive investments (Gomez 2011).

Migration can also affect labour which adversely affects household food production. However the issue of labour depends on the amount of cash remittances sent by the immigrant. Some immigrants can send some money enough to hire labour thereby replacing lost labour and can increase productivity. However labour replacement at times does not substitute the lost labour and in the end the family left behind have increased activities such as land management which was previously done by the immigrant who would have left.

Figure 4 Conceptual Framework



The following terms were defined:

Productive investment: It refers to the purchases such as farm inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides), assets such as livestock which had an effect on increased agricultural production.

Consumptive investment: refers to investments such as buying extra food

Non Consumptive investment: refers to investments such as education, medical health, social gatherings, paying taxes (land and herd), bicycles, telephones, radios, TV sets, watches

3.3 Research Objective

The objective of this study is to enhance the understanding of the effects of transnational labour migration on household food production and related livelihoods in Matebeleland South Province.

3.4 Research questions

Main research question

What effects does transnational labour migration have on household food production and related livelihoods of small holder farmers in Matebeleland South?

Sub questions

1. What are the impacts of migration on food production of the rural households?
2. What are the uses of remittances by small holder farmers and its effects on food production?
3. In what way are their livelihoods and sources of income influenced by migration?

Chapter 4. Research strategy and Methodology

4.1 Method of data collection

The research was based on both primary and secondary data. A survey was used in this research and primary data was collected from the field through the use of questionnaires, observations, focus group discussions and checklists for key informants. The reasoning behind selection of multiple methods of data collection was influenced by the need to check consistency of findings obtained through different methods. This corresponds with Yin 2003 who cited that such triangulation increased validity and enriched obtained data. A survey strategy was chosen on the basis that it enables the researcher to obtain data from large number of people. Furthermore extensive sources of secondary data for this research were gathered from available literature, books, journals, articles and internet search engines. Existing data was analysed.

Before going for field work, the researcher worked on literature on transnational labour migration and its effects on household food production and related livelihood activities. This secondary data was gathered from available literature, books as well as journals. This information helped the researcher in coming up with interview questions, focus group discussion and checklist for the key informants. The researcher then liaised with ORAP to carry out research in Mangwe district where a lot of migrants are coming from. Appointments with key informants such as AREX officer, ORAP field officer were made and gave a brief description of the aim of the research so as to prepare them for the discussions.

Reflections on Questionnaire pretesting

A pretesting was carried out in a non study area with five households in order to see the practicability and viability of the questionnaire. Then the researchers reflected on the results from the five questionnaires administered and found out that some of the questions had to be removed and some had to be rephrased. After editing the questionnaires, interviews to individuals were carried out first and then lastly key informants were interviewed. The reasoning behind questioning the key informants lastly was that by the time the questionnaires were administered, the researcher would have picked some issues which could need clarity and the experts would be the right people for that for instance how migration is impacting on food production.

4.1.1 Primary Data collection

Thirty questionnaires and three interviews with key informants were carried out to gather primary data. This enriched information gathered for this study and helped in answering the main research question. Ambert 1995 states that multiple informants and multiple methods of data gathering within the same study are themselves checks for the validity of the researchers' interpretations.

4.1.2 Sampling design

Random sampling was used for this research, given that 86% of the households in the selected area had a member who had migrated. The type of the choice of this sampling design was influenced by the fact that almost every household had a member who is an emigrant in the neighbouring country and had been there for over five years and random sampling gave all the units an equal chance to be selected. To get a representative sample, thirty (30) households in 3 villages were randomly selected. Since the ward is made up of 6 villages, 6 numbers were written down representing each village and put in a hat and then one village head was asked to pick 3 numbers and the numbers picked were the selected villages. The same method was used for 30 respondents. Given that three villages had been selected, the researcher then used village head's register with all the names of the people in the village. The total number of households in a village determined the intervals in random picking the respondents. For instance in a village with 100 households, a respondents was picked after an interval of 10 households. In addition this study followed Ambert et al 1995's argument that, 'An adequate sample depends on the type of questions posed, the complexity of the model studied, the availability of informants or of texts...'

For the key informants, according to G Ritzer (2007) key informant is a knowledgeable participant of a particular subject which is an important part of the investigation. Marshall (2006) also says that an expert source of information. Thus the key informants served as a check on the information obtained from the small holder farmers. In this study the key informants were experts on migration and food security. A key informant from International organisation for migration was interviewed the reason being that they are dealing with migration issues and have information on the trends of migration in that area. An extension officer was also interviewed as they work with the farmers and have information on production trends. ORAP field officer was also interviewed given that they are implementing agricultural livelihood activities in the area chosen and they provided the researcher with information on the relation between migration and food production.

Table 3 Summary of Justification for using various methods

Data collection Method	Study Population	Sample size	Type of information needed and Reasoning for the various methods
Survey (administered questionnaires)	Small holder farmers in ward 2 Mangwe district	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact of migration on food production• Uses of remittances• How migration is influencing their livelihoods and sources of income• Due to constraints of time 30 respondents were feasible to interview
Checklist for key informants	Arex officer, IOM officer,	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They were chosen because they are experts in relation to migration

	ORAP officer	field	and food security issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researcher wanted to get an overview of the impact of migration on food production since the experts are aware of what's happening in the district
Observation	Ward 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The researcher was looking for physical assets such as houses, livestock, ploughs, acreage of their lands, the soils which helped in get an understanding on the uses of remittances.

4.1.3 Survey

A survey was used to collect data on household demography, resource endowments, and economic activities, and remittances, types of remittances as well as uses of remittances. Information on consumption patterns was gathered using a survey. The researcher came up with a questionnaire which contained both closed and open ended questions. The advantage of closed questions was that the presence of response options enhanced standardization by creating same frame of reference for all respondents. During the interviews with selected households, the researcher made use of observations of the visible household assets such as type of houses they had, cattle, kraals to gather information on the uses of remittances which were necessary for the study and to probe further. An average of one hour was spent with each interviewee. The issue of confidentiality and importance and purpose of the research was explained to the respondents before interviewing them.

How the questionnaire for the 30 sampled respondents was developed:

The sub research questions guided the formulation of interview questions and in addition questions on respondents' characteristics such as age, sex, household sizes, occupation, land holdings, asset ownership and food consumption were also included mainly because they were found relevant for the study. The following is a summary of the characteristics and how relevant they were to the study.

Table 4: relevance of selected respondents' characteristics

Respondent Characteristics	Relevance to the study
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant in knowing whether the majority fell under the productive age and could work meaningfully in the fields or maybe most of the head of households left home were elderly people who could not work gainfully in the farm.

Marital Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it helped to explain cross cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS which reversed the positive gains of migration, given that more married men had migrated leaving their wives back home and were therefore vulnerable and prone to contracting the disease
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helped to check with literature which asserts that more men in the study area had migrated.
Household size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • household size was a variable relevant in determining whether a household had enough labour or not
Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of occupation determined the need to migrate to other countries. • Knowing the type of occupation was therefore necessary as it helped to identify push and pull factors for migration. • Occupations of the respondents were relevant in understanding whether agriculture is the mainstay of their livelihoods or they had other livelihoods their economy depended upon.
Land holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land ownership is a factor that determines food production. Those with land are able to use it for production or rent it out to those who can use it better. • acreage was relevant in understanding if the respondents have enough land to cultivate and produce for their own consumption and in relation to the topic of the study it helped explain whether migration was the only causal factor of food production or there were other factors which affected food production in the study area. • It could also tell whether those households that receive remittances were able to cultivate more land or not.
Asset ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was relevant in order to find out if the assets they have were acquired through remittances received or other means.
Food consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was asked to depict their diet and check whether they had diversity in their diet and the number of meals eaten

	<p>per day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was quite important in determining whether the household were food secure or insecure and whether they utilised the food remitted by members in the neighbouring countries.
Crop production (crops grown, type of inputs, harvest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The questions on crop production were asked because the researcher assumed that migration had a positive impact on crop production in that the remittances received were used to buy the inputs and the farmers would cultivate different crops using hybrid seeds and also fertilisers which would help increases in productivity. • About the harvest it was relevant in checking the impact of migration in that if the farmers would use the remittances towards crop production and all factors being equal then they would harvest enough production thereby improving their overall food security.

4.1.4 Key informants

Three key informants were selected for the study and the researcher had one on one interviews with the selected key informants. The interviews were done using a checklist and had open questions. Further probing and follow up questions were done depending with the type of response given by the key informant. The questions for the checklist were derived from the sub questions and were in line with the objective. Responses received from the key informants helped in answering the main research question. Following is the description of key informants selected.

1. Monitoring & Evaluation officer of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

IOM is the only international organisation in Zimbabwe dealing with migration issues. An interview with the M&E officer was conducted and the interview was related to the influence of migration on food production and the migration trends. The researcher intended to find out if migration is beneficial or not in terms of development and ensuring food security of the rural households of Mangwe district in Matebeleland south province. This key informant was chosen because first-hand information on the impacts of migration could be accessed and also to know what that information has been used for with regards to development.

2. Mangwe district extension officer Ministry of Agriculture (Arex)

An interview with the extension officer based in the selected study area was done. The rationale being that the extension officer works with the small holder farmers (study's target group) and therefore is well versed with the food production trends in the area. The key informant's input was crucial in trying to find out how migration is influencing food production and other livelihood activities of the people of Mangwe district. At the same time the researcher wanted to find out how the extensionist perceives migration, whether the small holder farmers should abandon agriculture and maybe depend on migrant remittances.

3. Field officer ORAP

ORAP is one of the organisations working in the study area and a field officer responsible for the implementation of agricultural activities was selected as a key informant. A interview with the field officer was conducted and the researcher intended to get information on the influence of migration to household food production. As the field officer is involved in the implementation of the project and interacts with the farmers, the researcher found the field officer useful and appropriate to interview and get information which answered the sub research questions as well as the main research question. The officer was useful in providing data on demographic information of the study area, such as number of wards, villages. In addition the officer provided information on the nexus between migration and food production in the district.

4.1.5 Observation

Though other methods of data collection were used to gather relevant data for the study, observation was also undertaken and it helped the researcher to probe further for instance visible assets such as dwelling units, livestock helped the researcher to ask more about how the remittances were used and how they contributed to household food production. The researcher realised that observations had the advantage of generating insight on issues established in other methods of data collection. At the same time observation complements data already there or it can lead to refining of other methods and it made the researcher pursue unanticipated issues. Furthermore the researcher also used observation for triangulation checking consistency or differences between what other authors say on the subject and what the respondents said.

4.1.6 Secondary data sources

Literature review of transnational labour migration and food production was gathered through the use of desk research and this formed the secondary data. The university digital library, books, journals as well as articles were extensively used to derive relevant data for

the study. Secondary data was fundamental in problem identification, theoretical considerations, formulation of the research design and also in discussion.

4.2 Methods of data processing

Data collected from the survey was coded and analysed using excel package. Qualitative information gathered from focus group discussions and interviews with the key informants was sorted and summarised in tables using Microsoft word. The focus on data analysis was to establish the contribution of migration to household food security in relation to food production and other livelihood activities.

Data from key informants was summarised using Microsoft word and it helped in determining the contribution of migration to household food production from Institutions perspective and try to correlate with the information gathered from the community. Furthermore, existing secondary data was analysed and compared to findings from the field.

Hence raw data was processed followed with the discussion of findings and came up with results which then led to conclusion. Outcomes of the study answered the main research question and the sub questions. Tables and pie charts were also used in presenting the research findings.

Chapter 5. Research findings

Introduction

The researcher explained to the respondents that the study was for academic purposes and wanted to investigate the effects of migration on rural household food production. The raw data is presented in two parts, first part shows the characteristics of the respondents which were found relevant for the research questions and that has been explained in a section on how the researcher developed the questionnaire then the second part answers the research questions which then answers the main research question. It should be noted that some questions asked were noted directly linked to the research questions but helped the researcher in understanding migration for instance questions such as the reasons for migration.

5.1 Characteristics of respondents

Table 5 Surveyed Households Demographic Characteristics

Household demographics	No of Households
Male headed	10
Female headed	20
Married	26
Widow/widowed	2
Separated	2

Table 6: Age of the respondents:

Age (Years)	Number of respondents n=30
5-18	5
18-64	21
64+	4

The age limits format was taken from CRS M&E template and it shows that below 18 is the school going age in Zimbabwe, between 18 and 64 they are the adults who are considered to be the productive age and 64+ is considered the retirement age.

Table 7: Household sizes

HH number	Number of respondents
3	4
4	7
5	6
6	4
7	6
8	3

Table 8: Occupations For the 20 Female respondents (head of households)

Occupation	Main Occupation No of respondents n=20	Secondary occupation No of respondents n=20
Agriculture	19	-
Government employee	1	-
Crafts	-	6
Vegetable vendors	-	7
Firewood vendors	-	1
Agricultural labourer	-	3
Non-agricultural labourer	-	2
Household worker	-	1
Total No of respondents	20	20

Table 9: Occupations for the 10 Male respondents (Head of households)

Occupation	Main Occupation No of respondents n=10	Secondary occupation No of respondents n=10
Agriculture	10	-
Carpenters	-	4
Firewood vendors	-	1
Agricultural labourer	-	2
Builders	-	3
Total No of respondents	10	10

Table 10: Land holdings

No of Acres	No of respondents
2	4
3	6
4	14
5	3
6	2

Out of 30 respondents 1 person did not have a piece of land. From the 30 respondents, 20 people utilised their acres in full in the last season 2010/2011, 9 respondents cultivated only half of their total land due to poor rainfall patterns which were characterised with long dry spells.

5.1.1 Asset ownership of 30 respondents

22 respondents indicated that they had dwelling units built of burnt bricks and iron roofed and also thatched roofed and 8 respondents said they had mud and thatched houses. For the burnt and iron roofed dwellings, 16 people had 1 unit each, 9 people had 2 units each and 1 person had 3 units. For the burnt and thatched roofed 11 people had 1 unit each, 8 people had 2 units each and 2 people had 3 units each. For the mud and thatched houses, 4 people had a 1 unit each, 4 people had 2 units each and 2 people had 3 units each.

Table 11: Farm Implements

Implements	No of respondents who had the implements
Ploughs	24
Hoes	30
Ox-carts	16
Wheel barrows	25
Bicycles	24
Ridger	1

On ploughs of the 24 respondents who had them, one had 2 ploughs, and the same is for bicycles and wheelbarrows. For ox-carts the 16 respondents had only 1 per person. For the hoes each household had a hoe, 2 people had 1 per person, 9 people had 2 each, 9 people had 3 each, 4 people had 4 each, 1 person had 5, 4 people had 6 and 1 person had 7 hoes. Only 1 person out of 30 interviewed respondents had a ridger. Farm implements assist in timely operations at the farm and hence is a main factor for food production. Since it is claimed that remittances are sometimes used to accumulate assets, ownership was included to assist in identifying whether households that receive remittances use part of the resources to accumulate them.

Table 12: Livestock

Type of animal	No of respondents who had the animals
Cows	24
Oxen	20
Goats	27
Donkeys	21
chickens	28

For the animals, 1 person had 1 cow, 5 people had 2 cows each, 3 people had 3 cows each, 7 people had 4 cows each, 2 people had 5 cows each, 3 people had 6 cows each, 1 person had 7 cows, 1 person had 17 cows and 1 person had 12 cows. With regards to oxen 4 people had 1 ox each, 10 people had 2 oxen each, 4 people had 3 oxen each, 1 person had 4 oxen and 1 person had 5 oxen. For the goats, 5 people had 2 goats each, 2 people had 3 goats each, 3

people had 4 goats each, 5 people had 5 goats each, 3 people had 6 goats each, 2 people had seven goats each, 3 people had 8 goats each, 2 people had 10 goats each, 1 person had 15 goats, 1 person had 20 goats, 1 person had 21 goats. As for donkeys 1 person had 1 donkey, 8 people had 2 donkeys each, 2 people had 3 donkeys each, 6 people had 4 donkeys each, 1 person had 5 donkeys, 2 people had 6 donkeys each and 1 person had 8 donkeys. Also for the chickens, 1 person had 3 chickens, 2 people had 4 chickens each, 2 people had 5 chickens each, 2 people had 6 chickens each, 4 people had 7 chickens each, 1 person had 8 chickens, 5 people had 10 chickens each, 1 person had 11 chickens, 2 people had 12 chickens each, 5 people had 15 chickens each, 1 person had 16 chickens each and 1 person had 21 chickens.

Table 13: Other household possession

Type of possession	No of respondents with the possession
Granary	16
Toilets	26
radio	25
Axe	28
Shovel	24
pick	15

For the granaries, of the 16 respondents who indicated that they had them, 14 had 1 each and 2 had 2 granaries each. With regards to the toilets all the 26 respondents who indicated that they had a toilet had one Blair toilet. Also, all the respondents who cited that they had radios had 1 radio per household. For the axes, 19 people had 1 axe each, 4 people had 2 axes each, 3 people had 3 axes each, 1 person had 4 axes and 1 person had 5 axes each. For the shovels 16 people had 1 shovel each, 5 people had 2 shovels each, 1 person had 3 shovels and 2 people had 4 shovels each. Lastly for the picks, 14 people had 1 pick each and one person had 3 picks.

Table 14: Food Consumption -number of meals eaten per day

Meals	No of respondents n=30
One meal	4
Two meals	15
Three meals	11

Table 15: Components of the meals eaten the previous day before the interview

Type of food	Number of respondents n=30
Cereals (maize meal, millet, sorghum, bread)	29
Tubers (potatoes, yams, cassava)	4
Vegetables	23
Fruits	6
Meat (beef, goat, chicken, wild)	18
Eggs	4
Fish (matemba, kapenta)	9
Pulses (beans, peas, lentils, nuts)	22
Milk/milk products	11
Oils, fat/butter	23
Sugar/honey	26
Tea	26

Findings related to the research

5.2 Uses of remittances and food production

Out of the 30 respondents interviewed 24 indicated that they had household members who had migrated to neighbouring countries to seek employment. 10 respondents had 2 members who had migrated and 14 respondents had one member each who had migrated.

Table 16: Demographics of the migrants

The total number of migrants from 30 respondents was 34

Demographics	No of migrants n=34
Male migrants	21
Female migrants	13
Single	22
Married	12

5.2.1 Uses of remittances

N/B X24 refers to the number of respondents who mentioned the responses

- Purchasing livestock, building materials, farm implements, inputs X20
- Paying school fees for children, health care, funerals, burial societies, social gatherings X20
- Groceries (food stuff) X24
- Paying taxes such as herd tax and land tax X20
- Hiring labour X8

Table 17: Types of remittances

Type of remittance	No of respondents n=24
Cash (money)	20
In-kind (groceries, clothing, household goods such as radios, property, building materials, bicycles, farm implements, inputs)	24

5.2.1 How they obtained the assets

N=30

- Purchases using money from remittances X 20

- Purchases using money from other livelihood sources (sale of Mopani worms, firewood, vegetables, carpentry, building and craft) X14

Table 18: Frequency of receiving remittances

- All the respondents with a member a migrant reported to be receiving remittances though they differ in terms of frequency and amount received.

Frequency remittances received	No of respondents n=24
Once in 3 months	2
Twice in 3 months	7
More than twice in 3months	15

- 20 respondents out of 24 who received remittances indicated that they received money and groceries regularly and remittances such as clothing came once a year and big things such as bicycles, TVs and radios were once off things.

5.3 Impacts of migration on food production of the rural households

Table 19: Crop Production

Below are the crops grown by the respondents, inputs used and quantity harvested.

Crops grown 2010/11 n=30

	Maize	Sorghum	Millet	Groundnuts	Sweet potato
Cultivated	26	23	20	20	5
Did not cultivate	4	7	9	10	25

Table 20: Inputs used by the respondents:

N/B the used and not used refers to whether they used hybrid seed, traditional seed, fertilisers or manure.

Crops	Maize Used	Did not use	Sorghum Used	Did not use	Millet Used	Did not use	Legumes Used	Did not use
Hybrid seed	20	9	14	15	20	9	15	14
Traditional seed	6	23	9	21	0	29	10	19
fertilizer	22	7	7	22	2	27	1	28
manure	17	12	13	16	4	25	1	28

Table 21: Quantity of harvested cereal

No of bags (50kgs)	No of respondents with the bags
5-10	20
10-15	6
15+	3

The reason for low yields had nothing to do with migration but was because of the unseasonal and prolonged dry spells which devastated the crops.

5.3.1 Labour

The question on labour was posed to check if migration had an impact on food production that is if there were any loss of labour effects experienced by farmers as a result of migration and how it affected food production. 12 respondents out of 30 indicated that they required additional labour in the 2010/11 agriculture season. 8 respondents out of 30 hired labour in the 2010/11 agricultural season for land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting and herding animals.

5.3.2 Trends in migration

- The key informants from IOM reported that there has been an upward trend in people migrating.

The reasons given for causes of migration explains the upward trend and this helped to explain the changing factors in terms of agricultural productivity, economy, political arena and this was quite relevant for the study in that it helped the researcher to understand the current status of food production in Matebeleland South region.

Table 22: Education of the 34 migrants

Level of education	Number of migrants
Primary	10
Secondary	23
Tertiary	1

5.3.3 Age distribution of the 34 migrants

Out of 34 migrants, 30 migrants were between 18years-64 years and 4 migrants were between 5-17 years.

Table 23: Countries where migrants migrate to:

Country	N=34
South Africa	24
Botswana	10

Table 24: Years of migration

No of years	No of migrants N=34
1-5	28
6-10	5
11+	1

Table 25: Monetary value of remittances received within 3 months. Amount is in South African rands.

Amount received	No of respondents N=20
Below 500	13
500-1000	5
1000+	2

Table 26: Channels used to remit (responses from 24 respondents)

Channel	Percentage
Cross border transporters (social networks)	17
Middlemen (injiva)	4
Western Union/home link/money gram (cash transfers)	3

5.3.4 Reliability of channels used to remit.

Out of 24 remittance receiving respondents 14 indicated that they were very reliable and 10 said they were reliable.

Table 27: Changes encountered by farmers

Changes encountered by small holder farmers with regards to food production as a result of out-migration	Number of respondents n=24
Increased food security as a result of the use of remittances	24
Increased incomes	24
Diversified livelihood options	24
Labour division (increased roles upon women)	24
Developing coping strategy to overcome loss of labour	24
Migration of other members may not mean remittances will come	ORAP & IOM officers

5.3.5 Cross cutting issues linked to migration and food production that reverse the positive gains.

Cross cutting issues in this study are aspects that are not directly related to food production but they negatively impact migration and have an effect of reversing the impact of migration on food production.

- ORAP officer said HIV/AIDS scourge had been felt by most households with household members on migration
- 25 respondents out of 30 mentioned HIV/AIDS that the disease had implications on labour and loss of income in the household
- 13 female respondents mentioned that loss of labour meant more work for them, the other 7 female respondents did not mention about having more workload as a result of migration mainly because they had enough labour available in their households.

5.4 Ways in which the livelihoods and sources of income of farmers have been influenced by migration

Out of 30 respondents interviewed 24 cited that migration was their main livelihood strategy and 6 indicated that they didn't have any household member who had migrated.

Table 28: How the farmers' livelihoods are influenced by migration

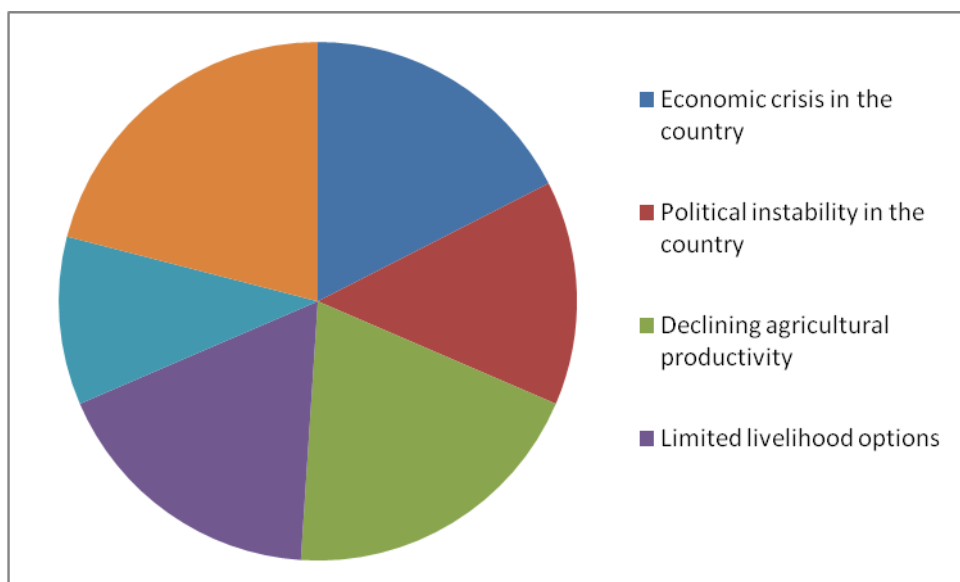
How the farmers' livelihoods are influenced by migration	Number of respondents n=24
Migration brings remittance which are used to buy inputs, start small business like buying vegetables, Mopani worms for resale	24
The remittances were also used to buy assets such as cattle which are disposable assets and can be sold in time of need	24
Secondary occupation like cross border trading were influenced by migration as the remittance sent could serve as start up capital for the business	13
Remittances was the main source of income	24

Other data gathered which is not directly linked to the sub questions.

It was found but useful for the study in understanding food production of Matebeleland and why people were diversifying their economic base by migrating to neighbouring countries and how migration was impacting on food production of the rural households.

Figure 5 Causes of migration

All the 30 respondents mentioned the following reasons as causes of migration



Causes of migration were relevant in understanding why the migrants are moving to neighbouring countries instead of staying back at home and focus on agriculture given the unfavourable conditions in countries such as South Africa and Botswana which includes xenophobic attacks and deportations.

Chapter 6. Results and Discussion

This chapter will discuss the effects of migration and food production using the findings of the study and the literature. The results and discussion will be outlined using the sub research questions and respondent characteristics which were found relevant. The researcher found out that remittances forms major component and have a great influence on the livelihoods of the people of Matebeleland South province and it contributed significantly to the livelihoods of the rural communities through productive, consumptive as well as other investments. This is quite similar to literature gathered which shows that remittances have significant impact on the livelihoods of the communities in Matebeleland South. Maphosa 2005's study on remittances in the same region indicated that remittance was the link between migrant sending country and destination and they constituted a large proportion of household incomes.

6.1 The uses of remittances by small holder farmers and effects on production

6.1.1 Productive investment:

With regards to the uses of remittances and effects on food production The researcher found out that the remittances were used on productive investments such as buying farm inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, implements, assets such as scotch carts, ploughs and hiring labour to help with land preparation, weeding, planting as well as harvesting. For instance it was striking to find that migrant sending households had ploughs and the non-receiving remittance did not have and when asked how they acquired them they all attributed to remittances sent by migrants. . Having ploughs meant timely operations which had an effect on food production. In addition for the inputs used, majority of remittance receiving households indicated that they used hybrid seeds and fertilisers which they acquired through purchases using remittances and the households without migrant all said they used traditional seeds because they lacked the money to buy such inputs. This again had an effect on production and having inputs increased households' chances of food security. INSTRAW2008 highlighted that remittances contributed to the improvement in food security of remittance receiving household. The study found out that the remittances were also used to but farm inputs, implements as well as hiring labour to help in the farm. This had a positive effect on total productivity. At the same time the non-receiving remittance households also benefitted from purchases like ploughs and scotch carts as they could have an agreement with the owners to use them and in return pay in kind by providing labour. Furthermore the receiving households with such implements could get some income or labour as form of payment when they hired out their implements.

Given that the study area is located in marginal lands, the inputs bought using remittances had an effect in improving soil fertility thereby increasing overall productivity though productivity in the study area was generally low due to poor climatic conditions and

environmental stresses. However the research also found out that at times the remittances were not received in time and many a time they were not enough to hire labour and replace lost labour and this also impacted negatively on productivity. Nevertheless all factors being equal, remittances can increase food production. This assertion is similar to a study carried out in Philippines where it was noted that remittances increased total agricultural productivity and part of the remittances were used to purchase land thereby removing the over dependency on wealthy landlords. Thus the receiving households put effort in ensuring that the remittances boost their agricultural productivity in order to reduce vulnerability and food shortages, hence production can be strengthened by remittances.

Remittances were also used to acquire livestock by the rural households. Livestock is an important rural assets among others in Matebeleland South region, not only is it a prime source of livelihood but it is also a symbol of status. Most respondents indicated that they had cows, oxen, goats, donkeys as well as chickens. Almost every household interview had a cow though they were very few. When the researcher asked the respondents how they had obtained the livestock, they all indicated that they used money from remittances to purchase livestock. The effect of such an asset on food production was that the cattle provided the draught power, manure which were useful for food production. The respondents indicated that they experienced the effects of these remittances as they could buy farm inputs and hire labour as well.

6.1.2 Consumptive investment

From the raw data, the findings indicate that the remittances are also used on consumptive investments other than productive investment such as buying extra food to supplement own production. More so, a significant change in consumption patterns was also realised which implied an increase in household incomes. This corresponds with Orozco and Ferro 2008's report which noted that the chamber of commerce in Zimbabwe estimated that 85% of remittances were spent on consumption of goods. Buying extra food is a positive effect on household food security mainly because the area is drought prone and their harvest don't last them till the next season.

Instraw 2008 in a study in the Philippines found that there was a substantial change with regards to consumption patterns which led to increased consumption of nutritious foods. This is in line with a study carried out in Lesotho by Makonnen which indicated an increase in terms of consumption for household receiving remittances. The same results were found in a research conducted in Ghana using the living standard measurement tool by Quartey 2004 in which he cited that remittances raised food consumption levels and households receiving remittances tended to have better nutrition and access to basic needs as compared to their counterparts who did not receive remittances. This concurs with the results from this study, out of 30 respondents 26 indicated that they ate more than 2 meals per day and most of these respondents indicated that they ate cereals, pulses and meat which were nutritious

foods. Only a small proportion said that they had one meal per day. The reason being that they did not have an emigrant in their household who can send some remittances and eating one meal, to them is a coping mechanism since their production cannot last them till the next harvest. Also from observations, the researcher found out that the remittance receiving households bought different goods from the shops as compared to the non-receiving households due to availability of income.

6.1.3 Other investments of remittances

These investments did not have a direct link to food production but they enabled the researcher to understand how remittance receiving households use their remittances. The author found out that remittances were also used to send children to school, health care, funerals, social gatherings, as well as clearing debts. Also, some respondents mentioned that they used money received from remittances to pay taxes such as herd tax as well as land tax. In addition out of thirty respondents interviewed, the majority turned out to have dwelling units which were built with burnt bricks and iron roofed and also thatched roofed. Very few respondents said they have mud and thatched houses. The reason for this was because most of the respondents receive remittances and could afford to build houses with burnt bricks and iron roof. Almost every household had a toilet and assets such as radios were common among respondents. In terms of change experienced after they started receiving remittances, most of the respondents said that they experienced a big change and now at least their children could attend school regularly. From the results gathered most of the respondents who indicated to have household goods were remittance receiving, for the non-receiving could not afford such goods due to lack of income.

6.2 Impacts of migration on household food production of the rural communities in Matebeleland South province.

From the findings of the study, migration plays a pivotal role in food production through the use of inputs (fertilisers and seeds), implements and assets such as cattle (draught power) acquired from migration. In addition from the raw data shown in previous chapter, the main occupation of the respondents was agriculture and given factors such as recurring droughts, lack of inputs, erratic rainfall patterns and environmental stress migration is contributing significantly to the food security of these rural communities by bringing extra food, disposable assets which could be sold in times of shocks and hiring labour thereby providing employment in the community and also increasing productivity. In addition the high dependence on agriculture helps to explain why people are migrating to neighbouring countries in search of income. These findings concurs with the study of Gomez 2011 and Maphosa 2005 in the same region who revealed that remittance receiving households acquired assets such as carts, ploughs and cattle. These had multiple effects in that the cattle provide draught power thereby playing a role in food production. The carts were used during harvest time to transport the harvest from the fields to the homes and at times the

carts could be hired in so doing household incomes were increased and household food security ensured. The study also found out that not only did the cattle provide draught power, they also provided cow dung which was as a manure in the fields. Also the cattle provided milk and most households would sell it and get some form of income. Non receiving remittance household also benefitted from such assets as they could hire from others and pay back in kind through providing agricultural labour in the farms of the owners of the assets. Given such a scenario it worth noting that migration has a positive impact on food production and the overall food security of the rural household in Matebeleland.

From the results shown on the harvest of the farmers for the 2010/11 season 20 households interviewed out of 30 harvested between 5 to 10 bags of cereal and this will not take them through the lean season that is from October to April. More to such findings USAID 2011 cited that crop production for 2010/11 in Matebeleland region was dampened by the prolonged mid-season dry spells which negatively affected growth. FEWZNET 2011 cited that Matebeleland south had the least number of cereal supply ranging from one and half to less than three months. Hence positive gains of migration were so useful in ensuring food security of the rural households.

Also, the Arex extension worker reported that some migrants remitted money to their families to buy farm inputs and some families were even given money to hire labour for activities such as planting, weeding as well as harvesting. He said that this was a positive contribution especially hiring labour as it would replace lost labour. Nevertheless he also said that some migrants remitted money to buy inputs when the farming season was already underway. Such a delay in farming meant a lot in terms of productivity. Also considering that some of the migrants did not send remittances regularly it impacted negatively on food production to an extent that a household with no one migrating might do better on food production since they had adequate labour within the household.

The researcher found out that migration in Matebeleland south province has become one of the livelihood strategies adopted by a number of rural households in an effort to provide for their families and reduce economic vulnerability. This explained why the area had more married female headed households; their husbands had left for other countries in search of employment. Similar to this is the report by CRS 2011 which indicates that most of the households in Mangwe district, the study area for this research, had members who had migrated to neighbouring countries such as South Africa and Botswana as a way of diversifying their economic base. According to Chambers and Conway 1992 a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets which include both material and social resources and activities required for a means of living. To counter vulnerability, rural households get involved in a number of non-agricultural livelihoods to enhance their asset base as well as increase their food security and migration is one of the major livelihood activities employed by many rural households. This corresponds with what De Haas 2006 indicated in his study

that migration could be seen as a main strategy employed many rural households to diversify, secure and potentially, durably improve their livelihoods often in combination with other strategies such as agricultural intensification and local non-farm activities. Furthermore Ellis 2005 considered migration as one of the manifestations of livelihood diversification given that remittances had potential to enhance the household asset base by increasing household income and reducing vulnerability.

Furthermore De Haan 2000 highlighted that migration could be seen as a strategy to acquire wider range of assets to insure against future shocks and stresses. Thus migration is a means to improve livelihoods, facilitate investments and help reduce fluctuations in household income. In the study area migration turned out to be the major livelihood strategy employed by many rural households in the face of declining economic and agricultural productivity in the country. The remittances received were the major source of income for many households and were used to increase household food security and other basic necessities. This is in accordance with Hall 2007 affirms which is that families had become increasingly dependent on international cash transfers to meet their basic needs. Hence remittances were used to cushion households from vulnerability and poverty. In the study, the researcher found out that some of the remittances sent were used as start-up capital to start businesses such as cross border trading as well as buying assets such as cattle which are disposable and can be very useful in times of need. This finding is in line with Ellis 2005 who purported that migrant remittances played multiple roles in reducing vulnerability of many households and in enhancing asset accumulation which gives families coping strategies in the wake of poverty. This is also contrary to the orthodox view which views that remittances are mainly consumptive since they play a crucial role in boosting household income and enhancing their asset base.

The respondents also indicated that they engaged in a number of livelihoods in order to earn a living and meet their expenditures. The participants said that they grew crops such as sorghum and millet which are drought tolerant. The majority mentioned that they also grew maize even though it was not suitable for the region; it's the country's staple crop hence they are used to eating maize meal as a cereal. Thus sorghum and millet are grown to increase their cereals and not as main crops. Livestock such as cattle, goats, donkeys as well as chickens were also kept by the majority of participants and they would sale them whenever need arose. Furthermore other livelihoods mentioned were cross border trading, most women and other men were involved in cross border trading and they would take some goods to sell in countries such as South Africa and they would return with groceries and other goods to sell back home. Other people were also involved in selling home brewed beer, Mopani worms, firewood and crafts. With regards to how these livelihoods were influenced by migration, the participants highlighted that the migrants outside sent remittances in form of money and this money is then used to buy inputs such as seeds and fertilisers and thus being useful for growing crops and increased yield. Some households

used the remittances to purchase livestock which are disposable assets that can always be sold when there is need.

The respondents were asked about their main source of income, and majority said that it was from remittance even though the remittance was not so regular. Livestock sales, selling firewood as well as vegetables were mentioned as household's other sources of income but the major one was migration. Furthermore the respondents also reported that due to scarcity of water, this year they haven't been able to do gardening because they had to reserve the water for their animals. Given such a scenario it shows that factors such as low water levels also impact negatively on household sources of income and it limited their livelihood options thereby making migration an important livelihood source. This concurs with the study of Maphosa 2006 who found out that remittances were major source of income.

From the literature gathered Ghosh 2006 in his study reported that due to the remittances sent, some households were able to live on remittances and abandoned farming thereby creating dependency. Taylor 1999 substantiated this by highlighting that the remittances framed a way of life which could not be sustained through local labour and it led to lost production. However the author found out that as much as migration led to loss of labour and most of the migrants did not remit enough money to hire labour and majority of the respondents said that though the remittances were sent, they were not enough to hire labour and replace lost labour. Only a small proportion interviewed said that they hired labour in the past agricultural season. Even those who hired labour, it was not for long periods, only pressing periods such as weeding and planting where they really needed labour. More so, the extension worker went on to highlight that most of the migrants sent property and groceries and contributed very little to food production in terms of providing their families with inputs in time. However this line of thinking does not hold much water as the author from further probing realised that loss of labour did not have any significant impact on total production given that agricultural productivity in Matebeleland South is marginal. Hence labour or no labour, the effect on output in the study area was minimal. Matebeleland South was not suitable for farming and due to poor rainfall patterns coupled with prevailing unfavourable climatic conditions the productivity had been declining and even the subsistence agriculture was gradually decreasing. Maphosa 2005 highlighted that even in a good year in terms of rainfall, the farmers in Matebeleland were not left with surpluses, each year they experienced food deficit. The researcher also found out that part of the remittances was used to purchase extra food. This was a good indication for food security in ensuring that they had enough food to take them to the next farming season. Also pertaining labour the interviewed respondents reported that they had come up with strategies to replace the lost member who had migrated and these were helping each other during the planting season in preparing the land, plant and cultivate their crops. Other

school going children tended to take days away from school and helped in the fields as a way of replacing lost labour from those household members who would have migrated.

In as much as migration impacted positively on food production, the raw data also shows the cross cutting issues that reversed the gains of migration and adversely impacted food production of the rural households. Respondents indicated that issues such as HIV/AIDS impacted food production and was influenced by mobile populations and most households had felt the scourge of the epidemic. Given that the popular migrant destinations were South Africa and Botswana and these countries have high HIV prevalence in Southern Africa making the migrants susceptible to be the epidemic considering that most of the migrants were married and would leave their wives back home. All the female headed respondents indicated that they were married with their husbands working either in South Africa or Botswana. Furthermore since most of the migrants were illegal migrants with no proper documents, it's difficult to seek medical help out of fear of facing deportation. Most of the times the migrants would return home plagued with the disease and it impacted heavily on food production as household labour available is affected and in many cases women were left with heavy burdens, caring for their husbands and at the same time working in the farms. In the end the farm would be neglected leading to low productivity and such scenarios reversed the gains of migration in that all the assets acquired would be disposed so as to pay medical bills diverting the money which should have been used to acquire farm inputs and in case of death of that person the family incur funeral costs and they are left in debts impacting negatively on household food production and food security of the family.

Similar to the above findings on how HIV/AIDS is linked to migration and how it negatively affects food production, Maphosa 2005 reported that the impact of HIV/AIDS is one of the negative impacts brought about by migration and it negatively affected food production of rural households. In addition Crush et al asserts that migration has facilitated the rapid spread of HIV/Aids across Southern Africa and the study observed that there is a close link between migration and HIV/AIDS. For migrants are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and more often than not most migrants are reluctant to go for HIV testing or post infection treatment and care. According to Maphosa 2005 in a research carried out at a hospital in Zimbabwe in Matebeleland south province, the results indicated that 100% of migrants from Botswana who came for voluntary counselling and testing were HIV positive while 88% of those from South Africa tested positive. He goes on to indicate that the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS was the erosion of savings and investments in an effort to pay the medical bills. This then leads to the reduction of draught power and the loss of a source of income and livelihood and this affected food production.

Respondents also indicated that some migrants when they migrated to neighbouring countries they tended to forget families left behind and they never send anything back home. Worse still when the household head passed away, the family was left with no one to

fend for their needs and production in the fields is adversely affected. In other cases, participants said that at times they migrants when they go to South Africa or Botswana they took long to settle and find a job and couldn't sent anything home until they got a job and this impacted negatively on food production in terms of labour and inputs which should have been acquired from the gains of migration.

To summarise the impact of migration on household food production, it can be said that the positive impacts such as bringing in assets like livestock, farm inputs, farm implements, consumptive investments increased household food security as well as household incomes and they outweighed adverse impacts such as loss of labour and cross cutting issues like impact of HIV/AIDS.

6.3 Reasons for migrating

The respondents were asked for the reasons of migrating to neighbouring countries such as South Africa and Botswana given the unfavourable conditions out there which include xenophobic attacks, killings of foreigners as well as deportations among others. The participants said that conditions in Zimbabwe such as the economic downfall, political turmoil, declining agricultural productivity, recurring droughts as well as high unemployment rates limited their livelihood options and forced them to migrate to neighbouring countries in search of employment so as to increase household income and enable their families to be food secure. Another reason which attributed to out migration was peer pressure. The participants mentioned that the migrants already in neighbouring countries persuades other people left at home giving them the impression that it's easy to get a job in South Africa and most of the people at home fell for that. At the same time, going to South Africa for people in Matebeleland is a big achievement so soon after completing secondary education, some did not even complete it, they left for south Africa mostly as illegal migrants with no passports. The participants admitted that they were aware of the unfavourable conditions in the neighbouring countries but still they were determined to try their luck. Furthermore since the South African and Botswana economies are performing well in the Southern region, prospects of getting better opportunities were also luring the young able bodied to migrate. This coincides with the studies of Zinyama and Tevera 2005 and Maphosa 2005 who also found the same results on the reasons for migration by the people of Matebeleland South region.

6.3.2 Trends in migration

Main reasons given for upward trend were economic crisis in the country, high unemployment rates, recurring droughts, limited livelihood options as well as peer pressure. Thus in an effort to increase household income, most people the young able bodied are migrating to neighbouring countries such as South Africa and Botswana to search for employment and provide for their families. However a key informant from ORAP said that, with the rate at which the young able bodied were migrating, in a few years to come very

few people will be left to take up farming thereby making the family dependent on remittances which is a risk or threat to food security considering that most of the migrants do not have legal documents in South Africa or Botswana. Literature gathered indicates that the number of people migrating is increasing year by year due to a number factors. For Zimbabwe specifically, UNDP 2010 cited that the year –on-year average increase of 34 percent between 2001 and 2007 was estimated to have risen by a further 10 percent to 44 percent in years 2008 and 2009 as a result of election-related violence and also the relaxation of South African visa requirements in April 2009.

With regards to marital status the married migrants outnumbered the single migrants. Marital status is important in analysing the impact of migration to food production, married migrants means they left their spouses in country of origin and mostly its women and children who are left to take up the roles which men used to do including farming decisions and this can place a heavy burden on women and can affect total productivity. Given that most married men leave their wives whilst they go to neighbouring countries, it explains why most wives of the migrant were tested HIV positive in a study by Maphosa 2005, this was because most migrants were vulnerable to the disease. Pertaining education of the migrants most migrants were educated up to secondary level and a small proportion reached primary perse. One person had attained a degree. This then indicated that the province is exporting relatively educated labour force the reason behind being that given the high unemployment rate in Zimbabwe, the country cannot absorb people with secondary certificates and some of them would have failed the secondary level and cannot proceed to tertiary level.

In relation to migrant destinations, South Africa and Botswana turned to be the popular destinations. Even though xenophobic attacks have been reported as Zimbabweans are blamed for taking the locals' jobs, people still migrate to South Africa. The reason for a small proportion to Botswana considering that in terms of geographical proximity, Botswana is very close to the research area than South Africa, it's because Botswana is a small country therefore less opportunities and Botswana have stricter rules towards illegal migrants than South Africa. Also in terms of year of migration most of the migrants had been working either in South Africa or Botswana for the past one to five years. However a small percentage has more than five years, they are between six to ten years and only one person was reported to have more than ten years working outside the country. The reason behind staying for long in the neighbouring countries is because things haven't really improved economically in the country, the unemployment is still high so these migrants cannot return back since they don't have jobs back home and chances of them getting a job in the country are very slim given the economic situation. With regards to frequency of remittances received the researcher found out that frequency varied depending with the type of goods. Most respondents indicated that they received money and groceries regularly and remittances such as clothing came once a year and big things such as bicycles, TVs and radios were once off things. Also, majority of the respondents indicated that they received

remittances both monetary and non-monetary remittances. Only a small proportion said that they received only one type of remittance either money or in kind.

The monetary value indicated in the raw data were estimates because it was difficult to come up with it as some could not value non cash remittance and some could not remember the amount they had received since the beginning of the year since they did not keep records. At the same time some of the respondents were hesitant to disclose the real amounts out of fear of that the information could be used as leverage against them and they will be excluded from NGO and government aid programmes. Given such a scenario it was not easy to come up with the exact monetary value.

Channels used to remit were found useful for the research in that as mentioned earlier that the link between migrant and people left home is remittances. In the same vein channels of remitting makes the link viable. Cross border transporters is the most common used means of remitting money and non-monetary remittances to families back home. However middlemen called the injivas were also used a very small proportion of the respondents. Both the middlemen and the cross border transporters charge some small fee for remitting and they deliver the goods or the money door to door. Western union was the least used mode of remitting by the migrants, the reason being that the charge was a bit higher as compared to the cross border transporters and most of the Western unions were located in towns which meant extra cost of going to town to collect the money. At the same time most migrants are illegal migrants so they don't have proper documents such as addresses which are required when sending money, so out of fear of exposing themselves and deportation, they would rather use the cross border transporters. Another reason highlighted was that the western union are only used to send money and not the non-monetary yet most of the migrants were said to send non-monetary goods regularly unlike money. The respondents also mentioned that these channels were quite reliable. They did not encounter many difficulties in receiving their goods or money. None the less problems such as damages of goods, delays in receiving the goods and mistakenly given some goods which did not belong to that particular household were also mentioned though they were not common. A few said that they encountered challenges of incurring travel costs if the remittance was send through western union.

Chapter 7. Conclusion

On the basis of the findings from the study, migration is an integral part of the livelihood of many households and had positive effects on household food production. Also migration makes valuable contribution to other livelihoods of the rural communities and it strengthened these livelihoods thereby lessening economic risks and vulnerability.

In this study the research objective was to enhance the understanding of the effects of transnational labour migration on household food production and related livelihoods. The results indicated that the objective was met in the sense that before the study, the researcher had information from secondary sources which dwelt much on the nexus between remittances and development but after this research, the author now understands how migration impact on food production at household level and their food security as well. The results revealed that the migrant households had the potential to increase agricultural production given that they receive remittances that can be used to buy farm inputs, implements as well as assets such as livestock which are useful for food production. Remittances received were also enabled households to build houses, toilets as well as providing a source for human capital investment that is education. Most households cited that with remittances they were able to pay send their children to school. Hence migration is a strategy to diversify livelihood options and reduce vulnerability.

The study also revealed that the remittance channelled to rural households had potential to increase and contribute to rural food security not only of the receiving household but even the whole community can benefit through multiple effects of the remittances. Employment opportunities could be created for non-receiving households and they could work in the farms of the receiving households and earn some income which could increase their food production. Changes in consumption patterns were also realised due to remittances received and that's a good indication for food security.

Also, findings show that besides being a significant livelihood, migration is an important source of incomes. Given that agricultural productivity has been declining due to factors such as recurring droughts and unfavourable climatic conditions, migration is gradually becoming the main source of income for many households in Matebeleland. Agricultural is no longer the main source of income in Matebeleland South. Migration enabled households to sustain their livelihoods by stimulating and providing for local productive activities such as inputs for food production thereby contributing to food security of the household.

The findings revealed that remittances from migration varied with the length of time spent away by migrants and also the number of people in a household who have migrated. The more the years spent away the more the assets that household had and also the more the number of people in a household on migration the more the remittances.

Factors that have determined migration in Mangwe district include economic and political unrest in the country, continuous decline in agricultural productivity, limited livelihood options, recurring droughts as well as unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing in area. In order to increase household income and ensure food security, the young people in the district are migrating to neighbouring countries such as South Africa and Botswana. In addition prospects of getting jobs and other opportunities to diversify their livelihood activities attribute to out labour migration.

It can also be concluded that in as much as migration has positive attributes which impact positively on food production, negative impacts such as HIV/AIDS reversed the gains of migration. HIV/AIDS affected both migration and food production in the sense that with regards to migration, it impeded the migrants from working and in most cases to return home and in most cases the migrants would be breadwinners. This brings the source of income from migration to a halt. From food production perspective, the diseases had a loss of labour effect and it led to reduced farming areas as the families would not be able to manage the farms and caring for the sick at home.

However given the time the data collection was done and the focus in one ward out of seventeen wards in Mangwe district which are heterogeneous, the findings are modest and therefore lack the scope necessary to generalise the results. Hence the results of this study are specific to ward 2 and cannot be generalised for the whole of Mangwe district except for those wards with similar conditions. For instance the positive effect of remittances on households' income is likely to be found in other wards.

7.1 Recommendations

Basing from the findings from this study, recommendations will be made to ORAP an organisation working in Mangwe district that seeks to ensure food security in the area. The organisation should promote the cultivation of small grains in the district so that the remittances received can be used to buy inputs for cultivation of these small grains given that the area is marginal and the small grains have a high chance of giving the farmers high yields and thereby ensure household food security.

Considering that remittances have positive impact on food production, it is therefore of paramount importance to include migration as an essential component of food production.

Given that migration is increasing and will remain a feature in Matebeleland South as long as poverty and unemployment remains. Also the migrant households will continue to receive remittances and it will remain an important source of income and livelihoods, income generating projects which allow investment of remittances should be established so that the receiving households can save and invest their remittances for future shocks.

Cross cutting issues that reverse the gains of migration such as HIV/AIDS should be mainstreamed in projects running in the district so that awareness is increased and the negative impacts of the disease are reduced. Among other HIV/AIDS awareness programmes, there is also need to encourage voluntary testing and counselling among migrants particularly the men.

To counter the risk of over dependency on migration, small holder farmers should invest in farming activities such as growing small grains so that in the event of a migrant not be able to send remittances or even case of death the family will have something to lean on rather than abandoning farming.

Also to realise the developmental potential of remittances received by the rural households in the district, joint efforts encompassing the government, non-governmental organisations, CBOs, migrant groups, the rural communities are needed so that they can map out sustainable ways of promoting the flow and utilisation of remittances in a way that ensures food security in the district.

Further research is needed to shed more light on migration and food production particularly a comparative study between remittance receiving households and non-remittance receiving household their food production and also in the aspect of the relationship between length spend on migration and assets acquired and how they contribute to food production and elaborate on the findings presented in this study so that the findings can be generalised in the region.

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Annex 1 Questionnaire for interview with rural households in Mangwe district.

District: _____

Ward Number: _____

Village: _____

1. Household Demographics:

Sex 1=male 2=Female	Age (years)	Household sizes	Marital status (code 1)_	Main occupation (code 2)	Secondary occupation (code 2)

Code 1

1=Single

2=Married

3=Widow/widowed

4=Divorced

5=Separated

Code 2

1=Agriculture

2=Agric labourer

3=Non agric labourer

4=Government/private employee

5=Skilled worker(carpenter, blacksmith)

6=Builder

7=Crafts: potter, weaver, carver

8=Brewer traditional beer

9=Firewood vendor

10=Vegetable vendor

2. How much arable land do you have?

3. How much did you cultivate last season 2010/2011?

4. Asset ownership

Dwelling units	#	Implements	#	Livestock		#
Burnt brick walled, iron roofed		Bicycles			Cows	
Burnt brick walled, thatched		Plough			Oxen	
Mud and thatched		Ridger			Goats	
Other items					Donkey	
Toilets		Hoes			Chickens	
Private swallow well		Ox carts				
Pick		Wheel barrow				
TV		Shovel				
Radio		Axe				

5. How many meals do you eat per day?

5b) what kind of food did you eat yesterday?

List of food	Yes	No
Ate any sitshwala, millet, sorghum, bread, rice, or foods made from cereals?		
Ate any potatoes, yams, cassava or foods made from tubers and roots?		
Ate any vegetables?		
Ate any fruits including the wild fruits?		
Ate any eggs?		
Ate any fresh or dried fish?		
Ate any foods from pulses (beans, peas, lentils or nuts)?		
Ate any milk?		
Ate any food made with oil, fat or butter?		
Ate any sugar or honey?		

Ate any other foods such as tea, coffee?		
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6. Do you have any member who migrated? Yes..... No.....

If yes how many.....

Sex	Age	Marital status	Level of education	Where migrated to	Length migrated

Age 1. >5 2. 5-17 3. 18-64 4. 65+

7. Do the member sent any remittance? Yes..... No..... (if yes fill table below)

Type of remittance	Monetary value	Frequency	Channels used	Reliability of Channels
monetary				
None monetary				
Bikes=1				
Tv=2				
Fertiliser=3				
Clothes=4				
Others=5				

8. Use of remittances

remittance	Productive investment (Code 1)	Consumptive investment (code 2)	Other articles and services (Code 3)

Code1= cattle, farm inputs (fertilisers, seeds, pesticides)

Code2=food

Code3= savings, bicycles, TV sets, radio, watch, education, health care, social gatherings

9. Which types of crops did you cultivate last year 2010/2011?

Crops planted	Quantity harvested (kgs) 50kgs=1bag	Quantity sold (including sales to neighbours)
maize		
Sorghum		
Millet		
Groundnuts		
Sweet potatoes		

10. What kind of inputs do you use?

Crops	Hybrid seed	Traditional seed	fertiliser	manure	Others specify
Maize					
Sorghum					
Millet					
Legumes					
Other crops					

11a) Did you experienced any severe agricultural labour shortages during the past season – i.e. which required you to hire labour? _____ Yes=1, No=2

11b) if yes how did it affected production?

12. Have you hired any labour (including casual) for various crop and livestock operations during the past season. If yes, for what operations?

Operation	Frequency of labour hire during last season
Residue incorporation =1	Only 1-6 days hired=1
Land preparation=2	7-14 days hired=2
Planting=3	15-30 days hired=3
Weeding=4	more than one month hired=4
Harvesting=5	other (specify)=5
Tending/herding animals=6	

Annex 2: Checklist for the key informants

(1 Extension officer and one M&E officer from IOM, one person from ORAP)

- Trend of migration in the selected villages.
- Changes encountered by farmers as a result of out-migration with regards to labour and food production.
- Contribution of remittances to food production of the small holder farmers.
- Opinion on the rate at which people are migrating in these villages. Whether migration can positively or negatively impact on food production of the region and in what ways.
- Differences between receiving and non-receiving remittances households with regards to food production.
- Opinion on whether people should migrate or not given factors such as remittances received, the overall agricultural productivity in the area.

Annex 3: Pictures

1. Livestock kept by the small holder farmers & the water reservoir where animals get water for drinking



2. The small holder farmers in Ward 2 Mangwe district



3. The houses of remittance receiving households



4. Interview with key informant from Arex on the left and on the right interview with selected respondent



5. To the left is type of the fields found in the study area and to the right is one of the respondents.

