

# URBAN FOOD INSECURITY AND SOUTH-SOUTH MIGRATION: ZIMBABWEAN MIGRANTS IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES

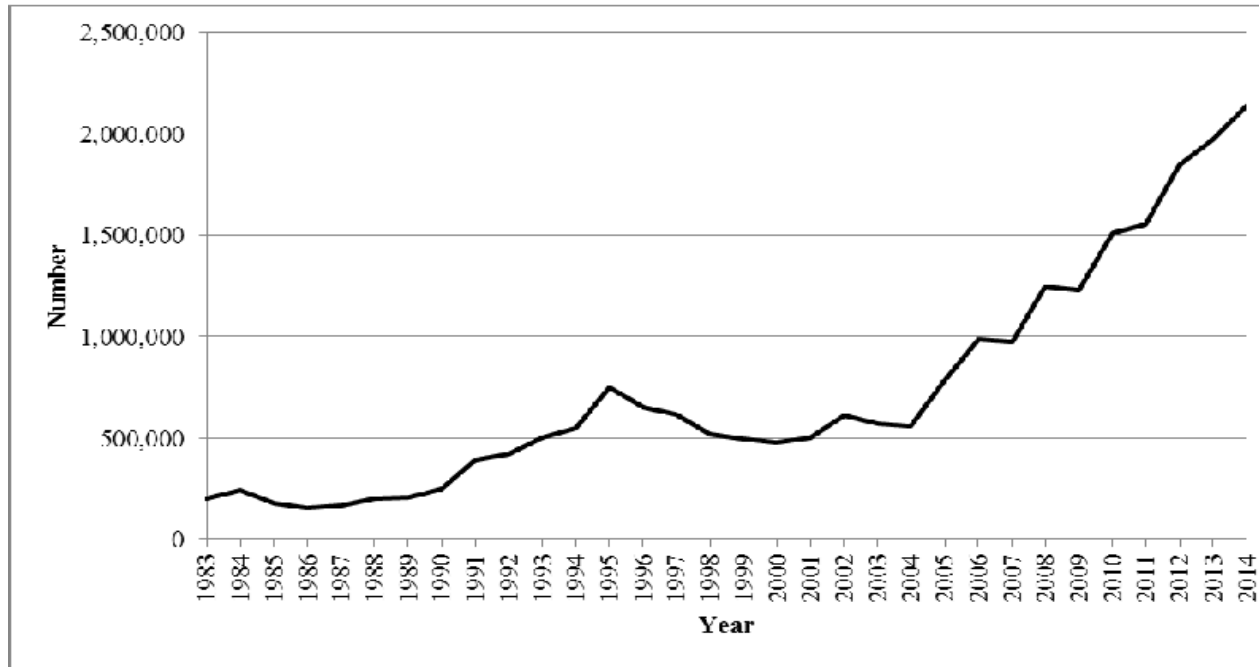
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# Outline

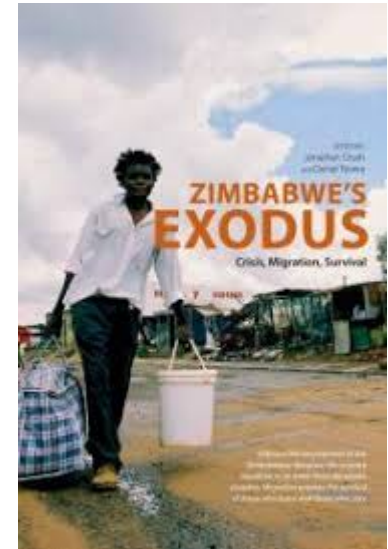
- A. Zimbabwean Migration to South Africa
- B. Methodology
- C. Key Findings
- D. Conclusion

- Migration from Zimbabwe to South Africa has gone through three distinct phases in last 30 years: (1) post-independence (1983-95); (2) visa regime (1995-2005); (c) crisis-driven migration (post-2005) – the “third wave”

Figure 2: Legal Entries to South Africa from Zimbabwe (1983–2014)

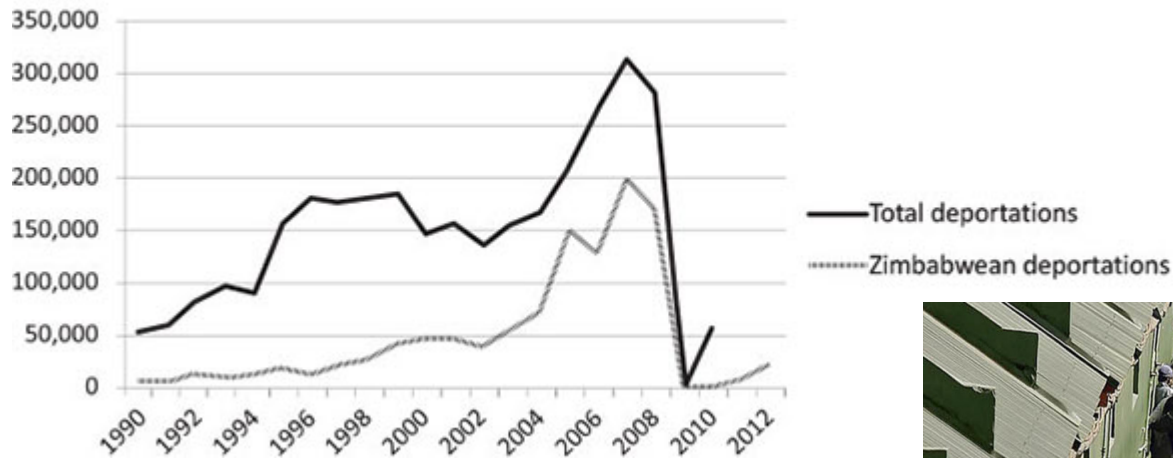


Source: Compiled from Statistics South Africa data



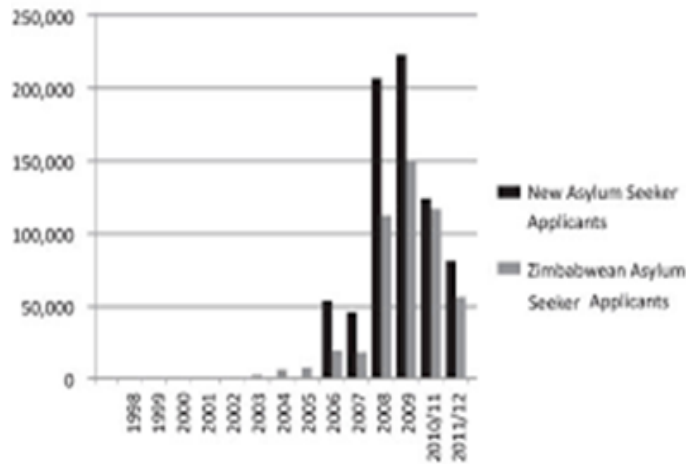
- Initial South African response was mass deportations by police, army and Home Affairs

Figure 2: Deportations from South Africa, 1990–2012



- In response, many migrants applied for asylum

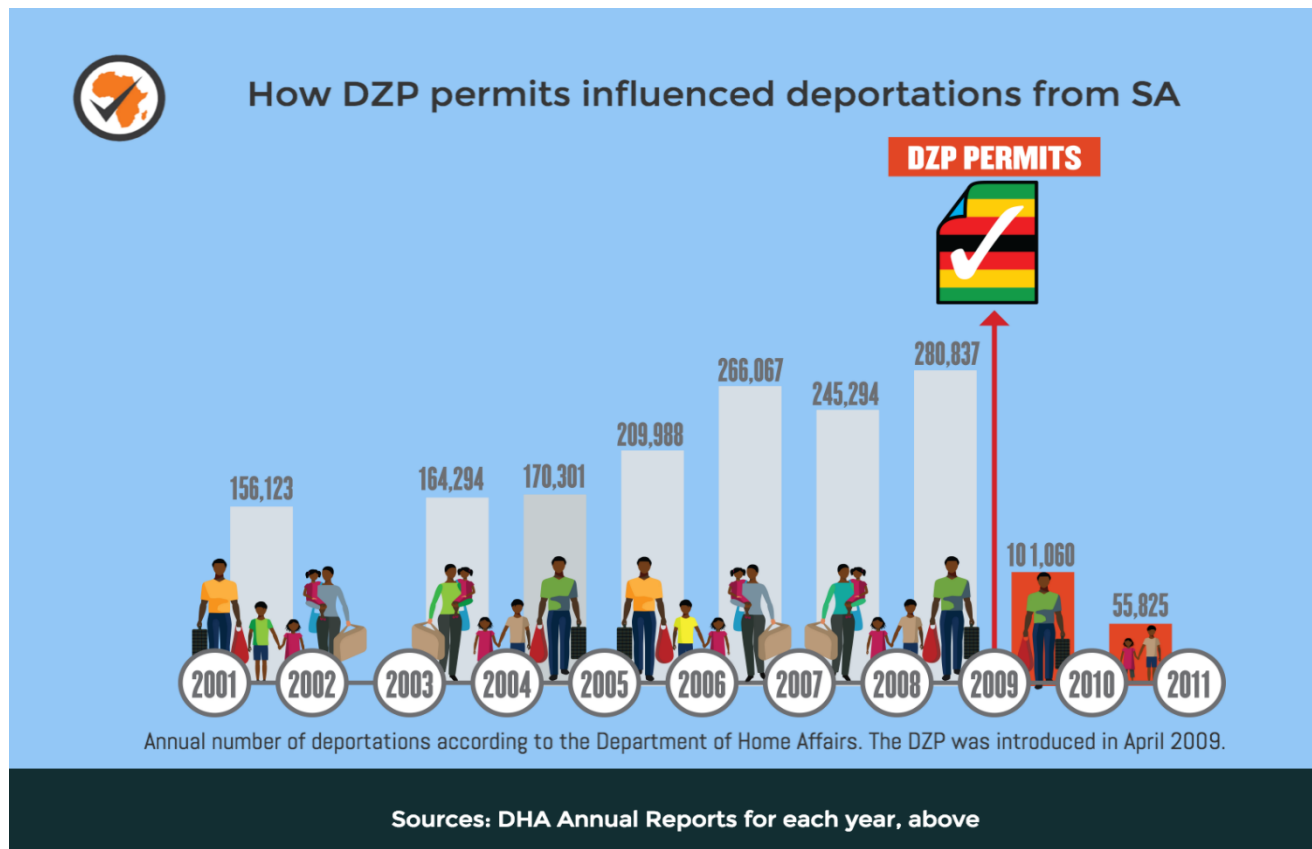
Figure 1: Asylum applications in South Africa, 1998–2011



Sources: DHA, 2009 Annual Report (for 1998–2009); DHA, '2010–2011 Annual Report on Asylum Statistics', May 2011



- Change of policy direction in 2009. Amnesty for Zimbabweans. 250,000 given 4 year work and residence permits. Renewed twice to date.



- Number of Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa?
- “We have got millions of Zimbabweans living in South Africa” Minister Lindiwe Zulu (January 2019)
- 2011 Census: 672,308
- 2016 Community Survey: 574,047
- “The decrease is unusual and we are investigating the drop” (Statistics South Africa, 2019)

## 2. Migration and Food Security Survey

- Surveyed 500 migrants in Cape Town and Johannesburg using AFSUN household food security baseline survey
- Three contrasting residential areas in each city (informal settlement, city-centre, mixed formal/informal)
- Administered 50 in-depth interviews
- 5 major findings about the migration-food security nexus:



# (a) Food insecurity is a significant driver of migration from Zimbabwe

	No.	% of households
Overall living conditions	420	84.0
Informal sector job	356	71.2
Food/hunger	222	44.4
Formal sector job	151	30.2
Moved with family	82	16.4
Education/schools	66	13.2
Safety of self/family	75	15.0
Attractions of urban life	31	6.2
Asylum	31	6.2
Marriage	28	5.6
Political exile	23	4.6
Drought	21	4.2
Freedom/democracy/peace	13	2.6
Sent to live with family	7	1.4
Death	4	0.5
Housing	2	0.3

*Note: multiple response question*

## (b) Food insecurity is extremely high

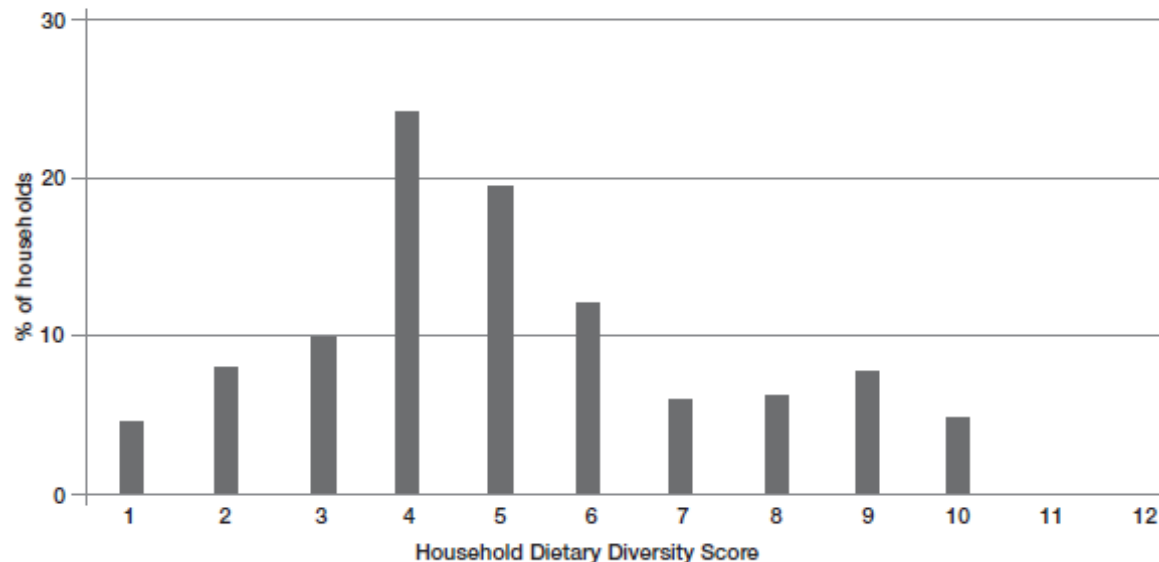
“Life is really difficult. The food is never enough and I have gone hungry many times. It is particularly bad on weekends when kitchen soup houses are closed. Yes, things were really terrible in Zimbabwe and that made us come here, but to be honest, I am still struggling. I have to survive on charity and begging. It is tough, as I am not working”

- Severely Food Insecure (HFIAP): 60%
  - Comparators: Johannesburg: Low-Income: 27%  
Cape Town City-Wide: 36%

## (c) Dietary diversity is very low

“We eat the same kind of food day in and day out. Usually we eat pap (maize meal) and offal because that is what is cheap. I do not know when we last ate beef...maybe over a year ago, It’s the same food over and over again. There is no variety, but there is nothing that we can do. I guess we have to be grateful that at least we can get a meal here and there”

FIGURE 6: Household Dietary Diversity Score



## (d) Reliance on migrant social safety nets for food

- “We are a community of sharing. If you are unable to help others when they are in dire need, they will also not help you when you are in trouble. Our communities and networks have memories – very long memories and we know who gives and who doesn’t. Especially as we are far away from home, we have learnt to support each other. If I have some food, then my neighbours will not starve.”
- 33% of migrant households regularly borrow food from one another,
- 29% regularly share meals with neighbours and friends,
- 24% regularly consume food provided by other households.

## (e) Migrant Remitting Increases Vulnerability to Food Insecurity

“There is a lot of pressure on some of us to send money home. It is difficult to ignore the concerns of those that are back home. Sometimes the problem is that people back home think that we are making a lot of money here. So every few days you get a call and people are asking for money. Sometimes people end up not answering calls from home because you know that it is usually about money.”

- 60% said that remitting has a “negative” or “very negative” impact on their own food security

# Conclusion

- There is a large literature on the food security challenges facing migrants in Europe and North America. Very little in the context of South-South migration.
- Zimbabwean study provides a well-developed quant-qual methodology that could easily be applied to other cases
- The next step in our own analysis is to understand why Zimbabwean migrants in South African cities are so food insecure and to disaggregate the overall picture
- Main takeaway is that remitting, which is often viewed as an unmitigated positive, can have negative food security implications for the remitter in the S-S migration context.