



A woman fetches water from a well in a suburb of Harare, Zimbabwe. PHOTO: PHILIMON BULAWAYO/REUTERS

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*How should the international community help southern African countries through the drought, if at all? Join the conversation below.*

blem seems most acute in Zimbabwe, where the extreme weather comes amid a gathering economic emergency. In the capital, Harare, the water is cut for as many as 100 hours a week, meaning many people rely on community wells. This month, the Harare city council closed a building complex that houses its headquarters, citing lack of running water.

The government has warned it may have to turn off the country's largest dam, which provides power to more than two million people.

"The droughts are different now," said Thandiwe Sibanda, a 32-year-old mother of two in Harare. She hasn't had running water for months and now wakes up at 4 a.m. to fetch water from a community well. "Harare is now a village. We can't tell the difference between someone living in the city and another staying in the rural areas."



Harare has been hit by power shortages. PHOTO: TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

—Bernard  
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