



World Food Programme



WFP Southern Africa

El Niño Situation Report #5

27 July 2016

Photo credit: WFP/Tsitsi Matope

HIGHLIGHTS

- Botswana is the latest country to declare a *State of Emergency* due to the ongoing drought, joining Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Additionally, eight of South Africa's nine provinces, typically accounting for **90 percent** of the country's maize production, have been declared *drought disaster* areas.
- WFP is significantly scaling-up food and nutrition programming to reach **11.9 million people**, as well as undertaking technical-analysis and providing supply-chain capacity support to national and regional action.
- Immediate funding is required to secure these efforts. WFP's shortfall is currently **USD 539 million**, some **79 percent** of current requirements.
- WFP's Executive Director visited Malawi to discuss deepening food insecurity and malnutrition with affected communities and government. The Executive Director also joined Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady of the United States, to dialogue directly with communities and support advocacy efforts for Malawi's El Niño-related response.

SITUATION UPDATE

- The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) declared a *Regional Disaster* and launched a [Regional Humanitarian Appeal](#) on 26 July, presided by the President of Botswana.
- SADC appealed for some **USD 2.4 billion** to address humanitarian needs across 10 countries for a 12 month period.
- The appeal stated that **40 million** people will endure food insecurity at the height of the lean season, from January to March 2017.
- Of these, an estimated **18 million** people will require emergency food assistance, a figure which represents a **30 percent** increase over the previous agricultural season.
- The Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO) *Action Plan* launched on 27 July, targets **12.3 million** people for humanitarian assistance, accounting for a subset of the SADC appeal.
- The RIASCO *Action Plan* focuses on seven priority countries: Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.
- UN Country teams and NGOs are collectively appealing for **USD 1.2 billion** for 12 months, of which **USD 997 million** is allocated to the food security and agriculture sector.
- WFP aims to reach **11.9 million** people by the lean season peak in January 2017, through a combination of assistance programs. Government counterparts, NGOs and the private sector are expected to address the balance of needs.
- As the season progresses and the full impacts of El Niño and other shocks are determined, this target will be revised. El Niño's multiple impacts such as hunger, water shortages, disease and economic shocks aggravate the fragile food and nutrition situation of vulnerable groups, particularly people affected by, and undergoing treatment, for HIV and TB.
- As a result, the last eight months has seen a deterioration of the nutrition situation in a number of countries, including in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Madagascar, Lesotho, Swaziland and Angola and Mozambique. For example, five districts in southern Madagascar have recorded very high malnutrition rates well-above emergency levels.
- WFP is conducting real-time food security and nutrition monitoring (mVAM) in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- In Malawi, [mVAM monitoring](#) has recorded food price rises of between **60 to 160 percent** higher than this time last year. People have been forced to employ harmful coping strategies. Some **92 percent** of the worst-off families have restricted adult food consumption in order that their small children can eat. mVAM also observed a **20 percent** increase in admissions for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among People Living with HIV (PLHIV) receiving Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) from May to June.

For the latest information on the crisis, click on WFP's [Southern Africa: Food Security Crisis](#) web page.

COUNTRY PROFILES

See table 1 for programme and net requirements

LESOTHO

The Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) estimates that **709,000 people** will be food insecure at the height of Lesotho's lean season. Children under two years of age, pregnant and nursing mothers, and PLHIV and tuberculosis (TB) among the most impacted.

LVAC results demonstrate that **62 percent** of rural people are eating less food and that **41 percent** spend more than **50 percent** of their income on food. The results also show that **9.1 percent** of PLHIV are now moderately malnourished.

In the Southern Lowlands, the prevalence of acute malnutrition have reached **4 percent**, well above the national average of **2.7 percent**. In the Senqu River Valley rates have also flared.

Only **10 percent** of children under the age of two years are meeting the criteria for a minimum acceptable diet set by the World Health Organisation.

In the worst-affected districts of Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek, WFP has been providing a monthly transfer of **USD 65** to **4,000 households**, since March.

The wider relief and recovery operation, which runs from July until December aims to provide both conditional and unconditional cash and food assistance to an estimated **263,000 people** in the most-affected areas.



Photo credit: WFP/Tsitsi Matope – Lesotho

MALAWI

Malawi's Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) determined that an unprecedented **39 percent** of the population, at least **6.5 million people**, will endure food insecurity at the peak of the lean season in January.

The scale of the food security crisis necessitates the largest ever humanitarian response in the country's history.

WFP will target at least **4.5 million** people with food and cash assistance, and may scale up to reach **5.8 million** people.

Food distributions have already begun in Nsanje, the most-affected district. WFP is providing half-rations of sorghum, pulses and Super Cereal. Distributions of vegetable oil and Super Cereal *Plus* have yet to begin, however, due to the challenges of securing the necessary resources for the exceptionally early start of the response. Cash-based distributions are set to commence in August.

Urgent funding is paramount to secure assistance and to enable the pre-positioning of food stocks ahead of the beginning of the rainy season in November.

MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar's seven most-affected districts,¹ some **1.1 million people** are food insecure, including **665,000 people** who are classified as severely food insecure.

Rates of Global Acute Malnutrition of 8 per cent in children under five have been recorded across the 7 most affected districts, with some districts above the critical WHO threshold of 10 per cent.

WFP plans to reach **725,000 people** with a combination of unconditional and conditional food assistance (in-kind and cash) between July and February 2017.

In collaboration with the National Office for Nutrition, supplementary feeding is provided to **70,000 children** under five years of age to treat moderate acute malnutrition; some **20,000 households** will also receive protection rations to minimise within household sharing of treatment rations.

The School Meals safety net program also reaches **300,000 children** attending primary-schools in 11 priority districts. Without additional funding, this program will be suspended for **150,000 children** in October 2016.

MOZAMBIQUE

The government's food security assessment, carried out in March, indicates that at least **1.5 million people** require immediate food assistance. This number is expected to increase.

IPC analysis estimates that almost **2 million people** will require assistance during the peak of the Mozambique's lean season from October 2016 to March 2017.

¹ Amboasary, Ambovombe, Tsihombe, Beloha, Bekily, Ampanihy and Betioky.

IPC also observed worrying levels of acute malnutrition in affected areas, with a high prevalence of the low Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measured in children in Tete, Sofala and Manica.

WFP is currently responding to the drought through Food Assistance for Assets activities, General Food Distributions, Emergency School Feeding and treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition. A market assessment, currently underway, will recommend the most appropriate assistance modality for each area.

SWAZILAND

Preliminary results from the Swaziland Vulnerability Analysis Committee indicates that **350,000 people**, approximately **30 percent** of the entire population need emergency food assistance.

By the peak of the lean season from November to March 2017, however, some **640,000 people** will endure some degree of food insecurity.

HIV affected people² are hard hit. A comprehensive joint health and nutrition assessment revealed a deterioration in the health status of PLHIV, poor adherence to HIV and TB treatment, as well as gaps an increase in malnutrition, anaemia and in mortality.

In June, WFP began its first cycle of emergency food distributions reaching over **77,000 people**. WFP plans to scale up to **150,000 people** in severely affected areas with food and cash- transfers.

Limited funding has forced ration reductions under the Food by Prescription programme assisting 15,892 PLHIV and TB and halted support to 52,000 orphans and vulnerable children increasing their exposure to malnutrition and food insecurity.



Photo Credit: WFP/Theresa Piorr – Swaziland

ZAMBIA

Zambia's Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit (DMMU) and partners' integrated emergency response identifies some **975,000 people** in need of assistance from August to March 2017.

In response, from September to April 2017, WFP will distribute cereals and pulses through the School Meals program to **243,000 children** in the southern and western provinces.

WFP provides technical assistance strengthening the DMMU's logistics management capacity, as well as to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare, digitizing *Social Cash Transfer* registration.



Photo Credit: WFP/Evin Joyce – Zambia

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) estimates that **4.1 million people**, some **44 percent** of the rural population, will be food insecure by the first quarter of 2017.

This figure represents a **47 percent** increase in needs compared to the previous year.

From July through September, however, ZimVAC identified that **2.2 million people** require immediate food assistance.

Malnutrition indicators have deteriorated to unprecedented levels, with GAM rates well-above the emergency threshold of **10 percent** in five districts.

As a short term safety net, WFP and government initiated an emergency school meals programme, targeting primary schools in the most food insecure rural districts. This programme includes the provision of a daily meal of fortified corn-soya blend to **77,000 students** through March 2017.

WFP's El Niño response includes nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific programmes. To prevent micronutrient deficiencies, a complementary ration of **6 kilograms** of Super Cereal Plus per child will be provided to food insecure households with children aged **6 to 59 months** in districts that have GAM rates of **8 percent** or above.

WFP is also introducing a MAM treatment programme in most affected districts either using Super Cereal Plus and/or Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food targeting children under the age of 5.

Immediate resourcing is necessary to maintain these emergency relief responses.

² 26 percent of the adult population (15-49 years).

Table 1. WFP Southern Africa Requirements and Net Funding Requirements July 2016 - April 2017
Total Requirement USD 678 million; Net Requirement USD 539 million (79% shortfall)*

| Country | Operation | Planned Beneficiaries (by Jan. 2017) | Requirements (USD) | Net Requirements (USD)** |
|------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Lesotho | CP 200369: Country Programme | 89,250 | 7 026 691 | 4 620 148 |
| | TF 200771: School Feeding | 250,000 | 4 482 645 | - |
| | PRRO 200980: Support to drought affected populations. | 263,226 | 18 322 706 | 17 256 988 |
| Madagascar | CP 200733: Country Programme | 467,400 | 9 760 197 | 3 874 262 |
| | PRRO 200735: Response to Food Security and Nutrition Needs of Populations Affected by Natural Disasters and Resilience-Building | 725,000 | 32 744 970 | 22 574 811 |
| Malawi | CP 200287: Country Programme (<i>Adjustment underway to extend by 2 years.</i>) | 898,070 | 22 345 389 | 15 181 759 |
| | PRRO 200692: Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Strengthening Resilience (<i>Project adjustment underway to increase beneficiary caseload from July – March</i>) | 4,692,500 | 254 975 181 | 202 366 528 |
| Mozambique | CP 200286: Country Programme | 279,210 | 11 626 624 | 5 036 161 |
| | PRRO 200355: Assistance to Disaster Affected and Vulnerable Groups (<i>Adjustment underway to include GFD, FFA and Emergency. School Feeding for 6 months</i>) | 700,000 | 92 996 842 | 75 704 286 |
| Swaziland | IR-EMOP 200954: Emergency assistance to vulnerable households affected by El Niño drought (Mar '16 – June '16)*** | <i>Assisted 72,000</i> | 680 078 | - |
| | EMOP 200974: Emergency Assistance to Drought-Affected Populations | 150,000 | 11 979 943 | 9 296 401 |
| | DEV 200353: Food by Prescription | 15,892 | 1 236 950 | 924 554 |
| | DEV 200422: Support to OVC, Secondary School Children and Informal Vocational Training Students Affected by HIV/AIDS | 52,000 | 3 120 591 | 3 118 062 |
| Zambia | CP 200891: Country Programme | 1,005,599 | 8 875 591 | 7 953 924 |
| Zimbabwe | PRRO 200944: Building Resilience for Zero Hunger (<i>Budget Revision underway to increase beneficiary caseload following ZimVAC</i>) | 2,300,000 | 196 547 210 | 167 886 317 |
| | DEV 200946: Empowering Smallholder Farmers to Market Drought-Resistant grains/pulses | <i>N/A (Technical Assistance)</i> | 851 408 | 851 409 |
| | DEV 200945: Strengthening Social Protection to Enhance Resilience for Food/Nutrition Security among Vulnerable Populations | <i>N/A (Technical Assistance)</i> | 838 381 | 838 381 |
| Regional | SO 200993: Augmentation of WFP support to the SADC Secretariat and member states in response to the El Nino drought. | <i>N/A (Technical Assistance)</i> | 2 167 392 | 2 167 392 |

* As per approved WFP programmes/currently under approval, figures subject to change with assessment information.

** Requirements and shortfalls to change as WFP scales up programming or adjusts it programmes in response to further needs assessments.

*** IR-EMOP beneficiaries overlap with EMOP therefore are not counted twice in total.