



# WFP Southern Africa

## El Niño Situation Report #6

07 September 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

Photo credit: WFP/David Orr – Malawi  
WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin (right) visits community members of Mlumbe traditional authority in Zomba District.

- An estimated **7.5 million people** in highly-impacted Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe currently require assistance to meet their basic food & nutrition needs.
- By December, this figure is expected to almost double to **14.1 million people**.
- WFP scale-up plans aim to target up to **8 million** people during October.
- WFP's emergency El Niño response have received confirmed contributions of some **USD 113 million**, including recent contributions from Japan, USAID, Switzerland, Andorra, European Commission, Government of Australia and the Government of Malawi.
- The **overall** requirement for El Niño emergency responses until April 2017 stands at **USD 636 million**.
- Continuing shortfalls limit WFP's capacity to undertake essential repositioning ahead of the rainy season.

### SITUATION UPDATE

- WFP and partners are significantly augmenting operations to reach **13.2 million** people by the peak of the lean season in January 2017. As the full impacts of El Niño and other shocks continue to deepen, this target may be revised.
- WFP is rapidly scaling-up priority El Niño-relief interventions. For example, in Zimbabwe, WFP and the Government launched an emergency school feeding programme. In Swaziland, where the impact of the drought required a new intervention, an emergency operation was launched to assist 150,000 people by the peak of the lean season. In addition to relief activities, WFP is continuing to support people's longer-term resilience and livelihoods, particularly people living with HIV/AIDS and TB, pregnant and nursing mothers, and children under five.
- At the *36<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit*, Heads of State appealed to the regional and international community for continued support to close the funding gap of **US\$ 2.5 billion** for food and other humanitarian assistance ( see the [Communiqué](#)).
- United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on El Niño, H.E. Ms. Mary Robinson also addressed the SADC summit, emphasizing the importance of early warning, the need to recognize slow-onset events, and the collective long-term responsibility to achieve greater climate resilience, including through the use of drought-resistance crops.
- In August, the *20<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF)* concluded that the SADC region is—on average—likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall to March 2017.
- SACROF anticipated that northern areas of DRC, Angola and Mozambique, as well as most of Tanzania, the Seychelles and eastern Madagascar, are likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall most of the season.
- Export-facilitation remains vital for the effective movement of relief commodities throughout the region. Cumbersome and time-consuming process accumulate costs and inhibit timely programming of food commodities. Recent export-facilitation measures proposed to the Government of Zambia are expected to enable bulk export permits once initiated. These measures are not yet in effect.
- Recent estimates from Mozambique's *Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN)* demonstrate increased needs in the country, with the number of people in need rising by 53 percent to **2.3 million** people through March 2017.
- Refugees in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are among the most heavily impacted communities. In Malawi, where the refugee caseload is expected to triple, lack of funds forced the suspension of distributions in July. **USD 3.6 million** is urgently needed to restore assistance to vulnerable refugees through May 2017.

**For the latest information on the crisis, click here to visit:**

**[WFP's Southern Africa: Food Security Crisis web page.](#)**

## LESOTHO

Of Lesotho's 2.1 million population, **709,000 people**, as identified by the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC), will be food insecure at the height of the lean season.

Children under two years of age, pregnant and nursing mothers, and people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) are among those most impacted. The country's HIV/AIDS prevalence, at 25 percent, is one of the highest in the world. LVAC results show that **9.1 percent** of people living with HIV/AIDS are now moderately malnourished.

In the worst-affected districts of Mafeteng and Mophale's Hoek, WFP has been providing a monthly cash transfer to **20,000 people** since March 2016. The wider relief and recovery operation, which runs through December 2016, aims to provide conditional and unconditional cash and food assistance to **263,000 people** in the most-affected areas.

In 2017, WFP intends to provide technical assistance to the Government of Lesotho in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities as a longer-term strategy to address climatic shocks in the country.



Photo Credit: WFP/David Orr – Malawi  
Students gather at the Nsomba Primary School in Malawi's Zomba District.  
Learners at the school receive WFP-supported school meals.

## MALAWI

At the peak of the lean season, **6.5 million** Malawians (representing 39 percent of the total population) are expected to need humanitarian food assistance, and WFP intends to reach up to **5.85 million** with food and cash-based transfers.

The response is now reaching more than **1 million people** in three districts (two with in-kind food and one with cash) in southern Malawi. Food distributions (sorghum, pulses and Super Cereal) continue at half rations and without two of the planned commodities (vegetable oil and Super Cereal *Plus* for children under age two) due to delayed and insufficient funding.

The response will be gradually scaled-up, based on reaching the most food-insecure areas first, to ultimately reach the entire affected population by January 2017.

Prepositioning of commodities in key locations by November, prior to the expected start of the rainy season, is of vital importance as access to the most food-insecure rural areas will likely become cut off.

WFP and UNICEF are working to respond to the deteriorating nutrition situation through the coordinated treatment of MAM and SAM for women, children and HIV/TB patients. WFP is working with NGO and UN partners to link relief beneficiaries with complementary activities, like livelihood support, agricultural inputs and productive asset creation, in an effort to create a more seamless transition between relief and recovery.

Although WFP has welcomed an historic agreement from the Government of Malawi of some **USD 30 million** – which will provide imported maize to WFP for the response – funding shortfalls persist.

## MADAGASCAR

In the seven most affected districts (Amboasary, Ambovombe, Tsihombe, Beloha, Bekily, Ampanihy and Betioky), **665,000 people** are facing severe food insecurity.

A joint Ministry of Agriculture/FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, which is ongoing across the country's 22 regions, is expected to provide more details on crop production and update the overall food security and nutritional situation in Madagascar, to be released by end September.

WFP, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, provides daily hot meals for 230,000 primary school students in 11 priority districts. This School Meals Programme acts as a safety net for households when food insecurity is high. Funding shortfalls, however, threaten the programme. Some **USD 4.6 million** in contributions are urgently required to guarantee meals for **150,000 children** for the school year.

WFP plans to assist **300,000 people** between August and December 2016. However, some **340,500 people** will be unable to access assistance due to limited resources. In collaboration with the National Office for Nutrition, supplementary feeding will be provided to 70,000 children under five to prevent and treat MAM and 20,000 households will receive protection rations in order to prevent the nutritional ration being shared. WFP is also planning to assist 80,000 people through cash transfers.

## MOZAMBIQUE

The latest food security and nutrition assessment carried out by the government indicates that **2.3 million people** will be in need of assistance across Mozambique by March 2017.

From November 2016 to February 2017, as households will have no food reserves and/or very limited access to other sources of income, it is estimated that 30 – 45 percent of households will be in Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 (crisis) or 4 (emergency).

Worrying levels of acute malnutrition have been observed in Tete, Sofala and Manica. Using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessment, assessed children showed levels of emergency in Tete and Sofala (12 percent and 14.4 percent, respectively) and crisis in Manica (7.2 percent).

WFP is scaling up its drought response activities and is aiming to reach **851,300 people** by the next harvest in early 2017. WFP will assist 100,000 learners through its School Meals Programme; 44,000 children and pregnant and nursing mothers at risk of malnutrition; and 700,000 people through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and General Food Distributions (GFD).



Photo Credit: WFP/UNICEF Graeme Williams – Madagascar  
The southern parts of Madagascar have been ravaged by the on-going drought.

## SWAZILAND

Results from the Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee indicate that **350,000 people** – approximately 30 percent of the population – are in need of emergency food assistance. By the peak of the lean season, some **640,000 people** will endure some degree of food insecurity.

The ongoing drought is critically impacting Swaziland's water supply. Mbabane, the capital, has been facing water rationing as the Hawane dam, the main source of water for the capital, is operating at five percent capacity, which is reported to hold sufficient water for 12 days.

A recent health and nutrition assessment revealed a deterioration in the health status of people living with HIV (PLHIV). The report revealed that food insecurity is leading to unsustainable coping strategies, including transactional sex among adolescent girls.

WFP aims to assist **15,892 PLHIV and TB** through its Food by Prescription programme. WFP also aims to provide a social safety net (including two school meals) for **52,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)** under eight years of age who attend neighbourhood care points (NCPs).

WFP's greater response programme, an emergency operation, targeted **100,000 people** in August through in-kind food distributions. WFP aims to scale up its emergency response in the coming months to target 150,000 people through food distributions and cash transfers.

WFP is facing considerable funding shortfalls. The OVC programme has been temporarily suspended due to lack of resources and limited funding under the Food by Prescription programme forced WFP to reduce the rations distributed.

## ZAMBIA

Zambia's Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit (DMMU) and partners' integrated emergency response has identified some **975,000 people** in need of assistance from August 2016 to March 2017. The country faces high levels of malnutrition and roughly 40 percent of children between 6-59 months are stunted and 6 percent are underweight.

WFP's response will include the distribution of cereals and pulses through the School Meals program to **243,000 children** in seven districts across the southern and western provinces. This distribution is set to begin in early September and will involve a phased approach as WFP gradually scales up its response.

WFP will also provide technical assistance to strengthen the DMMU's coordination and logistics capacity.

## ZIMBABWE

ZimVAC estimates that **2.2 million people** will require immediate food assistance across 60 rural districts through September 2016. Through the peak of the lean season (January – March 2017) it is estimated 4.1 million people will be in need of food security support.

In Zimbabwe, market monitoring has shown a low availability of maize grain and small grains on the market. While maize meal is readily available, it remains a less preferred option for most rural communities since the average price is **32 percent higher** than maize grain.

WFP and government initiated an emergency school meals programme, targeting primary schools in the most food insecure rural districts. This programme will provide a daily meal of fortified corn-soya blend to **77,000 students** through April 2017.

To prevent micronutrient deficiencies, a complementary ration of 6 kilograms of Super Cereal *Plus* will be provided, per child, to food insecure households with children aged 6 to 59 months in districts that have GAM rates 8 percent or above.

WFP is also introducing a MAM treatment programme in the most affected districts. Super Cereal *Plus* and/or Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food will be provided to children under five.

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**WFP Southern Africa Overall Requirement: USD 636 million (August 2016 - April 2017)**  
**Peak Beneficiaries by January 2017: 13.2 million**

Country	Operation	Beneficiaries (Jan '17)	Requirements (USD)	Shortfall (USD)*
<b>Lesotho</b>	<b>CP 200369:</b> Country Programme (mainly School Feeding and Nutrition)	89,250	6,014,578	3,643,186
	<b>TF 200771:</b> School Feeding	250,000	4,289,300	-
	<b>PRRO 200980:</b> Support to Drought Affected	263,226	17,237,881	15,873,039
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>602,476</b>	<b>27,541,759</b>	<b>19,516,225</b>
<b>Madagascar</b>	<b>CP 200733:</b> Country Programme (mainly School Feeding; Nutrition support to TB patients & prevention of acute malnutrition; and improving smallholder farmers access to markets)	467,400	8,609,729	2,873,323
	<b>PRRO 200735:</b> Response to Food Security and Nutrition Needs of Populations Affected by Natural Disasters and Resilience-Building**	725,000	19,588,640	15,913,225
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,192,400</b>	<b>28,198,369</b>	<b>18,786,548</b>
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>CP 200287:</b> Country Programme (School Feeding; Disaster preparedness & response; Nutrition support to TB patients & prevention of acute malnutrition) <i>Adjustment underway to extend by 2 years</i>	898,070	21,362,145	14,625,614
	<b>PRRO 200692:</b> Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Strengthening Resilience***	5,978,944	287,343,366	235,354,424
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>6,877,014</b>	<b>308,705,411</b>	<b>249,980,038</b>
<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>CP 200286:</b> Country Programme (School Feeding; Social Protection; Disaster preparedness)	279,210	10,800,395	3,532,870
	<b>PRRO 200355:</b> Assistance to Disaster Affected and Vulnerable Groups ****	700,000	87,199,686	68,500,454
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>979,210</b>	<b>98,000,081</b>	<b>72,033,324</b>
<b>Swaziland</b>	<b>EMOP 200974:</b> Emergency Assistance to Drought-Affected Populations	150,000	11,120,394	8,029,359
	<b>DEV 200353:</b> Food by Prescription	29,476	861,536	245,500
	<b>DEV 200422:</b> Support to OVC, Secondary School Children and Informal Vocational Training Students Affected by HIV/AIDS	52,000	2,808,532	2,714,340
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>231,476</b>	<b>14,790,462</b>	<b>10,989,199</b>
<b>Zambia</b>	<b>CP 200891:</b> Country Programme (chiefly School Feeding; Nutrition; Resilience & National Capacity Strengthening)	1,005,599	7,488,581	6,509,056
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<b>PRRO 200944:</b> Building Resilience for Zero Hunger	2,300,000	175,330,795	143,696,387
	<b>DEV 200946:</b> Empowering Smallholder Farmers to Market Drought-Resistant Grains/Pulses	N/A (Technical Assistance)	1,080,228	1,080,228
	<b>DEV 200945:</b> Strengthening Social Protection to Enhance Resilience for Food/Nutrition Security Among Vulnerable Populations	N/A (Technical Assistance)	1,080,720	1,080,720
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>177,511,743</b>	<b>145,877,335</b>
<b>Regional</b>	<b>SO 200993:</b> Augmentation of WFP support to the SADC Secretariat and member states in response to the El Niño drought	N/A (Technical Assistance)	2,167,392	2,006,892

\* Based on project pipeline data as of August 2016. Requirements and shortfalls will also change as WFP scales up or otherwise adjusts its programmes in response to further assessments of needs.

\*\* PRRO 200735 Budget Revision #2 scaling up to these figures is currently under preparation and approval.

\*\*\* PRRO 200692 Budget Revision #7 scaling up to these figures is currently under preparation and approval.

\*\*\*\* PRRO 200355 Budget Revision #7 scaling up to these figures is currently under approval.