

**WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**

WFP Southern Africa

El Niño Situation Report #08

21 December 2016

Food Assistance in Numbers



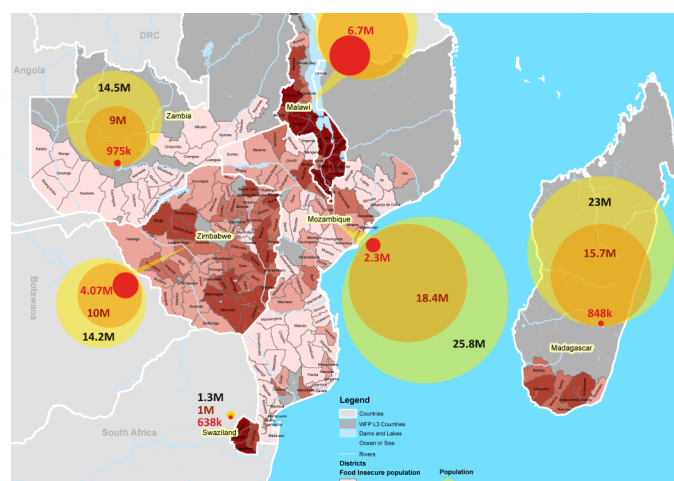
- In November, WFP food assistance reached **9.3 million people** in the seven countries in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- By January 2017, WFP's overall portfolio aims to reach **13 million people** with food assistance in high-priority countries.

Highlights

- As the food crisis reaches peak intensity, WFP requires funds urgently to scale-up necessary food assistance.
- WFP and its partners have successfully increased the number of people reached with food assistance in recent months, resources have not been sufficient to provide full food rations for all activities.
- Should additional funds become available immediately, WFP has preparedness measures in place to move food commodities promptly to assist vulnerable populations before food insecurity deteriorates further.

Situation Update

- The crisis' January-March peak is approaching rapidly. For most rural households, food stocks from the 2016 harvest have been largely exhausted.
- The retail price of maize remains high and above its **five-year** average levels for the time of year.
- The growing season has been off to an irregular start, with delays extending across Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia. On the positive, major cereal producing regions of South Africa together with Botswana, Namibia and southern Angola have enjoyed a promising start.
- More than **780,000 children** currently require treatment for moderate acute malnutrition and 513,000 for severe acute malnutrition.
- Among food insecure populations, people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) are particularly at risk of nutritional deterioration. Securing food and nutritional assistance is vital to support good health, avoid negative coping strategies and breaking of adherence to treatment regimes.



Map: Assessed Food Insecurity in Priority Countries

WFP's Response

- WFP and its partners continue to scale up assistance in all seven countries heavily affected by the El Niño-induced drought in Southern Africa.
- Despite a challenging resourcing situation, WFP has more than tripled the number of people reached with food and nutrition assistance since August, with **9.3 million** people reached through combined relief, resilience and development programmes in November in the seven countries.
- Continuing funding shortfalls, however, compromise WFP's ability to provide lifesaving food and nutritional support. It has been operationally necessary to introduce ration and transfer cuts of between **50 to 75 percent** in several of WFP's food assistance programs.
- Recognizing the serious impact of such cuts on household food security, WFP and its partners prioritize support to the most vulnerable populations.
- Closing the funding shortfall of **USD 199 million** will be vital to scale-up plans to provide food assistance to **13 million** people during the peak months

WFP Net Funding Requirements

(December 2016 – April 2017)

Total Requirements	USD 492 million
Net Funding requirement	USD 199 million



Food and Nutrition Assistance by Country

- In **Lesotho**, WFP reached close to **400,000 people** with food assistance in November. The aim is to significantly increase the number by January when it is planned that WFP will provide food to **600,000 people** across all programmes.
- Southern **Madagascar** is severely hit by the El Niño induced drought. WFP is working towards providing food to **1.2 million** people through all activities by January 2017. More than **600,000 people** were reached by assistance in November.
- **Malawi** has the highest number of people in need of food assistance in the region. Having reached **one million** people in August, WFP has increased operations massively and distributed food to **5.8 million** people in November. With continued donor support, WFP can reach some **7 million people** across all programmes by January 2017.
- In **Mozambique**, WFP provided food to more than **650,000 people** in November and partnerships are being extended with the aim to reach one million people overall in January 2017.
- With the recent request from the Government of **Swaziland** for WFP to take over an additional caseload of **100,000 drought-affected** people in selected constituencies, the total number of people to be assisted by WFP will increase to **300,000** by January 2017, across all activities. In November, WFP provided food assistance to **130,000 people**.
- In **Zambia**, much needed school meals reach more than 800,000 children in drought affected areas and elsewhere in the country. Zambia also plays a key role in supplying countries in the region with food commodities.
- A series of convoys have thus far carried close to **60,000 mt** of maize from Zambia to Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. An additional **15,000 mt** are expected to be delivered to country-based operations.
- In **Zimbabwe**, WFP has significantly scaled up its El Niño response reaching more than **850,000 people** through the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) and Productive Assets Creation (PAC) programmes in November. As part of LSA, WFP assisted 70,000 children with a complimentary ration of super cereal plus as protection against micronutrient deficiencies.

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Supply Chain

- As the peak of the lean season is reached, available resources are insufficient to provide the magnitude of assistance that is needed.
- Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Malawi are particularly in urgent need of additional funds to be able to meet the huge food assistance needs.
- In many areas, transport will become difficult in the new year and the urgency is therefore even more pressing as WFP needs to position food where most needed and in good time.
- Although procurement and transport lead times can be lengthy, WFP has put in place corporate mechanisms which enable for food commodities to be immediately moved to operational locations at manageable distances.
- With much of the food requirements necessitating importation, WFP has also activated maximum logistics corridors throughout the region, including Beria, Nacala, Dar es Salaam and Durban.
- WFP's first priority is, to the extent possible, to buy food locally and regionally, even in times of relative scarcity.
- Where markets allow and other conditions are in place, WFP undertakes cash based transfers to meet food needs.

Regional Cooperation

- The update to the Regional Interagency Standing Committee (RIASCO) Action Plan for Southern Africa was released on Tuesday 6 December. The updated Action Plan reflects changes in the context, activities implemented, funding gaps, priorities and the way forward in 2017. The plan is developed on three pillars, with the humanitarian pillar setting out the immediate needs initially for 12.3 million people which now has been revised to 13.8 million people in 7 priority countries.
- At WFP's Executive Board session in mid-November, SADC, USAID, WFP and FAO jointly-hosted a side event *Southern Africa: Achieving Resilience in the face of El Niño and Climate Shocks* focusing on how WFP and FAO can support SADC members states and their people achieve medium to long-term food, nutrition and agriculture goals, while addressing climate-related shocks in Southern Africa.

Resourcing

- WFP recognizes the significant support of its donors and contributors which have made the continuing scale-up possible.
- Since the beginning of November, contributions of close to **USD 78 million** have been received from the governments Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Malawi, Norway, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.