



WFP Southern Africa El Niño Situation Report #07

03 November 2016

Food Assistance In Numbers



WFP's overall portfolio (relief, resilience, recovery and development) aims to reach **13 million people** in January 2017.

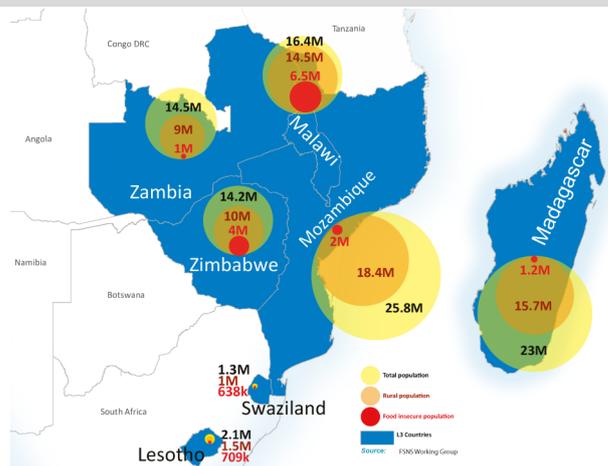
WFP reached **4.9 million people** in September 2016.

Highlights

- Despite a challenging resourcing situation, WFP and its partners reached 4.9 million people in seven high-priority countries with food assistance in September.
- As needs continue to increase WFP will further scale up food assistance every month as needs increase.
- As the height of the lean season approaches, the window of opportunity to act is closing. WFP urgently requires USD 338 million to assist vulnerable people in time.

Situation Update

- In many countries the humanitarian crisis is deepening and assessed needs are being revised upwards.
- Madagascar's recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis now classifies some 840,000 people in the south as severely food insecure.
- The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group warns of malnutrition concerns, as seven countries record wasting levels above 5 percent.
- UNICEF and WFP estimate that over 513,000 children under five years of age require treatment for severe acute malnutrition and over 777,200 children require treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) until the end of the year.
- Reports indicate increased malnutrition among people-living-with-HIV undertaking anti-retroviral treatment, particularly where the crisis has led to service delivery breakdowns.
- Despite early positive forecasts and the possibility of the resumption of normal agriculture activities in the current season, the negative impact of El Niño-induced drought remains widespread.



Map: Assessed Food Insecurity in Priority Countries

WFP Response

- WFP is scaling up life-saving work operations across the region, aiming to reach some 8 million people with food assistance in October.
- WFP has expanded its use of cash transfers by mobile phone and smart card, which now account for 15 percent of all assistance in the seven countries.
- In Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, WFP is using innovative Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) technology to gather real-time data on mobile telephones.
- In addition to country-based actions, WFP provides surge support and technical expertise to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional El Niño Response Team and Logistics Cell, as well as Vulnerability Assessment Committees.

WFP Net Funding Requirements

(October 2016 – April 2017)

Total Requirements **USD 665 million**

Net Funding requirement **USD 338 million**



Food and Nutrition Assistance by Country

- WFP is scaling up assistance in all seven countries heavily affected by the El Niño induced drought.
- In **Malawi**, the large scale operation reached 2.4 million people in September, and aims to reach a total of 7 million during the peak of the response (January-March, all activities). Shortages of funding for non-maize commodities and cash-based transfers, however, remain highly concerning. Without additional funds ration cuts are inevitable, greatly impacting people's abilities to meet their food needs.
- In **Madagascar**, WFP is rapidly scaling up its operation based on the recent IPC analysis carried out by WFP, FAO and FEWSNET. The severity of the food security situation in the south requires immediate action to reach one million people in November.
- In **Zimbabwe**, building on strong coordination with partners under the lean season assistance programme to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication, WFP has reduced its planned target during the peak (January to March) from 2.3 million to 1.9 million.
- WFP has received a request from the Government of **Swaziland** to increase by 100,000 the number of drought affected people to be assisted, bringing the total caseload to 250,000 people at the peak of the lean season.
- In **Lesotho**, WFP has carried out a targeting exercise in five districts, where WFP has planned to extend food and cash assistance.
- In **Mozambique**, WFP is scaling up activities to reach 850,000 people by early 2017.
- While not as hard hit as other countries, **Zambia** plays a crucial role bringing much needed food to neighbouring countries. WFP Zambia also reaches one million children in across the country including those in hard-hit districts.



WFP Zimbabwe Smart Card Distribution in Progress

Photo: T. Macheke

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Supply Chain

- As the lean season approaches, the window of opportunity to act is closing. WFP urgently requires USD 338 million to assist vulnerable populations in time. Without immediate contributions, it will be impossible to procure and deliver food or cash transfers to those in need before stocks are depleted.
- Zambia has approved maize exports and initiated a series of convoys carrying maize from last year's harvest to support people in need in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. However, regional supplies are insufficient and innovative solutions and immediate action is needed.

Regional Cooperation

- WFP launched a regional Special Operation to support SADC in its coordination of the regional emergency response and technical support is provided to the SADC Response Team based in Botswana. The team's interagency Logistics Unit has been vital in facilitating the transportation of humanitarian relief.
- WFP's collaboration with FAO is critical, as the two agencies provide complementary support ensuring that immediate food needs are met, while planting for the coming season continues uninterrupted. For example, in Madagascar, WFP and FAO are planning operations jointly to provide assistance that is effective and sustainable.
- The Regional Interagency Standing Committee (RIASCO) Action Plan is currently being updated to reflect developments since July. The Action Plan seeks to support governments to ensure that alongside the necessary humanitarian response they can address systemic issues necessary to avoid repeat shocks and build resilience.
- On 28 October, WFP, SADC and the Mozambique Minister of Transport undertook a mission to Beira to discuss measures to ensure smooth movement of humanitarian cargo in the coming months as import of commodities through the port will increase. Measures such as special cross-border permits, expedited clearance procedures and enhanced coordination will augment the efficiency of the transport corridor.
- Delegates and partners to the Second Regular Session on the Executive Board may wish to attend the *Southern Africa: Achieving Resilience in the face of El Niño and Climate Shocks* event taking place in the Forum at 13.00 on 16 November.

Resourcing

- Despite a current net funding requirement of USD 338 million until April 2017, WFP has been able to significantly scale up operations due to generous contributions since the beginning of September of more than USD 100 million from the African Development Bank, Malawi, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Monaco, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US.