



World Food Programme



WFP Southern Africa El Niño Situation Report #4

17 June 2016

Photo credit: WFP/Evin Joyce

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) Dissemination Forum took place 6-8 June in Pretoria, during which, Members States presented the preliminary results of their national vulnerability assessments. [According to the SADC press release](#), 41.4 million people in the SADC region will be food insecure from June 2016 until March 2017, of which, 21.7 million require emergency assistance. Several countries are pending assessments, including Angola, DRC, Madagascar and Tanzania.
- The SADC Secretariat has established a Regional El Niño Response Team in Botswana to support the coordination of the region response. The Team comprises the SADC Secretariat and UN Agencies (FAO, OCHA, WFP, WHO and UNICEF). SADC is expected to make a regional drought declaration and issue an appeal by the end of June.

SITUATION UPDATE

- **On 13 June, 2016, WFP categorized the Southern Africa region as a WFP Level 3 Corporate Response, with immediate effect until 13 September 2016.** A country/region is designated L3 when the urgency, scale or complexity of the emergency overwhelms the immediate capability of the Country Office or Regional Bureau, thus extraordinary procedures, capacities and resources resident in WFP corporate capability are temporarily required. An L3 is the highest emergency activation WFP can enact. El Niño-affected countries include Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- **From May 2016 – April 2017, WFP has a shortfall of USD 610 million, representing an 84% shortfall.** The shortfall for WFP's El Niño-related operational requirements from October-December 2016 (when operations need to be scaling up in earnest at the start of the lean season) is USD 202 million – 96 percent. Included in this amount is USD 45 million, which is needed for pre-positioning of stocks for Malawi as lead time is needed for procurement and pre-positioning before the rainy season begins in October. In view of the tightness of the regional maize market, shipping/procurement lead times, expected supply chain bottle necks and in order to meet the enormous demand across the region, **WFP needs 202 million by end June¹.**
- Southern Africa bears the burden of one-third of all people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide². Seven countries in the region, however, have made strides in reducing infections among children by more than 69% since 2009³. The interrelated effects of El Niño, however, which affect household food and nutrition security, also impact service delivery and treatment adhere. In fact, there is a correlation between drought and HIV prevalence, **as infection rates in HIV-endemic rural areas increase by around 11 percent with every drought⁴.** Urgent steps must be taken to ensure El Niño does not reverse important developmental gains.
- Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have integrated Nutrition, HIV and gender into their VACs. While the results are being finalised, in Zimbabwe, there are **worrying levels of acute malnutrition in some areas.** This is particularly concerning as the current food security situation is only expected to further deteriorate.
- There is at least a **75 percent likelihood that La Niña⁵,** a weather phenomenon generally associated with above average rainfall, will occur by December 2016. Although it could help reduce water deficits, it could also result in flooding in flood-prone areas.
- A 10-month Regional Special Operation (SO) to augment WFP support to the SADC Secretariat and member states and build up WFP regional bureau capacity in response to the El Niño-related drought is under finalization and is due to start 20th June. It also aims to support member states in the enhancement of assessments and real-time monitoring.

³ UNAIDS 2016, On the Fast-Track to an AIDS free generation.

⁴ International Food Policy Research Institute 2010

⁵ Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales in Argentina but also confirmed by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia

¹ A complete breakdown of funding needs can be found on page #5.

² UNAIDS 2010. Global Report.

COUNTRY PROFILES

LESOTHO

Lesotho is severely affected by the El Niño-induced drought that crippled crop planting between October and December 2015. **The preliminary results of the Lesotho Vulnerability Committee (LVAC) show that crop production was reduced by 89 percent in the 2015/16 agricultural season.**

The LVAC shows that 709,349 people (peak 2017) will be affected. Of Lesotho's 10 districts, the worst affected are Maseru, Leribe, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Thaba-Tseka and Butha Buthe. The food security situation is expected to worsen as the year progresses.

Through a new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP aims to a) provide for immediate food needs, b) promote recovery and resilience through the creation of productive assets and c) support government safety-net programmes.

Specifically, the PRRO aims to reach 263,000 people through both cash and food assistance and to provide nutrition-sensitive education in districts most affected by the drought.

Since March 2016, WFP has been providing a monthly transfer of USD 65 to 4,000 households affected by drought in Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek districts. WFP is also providing nutrition assistance to 1,700 children, aged 6 to 59 months, and 300 pregnant and nursing mothers in Mafeteng district for the prevention of acute malnutrition.

WFP is working with the Ministry of Social Development and the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) in the targeting and monitoring of the people receiving cash assistance. To enhance the recovery of drought-affected people, FAO will provide agricultural inputs aimed at promoting agricultural conservation.

In the implementation of the PRRO, WFP will partner with government ministries and non-governmental organisations including World Vision Lesotho, Lesotho Red Cross Society and Action Aid. WFP requires USD 18 million to meet its wider response programme.



Photo credit: WFP/Phillip Pemba – Malawi

MALAWI

On 10 June, the Government of Malawi released the results of the annual food security assessment carried out by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC). **At least 6.5 million Malawians, or 39 percent of the country's population, will face food insecurity and require emergency food assistance** over the next nine months due to El Niño-induced drought that ruined the 2016 harvest. This will be the largest humanitarian response in the country's history.

This significant increase in food insecurity comes at a time when compound climatic crises experienced over the past 18 months have prevented the most vulnerable from realizing reasonable harvests and regaining a foothold in the development process. The erratic weather caused by El Niño resulted in one of the driest planting seasons in 35 years. **The gravity of the situation ahead was underscored by the President of Malawi's declaration of national disaster in April 2016.** Reduced availability of food has been met by unusually high food prices and inflation, making access to food ever more difficult.

The 6.5 million Malawians span 24 of the country's 28 districts, with assistance needed in the worst hit areas starting exceptionally early from July 2016. Nearly 70 percent of the affected areas lie in the southern region of Malawi, where poor infrastructure means many areas are difficult to reach during the rainy months (November – March). The MVAC has recommended a phased approach to assistance that focuses on reaching the hardest hit areas first, with the peak of assistance beginning from January 2017 until the next harvest is expected in March 2017.

WFP urgently needs an estimated USD 300 million as soon as possible to enable a timely response and to pre-position food stocks by October, ahead of the rainy season. Affected households will receive a diversified food basket either through in-kind food rations or cash based transfers, pending the results of a market assessment.

In the coming week, WFP and other partners will support the Government of Malawi to finalize the National Humanitarian Response Plan, which will include the overall needs of all sectors to respond to this humanitarian crisis and guide the coordination of all humanitarian actors.

MADAGASCAR

The Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana regions, in the south of Madagascar, are affected by recurrent droughts reinforced by the impacts of the 2015/2016 El Niño event. The regions are located in an area referred to as the *Grand Sud*, a chronically arid zone that is one of the least developed parts of the country. Since October 2015, the effects of El Niño have led to a pronounced dry spell in the region, impacting crops and livestock, water availability, food prices and livelihoods. Households' food and nutritional security have deteriorated, also affecting the nutritional status of children and

pregnant/nursing mothers. **Results from a March assessment completed by the Food Security Cluster indicate that 1.14 million (peak 2017) are in need of assistance in southern parts of Madagascar.**

In February 2016, Global Acute Malnutrition levels reached an average of eight percent among those in need of assistance^[1]. In the most affected areas, malnutrition rates were higher than the critical threshold of 10 percent. A more recent assessment in April 2016, involving mass screening targeting children under five, **showed pockets of acute malnutrition from 15-22 percent** in drought-affected communes. Lack of access to food and water also has negative impacts on the education of boys and girls, particularly in these vulnerable regions.

Between June and December 2016, WFP plans to reach 300,000 people in the seven most affected districts of Amboasary, Ambovombe, Tsihombe, Bekily, Beloha, Ampanihy and Betioky. WFP will provide a combination of unconditional and conditional food assistance (in-kind and cash) with the objectives to meet households' immediate food needs while protecting and restoring their livelihoods. Moreover, in collaboration with the National Office for Nutrition, supplementary feeding will be provided to 70,000 children under five to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition; 20,000 households will receive protection rations in order to prevent the nutritional ration given to children being shared by the rest of the household.

WFP, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, provides daily hot meals through a school feeding programme for 296,000 primary school children in 11 priority districts. WFP programmes in Madagascar face a USD 17.5 million funding gap through April 2017. Urgent funds are required to sustain the school feeding programme; if no further funding is mobilized, up to 150,000 will no longer have access to school meals starting in October 2016.

MOZAMBIQUE

In Mozambique, the El Niño-induced drought has resulted in the deterioration of food security conditions across the country and is expected to affect crops planted in late January 2016. **Results from a March assessment reveal that 1.98 million people (peak 2017) in central provinces (Zambezia, Manica, Sofala and Tete) and southern (Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo) provinces are in need of assistance.** The number of food insecure people is expected to increase during the peak of the lean season from October 2016 to March 2017.

Staple food prices have increased by 100% and few households still have cereal reserves for consumption. Between November 2015 and March 2016, there was sharp reduction in quality of diet. SETSAN data from March 2016 suggests that over 95,000 children will suffer from acute malnutrition

over the next 6 months in the six most affected provinces. This is a 30 percent increase on the November 2015 estimate⁶. In a normal year, acute malnutrition rates would decline after the harvest season; this year's failed crops and rising inflation suggests that the nutrition situation may continue to deteriorate.

In view of this alarming situation, **on 12 April, the Government activated a 90 day Red Alert in the central and southern regions** and committed to allocate approximately USD 6.7 million from its contingency plan to the drought emergency response. The Government also reiterated its request to partners to immediately support the provision of assistance to the affected population.

In coordination with the government and other humanitarian partners – and considering the significantly increased needs – WFP plans to scale up its Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) and General Food Distribution (GFD) operations to reach 700,000 people in the most affected provinces over the next 12 months. Resources for FFA/GFD, however, are only available until August.

Upon request of the Ministry of Education and Human Development, WFP will start an emergency school feeding programme to prevent children from dropping out of school due to drought. It will cover 100,000 drought-affected children in Gaza and Inhambane provinces.

WFP will also start the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children under five years of age and pregnant and nursing mothers in the districts with the highest Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates, in close cooperation with UNICEF and other partners.

WFP programmes in Mozambique require USD 97.1 million to guarantee humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations for next 12 months. WFP is currently leading a market assessment and SETSAN will conduct a new food security/nutrition assessment in June, with results expected in late August.



Photo Credit: WFP/UNICEF Graeme Williams – Madagascar

⁶ Moderate Acute Malnutrition Screening – February 2016

SWAZILAND

The El Niño-induced drought has contributed to a projected 64 per cent year-on-year decrease in maize production (the staple food). **Preliminary results from the regional VAC indicate that 350,000 people are in need of emergency food assistance, with 640,000 affected by some degree of food insecurity at the peak of the lean season (November 2016 – March 2017).**

The impact of the drought on nutrition will become apparent in the coming months as food stocks run out and the effects of water shortage emerge. Swaziland has a very high prevalence of HIV/AIDS – 26 percent among the adult population (15-49 years). Findings from a comprehensive joint health and nutrition assessment conducted in late March revealed a deterioration in the health status of people living with HIV/AIDS. Findings include: less adherence to HIV and TB treatment, defaulting from treatment in ART (12 percent) and TB (29 percent) from 2014 to 2015, as well as a number of gaps in the preparedness status of the health system. Additionally, effects of drought were found to have a negative effect on health-seeking behaviour, increase in malnutrition and anaemia cases and increase in mortality among people living with HIV/AIDS.

The drought will also have a knock-on effect in 2017 as farmers will not have the resources to plant again.

Following the declaration of a state of emergency in February 2016, the government published the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP). The total NERMAP budget amounts to USD 80 million of which USD 36.7 million has been allocated for food assistance. (USD 7.3 million has been pledged by the government for food assistance interventions.) However, substantial gaps in funding remain: USD 29.3 million is needed for food assistance according to the Government-led national drought response plan. The Prime Minister requested technical and financial assistance from the international community to support the emergency response plan.

As of 3 June, an Emergency Operation (EMOP) has been approved to support 100,000 people with in-kind food assistance, and an additional 50,000 people with cash-based transfers in the severely affected Lubombo and Shiselweni regions.

The UN has received funding through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), including USD 2.8 million allocated to WFP for food assistance. This, however, will only allow WFP to assist the affected populations for another three months. Funding gaps for this operation amount to USD 10.2 million through April 2017.

ZAMBIA

To assess the multifaceted problems triggered by El Niño in Zambia, the Government's Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit (DMMU), Ministry of

Community Development, DFID, WFP, UNICEF and INGOs are working together to develop an Integrated Emergency Response model. Government has not called for international assistance. **The preliminary findings from Zambia's VAC indicate over 975,000 people will be in need of assistance.**

The proposed transfer modalities are likely to include social cash transfers and in-kind food assistance depending on market functionalities. Further, to avoid school dropouts due to worsening household food security, an emergency school feeding programme may be implemented expanding the coverage of the ongoing Home Grown School Feeding programme. An emergency supplementary and/or therapeutic feeding programme through health facilities may also be established to address worsening child malnutrition.

ZIMBABWE

All districts in Masvingo province and southern parts of Midlands are likely to have harvested at most three months' supply of cereal. Overall, 2016 maize production is likely to be 30-40 percent less than 2015 production, which totalled at 742,000 mt, out of an annual requirement of 1.8 million mt. **Preliminary figures from the ZimVAC assessments indicate around 4 million people, upwards of 30 percent of the rural population, will be in need of assistance.**

The economic situation is likely to exacerbate food insecurity, as the country faces decreased investment, high unemployment, limited income opportunities outside of agriculture, and reduced aggregate domestic demand causing deflation.

WFP's El Niño Response Plan for the 2016/17 consumption year (April 2016-March 2017) includes Lean Season Assistance (LSA) activities and a Productive Asset Creation (PAC) programme that will reach at least 2.2 million people. (It is estimated these numbers will be scaled up pending the final results of the ZimVAC.) Additionally, and, in collaboration with the government, WFP **will soon launch emergency school feeding** as a short term safety net. The programme will target primary schools in the most food insecure rural districts, initially providing a daily meal of fortified corn-soya blend to 75,000 students through March 2017.

WFP's PAC programme, which runs through October, continues to urgently require an additional US\$4.3 million to allow WFP to reach a planned 150,000 people in 13 districts. Assets such as weir dams, nutrition gardens, dip tanks, and irrigation schemes reduce the impact of drought by supporting income-generation opportunities, protecting livelihoods, and helping households achieve food security.

Shortfalls (through April 2017) for the entire PRRO 200944, Zimbabwe's vehicle for its current emergency relief response, are USD 185 million and take into account health, nutrition and refugee activities.

WFP Southern Africa Requirements and Net Funding Requirements May 2016 - April 2017
Total Requirement USD 730 Million; Shortfall USD 610 Million (84% shortfall)

Country	Operation	Peak Beneficiaries (by Jan '17)	Requirements (USD)	Shortfall (USD)**
Lesotho	CP 200369: Country Programme	89,250	7,773,478	4,485,643
	TF 200771: School Feeding	250,000	6,216,988	-
	IR-EMOP 200939: Emergency assistance for vulnerable households affected by El Niño (Feb '16 - May '16)***	<i>Assisted</i> 20,920	1,000,000	-
	PRRO 200980: Support to drought affected	263,226	18,822,484	17,822,484
Madagascar	CP 200733: Country Programme	467,400	12,355,582	5,286,689
	PRRO 200735: Response to Food Security and Nutrition Needs of Populations Affected by Natural Disasters and Resilience-Building	292,000	20,226,884	12,224,668
Malawi	CP 200287: Country Programme (<i>Adjustment underway to extend by 2 years.</i>)	898,070	20,916,985	10,711,784
	PRRO 200692: Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Strengthening Resilience (<i>Project adjustment underway to increase beneficiary caseload from July - March</i>)	4,692,500	267,554,960	233,839,671
Mozambique	CP 200286: Country Programme	279,210	13,060,090	4,337,279
	PRRO 200355: Assistance to Disaster Affected and Vulnerable Groups (<i>Adjustment underway to include GFD, FFA and Emerg. School Feeding for 6 mths</i>)	700,000	105,400,816	92,768,679
Swaziland	IR-EMOP 200954: Emergency assistance to vulnerable households affected by El Niño induced drought in Swaziland (Mar '16 - June '16)****	<i>Assisted</i> 72,000	680,078	-
	EMOP 200974: Emergency Assistance to Drought-Affected	150,000	12,999,521	10,199,521
	DEV 200353: Food by Prescription	15,892	1,663,883	1,418,158
	DEV 200422: Support to OVC, Secondary School Children and Informal Vocational Training Students Affected by HIV/AIDS	52,000	2,706,640	2,704,110
Zambia	CP 200891: Country Programme	1,005,599	11,354,317	7,147,319
Zimbabwe	PRRO 200453: Responding to Humanitarian Needs; Strengthening Resilience to Food Insecurity (May '13 - June '16)	<i>Assisted</i> 943,009	30,331,757	21,593,505
	DEV 200945: Strengthening Social Protection System to Enhance Resilience for Food/Nutrition Security among Vulnerable Populations	<i>N/A (Technical Assistance)</i>	2,247,875	2,247,875
	DEV 200946: Empowering Smallholder Farmers to Market Drought-Resistant Grains/Pulses*****	<i>N/A (Technical Assistance)</i>	3,448,468	3,448,468
	PRRO 200944 - Building Resilience for Zero Hunger (<i>Budget Revision will be introduced in July to increase beneficiary caseload following ZimVAC</i>)	2,200,000	197,191,139	184,938,160
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>	1,942,911	1,942,911

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

** Based on project pipeline data as of 10 June 2016. 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 PRRO and are therefore not counted twice in total.

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***** Funding shortfalls for DEV 200945 & DEV 200946 are not included in the overall shortfall as projects are still under approval.

