



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 18TH 2010

Countries updated and Highlights

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesotho | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Lesotho Meteorological Services, as of the first dekad of February 2010, cumulative rainfall was above normal in most areas of the country. • Estimated planned imports for the 2009/10 season amount to 147,000 MT of which 90,000 MT had already been delivered by mid-January. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madagascar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interventions Impact Assessment Mission will be conducted in March in the drought prone southern districts by the "Food Security and Livelihood" Cluster, led by WFP and FAO, with NGO partners. • On 16 February, A TROPICAL CYCLONE "GELANE" was formed in the Indian Ocean and is located 688 miles from the NE coast of Madagascar. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prolonged dry spells have impacted about one-third of farming households. • The current maize price is below the Government's set maximum selling price of maize, K52.00 (\$0.36) per kg. • While food availability is expected to remain satisfactory countrywide total production from the 2010 harvest is likely to be reduced in the districts of Mwanza, Neno, Chikwawa Nsanje, Mulanje, Phalombe, Balaka, and Ntcheu. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mozambique | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most critical areas with high and medium risk of food insecurity are districts of western part of Maputo and Gaza, inland of Inhambane, north Sofala and South Tete province. • Hydrometric levels in Maputo basin are reducing gradually but still 55 centimetres above alert level. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the river levels in the north are going down except Zambezi. • The Government is conducting the 1st Round Crop assessments in the north of the country. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swaziland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country's maize crop is mainly at late vegetative to grain-filling stages, and is mainly in a good state. The bulk of the crop is in the late vegetative stage as a result of late planting in most parts of the country. • Imports of white maize from RSA have been very low this season, a sign that the local harvest was better than previous years. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zimbabwe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prolonged dry spell has ended in most parts of the country as rains started to improve though scattered activity is expected in the Northern provinces while activity should decline becoming isolated in the southern provinces from the 3rd to the 6th of February. • The 1st Round Crop & Livestock Assessment has begun. It seeks to assess the area planted and crop and livestock condition. Results are expected in the third week of March. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: LESOTHO

Updated – 18 February 2010

- Highlights**
- According to Lesotho Meteorological Services, as of the first dekad of February 2010, cumulative rainfall was above normal in most areas of the country.
 - Estimated planned imports for the 2009/10 season amount to 147,000 MT of which 90,000 MT had already been delivered by mid-January.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Lesotho Meteorological Services, cumulative rainfall is above normal in most parts of the country except in Mokhotlong district. • Temperatures were reported to have been normal to above normal. • Crop stages range from vegetative to reproductive stages and their conditions are satisfactory. Crop water requirements are adequate in most parts of the country. • Some field operations including weeding are in progress for crops like maize, while harvesting has begun for wheat in a few places. • The government intends to form a task force which will address agricultural activities such as strengthening wool and mohair and dairy industries, as well as establishing silos for improved food security. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It appears that Lesotho was the only country in the region with reduced production in 2009 and this could be the result of the impact of the financial crisis where households could not afford inputs for better production as well as repeated poor rainfall performance • Estimated planned imports for the 2009/10 season amount to 147,000 MT, of which, 90,000 MT had been delivered by mid-January. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 2009, the LVAC estimated that around 450,000 people would need humanitarian assistance in 2009/10 • WFP pipeline for vulnerable group feeding in Lesotho is under resourced. A shortfall of 3595 MT is indicated between February and July 2010. • Food inflation remains low, having declined steadily from a high of 14.2 % in January 2009 to 3.2 % in December 2009. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHSW with technical support of UNICEF is working to identify causes of chronic undernutrition and to develop strategies on how to reduce the high levels of stunting. The Task Force has been implementing the Landscape Analysis to identify the gaps, constraints and opportunities that could help to scale up high impact nutrition interventions. • The Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office (FNCO) and WFP in partnership with Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (Family Health Division), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Nutrition Extension Division), National University of Lesotho (Nutrition Department), and UNICEF, have been undertaking a food consumption study in the Mountain Livelihood zone and analysis is currently taking place. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government is experiencing the reduction in the Southern Africa Customs Union revenue and this has negative impact on the government budget. This figure declined from 35% in 2009/10, and will further reduce to 17% in 2010/2011, putting much pressure on the Government. • According to the 2010 budget speech, the preliminary estimate for economic growth in 2009 is 2.1 percent compared to 4.4 percent in 2008, which represents a decline of over 50 percent. It is expected that the mining, manufacturing and telecommunications will boost the economy and increase the growth to 3.6 percent. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MADAGASCAR

Updated – 18 February 2010

- Highlights**
- An interventions Impact Assessment Mission will be conducted in March in the drought prone southern districts by the “Food Security and Livelihood” Cluster, led by WFP and FAO, with NGO partners.
 - On 16 February, A TROPICAL CYCLONE "GELANE" was formed in the Indian Ocean and is located 688 miles from the NE coast of Madagascar.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The series of incentives, including financial support (subsidized fertilizers and seeds) and technical extension assistance, provided in the previous years by the Government, was suspended. This may have negative impact on the on-going farming campaign. • An increase of 5 to 10% is observed on the prices of fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs between 2008 and 2009. • The dry South did not benefit from the TD FAMI. The rainfall was not sufficient enough for agricultural activities. • The cyclone season began in December 2009 and the island will remain under climate threat until April 2010. The IASC Contingency Plan has been finalized along with a National Contingency Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice supplies are adequate and market arrivals remained high. The abundance of rice in the market, due to the good harvest, accounts for the low market prices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the first half of February, the price of sugar increased by 50% due to disruption in supply caused by the disorganization in the international market following the rise in demand from China and India. The flour market also observed upward fluctuations. • As of 17 February the price of gasoline increased by 10 percent. • Following the suspension of Madagascar from the AGOA initiative, more textile export processing zone factories stopped their activities and laid-off their employees. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madagascar consistently has the highest levels of acute malnutrition (15%) and chronic malnutrition (53%) in Southern Africa. • The results of the third round of McRAM nutrition and health surveillance in Tana urban areas revealed that the food insecurity situation of the population in the surveyed areas in the Capital city had not deteriorated as compared to November 2008. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN Country Team raised concern over the approaching cyclone season in November 2009, when it appealed for US\$6 million in urgent funding to pre-position emergency supplies in the most vulnerable regions of the country. • On 16 February, A TROPICAL CYCLONE "GELANE" was formed in the Indian Ocean. With an average wind at 75 mph and gust wind at 90 mph, it is now located at about 688 miles from the northeast coastlines of Madagascar • It has tracked southward at a speed of 5 mph. It has not affected the weather in Madagascar yet. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MALAWI

Updated – 18 February 2010

- Highlights**
- The prolonged dry spells have impacted about one-third of farming households.
 - The current maize price is below the Government's set maximum selling price of maize, K52.00 (\$0.36) per kg.
 - While food availability is expected to remain satisfactory countrywide total production from the 2010 harvest is likely to be reduced in the districts of Mwanza, Neno, Chikwawa Nsanje, Mulanje, Phalombe, Balaka, and Ntcheu.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prolonged dry spells have impacted some areas in the Southern region with some farmers on their second or third replanting. • A total of 943,721 farm families representing 29% of total have been impacted by the dry spells with a total of 317,728 hectares of land affected. • There have been insufficient cassava or sweet potato vines available for sale or distribution in the impacted areas. • Given the immaturity of some of the maize crops and consequent requirement for the rains to continue beyond what is usual these farmers can be considered at high risk for this season. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security situation of the country remains favorable. The food security situation for some households in Chikwawa, Nsanje, Balaka, and Zomba districts has improved following the Government led food assistance programme that is being implemented in collaboration with WFP. • In general, food is available for most households from own production or procurement from the market. • Small and medium size traders and ADMARC have adequate stocks of maize which is sold at various markets throughout the country. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projected total number of people missing food entitlements from November 2009 – March 2010 is 275,200. Chikwawa has the highest at 141,500 followed by Nsanje, 62,150, Balaka, 55,300 and finally Zomba, 16,200 people. • The majority of the markets are recording slight increase in maize price. The average selling price of maize in January 2010 was \$0.31 per kg. However, when compared with the previous year same month, maize price for January 2009 was at \$0.48 per kg. This shows that the price decreased in January 2010 by 35% compared to January 2009. • The current maize price is below the Government's set maximum selling price of maize, MK 52 (\$0.36) per kg. Maize is therefore affordable and accessible to people in the country. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CFSVA study conducted by the MVAC with WFP support found lower levels of wasting in the North (2.6%) compared to Central (3.9%) and South (3.6%) similar pattern were observed for underweight (9.6%). Prevalence of underweight was highest in the South (12.2%) followed by Central (10.7%) regions. The prevalence of stunting, however, was highest in the North (65.3%) compared to the Central (57.6%) and Southern (59.1%) regions. • For women, 9.2% had a BMI of less than 18.5 kg/m², 9% were underweight (< 45 kgs) and 4% were stunted (< 145 cms). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More families are relying on purchases. The availability of maize in ADMARC and local markets confirms adequate national availability. However household access depends on individual household purchasing power. • The food security situation is expected to remain stable for the whole country, except for the Middle and Lower Shire Livelihood zones, where food security conditions are expected to worsen as the lean season progresses and peaks. • While food availability is expected to remain satisfactory countrywide total production from the 2010 harvest is likely to be reduced in the districts of Mwanza, Neno, Chikwawa Nsanje, Mulanje, Phalombe, Balaka, and Ntcheu. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MOZAMBIQUE

Updated – 18 February 2010

- Highlights**
- The most critical areas with high and medium risk of food insecurity are districts of western part of Maputo and Gaza, inland of Inhambane, north Sofala and South Tete province.
 - Hydrometric levels in Maputo basin are reducing gradually but still 55 centimetres above alert level.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first dekad of February, normal rainfall was registered in the central and southern provinces, equivalent to below 25mm. Very high temperatures were also registered. North of Tete had rainfall above normal (50 to 1150 mm). • After the last dekad of January when rainfall occurred in almost all provinces, replanting was done in areas where second season is a practice but there was not enough rainfall afterwards. • As reported by the field staff, some in districts in Gaza province food reserves and water are scarce, both in lowlands and highlands. However, in other areas, rain had occurred which allowed for harvesting of greens and vegetables. • Qualitative VAC/SETSAN fieldwork is completed, and findings will be analysed and disseminated later this week. • The most critical areas with high and medium risk of food insecurity are districts of western part of Maputo and Gaza, inland of Inhambane, north Sofala and South Tete province. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local maize is still available in the main markets (cities) and there is still flow of this product from centre to south provinces. • Although household food security is currently not critical, production losses and lack or reduced food reserves are signals of food security deterioration in the central and southern provinces, aggravated by the fact that the rainfall season is ending and there is lack of water for human and animal consumption. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general households have no food reserves. Lost of first season planting and consequent delay consumption of green maize, thereby reducing the harvest of this crop • According to Agriculture Market Information System (SIMA), prices of local maize increased in some markets. The highest price of maize was observed in Mutarara-Tete (14.29 Mt/kg), Nhamatanda-Sofala province (11.43 Mt/kg) and Xaixai- Gaza province (8.10 Mt/kg). • The lowest price of 5.71 Mt/kg was observed in Manica where the price at producer level decreased in 25%. It was also observed variation of prices of local beans and groundnut between 9 to 25 Mt/kg and 23 to 47Mt/kg, respectively. (SIMA Bulletin No761) • WFP pipeline severely under resourced; only 175,000 of the 281,000 beneficiaries have so far received assistance in January 2010. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, acute malnutrition levels are low ranging from 8.9% (Nampula) to 1.4% (Gaza) according to the multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) of 2008. However, the levels of stunting/chronic malnutrition in the country are very high: 44% (MICS 2008) with seven provinces having rates above 40% (56% in Cabo Delgado and 41.5% in Sofala). • Child mortality is still high in the country although the 2008 MICS indicate a decline from 153/1000 live birth (DHS 2003) to 138/1000 live birth. This decline was found to be higher in rural areas than urban. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DNA Bulletin issued on 14 of February 2010, reports that the hydrometric levels in Maputo basin are reducing gradually but still 55 centimeters above alert level. • The other hydrographic basins are below alert level. However, there was a slight increase of water flow in the Messalo, Revubue and Pungue basins in the center and north of the country. • The storage volume of Cabora Bassa and Pequenos Libombos dams is increasing gradually, as a result of upstream flow and the observed rainfall in neighboring countries. There is volume reduction in Massingir Dam of Limpopo basin, Corumana dam of Incomati basin and in Chicamba dam. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: NAMIBIA

Updated – 18 February 2010

Highlights

- All the river levels in the north are going down except Zambezi.
- The Government is conducting the 1st Round Crop assessments in the north of the country.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general rainfall outlook is that little or no rainfall is expected until the end of February. • At Katima Mulilo, the water levels and flows in the Zambezi River maintain their steady rise, and are much higher than normal and also higher than in 2009 for this time of the year. There were only light rains upstream in the catchment over the past days, and there is no indication that a major floodwave is developing (like in 2009). • The water levels at Katima Mulilo are expected to pass the 4 m mark in the week to come, and the Zambezi River will then start to enter the channels in the floodplains. Ground access to the area will be gradually hampered. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking into account the estimated grain production of about 139,000 MT in 2008/09, no planned stock draw-down by millers and virtually no household food stocks at the farm level due to a succession of disasters, as well as an estimated national utilization requirement of about 289,000 MT of grain, it is projected that the country will need to import 150,000 MT of grain during the 2009/10 marketing year (FAO/WFP). • However, according to the Namibia NEWU report (July 09) that shows a grain import need of 156,000 MT. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most households interviewed during the National Early Warning and Food Information System (NEWFIS) December 2009 agricultural inputs and household food security situation assessment indicated that they have depleted their harvest in August 2009 and are now dependent on the markets and/or government drought / flood relief foods to meet their food needs. • Nationally, food price increases have stabilized; food inflation has declined from a high 16 % in Jan 09 and was down to 7% in October 09. The rates are declining further as maize prices drop internationally and in South Africa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2006 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) found that 29% of Namibia's children were stunted, 17% were underweight and 7.5% were acutely malnourished. • Approximately 77% of acutely malnourished children found in the north-eastern part of the country. • The National Alliance for Improved Nutrition in Namibia has developed a concept note for a food consumption and micronutrient deficiency survey and plan to move forward with the design of the survey tools with technical assistance from GAIN and DSM. • The 2008 DHS is currently being finalized while the 2010 DHS is being planned. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic food insecurity (food access) compounded by transitory shocks – droughts/floods in the northern communal crop producing areas. • Namibia is a net cereal importing country. A strong commercial sector assures good availability of staple cereals to cover effective demand. Vulnerable households' needs are usually addressed through Government intervention programmes. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: SOUTH AFRICA

Updated – 5 February 2010 (not updated)

- Highlights**
- Projections for the current 2009/10 maize marketing season indicate that South Africa will have a surplus of 1,701 million tons of maize at the end of April 2010.
 - For the week ending 8 January 2010 local white and yellow maize prices decreased by 5.1% and 2.3%, respectively, compared to the previous week.

| Agricultural Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rainfall monitoring indicates that the central and eastern regions received good rainfall totals during the month of December. While limited rainfall was received in the Northern Cape as well as large areas of the Western and Eastern Cape provinces • The percentage of normal rainfall for the month of December 2009 shows a significant percentage of normal to above-normal rainfall for most parts of country except for the far-western regions, as well as isolated areas of the North West, Free State and Eastern Cape provinces, which were characterised by below-normal rainfall occurrences as compared to the long term mean. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing the numbers set by the CEC during September 2009, with the final calculated crop figures, the size of the commercial maize crop was estimated 309 200 tons or 2.6% lower than the final crop production figure of 12,05 million tons for the 2008/09 production season. • Projections for the current 2009/10 maize marketing season indicate that South Africa will have a surplus of 1,701 million tons of maize at the end of April 2010. • The expected commercial wheat crop for the 2009 production season is 1,979 million tons, which is 7.08% less than the 2,130 million tons of last season. • Projections for the current 2009/10 wheat marketing season indicate that South Africa will have a surplus of 627 000 tons of wheat at the end of September 2010. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headline CPI (for all urban areas) annual inflation rate in November 2009 was 5.8%. This rate was 0.1% lower than the corresponding annual rate of 5.9% in October 2009. • The provinces with an annual inflation rate higher than headline inflation were Western Cape (5.9%), Gauteng (5.9%) and Mpumalanga (6.6%). • All domestic grains recorded price decreases for the week ending 8 January 2010 as trading has slowed down due to the festive season. Local white and yellow maize prices decreased by 5.1% and 2.3%, respectively, compared to the previous week, while wheat, soybeans and sunflower prices declined by 1.7%, 2.4% and 6.9%, respectively. • South Africa's Rand weakened the most among 16 major currencies versus the dollar after a drop in the price of gold, one of its biggest exports. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The infant mortality rate was 49/1000 live births in 2009 (State of the World's Children report, 2009). The main cause of under-five mortality is AIDS, representing 35% of all deaths in that age group. • UNICEF has supported Vitamin A campaign. Food staples fortification with vitamin A & B, iron and Zinc. Vitamin A supplementation is provided in health facilities through doses targeting 90% of 6-11 months, 80% of 12-59 months and 90% postpartum women. 8,600 individuals living with HIV/AIDS are targeted with nutritional supplements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government is partnering with agriculture and health institutions such as FAO, ARC, UNICEF, and other stakeholders to improve the existing food security initiatives e.g. Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), community seed production schemes and nutrition interventions e.g. national vitamin A campaign. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: SWAZILAND

Updated – 18 February 2010

- Highlights**
- The country's maize crop is mainly at late vegetative to grain-filling stages, and is mainly in a good state. The bulk of the crop is in the late vegetative stage as a result of late planting in most parts of the country.
 - Imports of white maize from RSA have been very low this season, a sign that the local harvest was better than previous years.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country's maize crop is mainly at late vegetative to grain-filling stages, and is mainly in a good state. The bulk of the crop is in the late vegetative stage as a result of late planting in most parts of the country. • Water stressed crops in the Lowveld continue to suffer as some were affected at the most critical growth stages (flowering, cob and grain formation). Thus a reduced yield in the affected parts of the Lowveld is expected for this agricultural season. • Farmers are currently engaged in weeding and spraying of insecticides in both maize and cotton crops. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Swaziland maize balance sheet shows an availability of 74,000 MT against requirement of 113,000 MT. It also shows planned imports of 40,000 MT. For total cereals (maize wheat, and rice) – the gap is 90,000 MT. • Imports of white maize from RSA have been very low this season, a sign that the local harvest was better than previous years. By the end of January, only 13,000 MT of white maize had imported (against an estimated commercial import capacity of 30,000). On the other hand some 42,000 MT of yellow maize (used only in the feed industry had been imported | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings of the Swazi VAC indicate that 256,000 people are facing food deficit - 114,000 with acute food insecurity and 148,000 chronically food insecure. • Food price increases have also come down, as experienced by other BLNS – from food inflation rates as high as 15.7% in Jan 09, to a low 3.5% in Dec 09. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malnutrition in young children (< 5 years) was most recently measured in the National Nutrition Survey which took place in 2008. Overall, only 1.1% of the children are wasted (low weight-for-height) and was slightly higher in rural areas compared to urban. • Stunting or chronic malnutrition was found to be around 40 percent and was also slightly higher in children from rural areas. • The Swazi VAC has found that, at least half of the women in their surveys are overweight or obese. This can be a reflection of the poor quality diet which consists mostly of cereals/carbohydrates with little diversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Swaziland UNCT is in the process of completing and sharing its report with Government, which will include food security and nutrition as a core pillar for UN support to the Swaziland Government. • The Government announced a plan to subsidize agricultural inputs to boost food production, starting in the 2010/2011 season. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE: ZAMBIA

Updated – 05 February 2010 (not updated)

- Highlights**
- Between January and March, food security is expected to be generally stable, while an increasing number of households will become market dependent as their household stocks run out and meal prices marginally increase.
 - The country still has relatively good stocks on hand and due to the uncompetitive price of Zambian maize, no more than 20,000MT of the 100,000 MT earmarked for exports is estimated to have been exported.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the early planted crops have reached advanced stages in terms of growth. Early planted crops particularly maize has reached tasseling stage • In the second dekad of January 2010 (11-20 January), much of the rainfall activities were observed to have been in the Northern half of the country while there was little rainfall activities in the southern half of the country. • Occurrence of dry spells has favoured the outbreak of pests in some areas. Army worm outbreaks were reported in November in Makeni area in Lusaka. These were controlled by farmers by use of recommended pesticides. An outbreak of Stem borers has been reported in a number of areas in the southern half of the country among which are Chikankata and Manyonyo areas of Mazabuka district. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are relatively large maize stocks in country, with the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) holding about 200,000MT, of which 98,000MT were purchases from the current season while the rest were carryover stocks from the previous marketing season. • The private sector also has appreciable amounts of maize stock on hand, having purchased much more maize from the market than the FRA did. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increased likelihood that most households will increase their purchases of staple foods from the markets as their stocks at household level run out. • The retail prices of some key food commodities have shown that there is been a reduction between December 2009 and January 2010. • Inflation rates dropped from 11.5% in November to 9.9% in December. Food inflation on the other hand fell from a rate of 11.1% in November to 8.0% in December. This compares with rates of 16% (headline) and 21.3 % food in January 09 • No calls for food assistance have been forthcoming and consequently, relief operations have been restricted to assisting a few displaced communities (e.g., as a result of moving some people out of Game Management Areas). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stunting rates for assessed under-five children in affected areas were found to be 45.5% while wasting and underweight were at 3.6% and 15.2% respectively. • Acute malnutrition levels have remained within acceptable levels and are slightly lower than last season's VAC estimates. • The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in Zambia has attributed high levels of child malnutrition in rural areas to food insecurity triggered by recurrent floods whilst in urban areas, the high levels of child malnutrition is attributed to poverty compounded by high food prices affecting low income households. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December, the Disaster Management Unit pre-positioned food in some flood-prone areas in anticipation of possible flooding in targeted low-lying areas (e.g., valley areas). • The Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) has voiced concerns on the possible impact of prolonged dry spells on crop yields in the Southern Province. • The country still has relatively good stocks on hand and due to the uncompetitive price of Zambian maize, no more than 20,000MT of the 100,000 MT earmarked for exports is estimated to have been exported. By the end of March, early maize from commercial farmers (harvested in March and machine dried) will be on the market, increasing supply even further. |



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: ZIMBABWE

Updated – 18 February 2010

- Highlights**
- The prolonged dry spell has ended in most parts of the country as rains started to improve though scattered activity is expected in the Northern provinces while activity should decline becoming isolated in the southern provinces from the 3rd to the 6th of February.
 - The 1st Round Crop & Livestock Assessment has begun. It seeks to assess the area planted and crop and livestock condition. Results are expected in the third week of March.

| Agriculture Situation | Food Availability | Food Access/Prices | Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization | Comments |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Inputs Assistance Facilities valued at USD 350 million targeting over 600,000 households was completed despite various operational challenges. • The prolonged dry spell in the northern areas was broken by rains in the last week of January. In some districts in the central, south and eastern areas are yet to receive rains since early January. If the situation does not improve by the end of February, there will be widespread crop failure in these areas. • The MET Department has revised downwards the rainfall forecast for JFM for the maize producing area (Zone I), from “normal-to-above-normal” at the beginning of the season to “normal-to-below-normal” now. The forecast for the other areas remain unchanged. • The 1st Round Crop & Livestock Assessment has begun. It seeks to assess the area planted and crop and livestock condition. Results are expected in the third week of March. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of HHs in rural districts of the country are projected to be between 10 – 20% food insecure between January – March 2010 while the highest range of between 30 – 40% will be in the chronically food insecure areas covering UMP, Mudzi, Rushinga, Binga, parts of Kariba, and Hwange. • The importation of both food and non-food commodities, has been favorable in most urban centres since January 2009 and this situation is expected to continue. • Cereals generally available though proportion coming from own production is decreasing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the Rural Food Security Assessment conducted by Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) in October 2009 estimated that up to 1.6 million people will be in need of assistance during the peak hunger period from January – March 2010. • This represents about 18% of the total rural population. • Prices of grain have remained stable, with a slight increase recorded in January. • Grain purchases contribution to household grain consumption continues to increase. • Farmer to farmer grain sales have declined as those with grain are not selling because of uncertainty on production prospects caused by the prolonged dry spell. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the 2009 MIMS report, 35% of children < 5 years are stunted (37% rural, 30% in urban areas); 2% are wasted; Underweight is 12% in rural areas and 9% in the urban. • The Government, UNICEF and other partners are currently conducting the 2010 National Nutrition Survey which will include around 50,000 children < 5 years of age and will provide nutrition and food security information for 60 rural districts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central Statistical Office reported a drop of 0.9 percentage points in monthly inflation in November to -0.1 percent. The fall, from 0.8 percent in October, was due to falling consumer prices as retailers slashed prices to woo Christmas shoppers. Year on year inflation is -7.7% • The amount of foreign currency in circulation is still limited and some rural households are still relying on barter trade. • Economic recovery has been slow with industrial capacity utilization improving slightly from 10% to around 20%. Critical challenges are still being faced in the provision of basic services and utilities such as power, health, and education. |



Other Countries

Angola: (not updated)

Information released by the local authorities indicate that heavy rains falling since December 2009 in Kuando-Kubango Province have so far affected an estimated 2,191 people, destroyed (partially or fully) some 291 houses and flooded many streets in the city of Menongue and its surrounding municipalities. At present, affected populations have received no assistance from the local government who fears that numbers of affected might increase in the coming days. However, the provincial commission for civil protection has requested support and assistance from the central government in Luanda as they have no means to respond to the current situation.

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