



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

MAY 6TH 2010

Lesotho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The crop forecasting exercise is being undertaken by the Bureau of Statistics; data collection has been completed The LVAC undertaking its annual post-harvest livelihoods assessment.
Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The joint Impact Assessment carried out by the Food Security & Livelihood Cluster in March revealed positive impact of assistance supporting 2009/2010 lean season on food security in the South intervention areas. Since, short-cycle crops have failed this year, it suggests extending intervention next two months in some prioritised areas. The Early Warning System SAP provisory prognostic declared 65 municipalities experiencing severe food insecurity situation this year in the South. Following of high expectation of crop loss (rice, cassava, vegetables) in the Southeast after the MTS "HUBERT", a joint Comprehensive Assessment is being conducted by the Food Security & Livelihood Cluster in 45 municipalities to estimate the severity of loss in crops and to update the real situation of food security.
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general food security situation in the country is normal following starting consumption of 2009/10 food harvest apart from two districts of <i>Nsanje</i> and <i>Chikhwawa</i> that will harvest almost nothing due to loss of crop from the long dry spells. However, despite prolonged dry spells which affected the whole country, Malawi is set to realize another maize production surplus. The prevailing average maize price of MK40.10 (\$0.27) per kg is below the Government's set maximum selling price of MK52.00 (\$0.35) per kg.
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture carried out assessment in late March 2010 and the results indicate that overall production in the north of the country is favorable. The Crop and Food Supply Assessment joint mission MINAG-FAO/ WFP requested by Minister of Agriculture is on going. SETSAN/GAV is preparing a vulnerability assessment to take place in June 2010
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second flood wave in the <i>Kavango</i> River has peaked at 8.69 m at <i>Rundu</i>, which is the highest level reached so far this year while the second flood wave in the <i>Zambezi</i> River has also peaked, after reaching 7.32 m at <i>Katima Mulilo</i>, lower than the first peak in March (7.37 m). The 2010 floods in the <i>Cuvelai Oshanas</i> were much lower than last year.
Swaziland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvesting of maize is ongoing in all the regions while cotton harvesting has also started and the 2009/2010 season maize harvest has increased by 6% compared to 2008/2009 The VAC annual assessment data collection will be completed by the 7th May and data analysis will commence from 14th to 22nd May.
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country is expecting another surplus maize harvest. Crop production estimates are yet to be announced Government and this will only be announced once the production data analysis has been completed by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC) is currently undertaking a Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (CVAA) survey.
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nation faces a cereal deficit of 469,540 MT in the 2010/11 consumption year according to results of the 2010 Second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment. The ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment is underway with results being expected end of June 2010.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: LESOTHO

Updated – 6 May 2010

- Highlights**
- The crop forecasting exercise is being undertaken by the Bureau of Statistics; data collection has been completed
 - The LVAC undertaking its annual post-harvest livelihoods assessment.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to a report by the Lesotho Disaster Management Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) estimated area planted for the 2009/10 season at 123,051 ha. The estimates also project maize production for 2010 to be 72,398 MT (16% increase over 2009 production). • A crop assessment is underway which should provide more information on the areas planted as well as the crop situation. Observations are that increased production is expected in spite of lower plantings. • The crop forecasting exercise is being undertaken by the Bureau of Statistics; data collection is completed • Between 17th April and 7th May, analysis will be ongoing and this includes drying and weighing of samples. The preliminary findings should be expected in the second week of May. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • According to WFP monitoring reports, prices of maize meal declined by 1 percent in rural areas and 3 percent in urban areas between January and March. There was also a slight decrease (0.6 percent) in the wholesale prices (Ministry of Trade and Industry - Marketing Department). Petrol and diesel prices increased by 10 percent and 6 percent respectively in the same period. • The LVAC undertaking its annual post-harvest livelihoods assessment. • The Bureau of Statistics has estimated the annual inflation rate at 4.2 percent at the end of March.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 National University of Lesotho), and UNICEF, have undertaken a food consumption study in the Mountain Livelihood zone. The results show that 75% of calories come from carbohydrates. • Based on the findings of the 2007/2008 National Nutrition Survey, the UNDAF framework and in support of the on-going Government programmes to combat chronic malnutrition in the country, the UN system (WFP, UNICEF, FAO and WHO) plans to implement jointly a nutrition programme from 2010 to 2012. 	<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 – 6 May 2010

Highlights

- The joint Impact Assessment carried out by the Food Security & Livelihood Cluster in March revealed positive impact of assistance supporting 2009/2010 lean season on food security in the South intervention areas. Since, short-cycle crops have failed this year, it suggests extending intervention next two months in some prioritised areas.
- The Early Warning System SAP provisory prognostic declared 65 municipalities experiencing severe food insecurity situation this year in the South.
- Following of high expectation of crop loss (rice, cassava, vegetables) in the Southeast after the MTS “HUBERT”, a joint Comprehensive Assessment is being conducted by the Food Security & Livelihood Cluster in 45 municipalities to estimate the severity of loss in crops and to update the real situation of food security.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Warning System SAP reports very erratic and insufficient rainfall in the drought prone south. It detected an extension of the lean season. • The outlook for the cereal crops, including rice, remains uncertain. Analysis of satellite-based rainfall records indicates that after a good start of the rains in October, a prolonged dry spell in since late December has reduced soil moisture in most of southern and parts of central Madagascar. Crop development, especially maize and rice, is likely to have been affected in several areas. • Satellite imagery shows a large reduction in vegetation activity in parts of central and most of southern region of the island. • A crop assessment will be conducted by WFP and FAO at the end of May in the main areas frequently affected by drought or cyclones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice from the first crops of this year has begun arriving in the markets. • Rice producers complained about the very low farm gate price. They think that this price cannot help them to pay back loans they contracted through microfinance institutions. • Locust invasion destroyed crops in <i>Ihorombe</i>, a district in the southern part of central Madagascar. This part of the island is isolated due to road inaccessibility. Food availability over the coming months may be seriously affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, prices remain stable as compared to last month. • This year, IMF expects an inflation rate of 9.6% compared to 9.5% last year. • Between March 2009 and March 2010, the consumer price index increased by 7.9 percent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A SMART survey conducted in 5 districts in the South in early April showed an improvement in nutrition status compared to April 2009, and a stagnation of the situation compared to November 2009. • The situation is declared “at risk” but not “in emergency” for the moment. • Immunisation coverage remains low in the <i>Androy</i> area: 85% of 6-12 month children have received the BCG immunisation in the 2 districts of <i>Anosy</i> compared to 55% in 3 districts of <i>Androy</i>, 70% of 12-23 month children are vaccinated against measles in 2 districts of <i>Anosy</i> compared to 41% in 3 districts of <i>Androy</i>. • Consumption of salt with iodine by household is near zero: 1.1% in <i>Anosy</i> and 0.8% in <i>Androy</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the joint assessment conducted by humanitarian team after the MTS “HUBERT” in the Southeast; affected municipalities are categorized in three groups in term of food security. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 14 are seriously affected: their stocks last under 1 month, with a degradation of diet and a loss of more than 60% of crops. 2. 16 are moderately affected: with less degradation of diet and under 60% losses in crops, whenever lasts their stock. 3. 30 are less affected and where situation is near the normal. • 26 other municipalities are affected but were not visited during this rapid assessment. They will be visited during the current comprehensive assessment conducted by Food Security & Livelihood Cluster.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MALAWI

Updated – 6 May 2010

- Highlights**
- The general food security situation in the country is normal following starting consumption of 2009/10 food harvest apart from two districts of *Nsanje* and *Chikhwawa* that will harvest almost nothing due to loss of crop from the long dry spells.
 - Despite prolonged dry spells which affected the whole country, Malawi is set to realize another maize production surplus.
 - The prevailing average maize price of MK40.10 (\$0.27) per kg is below the Government's set maximum selling price of MK52.00 (\$0.35) per kg.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second round crop estimates predicts a national harvest of 3.2 million tons of maize, which would result in about 0.533 million MT of surplus over national requirements of 2.45 Million MT • The Malawi VAC (MVAC) has collected and analyzed data on food security situation in all regions in the country. The official results are expected to be released by mid-May. • However, it is anticipated that about a million people in the southern region will require assistance from July 2010 to March 2011. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, the food security situation currently remains favourable in the country. Many households especially in the southern region and parts of the central region have started consuming maize from 2010 harvest although it is not completely dry. • However, most households in <i>Nsanje</i> and <i>Chikwawa</i> districts will not harvest any food at all. The same households were also affected by prolonged dry spells in the previous growing season and have no access to irrigation. • The Government has requested WFP to extend the food assistance programme for two more months until the end May. • In general, food is available for most households from own production or procurement from the market in the rest of the districts in the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The market price for maize in March was slightly lower than that in the previous month. The average selling price of maize in mid April 2010 at local market was MK40.10 (\$0.27) per kg compared to March average of MK44.86 (\$0.30) per kg. • When compared with the previous year same month, maize price for April 2009 was at MK50.92 (\$0.34) per kg. This shows that the price decreased in April 2010 by 10% compared to the previous month, March and by 21% compared to April 2009. • The new ADMARC price approved by the government in 2010 is MK60 (\$0.40) per kg. As a result many ADMARC depots are not selling because the local maize vendors are selling maize at a lower price averaging \$0.30 per kg this year. 	<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"> • While food availability is expected to remain satisfactory countrywide total production from the 2010 harvest is likely to be reduced in the southern region and some districts in the central region. The affected households will require food assistance later in the year. • Updated national maize grain stocks as of March 2010 show that there is a total of about 220,000MT available for commercial sale and humanitarian assistance. ADMARC has about 41,000 MT in its markets. NFRA has about 140,000 MT for humanitarian responses. GTPA members have 41,000MT available for sale.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MOZAMBIQUE

Updated – 6 May 2010

Highlights

- Ministry of Agriculture carried out assessment in late March 2010 and the results indicate that overall production in the north of the country is favorable.
- The Crop and Food Supply Assessment joint mission MINAG-FAO/ WFP requested by Minister of Agriculture is on going.
- SETSAN/GAV is preparing a vulnerability assessment to take place in June 2010

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crop and Food Supply Assessment joint mission MINAG-FAO-WFP 2009/10 and food availability requested by Minister of Agriculture through a letter sent to FAO is on going: Field work planned from 9th to 22nd of May and the preliminary findings will be available/presented to government on 28 of May 2010. • Ministry of Agriculture carried out an assessment in late March 2010 and the results indicate that overall production in the north of the country is satisfactory. The situation in the central zone is mixed. In northern <i>Tete province</i> and the highlands of <i>Zambézia province</i>, there are expectations for good crop production, especially for maize. • In the south, early planted crops, especially those from November, were severely affected by long dry spells and abnormally high temperatures that occurred in December and January. However, late planted crops, especially those from February onwards, are still in good condition and represent potentially successful crops, particularly in <i>Maputo, Gaza</i> and <i>Inhambane</i> provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased rainfall amounts caused flooding in maize and bean fields in the central region. • Generally household's food reserves are adequate for up to 3 months - poor households are worst affected. Districts with food reserves for less than a month include: <i>Chigubo</i> and <i>Mabalane</i> in <i>Gaza</i>; <i>Panda</i>, <i>Funhalouro</i>, <i>Inhassoro</i> and <i>Govuro</i> in <i>Inhambane</i>, <i>Machanga</i> in <i>Sofala</i>. • WFP is not providing any food for the relief program since 1st of May 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is estimated that 456,290 people with extreme food insecurity will need food assistance from March 2010 (VAC Feb 2010). • In these areas, maize, rice and/or sorghum in several local district markets were available in reduced quantities and at higher prices, in some cases at 500% higher e.g. in <i>Chinde-Zambézia</i> province. High transport costs aggravate the situation. • In several markets cattle and goats are sold at lower prices than normal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to monitor the food security and nutrition situation of children under 5 years of age as poor access to food may cause their nutritional status to deteriorate. • The reduced access to food is also indicated by the amount and type of food taken by households to milling units in rural areas. It was reported during the VA Feb 2010 that people take less maize, sorghum or bran in smaller quantities and they mix with roots to increase to volume to be milled. • In most visited areas it was reported that households reduced number of daily meals from 3 to 2 or 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to monitor weather and crop development, food security and nutrition, market and prices. • The agricultural sector is taking measures to produce crops during the second season provide adequate rains occur. • A good second season production in <i>August/September</i> may significantly change the projected food security conditions. Government has launched an official and massive campaign through inputs distribution to encourage households to maximize production during the second season. Massive planting is ongoing and government is supplying short cycle seeds in much of the central and southern regions to take advantage of the residual moisture of late rains.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: NAMIBIA

Updated – 6 May 2010

- Highlights**
- The second flood wave in the *Kavango* River has peaked at 8.69 m at *Rundu*, which is the highest level reached so far this year.
 - The second flood wave in the *Zambezi* River has also peaked, after reaching 7.32 m at *Katima Mulilo*, lower than the first peak in March (7.37 m).
 - The 2010 floods in the *Cuvelai Oshanas* were much lower than last year.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the March 2010 NEWU report, the country's aggregate coarse grain production (white maize, pearl millet, wheat and sorghum) is provisionally forecasted at 134,713 tonnes. This represents an increase in output of over 10 percent above average and nearly 25 percent higher compared to 2008/09 poor harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking into account the estimated grain production of about 139,000 MT in 2008/09, it is projected that the country will need to import 150,000 MT of grain during the 2009/10 marketing year (FAO/WFP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most households interviewed during the National Early Warning and Food Information System (NEWFIS) March 2010 agricultural inputs and household food security situation assessment indicated that they have depleted their harvest in September 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second flood wave in the <i>Kavango</i> River has peaked at 8.69 m at <i>Rundu</i>, which is the highest level reached so far this year. • The second flood wave in the <i>Zambezi</i> River has also peaked, after reaching 7.32 m at <i>Katima Mulilo</i>, lower than the first peak in March (7.37 m). • The 2010 floods in the <i>Cuvelai Oshanas</i> were much lower than last year. • 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 – 15 April 2010

- Highlights**
- Projections for the current 2009/10 maize marketing season indicate that South Africa will have a surplus of 2,074 million tons of maize at the end of April 2010.
 - The projected bumper maize harvest in South Africa has already begun to depress maize prices in South Africa to levels last seen in the 2005/06 marketing year.

Agricultural Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<p>According to the Crop Estimates Committee report of 24 March 2010 (www.sagis.org.za/CEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projected commercial maize production has been increased by 0.65% to 12,961 million MT from the 23 February 2010 forecast of 12,876 MT. This production is from an estimated area of 2,742 million ha, a figure that is 14,000 ha less than the 23 February projections of 2,756 million ha. Of this total area, white maize constitutes 1,720 million ha with a projected production of 7,786 million MT and yield of 4.53t/ha. • The production forecast for sorghum is 252,633 MT, representing 13.49% higher than the 222,613 MT of the previous forecast. • Winter wheat: According the estimates released on 23 February 2010, the final production estimate for the 2009 winter wheat was reduced by 26,500 MT to 1,920 million MT from the previous forecast of 1,946 million MT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The February rains show a varied impact on crop production ranging from no effect in areas where permanent wilting had occurred to positive impact on the late and replanted crops still at vegetative stages • According to the FEWSNET March 2010 report, preliminary crop production forecasts in South Africa point to yet another bumper harvest, potentially even better than that of last year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa's food inflation is higher than that of most developed countries. • Local white maize prices are expected to follow international prices, moving downwards in the short to medium term due to prospects of a large crop on hand and a stronger rand: US dollar exchange rate. • The projected bumper maize harvest in South Africa has already begun to depress maize prices in South Africa to levels last seen in the 2005/06 marketing year. The average spot price for white maize on SAFEX fell from R1400/MT in January to R1154/MT in February and to a low of R1112/MT at the end of March 	<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. • The electricity price hikes announced by Eskom are of big concern. So are the increases in minimum farm labourers wages and the fuel levy, that are expected to negatively affect the 2010/11 seasons.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: SWAZILAND

Updated – 6 May 2010

- Highlights**
- Harvesting of maize is ongoing in all the regions while cotton harvesting has also started
 - The 2009/2010 season maize harvest has increased by 6% compared to 2008/2009
 - The VAC annual assessment data collection will be completed by the 7th May and data analysis will commence from 14th to 22nd May.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers continue with maize harvesting and cotton harvest has also begun. • Maize production has increased from 70,672 MT last year to 75,068 MT forecasted for the current marketing season (2010/2011). This can be attributed to an increase in the area planted; however the yield per hectare remained low and in some areas is lower than 2008/2009 season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swaziland will have to import about 35,000 MT of maize to meet the consumption gap. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the domestic consumption gap shortfall will stand at 28,590 MT compared to 40,000 MT in the previous year as a result of an increase in expected harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food price increases have also come down, as experienced by other BLNS – from food inflation rates reduced from 1.88% in February 2010 to 1.11% in March. • Maize grain prices range from E150.00 to 200.00 per 50 kg maize bag in rural markets while in urban markets it is E115.00 (NMC). • The country has seen an increase in the fuel prices from the start of April – petrol increased from E6.80 to E7.25 (\$0.92 to \$1.00 / litre) and the price of diesel from E7.05 to E7.45 (\$0.96 to \$1.1/ litre). The price of paraffin has also increased which will affect those who rely on it for cooking and heating as the winter season is about to start. 	<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 VAC annual assessment is starting, currently there is training of enumerators from the 12-16 April with data collection from 20th April to 3rd May • The Country launched it the 2011-2015 UNDAF and Complimentary Country Assessment.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE: ZAMBIA

Updated – 6 May 2010

- Highlights**
- The country is expecting another surplus maize harvest. Crop production estimates are yet to be announced Government and this will only be announced once the production data analysis has been completed by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.
 - The Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC) is currently undertaking a Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (CVAA) survey.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country is expected to experience another surplus harvest likely higher than the 1.9 MT last season although the 2009/10 production estimates are yet to be announced by Government • The tender for the agricultural input supply for the 2010/2011 agricultural season has been floated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. This will help farmers acquire inputs in good time for the next cropping season especially in view of the fact that this year's marketing season has started a month earlier than usual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, Zambia's carry over stocks from the last harvest held by FRA, in excess of 170,000 MT, as announced by Government at the launch of the 2010/11 agriculture crop marketing season. • There will be adequate availability of maize to meet needs in country for the next marketing season, no imports will be required. There should be surplus for export. The president of Zambia National Farmers Union fears that unless the FRA exports the surplus maize as quickly as possible, this will affect the participation of ZNFU in this year's crop marketing season, as they might come onto the market late and go against regulations which require them to enter the market in July every year." • The 2010/11 agricultural crop marketing season was launched on 1st May, 2010 by Ministry Agriculture and Cooperatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) Basic Needs Basket, the April cost of food for a family of six in Lusaka only marginally decreased from K901,500 in March to K901,250 in April, 2010 but the total basic needs basket increased from K2,771,930 in March to K2,778,680 in April. • The annual Rate of Inflation dropped from 10.2% in March to 9.2% in April, 2010. The Annual Food inflation alone dropped from 9.3% in March to 7.3% in April, 2010. • Government has maintained the ZK 65,000 maize floor price of a 50 kg bag. • FRA is targeting to buy 300,000 tones of maize grain directly from farmers. Funding is expected from GRZ. 	<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. And this is based on the 2007 Zambia Demographic House Survey report. • 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"> • Grain prices are likely to fall from the current year's high levels partly due to the fact that there will be a large carryover of maize from last season and also anticipated excess production of this season. • The Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee is undertaking a Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Survey in 21 districts of the North Western, Lusaka, Southern, Central, Eastern and Western provinces



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: ZIMBABWE

Updated – 6 May 2010

- Highlights**
- The nation faces a cereal deficit of 469,540 MT in the 2010/11 consumption year according to results of the 2010 Second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment.
 - The ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment is underway with results being expected end of June 2010.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2010 2nd Round Crop and Livestock Assessment report has been released. The combined cereal production is estimated at 1,521,460 MT for 2009/2010, against a national cereal requirement of 1,991,000 MT, which gives a cereal deficit of about 469,540 MT. The 2009/2010 maize production is estimated at 1,327,572 MT from a planted area of 1,803,542 ha with an average yield of 0.7 t/ha. • The production estimate is about 3 percent more than last year's production estimate of about 1,242,586 MT. • The government has however requested for a CFSAM. • The report also indicates that calving rates are generally low; the average national calving rate is recorded at 32%. The optimum national calving rate should be above 65% percent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crop and Livestock Assessment indicates that 20 rural districts did not produce enough to meet their rural population requirements assuming even distribution of cereals produced • The food security situation has generally improved with the current harvest though there are some areas which have deficit mainly in the Southern Provinces (<i>Matebeleland South, Masvingo and Manicaland</i>). • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain to livestock terms of trade are currently in favour of the grain holders meaning food insecure households disposing of their livestock to access grain are losing out. • Maize meal is easily available on the urban market trading around US\$0.48 and 0.68/kg for unrefined and refined brands respectively. Where available on the rural market unrefined maize meal is selling at between US\$0.5 and 0.7/kg. • The GMB has increased the purchasing price of maize grain from US\$265 to US\$325 with effect from the 1st of April 2010. This is expected to increase grain deliveries to the state agency. Failure by the GMB to pay farmers in cash will result in private players buying the grain at lower prices as experienced in the past marketing season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government, UNICEF and other partners finalising analysis of the 2010 National Nutrition Survey results. • The challenge in water supplies to most major cities and towns continues and poses a significant threat to personal health and food utilisation. At any one point most residential areas in <i>Harare</i> are without water. <i>Bulawayo</i> (the second largest city) started water rationing on 12 April 2010. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monthly inflation for February 2010 was 1%. This shows some increase against the minus 0.1% in November 2009, 0.5% in December 2009 and 0.7% for January 2010. • Economic recovery has been slow with industrial capacity utilization improving slightly from 10% to around 30% since the introduction of multi-currencies in early 2009. • The ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment is underway. It will be collecting information at household, community, and district level. Results of the assessment will determine areas of deficits within the districts and the extent of food insecurity at the household level. Results are expected at the end of June 2010.



Other Countries

Botswana:

The estimated total area planted for both Communal and Commercial sectors is **127 020 ha** which is **39%** of the **325 000ha** cultivable land countrywide. The estimated total cereal production is **61 686 mt** which represents only **31%** of the **200 000 mt** that is the estimated national requirement for major cereals (sorghum, millet and maize). Cereal importation is still anticipated in the country to augment for the shortfall.

Areas in *Kgalagadi North, Ghanzi, Palapye, Bobirwa, North East, Tonota* and *Nata* which have reported poor to fair grazing, need to be reassessed by the end of May 2010 given the prevailing situation. High livestock population has been reported in Ngamiland and if not managed, it may result in overstocking and overgrazing in the district. Even though livestock condition and water availability have generally improved following the experienced rains, the rangelands have been affected by heat stress resulting in poor quality grasses in *Bobirwa, Palapye, Nata, Tonota* and *Kgalagadi North*. These imply that the prevailing conditions will not be able to sustain livestock until the next raining season, should the same conditions persist on these areas mention.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the respective **country teams** from the various Agencies in providing contributions to this report. Additional information is obtained from relevant websites as reflected in the main body of the report where applicable.

CONTACT DETAILS: Merafe House, 11 Naivasha Road., Sunninghill 2157, Johannesburg, RSA

AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
FAO RIACSO	Irene Kadzere	irene.kadzere@fao.org	+27 (0)82 908 1334
	Cindy Holleman	Cindy.Holleman@fao.org	+27 (0)72 614 9424
FAO GIEWS	Raffaello Marsili	Raffaello.Marsili@fao.org	+39 (06) 570 55626
FEWS NET	Phumzile Mdladla	pmdladla@fews.net	+27 (0)82 668 4144
	Isaac Tarakidzwa	itarakidzwa@fews.net	+27 (0) 76 592 87 38
OCHA	Elias Mabaso	mabasoe@un.org	+27 (0)82 908 1337
UNICEF	TBA		
WFP	Eric Kenefick	Eric.Kenefick@wfp.org	+27 (0) 82 908 1430
	Veronica Rammala	Veronica.Rammala@wfp.org	+27 (0) 11 517 1634
	Sylvie Montembault	Sylvie.Montembault@wfp.org	+27 (0) 82 908 1432