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Key Messages

Nearly 29 million people are currently food insecure in southern Africa region mainly due to the carry-over effects of the past poor harvest season combined with other structural factors. Southern Africa is one of the region facing the on-going El Niño event which is expected to reach its peak by end of December. The El Niño is commonly associated with delayed and decreased rainfall in the region which will reduce yields and push households to adopt negative coping strategies reinforcing chronic malnutrition which is already widespread in the region.

Unless a two-track approach is quickly taken to address the current food insecurity and to establish measures to mitigate against the El Niño effects, the existing food insecurity will deepen and increase in scope with its effects will last till 2017. While the whole region is affected specific attention is needed for Madagascar which also has high risk of cyclones, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

Maize prices are increasing unusually, by about 15-40 percent, in response to the increasing scarcity in the region. A further decline in regional cereal supplies will increase instability in markets and continue weakening food access unless measures are taken to augment regional cereal supply through imports from outside the region.

Cholera outbreaks are reported in Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar and DRC which would aggravate the food and nutrition security situation. Judging from the past pattern in 1997/98 when nearly 200,000 cases were reported and 12,000 deaths occurred, robust containment actions and surveillance are needed. Disease and nutrition monitoring should be strengthened and reports shared regularly to ensure there is adequate response.

Owing to the varied and unpredictable devastating effects of El Niño, member states are strongly urged to embrace a “**no-regrets**” approach to enhance preparedness and response in line with the recommended actions (**See Table 2**). The Republic of South Africa has declared disaster zones in five provinces adversely affected by drought. These are Limpopo, North-

West, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Free State, where most of commercial maize is produced.

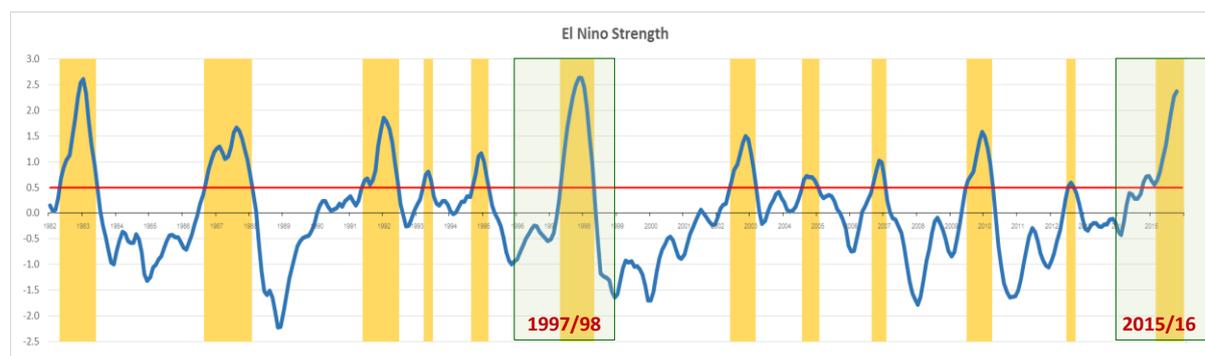
A. Rainfall season update

Southern Africa is forecasted to be one of the regions in the world that will be affected by the El Niño forecasted to peak at the end of December, with levels similar to 1997/1998 as shown in **Figure 1**.

Historical analysis shows that in Southern Africa, the strength of an El Niño event is not well correlated to the severity of the impact. Other climatic factors, including the state of the Indian Ocean, and local factors especially the lead-up agricultural season productivity level and community vulnerability, also play a significant role in determining the actual impact the El Niño will have. Considering the poor 2015/15 agricultural season, already unseasonal high cereal prices and other factors, and considering potential widespread devastation, it is advisable to follow a **“no-regrets”** preparedness approach.

Current long-range rainfall forecasts for Southern Africa are indicating below-average rainfall as being likely in the southern half of the region: from the central Mozambique region, southern Malawi, southern Madagascar, south-eastern Zambia and across Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa and Lesotho through March 2016.

Figure 1: El Niño Signal strength in 2015/16 compared to 1997/98

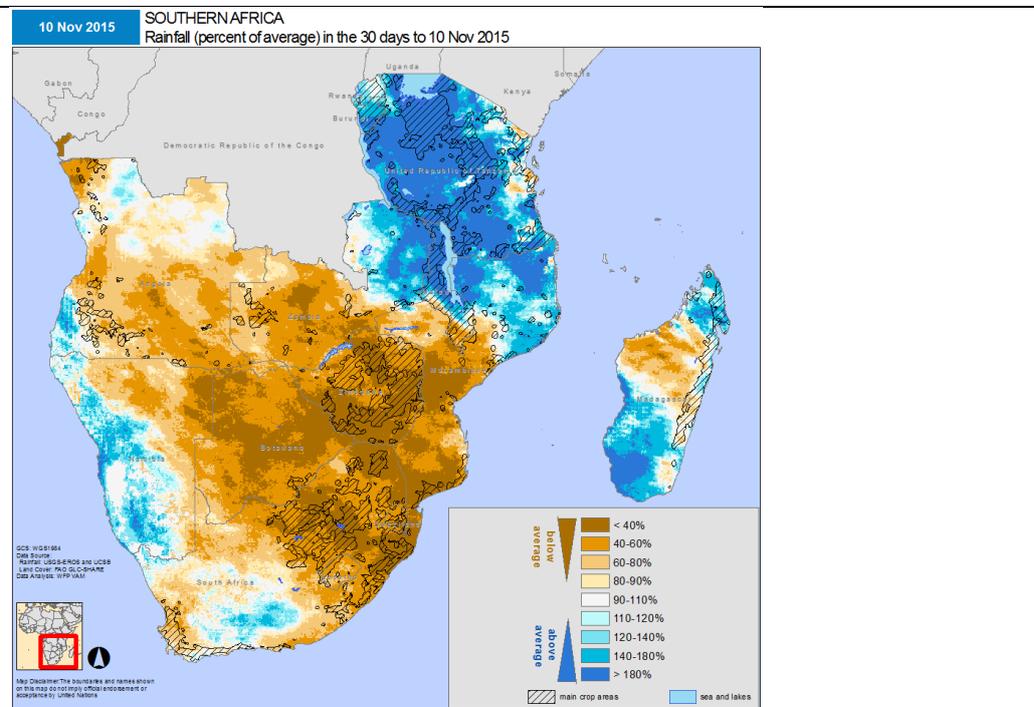


Source: NASA/Graphic by WFP-VAM HQ

In the short term, delays or an erratic start of the rainy season will occur during the October-to-December period. The rainfall season typically starts in November and December in most parts of the region with exception of few areas including: eastern South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Angola, DRC, northern Tanzania and northern Zambia, where the season starts as

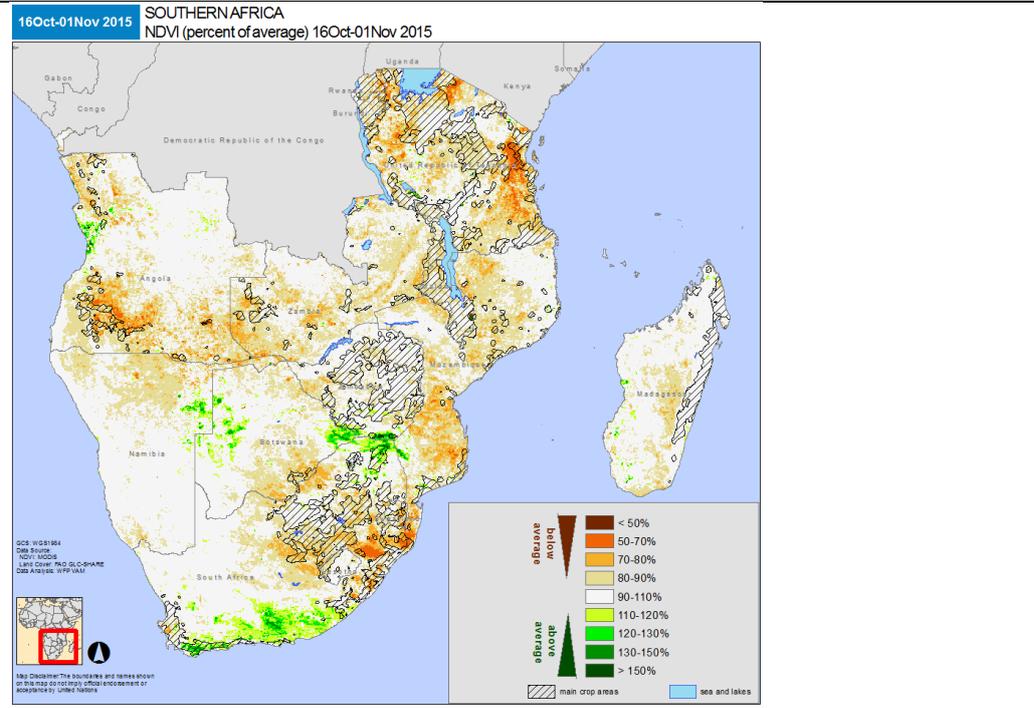
early as October. Eastern parts of South Africa already experienced a significant delay in the onset of season of over 30 days which has led to 5 of the worst affected provinces being declared disaster zones. The onset in Lesotho and Swaziland has also been erratic to date (Figures 2 and 3).

Figure 2: Rainfall (Percent of Average) in the last 30 days up to 10 November



Source: USGS-EROS and UCSB.

Figure 3: Vegetation conditions (16 Oct-November 2015)



Source: NDVI Modis

B. Evolution of the 2015/16 agricultural season

Most of Southern Africa has just entered the main planting season. However, according to *Africa RiskView*¹, the conditions for the start of sowing activities have not been reached yet in most countries and planting is still limited. Therefore the rainfall patterns of the next 2-4 weeks will be crucial for the start of the season and close monitoring.

In early October, the **Lesotho** Meteorological Services indicated that severe dry conditions had been experienced since August 2015. Few rainfall showers were received in some parts of **Swaziland** (mostly in Highveld) during the month of October, however these are not sufficient to support crop production and the start of agricultural activities is still delayed in various areas of the country. The Ministry of Agriculture is encouraging farmers especially those in areas that received some rain showers to start planting. In addition, the Ministry is also working on information campaigns to provide farmers with advice to help alleviate or reduce risk of reduced production. In **Zimbabwe**, preparations for the coming agricultural season have started and the government and developmental partners are encouraging farmers to grow small grains.

C. Current number of food insecure people (2015/16 season)

According to the Southern African Development Community 2015 Vulnerability Assessments released in July and follow-on updates of other assessments, there is an estimated 28.6 million* food-insecure people in the region (**Table 1**). Due to El Niño, the region faces the risk of another poor rainfall season and depressed harvest resulting in a significant increase in food and nutrition insecurity throughout the region. Most member states will be undertaking assessments and monitoring surveys in November/December to update these figures which are expected to be made public in December.

¹ *Africa RiskView* is the technical engine of the African Risk Capacity (ARC). It uses satellite rainfall estimates to model the progression of agricultural seasons – through the use of a water balance model, the Water Requirements Satisfaction Index (WRSI) – and the potential impact of drought on vulnerable populations. Countries that participate in the ARC Risk Pool are required to customise the software, to make sure it reflects the reality on the ground. Zimbabwe and Malawi are the only two countries currently participating in the ARC Risk Pool, and for which *Africa RiskView* has been customised. For all other countries, default settings based on FEWS NET and FAO data are used.

Table 1: Estimated number of current food insecure population in the Southern Africa region*.

Country	Rural Population	Affected Population	% of Rural Population
Angola	12,767,654	800,000	6.3%
Botswana	875,105	30,318	3.5%
DR Congo	40,970,888	6,591,535	16.1%
Lesotho	1,541,072	463,936	30.1%
Madagascar	15,727,662	459,319	2.9%
Malawi	14,492,248	2,833,212	19.5%
Mozambique	18,384,814	137,784	0.7%
Namibia	1,276,090	370,316	29.0%
South Africa	18,828,580	14,069,662	74.7%
Swaziland	1,011,606	200,897	19.9%
Tanzania	35,762,641	424,136	1.2%
Zambia	9,168,601	798,948	8.7%
Zimbabwe	10,174,849	1,490,024	14.6%
	180,981,810	28,670,087	15.8%

**This updated figure incorporates figures from South Africa, Madagascar and Angola which were not included in the July update.*

The humanitarian situation in eastern **DRC** remains challenging due to persistent activity by armed groups causing large and frequent population displacements. Insecurity also makes certain areas completely inaccessible for assistance programmes. In Katanga province, the ongoing measles outbreak is affecting an increasing number of people.

The latest Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in **Madagascar** undertaken jointly by FAO and WFP, reports 1.89 million people food insecure of whom 400,000 are severely food insecure and needs immediate assistance. The country is already extremely susceptible to climatic shocks (averaging 1.5 cyclones/year). The southern regions of Madagascar suffer from recurrent droughts and are the most affected by food insecurity. In the six most affected districts (Bekily, Beloha, Tsihombe, Ambovombe, Ampanihy and Amboasary), 76.8 percent of the population, roughly 971,000 people, is food insecure. Madagascar has the fourth highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world, with almost half (47 percent) of children under five affected.

A health screening conducted in April 2015 in Madagascar of nearly 200,000 children in the south of the country found that 2% of children had severe acute undernutrition (MUAC less than 115 mm) and 11% global acute malnutrition (MUAC less than 125 mm). A subsequent screening in October of 63,000 children reports a SAM of 1 percent and GAM of 5%, suggesting that the current situation is having less negative impact on nutritional status than in April. The results of this latest screening are being compiled currently.

Malawi. With concurrent floods and droughts experienced in the last year, the nutritional vulnerability remains high with a general poor food consumption among young children (Dietary Diversity 46%, Minimum Acceptable Diet 15%) and a high prevalence of chronic malnutrition (42%). A mass screening attached to a preventative intervention for children under two is planned, as part of the government's Nutrition Response Plan, which will ensure that all children with acute malnutrition are being referred for nutritional rehabilitation. There was an increase in deaths among HIV-exposed children in Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (26%). Social Behaviour Change Communication messages for children under five are currently being distributed in clinics and vulnerable communities. Additional nutritional assessments are planned in November to be undertaken in 6 districts with a plan to further expand coverage in the coming months.

In **Angola** the food security situation in the southern provinces of Huila and Cunene has deteriorated since July 2015 according to the World Vision Angola rapid food security assessment. In the southern part of Matala and Quipungo and Gambos in Huila, households are running out of food stocks and households have started to resort to other coping mechanisms including charcoal production and casual labour in the municipal centers or large commercial farms. Day labor wages range from 200 to 250 Kwzs (1.5 – 1.9 USD per day). Current prices of staple food have increased by as much as 40 percent compared to same time last year Quipungo and Matala while in Lubango prices have almost doubled. In Cunene province, the effects of the drought are clearly visible. The price of maize (mostly imported from Namibia) has also increased by 50 – 75% more than is usual during this time of the year. Households are walking long distances to fetch water, often of dubious quality and water collection areas that normally have water at this time are drying-up and cattle body condition has started to decline.

More countries are currently planning nutritional assessments and screening to further understand nutritional vulnerability and further risk of deterioration.

D. Regional price movements for maize

Staple cereal prices have been increasing in a number of southern African countries mainly triggered by an increased number of households relying entirely on market purchases against limited supplies. This is caused by earlier- than- normal depletion of household's production stocks as a result of a below average harvest during the 2014-15 season.

The region as a whole is well above the 5-year price average: Mozambique: 41.9% (retail); South Africa: 34.9% (wholesale); Tanzania: 19% (wholesale); Lesotho: 15.9 (maize meal retail); Malawi: 4.8% (retail); Zambia: 3% (retail). This highlights the region's general lack of maize stock and illustrates high levels of households' stress levels due to strained market access. Similar trends have also been reported in selected parts of Madagascar where current price of maize is 27-40 percent above 5-year average. In Zimbabwe, the national average maize

grain price for increased by 32 and 19 percent compared to last year and five-year average, respectively.

As typical during the peak lean season, staple prices are expected to reach their maximum level from January through March. Based on price projections from a number of regional countries, including Zimbabwe, Malawi and Lesotho, maize prices increases are likely to increase by 20-75 percent. These increases are expected to further exert pressure on poor households whose purchasing power is weakened by limited income sources.

Regional maize supplies are expected to be below-average over the remainder of the 2015/16 marketing year, with notable deficits in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Exports from Zambia are expected to continue to help alleviate localized deficits in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Planned international maize imports by South Africa are expected to help South Africa continue to supply the region, but these supplies will likely remain below average levels.

Some countries in the region such as Angola, Malawi and Zambia have also been experiencing currency exchange volatilities due to falling commodity prices of their primary exports on the global market. This could interact with the El Niño impact thus to eroding the capacity of such governments to meet social protection obligations and to respond to humanitarian needs should a crisis arise.

E. Possible impact of El Niño in various sectors

The possible direct impact of the El Niño would be a reduction in crop yields and livestock performance primarily due to delayed and reduced rainfall. The region (excluding Mauritius and Seychelles) recorded an overall cereal deficit of at least 7.90 million tonnes in the 2015/16 marketing year. Historical analysis shows that El Niño can reduce maize yields by up to 50-75 percent. Therefore, a further significant decline in the regional cereal stock availability is expected following the El Niño season, putting further pressure on market prices. This will affect Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe which are highly dependent on food imports from South Africa.

The drought situation in some provinces **of South Africa** such as Kwazulu-Natal (KZN), Limpopo, North West and Free State is of concern to crop and livestock farmers. Under normal circumstances adequate rains would have been received by now to ameliorate the situation. The delayed start of season is prolonging the drought conditions, leading to heavy livestock losses and diminishing opportunities for agricultural labour, reducing water supplies for drinking and irrigation. Consequently the worst-affected provinces of South Africa have been declared disaster zones to facilitate adequate response measure to mitigate against the effects of drought.

In **Swaziland**, livestock is being affected by the current dry conditions with high numbers of livestock deaths. Livestock auction sales are being held in the most affected areas. In view of the poor conditions of the livestock, farmers are being forced to sell at lower prices. Livestock condition in most south western districts of **Zimbabwe** continue to deteriorate with unconfirmed media reports of livestock deaths in Hwange and Chiredzi due to shortages of water and grazing pastures.

Lesotho experienced a steep decline in herd sizes as well as crop production in the 2014/15 season and it is anticipated that this trend will continue. Based on historical occurrence of El Niño in the recent years the food insecurity situation will deteriorate. Previously, in such years food insecure populations ranged from 553,000 (2006/7) to 650,000 (2002/3) people. This trend suggests that Lesotho is likely to experience similar or worse food insecurity compared to these previous periods.

A similarly strong El Niño event in 1997/98 aggravated the spread of a large scale cholera outbreak in the region with over 200,000 cases and over 12,000 deaths in those 2 years. Similarly there is increased risk of cholera and other water-borne diseases which complicate and worsen food and nutrition security. In **Mozambique**, between 30 August and 11 November 2015, an estimated 819 cholera cases with 4 deaths were reported in Nampula and Zambezia.

Tanzania continues to respond to a major cholera outbreak which has so far affected 19 of the 28 regions of the country since late August 2015, with a total of 8,185 cases and 116 deaths (as of November 9). Over 50 per cent of all cases have been reported in Dar es Salaam. The fatality rate of 1.4 per cent is considered high by WHO standards. Results from water quality surveys show contamination of wells and tap water. Poor hygiene practices and lack of sanitation facilities, particularly poor unplanned settlements are also a contributing factor.

Madagascar. Between 20 August and 8 November, a total 91 cases of pneumonic plague with 30 deaths have been reported in Madagascar, with 10 cases and 4 deaths during the week of 2 and 8 November reported in the regions of Itasy, Vakinankaratra, Sofia and Bongolava. Pneumonic plague is one of the most deadly infectious diseases and patients can die within 24 hours after infection.

In **DRC**, cholera already affects 8 provinces, with over 3,000 cases and has spread towards provinces (Maniema) which is not accustomed to cholera responses, raising concern. Preparedness is required to ensure international and local actors are familiar with cholera response.

These disease trends show a severe vulnerability of the health system which should be reinforced to avoid new outbreaks of communicable diseases in the forthcoming period. The need for prevention and preparedness to avoid further spread of communicable diseases is critical, as is close surveillance to contain emerging health risks. Strong scale-up is required

from the WASH actors and from the health community, while funding is required to avoid a further spread.

Studies show that one recent failed crop season could aggravate HIV infection rates by 11 percent² in HIV-endemic rural areas, which is significant for this region which is badly affected by high rates of HIV/AIDS. Additionally, when households are confronted by a lack of food, they often resort to negative coping mechanisms (i.e. school dropouts, sale of assets, eating food not fit for human consumption), thus eroding development gains and undermining their ability to meet their food needs. Therefore, robust measures are needed to monitor adverse changes in household food security and market conditions so that preventive action can be taken in good time.

Of concern, the possible impact of the current El Niño is comparable to that of 2002/2003 which had an agricultural season drier than normal, similar to that now being experienced across much of the region. By this time in 2002, there were **15 million** food-insecure people in southern Africa. It was the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world at the time and as is the case now, the situation arose as a result of multiple factors, not just poor rains.

Analysis by WFP estimates that nearly **34 million rural people** live within the areas likely to experience El-Niño induced drought (See **Annex 1** for map and computational details). This will be further disaggregated to identify specific geographic/administrative areas at risk to drought conditions.

F. Projected Food Security Outcomes

Poor households in maize deficit areas of Zimbabwe, Malawi, Madagascar, and Angola are relying entirely on market purchases for staple foods. Income earning opportunities for poor households are expected to be below normal during the October to December period due to the poor rains that are historically associated with El Niño events in the region. Some of the farm related activities that households rely on for cereal in-kind or cash for purchases like cultivation and weeding are likely to be affected by the forecasted poor rainfall performance. The lack of opportunities and consequent reduced income will negatively affect household access to staple cereals through market purchases.

A combination of the likely late start of the agriculture season and poor rainfall performance would consequently delay the start of green harvest from the usual February to March period. This will reduce household access to food during the peak lean season and seriously affect

² For more information see Burke, M., Gong, E. and Jones, K. (2014). Income shocks and HIV in Africa. *The Economic Journal* 125: 1157-1189.

food consumption patterns of households who are already struggling to secure income to buy cereals following the earlier than normal start of the lean season.

Poor harvests lead to a domino effect – smallholders have less food to feed their families; they eat fewer and smaller meals; they are then forced to sell assets to buy food and to eat less nutritious foods which in turn reinforces the predominant chronic malnutrition of the region.

In the absence of assistance, poor households in affected countries including southern parts of Zimbabwe and Malawi, Madagascar and Angola will have both survival and livelihood protection deficits and will likely experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity outcomes or higher.

G. Status of Recommendations from Previous Issue

The below recommendations were proposed in the previous Issue of this publication. This section aims to give an update on progress of the recommendations issued in FSNWG Update Number 4 (**See Table 2**).

- Enhance resilience building programmes and actions geared towards increasing preparedness and early response. This includes urgent disbursement of funds by member states and the international donor community to activate member states' emergency preparedness and response plans.
- It is highly recommended that medium and shorter range weather forecasts be monitored for the development of conditions that may alter or strengthen the outcome of the current forecast.
- Consolidation and documentation of trends in child and maternal malnutrition is needed in all the member states to enable enhanced contingency planning and response. In addition, strengthen child nutrition situation analysis in each country with a focus to sub-national areas known to be the most vulnerable through trend analysis and SMART surveys.
- Continuous monitoring rainfall during planting and growing season of the crops by Early Warning Units (EWUs).
- Governments to utilise tools and instruments like Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) weather-index based insurance products that could support early action and drought mitigation.
- Strengthen community mobilisation network capacities for early identification of severe and moderate acute malnutrition cases to treatment facilities, community sensitization on acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding, hygiene and sanitation.

- Preposition nutrition commodities in vulnerable areas and support capacity strengthening to support the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition in each country.
- Encourage timely planting of small grains and other short season/early maturing crops using conservation agriculture and other climate smart techniques to take advantage of the short-cropping window period during the season.
- Strengthen of health and nutrition education programs and continuous monitoring of diseases, food and nutrition security indicators.
- Maximize use of existing irrigation assets (dams, boreholes, rivers) and water harvesting.
- Market monitoring of key variables, including prices of staples, direction of trade, marketing conditions, change of policies or regulations, etc.
- Provide early warning information on the likelihood of crop and livestock disease outbreak as well as diminished pasture
- Institute stringent measures to prevent livestock disease outbreaks such as early vaccination and quarantine to restrict mobility of livestock to and from within and outside the countries in the region.

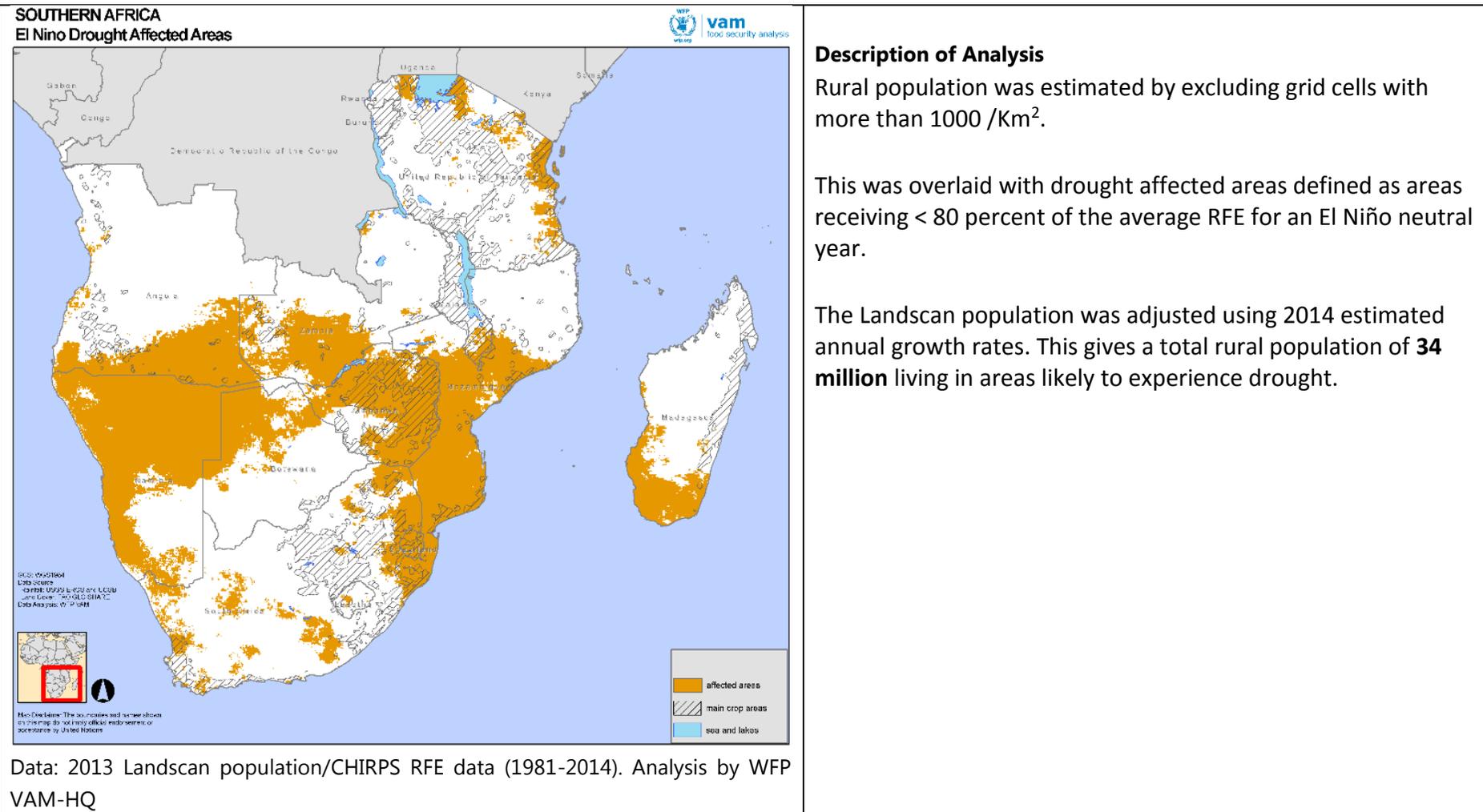
Table 2: Progress on recommendations made in FSNWG update Number 4 published September 2015

Recommended Action	Action Taken	Expected Output	Timeline	Responsible
1. Enhance resilience building programmes and actions geared towards increasing preparedness and early response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2015/16 disaster risk reduction pre-season preparedness planning workshop held on 20 - 23 October 2015 ▪ Hazard mapping of key potential areas that could be affected in selected countries (Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Member State (MS) Contingency plans' updated ▪ National response capacity updated ▪ Pre-crisis information available for response planning and early action. 	Immediate	Member states in collaboration with OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, FAO and NGO partners
2. Maximize use of existing and new irrigation assets (dams, boreholes, rivers) and water harvesting.	Undertake rehabilitation of existing water management structures	Increase water availability for supplemental irrigation	Immediate	Member states, Ministry of Agriculture/FAO/WFP and NGO partners
3. Encouraging timely planting of small grains and other short appropriate crops including season/early maturing crops using conservation agriculture and other climate smart techniques.	MS encouraging timely planting, staggered planting and drought tolerant crops using climate-smart farming techniques, including conservation agriculture.	Overcome limitation of reduced rains	Immediate	Member states ministries of agriculture in collaboration with FAO
4. Strengthening of health and nutrition education programs of the nutrition response, including coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensify health and nutrition awareness campaigns ▪ Strengthen capacity to identify and manage cases of severe and moderate acute malnutrition. ▪ Nutrition response coordination mechanism supported/in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective containment of disease outbreaks and malnutrition. ▪ Cases of severe and moderate acute malnutrition identified, referred and cured as per national guidelines ▪ Coordinated nutrition response avoiding duplication and increased response effectiveness 	Immediate	Member states in collaboration with UNICEF/WHO and NGO partners SADC RVAA Programme UNICEF

<p>5. Strengthen child nutrition situation analysis and continuous monitoring of food and nutrition security indicators.</p>	<p>Monitor child nutrition status in each country with a focus to sub-national areas known to be the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Members States and partners requested to share reports using the indicators for integrating nutrition, HIV and gender in VAA.</p> <p>Food security monitoring using mobile phones established in Malawi, Zambia, Madagascar and Zimbabwe underway.</p>	<p>Reports underlining the baseline situation and the number of children suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition and areas at risk to malnutrition.</p> <p>Gaps for nutrition surveillance identified and addressed.</p> <p>Strengthened national food and nutrition security monitoring and early warning.</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>Member States in collaboration with UNICEF/WFP/FAO and NGO partners.</p> <p>WFP / FAO/ FEWS NET</p>
<p>6. Monitoring of medium and shorter range weather forecasts that would alter El Niño forecast</p>	<p>SARCOF 19 Statement amended on 31st August 2015</p> <p>Medium range forecast from international centres e.g. European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF), International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and UK Met Office indicates drier than normal conditions (Nov-Jan, Dec-Feb and Jan-Mar)</p>	<p>Provide a forward looking forecast that could moderate or aggravate El Niño signal</p>	<p>November</p>	<p>SADC Agromet/Africa Risk Capacity (ARC)/FEWS NET/ARC/WFP</p>
<p>7. Continuous monitoring rainfall during planting and growing season of the crops by Early Warning Units (EWUs).</p>	<p>Monitor dekadal rainfall data from different sources</p>	<p>Dekadal update on rainfall performance to track the start of the season and early warning issued for areas experiencing low/rains and crop failure</p>	<p>November-February</p>	<p>SADC Agromet/Africa Risk Capacity/ FEWS NET/WFP</p>
<p>8. Preposition nutrition commodities in vulnerable areas and support capacity</p>	<p>Based nutrition situation analysis map identify nutrition hotspots and compute the quantities of nutrition commodities needed.</p>	<p>Timely and effective response mitigation of malnutrition</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>Member states in collaboration with UNICEF/WFP/WHO/FAO</p>

strengthening to support the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition in each country				
9. Market monitoring of key variables, including prices of staples and agricultural inputs, direction of trade, marketing conditions, change of policies or regulations, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cereal/Maize Cross-border monitoring (informal and formal) ▪ Launch real-time price monitoring in 4 countries (Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced understanding of trade-flow dynamics ▪ Enhanced Commodity and Input Price Monitoring using mobile platform ▪ Regular reports to inform policy and programme 	November-January	Member States ACTESA/COMESA in collaboration with FEWS NET, Oxfam , FAO and WFP SADC RVAA Programme
10. Provide early warning information on the likelihood of crop and livestock disease outbreak as well as diminished pasture.	Increased monitoring and reporting of the agricultural season	Proactive planning and response for areas affected by drought conditions	November-February	Member States in collaboration with FAO , SADC LIMS/AIMS
11. Institute stringent measures to prevent livestock disease outbreaks such as early vaccination and quarantine to restrict mobility of livestock to and from within and outside the countries in the region.	Strengthen livestock diseased surveillance systems	Effective prevention of livestock diseases	November-February	Member States in collaboration with FAO
12. Governments to utilise tools and instruments like Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) weather-index based insurance products that could support early action and drought mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Malawi and Zimbabwe have signed up. ▪ Support other drought-prone countries to start sign-up process. 	Participating countries have coverage against extreme drought events.	Medium term as the application process requires a lead time of 12-18 months	Africa Risk Capacity and Member States

Annex 1: Areas with rural population likely to experience El Niño induced drought



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