



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in South Africa, Republic of (ZA)

EP-RBJ-REGIONAL EL NINO PREPAREDNESS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

| Project Information | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Project Number | 200908 |
| Project Category | Emergency Preparedness Activity |
| Overall Planned Beneficiaries | N/A |
| Planned Beneficiaries in 2015 | N/A |
| Total Beneficiaries in 2015 | N/A |

| Key Project Dates | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Project Approval Date | November 09, 2015 |
| Planned Start Date | November 09, 2015 |
| Actual Start Date | January 09, 2015 |
| Project End Date | February 08, 2016 |
| Financial Closure Date | N/A |

| Approved budget in USD | |
|--|----------------|
| Food and Related Costs | N/A |
| Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation | 49,168 |
| Direct Support Costs | 217,456 |
| Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs | N/A |
| Indirect Support Costs | 18,664 |
| Total | 285,288 |

| Commodities | Metric Tonnes |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Planned Commodities in 2015 | 0 |
| Actual Commodities 2015 | 0 |
| Total Approved Commodities | N/A |

Table Of Contents

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Outputs

Outcomes

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Management

Partnerships

Lessons Learned

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

The current El Niño event was officially declared in March 2015, peaked at the end of 2015 and is expected to remain active into the first quarter of 2016, therefore influencing most of the agricultural season in the Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC) region. For Southern Africa, this meant less rainfall in most countries but high rainfall in northern Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As a result, the region is facing another poor rainfall season and harvest which, coupled with the eroded productive capacity of vulnerable farming households and the already low regional cereal stocks and high grain prices, would result in a significant increase in food and nutrition insecurity in the region.

The current El Niño event is one of the strongest of the past 35 years. Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe have declared drought emergencies. South Africa has also declared a state of emergency in seven provinces (according to the 2016 WFP report “El Niño 2015-2016 Preparedness and Response”. Global Summary, Update 9). Mozambique is also bearing the brunt of the extended drought, particularly in the south.

Within this context, and as part of a broad regional preparedness measure, IR-PREP 200908 was launched in November 2015 until February 2016. It aims at providing the required information necessary to monitor the progression of the season, and the required information to key countries whose El Niño impact is expected to be high. The activities under this project consist of:

- A systematic/enhanced monitoring system using mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) to progressively monitor food security conditions and market prices;
- Cross border commodity trade monitoring to inform the flow of maize within the region;
- Information management and hazard mapping to support emergency response;
- Specialised nutritious food sourcing strategy to inform nutrition emergency response options;
- Milling capacity assessment to determine available capacity that could be utilised in an emergency;
- Regional response for preparedness actions in specific countries in the region such as Swaziland and Comoros.

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

No direct food or cash assistance is provided through this IR-PREP. However, by implementing the set activities, critical and timely preparatory activities were initiated in order to provide the required information to WFP and other key partners to inform emergency response. In certain countries, including the Comoros, an Emergency Preparedness Plan has been prepared that outlines how WFP could respond should an emergency occur.

In Swaziland, technical support will be provided to the country's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to operationalise an emergency response plan. In Malawi, regular price and food security monitoring is being implemented. Monthly reports are being prepared and widely shared with all key partners to inform their response options. Hazard maps have also been prepared for selected countries and information shared to key stakeholders. This analysis is also part of a regional El Niño impact analysis undertaken at the beginning of 2016.

Under this project, a supply chain assessment was completed to inform key logistics and procurement elements as part of preparedness measures and strategy to position WFP for this emergency.

Outputs

As this project commenced in late 2015, the majority of activities are planned to be carried out in the first quarter of 2016. Some activities will continue beyond the project closure period, through absorption into existing country projects. Through mVAM, price monitoring will soon be initiated in Madagascar. Food Security monitoring through PREMISE (a survey and mapping platform used to gather key data, including food prices) is yet to start; however, all technical arrangements have been put in place in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Cross border monitoring activities have also commenced through the training of 30 data collectors in Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The training will be completed in 2016. WFP and regional body ACTESA (Alliance for Commodity Trade in East and Southern Africa) are in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Monthly cross-border monitoring reports will be produced, with one completed in December 2015.

Supply chain activities have also been finalised, with the review of logistics capacity of the region. A report covering key corridors in the region has been prepared. However, assessments of other important corridors is still on-going. A regional milling capacity assessment was conducted and the report is under preparation. A strategy for the supply of nutritious products has also been undertaken and a report prepared.

Under this project, support was also provided to the Government of Swaziland to prepare a drought response plan that would be used by the government for the emergency response. An emergency preparedness plan was also prepared to support emergency intervention in the Comoros.

| Output | Unit | Planned | Actual | % Actual vs. Planned |
|--|------------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| SO2: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness and Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities | | | | |
| Number of food security monitoring systems in place | system | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training | individual | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| SO3: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness and Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities | | | | |
| Number of nutrition monitoring/surveillance reports produced with WFP support | report | 4 | 1 | 25.0 |
| SO4: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness | | | | |
| Quantity of tablets/phones distributed | item | 34 | 0 | 0 |

Outcomes

While the aim of the regional IR-PREP is to enhance the preparedness levels of WFP to deal with the El Nino phenomenon, it has also provided an opportunity to formally and strategically engage with mVAM and PREMISE for potential long-term partnerships. Food security and price monitoring will be enhanced. The support to cross-border monitoring has ensured continued partnership with ACTESA as well FEWSNET (the Famine Early Warning System Network). Technical support to the Government of Swaziland has contributed to the improvement of response planning as well as improved the capacity of the NDMA.

WFP's supply chain assessment, which included milling capacity assessments, provided an overview of the existing capacities along the corridors as well as in key countries. These assessments revealed the existence of strong regional milling capacity and have helped to heighten the level of emergency preparedness in the region. In addition, the assessment revealed that the current state of infrastructure (road, rail and ports), is in a good enough condition to be utilised in an emergency.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Capacity development is a cornerstone of this project. Central activities ensure the involvement of government and key partners. For example, the training for the implementation of the cross border monitoring activity will increase the capacity level of those trained. The support provided to government will also provide for the transfer of skills to the government staff responsible for emergency response. By ensuring that the activity is locally managed, and with technical staff seconded to the government, WFP helped to promote its acceptability on a national scale, and is contributing towards ensuring emergency response can be carried out by governments in the future. The outputs to be generated from the activities can be a useful resource for WFP, partners, and as part of a long-term vision of handing over these innovative tools to the government.

Management

Partnerships

As a result of the launch of this project, key partnerships have been both improved, such as that with FEWSNET, and put in place. Firstly, WFP has now engaged with PREMISE and mVAM regionally. This partnership is only expected to grow as more countries are engaged. In addition, the partnership with Swaziland's NDMA has strengthened as a result of this activity. This is expected to have a multiplier effect and encourage greater engagement with other government departments. Cross border monitoring has allowed effective engagement with ACTESA, resulting in the preparation of an MoU for continued partnership.

Lessons Learned

The implementation of the project is providing an opportunity to understand the current levels of preparedness, as well as highlight any gaps that may exist that would hinder efficient emergency response. It also provides an opportunity to engage with key stakeholders, particularly with regards to emergency response in Swaziland and Comoros, the latter in which WFP has no physical presence though it remains one of the oversight countries for the regional bureau. Engagement with mVAM as well as initial engagement with PREMISE within the region has also provided a platform for further expansion of coverage of food security and price monitoring, which is part of the Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee post-2016 strategy.

A review of the key corridors in the region has provided very useful information on the challenges that still do exist and possible solutions, should the need arise to use those corridors/facilities. The regional bureau now has an overview of existing milling capacity, and in tandem with the procurement strategy that has been provided, provides a clearer picture of the available opportunities. One of the key lessons learnt was the need to provide capacity building support to government and ensure that there is a transfer of skills in the process.