

Issue

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# Food and Nutrition Security Working Group

## March/April Monthly Update

Updated 23rd April 2014



Dar es Salaam floods, 12 April 2014, Tanzania.

Photo: Eric Luda @ twitter.com



## Regional Update

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### Weather Forecast

As the end of the rainy season approaches, the SADC Outlook Update of April indicates high probability of occurrence of normal to above normal rainfall for April to June 2014 period in the northern parts of the region and the eastern fringes of SADC. Normal to below-normal rainfall conditions are likely to prevail in the greater southern half of the region.

For the south-western half of SADC the forecast suggest high probability of occurrence of normal to below-normal rainfall. Meanwhile during the same period there is likelihood that Madagascar, Mauritius and the rest of continental SADC will receive normal to above- normal rainfall. The full report can be found [here](#).

The overall food security conditions remain stable in most parts of the region. This is explained by the fact that vulnerable populations are starting to benefit from early harvest of green vegetables and early maturing cereals coupled with market price stability and decline as compared to the lean season.

## COUNTRY ANALYSIS

### Angola

Poorly distributed seasonal rainfall since February 2014 has led to deteriorating ground conditions in western Angola. As seasonal rains are expected to decline this month, these long-term moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions for many areas.

### Lesotho

High rains from February 2014 continued into the 1st dekad of March. The country recorded above normal rainfall with the exception of Mokhotlong district which recorded significantly below normal rainfall.

Crops were adversely affected by extreme temperatures, hail storms and pests such as stalk borer and aphids and hard-to-control weeds. Wheat harvesting is at its peak in the mountains. Staple foods (maize, sorghum) are at tasseling/silking stages. Most of the fields in the mountains are covered with weeds and the crops are not at their best. High temperatures and hail storms affected Mokhotlong, as well as Quthing (DMA, Crop Assessment Report; March 2014).

The start of the main harvest and stable food prices and impact of ongoing safety-net programs will maintain stable access to food (FEWS NET).

## Malawi

Cumulative rainfall across the country has been generally average; however prolonged dry spells resulting in wilting of some crops especially maize has been reported in the first two weeks of March. In the north of the country, Karonga district is the worst affected in terms of maize production. It is worth noting that Karonga district is not among the main maize producing districts in Malawi so this reduction is not expected to significantly impact national production. However, since the affected areas are in the high maize production areas in Karonga, there will be significant impact on local stocks within the district.

## Namibia

Rainfall performance for the 2013/2014 rain season showed mixed performance with above normal rainfall confined in the north east, central and some parts in the south. Elsewhere, the cumulative performance of the season depicts near normal to below normal rainfall. In contrast, the north central regions reported poor rainfall performance, which according to farmers have been sporadic, erratic and insufficient in the first half of the season with serious prolonged dry spells in January and most February, affecting both crop production and livestock production.

Provisional crop estimates indicated a slight improvement in the expected harvest; better than last season, but still below average. National cereal production is provisionally forecasted at 122,390 tons, reflecting an increase of 50% higher than last season's harvest but yet 2% below average. Much of this improvement comes from the commercial areas where most of the production is under irrigation. (Namibia Crop prospects and food security situation report, March 2014).

## South Africa

During the month of March, significant rainfall events occurred across the eastern half of the country. The expected commercial maize crop for 2014 is 13,029million tons, which is about 1,300million tonshigherthan the 11,690 million tons of the previous season. The production forecast of white maize is 7,067million tons. The increase in the expected production figure of maize can mainly be attributed to favourable production conditions following the recent good rains received in the major production areas. The fourthproduction forecast for summer field crops for 2014 will be released on 27 May 2014.

## Tanzania

Duringthe second week of April, several consecutive days of torrentially heavy rainfall resulted in widespread flooding, displacement and damage to infrastructure, as well asfatalities on the northeastern coast. In Dar es Salaam, rain gauge measurements indicate several consecutive days of torrential rainfall totaling over 300 mm, which exceeds five times the normal climatological amount during early April.

According to the Tanzania Situation Report No.2, issued by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, as of 23 April 25 casualties were reported in Dar es Salaam, as well as 3 casualties in Kyela district in Mbeya region.

### **Response**

*The Red Cross (TRCS) has initiated a rapid assessment exercise and will be distributing Non-Food Items including blankets and mattresses. TRCS's capacity is getting stretched because it relies heavily on a volunteer work force, is still responding to the aftermath of the January floods in Morogoro/Dakawa and has a limited stock of emergency supplies in store (TRCS Rapid Assessment report 15th April).*

## **Important Events in 2014**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Contact Organization</b>
IPC Acute Level 1 Training and Food Security Analysis	7 to 16 March	Gaborone, Botswana	SADC RVAA, Botswana Government
10 <sup>th</sup> CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting	19 to 22 March	Durban, South Africa	NEPAD
Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) Workshop	24 to 28 March	Johannesburg, South Africa	WFP
RVAC Meeting	10 April	Johannesburg, South Africa	SADC RVAA
World Breastfeeding Week	August (Dates TBC)	Mbabane, Swaziland	NEPAD
Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security	30 October	TBC	NEPAD

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The Food Security Update is jointly produced by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group – Southern Africa. The overall mission of the Group is to contribute to enhanced programming for improved Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in southern Africa.

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