

SOUTHERN AFRICA - DROUGHT

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

MAY 6, 2016

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

12.8

million

Food-Insecure People in Southern Africa*
UN – March 2016

2.8

million

Food-Insecure People in Malawi
UN – March 2016

2.8

million

Food-Insecure People in Zimbabwe
UN – April 2016

1.5

million

Food-Insecure People in Mozambique
UN – April 2016

1.1

million

Food-Insecure People in Madagascar
UN – March 2016

534,500

Food-Insecure People in Lesotho
UN – March 2016

*Includes Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

HIGHLIGHTS

- Onset of rains in late February unlikely to improve harvest yields in the region
- Food security to deteriorate further due to agricultural deficits, high food prices, and eroded household finances
- USAID/FFP contributes an additional \$24 million to drought response activities in Madagascar and Zimbabwe

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$2,892,971
USAID/FFP ²	\$72,041,185
\$74,934,156	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Sustained drought conditions, exacerbated by the 2015/16 El Niño climatic event, are likely to produce poor harvests throughout the region and generate agricultural deficits in the affected countries, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Although El Niño is weakening worldwide, food insecurity and poor agriculture, livestock, nutrition, and water conditions are expected to continue in Southern Africa through April 2017.
- The onset of significant rainfall in late February has improved water supplies and pasture conditions in some areas but is insufficient to improve harvest yields, according to the Southern African Development Community (SADC)—an intergovernmental organization to promote cooperation among 15 Southern African countries on regional issues. SADC has deployed teams throughout the region to assess post-harvest conditions in drought-affected areas.
- Harvest shortfalls and food scarcity are contributing to elevated food prices throughout the region. Meanwhile, diminished labor opportunities in agriculture and related industries are further eroding incomes, rendering food prohibitively expensive among poorer households and prompting negative coping strategies.
- U.S. Ambassador to Malawi Virginia E. Palmer declared a disaster in Malawi on April 21 due to drought and food insecurity in the country. In response, USAID is supporting food distributions to vulnerable households, as well the provision of agricultural inputs in advance of the next planting season.
- To date in FY 2016, USAID has provided nearly \$75 million in humanitarian assistance to Southern Africa to respond to drought and food insecurity.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

REGIONAL

- Southern Africa experienced significant rainfall between February 21 and March 20 following exceptionally dry conditions during the first two months of 2016, according to a recent SADC report. Although the rainfall has helped water supplies and may marginally improve pasture conditions—particularly in parts of Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—the rains occurred too late to improve harvest yields.
- In May, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) technical working groups are conducting IPC analysis workshops to train national Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) teams and determine the severity of food insecurity in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe, according to FEWS NET. The IPC technical working groups aim to harmonize food security classification among post-harvest national VAC assessments, which are underway across the region. Representatives from USAID missions and partner organizations, including the UN World Food Program (WFP) and FEWS NET, will participate in the analyses. National VAC results will inform emergency response plans and the pending regional humanitarian appeal. The Madagascar technical working group also plans to conduct an IPC training and analysis in the coming months.
- Whereas the harvest season is typically a period of increased grain availability and lower food prices, FEWS NET reports that diminished agricultural output is likely to result in sustained high prices and food scarcity; accordingly, Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity are expected to continue in severely drought-affected areas of Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.³
- A WFP assessment published on April 8 estimates that a poor harvest season will generate a regional grain deficit of nearly 8 million metric tons (MT). Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe will require significant grain imports, with Malawi and Zimbabwe experiencing the largest shortfalls, according to WFP.
- Although the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts that the El Niño climatic event is weakening, the effects of El Niño—including crop failures and water shortages—are likely to persist in Southern Africa throughout 2016 due to the southern hemisphere’s agricultural cycle. La Niña conditions, which historically follow strong El Niño events and produce above-average rainfall, could generate flooding beginning in late 2016, exacerbating the region’s emergency food, nutrition, and water situation, according to NOAA.
- Through \$500,000 in USAID/OFDA funding, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is providing technical and operational support for response efforts in drought-affected countries of Southern Africa, including through food security vulnerability assessments and the strengthening of information-sharing platforms that improve coordination and bolster regional response capacity.
- USAID/OFDA has also provided FAO with \$1 million to increase regional disaster management capacity and alleviate drought-induced food insecurity, livelihood disruptions, and water shortages in Angola and Namibia. Supported activities include agriculture and water infrastructure rehabilitation, seed distributions, and the strengthening of food security early warning systems.

LESOTHO

- FEWS NET forecasts that drought conditions during the planting season are likely to result in a poor April–July harvest throughout Lesotho, limiting households’ agricultural output and rendering people dependent on local markets for food; accordingly, high demand and low availability will increase staple food prices, eroding household finances and limiting food access. Meanwhile, labor opportunities in agriculture and related industries, such as beer brewing and firewood sale, are likely to be scarce, further constraining household finances. As a result, FEWS NET projects that areas in Lesotho currently experiencing Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity will likely deteriorate to Crisis levels between June and September.
- The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN to enable timely humanitarian assistance—recently approved nearly \$4.8 million in 2016 funding to support several drought-related response activities in Lesotho, including therapeutic feeding and hygiene promotion programs. In

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

addition, CERF plans to support the expansion of a UK Department for International Development (DFID)-funded pilot program that distributed home gardening kits and provided cash transfers to extremely vulnerable households. In total, CERF-funded response activities will reach an estimated 26 percent of the 380,000 people requiring immediate assistance from April to July 2016, the UN reports.

- WFP, through partner the Standard Lesotho Bank, is providing cash transfers sufficient to meet vulnerable households' basic needs for three months in Mafeteng and Mophale's Hoek districts. The UN agency warns that high food prices have diminished the finances of more than 1 million drought-affected people, with the most vulnerable resorting to negative coping strategies such as skipping meals or selling livelihood assets.
- USAID/OFDA partner World Vision is installing 5,000-liter water tanks in drought-affected communities of Mafeteng. The non-governmental organization (NGO) expects to install the tanks in 15 communities by the end of May. In addition, World Vision plans to rehabilitate water pumps and promote safe hygiene and sanitation practices through community outreach sessions. Approximately 15 percent of Lesotho's population is experiencing significant water shortages due to the drought and many people rely on unprotected water sources, according to the SADC.

MADAGASCAR

- On April 27, USAID/FFP announced \$4 million for WFP to support emergency food assistance in southern Madagascar's acutely drought-affected Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana regions. WFP will use the contribution to procure food commodities from the United States, as well as for local and regional procurement of crushed maize. WFP also plans to support food-for-training and food- or cash-for-assets programs for labor capable households in seven districts and distribute food directly to highly vulnerable households. At least 1 million people—more than 80 percent of people in the country's seven most affected districts—are projected to experience Stressed or Crisis levels of food insecurity from July to September, according to FEWS NET.

MALAWI

- On April 21, U.S. Ambassador to Malawi Virginia E. Palmer declared a disaster due to drought and food insecurity in Malawi. The announcement follows the Government of the Republic of Malawi (GoM)'s April 12 declaration of a state of national disaster and request for international assistance. Malawi, which does not typically import large quantities of cereals, will likely face a cereal deficit of nearly 1 million MT due to the second consecutive year of below-average harvests, according to FEWS NET. Although the GoM reports that 2.8 million people currently require food assistance, FEWS NET projects that 5.6 million people—approximately 35 percent of the population—could experience Stressed or Crisis food insecurity outcomes by March 2017 in the absence of humanitarian assistance.
- Food prices in Malawi are significantly elevated due to scarcity; for example, as of April, the price of maize was more than 180 percent higher than the five-year average price. FEWS NET forecasts that average national prices for maize and other staple foods—such as beans, cassava, and rice—will increase due to production deficits, eroding incomes and exacerbating food insecurity, particularly among poor households.
- In response to the disaster declaration, USAID/OFDA provided Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with \$50,000 in emergency funding to distribute agricultural inputs in Malawi's southern region for the April–August winter planting season. CRS will target distribution in areas where other USAID programs are active to protect development gains. Additionally, USAID/FFP is supporting WFP's plan to distribute 18,000 MT of sorghum to food-insecure households beginning in May, followed by further food distributions—cooking oil, legumes, and maize—in August.

MOZAMBIQUE

- On May 4, the UN released the 2016 Strategic Response Plan for Mozambique, appealing for \$190.5 million to address the needs of 1.5 million food-insecure people across seven provinces in south and central Mozambique—an increase of

approximately 1.1 million people from earlier estimates. Noting that drought has affected 500,000 farmers; contributed to more than 55,100 cases of global acute malnutrition and nearly 136,540 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM); resulted in the loss of 18 percent of cultivated land; and rendered at least 500,000 people in need of access to safe drinking water, the plan prioritizes the provision of immediate life-saving and life-sustaining assistance, as well as the restoration of livelihoods among drought-affected populations.

- Government of the Republic of Mozambique (GRM) disaster management authorities are assisting nearly 196,800 people in Gaza, Manica, Maputo, Sofala, and Tete provinces, and the COSACA consortium of NGOs—comprising CARE International, Concern Worldwide, Save the Children, and Oxfam—is assisting nearly 136,500 people in Gaza and Inhambane. COSACA has also rehabilitated approximately 75 water points in the two provinces to improve residents’ access to safe drinking water.
- From March 28–30, USAID staff joined representatives from WFP and World Vision on a visit to Tete to assess humanitarian conditions in the southern districts of the province, where drought effects are most severe. The assessment team noted limited availability of cereals in local markets and rapidly increasing food prices. Health workers in Changara and Magoe districts reported several seasonally atypical cases of SAM, which occur more often during the lean season in August or September.
- Following a GRM request for assistance, WFP plans to conduct food-for-assets activities in southern Tete’s Mutarara District—the most food-insecure district in Tete—from May to June. Additionally, WFP is supporting a school feeding program in Tete.
- Through CERF funding, UNICEF is conducting nutritional interventions—including screening, referral, and treatment—in Gaza and Inhambane. In coordination with CARE and Save the Children, UNICEF is screening more than 55,000 children, and has deployed eight mobile nutrition teams to treat malnourished children in drought-affected communities. Teams had treated nearly 930 severely malnourished children as of mid-April.

SWAZILAND

- The majority of Swaziland’s rural households were unable to plant this year, and national crop production for the 2015/16 agricultural season is expected to decline by 64 percent compared to last season, according to the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland (GKoS). The report also notes that Swaziland’s major dam levels are as low as 5 percent of capacity. Nearly 321,000 people are experiencing food and water deficits, a number the GKoS expects to increase to 538,000 in the coming year due to drought conditions.
- The UN has provided more than \$3.1 million from the CERF to meet urgent food and water needs. The UN reports that between April and June, CERF assistance will reach at least 95,000 people facing critical water shortages. In addition, food assistance will reach approximately 71,000 people through July.
- With support from USAID/OFDA, World Vision is conducting water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities to improve community access to water in seven villages of Lubombo Region’s Lugongolweni District. Since commencing in mid-March, World Vision procured water pipe extension equipment for two Lugongolweni communities, with installation forthcoming. To coordinate beneficiary registration and maintenance, World Vision helped establish community-run water user committees. Additionally, World Vision staff are meeting with GKoS authorities, including members of the Water Services Corporation, to discuss strategies to improve water access in Lugongolweni. World Vision plans to complete a water system extension in the district by mid-June.

ZIMBABWE

- On April 30, the UN released a revised 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan for Zimbabwe appealing for \$360 million to address the needs of 2.8 million drought-affected people in the country. Priorities include the provision of immediate life-saving food and nutrition assistance, improving access to WASH services, and the strengthening of response capacity to mitigate drought-induced agricultural deficits, limited livelihood opportunities, and water shortages.

- FEWS NET forecasts that Zimbabwe’s food insecure population will peak at 5.1 million people—including 3.5 million people experiencing Crisis levels of food insecurity—in the coming months. The projection represents an increase of approximately 2.3 million people compared to February estimates by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee, as cost prohibitive food prices, limited livelihood options, and poor or no local food production have further exacerbated the situation.
- Donors have increased support to Zimbabwe to address the deteriorating food security situation. China is providing \$24 million through in-kind food supplies and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) has committed approximately \$5 million toward relief activities. Additionally, DFID plans to contribute an additional \$14 million in humanitarian assistance.
- On April 20, USAID/FFP announced \$20 million to WFP to provide food assistance in Zimbabwe. With the new funding, WFP will extend its Lean Season Assistance program, which typically runs from October through March, to operate continuously until March 2017. WFP reports that the contribution will facilitate in-kind food aid and cash transfers to 450,000 people in 12 drought-affected districts for the next six months.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On April 26, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) held an El Niño briefing and pledging event, attended by USAID/OFDA staff, for international donors and response actors in Geneva, Switzerland. The event aimed to raise awareness of global humanitarian impacts of El Niño and included workshops from FAO, the UN Development Program, UNICEF, and WFP. ECHO announced more than \$45 million in emergency and resilience assistance to Southern Africa at the event. Of total ECHO funding in the region from 2012–2016, ECHO has allocated 28 percent for disaster preparedness and 35 percent for food security interventions.
- As of April 19, the CERF had provided \$41.6 million since mid-2015 to organizations implementing drought response activities in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe; the UN reports that additional CERF funding for the region is in process.

CONTEXT

- Below-average rainfall—exacerbated by the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event—resulted in drought conditions throughout much of Southern Africa beginning in 2015, causing deteriorating agriculture, food security, livestock, nutrition, and WASH conditions.
- On February 29, 2016, U.S. Ambassador H. Dean Pittman declared a disaster due to the effects of drought in Mozambique. On March 9, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Susan M. Tuller declared a disaster due to the effects of drought and food insecurity in Swaziland. U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Robert K. Scott declared a disaster due to the effects of drought in Zimbabwe on March 16; on the same day, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Elizabeth A. Pelletreau declared a disaster due to the effects of drought and food insecurity in Lesotho. On April 21, U.S. Ambassador to Malawi Virginia E. Palmer declared a disaster due to the effects of drought and food insecurity in Malawi.
- Prolonged drought since late 2014 in southern Madagascar has resulted in poor harvests and food insecurity. On December 4, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate redeclared a disaster due to the effects of drought in southern regions of Madagascar.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
International Organization for Migration	WASH	Maputo, Mozambique	\$50,000
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security	Malawi	\$50,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Regional	\$500,000
	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Regional	\$1,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$1,100,000
World Vision	WASH	Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek, Lesotho	\$50,000
		Lubombo and Shiselweni, Swaziland	\$50,000
	Program Support Costs		\$92,971
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$2,892,971

USAID/FFP³			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	Agriculture and Food Security	Madagascar	\$458,885
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security	Madagascar	\$424,000
WFP	Local and Regional Procurement, U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Madagascar	\$4,000,000
	Local and Regional Procurement	Malawi	\$17,000,000
	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Malawi	\$21,106,200
	Cash Transfers for Food	Zimbabwe	\$2,100,000
	Local and Regional Procurement	Zimbabwe	\$1,000,000
	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Zimbabwe	\$25,952,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$72,041,185
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$74,934,156

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 6, 2016.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>