

SOUTHERN AFRICA - DROUGHT

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

JUNE 22, 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 – March 2016

1.5
million

Food-Insecure People in Mozambique
UN – March 2016

1.1
million

Food-Insecure People in Madagascar
UN – March 2016

534,500

Food-Insecure People in Lesotho
UN – March 2016

320,000

Food-Insecure People in Swaziland
UN – March 2016

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN predicts deteriorating food security levels across the region by July
- Drought-affected households in Lesotho and Swaziland report urgent water needs
- USAID contributes an additional \$52 million for drought response activities in Southern Africa

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$13,795,563
USAID/FFP ²	\$113,519,385
\$127,314,948	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee—comprising representatives from the SADC Secretariat, member countries, and UN agencies—presented preliminary results of recent national Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) surveys during a June 6–8 conference in Pretoria, South Africa. Final results from the national assessments, which include data on agricultural production, food insecurity, and malnutrition, will inform the SADC regional drought appeal, scheduled for release in late June.
- While limited ongoing harvests will temporarily improve food access in parts of Southern Africa, the UN expects food security to deteriorate further by July, with food insecurity peaking between December 2016 and March 2017 as the effects of consecutive poor harvests set in.
- Regional maize and grain prices—typically lower following the harvest period—remain above five-year averages across the region as a result of below-average food production, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. In Malawi and Mozambique, staple crop prices are more than 100 percent higher than 2015 levels.
- USAID/FFP recently provided more than \$42 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP) for emergency food assistance to drought-affected households. The total includes more than \$34 million for Malawi, \$4 million for Madagascar, and \$4 million for Mozambique. In addition, USAID/OFDA committed nearly \$11 million to support drought response activities—including agriculture, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions—in the region. To date in FY 2016, USAID has provided more than \$127 million in humanitarian assistance for the drought response in Southern Africa.

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

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

REGIONAL

- SADC and the Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO) are developing plans to respond to the regional effects of the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event, scheduled for release in late June, in concert with the regional appeal. The plans will incorporate data from the national VAC assessments recently conducted throughout Southern Africa, including in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. Through \$160,500 in USAID/OFDA assistance, WFP is supporting VAC surveys and analysis in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.
- The El Niño Regional Response Team, comprising representatives from the SADC Secretariat, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and WFP, launched on May 26. The team’s responsibilities include analyzing and communicating the impact of El Niño on the SADC region, coordinating the distribution of food and relief commodities to affected populations, and monitoring and evaluating response activities.
- Maize prices—a proxy for agricultural production and demand in Southern Africa—remain above five-year averages throughout the region despite the ongoing harvest, according to FEWS NET. Inflation is particularly acute in Malawi and Mozambique, where prices are more than 100 percent higher than 2015 levels. Whereas increased availability and lower prices typically characterize the harvest season, below-average production and national currency depreciations have generated atypically high prices for this time of year. FEWS NET cautions that as households quickly deplete the diminished quantities of harvested food and rely on market purchases to meet needs, elevated prices could be cost-prohibitive for vulnerable households, exacerbating food insecurity. Accordingly, FEWS NET expects that Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity will continue in severely drought-affected areas of Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.³
- Limited access to water is impeding health facility operations and contributing to an increase in communicable diseases in some areas. The UN World Health Organization reports that the effects of El Niño in Southern Africa have contributed to an increase in cholera cases in the region, including an outbreak in Malawi that began in December 2015. In addition, as food insecurity and water scarcity increase, some drought-affected countries in the region are experiencing increasing malnutrition levels, according to the UN.
- Current climate models project a high likelihood—approximately 75 percent—that a La Niña climatic event will occur between October and December 2016. La Niña could result in higher-than-average precipitation levels in Southern Africa, although parts of Lesotho, Swaziland, and South Africa have recorded below-average rainfall during past climatic events. Increased rainfall, particularly in early 2017, could result in increased crop production, but related improvements in food security would not occur before May 2017, the UN reports. La Niña conditions could also generate flooding beginning in late 2016, exacerbating the region’s emergency food, nutrition, and water situation, according to the USG National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

LESOTHO

- From May 15–20, USAID and FAO staff visited Lesotho to evaluate drought-related humanitarian needs and observed communities experiencing water shortages, depleted rangelands and meager planting fields, and deteriorating livestock conditions.
- Approximately 65 percent of households did not cultivate land during the main November-to-January planting season, and cumulative agricultural production declined by an estimated 89 percent due to drought conditions, according to the Lesotho VAC survey conducted in May. On average, households that planted only harvested food sufficient to meet needs for one month, whereas households typically harvest a three-to-four month supply.
- Maize prices in Lesotho’s capital city of Maseru increased by nearly 40 percent between March 2015 and March 2016, according to FAO. The VAC expects staple food prices to continue to increase into 2017. FAO projects that currency depreciation and reduced agricultural production are likely to continue eroding purchasing power and driving inflation. The Government of Lesotho (GoL) instituted a 30 percent subsidy on staple foods on June 1 to address rising food prices.

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.

FAO is supporting other GoL efforts to mitigate food price increases through funding from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and a UN Central Emergency Response Fund allocation.

- Through nearly \$1.8 million in USAID/OFDA support, non-governmental organization (NGO) Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in partnership with NGOs Caritas and World Vision, is providing drought-affected households in Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek districts with access to agricultural inputs to support the recovery of staple crops in advance of the 2016/2017 planting season. Additionally, the NGOs are providing farmers with crop diversification training, as well as training households in home gardening techniques to strengthen resilience to future food supply shocks.

MADAGASCAR

- Crop failures and a meager harvest are likely to result in the early depletion of household food stocks across several districts of southern Madagascar's Androy Region, according to FEWS NET. Poor agricultural output and rising food prices—nearly 130 percent above 2014 levels in some acutely affected areas—have constrained household finances. Accordingly, FEWS NET projects that these households will experience Crisis levels of food insecurity from June–September.
- More than 60 percent of households in Madagascar reported consuming fewer meals, limiting portion sizes, and purchasing less expensive food, according to a WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping survey conducted in March. Survey respondents indicated that high food prices, limited access to food, and low rainfall were primary concerns. Individuals in the southern provinces of Fianarantsoa and Toliara, as well people in Antananarivo Province's Bongolava and Vakinankaratra regions, indicated higher levels of food insecurity than the rest of the country, according to WFP.
- In April, the Government of Madagascar—in coordination with OCHA, RIASCO, and WFP—released a 12-month strategic response plan appealing for \$69.9 million to address the needs of an estimated 665,000 people experiencing severe food insecurity in the country's seven southern districts. The plan prioritizes six drought-affected districts in Madagascar's Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana regions. Donors had contributed more than \$23.9 million—or 34 percent of requested funding—toward the appeal as of May 31.
- USAID/FFP recently provided WFP with an additional \$4 million for in-kind food assistance and local and regional procurement of food, bringing total FY 2016 assistance for the drought response in Madagascar to nearly \$9 million. Through USAID/FFP assistance, WFP is providing emergency food assistance to drought-affected households in Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed nearly \$2.3 million in new funding for drought response activities in southern Madagascar. With nearly \$1 million in additional USAID/OFDA funding, NGO the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is expanding its ongoing FY 2015 program by distributing agricultural inputs, training households on drought-resistant crops, and rehabilitating water infrastructure in drought-affected communities in Androy's Bekily District. USAID/OFDA also provided more than \$1.3 million to NGO CARE to conduct trainings on climate-smart agricultural techniques and distribute tools and drought-tolerant seeds to affected households.

MALAWI

- From May 8–15, USAID staff visited drought-affected areas of southern Malawi to assess food security conditions. The assessment team observed crop losses, including an estimated 98 percent of crops in Nsange District; limited labor opportunities; and households resorting to negative coping strategies in response to deteriorating food security conditions.
- FEWS NET reports that many households in several of Malawi's Southern Region districts experienced complete crop failure during the recent harvest, generating Crisis and Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity among affected populations. Drought conditions and subsequent crop failure have rendered typically self-reliant households dependent on in-kind food assistance and subsidized maize. Some acutely affected households are exhibiting negative coping strategies,

including the sale of productive assets and decreased school attendance. As of late April, FEWS NET projected 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.

- Six districts reported nearly 300 new cholera cases from May 1–24, according to UNICEF. Authorities have reported nearly 1,600 cases since the outbreak began in December 2015. While cholera outbreaks frequently accompany the rainy season in Malawi, recent cases are likely the result of a drought-induced deterioration in WASH conditions, according to humanitarian actors. UNICEF and partners are intensifying efforts to contain the outbreak, including through improving access to safe drinking water, promoting sanitation and hygiene education in cholera-affected districts, and providing treatment to affected individuals.
- In April, the African Development Bank agreed to provide \$1 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to the Government of Malawi (GoM). The grant plans to support the humanitarian needs of individuals affected by severe flooding in 2015, as well as drought-affected populations throughout the country.
- USAID/FFP multi-year development partners CRS and Project Concern International are redirecting assistance to support drought response efforts in Malawi. The NGOs are providing supplementary food rations to mothers and children younger than two years of age, as well as supporting early warning and flood awareness activities to prepare for potential La Niña-related flooding.
- USAID/FFP recently provided more than \$34 million to WFP for in-kind food assistance and local and regional procurement of food, including the transport and distribution of maize from the GoM strategic grain reserve. The new funding brings USAID/FFP's total FY 2016 contribution to WFP in support of drought-affected households in Malawi to nearly \$72 million.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Of the estimated 1.5 million people in need of food assistance in Mozambique, approximately 755,000 are experiencing Crisis levels of food insecurity, according to FEWS NET. In response, food security actors, including WFP, are scaling up emergency food assistance; approximately 423,000 drought-affected people in Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Maputo, Sofala, Tete, and Zambézia provinces received emergency food assistance between April and May, the UN reports. USAID/FFP recently provided \$4 million to WFP to assist approximately 134,000 drought-affected individuals in Sofala and Tete.
- An estimated 500,000 people—approximately 30 percent of Mozambique's drought-affected population—require access to safe drinking water, according to a March 2016 Government of the Republic of Mozambique (GRM) Technical Secretariat of Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) assessment. The WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—has committed to providing safe drinking water to approximately 300,000 people; the GRM plans to supply the remaining 200,000 drought-affected people. WASH Cluster members, in coordination with the GRM, have provided safe drinking water to more than 64,000 people in Gaza, Inhambane, and Maputo to date.
- Approximately 95,000 children younger than five years of age in Mozambique's six acutely drought-affected provinces are experiencing acute malnutrition, representing a 30 percent increase since November 2015, according to the SETSAN. In coordination with the GRM, Nutrition Cluster members are scaling up support for community-level malnutrition screening and treatment and strengthening health facilities' malnutrition treatment capacity in anticipation of deteriorating malnutrition levels due to failed crops and rising inflation.
- On June 1, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in coordination with the GRM National Disaster Management Institute, distributed USAID/OFDA-procured emergency relief commodities—including approximately 2,000 jerry cans, 1,000 family water tanks, and 12 community water tanks—to an estimated 1,000 drought-affected families in Maputo's Moamba District. IOM has also distributed more than 2 million liters of water to approximately 4,300 affected people in Moamba.
- With nearly \$5.8 million in USAID/OFDA assistance, IOM and UNICEF, as well as an NGO consortium led by CARE and including Concern, Oxfam, and Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), are assisting drought-affected households

in Mozambique through improved access to nutrition services, the provision of agricultural inputs, and the rehabilitation of water sources, among other activities.

SWAZILAND

- USAID and FAO staff visited Swaziland from May 9–13 to evaluate drought-related humanitarian needs. The assessment team observed communities experiencing water shortages, limited access to food due to failed harvests, increased food prices, and high numbers of livestock deaths. Access to safe drinking water remained the most urgent humanitarian need cited by households visited during the assessment; an estimated 320,000 people require WASH assistance as a result of drought-related water shortages and a corresponding reduction in government services, according to the WASH Cluster. In addition, the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland (GKoS) Ministry of Agriculture reported an estimated 64,000 cattle deaths—the highest number recorded in the region—between January 2015 and March 2016 due to a lack of feed and water, as well as depleted grazing areas.
 - As of mid-May, the GKoS, foreign donors, UN agencies, and private-sector actors had contributed more than \$7.9 million—approximately 34 percent—of the \$23.3 million in emergency relief assistance requested by the GKoS. The emergency response plan appeals for nearly \$81 million in total assistance, including to support medium- to long-term recovery efforts through March 2022.
 - USAID/OFDA recently provided World Vision with an additional \$900,000 to mitigate the effects of food insecurity in Swaziland’s acutely drought-affected Lubombo and Shiselweni regions. Through USAID/OFDA support, the NGO is providing local farmers with seeds and training farmers on conservation agriculture techniques, as well as the effects of drought on livestock farming and related pasture management practices.
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ZIMBABWE

- While an increase in rainfall between March and April improved harvest outcomes in some areas, WFP projects that the majority of farmers in Zimbabwe will continue to face crop failure. Although the rainfall increased water availability for livestock and regenerated some pasture areas, cattle deaths are likely to continue due to poor animal health, according to WFP.
 - WFP has downwardly revised food insecurity forecasts for May and June in 31 of 59 districts due to the increased rainfall; however, the UN agency notes that 29 acutely drought-affected districts experienced little-to-no improvement, with food security conditions expected to deteriorate further from July–September. FEWS NET reports that the below-average harvest, diminished livelihood opportunities, elevated food prices, and reduction in food assistance due to constrained national resources have resulted in Crisis levels of food insecurity across most of southern Zimbabwe, affecting approximately 1.6 million people. FEWS NET estimates that an additional 400,000 people in northern areas are experiencing Stressed levels of food insecurity.
 - WFP provided cash transfers and in-kind rations to about 448,000 people across 13 districts in April and planned to assist 420,000 people from May–June. Through USAID/FFP support, WFP plans to continue providing food assistance to nearly 197,000 people across eight districts through September 2016.
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OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On May 17, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies pledged more than \$111 million toward a four-year initiative to support National Red Cross Societies’ drought relief efforts across Southern Africa. In addition to emergency response activities, the initiative aims to strengthen local capacity in drought-affected communities.

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			
ADRA	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Bekily, Madagascar	\$985,872
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Madagascar	\$1,313,868
	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, WASH	Mozambique	\$3,932,191
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security	Malawi	\$50,000
	Agriculture and Food Security	Mafeteng and Mohale’s Hoek, Lesotho	\$1,758,901
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Regional	\$500,000
	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Regional	\$1,000,000
IOM	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Moamba and Namaacha, Mozambique	\$500,610
	WASH	Maputo, Mozambique	\$50,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$1,100,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, WASH, Nutrition	Mozambique	\$1,349,224
WFP	Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe	\$160,500
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security	Lubombo and Shiselweni, Swaziland	\$900,000
	WASH	Mafeteng and Mohale’s Hoek, Lesotho	\$50,000
		Lubombo and Shiselweni, Swaziland	\$50,000
	Program Support Costs		\$94,397
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$13,795,563

USAID/FFP ³			
ADRA	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	\$8,000,000
	Local and Regional Procurement	Malawi	\$25,000,000
	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Malawi	\$46,584,400
	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			\$113,519,385
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$127,314,948

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 June 22, 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>.