

SOUTHERN AFRICA – DISASTER RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #8, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

JUNE 2, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

6.7

million

People in Malawi Required
Emergency Assistance During
the Lean Season
UN – December 2016

4.3

million

People in Zimbabwe Required
Emergency Assistance During
the Lean Season
UN – December 2016

2.1

million

People in Mozambique
Required Emergency
Assistance During the Lean
Season
WFP – March 2017

978,000

People in Madagascar
Required Emergency
Assistance During the Lean
Season
UN – December 2016

679,000

People in Lesotho Required
Emergency Assistance During
the Lean Season
UN – December 2016

492,000

People in Swaziland Required
Emergency Assistance During
the Lean Season
UN – December 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Harvests begin across Southern Africa, improving food security for vulnerable households
- Projections for June to September indicate Minimal levels of food insecurity across the region
- USAID/FFP provides nearly \$270,000 in new funding to UNICEF to continue nutrition

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The advent of harvests in Southern Africa has resulted in improved food security across much of the region, although high prices for staple goods and lost assets continue to present challenges to many households. As a result, relief actors continue to provide assistance in areas where vulnerable populations are still recovering from recent cyclones in Madagascar and Mozambique and the regional drought, both of which resulted in the loss of crops and livestock, as well as damage to infrastructure.
- Food security actors are monitoring potential infestations of fall armyworm, an invasive insect species that can cause significant damage to both staple and cash crops. Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are at risk of continued infestations and fall armyworm-related losses to maize and wheat crops through December. In the absence of fall armyworm control measures and monitoring, these crops are vulnerable to pest-related damage, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warnings System Network (FEWS NET).
- USAID humanitarian assistance is mitigating the effects of drought and cyclones on vulnerable households in Southern Africa. To date in FY 2017, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8.6 million in multi-sector assistance and USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$45 million in emergency food and nutrition assistance to meet the humanitarian needs of disaster-affected populations in the region.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided a total of more than \$1 million to non-governmental organization (NGO) Medair and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to address water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in cyclone-affected areas of northern Madagascar. With USAID/OFDA assistance, Medair and UNICEF are restoring damaged water and sanitation infrastructure and providing water treatment supplies to health centers, households, and schools to mitigate the spread of waterborne diseases.
- USAID/OFDA also recently provided nearly \$1.9 million to CARE in Mozambique to support agriculture, food security, and protection activities targeting drought-affected communities in Inhambane, Tete, and Zambezia provinces.

¹ USAID is responding to disasters in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

² USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

³ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA¹ IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA ²	\$8,647,915
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USAID/FFP ³	\$44,782,142
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\$53,430,057	
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REGIONAL

- According to FEWS NET, food insecurity peaked in March during the lean season and overall food security began to improve across countries in Southern Africa affected by the 2015/2016 El Niño-induced drought. Despite the improvements, populations in several countries, particularly Zimbabwe, continued to experience food consumption gaps and Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity during April.⁴ Overall, food security across the region improved to Stressed—IPC 2—and Minimal—IPC 1—levels in May as households began to access harvested food. From June to September, FEWS NET projects that populations across Southern Africa will experience Minimal levels of food insecurity. Humanitarian actors are concluding emergency food assistance programs in response to improved food security, although programs addressing other needs, such as acute malnutrition, lack of agricultural inputs, and limited access to safe drinking water, continue.
- Rainfall in 2017 continued beyond early March, the typical end to the Southern Africa rainy season, benefitting late-planted crops. However, the extended rainfall may have caused spoilage among crops planted earlier in the season, resulting in potential losses, according to FEWS NET. The impact of these losses is likely to vary based on local conditions across the region.
- Maize prices remained above average across the region as of April. While Malawi and Mozambique recorded price decreases of 12 and 63 percent, respectively, from March to April, regionally prices remained nearly 100 percent higher than average. FEWS NET attributed the decline in prices to improved market supply and the prospect of an improved harvest, with staple prices expected to decrease significantly in May as farmers begin to sell harvested crops. FEWS NET continues to monitor price trends and release updated data as available.

LESOTHO

- In May, FEWS NET reported that Lesotho's lean season had ended and projected an average 2017 harvest. Increased labor opportunities associated with the harvest, as well as sale of livestock products such as wool and mohair, are bolstering income for poor households and have resulted in reduced staple food prices. FEWS NET projects that stable food prices and improved income opportunities will continue through September. As a result, the majority of households in Lesotho will likely experience Minimal levels of food insecurity between May and September, according to FEWS NET.

MADAGASCAR

- Due to significantly below-average rainfall and poor crop growth in southeastern Madagascar, FEWS NET predicts that the lean season—typically lasting from January through March—could continue through June. Populations in these areas will likely experience Stressed levels of food insecurity, while households in other areas of Madagascar will face Minimal levels.
- USAID/FFP continues to support the UN World Food Program (WFP) to respond to urgent needs in Madagascar. In April, USAID/FFP provided cash resources to move 310 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance commodities to populations affected by Tropical Cyclone Enawo. To date in FY 2017, USAID/FFP has provided cash assistance and more than 6,400 MT of in-kind food commodities—valued at approximately \$8 million—to support WFP's emergency food assistance activities in Madagascar.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed a total of more than \$1 million to Medair and UNICEF to assist cyclone-affected populations in northern Madagascar. With \$500,000 from USAID/OFDA, Medair is restoring access to safe drinking water for approximately 32,000 people in nine communes in Analanjirofo Region's Maroantsetra District, and targeting approximately 50,000 people with messaging on disaster risk management to lessen exposure to future disasters. Additionally, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$500,000 to UNICEF to improve WASH conditions for approximately 40,000 people in Alaotra-Mangoro, Analanjirofo, Atsinanana, and Sofia regions through rehabilitation of

⁴ 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.

damaged water points, latrines, and sanitation infrastructure, and distribution of chlorination tablets and soap to health centers, households, and schools in cyclone-affected areas.

MALAWI

- Populations in most areas of Malawi are experiencing Minimal-level food insecurity following the start of the main harvest season in April, according to FEWS NET. However, some households in Karonga and Nsanje districts will likely face Stressed levels of food insecurity through September due to localized dry spells and fall armyworm infestations.
 - The staple maize harvest in Malawi is likely to be average, with production estimated at 3.3 million MT, according to the Government of Malawi (GoM) Ministry of Agriculture, which plans to release final maize production figures in June. Maize prices have decreased in Malawi since April due in part to emergency food assistance and the expectation of an average harvest.
 - During an early April monitoring trip, staff from USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP visited USAID-supported program sites throughout Malawi, where five partners are conducting agriculture, food security, and livelihoods interventions to help vulnerable households maintain and restore their livelihoods. The programs USAID staff visited included trainings for lead farmers on conservation agriculture techniques appropriate for drought conditions; distributions of drought-resistant crops, such as orange-fleshed sweet potato vines; and provision of seeds to farmers who lack access to adequate inputs. During the trip, USAID staff observed high harvest yields and indicators of successful implementation of conservation agriculture. Additionally, seed fair beneficiaries demonstrated recovered agricultural production capacity.
 - Despite overall improvements, prolonged dry spells and fall armyworm infestations severely affected seed fair beneficiaries in Nsanje, resulting in minimal harvests and likely continued food insecurity in the district. In response, USAID/OFDA partner Concern Worldwide is supporting irrigation to improve access to water for vulnerable households in this area and generate off-season crop growth to improve food security.
 - In March, USAID/FFP partner UNICEF, in coordination with the GoM Ministry of Health, supported nutrition screening for more than 1.2 million children in 15 of the country's 28 districts. Approximately 22,000 children—including 2,400 experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM)—were referred to health facilities. USAID/FFP recently provided nearly \$90,000 to support UNICEF's ongoing emergency nutrition interventions in Malawi.
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MOZAMBIQUE

- Preliminary estimates project the May harvest in Mozambique will exceed the five-year average, according to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The increase in food availability and declining staple food prices are improving household food access. As a result, FEWS NET reports that populations previously experiencing Crisis levels of acute food insecurity have improved to Stressed levels and could face Minimal-level food insecurity by June. However, some vulnerable households—particularly poor populations in areas affected by Cyclone Dineo in February or localized flooding in recent months—may continue to face Crisis-level food insecurity.
- During March, WFP reached nearly 549,000 people with food distributions and food-for-asset activities. As food security conditions improve in Mozambique, WFP reports plans to reduce food assistance through June and then halt El Niño response efforts at the end of the month, with continued monitoring of conditions over the coming months.
- With approximately \$90,000 in FY 2017 funding, USAID/FFP is supporting UNICEF to continue nutrition interventions, including treatment for acutely malnourished children and training for health care workers in nutrition treatment and information management. Between January and March, UNICEF supported nutrition screening for more than 276,000 children, 19,000 of whom required treatment for SAM.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$1.9 million to CARE in Mozambique to support agriculture, food security, and protection interventions to drought-affected communities in Mozambique's Inhambane, Tete, and Zambezia.

USAID/OFDA-supported activities include the provision of livestock services, seeds, and vouchers for livelihood inputs. CARE will also support the development of community groups to prevent and respond to instances of gender-based violence, which have increased due to drought-related stresses.

ZIMBABWE

- FEWS NET anticipates that ongoing harvest activity, which will likely continue through June in some parts of Zimbabwe, will improve food security conditions throughout the country. FEWS NET also expects adequate water availability for both household and livestock use in most of the country through September. As a result, current Stressed levels of food insecurity in northern Zimbabwe will likely improve to Minimal levels between June and September, while in southern Zimbabwe, FEWS NET expects conditions for most households to improve from Crisis to Stressed levels through September.
- In addition to prior year assistance to UNICEF, USAID/FFP recently provided \$90,000 in FY 2017 funding to support the UN agency’s ongoing emergency nutrition efforts in Zimbabwe. UNICEF is providing treatment to acutely malnourished children, as well as training village health workers in nutrition screening and data management.

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 throughout 2016.
- On October 13, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate redeclared a disaster for the third consecutive year due to the effects of drought in southern regions of Madagascar. On October 14, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Lisa J. Peterson renewed the drought disaster declaration for Swaziland, followed on October 21 by U.S. Ambassadors Matthew T. Harrington and H. Dean Pittman, who redeclared drought disasters for Lesotho and Mozambique, respectively. U.S. Ambassador Virginia E. Palmer redeclared a drought disaster in Malawi on October 28, 2016, and U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr., redeclared a disaster due to the effects of drought in Zimbabwe on November 7, 2016.
- In late 2016 and early 2017, increased rainfall across Southern Africa improved crop growth and restored water catchments, alleviating drought conditions. Above-average rainfall, however, also caused flooding in some areas, resulting in displacement, crop damage, and additional humanitarian needs.
- On February 17, 2017, U.S. Ambassador H. Dean Pittman issued a disaster declaration for Mozambique due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Dineo, while U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate declared a disaster in Madagascar due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Enawo on March 13. Both storms resulted in deaths, population displacement, and damage to houses, crops, and infrastructure.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
MADAGASCAR			
CARE	Shelter and Settlements	Sava Region	\$99,937
Medair	Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Analanjirifo Region	\$500,000
UNICEF	WASH	Alaoatra Mangoro, Analanjirifo, Atsinanana, and Sofia Regions	\$500,783
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Southern Madagascar	\$1,591,539

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MADAGASCAR			\$2,692,259
MALAWI			
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security	Mulanje, Nsanje, and Phalombe Districts	\$1,512,519
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MALAWI			\$1,512,519
MOZAMBIQUE			
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection	Inhambane, Tete, and Zambezia Provinces	\$1,896,986
CARE	WASH	Inhambane	\$50,000
The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$295,500
The International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Inhambane	\$450,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MOZAMBIQUE			\$2,692,486
REGIONAL			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional Support	\$1,650,000
	Program Support Costs		\$100,651
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$8,647,915
USAID/FFP³			
MADAGASCAR			
WFP	3,300 MT of Regionally Purchased Food	Southern Madagascar	\$2,700,000
WFP	3,100 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Southern Madagascar and Cyclone-Affected Areas	\$5,334,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR MADAGASCAR			\$8,034,200
MALAWI			
UNICEF	Local and Regional Procurement of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)	Countrywide	\$89,614
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Procurement, Vouchers for Food	Countrywide	\$20,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR MALAWI			\$20,589,614
MOZAMBIQUE			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$89,614
WFP	5,810 of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,979,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR MOZAMBIQUE			\$6,068,714
ZIMBABWE			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$89,614
WFP	12,057 MT of Regionally Purchased Food	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR ZIMBABWE			\$10,089,614
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$44,782,142
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$53,430,057

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 2, 2017.

³ USAID/FFP funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 2, 2017. 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>.