Overall, the 2006/07 agricultural season has started relatively well thanks to favourable rainfall in most of the southern African region. Excessive rainfall has caused flooding in several countries in the region, including Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Five tropical depressions developed over the south-western Indian Ocean between late November and early January in Comoros, northern Mozambique and Madagascar.

Excessive rainfall and flooding brought fears that cholera could resurface in several countries in the region. Angola is already battling a resurgence of the extremely deadly cholera epidemic with approximately 1,000 cases per week since early November to end December.

An eruption of the Karthala Volcano in the Comoros occurred on Saturday, 13 January. The main manifestation has been tremors of varied intensity, which have occurred sporadically. The authorities have been on red alert, and contingency measures have been activated.

UN Special Envoy for Humanitarian needs, Jim Morris’ made his eighth and final visit to Southern Africa in his capacity as Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in the region. The mission took stock of developments in the region since the crisis (droughts which brought food insecurity) emerged in 2002, with recommendations on future humanitarian action. He urged governments and the NGO community to work collectively to pool resources for an integrated response to address to HIV and AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children.

December marked Jim Morris’ eighth and final visit to Southern Africa in his capacity as Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in the region. Mr. Morris became UN Special Envoy for Southern Africa in July 2002, after being appointed Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The mission took place from 7 -15 December with stops in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, UN agencies have worked with the authorities of these countries to prevent outbreaks of water-born diseases. This includes pre-positioning water purifiers and promoting awareness among the populations.

An eruption of the Karthala Volcano in the Comoros occurred on Saturday, 13 January. The main manifestation has been tremors of varied intensity, which have occurred sporadically. The authorities have been on red alert, and contingency measures have been activated.
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Angola:** There was a resurgence of cholera since early November to December 2006 with approximately 1000 cases registered per week according to the Ministry of Public Health. Since the beginning of the outbreak on 13 February 2006 to 14 January 2007, a total number of 69,267 cases and 2,766 deaths been reported, representing a Case Fatality Rate of 4% (well above emergency threshold of 1%). Angola’s Ministry of Public Health and NGO community have embarked on cholera prevention and treatment activities, including a public education and communication campaign. Also, World Vision has committed US$200,000 to equip 10 cholera clinics to provide oral rehydration therapy and treatment.

Also, a deadly ‘unknown’ disease erupted in Uige Province during December, infecting 25 people and killing 13 (CFR of 52%). The government, World Health Organization (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are trying to identify the disease, and samples have been sent to laboratories in Dakar, Senegal, and Atlanta, United States. The results of the test are still to be released.

**Comoros:** The Karthala Volcano erupted on 13 January, with sporadic tremors of various intensity and occasionally exceeding four on the Richter scale. There has been no projection of ash or lava. Authorities are on red alert, and have activated the national emergency response preparedness plan.

**Lesotho:** Poor rains in combination with high temperatures are putting pressure on crops. This is exacerbated by a reported outbreak of Brown Locust in Quthing and Mohale’s Hoek, which is expected to damage the emerging maize crop in those areas.

**Country Coverage**

**ANGOLA:** There was a resurgence of cholera since early November to December 2006 with approximately 1000 cases registered per week according to the Ministry of Public Health. Since the beginning of the outbreak on 13 February 2006 to 14 January 2007, a total number of 69,267 cases and 2,766 deaths been reported, representing a Case Fatality Rate of 4% (well above emergency threshold of 1%). Cholera has so far affected 16 out of the 18 provinces in the country. Luanda province had the highest number of cholera cases with 24,531 representing a CFR1%. The province of Bié recorded 47 cases, although the lowest, it had the highest CFR of 19%.

Angola’s Ministry of Public Health has asked the NGO community to help with a public education and communication campaign, by supporting surveillance teams, controlling and treating cholera outbreaks, in the city and peri-urban areas. World Vision has launched a US$200,000 crisis programme, which will equip 10 cholera clinics to provide oral rehydration therapy and treatment. The organization will furthermore work on preventative measures such as mobilizing local groups, a public education campaign, house-to-house visits, distribution of water tanks and chlorine for drinking water, and training of health care workers and community leaders.

Over and above the cholera outbreak, a deadly ‘unknown’ disease erupted in Uíge Province during December, infecting 25 people and killing 13 (CFR of 52%). Eleven of the diseased came from the same area called Candombe Velho. Patients showed bleeding of the gastro-intestinal tract, and perforations in the stomach. The government, World Health Organization (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are trying to identify the disease, and samples have been sent to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratories in Dakar, Senegal, and Atlanta, United States. The results of the test are still to be released.

FAO reports indicate that there has been an increase in the area cultivated, keeping up the trend of the last few years. However, food security prospects amidst due to heavy rains in the northern part of the country, while rainfall in the centre and south has been normal. Dry spells have been noted in the eastern part of the country. However, the late arrival of inputs in some areas of the country delayed planting beyond the optimal period. As the region moves further into the hunger season (December – March 2007), there is concern over the food security situation of vulnerable populations in localised areas. These include returning refugees, who have not been able to plant during this season.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) closed its office in Bié province at the end of 2006, ending more than two and a half decades of presence in the province. ICRC is closing its office after four years of peace, as the country is no longer facing a humanitarian emergency, but moving towards a long term development phase. After the end of the war, the organization worked mainly with the Angolan Red Cross, supporting tracing and family reunification processes, primary health care, mine awareness, and production and fitting of prostheses. In the future, ICRC support to the province will be provided from its office in Huambo.

**COMOROS:** An eruption of the Karthala Volcano in the Comoros occurred on Saturday 13 January, with sporadic tremors of various intensity and occasionally exceeding four on the Richter scale. There has been no projection of ash or lava. The tremors are reportedly caused by the movement of the magma within the volcano. They seem to be localized in the upper part of the volcano, and are felt more strongly in the western part of the Ngazidja (Grande Comore) Island, including the capital Moroni.

The authorities are on red alert, and have activated the national emergency response preparedness plan. Accordingly, a crisis management cell has been established within the National Emergency Operations Centre, which facilitates information sharing between government departments, UN agencies, the Comoros Red Crescent Society, local NGOs and diplomatic missions, and helps coordinate preparedness arrangements.

UN agencies’ regional offices, the IFRC Regional Delegation in Nairobi and the French Red Cross’ Regional Intervention Platform for the Indian Ocean in La Réunion have remained on stand-by. The UNICEF Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) has deployed a regional emergency officer in support of the UN Country Team and UNICEF Country Office. Among other tasks, the regional emergency officer will help the UN Country Team review preparedness arrangements and support the National Emergency Operations Centre to assess the situation. The University of La Réunion also...
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Madagascar:** Two tropical storms affected Madagascar has been affected by two tropical storms. On 25 December, ‘Bondo’ landed as a severe tropical storm on the north-western coast of the island, close to Mahajanga. Then on 3 January, tropical storm ‘Clovis’ made landfall on the eastern coast of Madagascar at Nosy-Varika. More than 3,000 were displaced and or rendered homeless. One person died. Damage was reported to public buildings such as schools, including water supplies, electricity and Telecommunications. Due to flooding, it is estimated that approximately 75% of the crops or 18,000 hectares in the affected areas have been lost in Nosy Varika. A relief operation was mounted, using in-country resources, and the situation has been brought under control.

**Malawi:** Floods occurred in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts due to heavy rains during the first week of January. An inter-agency assessment mission recorded two deaths in Chikwawa, 917 collapsed houses, 20,061 affected families and damage to 7,666 hectares of crops. In Nsanje, one person died and two are still missing. 1,351 households were affected. The District Commissioner’s office for both Chikwawa and Nsanje and partners responded with relief items including tents, plastic sheeting, blankets, water purifiers and food items. A number of families are prepared to permanently resettle to higher ground.

**Mozambique:** Torrential rains caused flooding in Beira, affecting over 50,000 residents. Some 10,000 people of which 1,700 children were temporarily displaced. Authorities provided displaced populations with food and clean water. Those affected began returning to their homes as flood waters receded. Meanwhile, in the south, rainfall remains below normal affecting maize crops. FEWSNET, on 10 January, issued a food security watch for the country, warning that households affected by floods in the north and drought in south are particularly vulnerable.

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Although the repeated tremors are a source of anxiety for many inhabitants, the population has generally remained calm. Messages informing the population have been disseminated by local media since the beginning of the eruption.

**LESOTHO:** Poor rains in combination with high temperatures are putting pressure on crops. This is exacerbated by a reported outbreak of Brown Locust in Quthing and Mo-hale’s Hoek, which is expected to damage the emerging maize crop in those areas.

**MADAGASCAR:** Madagascar has been affected by two tropical storms over the reporting period. On 25 December, ‘Bondo’ landed as a severe tropical storm on the north-western coast of the island, close to Mahajanga. Strong winds with gusts up to 150 km/h and heavy rains were registered. Approximately 1,000 people were temporarily displaced or rendered homeless. Water supply, electricity and telecommunications were temporarily affected. Authorities were swift in restoring essential services and providing temporary assistance to the homeless due to the pre-positioning of emergency relief items and other preparedness arrangements.

On 3 January, tropical storm ‘Clovis’ made landfall on the eastern coast of Madagascar at the level of Nosy-Varika. Heavy winds and rains caused flooding and damages to houses, public buildings and the electricity network. The Malagasy emergency management authority, the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (BNGRC), formerly known as Conseil National de Secours (CNS) visited the affected region to assess the dam-age, together with the Malagasy Red Cross (CRM), CARE, WFP, UNICEF, the National Nutrition Office (ONN), German Agro Action and a number of journalists. They reported one death, 2,587 people made homeless in Mananjary district and 1,050 in Nosy Varika district, as well as an additional 3,666 temporarily displaced people in Mananjary. A total of 232 houses have been completely destroyed, while 931 houses were severely damaged. In addition, 12 public buildings, including public schools and medical services were damaged. It is estimated that approximately 75% of the crops or 18,000 hectares in the affected areas have been lost. A relief operation was mounted, using in-country resources, and the situation has been brought under control. No further international assistance has been sought. The situation is closely monitored to avoid potential secondary hazards, such as cholera, malnutrition and food insecurity.

More recently, floods have also affected the south-eastern coast (Nosy Varika), as well as the region of Antsirabe (Vakinankaratra) and the suburbs of Antananarivo. A first assessment conducted in Nosy Varika suggests that approximately 60 to 70% of the rice crops are lost. BNGRC decided on 16 January to conduct assessments in Vakinanakaratra region, where eight communes are affected, with the support of FAO, WFP, UNICEF, CARE and other partners. It is feared that 20 to 30% of the crops are still under water in this region. Rescue operations to people of the flooded neighborhood of Antananarivo have been initiated by BNGRC on Saturday 13 January. More than 1200 people have been relocated. Tents and relief equipment have been distributed by UNICEF and by the BN GRC.

Meanwhile, food insecurity continues to prevail in the south as a result of poor harvest following the 2005/06 agricultural season. The Rural Food Security Information System (SIRSA), an early warning system developed under the auspices of the Prime Minister’s Office with support from the European Union, estimates that some 465,000 people are affected. Partners, such as FAO, are in the process of mobilizing resources for providing seeds to approximately 70,000 families.

Lack of resources for seed distribution is jeopardizing the current planting season. Urgent funding is required before soil moisture is lost. Should planting be delayed, the food security situation may be further exacerbated. According to the Government and partners, 22 communes of three regions - Anosy, Androy and Sud-Ouest - are affected. The situation is also impacting nutrition levels. Recent surveys indicate that an estimated 5,178 children under five are malnourished and that an additional 534 are severely malnourished in the south. UNICEF estimates that only three in every 100 rural households in the country have access to safe water, with the situation worse in the south.

**MALAWI:** - Floods occurred in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts due to heavy rains during the first week of January. An interagency assessment mission recorded two deaths in...
HIGHLIGHTS

Swaziland: The government of Swaziland published the National Plan of Action (NPA) for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). The total budget of the plan is US$228 million between 2006 and 2010, starting with US$36.1 million in 2006, and scaling up to US$57 million by 2010. It is estimated that there are currently over 130,000 orphans and vulnerable children in Swaziland, with projections for over 198,000 OVC by 2010, which will be approximately 20 percent of the total population. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been one of the main contributors to the large number of OVCs in Swaziland.

Zambia: The country is experiencing torrential rainfall since the second week of December 2006. The rains have been particularly heavy in Mpolungu and Solwezi districts, situated in the northern parts of the country, where the resultant floods have destroyed houses and rendered hundreds of people homeless. The floods have also affected water and sanitation (WatSan) facilities in the two districts.

15,700 households (94,000 persons) have been affected in Chawama, Kalukungu, Highlands, Muzabula, Kayebela, Kandemba, Wisdom, Kimasala and Kizhigezhihinge settlements. In Mpolungu District in northern Zambia, the total number of affected people is estimated at 21,000, destroying homes as well as about 75% of the pit latrines. The Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) in collaboration with local authorities and the National Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). Funding has been allocated from the Federation’s DREF (US$43,000) to enable ZRCS to assist 245 of the most affected households with temporary shelter as well as water supply and sanitation facilities. The DMMU is mobilizing assistance from government ministries and humanitarian organizations for shelter, water and sanitation and seeds.


Chikwawa, 917 collapsed houses, 20,061 affected families and damage to a total of 7,666 hectare of crops, including maize, sorghum, millet, cotton and rice. In Nsanje, one person died and two are still missing. A total of 1,351 households were affected.

The District Commissioner’s office for both Chikwawa and Nsanje received relief items from various sources, including tents, plastic sheeting, blankets, water purifiers, jerry cans, emergency survival kits, kitchen utensils and food items. A number of families are prepared to permanently resettle to higher ground. The Minister for Poverty and Disaster Manage-ment Affairs recommended that priority be given to help resettle these families. In addition, funds are sought for fast generating seeds. UNICEF reported that it is running low on relief items and needs replenishment.

According to FEWSNET, farming activity intensified in all regions as a result of improved rainfall during the last two weeks of November. Inputs are widely available, and have been made available to the poorest households via input subsidy schemes. The Government of Malawi is providing a 70% subsidy on the price of fertiliser and seed to vulnerable house-holds. For this purpose, the Government has printed 1.3 million vouchers entitling beneficiaries to subsidised fertilisers and 200,000 vouchers for subsidised tobacco basal and top dressing. In addition, two million seed vouchers have been printed. Demand for agricultural labor has increased, providing an important source of food and income to poor households.

Maize prices have increased in many markets. The increases are expected, given the depletion of household food stocks and the onset of the hunger season. The magnitude of the increases over the next month will determine whether poor households will be able to purchase enough food for household consumption at the peak of the hungry season.

MOZAMBIQUE Torrential rains that started the evening of 11 December 2006, and lasted for approximately 12 hours caused flooding in Beira, affecting over 50,000 residents. Local officials reported that some 10,000 people were temporarily displaced by the floods, of which 1,700 were children. National authorities provided the displaced populations with food and clean water. They began returning to their homes as flood waters receded.

Close monitoring was undertaken during the following weeks in order to prevent any poten-tial outbreak of cholera. The national authorities mobilized 38 community activist teams for the distribution of water purifiers, and the dissemination of cholera prevention messages, and broadcasted cholera prevention messages via local radio. UNICEF provided technical assistance.

Concern has been raised that any additional rains will cause more flooding, because the area is completely saturated. Contingency plans were being put in place to prepare for such scenarios. Additional resources are needed to replenish pre-positioned flood response items. Meanwhile, in the south of Mozambique, rainfall remained below normal. Conditions improved slightly in early January, but not enough to sustain maize crops. On 10 January, FEWSNET issued a food security watch for Mozambique, warning that households affected by floods in the north and drought in south warranted close monitoring by decision makers.

In late October 2006, the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) reported the persistence of pockets of vulnerability with 240,000 people identified as vulnerable (a significant decrease compared to the 800,000 people identified as food insecure the previous year). WFP reported a budget deficit of US$ 9.1 million, and warned that despite ration cuts they could run out of food if no new contributions are confirmed. Pre-positioning of food in flood-prone areas is also affected by this. FAO reported that 41,000 households (approximately 200,000 people) were supported through input trade fairs.

Preliminary results from last year’s national food security household survey showed a marked increase in stunting, from 35% in 2005 to 46% in 2006. Percentages of wasting remained more or less unchanged, while the percentage of underweight children decreased slightly. UNICEF is supporting WFP to address any pipeline breaks by providing US$ 300,000 from its emergency programme fund for the purchase of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) to assist 5,000 malnourished children for six months, as well as 25,000 OVCs for four months.
HIGHLIGHTS

Zimbabwe: Isolated cases of flash floods and violent storms occurred in various parts of the country – Mount Darwin, Masvingo and Tsholotsho since December. According to the Civil Protection Unit (CPU), crops, food stocks, homes, and public infrastructure was damaged. More than 15 000 people were affected. In Mount Darwin and in Tsholotsho. 300 people were displaced. In Masvingo, seven schools, five health centres and a number of homes were destroyed by floods. More localised flooding is feared, as meteorological services warned for more heavy storms. The CPU with the assistance of the humanitarian community provided aid to the affected areas and is under control.

In Mashonaland West Province, dry weather conditions favoured by Quelea quelea birds and aphids, have attacked wheat crops in all districts, thereby reducing potential yields. Irrigation of wheat crops was also affected by intermittent power supplies. The government has contracted suppliers to import 565,000 tonnes of maize from South Africa and Zambia to boost stocks.

SWAZILAND In 2006, the government of Swaziland published the National Plan of Action (NPA) for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). The total budget of the plan is US$ 228 million between 2006 and 2010, starting with US$36.1 million in 2006, and scaling up to US$57 million by 2010. This is in addition to other national funds for social pro-gra-ment. Some of the priority programmes under the NPA are: (1) Right to Food; (2) Right to Protection, including psycho-social support; (3) Right to Education, emphasis is placed on formal and non-formal education for all young people; (4) Right to Access Basic Services; and (5) Right to Participation. It is estimated that there are currently over 130,000 orphans and vulnerable children in Swaziland, with projections for over 198,000 OVC by 2010, which will be approximately 20 percent of the total population. The HIV/AIDS pan-demic has been one of the main contributors to the large number of OVCs in Swaziland.

ZAMBIA The country is experiencing torrential rainfall since the second week of December 2006. The rains have been particularly heavy in Mpulungu and Solwezi districts, situated in the northern parts of the country, where the resultant floods have destroyed houses and rendered hundreds of people homeless. The floods have also affected water and sanitation (WatSan) facilities in the two districts.

15,700 households (94,000 persons) have been affected in Chawama, Kalukungu, Highlands, Muzabula, Kayebela, Kandemba, Wisdom, Kimasala and Kizhigezinge settlements. The floods situation has been compounded by poor housing infrastructure - (made of mud) and and the communities rely on unsafe shallow wells for water. With the collapse of the latrines, water sources are likely to be contaminated. This has posed the possibility for the outbreak of waterborne and water-related diseases such as cholera.

In Mpulungu District in northern Zambia, heavy rains since 29 December destroyed mud houses and seriously affected WatSan facilities. The total number of affected people is estimated at 21,000, of whom about 822 have been rendered homeless. 137 houses were de-stroyed (23 in Posa, 57 in Muzabwera, 41 in Mupata and 16 in Masende settlements) as well as about 75% of the pit latrines. The affected people are now living in temporary shelter made from materials salvaged from their damaged homes. The situation is likely to worsen in the coming weeks as more rains are expected. There is thus a need to respond urgently to the plight of the affected people.

The Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) branches in the Northern Province conducted a rapid assessment in collaboration with local authorities and the National Disaster Manage-ment and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). The DMMU is mobilizing assistance from government ministries and humanitarian organizations. A formal request has been made to the Red Cross to provide tents. ZRCS will distribute 6,000 bottles of liquid chlorine (each 250ml) in emergency stocks to the affected areas to minimize chances of a cholera outbreak. Funding has allocated from the Federation’s DREF (US$43, 000) to enable ZRCS to assist 245 of the most affected households with temporary shelter as well as water supply and sanitation facilities.

Immediate needs include: temporary shelter (in the form of family tents); community-based hygiene education and sensitization (to mitigate cholera outbreaks); domestic chlorine for water treatment (18,600 x 250 ml bottles of liquid chlorine per month for 3 months); 5 drums of granular chlorine (for treatment of wells); protective clothing for volunteers; dis-infectants; transport for volunteers involved in sensitization campaigns. In the longterm, there is a need to ensure provision of safe domestic water by drilling additional boreholes.

The agricultural season is underway in Zambia, and planting continues across the country. In the Western Province, army worms damaged a number of crops. Farmers in these areas are either planting late, or may have to replant. They could be facing lower than average crop yields as a result. Several districts, particularly in Western Province, have recently appealed for food assistance, despite the evidence of favorable food sec-u-rity conditions. VAC teams are conducting rapid assessments and will present their recommendations to decision makers shortly.

The government introduced two input distribution schemes, enabling farmers who could otherwise not afford quality seeds and fertilizer to obtain them. Under the first scheme, some 160,000 farmers were offered a subsidy of 60%, while the second scheme targeted 22,000 farmers with seeds and fertilizers free of cost.
Due to the good harvest of last year, markets will be well supplied with maize for the duration of the marketing season. Maize meal prices have been exceptionally low, influenced to a large degree by the ban on private sector maize exports. Regional markets are offering attractive prices, and private traders have been lobbying the government to lift the ban.

**ZIMBABWE** Isolated cases of flash floods and violent storms have occurred in various parts of the country since December. According to the Civil Protection Unit (CPU), crops, food stocks, homes, and public infrastructure have been affected. In Mount Darwin 3,000 households (approximately 15,000 people) were affected by hailstorms and flash floods. In Tsholotsho 53 households (approx. 300 people) lost their homes due to floods, and in Masvingo seven schools, five health centres and a number of homes were destroyed by floods. More localised flooding is feared, as meteorological services warned for more heavy storms.

On 20 December, the CPU sought the assistance of the humanitarian community in Zimbabwe to provide aid to the affected areas. In Mount Darwin, the department of social welfare provided 100 packs of mealie meal, 200 cabbages and fuel, while the Zimbabwe Red Cross and IOM distributed plastic sheeting and non-food items. World Vision, the WFP implementing partner in Mount Darwin, has started food distributions to the affected families. In Tsholotsho, the Zimbabwe Red Cross provided 20 tents, and Save the Children (UK) donated emergency kits to 30 households. WFP is assessing possible food needs. The government department of public works has started to repair affected government institutions in Chiredzi and Zaka.

Mashonaland West Province was affected by Quelea quelea birds and aphids, which favour dry conditions. They attacked wheat crops in all districts, which will reduce potential yields. Irrigation of wheat crops was also affected by intermittent power supplies. Mean-while, the southern parts of Zimbabwe enjoyed rains in early January after having experienced dryer than normal conditions during the first half of the planting season. Farmers were forced to re-plant their crops following the dry spell.

About 296,000 households are receiving seed and fertilizer assistance in 674 wards. There are adequate amounts of maize seed, but lack of fertilizer, tillage equipment and fuel will impact adversely on timely land preparation on both small and large farms. In addition, with the hunger season well on its way, the government has contracted suppliers to import 565,000 tonnes of maize from South Africa and Zambia to boost stocks. WFP estimates that 1.4 million people are in critical need of food assistance, based on preliminary findings from the April and May 2006 assessment. The numbers of food insecure people is expected to rise to 1.9 million people due to rising inflation and an increased lack of access to the market. WFP continues to scale down its operations, so far affecting roughly half of the 900,000 people it was originally targeting due to funding shortages. Donors’ poor response to the appeal for funds comes after frequent government assurances of a bumper yield of 1.8 million tonnes of grain.

WFP had budgeted 65,000 tonnes of food at a cost of US$35 million for the period from October to March 2007, but has only received pledges for 39,000 tonnes expected in Harare via South Africa. The Zimbabwean government has bought 100 tonnes from Zambia. In the interim, WFP has had to resort to cutting back its urban feeding and school-feeding programmes, and a suspension of mobile feeding in rural areas. WFP needs at least US$17 million just to get Zimbabwe through the lean season. At the household level, WFP monitoring reports indicate that food security remains uncertain for communities living in the drought prone areas of Matabeleland, parts of Masvingo and in the far northern parts of the country.

IOM continues to mainstream HIV/AIDS and Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities at food distribution points, NFI distribution points, shelter, water and sanitation and livelihood activities. Using the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Code of Conduct, both beneficiaries and service providers are provided training on GBV. In September 17 subcontracted builders (10 males and 7 females) for the Hopley Shelter received GBV training on the expected code of conduct in their interaction with beneficiaries and to build reporting capacity and identification of GBV violence incidents in the context of their assignments.
Word Food Programme (WFP) receives welcomed funding

The 5WSMC is orgnaized by the Children and Broadcasting Foundation for Africa, in partnership with South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), South African Development Community (SADC) ICASA, and the Department of Communications, and with support from Telkom and the MDDA. The 5WSMC will bring together 1,000 local and international media professionals working in the area of quality media for children. The objective is to develop a comprehensive media policy framework for children, which will highlight sus-tainable solutions for high quality content. Three hundred children (local and international aged between 13-16 years) will be part of this event, which will provide the opportunity for them to participate in all areas of media development, production and distribution.

Sport as a peace builder is a sub-theme of the 5WSMC. The Summit will include workshops and master-classes for young sport journalists in the run up to 2010. Key international partners with a focus on media and sport development will be in Alex to kick off the summit with a walkabout at the Phutadiphuba Community Centre in Alex, Soweto. The walkabout is aimed at establishing Alexandra Township as a twin venue to Sandton for the 5th World Summit on Media for Children where a mini football world cup will be staged.

Sport is a tool for development and peace, as well as media, including TV. Sport provides for attractive content and media/TV is the most efficient platforms for visibility…

A joint venture of both in the framework of two outstanding events,

- the 5th World Summit on Children and Media, March 25 – 28, 2007,
- the 2010 FIFA-World Championship

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UNICEF globally launched “The State of the World’s Children 2007” which examines the status of women and children around the world. It concludes that an end to gender discrimination pro-duces a ‘double dividend’ benefit-ing women and children – with a positive impact on the health of societies everywhere.

Released on 11 December – the same day UNICEF was established six decades ago – the report argues that progress in women’s status has not come far enough. Millions of girls and women continue to live in pov-erty, disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, less likely to attend school and often subject to physical and sexual violence. In households dominated by men, girls are less likely to attend secondary school, thereby precipi-tating the vicious cycle of gen-
der inequality. The report shows that only 43% of girls in the de-veloping world attend secondary school.

The report suggests seven key interventions to empower women and saves children’s lives:

1) Abolish school fees and invest in girls’ education;
2) Invest government fund-ing in gender equality;
3) Enact legislation to create a level playing field for women and to address domestic as well as gender-based violence;
4) Ensure women’s participation in politics;
5) Involve women’s grass-roots organizations in policy develop-
ment;
6) Engage men and boys on the importance of gender equality;
7) Improve research and data on gender issues.

Promoting gender equality is the focus of Millennium Develop-
ment Goal 3. If this goal is achieved, UNICEF believes, benefits will be felt in many other spheres – from poverty and hunger reduction to global health and environ-mental sust-
ainability. The State of the World’s Children 2007 shows that in the long run, the impact of empower-ing women is sim-
ply too im-portant to ignore. The full re-port is available at http://www.unicef.org/sowc07

5th World Summit on Media for Children (5WSMC)

South Africa will be the host of the 5th World Summit on Media for Children (5WSMC) from 24-28 March 2007 around the key theme: “Media as a Tool for Global Peace and Democracy.”