



# SADC Food Security Network MINISTERIAL BRIEF

... helping decision-makers maintain food security ...

9 May 2003

## FOOD SECURITY PROSPECTS BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

Cereal production estimates just released by SADC and FAO point to an improvement in the food security situation in several countries in comparison to the same time last year. Zimbabwe, however, continues to be of concern, and in Botswana a poor harvest is expected. SADC REWU estimates that total cereal production in the region will be around 22.6 million MT, a 6% improvement over last year and 3% above the past five year average (see table). Notable production increases are expected in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This is significant, as these countries accounted for over two thirds of food aid requirements in 2002/03 in southern Africa (excluding Angola). Sizable increases are also expected in Angola, Lesotho and Namibia. In contrast, production in Mozambique is forecast to drop slightly compared to last year and Swaziland is expected to have

another below average year. South African production is expected to be the same as last year and 7% above the five year average. This is good news for food security at the regional level as South Africa typically accounts for nearly 50% of regional cereal production. Discussions on production figures continue in Zimbabwe, particularly with respect to maize. On the basis of the FAO estimate (right), cereal production will be 72% up on last year but still 31% less than the five year average and large amounts of food will need to be imported.

This national analysis masks significant sub-national production problems in Mozambique, Tanzania and Swaziland in particular, and also Lesotho (see overleaf for more details).

This analysis should be considered indicative until final production estimates are known in June/July.

### 2002/03 Cereal Production Forecasts

Country	2003 Cereal Production Forecast	COMPARED TO.....	
		2002	5 year average
Angola	717,000	+31%	+28%
Botswana	13,000	-42%	-16%
Lesotho	162,000	+33%	+20%
Malawi	2,027,000	+21%	-4%
Mozambique	1,579,000	-7%	-2%
Namibia	119,000	+62%	+31%
RSA	11,648,000	0%	+7%
Swaziland	72,000	+3%	-17%
Tanzania	3,910,000	-8%	-1%
Zambia	1,167,000	+57%	+15%
Zimbabwe	1,213,000	+72%	-31%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,627,000</b>	<b>+6%</b>	<b>+3%</b>

SOURCES: Forecasts from SADC REWU and FAO, GIEWS (Zimbabwe only), May 2003. Historical data from SADC REWU, May 2003.

### MAIZE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IMPROVES IN MOST COUNTRIES

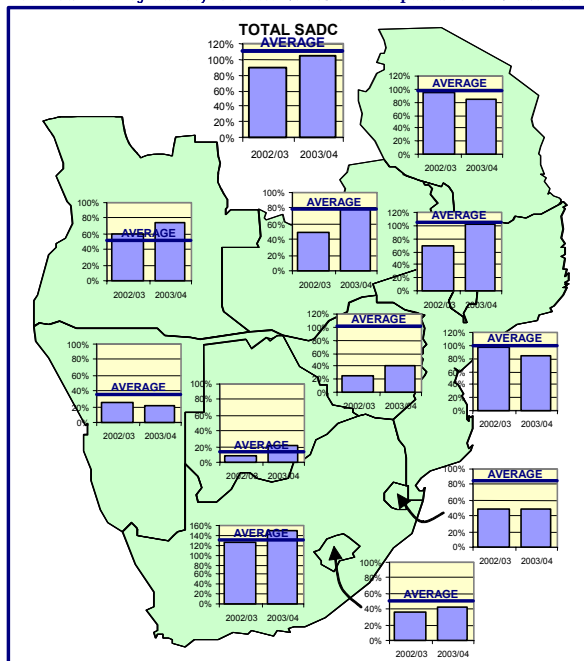
The SADC Regional Early Warning Unit (REWU) calculates a maize self-sufficiency ratio based on domestic production plus opening stocks as a percentage of maize consumption requirements. At the aggregate SADC regional level (excluding DRC, Mauritius and the Seychelles), the REWU estimates that 105% of consumption requirements are likely to be met from the 2002/03 production in the coming marketing year, based on preliminary production forecasts. This compares favorably with last year, when only 90% of maize requirements were met through regional production, but is less than the past 10-year average maize self sufficiency ratio of 110%.

Based on the past 10-year average, five SADC countries, (Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) are normally self-sufficient in maize. This year, Zimbabwe is expected to produce less than 40% of its maize con-

sumption requirements, which is a marked improvement over last years ratio of 26%. Mozambique and Tanzania are both expecting below normal production and an 85% self-sufficiency ratio, which is notably below their average (99% and 97%, respectively). Based on preliminary production estimates, South Africa's ratio is 150%, well above its average of 132%, and an improvement over last year.

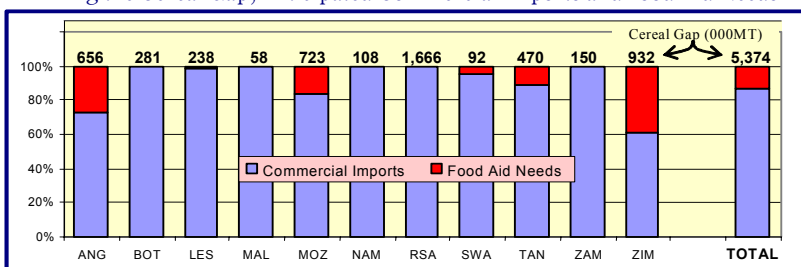
Swaziland has met only 48% of its maize requirements for the past two years, compared to 10 year average of 83%. Lesotho and Zambia are expected to be close to their average levels, both showing an improvement over last year. In contrast, Namibia, with a 10 year average self-sufficiency ratio of 34%, is likely to see a further drop this season, although preliminary production estimates have already been revised upwards.

### Self-Sufficiency Ratios, Forecast 2003/04 Compared to Previous Year



SOURCE: SADC Regional Early Warning Unit, April 2003

### Filling the Cereal Gap, Anticipated Commercial Imports and Food Aid Needs



SOURCE: FAO GIEWS, May 2003. NOTE: Based on consumption requirements, re-export and stock build-up.

### FOOD AID REQUIREMENTS WILL BE LIMITED

Improved cereal production and self-sufficiency ratios mean lower import requirements. As the graph (left) shows, the commercial sector is expected to be the main source of imported grain in the region. Neither Malawi nor Zambia is expected to need food aid, and food aid requirements for Lesotho and Swaziland are very small compared to commercial imports. In Zimbabwe, food aid needs are expected to be 40% of total requirements. This is much lower than the 80% estimated at this time last year. Regionally, food aid is expected to comprise about 13% of imports (compared to 40% at this time last year).

The SADC Food Security Network Ministerial Brief is a joint product of the FANR, the Regional Early Warning Unit, the Regional Remote Sensing Unit, the Vulnerability Assessment Committee, the Database Project and FANR's key partners including USAID's FEWS NET, SC (UK), FAO and the FSRP/Zambia.



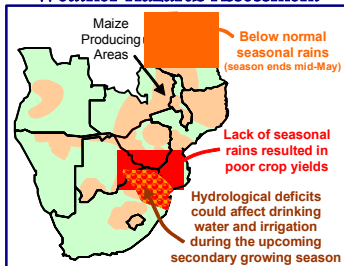
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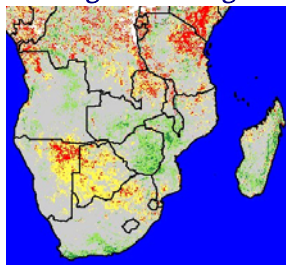
# SEASONAL RAINS LEFT SOME AREAS DRY

## Southern Africa Weather Hazards Assessment



SOURCE: FEWS NET/NOAA, April 2003

## NDVI Difference from Long-Term Average



SOURCE: FEWS NET, 30 April 2003

With the 2002/03 seasonal rains nearly over across most of the region, it is seen that two areas of the region suffered from low levels of rainfall this past season. Poor rainfall over the area from southern Mozambique extending into southern Zimbabwe and eastern Botswana has adversely affected crop yields, causing localized concern over food security, particularly in southern Mozambique which was also affected by prolonged dry spells and poor production last year. As a result of inadequate rainfall, water shortages could occur in northern South Africa in the months ahead.

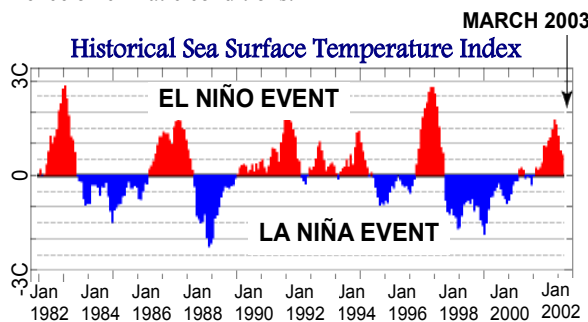
The other area of concern is the northern half of Tanzania, which experienced a late onset to the rains and a prolonged dry spell in most of the unimodal rainfall areas during the critical periods of crop development. Maize yields are expected to be down between 10% and 90% in affected areas.

The Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI) compared to the long-term average as of the end of April, shows the areas of Tanzania, South Africa and southern Mozambique affected by the dry spells. Above normal vegetation is seen in central Mozambique and Zimbabwe following the heavy late-season rains.

## El Niño Continues to Weaken

According to the International Research Institute on Climate Prediction, the 2002/03 El Niño event had nearly dissipated by mid-April, and would be neutral by mid-June. Any lingering effects associated with the El Niño through the end of May are expected to be weak. The outlook beyond June 2003 is uncertain.

Compared to other El Niño events over the past 50 years, the 2002/03 episode was considered to be moderate in intensity. This, coupled with the rapid weakening of the El Niño event, resulted in weaker than expected influence on climatic conditions.



# TOWARDS IDENTIFYING THE HIV/AIDS IMPACTS ON FOOD SECURITY

The SADC FANR Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) has released a study entitled "Towards Identifying Impacts of HIV/AIDS on Food Insecurity in Southern Africa and Implications for Response" (May, 2003). The study used data generated from emergency food security assessments conducted in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe in August and December 2002, and looked at the relationship between HIV/AIDS proxy variables and food security parameters.

The results strongly imply that HIV/AIDS has significantly increased the vulnerability of households to acute food insecurity in 2002-03 through marked reductions in agricultural production and off-farm income generation. This led to earlier engagement in distress coping strategies, and ultimately, a decline in food security outcomes. Different morbidity, mortality and demographic profiles have different effects on food security processes and outcomes. Key differences are seen according to whether or not the household has an active adult, chronically ill person or an orphan present, whether the head of household is chronically ill, and whether there is a high dependency ratio. Each of these characteristics has further nuances that are affected by age and gender.

The following table lists the proxy indicators used in the study. It provides an indication of the relative magnitude of the per capita food gap for households displaying the different proxy indicators from the Zambia data set. On this basis, the most vulnerable households are those whose household head is chronically ill, and

## Food Security Outcomes: HIV/AIDS Proxy Indicators and the Predicted Size of 2002-03 Cereal Gap (Zambia)

Proxy Indicator	Difference in size of per capita cereal gap with proxy
<b>A. Morbidity indicators</b>	
Chronically ill household head	+ 26 %
Chronically ill adult aged between 15 and 59	+ 21 %
<b>B. Mortality indicators</b>	
Household member died in the last 12 months	+ 8 %
Adult aged 15 to 59 died in the last 12 months	+ 9 %
<b>C. "Hybrid" Morbidity/mortality indicators</b>	
Affected households	+ 16%
Highly affected households	+ 26 %
<b>D. Demographic load indicators</b>	
Presence of orphans	- 3.5 %
No adults aged between 15 and 59	+ 15%

SOURCE: Zambia VAC, 2002

those households where there has been both the death of an adult aged under 60 years and the presence of a chronically ill adult ("highly affected households").

The critical question for programming, policy, advocacy and research is: *what can be done to prevent, slow or even reverse a downward spiraling livelihood trajectory for HIV and AIDS affected households?*

**Programming:** A "three-pronged attack" in 2003-04 and beyond is suggested: consumption side support (food aid); productivity enhancing support; and support to household and community safety nets.

**Policy:** A key element of response will be to view policy through an "HIV/AIDS lens". The

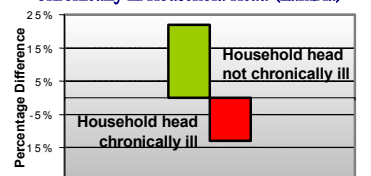
"lens" refers to viewing potential solutions to a problem (e.g. poverty) that derives from knowledge of the important linkages with another problem (e.g. HIV/AIDS). It also means that policies need to be designed and evaluated with a view to their impact on HIV/AIDS prevention or mitigation. In this way, HIV/AIDS can be "mainstreamed" in the policy process. The HIV/AIDS lens needs to be applied to all policies which have an impact on rural livelihoods.

**Advocacy:** The 2002 food crisis has confirmed that HIV/AIDS is a critical livelihoods and rights issue in the region, seriously compromising access to food at the household level. The need for a "paradigm shift" in the way that development and emergency programming is implemented in the region to tackle effectively the growing pandemic is an issue that needs to be raised at all decision making levels.

**Research:** The study highlights the need to differentiate between households according to the type of impact that HIV and AIDS has had or is having. A key area of research will be to track HIV/AIDS infected and affected households of different types through time to see how resilient or vulnerable they are to livelihood shocks (such as the 2002 food shock) and longer-term trends, such as gradual land degradation and economic decline. Research should take into account extra-household factors, such as kinship and other forms of social capital in livelihoods trajectories.

Full text copies of the report can be downloaded from [www.sadc-fanr.org.zw](http://www.sadc-fanr.org.zw)

## Difference in Area Planted 2001-02 to 2002-03, Chronically Ill Household Head (Zambia)



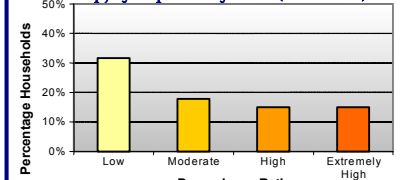
SOURCE: Zambia VAC, 2002

## Examples of the HIV/AIDS Impact on Food Security

The graph on the left shows that households in Zambia headed by healthy adults planted 23% more area in 2002/03 compared to the previous season. In contrast, when the household head was chronically ill, the area planted decreased by an average of 14% from the previous year.

The graph on the right shows that over 30% of households in Zimbabwe with low dependency ratios had seeds to plant their main cash crop. In contrast, only 15% of households with a high dependency ratio, possibly from taking in HIV/AIDS orphans, had adequate seeds to plant their main cash crop.

## Percentage Households with Seeds for Main Cash Crop, by Dependency Ratio (Zimbabwe)



SOURCE: Zimbabwe VAC, 2002