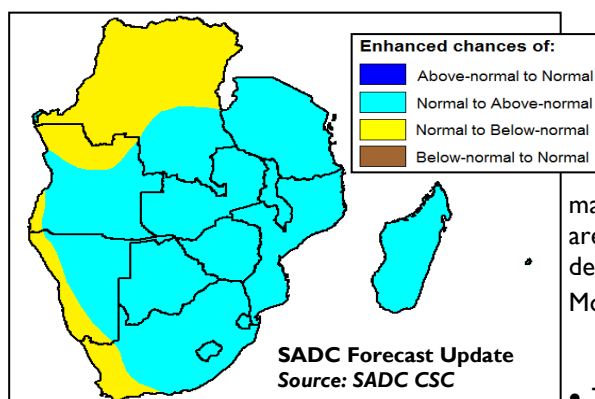




Regional Food and Nutrition Security Update

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Good rains received in December and early January significantly reduced earlier rainfall deficits experienced in the central parts of the region. Although much later than normal, rains were finally received in southern Malawi, parts of eastern Zambia, and central/northern Mozambique, thus enabling the planting of crops. Poor rainfall continues to negatively affect drought-stricken parts of southwestern Angola.
- The delay in the onset of rains in eastern Zambia, southern Malawi, and northern/central Mozambique has resulted in a reduced window for crops to grow to maturity. Unless the season extends for longer than usual, crops may not be able to reach maturity. It will also be important for these areas to receive consistent rains with limited dry spells, due to the shortened crop growing window. The exception is southern Malawi, which is expected to be minimally impacted by the late start of season due to the short-season crop varieties grown there.
- The International Red Locust Control organization (IRLCO) reported a widespread armyworm outbreak in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe that inflicted severe damage to crops. Necessitating replanting in some areas. Currently the situation is under control following pest control measures applied by affected farmers with assistance from Ministries of agriculture.
- Southeastern Botswana and central parts of South Africa received below normal rainfall amounts, accumulated over the October to December 2013 period. Additionally, rainfall between



December 21 and January 10 was generally poor. As a result of the short term water deficits, water balance models are estimating poor soil moisture conditions in some of these areas. Satellite-based vegetation images also show below normal vegetation conditions prevailing in these areas. Rains will be needed soon to avert a deterioration of crop conditions. FEWS NET Monitor , Jan 24 2014.

- The SADC Climate Services Centre's updated forecast (Jan 2014), states that for the period January to March 2014, normal to above-normal rainfall conditions will prevail in nearly all parts of the region except for the western and northern parts and normal to below normal rainfall is expected during the second half of the rainfall season .

This bulletin summarises the various issues related to food and nutrition security in the southern Africa region in order to present a concise update on a monthly basis. Information is collected from various sources including Governments, UN, FEWSNET, NGOs and other Partners.

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DISCLAIMER

Some pieces of information may be based on unofficial sources and the FNSWG welcomes complementary data and comments.

ANALYSIS PER COUNTRY AND ONGOING RESPONSES (Based on available information as of end of January)

ANGOLA

- Poor rainfall delayed relief from drought-induced Stressed food security conditions in the south of the country as seasonal rainfall has not improved as previously forecasted.
- Poor households in the southern livestock livelihood zone continue to depend primarily on government food assistance, imports from Namibia, and supplies from neighboring Huila Province. Thus, Namibe and Cunene provinces are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food security outcomes through June.
- Currently there is a bimodal forecast for the country and normal to above normal rainfall patterns are expected in the majority of the country. This is expected to normalize agricultural production in those areas in the northern and central provinces that received agricultural inputs and prepared the land on time. Therefore, with the normalization of rainfall in northern Huila Province, there is going to be a gradual increase in farm labor until it reaches its peak demand around late April to mid-July.

Response: The Government of Angola has revised its food assistance program and currently plans to gradually assist the six worst affected provinces up to July 2014. FAO will support government to strengthen livelihood systems in southern Angola (Cunene, Namibe, and part of Huila provinces) focusing on agro-pastoral and pastoral communities in 2014. Major interventions will include establishing Early Warning Systems and Analysis for DRR/IM and DRR/IM and Food Security at Provincial level, developing capacity and skills for DRR/IM at community level, and improving grazing and water management (animal access to fodder and water).

LESOTHO

- FEWSNET estimated that Lesotho is in Phase I of IPC. The Government has also conducted the IPC analysis, and the results of which have not yet been released.
- While Lesotho received good rains in the month of December, this was followed by reduced rainfall in many parts of the country during the first half of January. Cumulative rainfall since the season began is near normal in most areas. Crops are reported to be in vegetative stage.
- The recent community and household surveillance (CHS) reported the five most important livelihood sources as casual labour, remittances, food crop production/sales, pension and brewing; most of which are unreliable sources. The CHS further indicated that more households than last year had adequate food consumption, yet they had low dietary diversity.

Response: FAO provided seeds to 7,500 vulnerable farming households for 2013/2014 cropping season; while on the other hand, the Government of Lesotho subsidised seeds and fertilisers. However, good rains were received towards the end of planting season.

MADAGASCAR

- The BNGRC (the Madagascar National Disaster Management Office) reported some localized flooded areas in January, over the west coast and south-western regions of Madagascar. About 200 displaced individuals in the urban setting of Morondava were reported. Relief assistance have been provided to the affected population by the local authorities of the Region Menabe.
- During the third week of January, Moderate Tropical Cyclone DELIWE brought heavy rainfall over the western and south-western regions (Boeny, Melaky, Menabe, Atsimo-Andrefana) of Madagascar for about a week. These regions had already been affected by successive severe weather conditions since late December 2013. In total, 7 people died and one is still missing, 2 schools were damaged, 1,640 people were either displaced or evacuated and 729 ha of rice fields were flooded.
- The FEWS NET report of January 2014, notes that food insecurity is at Phase 3 (Crisis) level for the period January to March due to multiple shocks, but this is forecast to improve from the month of April through to June during the rice, corn and legumes harvest period.
- According to the latest Madagascar rainfall forecast, issued by the Department of Meteorology, rainfall during February is expected to be below normal, followed by heavy rains in March which could cause flooding, with normal rainfall expected in April. The cyclone season runs until April 2014.

MALAWI

- In southern Malawi, planting rains were finally received in mid-December, followed by good rains country-wide in the first 10 days of January. At this stage, maize crops are not expected to be affected by the delayed onset, particularly due to the short varieties grown in southern Malawi. Generally good rains have been received in the northern half of Malawi since December.
- Maize crops were reported to be in good condition, ranging from germination to vegetation stage.

ANALYSIS PER COUNTRY AND ONGOING RESPONSES

MOZAMBIQUE

- In central and parts of northern Mozambique, the onset of rains was delayed by more at least 1 month. This has resulted in a situation in which crops are unlikely to reach maturity unless the season extends longer than normal. In the 30 days ending 20 January, most parts of Mozambique have received normal to -above normal rainfall.
- Heavy rains are occurring in parts of the central region and some river levels are rising, especially in Save, Buzi and Púnguè rivers. Latest updated information from the National Directorate of Water (DNA) indicates that Búzi and Púnguè rivers are already above the alert level. These high river levels are posing some threat to the flood prone areas along the major river basins. A number of river basins has reached alert levels only to recede. The situation is being closely monitored.
- Most households across the country are experiencing Minimal acute food insecurity outcomes (IPC Phase 1). Rural households are meeting their basic food requirements by accessing a variety of foods from previous cropping seasons, by expanding their typical livelihood strategies, and through market purchases.
- In areas affected by armed tension in localized parts of Gorongosa, Chibabava, Maringue, Homoine and Funhalouro districts, the displaced people are facing acute food insecurity.

Response: As a result of the localized conflict, in some resettlement areas, the government authorities are providing plots of land for households to rebuild their houses and land for farming. However, the time period for the main agriculture season has passed and households can only plant for the second season harvest, which is usually much smaller than the main season.

NAMIBIA

- Above-normal rainfall was received in most parts of the country in December. This was followed by dry conditions in most areas except for the north-eastern areas. The result of the good December rains has been a significant reduction in water deficits after a severe drought in the 2012/2013 season, as well as improvement of grazing, and a subsequent improvement in livestock conditions..

Response: As part of the project to be implemented in southern Angola in 2014, FAO will support government to strengthen livelihood systems in Northern Namibia focusing on agro-pastoral and pastoral communities. Major interventions will include establishing Early Warning Systems and Analysis for DRR/IM and DRR/IM and Food Security at Provincial level, developing capacity and skills for DRR/IM at community level, and improving grazing and water management (animal access to fodder and water).

SWAZILAND

- Swaziland's Vulnerability Assessment 2013 report shows that while the population facing livelihood deficit has increased compared to last year, only 56,305 people (approximately 5% of the population) will require immediate food assistance in 2013-14.
- The SARCOF 2013/2014 seasonal outlook shows an increased chance of normal to above normal rainfall in the entire country. The country experienced a near-normal start of the season in October, according to satellite rainfall estimates. The season has been progressing well and good rains have been experienced in most areas throughout the growing season until the end of December.
- While this year's rainfall is predicted to support higher food production than last year, the country's agricultural sector is still faced with a number of challenges to support efficient food production meeting the national demand. Lack of inputs, limited use of fertilizer and capacity to utilize new technologies sets to limit the overall food produced in the country. Erratic weather conditions also have a greater impact on food production as most of the agriculture is rainfall dependent. In December the country was hit by storms which caused damage to crops and infrastructure.

TANZANIA

- Poor rainfall was received in the bimodal areas located in the northern parts of the country. This brings to an end the *Vuli* (short season) rains, which overall performed poorly this season. There were reports of wilting of late planted crops due to the low rainfall received in most bimodal areas. The poor rainfall performance is expected to negatively affect the *Vuli* harvest. Tanzania has had several poor *Vuli* seasons in the last few years. Good rains have generally been received in the unimodal areas, and crops are reported to be ranging from emergence to establishment stage in most areas.
- Heavy rains over central Tanzania caused flooding in the districts of Kilosa, Mvomero and Gairo on 21 and 22 January 2014. An estimated 13,557 people have been affected, with 2,922 houses flooded. Damage to infrastructure, farms and food stocks have also been reported, OCHA ROSA produced a map of the flooding which can be found [here](#).

ZAMBIA

- A late onset of rains occurred in the eastern half of the country, with most areas being at least 20 days late, while some areas had a delay of 40 days or more. Planting rains generally came in late November and early December in most eastern areas. The result of this delayed onset is reduced chances for the crop to reach maturity unless the season extends longer than usual. Despite the late onset, rains have been progressing well in most areas since mid-December.

ZIMBABWE

- Zimbabwe has generally received good rainfall for much of the season. Most areas experienced an onset of rainfall in late October through November, with a few areas in the northern and southern areas having an onset in December. Rainfall was consistent in December and early January, promoting good crop development. Crops are reported to be in good condition in most areas.
- As the lean season progresses the food security situation is deteriorating and based on earlier projections by the ZIM VAC, the proportion of the food insecure population will increase by 45 percent between January and February. Poor households in the southwestern areas are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through March, while most households in the north will face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes.
- Food security situation is likely to get worse before the harvest as authorities battle to address food shortages. WFP has a six-month pipeline shortfall and critical assistance is needed for the Seasonal Targeted Assistance (STA), which ends in March. Half rations are currently being distributed in all districts.

UPCOMING EVENTS — February 2014 to December 2014

Event	Dates	Venue	Contact Organization
Urban Vulnerability Assessment. Regional workshop	2-4 Dec 2013	Johannesburg, South Africa	WFP
UNDG ESA Regional Directors Meeting	06-Dec-13	Johannesburg, South Africa	FAO
SADC Annual Organization Meeting (AOM)	09-11 Dec 2013	Johannesburg, South Africa	SADC RVAA
Markets Assessment and Analysis Workshop	27 Jan- 07 Feb 2014	Maseru, Lesotho	OXFAM /SADC RVAA

The Food and Nutrition Security Update is jointly produced by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group – Southern Africa. The overall mission of the Group is to contribute to enhanced programming for improved Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in southern Africa.

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We are grateful to the respective **country teams** from the various Agencies in providing contributions to this report. Additional information is obtained from relevant websites as reflected in the main body of the report where applicable.

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