

Issue

6

Food & Nutrition Security Working Group

July 2014 Monthly Update
Focus: Annual Rural Assessments



Picture Courtesy of SwaziVAC



Regional Update (updated 15th of July 2014)

This update is largely derived from the just concluded SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment Annual Dissemination Meeting which took place from 30th June to 2nd July in Lilongwe, Malawi.

In general, the 2013/14 season had good amounts of well distributed rains in most countries with normal (Oct to Dec) to even above normal (Jan-Mar) rains. However, there was late onset of rains in some parts of the region including parts of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and failed *vuli* rains in north-west Tanzania. Rains in Jan-Mar period were low for some areas in Namibia and Angola.

At the Dissemination Meeting, nine countries (Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) had finalised their annual vulnerability assessments for 2014/15. From the synthesis information, all countries with the exception of Lesotho and DRC experienced increases in cereal production. For 11 countries (Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) that had crop data available, regional cereal harvest increased by 15% from 33.5 million tonnes last year to 38.7 million tonnes this year. This is 20% above the average of the last five years. On the overall, the region has an 8% cereal shortfall before accounting for any exports outside the region.

An early outlook indicates that there is an 80% chance of an El Nino developing this upcoming season. However, the patterns of rainfall during the last 10 events of “el Nino” show little consistency in either increased or reduced rainfall that immediate concern about negative impacts on crop productions cannot be justified. The official seasonal forecasts for 2014/2015 season will be issued at SARCOF in late August 2014.

COUNTRY ANALYSIS

Lesotho

Crop production forecast for 2013/14 indicates a 2% decrease in production for major cereal food crops compared to the last season and 2% increase in the 5 year average. The number of food insecure population estimated at 30% has almost doubled as a result of a combination of factors that include; drop in sorghum production by almost 75% from last year due to late onset of rains and frost damage, reduced labour opportunities and high food price as well as decreasing resilience of the population. The affected population that will require humanitarian assistance is estimated at 447,760 people for a period of 4-5 months (starting Oct/Nov 2014) in all the districts.

Mozambique

There was no field-level assessment conducted on the food security and vulnerability conditions. Information was collected from the district and regional level, and thus requires further refinement for a full understanding of the situation and a better estimation of the vulnerable population at household level. FEWS NET estimates that majority of rural households are expected to remain in a

Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity state from July to September. Households will be able to meet their needs with improved food availability at the household level and access through market purchases at reasonable prices, and access second season harvest.

Namibia

Compared to the 5-year average, a significant improvement in crop production was realised this year. This also resulted in a significant reduction of vulnerable people, notwithstanding the ongoing impact of drought on livestock conditions and also household resilience of the last two years of drought. The total population at risk has been estimated at 577,936 people of whom about 117,662 are facing survival deficits.

Swaziland

A very significant increase in crop production of almost 30% was reported. Furthermore, severe issues with post harvest storage both at national and at farmer's level were reported. These will have an impact on food availability.

Tanzania

Crop production performance for 2013/14 is expected to be generally the same compared to last season. Preliminary indication from the local councils shows that a large part of the country (about 90%) will produce at self sufficiency level and above, while some areas are expected to have a deficit. About 213,400 people have been identified as food and nutrition insecure, with a food requirement estimate of 5,121 MT. No interventions have been identified as the new harvest season has just begun.

Zambia

The vulnerability assessment was conducted in 33 flood and dry spell affected districts out of a total of 89 districts, different from the ones assessed last year. Zambia's maize production increased by 27% compared to last year, creating a national surplus of more than a million MT. However, an increase in vulnerable population by almost 68% was reported, and this was attributed to the occurrence of shocks. They estimated number of food insecure people is 351,000.

Zimbabwe

Crop estimates indicate that the country will have a cereal harvest surplus of 253,174 MT from a total cereal harvest of 1,680,293MT. The proportion of household with acceptable food consumption score (FCS) increased to 68%. Calculations were done on the basis of comparison between possible income and minimum costs of energy requirements and a number of assumptions regarding purchasing power and price stability. The number of people estimated to be food insecure for the 2014/15 consumption year is estimated to be 565,000 representing 6% of rural population and a steep decrease from last year's figures.

Food Insecure Population (Rural) 2014/15

Country	Affected Population	Rural population	Percentage
Botswana	1 500	737 823	0.20%
DRC	7 318 699	57 058 980	12.80%
Lesotho	447 760	1 472 302	30.40%
Mozambique	150 000	14 197 898	1.10%
Namibia	117 662	1 392 667	8.40%
Swaziland	223 249	850 203	26.30%
Tanzania	213 379	35 625 180	0.60%
Zambia	351 267	9 120 000	3.90%
Zimbabwe	564 599	9 734 474	5.80%
SADC	9 388 115	130 189 527	7.20%

Source: SADC RVAC Dissemination Meeting

Important Events in 2014

Event	Dates	Venue	Contact Organization
IPC Technical Working Group meeting	24 July 2014	Johannesburg, RSA	IPC/FESNET
World Breastfeeding Week	August (Dates TBC)	Mbabane, Swaziland	NEPAD
Urban assessment lesson learning workshop	TBD	Maseru, Lesotho	SADC RVVA
Regional IPC Level 2 Training	15-19 September	South Africa	IPC/FAO
Regional vulnerability assessment technical meeting	October (Dates TBC)	Johannesburg, RSA	SADC RVVA
Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security	30 October	TBC	NEPAD
Nutrition integration into VAA	November (date TBC)	Johannesburg, RSA	SADC RVVA

The Food 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.

AGENCY	CONTACT PERSON	EMAIL
FAO REOSA	James Okoth Gertrude Kara	James.Okoth@fao.org Gertrude.kara@fao.org
OXFAM	Daniel Sinnathamby	DSinnathamby@oxfam.org.uk
WFP	Joao Manja Veronica Rammala	joao.manja@wfp.org veronica.rammala@wfp.org
FEWSNET	Phumzile Mdladla	PMdladla@fews.net
OCHA	Hein Zeelie	zeelie@un.org

Acknowledgments

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.