Key messages

• The 2017-18 rainfall season was characterized by a late start, an extended mid-season dry spell (December-January) and heavy rains from February into April. The dry spell caused moisture stress and wilting of the early planted crops in many areas in Botswana, south-western Madagascar, southern Malawi, southern and some central parts of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

• This has led to 13% decline in crop production vs last year’s and 3% above the 5-year average. The most significant contractions from previous harvest in comparison to the 5-year average were recorded in Lesotho (-68 and -35%), Zambia (-33% and -20%) and Botswana (-30% and -38%).

• The availability of grain in the region is expected to benefit from significant carry-over stocks in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe from above-average 2017 outputs. As a result prices for maize in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are below last year and about 20-33% below the 5-year average. Nevertheless, due to reduced production, maize prices are expected to increase earlier, around August. However, those stocks are often in the form of strategic grain reserves and not necessarily in the hands of ordinary households. For example, in the Tete region in Mozambique 78% of the households have no maize reserves at all.

• Nevertheless, overall the food insecurity situation is highly likely to deteriorate. The number of severely food insecure is likely rise by more than 70% to 9.6 million people [in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe]. Sharp increases compared to last year have been recorded in Zambia [954,120, or +1139%], Malawi about [3.3 mn, +217%] and Zimbabwe [2.4 mn just in rural areas, +130%].

• No major increases of global acute malnutrition (GAM) have been observed during the 2018 peak lean season (January – March). However, acute malnutrition continues to be a problem in parts of the region. Pockets of high GAM (above 10 per cent) persist in specific areas, such as districts in southern Madagascar. Nutrition surveillance is continuing in the region, with a focus on drought-affected communities in vulnerable areas, as a key strategy to ensure early identification and treatment of children with acute malnutrition.

• Looking ahead a real concern is that the probability of El Niño has increased to about 70% during the 2018-19 summer cropping season. El Niño is historically associated with increased chances of (a) high rainfall in the northern part of the region and (b) depressed rainfall in the middle belt of the region and the southern half of the region. The El Niño in 2015/16 caused the worst drought in 35 years leaving 14.1 million people in need of emergency assistance across the region.

Recommedations

Food insecurity

• Countries should take advantage of opportunities created by more availability of water from heavy late rains received at the end of the season, by supporting small scale irrigation for supplementary food production during the dry to transient season (August to mid-November).

• Countries should take all appropriate measures to facilitate and promote regional trade of maize, fostering predictability in markets, and hold back from taking ad-hoc policy measure that would restrict imports or exports of grains within the region.

• Given the effect that the 2015/16 El Niño had on the southern Africa region, another El Niño this year could potentially have serious food security implications. Partners should work closely with climatology experts in the region to closely monitor short-to-seasonal scale rainfall forecasts, and make appropriate, sector-specific preparations now.
Partners should continue to promote resilience-building initiatives in the region to help communities to cope with anticipated threats and risks to food security. Such initiatives include climate smart agriculture, conservation agriculture, etc.

**Nutrition**

- **Overall, drought response initiatives linked to community-level resilience building activities were more successful than initiatives that addressed only the impacts of the drought.** Multi-sector convergence analysis (including mapping of targeted districts with activities) across Nutrition, WASH, Health, Social Protection and Social Behaviour Change and Communication facilitated intersectoral collaboration and joint programming. This enabled the delivery of integrated services to accelerate life-saving interventions, including prevention and treatment of children with SAM. There is a need to continue to strengthen this modality of work, as there were also missed opportunities for providing comprehensive services to affected communities in the 2015/2016 El Niño-induced drought due to weak multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms. For example, HIV testing for children admitted to programmes treating acute malnutrition, which was only undertaken in few countries.

- **Building resilience of communities is not only important for cyclical regional shocks that impact wasting, but also to accelerate stunting reduction in the region.** Stunting is defined as a child's low height for age. It is the outcome of chronic under-nutrition and frequent infections during a child's first thousand days. If unattended, the damage stunting causes to a child's physical and mental development is irreversible. As countries phased out of the outreach-based response associated with the 2015/2016 emergency, greater focus has been placed on sustainable, community-based prevention of malnutrition in order to reinforce capacity to respond to the cyclical, slow-onset emergencies routinely experienced in Southern Africa. This has included improving the capacity of community groups, such as mother support groups, to become a platform for delivering preventive nutrition packages, and strengthening the capacity of community health workers in growth monitoring and accurately identifying and referring children with SAM to facilitate referrals of vulnerable children to other social services as needed. Moreover, improved inter-agency collaboration, including convergence mapping to highlight gaps for improving coordination, is key to ensuring a seamless transition between SAM and MAM patients and establishing uninterrupted continuum of care for acute malnutrition.

- **The generation of reliable, high-frequency data to inform an evidence-based response to future shocks in the region needs to be strengthened.** While efforts have been made in some countries (in particular Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe), the lack of timely and representative data on nutrition hampered monitoring of the situation and timely reporting of response efforts during the previous El Niño response. Nutrition surveillance will continue in the region and in particular in vulnerable areas as a key strategy to ensure early identification and treatment of children with acute malnutrition in drought-affected communities. Gains in strengthening the reporting and timeliness of nutrition information systems have been made through capacity building on nutrition assessments and routine data collection and reporting. However gaps in quality and timeliness of nutrition information remain. Near-real-time mobile reporting strategies using RapidPro and SMS at district level require continued strengthening for improved response. Systems to improve the flow of information, such as DHIS2, also require strengthening, to ensure that sex- and age- disaggregated data is systematically collected at the community level and reported at national level.
II. Key trends

Rainfall

An erratic onset of rains in the southern half of the region resulted in a reduction in area planted, as well as poor crop germination and establishment in some areas. An extended dry spell in late December 2017 to late January 2018 in central parts of the region caused moisture stress and permanent wilting in many areas, with greater negative impact on early (November 2017) planted crops. Extreme high temperatures also occurred in the dry areas during this period. Most countries were affected to varying extents by the hot dry conditions, resulting in yield reductions in affected areas, in some cases crops wilted beyond recovery. Rains resumed in late January, allowing for recovery of some late planted (December-January) crop. The high February and March 2018 rainfall also promoted the recharging of hydrological reserves, and regeneration of pasture for livestock.

Based on analysis of satellite imagery, vegetation and pasture conditions was moderate in most parts of the region, but below average in the western parts. Although vegetation conditions in many southern parts of the region were poor at the end of the December/January dry spell, the high rainfall from February through April in many areas facilitated the regeneration of pastures for livestock and the recharge of hydrological reserves. Poor pasture conditions, however, continued in western parts of the region and southern Madagascar. This was observed particularly in much of Namibia, western South Africa, south-western Botswana, and south-western Angola. Some of these affected areas have also reported low-to-critical water availability. A lack of pasture and water available for livestock may have adverse impacts on livestock, particularly if the 2018/2019 season experiences poor rainfall in the affected areas. The seven countries (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa) that reported on livestock reveal good livestock conditions. Grazing areas are also reported to be in fair condition and is expected to sustain livestock until the next season. Countries such as Botswana, Zambia, and Malawi reported an increase of close to 10% in cattle production from 2017 to 2018.

Floods and cyclones affected several countries, resulting in fatalities, displacement of populations, damage to infrastructure and flooding of cropped areas. Tropical Cyclone Ava hit Madagascar in early January 2018, causing fatalities, displacement, infrastructure damage and significant crop losses. Northern Mozambique was also affected by heavy rainfall in January. In March, Madagascar was hit again, this time by Severe Tropical Storm Eliakim, while Tropical Cyclone Dumazile affected Mauritius and La Reunion. Localised floods caused displacement and infrastructure damage in Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. This brought the number of Southern Africans impacted by floods and cyclones in 2018 to about 329,900.

Fall Army Worm

The region has been experiencing the impacts of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) since late 2016 with reports of infestations in all countries (except Lesotho and Mauritius). Uncontrolled FAW infestations can cause significant crop losses. Case studies conducted in 2017 in Zambia and Mozambique indicated farmer perceptions of localized FAW incidences ranging between 25%-50% and 5%-77% respectively, with a marginal impact to date.
Food production, supply, access and pricing

With the exception of DRC, Tanzania, and southern/central Mozambique, the main maize harvest season is currently approaching its end in countries across the southern African region. Harvest outcomes have been mixed. According to the Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM), cereal crop conditions by the end of the growing season were favourable in most parts of the region, except in parts of southern Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, southern and central Malawi, southern and central Mozambique, southern and eastern Zambia, and southern Zimbabwe, where a mid-season dry spell negatively impacted yields (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Maize crop conditions as of the end of the 2017/2018 season

In southern Madagascar, conditions have not yet recovered from the effects of the 2015/16 El Niño, as rains were low in the ensuing seasons. Available data from nine Member States (Table 1) indicates that the dry spells that characterized the 2017/18 rainfall season have resulted in reduced cereal harvests compared to the 2017 bumper crop.

Table 1: Cereal production (MT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>1,672,184</td>
<td>1,820,348</td>
<td>2,016,566</td>
<td>2,374,208</td>
<td>2,820,611</td>
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<td>Botswana</td>
<td>33,756</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>90,317</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>94,436</td>
<td>66,093</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>2,583,228</td>
<td>2,797,317</td>
<td>3,127,252</td>
<td>3,257,829</td>
<td>3,378,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eswatini</td>
<td>81,934</td>
<td>118,871</td>
<td>93,653</td>
<td>33,860</td>
<td>107,360</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>120,094</td>
<td>103,526</td>
<td>89,035</td>
<td>26,747</td>
<td>238,362</td>
<td>75,399</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>3,989,872</td>
<td>4,344,037</td>
<td>4,051,671</td>
<td>4,530,365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>3,639,866</td>
<td>3,978,123</td>
<td>3,001,730</td>
<td>2,531,703</td>
<td>3,487,000</td>
<td>3,027,404</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>2,371,190</td>
<td>2,509,788</td>
<td>2,845,000</td>
<td>2,388,806</td>
<td>2,754,700</td>
<td>3,173,702</td>
<td>151%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>81,500</td>
<td>131,900</td>
<td>67,800</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>139,900</td>
<td>135,770</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>4,502,889</td>
<td>16,940,000</td>
<td>12,206,315</td>
<td>9,323,455</td>
<td>18,157,600</td>
<td>14,790,500</td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>7,806,580</td>
<td>9,828,540</td>
<td>8,916,999</td>
<td>10,139,108</td>
<td>9,388,772</td>
<td>9,537,857</td>
<td>113%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>2,890,045</td>
<td>3,643,877</td>
<td>2,898,054</td>
<td>2,943,807</td>
<td>3,888,588</td>
<td>2,597,841</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>943,620</td>
<td>1,718,630</td>
<td>868,017</td>
<td>637,843</td>
<td>2,443,119</td>
<td>1,994,145</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: cropmonitor.org

Above 5 Year Average  Below 5 Year Average
Food price developments

In general, prices in the region have been on a downward trend since March. This is due to the ongoing harvest and the related momentary increase in household supply. Yet, in pockets of areas reporting poor harvest, such as Southern Malawi, Southwestern Zimbabwe and Lesotho households are expected to deplete their stocks earlier than usual this year and turn to markets for their supply. Prices in areas such as southern Malawi, southern Mozambique, and central and southern Zambia could tick upwards sooner than usual.

A look at the Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) shows that in May, a few markets in Zambia were already showing signs of stress. Overall, however, monitored markets in the region indicated normal price levels for maize. Available data from the Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) shows that compared to April and May of last year, the market situation is overall better. In Zambia, however, more markets have begun to indicate high prices; Chingola is in “Crisis” and Kalulushi, Mporokoso, Mwinilunga are now in “Stress.”

Looking ahead, global models run by international climate forecasting institutions are predicting the occurrence of El Niño during the 2018/2019 season. The probability of El Niño has increased to about 70% during the December 2018 to February 2019 period, which is the period during which most parts of the region receive their highest rainfall, and also coincides with the next summer cropping season. El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean but influences climatic patterns in many parts of the world, including Southern Africa. In the SADC region, El Niño has historically been associated with more frequent occurrence of below average rainfall in central and southern parts of the region, while the northern-eastern parts of the region have historically experienced a higher frequency of above average rainfall during El Niño years.

This is illustrated in figure 4 which summarizes rainfall deviation during December-February, for the 12 years since 1982 when there was a El Niño during November-January period. The SADC region seasonal rainfall forecast for the 2018/2019 season will be issued at the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) on 24 August 2018, and this comprehensive forecast will based on analysis of several climate drivers, including El Niño, and other regional factors.

1. Note that markets depicted are not necessarily identical from one month to the next and the number of markets depicted may also differ due to data availability

Livestock Situation Update

Pasture

Pasture condition is in fair condition as can be expected at this time of year. It is the dry season, but livestock dependent on: the state of grazing in the area; grazing pressure; as well as the condition score of livestock prior to the winter months, amongst other factors, remain in fair to good condition.

Water

Fundamental to well-being, animals cannot survive more than a few days without drinking water. The water situation is also fair to good, however dependent on the area, and on the amount of rainfall received during the last rainy season, which would impact on availability through water table levels and catchments.

Diseases

Over the past few months there has been an increase in the number of Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreaks. Several countries have reported FMD outbreaks, these include: Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Rift Valley Fever (RVF) was also reported in South Africa, in the Free State. This followed an alert by FAO in December 2017 after some parts of southern Africa experienced heavy rains during the last quarter of 2017. This scenario created suitable environmental conditions for the increase of vector-borne diseases, particularly the emergence of RVF as a result of precipitation and vegetation anomalies, relevant for amplification of the RVF vector (mosquitoes, mainly the Aedes species). Rift valley fever is a zoonotic disease (animal disease which can be transmitted to humans), farmers and workers in abattoirs and animal markets can be affected. Unusual ‘abortion storms’ at any stage of pregnancy among small ruminants and cattle are a significant clinical sign.

Other notable zoonoses that have been reported in the region this year include: rabies, anthrax, brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis (bTB) and Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF).

Anti-Microbial Resistance

The SADC Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with support from WHO and the OIE, organized a joint technical committee meeting on AMR. The objective of the meeting was to spearhead the development of the SADC Strategy on AMR using the One health Approach. Member States are in the process of developing and implementing their national action plans (NAPs) on AMR.
III. Humanitarian Outlook

Food Insecurity

The food insecurity figures for this year are primarily a result of poor weather conditions resulting in poor harvests, as well as long-standing structural issues in the region. The 2017/18 season was anomalous in that a La Nina did not develop and bring wetter conditions over southern Africa. Instead, the rainfall season was marked by a late onset and erratic rainfall patterns across the region.

According to the latest figures provided by SADC members states, the total number of food insecure people in the region is expected to increase this year by approximately 14 percent, from 26.9 million in 2017/18 to 30.7 million in 2018/19. (Angola and Tanzania’s estimates are still pending, and this figure does not include Mauritius and Seychelles).

South Africa accounts for nearly half of this total figure, however its figures are based on a general household assessment conducted in 2016/17 which encompassed both urban and rural areas. Since in other countries food insecure populations are mostly in rural areas, removing South Africa from our analysis can help us to obtain a more accurate picture of the regional situation.

Excluding South Africa, the total number of food insecure people in the region is currently estimated at 16.8 million. This represents a 27 per cent increase from the previous year. Although DRC accounts for nearly half of the 16.8 million, it is expecting a decrease in its food insecure population, from approximately 7.7 million last year to 7.2 million this year. Conflicts and irregular rainfall patterns lie behind the country’s food insecurity situation.

Excluding DRC and South Africa there are 9.6 million severely food insecure people in Southern Africa which is a 74% increase compared to 2017/18.

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Zimbabwe and Malawi together account for approximately 60 per cent of the 9.6 million food insecure population. According to current estimates, both countries are expecting their food insecure population to increase by 130 and 217 per cent respectively from the previous year. As such, these two countries are the two largest drivers behind the increase in this year’s total number of food insecure people. As can be seen in Figure 2, both countries have been experiencing poor crop conditions in their southern regions due to dry spells during the 2017/18 rainfall season.

Madagascar and Zambia account for 13 percent and 10 percent of the total food insecure population (9.6 million) respectively. Madagascar’s estimated figure of approximately 1.3 million is a 47 per cent increase from the previous year, and Zambia is expecting an increase of over 1,100 per cent, from approximately 77,000 people last year to 954,000 people this year. This is consistent with the poor crop conditions being reported in parts of both countries.

Overall, the number of food insecure expected this year does not vary greatly from those of previous years, and is marginally above the 5 year average level. Yet, it is expected to increase from the previous year. With the exception of prolonged dry spells and a late onset of the rainfall season, the 2017/18 season was not marked by significant adverse shocks. Thus an increase in the number of food insecure is most likely the manifestation of acute food insecurity, resulting from the impact of the dry spells. The severity of acute food insecurity also indicates to some extent the level of underlying chronic food insecurity that is driven by underlying structural issues.

Although the final figures are not yet available, we note the importance of breaking down the figures into acute and chronic food insecurity in order to be able to determine priority areas for assistance. Acute food insecurity and chronic food insecurity are not mutually exclusive. An area or household can experience acute or chronic food insecurity, or both simultaneously. Recurrent acute food insecurity is often related to chronic food insecurity in a bi-directional relationship of cause-and-effect. On the one hand, households classified as chronically food insecure may face a greater likelihood of also experiencing acute food insecurity when shocks occur while on the other hand, households experiencing recurrent acute food insecurity crises may deplete their livelihood strategies or assets, or a combination, and be more likely to also experience chronic food insecurity. It is thus necessary to examine the nature of, and linkages between, chronic and acute food insecurity in order to develop effective and appropriate response strategies.

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4. This is double the 5-year average and roughly the same as during the 2016 El Nino period. The changes can be attributable to the fact that the country changed from the CARI to the IPC; and this year 58 districts were analyzed.
Malnutrition

Regional Nutrition Update

No major increases of global acute malnutrition (GAM) have been observed during the 2018 peak lean season (January – March) in comparison to the same time period in previous years. However, acute malnutrition continues to be a problem in parts of the region. Pockets of high GAM (above 10 per cent) persist in specific areas, such as districts in southern Madagascar. Additionally, prevalence of overweight in three countries in Southern Africa is 10 per cent or higher (Botswana, Seychelles, and South Africa) revealing an emerging problem in the region.

Figure 7: Wasting and overweight in Southern Africa

Stunting reduction is off track in the Southern Africa region, with 20 million children under 5 years who are stunted. Progress towards meeting the World Health Assembly target of a 40 per cent reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025 is too slow to keep pace with population growth. Overall, the proportion of stunted children is declining in the region, with the notable reduction in Angola, Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa. However, the rate of reduction is not substantial enough to reduce the number of children who are stunted. Figure 7 shows that currently, at least one in three individuals are stunted in 10 out of 16 Member States in the SADC region, indicating high or very high stunting (prevalence above 30 per cent). Four countries have very high prevalence of stunting (above 40 per cent): DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique and Zambia. This data clearly shows the need to accelerate and scale up high impact nutrition interventions in the region.

Figure 8: Stunting in Southern Africa
Country Updates

Botswana: The country suffered from dry spell and extremely hot temperatures in January 2018. The area planted fell by 35%, resulting in a 32% reduction in cereal production compared to last year covering only 22% of the national cereal requirement.

Late rains led to a regeneration of vegetation has shown improvement mainly due to late rains received in February to April 2018 in some parts of the country, and range conditions are fairly good.

This current consumption year, July 2018 to May 2019, very poor and poor households are anticipated to be affected the most due to reduced food production, reduced opportunities for income, increases in prices of food and other essential household items. Approximately 35,055 people are below the livelihood protection threshold and their accumulated food gap in maize equivalent is 1,604 metric tonnes, with a cash value of BWP 22.1 million [USD 2.13 million].

Eswatini: The country suffered from dry spell and extremely hot temperatures in January 2018 and 26% of households reported experiencing drought, 12.4% reduced income (12.4%) and 10% unusually high food prices.

For the current period of analysis- from June to September Lubombo worst affected district with 25% of the population in IPC Phase 3+. The severity is due to the shocks experienced in the region; for example, 10% of the farmers in the region were affected by the fall armyworm, 25% by diseases, 15% by insects, and 45% by dry spell. In addition, 30% of HHs experienced livestock deaths. The impact of the dry spell resulted in 32% of the households not harvesting anything, while 35% have food stocks that will last less than 2 months.

In the projected period, from October to February 2019 the situation in Lubombo and Shiselweni is expected to deteriorate, given that it is the lean season. In Lubombo 28% of the population is expected to face crisis food insecurity conditions. The FAW could compromise green harvest. Livestock deaths could increase since 45.2% households reported having poor pasture. Only 8% of HHS have stocks to last more than 6 months, which is until the middle of the lean season.

Figure 10: Food insecurity in Eswatini

Shiselweni is expected to have about 28% of its population in crisis. Just like Lubombo it has suffered crop shocks, 40% fall army worm, 50% diseases, 45% insects infestation and 38% dry spells. In addition, in the current period, 18.7% of households were already using emergency coping strategies. These are probably the poor and poorest of households who are compromising livelihoods to maintain food consumption. The situation will require close monitoring especially since 46% of households had less than two months food stocks; and 18% had stocks for more than 6 months. Therefore, a large portion of households will be relying on the markets to purchase food in the lean season, making them vulnerable to food price hikes.

About 3% of households reported severe hunger and 11% moderate hunger. 122,000 people - 14% of the total population- have been assessed to be in severe food insecurity.
a survival deficit, which is a 23% decline compared to 2017/18. The response requires about 3,600 tons of maize equivalent to US$ 2 million. An estimated 22.1% of children are stunted, a 2.2% increase from 19.9% in 2017. Minimum acceptable diet in children 6-23 months is 38% - the highest in the SADC region. Stunting prevalence in Eswatini in 26 per cent, Medium according to WHO classification. Wasting and underweight are 2.0 per cent and 5.8 per cent respectively.

Lesotho: Unseasonal snowfall, extreme cold temperatures and frost, localized hailstorms and flash floods 2017- damaged early planted crops. Between September and January most parts of the country received below normal rainfall.

Generally production of main cereals showed a significant decrease with ranges between 50% to 80% across all livelihood zones. Livestock numbers especially cattle recovered slightly as compared to 2017. This reduced harvest will last for two months instead of four months in a normal year.

Staple food prices decreased by 33% compared to 2016/2017, but was 200% higher than 2009/10 considered a normal year, this is limiting food access to poor households. Livestock prices & their products, cattle prices increased by 50%, sheep & goat price 20-30%, while wool and Mohair price increased by 38% on average, compared to the reference year (2009/10).

Currently (May-Aug 2018) all the districts are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) with 161,140 people (11% of population) of rural population classified in Phase 3 or higher. Food insecure is projected to increase to 257,380 (18% of population) between September 2018 and February 2019. Some districts are expected to fall to Crisis IPC Phase 3 (Mohale’s Hoek, Qacha’s Nek and Quthing). In 2018/19, an estimated 308,966 people are in need of humanitarian assistance: (18% rural and 9.2% urban), a slight increase from 306,942 in 2017/18. 58.6% of households has low Household Dietary Diversity Malnutrition. GAM prevalence is low, with some districts reporting wasting above 5% according to preliminary 2018 LVAC results.

Namibia: Namibia experienced the biggest rainfall deficit in the SADC region, particularly in the Western and Southern parts in the country. In contrast flooding was recorded in the North East and North Western parts of the country. Cereal production declined by 3 per cent. Being an arid country, most Namibians depend on markets for their food, and due to production shortfalls staple prices increased.

Nevertheless, the number of people who are food insecure decline by 68% compared to last year to 257.383. The Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) indicates that 24.6% of rural Namibians are moderately food insecure and 10.5% severely food insecure. In urban areas, 12.6% are food insecure and 6.3% severely food insecure. About 3% of children under age 5 are severely malnourished.

Madagascar: The island was affected by two cyclones this season - Ava and Eliakim - which collectively affected 212,200 people, of which 74,200 were displaced. Madagascar recorded widespread FAW outbreaks and a drought that affected two-thirds of the country (south-central).

Overall severe food insecurity is expected to increase from 1,058,589 between March-June to 1,261,323 people between July and September 2018, with 400,438 people expected to be in Phase 4 and 860,885 people expected to be in phase 3. Beloha is the only district in phase 4 but Ampanihy will also see a serious deterioration (and is almost phase IPC 4). This level of severe food insecurity is almost identical to October 2017 (1.289 million) and well above the October 2016 (0.848 million) level of severe food insecurity.
Nutrition surveillance through quarterly, exhaustive, community-based nutrition screenings using MUAC is continuing in the Grand Sud. This high frequency, reliable information on the nutrition status of the population in 120 communes of the 224 communes in the Grand Sud has allowed for monitoring of ongoing response and improved service delivery. From January to March, a total 246,700 children were screened for acute malnutrition representing 67 per cent of all children aged 6-59 months in the eight affected districts. The results showed a nutritional emergency with GAM prevalence of 15 per cent and higher in 26 out of the 120 communes (22 per cent) and an alert level (GAM between 10 per cent and 14.9 per cent) in 17 out of the 120 communes (14 per cent). Mobile teams composed of local health staff and a national consultant target their services to reach the most vulnerable children in newly identified pockets of malnutrition. Distribution of 5,000 boxes of Ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) and other nutrition life-saving supplies such as therapeutic milk and essential drugs is ongoing, as is supply pre-positioning for the needs of about 1,000 children.

Malawi: Malawi was impacted by dry spells between December and January mostly in the southern part of the country and some districts in the Central Region – affecting production of most key crops. Flooding in March towards the end of the season and the FAM infestation also negatively impacted agricultural production. Overall, maize production declined by 28.4% compared to last year and was 20.3% below the 5-year average. There was also a decrease in the production of soybeans (-19%); millet (-12%); pulses (-10%); sorghum by (-9.1%); rice (-7.8%); beans (-5.5%); and wheat (-2.2%).

Food insecurity is set to worsen with about 2.2 million people between July and September 2018 estimated to be facing IPC Phase 3 or worse food security situation. From October 2018 to March 2019, the food security situation is set to further deteriorate, with the number of severely food insecure is expected to increase to 3.3 million [compared to 1.06 million in the previous season]. This represents up to 22% of rural population who are in need of urgent humanitarian support to protect their livelihoods and save lives, 19% of them are in IPC phase 3 and 3% in IPC phase 4. The bulk of these are from districts in the southern parts of Malawi. The assessment concludes that in the worse off districts (IPC Phase 3), the majority of households were consuming poor to borderline diets, while also consuming poor diets. Districts with the highest proportion in this category include Nsanje (71%), Blantyre (68%), Mchinji (69%) and Chikwawa (66%). National average maize prices have remained depressed since 2017 but are likely to start increasing from July to October 2018 but projected to remain below the five year average. This will however reduce the purchasing power of most households.
SMART survey results in February 2018 have shown overall nutritional status of under-five children was within acceptable ranges per WHO global standards (prevalence <5%) and better compared to results of the last two assessments. Overall weighted Global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence was 1.3% (0.9-1.9), down from 4.1% in the lean period of December 2016 and lower than the post-harvest period of May 2017 (2.2%). Prevalence of GAM ranged from 0.6% in the Karonga/Chitipa/Rumpphi/Mzimba (KCRM) livelihood zone to 2.4% in the Thyolo-Mulanje Tea Estates (TMTE) livelihood zone.

Mozambique: Due to a slow start of the rains followed by the occurrence of long periods of drought severe water stress was recorded in the south and moderate water stress was observed in the western Tete region. The climatic shock was compounded by the FAW infestation, with as many as 85% of the population in Tete impacted by this plant pest. Nevertheless, and somewhat puzzling, cereal production is projected to be 4 per cent above last year’s output.

Food consumption is poor amongst 25% of households in Gaza in the South, where 20% of people only have 1 meal per day, and 11% of households in Tete in the West, where 16 of people have one meal a day. The number of people who are severely food insecure in Mozambique between April and September 2018 is estimated at 891,000. This represents 17% of the total population of the 36 districts in the 7 provinces (Cabo Delgado, Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia) that were analyzed. Of these 721,655 are classified as being in Crisis (IPC phase 3) and a further 169,337 in Emergency (IPC phase 4) food insecurity levels.

Three SMART surveys were undertaken in Mozambique in March-April 2018. Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was below the widely accepted emergency threshold of 10 per cent in all three districts, though GAM is classified as “medium” in Namuno District (6.2%) according to WHO classification.

Table 2: 2018 SMART Survey Results in Mozambique

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>GAM (WHZ &lt;-2 and/or oedema)</th>
<th>SAM (WHZ &gt;-3 and/or oedema)</th>
<th>Stunting (HAZ &lt;-2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Namuno</td>
<td>Cabo Delgado</td>
<td>6.2% (4.0-9.7 95% CI)</td>
<td>1.7% (0.5-5.2 95% CI)</td>
<td>62.9% (57.2-68.2 95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutarara</td>
<td>Tete</td>
<td>2.3% (1.1-4.8 95% CI)</td>
<td>0% (0.0-0.0 95% CI)</td>
<td>47.1% (40.5-53.8 95% CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milange</td>
<td>Zambézia</td>
<td>4.0% (2.2-7.0 95% CI)</td>
<td>0% (0.0-0.0 95% CI)</td>
<td>48.9% (41.7-56.1 95% CI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, six Rapid Assessments using MUAC were also conducted following minimum standards for IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) in Cabo Delgado (Chiüre, Macomia, Balama, and Ancuabe Districts), Tete (Marara District), and Manica (Macossa District).

Data from the Rapid Assessments, along with representative data from the three SMART surveys, was used to inform IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis in a total of ten districts in Mozambique. Current IPC AMN analysis based on the assessments undertaken in March-April 2018 indicate eight districts in Phase 1 (Acceptable), while Namuno District is classified in Phase 2 (Alert). The situation is projected to improve in all districts for June-August 2018 except for Macossa (indication of deterioration to Phase 2-3, Alert-Serious), and, following seasonal trends through the lean season, September 2018—February 2019 projections show potential deterioration in Balama, Marara and Milange Districts.

5. Data from Rapid Assessments using MUAC is collected from a minimum of three sites within each district, hence the data is not representative of the district as a whole but instead is used to provide a general indication of the nutrition situation.
Tanzania: Generally, the “Vuli” rains (Oct-Dec, 2017) performed well over most of the bimodal areas, characterized by above-average amounts with a favorable distribution over west northern regions as well as Coast regions of Tanzania. By contrast, in northeastern regions cumulative seasonal rainfall was up to 70 percent below average in some localized areas. Prevalence of crop pests mainly Fall Army Worm, were reported in 153 districts out of 184 by May, 2018 in About 11,000 acres of field affected by May, 2018.

Aggregate crop production for the 2017/18 season is forecasted to be slightly higher than that of 2016/17 crop season (15.9 million tonnes) and will be over and above the requirements for the 2018/19 consumption year. Despite of the observed general good crops production status, about 13 districts equivalent to 5% of total districts identified to have vulnerable area/pockets in which crop production is likely to fall below 30%. The vulnerability has been attributed to a number of factors including poor crop harvest due to crop pest (Fall Army Worm), extend dry spell conditions (Feb, 2018) in some unimodal areas, excess soil moisture condition resulted from excessive rains and localized floods.

Zambia: Prolonged dry spells, floods and pests negatively impacted agricultural production Crop production levels for cereal crops like maize, sorghum and wheat, oil crops, legumes, tubers are expected to decrease. Maize production is projected to fall by 33%. Maize production is forecast to decrease from 2,394,907 metric tonnes (MT) in 2017/18 from 3,606,549 MT in the 2016/2017 season. This represents a decline in production of 33.6 percent and 20 percent when compared to the five-year average. with a carryover stock of 844,244 MT giving total availability of 3,239,151 MT. Over 60% of households have stocks that last more than 9 months Total requirements for the country stand at 2,897,838 MT leaving an exportable surplus of 341,313 MT. The livestock and fisheries sector continued to show positive growth.

The total population in IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4 from July to September 2018 stands at is 609,500. This figure is expected to increase to 954,100 from October 2017 to March 2018 – double the 5-year average and roughly the same as during the 2016 El Nino period.

Zimbabwe: Due to the extreme dry spell in January and flooding in March all but 2 provinces recorded a decrease in maize production. On average maize production declined by 30%. This climate shock was compounded by fall army worm infestation. The percentage of households impacted by FAM, increased from 36% to 53%.

According to the IPC the number of severely food insecure is expected to increase from about 567,000 people between April and June 2018 to 2.4 mn people insecure between July 2018 and March 2019, or 28% of the rural population. Three (3) Districts (Kariba; Binga and Rushiga) are in IPC phase 4.
The country requires USD 140 million for cereals and USD 31 million for other food commodities to provide a full food basket for the vulnerable households.

A National Nutrition Survey (NNS) using SMART methodology was undertaken in Zimbabwe (January-February 2018) to assess district-level nutritional status of children under five years. Key potential drivers of malnutrition such as care practices and water, sanitation, and hygiene indicators were also collected in order to facilitate evidence-based decision making for high impact nutrition interventions.

Significant progress towards stunting reduction is being made in Zimbabwe. Current national prevalence (26.2 per cent) is lower than the previous national survey prevalence in 2010 (33.8 per cent). However an increase in overweight is evidenced in the 2018 survey (8.8 per cent). Wasting prevalence remains low according to WHO classification (2.5 per cent), and national prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) is equally low (0.2 per cent). Exclusive breastfeeding for children under 6 months is 61 per cent.

Complementary feeding practices are still poor in Zimbabwe with children being fed a nutritionally inadequate diet. A high proportion of children 6-8 months (71 per cent) were introduced to complementary foods in a timely manner. However, the quality and quantity of foods was not optimal for most children. Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) is a composite indicator of minimum meal frequency and dietary diversity, and represents minimum standards of IYCF practices. Results from the NNS show that MAD is very low in Zimbabwe, with no district in Zimbabwe having a Minimum Acceptable Diet above 15 per cent, per 2018 National Nutrition Strategy targets for Zimbabwe.

A multi-sectoral National Nutrition Survey Technical Team led the development of the survey design and protocols informed by the assessment objectives, data collection tools, pre-testing as well as standardization of data collection instruments and anthropometric measurements. A SMART Survey Manager training was facilitated prior to the survey, targeting national, provincial, and district-level supervisors.

Stunting prevalence was used as the key indicator for sample size calculation in this survey, which was representative at district level (63 districts in total) using a two-stage sampling design (30 enumeration areas were selected randomly using Probability Proportional to Size). All children under 5 years in selected households were considered for anthropometric measurements and key child nutrition and health indicators. A total of 28,464 households were interviewed and 34,714 children aged 6 to 59 months were measured.
Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>National Nutrition Survey (NNS) using SMART methodology</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) using SMART methodology for nutrition data collection</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2018 Zimbabwe National Nutrition Survey