

MOZAMBIQUE Food Security Outlook Update

June 2011

Currently stable food security conditions

Key Messages

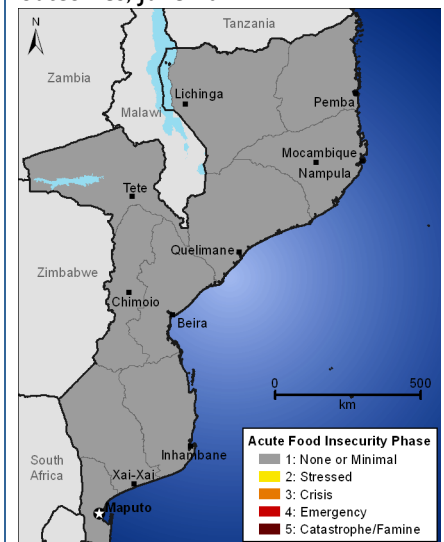
- As projected in the most recent outlook covering the period from April through September, the current food security conditions are quite favorable across rural areas, with most staple foods available and accessible from both own production and local markets.
- From July through September, isolated cases of Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity conditions may start emerging in areas negatively affected by drought and/or floods largely covering central and southern Mozambique. The areas of concern are located in the districts of Changara, Chemba, Mutarara, and Machaze in the central region and Massangena, Chicualacuala, Chigubo, Mabalane, Mabote, Funhalouro, and Panda in the southern region.
- June marks the point where prices typically start rising after reaching their post-harvest minimum levels in May. Price variation is expected to follow a normal trend although in some markets and for some commodities, prices will remain above average. Currently, markets continue to be adequately supplied favoring food access for a majority of households especially the poorly-resourced households with less of their own production. Crops such as maize, rice, groundnuts, cassava, and beans are available in markets.

Updated food security outlook through September 2011

The food security scenario projected in the FEWS NET Food Security Outlook report for April through September and all of the assumptions and descriptions provided in the outlook remain valid. Currently in June, the majority of rural households throughout the areas of concern are able to meet their basic food needs thanks to food availability from the main harvest of the 2010/11 cropping season. Households are supplementing their production with purchases as food prices are still affordable for the majority of households given that prices are still relatively low.

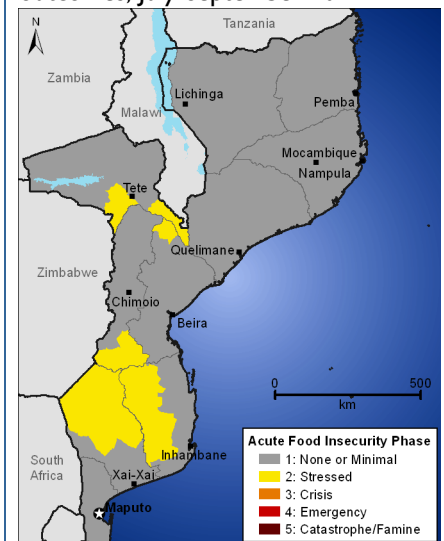
From July through September, isolated cases of Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity conditions may start emerging in areas negatively affected by drought and/or floods, which occurred earlier in the year, largely covering southern and central Mozambique. Household food consumption in these areas will likely be reduced but will be minimally adequate through the employment of insurance strategies. These coping strategies could include increasing livestock sales, collecting more wild foods, reducing expenditure on non-essential items, the intensification of local labor activities, the intensification of self-employment

Figure 1 Most likely food security outcomes, June 2011



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 2. Most likely food security outcomes, July-September 2011



Source: FEWS NET

For more information on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

activities (firewood, charcoal, alcohol

This report provides an update to the April 2011 FEWS NET Food Security Outlook report which estimated food security conditions in Mozambique through September 2011. The next Outlook report will be released in July and will cover the July through December 2011 period.

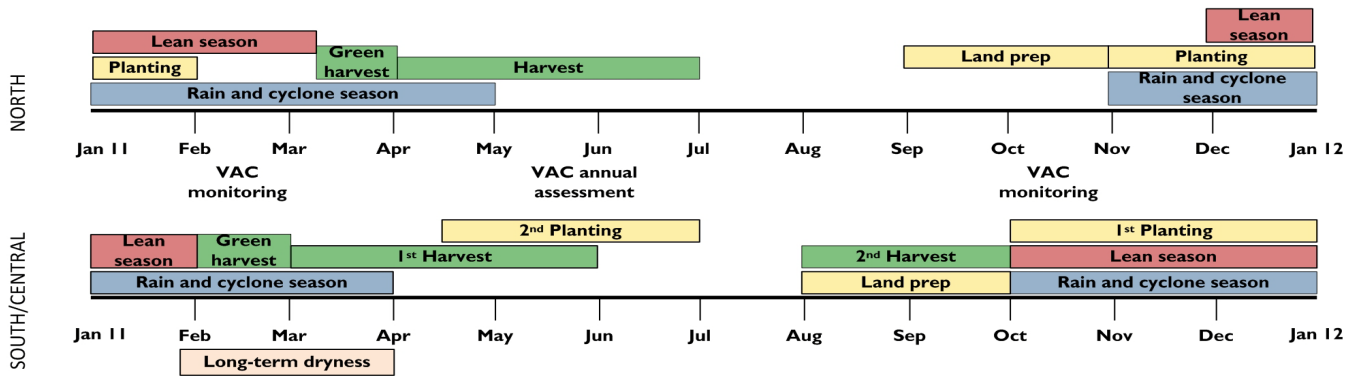
beverages, building poles, etc.), increased social support/gifts, and the sale of non-productive assets (jewellery, clothing, etc.). Therefore, from July it will be crucial to closely monitor those areas of concern, mostly in semi-arid areas, where crop production complemented with limited livestock rearing is the basis of livelihoods. The areas of concern are located in the districts of Changara, Chemba, Mutarara, and Machaze in the central region and Massangena, Chicualacuala, Chigubo, Mabalane, Mabote, Funhalouro, and Panda in the southern region. Other districts that may deserve monitoring include Magude, Mágoe, Tambara, and Cahora Bassa.

Although the produce from the second cropping season (April through September) is limited compared to the main or first cropping season (October through May), it plays an important role in minimizing the shortfalls from the main season. Therefore, the performance of the second season is crucial during the period from now to September. In a recent field trip to two representative districts (see May FEWS NET Food Security Update report), the mission observed crops, especially maize, in various growing stages from emergence to maturity. Other crops in the field included beans and horticulture crops such as tomatoes, onions, cabbage, and garlic which were also present in the markets and are sources of both food and income. These observations were a good indication that the second season was performing reasonably well and households were continuously planting where conditions permitted.

However, there are areas where conditions are not adequate for a second cropping season due to a lack of moisture. During a good year in these areas, households produce enough to last the entire year, while in a bad year, like the current year where drought and localized flooding have occurred, households supplement crops by buying food, receiving gifts, and gathering wild foods. Markets are playing an important role in various parts of the country, including the semi-arid areas, although market infrastructure needs to improve (roads, railroad capacity, etc.). The sources of cash in these areas are limited but diversified. In the semi-arid areas of Gaza province, for instance, households rely heavily on casual labor, while in the semi-arid areas of Inhambane province, sales of alcohol are very important for the poor. In other areas the selling of forest products such as charcoal, firewood, building stakes, and craft items, as well as the sale of small animals (chicken, pigs, and goats) and casual labor are among the main sources of cash. Remittances play an important role in the semi-arid areas of the Limpopo Basin where households receive more remittances from family members working in South Africa compared to other areas.

According to the seasonal trend, June marks the starting point where prices typically start rising after reaching their minimum post-harvest levels in May. Price variation is expected to follow a normal trend, although in some markets and for some commodities, prices will remain above average. Currently, markets continue to be adequately supplied favoring food access for a majority of rural households especially the poorly-resourced households with less of their own production. Crops such as maize, rice, groundnuts, cassava, and beans are available in markets. In general, the decreasing trend of staple food prices continued in May as the prices from April to May were generally decreasing as is seasonally typical. However, all prices, except for beans in Manica and Nampula, remain above the five-year average (2006/07-2010/11). To date, the flow of food commodities has been consistent with the normal pattern where the major producing centers are supplying the most consumer and deficit areas. For instance, maize from the north is supplying the local major urban centers and parts of the central region, whereas maize from the central region is also supplying local consumers in the central and southern regions including Maputo city. For instance, according to the Agriculture Market Information System (SIMA) bulletin, the main markets in Maputo were supplied by maize from Nhamatanda district in the central region while Xai-Xai city is selling maize produced locally. Inhambane city is consuming and trading maize produced locally (Homoine district). Groundnuts reaching Maputo are mainly from Nampula province in the north. Nampula is also supplying groundnuts to central region consumer centers such as Beira city. Beans are mostly flowing from the central province of Zambézia to the southern and central markets.

Seasonal calendar and critical events timeline



Source: FEWS NET