30 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE SADC REGION ARE FOOD INSECURE IN 2018 / 2019
30 million people in the SADC region are food insecure in 2018/19

Revised SADC Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa, 2018

According to the updated version of “The SADC Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa, 2018”, about 30.4 million people are estimated to be food insecure in the 2018/19 consumption year. The number represents about 12 percent of the total population in the 11 countries that provided assessments data. It is 17 percent higher compared to the previous year and about 6 percent higher than the five-year average for the 11 Member States.

The revised version of the report contains updated figures for some countries, summaries and snapshots of the state of food and nutrition security and vulnerability in each Member States.

The food insecure population in DRC, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe makeup close to 90% of the food insecure people in the 11 Member States. The largest increases in affected people compared to the previous year are expected in Zambia, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Decreases in food insecure populations are recorded in Namibia and Eswatini.

The “The SADC Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa, 2018” is released annually by the SADC RVAA Programme and provides estimates of the number and proportion of food and nutrition insecure and vulnerable people in the region. It clarifies the main factors driving food and nutrition insecurity and vulnerability in each country and provides short, medium and long-term recommendations.

The Report informs key decision-making processes on investment in food and nutrition security in the region. It is the major reference document for the annual SADC Heads of State and Government Summit and the SADC Council of Ministers Meeting. Development partners also use the information in the Report to develop programmes that address food and nutrition security and vulnerability in the Region.

Study the snapshot on the next page.
SADC REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY (as of August 2018)

Overview

The SADC Region Food and Nutrition Security Strategy 2015-2025 emphasises that the regional food and nutrition security situation remains unstable and unpredictable. Almost 60% of SADC’s rural population has been consistently designated food insecure over the past 5 years. This despite improved production in some Member States. Climate change, actualized as increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters, especially drought, contribute to the situation.

11 countries (Botswana, DR Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe had finalised their assessments by the time the SADC Dissemination Forum was held.

Food Insecure Population by Country

Malawi, Zambia and DR Congo are preliminary results.

South Africa: 13.9M
DR Congo: 7.2M

Regional Socio - Economic Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>51 - 75 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>337 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stunting</td>
<td>7.9 - 47.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasting</td>
<td>2.0 - 11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>4.0 - 80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty index</td>
<td>0.7 - 91.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to safe drinking water</td>
<td>29 - 98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>1.4 - 11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>1.2 - 33.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SADC Humanitarian Situation

Population at risk

Rainfall (1 Oct 2017 - 30 Apr 2018) expressed as percent of 15-year average.

Overview of Malnutrition of children under five

Stunting reduction is off track in the Southern Africa region, with 20 million children under age 5 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.

Number of people at risk per country:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>People at Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique (NC)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR Congo (NC)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola (NC)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana (NC)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa (NC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Namibia (NC)</td>
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<td>Zambia (NC)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe (NC)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seychelles (NC)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: SADC/NVAC, Development & Humanitarian Partners

Created by: SADC/RVAA
“Develop drought contingency plans, tackle food insecurity”

- SADC Heads of State and Government Summit urges Member States

The 38th SADC Heads of State and Government Summit called on Member States to develop contingency plans, considering the predicted El Niño phenomenon that is likely to affect the region in the 2018/19 agricultural season. The call was expressed in a Communique, issued at the end of the two-day Summit, in Windhoek Namibia from 17 – 18 August 2018.

The discussions at the Summit, on food and nutrition security where partly informed by the “The SADC Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa, 2018”.

The Report noted that global models run by international climate forecasting institutions had predicted an El Niño phenomenon during the 2018/2019 season. El Niño has historically been associated with the 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 more frequent occurrence of above average rainfall during El Niño years.

Since the early 1980s the SADC region has experienced a series of strong El Niño events that often lead to a drop in agricultural productivity. Between 2014 and 2016, the Region suffered the worst drought in 35 years, caused by the El Niño phenomenon. The event left 40 million people food insecure. Rural communities that depend heavily on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihood are significantly impacted by these phenomena. Only seven percent of the region’s arable land is irrigated, yet 70 percent of the population relies on agriculture for a living.

Decline in food production

The Heads of State and Government Summit noted with concern, the decline in food production in the 2018/19 consumption year. “The SADC Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa, 2018” indicated that the region is estimated to have a cereal surplus of 6,294,000 MT compared to 7,513,000 MT for the same nine countries the previous year. The Report noted that given the below-normal maize harvest, prices are likely to increase earlier than usual as farming households start depending on markets earlier.

The Heads of State and Government Summit also called on Member States to put in place measures to tackle food insecurity in the Region. For ten years now, the food insecure population in the region has remained above 22.7 million.
Stakeholders discuss the 2018/19 regional food security outlook

Stakeholders discuss the 2018/19 regional food security outlook
Root for sustained action to deal with recurrent climate-related shocks

Between 02 – 06 July 2018, SADC RVAA programme convened a Dissemination Forum in Maseru, Lesotho to synthesise results of the 2018 Vulnerability Assessments and Analysis (VAA) from Member States into a regional report.

The meeting was attended by over 60 representatives of Member States’ National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs), development partners and Permanent Secretaries from Ministries that are responsible for NVACs.

The NVACs presented the results of their 2018 assessments and analysis and discussed experiences and lessons learnt.

The meeting participants also discussed emerging trends in vulnerability assessments and the key drivers of food and nutrition insecurity and vulnerability in the SADC region.

Speaking during the opening session, Mr. Haretsebe Mahosi, the Chief Executive Officer, Disaster Management Authority of Lesotho and current Chairperson of the SADC RVAA Programme Steering Committee called on stakeholders to focus on sustainable strategies that address both acute and chronic food and nutrition insecurity, which has plagued the region.

“We need to employ new ways of working to address food and nutrition insecurity because it is a threat to the region. We must find a way out of this situation”, he said.

Mr Japhet Litenge, the Chairperson of the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee said the joint efforts of the RVAA Programme were important in informing the efforts to improve the livelihood of the people and socio-economic development of the region. He called for collaboration, emphasising that “the challenges in the region, require Member States to work together as countries, and with development partners”.

Permanent Secretaries and members of NVACs at the Dissemination Forum in Maseru, Lesotho. They discussed the regional food and nutrition security outlook in July 2018.
Sustainability underpins
RVAA 2018/2019 work plan

The 2018/19 RVAA Programme work plan and budget that were approved by the RVAA Steering Committee on 23 February 2018, mainly focus on enhancing the sustainability of the VAA system at national and regional levels.

Among the priorities in the work plan are annual vulnerability assessments, capacity building of national technical officers and institutionalization of NVACs into their respective government structures and funding mechanisms.

The Steering Committee urged the Member States to gradually take over the resourcing and capacity building of the NVACs. They also recommended institutionalizing and developing sustainability plans to ensure the continuation of the VAA activities beyond the 2017-2021 funding phase.

The SADC Secretariat presented to the Steering Committee, a sustainability roadmap that among other things proposes gradual phasing out of technical and financial support provided by donors at the regional level and gradual increase in domestic funding (from government and partners) for VAA activities at national level. The roadmap proposes the full integration of the NVACs into national government structures, intensification of capacity building programmes and deepening and broadening the scope of the vulnerability assessments and analysis to attract more stakeholders to support the activities.

The sustainability roadmap is also in line with the directive of the SADC Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security that met in Ezulwini, Swaziland on 12 May 2017 to the SADC Secretariat to propose mechanisms for full institutionalization and sustainability of the RVAA Programme.
Widening the scope of vulnerability assessments and analysis

The RVAA Programme makes strides to integrate chronic poverty and resilience

The SADC Member States are refining the way they assess food insecurity, by taking account of additional issues that affect the food security and vulnerability of the population including, chronic poverty and resilience.

“We are shaping the focus of our work and ensuring that the information products that we produce are relevant and fit for purpose,” said Clement Kalonga, the SADC Senior Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Between 19 – 20 February 2018, the RVAA Programme organized awareness sessions on different methodologies that can be used to measure poverty and resilience through the VAA system. They include the Poverty Probability Index (PPI), the Resilience Context Analysis (RCA), the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) model and the Community Based Resilience Analysis.

Over 65 representatives of multi-sectional committees that coordinate and carry out vulnerability assessments in the Member States, also called the NVACs attended the session in Johannesburg, South Africa.

There is now an appreciation by stakeholders of the need to widen the scope of the system by integrating additional issues that have a direct effect on the food security and vulnerability of the population.

Indeed, one of the priorities of the third and current phase of the RVAA Programme (2017-2021) is integrating chronic food insecurity, climate change, poverty analysis and resilience into the Programme.

Mr. Kalonga said whereas the VAA system has done well in providing vital information to inform development and response to emergencies, it is essential to look at underlying structural issues that undermine food security in the region.

Besides episodes of acute food and nutrition insecurity, at least half of SADC Member States experience chronic food insecurity. The rate of malnutrition remains high, with many countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Mozambique and Zambia recording exceptionally high stunting rates of above 40 percent (which is considered critical). Poverty eradication is at the top of the SADC agenda and remains one of the most significant challenges, with approximately half of the population living on less than $1 a day (International Council on Social Welfare). The region also experiences intense and frequent climate-related shocks and crop and livestock pests and diseases that affect the livelihood of over 70 percent of the population that relies on agriculture for a living.

The SADC Secretariat has embraced resilience-building to enhance the capacity of individuals, households, communities, national or regional institutions to cope with, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses. “Integrating resilience measures into the VAA will enable us to gauge the capacity of the population to withstand the impact and recover from the effects of these recurrent shocks,” said Duncan Samikwa, the Technical Services Manager of the RVAA Programme.

Member States are expected to dialogue at country-level and agree on the appropriate tools and methodologies for integrating poverty and resilience into their VAA systems. The RVAA Programme will provide technical support and build their capacity as they undertake the integration.
Southern Africa stakeholders commit to reducing disaster risk

Stakeholders who attended the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Conference from 26 – 28 March 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa committed to improving collaboration and coordination and to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in all sectors of the region.

They recognized the importance of the SADC Secretariat’s leadership role and recommended strengthening its capacity to sustain an inclusive regional coordination mechanism. Over 150 delegates representing SADC Secretariat, national governments, the African Union Commission, donor organizations, Civil Society, farmers’ unions, United Nations agencies, universities and training institutions, the private sector and youth organizations attended the conference. Themed “Resilience for Sustainable Development” the conference aimed to review progress made by the SADC Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Programme in managing uncertainty, reducing vulnerability and building resilience for the SADC Member States and communities within the global and regional Disaster Risk Reduction, resilience and sustainable development frameworks.

The SADC region is plagued by a myriad of disasters including drought, floods, cyclones and water shortages that are increasing in frequency and intensity. The region is also dealing with new pests and diseases including the fall armyworm, Tomato Leaf Miner and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), that are threatening food and nutrition security and livelihood of the population.

Representing the RVAA Programme, Mr. Duncan Samikwa, the Technical Services Manager presented the role of the Programme in measuring food and nutrition insecurity. He outlined the approaches used by NVACs in carrying out assessment and analysis and highlighted the importance of accurate and timely information for decision-making for emergency response and development programming.

The VAA system provides early warning information that is essential in mitigating and responding to disasters. The products inform key decision-making processes at national and regional levels including planning, budgeting and strategy and policy development and review.

Stakeholders discussed several strategies including early warning and climate forecast models, risk financing, community and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and linking research with development.

They underlined the importance of building the resilience of communities, institutions, and government structures to anticipate, absorb, or recover from disasters in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner.

Measuring resilience is one of the priorities of the current (2017-2021) phase of the RVAA Programme. In February 2018, the programme organized an awareness session on different methodologies of measuring resilience for representatives of SADC Member States. The RVAA Programme will conduct comprehensive training for technical officers from NVACs on resilience measurement in September 2018.

Find details in the Conference Communique here - Go to web page
Remote-sensing tools can enhance food and nutrition security monitoring and assessments

Experiences from the Southern Africa annual crop monitoring tour

The US Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Services (USDA – FAS) crop estimates are one of the sources of food supply information that the SADC region can draw from to inform the food security outlook. These estimates are made by a multifaceted system that collects data and information from remote sensing and a network of key informants in selected countries. The data and information are analyzed to produce reports that show the world supply of major crops of commercial value.

The annual crop monitoring tours are part of the system that enables USDA – FAS team to ground-truth their remote sensing products by working with its network of key informants.

The assessments are conducted every year in Africa. In Southern Africa, they cover South Africa and two or three other countries chosen because of priority information gaps for the season.

The USDA-FAS, United States of America Geological Services (USGS) and FEWS NET field officers are part of the core team and play a pivotal role as key informants, and in organizing the tours that are led by a Washington DC-based USDA-FAS expert. Other interested parties join the tour for varying durations.

The RVAA Programme, represented by Mr. Blessing Bitaumocho, the Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Officer, participated in the 2018 Southern Africa tour. It covered South Africa (25 February – 4 March 2018), Zimbabwe (4 – 10 March 2018) and Malawi (10 – 18 March 2018).

The team members observed crop conditions, met and discussed the rainfall season performance with agricultural experts and farmers and undertook a comparative analysis of remote sensing crop monitoring products with field observations and information provided by key informants. They captured field observations on geo-referenced photographs of crop stands, growth stages, and conditions in different places. They also discussed major trends that influence crop production and agriculture in the three targeted countries. (Continued on next page)
The USDA-FAS expert also shared information on the crop situation in the USA, international developments in remote sensing and how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be used for crop monitoring and assessments. The USDA-FAS expert also conducted several training sessions on remote sensing and GIS for participants during the mission.

While GIS and remote sensing tools have great potential for crop season and ultimately food and nutrition security monitoring and assessments, their use by NVACs is not visible in their assessments products.

The crop monitoring tour highlights an array of GIS and remote sensing tools that NVACs can easily add into their toolbox of methods for food and nutrition security monitoring and assessments. It is fortunate that some of the NVACs members such as FEWSNET, WFP-Vulnerability Assessment and Monitoring (VAM) Unit, and Member States’ meteorological departments are familiar and use these GIS and remote sensing tools already.

The capacity of the NVACs can be improved by engaging the members to use the tools in vulnerability assessments and monitoring and by training. This national-level initiative can be buttressed by one-week regional training on GIS and available remote sensing products for food and nutrition security monitoring and assessments. The FEWS NET regional Office and the SADC Secretariat have competent officers that can facilitate such training.
Stakeholders agree on a set of minimum indicators to advance harmonized reporting

In preparation for the 2018 vulnerability assessments and analysis, the RVAA Programme organized a meeting of 25 experts drawn from NVACs and Technical Working to discuss and agree on a harmonized framework of VAA tools and methodologies.

1. Who is food and nutrition insecure? Profile individuals, communities and socio-economic groups with gender as cross-cutting.
2. How many are food and nutrition insecure? Estimate current numbers and lean season projections, disaggregated by sex and age.
3. When are they food and nutrition insecure? Inform on seasonal trends.
4. What is the nature of their food and nutrition insecurity? Distinguishing between acute, transitory and chronic food and nutrition insecurity.
5. What is the duration and severity of their food and nutrition insecurity?
6. Why are they food and nutrition insecure? Show relation to resilience capacities as a function of available livelihood strategies, quality and quantity of livelihoods assets and fragility of livelihoods. Also show relation with hazards, shocks and stresses that could be natural, anthropogenic, idiosyncratic/covariant, such as crop and livestock pests and diseases, human diseases or economic downturns. Climate change must be considered, as well as structural issues and processes: institutions, policies, etc.
7. How are they responding to food and nutrition insecurity? Consider coping strategies and informal social safety nets.
8. What is being done to address their food and nutrition insecurity? Consider formal social safety nets and social protection programmes.
9. What can be done to improve their food and nutrition insecurity?

Answers to these questions need to be given in the context of the sub-national, national and regional socio-economic and vulnerability situation, described in a manner that facilitate aggregation of the food and nutrition situation analysis from the national to the regional level.
Forecasting food availability in Southern Africa

Efforts to move from “cereal-based” to “food” balance sheets underway

In March 2018, the SADC Secretariat and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized a meeting of agricultural experts and research institutions to support the Member States in efforts to shift from cereal-based balance sheets to food balance sheets. Food balance sheets provide essential information on a country’s food consumption, as they present a holistic picture of a country’s food supply pattern during a specified reference period. The adoption of the food balance sheets will also help the SADC Member States to monitor the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals on food security. The SADC Secretariat’s Food Security Officer and RVAA Programme Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Officer co-chaired the workshop that was facilitated by FEWS NET Regional Market Analyst and Technical officers from the FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa and Headquarters.

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