

Humanitarian Bulletin

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Highlights

Regional Food Security Outlook

- Late onset and prolonged dry spells resulted in depressed production in many parts of the region
- Projected 2012/13 regional maize surplus **down 98%** compared to 2011/12
- SADC harvest **lowest in past 3** years
- Malnutrition levels remain **very high** in the SADC region
- Some food insecure populations require **immediate humanitarian assistance**
- **3% drop** in 2012 cereal harvest compared to 2011

Last Burundian Refugee camp in Tanzania to be closed



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REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK

The SADC held its Annual Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) Dissemination Meeting from 16 to 18 July 2012 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The objectives of the Meeting were to: (1) disseminate identified threats and opportunities for food security and vulnerability during the 2012/13 consumption year; (2) highlight the depth and levels of food insecurity and vulnerability in the region for the 2012/13 consumption year; and (3) discuss and endorse actionable recommendations to address food insecurity and vulnerability in the Region.

Below are a brief overview of the regional food security situation and a summary of the results of vulnerability assessments and analyses presented by National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs). The overview and summary have been put together by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) composed of FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, OCHA and Oxfam.

Overview of 2011/12 Rainfall Season

Overall, the late onset of rains and prolonged dry spells resulted in depressed crop production in many parts of the region. Despite this, the SADC region has produced a regional surplus in maize during the 2011/12 season, although some countries are facing most SADC countries, mainly in the southern half of the region, resulting in yield losses. Affected countries include Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Excessive rains, water logging and/or flooding were experienced at a smaller scale compared to last year, in parts of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia.

Overview of 2011/12 Production Season

Estimates in mid-July indicated that the regional cereal harvest (maize, rice, wheat, sorghum and millet) dropped by 3% from 33.55 million tons in 2011 to 32.17 million tons in 2012, owing to persistent and prolonged dry spells. However, this is still 5% above the average of that of the last five years. Compared to the 2010/11 season, all countries experienced a decrease in cereal production except Angola, Namibia and Tanzania. Angola, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia have produced substantial quantities of non-cereals, including roots and tuber crops, banana, plantain and pulses.

Country	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	5-yr Avg	2012	2012 vs 5 year average (%)
Angola	734.0	756.0	1 053	1 178	1 409	1 026	1 015	-1%
Botswana	29.0	37.0	42.0	55.0	42.0	41.0	31.0	-24%
Lesotho	78.0	88.0	86.0	137.0	73.0	92.0	29.0	-69%
Malawi	3 616	2 976	3 834	3 572	4 080	3 616	3 799	5%
Mauritius	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0%
Mozambique	2 168	2 284	2 526	2 641	2 935	2 511	2 830	13%
Namibia	114.0	121.0	111.0	155.0	117.0	124.0	117.0	-5%
South Africa	9 292	15 550	14 855	15 122	13 277	13 619	13 408	-2%
Swaziland	47.0	64.0	71.0	75.0	89.0	69.0	76.0	10%
Tanzania	5 448	5 622	5 265	7 095	6 787	6 043	6 581	9%
Zambia	1 537	1 452	2 182	3 078	3 346	2 319	3 185	37%
Zimbabwe	1 200	660.0	1 561	1 534	1 652	1 321	1 120	-15%
TOTAL	24 266	29 611	31 588	34 643	33 075	30 637	32 194	5%

Table 1 - SADC Cereal Production 2011/12 (source SADC)

Projected regional cereal **deficit** is **4 million MT**

Maize Balance for 2012/13 Marketing Year

Despite a total cereal regional deficit, the region is projecting an overall maize surplus of only 57,000 metric tonnes compared to surplus of 2.73 million tons last year: a 98% decrease. Maize surpluses have been recorded in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. A cereal deficit of about 4 million MT is projected for the region. There is special concern for deficit areas of southern Malawi, Lesotho and Zimbabwe that face critical food shortages. In these countries, national governments will need external support to meet the food gaps. There is also an expected increase in import demands from the structurally grain deficit countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland due to higher deficits than previous years.

MAIZE BALANCE SHEET													
MARKETING YEAR (Vary by Country) 2012/2013													
Thousands of Metric Tons													
	Ang	Bot	Les	Mal	Mau	Moz	Nam	RSA	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	SADC
A. Domestic Availability	917	13	36	3684	7	2397	71	12645	79	4078	3624	1479	29025
A.1 Opening Stocks	8	3	19	60	2	219	17	1002	3	161	771	511	2775
Formal/SGR	6	3	18	50	2	150	17	1002	3	90	771	511	2621
On Farm	2	0	2	10	0	69	0	0	0	71	0	0	154
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.2 Gross Harvest	909	10	17	3624	2	2178	54	11643	76	3917	2853	968	26250
B. Gross Domestic Requirements	1486	202	252	2982	86	2218	166	10781	115	4659	2088	1860	26895
C. Desired SGR Carryover Stock:	10	40	0	130	0	0	10	1134	2	150	500	0	1976
D. Domestic Shortfall/Surplus	-579	-229	-216	572	-82	179	-106	730	-39	-731	1035	-381	153

Table 2 - Maize Balance for the 2012/13 Marketing Year (source SADC)

Synthesis Results of NVAC Assessments

A total of 12,756,513 people are or will be food insecure during the 2012/13 season. The figure is based on information submitted by 10 member states; Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania,

Increase of number of people experiencing food insecurity compared to 2011

Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Please see attached annex that summarizes the regional food security situation.

Regionally the food security situation is stable; however, there are pockets of food insecurity in southern Malawi, most parts of Lesotho, and several parts of Zimbabwe. Other areas of concern include some parts of Angola, eastern and south eastern Madagascar, southern & central Mozambique (semi-arid districts) and some parts of the Comoros.

The main findings of the country assessments indicate that the main factors causing food insecurity include: reduced crop production; unemployment and reduced casual labour opportunities for economically disadvantaged households; civil unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo; HIV and AIDS prevalence; and on-going outbreaks of livestock diseases, e.g. foot-and-mouth disease in Botswana.

Generally, the number of people experiencing food insecurity is increasing. Compared to last year, the total number of food insecure population in the region has increased in all countries except Tanzania (findings from Botswana not available). Some of the affected areas have remained the same for a long period, indicating chronic vulnerability, and high levels of poverty and malnutrition levels still remain very high, with stunting the highest in Malawi (53%), followed by Zambia (45%) and Mozambique (43%).

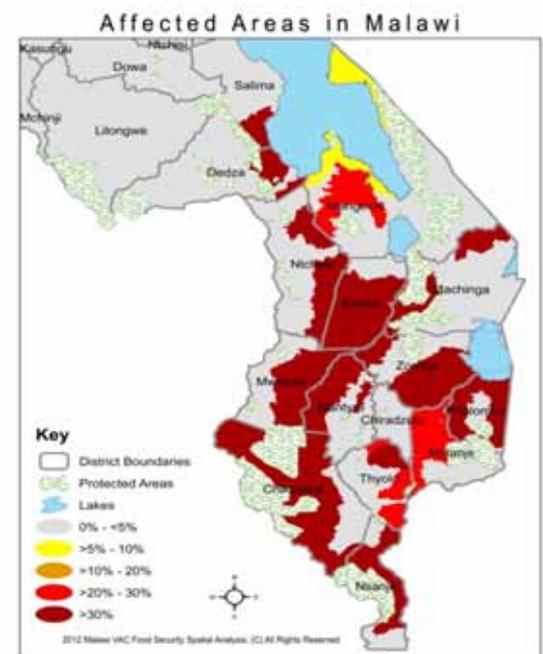
Food insecure and vulnerable households are coping by limiting non-essential expenditures in order to purchase food. Household members are increasingly searching for casual labour opportunities, including the increased sale of livelihood assets (e.g. livestock) to buy food and other essential items. There has also been an increase in rural to urban migration. Households are also reportedly coping by reducing the number of meals eaten and increasing pressure on social support networks (SADC, July 2012).

Malawi: 1.63 million people at risk of food insecurity

Localised Areas of Acute Food Insecurity

Malawi

The June 2012 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) report, highlights that 1.63 million people are at risk of food insecurity across the country within a range of three to eight months. Areas of concern are in the central and southern parts of the country including Balaka, Blantyre, Chikhwawa, Dedza, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje, Mwanza, Neno, Nsanje, Ntcheu, Phalombe, Salima, Thyolo, and Zomba. The MVAC has recommended that 75,000 MT of maize equivalents be allocated to these vulnerable households to meet humanitarian food needs. WFP and DoDMA (the Malawi Department of Disaster Management) have developed a response plan worth a total of US\$48 million based on the food aid intervention option only.



Malawi: Sharp rises in cereal prices in both high producing and deficit areas in Malawi.

The Government of Malawi (GoM) has allocated 25,000 MT while USAID has allocated food commodities valued at around US\$8 million for the response. There has been sharp rises in cereal prices in both high producing and deficit areas. Maize prices in June 2012 were more than double June 2011 prices in central and southern regions. Maize prices in June remained above the previous 5 years’ average. The government’s increase in the farm-gate price of maize for the 2012/13 marketing year (May/April) to 35 Malawi Kwacha (MWK) per kg (up from 25 MWK) could also have contributed to higher prices (GIEWS, 5 July 2012). Currency depreciation and subsequent floating of the currency continue to push prices up faster than normal. Increase in fuel prices is expected to worsen the situation. In terms of nutritional status, an estimated 54% of the population is stunted, 15% is underweight and 5% is wasted (SADC, July 2012).

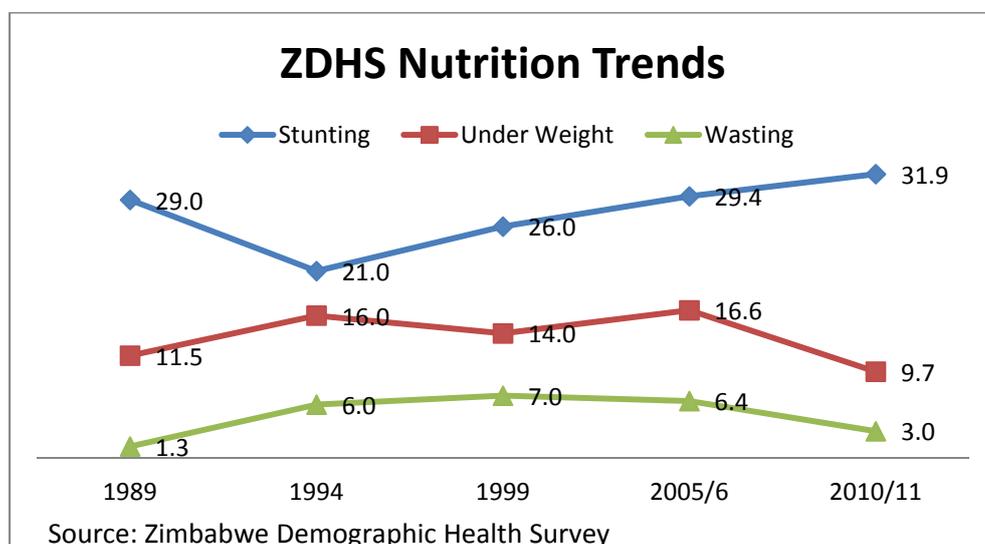
Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the areas of concern are the southern and western provinces, including large parts of Matabeleland South and Masvingo. As reported previously, cereal production is 33% down compared to last year and these estimates are 14% lower than the five year average. The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) assessment results indicate a total of 1.67 million food insecure people. The ZimVAC IPC Analysis confirmed the findings of the ZimVAC in terms of affected areas and severity. Additionally, an estimated 34% of the population is stunted, 10% is underweight and 3% is wasted (SADC, July 2012). The ZimVAC report estimates that the number of food insecure people will increase continually from 344,837 in April-June 2012 to 1,667,618 in January to March 2013.

At peak, 19% of rural households are projected to be food insecure for the 2012/13 consumption year: 7% higher compared to the previous year (12%). This represents about 1,668,000 people. The cumulative energy deficit for all estimated food insecure rural households is equivalent to 146,141MT. Compared to the three previous consumption years, food insecurity levels in the 2012/13 consumption year are the highest experienced by the country. Matabeleland South (30%), followed by Masvingo (28%) and Matabeleland North (22%) provinces, were projected to have the highest proportion of food insecure households. Mashonaland East at 10 % is projected to have the lowest proportion of food insecure households. This pattern is largely influenced by the combined influence of drought and the main livelihoods options available in the different provinces.

*Zimbabwe: projected total of **1.67 million** people food insecure by March 2013*

*Zimbabwe: Cereal production **33% down** compared to last year*

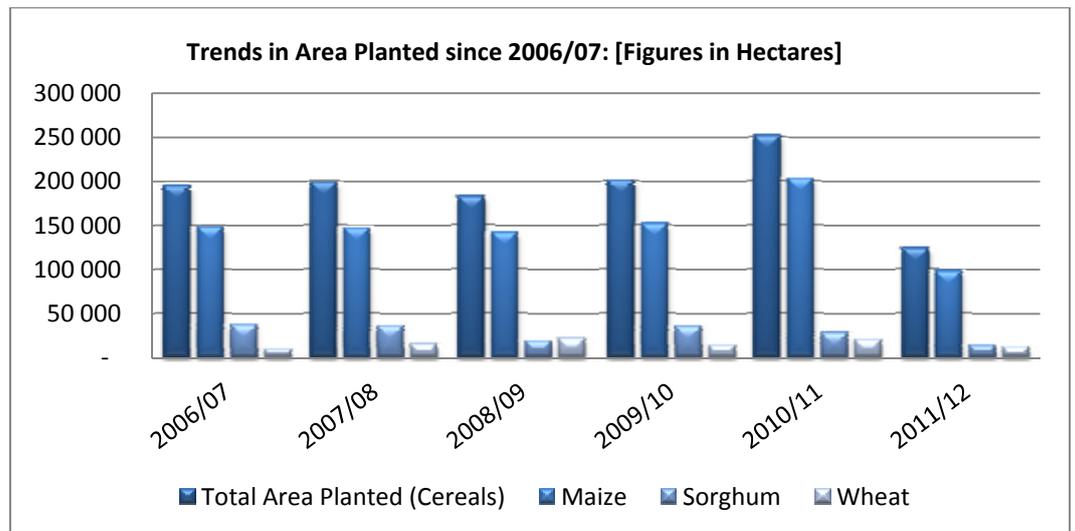


Lesotho

Lesotho: 39% of the population (725,519 people) in need of humanitarian assistance in 2012

According to the 2011/12 Production Forecasts, areas planted to all crops declined by 39.5% from 238,524ha last year to 144,278ha this year. There is a cereal domestic deficit of 217, 899 MT which will be covered by imports. The Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) analysis has taken into consideration very low food production expected this year, the increase in the price of staple foods, and the generally increasing prices of key household items. The results show that approximately 725,519 people will need humanitarian assistance in 2012, which is equivalent to approximately either 61,885 MT of maize or M303,872,392 (using current rural prices of maize meal). The number is the highest in the previous five years. Population requiring humanitarian assistance has increased from 514,000 in 2011/12 to 725,519 in the 2012/13 consumption year (LVAC Report, July 2012).

Lesotho: 39.5% decline of area planted to all crops compared to last year



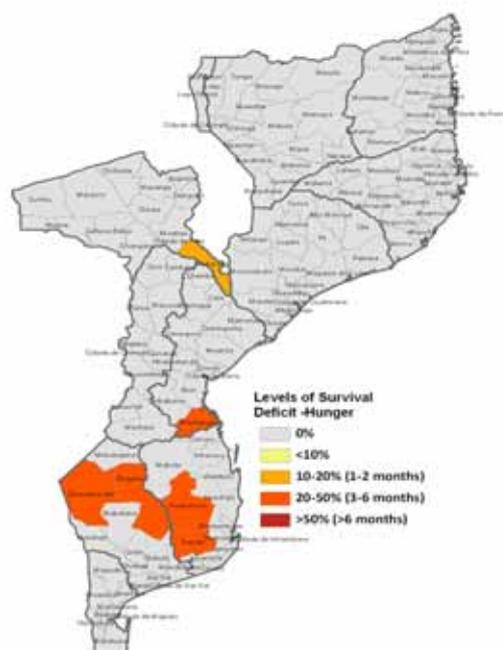
Source: LVAC

Mozambique

Mozambique: 139,593 out of a total of 255,297 food insecure people in 11 out of a total 149 districts need urgent humanitarian assistance

The areas of concern are the semi-arid districts of southern and central Mozambique. There is a cereal deficit of 480,000 MT and stressed acute food insecure households may

require assistance. According to the July VAC assessment, there are a total of 255,297 food insecure people in the 11 affected districts (Panda, Funhalouro, Chigubo, Chicualacuala, Changara, Mutarara, Chemba Chuita and Moamba, Magude and Machanga). Of which 139,593 need urgent humanitarian assistance.



Out of the 11 affected districts, the population in six districts of Machanga, Magude, Funhalouro, Panda, Chigubo, and Chicualacuala will face food deficits of 20-50% for more than six months. The VAC report attributes household vulnerability to food insecurity to

the following factors: low household resilience due to depletion of productive assets and food stocks over the last three years; and poverty-induced vulnerability among households with low purchasing power and market related shocks (i.e. increase in prices of staple foods and non-food items in the livelihoods basket). Current maize prices in Mozambique are higher than international prices and are higher than the five years' average in most local markets.

Angola

Angola: Food production dropped by 400,000 MT from last year

Angola has been severely affected by climatic change over the past few years. Flooding occurred during the 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons, followed by prolonged drought during the 2011/12 season. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, an estimated 366,780 households (about 1,833,900 people) are expected to be affected by drought. Food production is estimated to have dropped by 400,000 metric tons from last year's harvest. Affected provinces include those of Bengo, Kwanza Sul, Benguela, Huila, Namibe, Cunene, Moxico, Bie, Huambo and Zaire. A food deficit of over 1 million MT is projected, and there are serious concerns on current elevated levels of global acute malnutrition (GAM).

According to the Angola VAC report (July 2012), loss of production amounted to 235,196 tons of main dry land crops: maize, *massango* (fountain grass), *massambala* (short grass), manioc, sweet potato and beans. The total economic loss amounted to 8,444,179,642 Kz. There are several implications for the affected communities, such as reduced agricultural production; food shortages; increase in food prices; low buying power; reduced employment available in rural areas and increased migration of the rural work force to large urban areas.

Angola: An estimated 366,480 households (about 1,833,900 people) are expected to be affected by drought in 2012

Tanzania

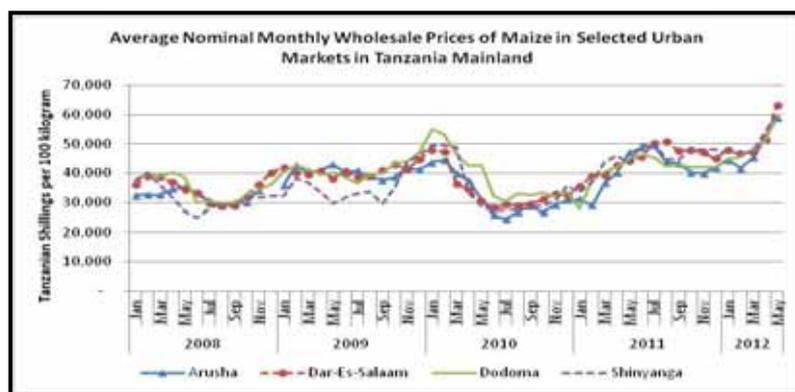


Tanzania: Food security situation improving in many parts of the country.

The latest report on food security and nutrition assessment, released in June 2012 generally indicates improved food security across the country. This is attributed to the early harvests in the unimodal rainfall areas and improved livestock condition due to availability of water and pasture. The previous interventions from Government and NGOs including the WFP safety net programmes, notably on school feeding, helped to address food shortages. The assessment identified about 30 districts which will experience pockets of food shortages prior to harvesting with an estimated total population of 946,000 people in need of food assistance before next harvest.

Food prices are gradually falling in the unimodal rainfall regions as harvesting from the 2011/12 agricultural season continue reaching markets. However, in the bimodal rainfall areas that cover the north eastern and north western regions, crops are at advanced growth stages and harvesting is expected to commence much later in August. In these regions, prices are still higher compared to southern and central parts of the country.

In both cases, however, price levels have remained above the 5 year average. On the other hand inflation has remained high in the country and high fuel prices will continue increasing transportation costs a factor which will be reflected in the prices of the final consumer.



Recent alert of red locust upsurge in Ikuu Katavi Plains in western Tanzania is still a threat as efforts to mobilize control measures have not generated positive results and, as such, government has proceeded with control operations with limited support.

As the 2011/12 cropping season comes to an end with the completion of rain season, the preliminary crop production forecast indicate nearly 60 districts to be facing localized food shortages. The government, in collaboration with partners, is currently planning for a rapid food security assessment at the end of August to assess the impact of poor rainfall performance in these areas. The assessment report is expected by end of September.

Tanzania: Nearly 60 out of a total of 129 districts facing localized food shortages

TANZANIA¹: LAST BURUNDIAN REFUGEE CAMP TO BE CLOSED

Mtabila Refugee Camp in Kigoma Region, northwestern Tanzania, is the last camp hosting refugees who fled Burundi from 1993 onwards. In May 2011, the 15th Tripartite (Burundi-Tanzania-UNHCR) Commission on Burundian refugees in Mtabila had agreed on a Plan of Action for identifying and implementing lasting solutions for Burundian refugees remaining in the camp. And from 12 September to 15 December 2011, first instance in-depth interviews were conducted by 15 joint Government of Tanzania/UNHCR interview panels to determine, on an individual basis, the need for continued international protection of Burundian refugees in Mtabila Camp.

Definitive closure by 31 December 2012

In February 2012, the 16th Tripartite Commission decided that the definitive closure of Mtabila Refugee Camp would take place by 31 December 2012. Results from the in-depth interviews were notified to Burundian refugees living in the camp, and these



Tanzania: Definitive closure of Mtabila Refugee Camp will take place by 31 December 2012.

¹ The United Republic of Tanzania has been added to the country coverage of OCHA ROSA since June 2012

refugees were given an opportunity to appeal the decision. At the end of both the interview and the appeal, 2,521 individuals were found to be in need of continued international protection while about 35,400 others were not so.

Efforts are under way to promote voluntary repatriation and raise awareness on the repercussions of negative appeal decisions on individuals' refugee status, including intensive dialogue and mass information campaigns targeting specific groups (youths, women, etc.) in the camp. UNHCR Tanzania and IOM (International Organization for Migration) are ready to support the return of those who are willing to repatriate to Burundi.

OCHA AND PARTNERS IN ACTION

Lesotho: OCHA and Partners Respond with Coordination Support

OCHA ROSA has been in Lesotho to support the UN Country Team (UNCT) in developing a response plan to their declining food security situation. Situation Report 1 on the Lesotho Food Security Situation can be found [here](#).

Lesotho: Development of response plan underway

OCHA ROSA assisted the UNCT in Lesotho to develop a CERF request in response to the food security situation. OCHA ROSA Humanitarian Affairs Officers (HAOs) and Information Management Officer (IMO) deployed to Lesotho provided guidance on the (1) finalization of the Emergency preparedness and Response Plan and (2) process of the CERF and how it could be used to complement other funding channels, particularly with regard to producing a comprehensive response plan which links to Early Recovery and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities as well as existing development programmes.

Meanwhile, OCHA ROSA is maintaining close contact with donors, advocating with them the need to support integrated and early humanitarian action. OCHA ROSA will also continue to produce Information Management (IM) products on the situation, as well as reports. Over the longer term, OCHA ROSA will continue advocating for lasting solutions to address issues of chronic food insecurity, with a focus on early recovery activities and the building of community resilience.

Madagascar: UNCT Supports Government in Urban Contingency Planning

Madagascar: Development of urban contingency plan

UNOCHA in collaboration with UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNFPA, BNGRC and the Municipal of Antananarivo has started the development of urban contingency planning in the capital of Antananarivo. The workshop was held from 2-4 July. It had over 115 participants. It aimed to develop an urban contingency plan for the capital Antananarivo (under the Human Security Trust Fund Project). Key clusters to carry the process forward were identified and a one day training on information management to ensure that stakeholders were aware of



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their cluster responsibilities, was conducted.

The HCT also supported the Government in the development of a drought contingency plan for the Great South. The objective of the plan is to better prepare the Government and its partners to respond to the recurrent drought in that region.

Zambia: OCHA and Partners Delivers Information Management Training

As part of the SADC regional information management project that comprises OCHA, SADC and MapAction, an OCHA IMO and GIS Officer in partnership with Map-Action representatives, conducted Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data preparedness training in Zambia. Hosted by the Zambian Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) under the office of the Vice-President, participants came from institutions tasked with managing data and producing information products to assist with emergency preparedness and response. There were 21 participants representing 16



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institutions (Government, UN, and Red Cross) trained. The main objective of the training was to build Zambia's national capacity to maintain key datasets (Common Operational Datasets and Fundamental Operational Datasets), and be able to produce key information products and maps at the various stages of an evolving crisis. The training also touched on the key information

management activities/systems that need to be in place before during and after an emergency. The next steps are to improve the training material based on feedback from participants and roll it out in the SADC region.

Sources: Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, Relevant UN Resident Coordinators Offices, SADC RVAA PMU, Relevant National Vulnerability Assessment Committees

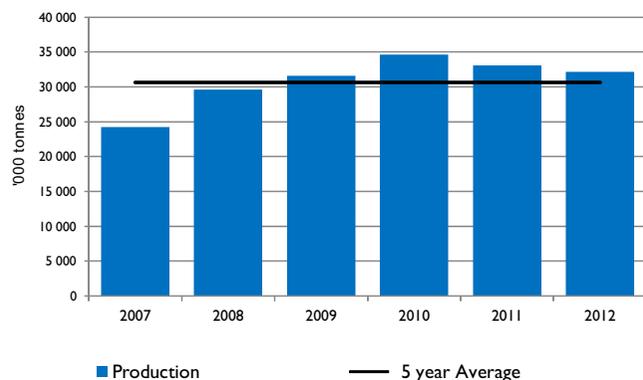
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Regional Cereal Production Trend (2007 - 2012)



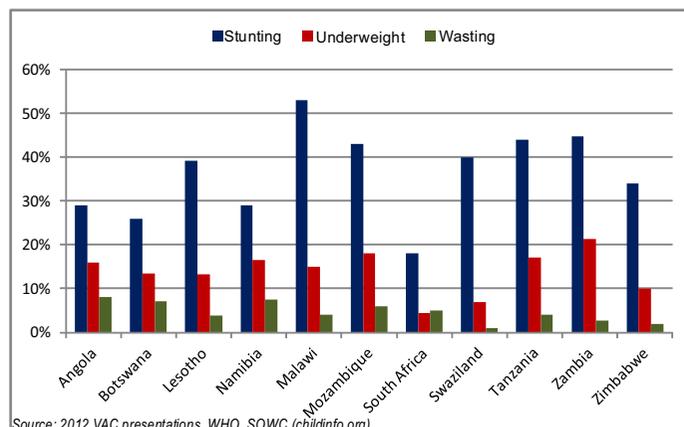
Overview 2011/12 Crop Production Season

- Regional cereal harvest (maize, rice, wheat, sorghum and millet) dropped by **4%** in 2012 compared to 2011, but still **5%** above five year average
- **2012 harvest lowest in past 3 years**
- Compared to 2011 harvest, all countries experienced a decrease in cereal production except Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania, estimated to have some increases

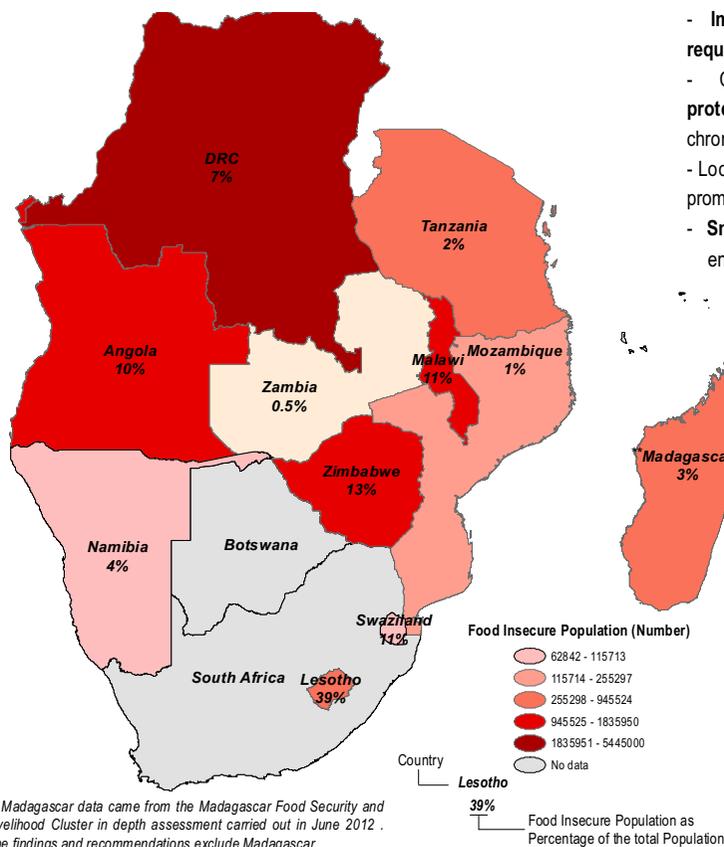
Overview 2012/13 Marketing Year: Cereal Balance

- Overall regional maize surplus of 57,000 metric tonnes projected in current marketing year, **down 98%** from 2.73 million tonnes in 2011/12 marketing year
- Projection of maize grain deficit in all countries, except Malawi, RSA, Tanzania and Zambia
- Threat of acute food insecurity projected in localized deficit areas, especially in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe
- Increased demand by regional and international buyers of the projected maize grain surplus is expected to raise prices significantly

Malnutrition Rates in the Region



Food Insecure Population 2012/13



** Madagascar data came from the Madagascar Food Security and Livelihood Cluster in depth assessment carried out in June 2012. The findings and recommendations exclude Madagascar

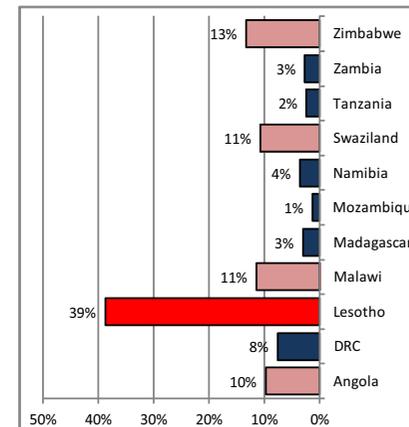
Key Findings

- Total food insecure population up ***40%** from last year
- **Malnutrition levels remain very high** in the region, particularly stunting, indicating chronic food and nutrition insecurity
- Certain areas perennially have food insecure populations indicating **chronic vulnerability**
- Despite overall declining trend of food insecure population, the last 3 years show an increasing trend
- Late onset and prolonged dry spells resulted in **depressed production in many parts of the region**
- Among the total food insecure populations, there are some populations that **need immediate humanitarian assistance**

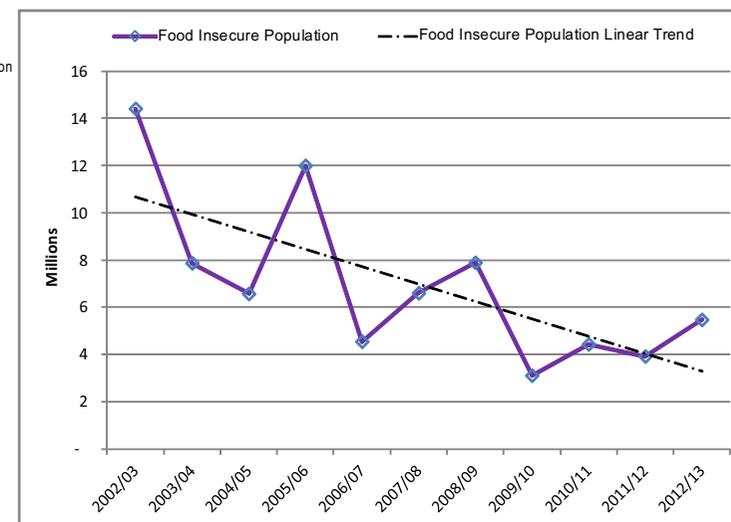
Recommendations

- **Immediate humanitarian assistance required** in some food insecure populations
- Continued **emphasis on social protection and safety nets** to address chronic vulnerability required
- Local/regional procurement encouraged to promote increased production
- **Small holder irrigation technologies** encouraged to reduce reliance on rain fed agriculture
- Enhance **infrastructure development** for improved market access
- Agriculture subsidy programmes encouraged, however changing climatic conditions should be considered
- **Food and nutrition security programmes** to be scaled up to reverse high prevalence of malnutrition
- **DRR to be streamlined in policies** and programming to mitigate effects of climate change
- SADC Member state encouraged to **facilitate inter-country trade** of food crops, livestock and fishery products from surplus areas to deficit areas, particularly the removal of export bans

Food Insecure Population as Percentage of Total Population



*SADC Food Insecure Population Trend (2002/03 -2012/13)



*Based on countries that have more than 4 years of food insecure population data as presented to the SADC PMU: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Data Sources: 2012 Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Annual Dissemination Forum Presentation by SADC RVA PMU, except for Angola figures that are based on Ministry of Agriculture and Madagascar figures