



El Niño: Undermining Resilience

Implications of El Niño in Southern Africa from a Food and Nutrition Security Perspective



World Food Programme

February 2016

Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
WFP Recommendations.....	3
Purpose	5
Overview	5
El Niño’s Impact in Southern Africa	6
Lessons from Previous El Niño Events	8
Cereal Food Supply and Pricing.....	9
Macro-Economic Context	10
Regional and National Food Policies.....	12
Regional Food Security Outlook.....	12
Nutrition Outlook.....	13
Overview of Preparedness and Response Mechanisms	14
Social Protection Programmes in Southern Africa.....	14
WFP Specific Preparedness Actions.....	15

Annex: Country Profiles	18
Angola	19
Botswana.....	21
Democratic Republic of Congo.....	23
Lesotho.....	25
Madagascar	28
Malawi.....	31
Mozambique	34
Namibia	37
South Africa.....	41
Swaziland	43
Tanzania	46
Zambia.....	50
Zimbabwe.....	53

List of Tables

Table 1. National Cereal Surplus/Deficits, Food Inflation and Current Food Insecurity Estimates 2015-2016.....	2
Table 2. Population at Risk to El Niño Related Drought Effects.....	8
Table 3. Estimates of Persons Reached through Social Safety Nets	15

List of Figures

Figure 1. Southern Africa Oct-Jan Rainfall, Ranked within 1981-2016.....	4
Figure 2. Comparison of Maize Yield changes under El Niño, La Niña and Neutral conditions for South Africa.....	7
Figure 3. Historical El Niño Intensities and Rainfall Patterns in December-March, 1981-2010	9
Figure 4. Comparison of South African White Maize and FAO Global Cereal Price Index.....	11

Executive Summary

Southern Africa's unprecedented El Niño-related drought and weather-related stress has triggered a second shock-year of hunger and hardship for poor and vulnerable people with serious consequences that will persist until at least to the next harvest in 2017. It is evident that the 2015-16 maize harvest will be insufficient to cover full cereal needs for the region without significant importation.

El Niño conditions have caused the lowest recorded rainfall between October 2015 and January 2016 across many regions of Southern Africa in at least 35-years (**Figure 1**). The period also recorded the hottest temperatures in the past 10 years. Short-term forecasts, based on more recent data, (February to May) indicate the high probability of continuing below-normal rainfall across the region, signalling this may become one of the worst droughts in recent history.

El Niño's impact on rain-fed agriculture is severe. Poor-rainfall, combined with excessive temperatures, has created conditions that are unfavourable for crop growth in many areas. In Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, planting was delayed by up to two months or more and is expected to severely impact maize yields. As the window for planting is now closed, even good late rainfall offers limited scope for recovery.

Already an estimated **15.9 million** people in southern Africa are highly food insecure, not including a growing number in South Africa (**Table 1**). Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, Madagascar were the hardest hit from the 2015 poor harvest and early impacts from El Niño. Other countries, including Swaziland, Angola and Mozambique show increasing signs of concern.

More than 40 million rural and 9 million poor urban people are at risk due to the impacts of El Niño's related drought and erratic rainfall (**Table 2**). Small-scale farmers will be particularly hard hit by a second successive poor harvest. Food price inflation will also impact low-income households.

Limited water availability and poor pasture are worsening livestock conditions. The number of livestock deaths is already increasing in parts of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Critical water shortages have also impacted rural communities' water availability and sanitation, impacting nutrition and health of both humans and animals.

Maize prices continue to rise well above their five-year average. In South Africa, spot prices have more than doubled compared to the five-year average. The July 2016 futures price for South African white maize is at a record high indicating the tightness of regional supply.

El Niño is usually accompanied by economic slowdown in Southern Africa, associated with reduced agricultural output and contraction in industrial activities. Current macro-economic conditions, including falling international commodity prices and currency depreciations, may inhibit countries' capacity to secure sufficient food supply.

This consecutive second year of inadequate food production will inflict severe consequences. Crop failure and economic contraction threaten both rural and urban livelihoods as it undermines people's capacity to meet their basic social and economic needs. Coupled with increasing levels of livelihood stress and unemployment, El Niño incurs social, economic and political consequences.

National governments and regional bodies recognize that the El Niño crisis demands immediate attention. Regional coordination and government leadership of critical contingency, preparedness and response planning is crucial to guarantee sufficient food supply and access for the most vulnerable people.

El Niño is progressing toward a potential regional emergency requiring a coordinated response.

Table 1. National Cereal Surplus/Deficits, Food Inflation and Current Food Insecurity Estimates 2015-2016

Country	Current Cereal Deficit (2015/16) ¹	Food Price Inflation ²	Current Needs (Until March 2016)		
			Total Rural Population	Affected Population	% of Rural Population
Angola	52 %	13 %	12,767,654	1,253,048	9.8%
Botswana	88 %	1 %	875,105	49,000	5.6%
Congo	n/a	2 %	n/a	n/a	n/a
DR Congo	45 %	2 %	40,970,888	4,456,106	11.0%
Lesotho	57 %	(4) %	1,541,072	463,936	30.1%
Madagascar	n/a	7 %	15,727,662	1,893,398	12.0%
Malawi	14 %	28 %	14,492,248	2,865,602	20.0%
Mozambique	30 %	2 %	18,384,814	176,139	1.0%
Namibia	68 %	7 %	1,204,453	578,480	48%
South Africa ³	(2) %	5 %	n/a	n/a	n/a
Swaziland ⁴	61 %	4 %	858,347	200,897	23.4%
Tanzania	(17) %	11 %	35,762,641	424,136	1.2%
Zambia	(41) %	23 %	9,168,601	798,948	8.7%
Zimbabwe	52 %	(4) %	9,534,266	2,829,159	30%
Regional		9 %	161,287,751	15,988,849	10.0%

¹ Cereal surplus indicated in brackets. Figures obtained from the SADC regional all region balance sheet 2015/16

² Based on SADC Harmonized Consumer Price Indices (HCPI) February 2015

(https://www.sadc.int/files/9814/2773/0910/SADC_HCPI_-_February_2015_f.pdf)

³ Pending updated data. For purposes of this compilation, this excludes 14 million people in RSA who were reported in 2014 as experiencing different forms of deprivations, not exclusive to food

⁴ The numbers exposed are based on actual total rural population and the urban poor in Swaziland

WFP Recommendations

Given the gravity of the situation and expected impact of El Niño that will affect the entire Southern Africa region, the World Food Programme recommends the following actions be taken:

- Adopt a no-regrets approach to allow timely implementation of response mechanisms and to secure livelihoods. Such an approach will lead to continuous improvement in preparedness over time;
- Enhance regional coordination and government leadership of contingency, preparedness and response planning;
- Strengthen surveillance activities for regional and national food and nutrition security, markets and trade;
- Conduct vulnerability assessments to identify specific national and sub-national needs and provide in-depth analysis on households coping and identifying entry points for longer resilience building initiatives;
- Utilize region-wide policies and protocols to overcome response barriers and to optimise and safeguard food supply, particularly for highly impacted regions;
- Undertake more detailed preparedness planning to determine how to leverage existing safety nets and build on or put in place resilience programmes that could be initiated in the short term as a response measure;
- Rapidly mobilise and commit national and international resources to scale-up existing social protection programmes to meet increased needs to protect the most vulnerable in both rural and urban settings and to safeguard their livelihoods;
- Scale up work on climate change adaptation and integrated risk management linked to long-term resilience building, such as productive asset creation, improved water management and weather-based insurance;
- Harness different experiences and capacity within the region to promote a regional approach to El Niño, including strengthening cross border commodity trade; customs clearances procedures, movement of goods and services across the border.

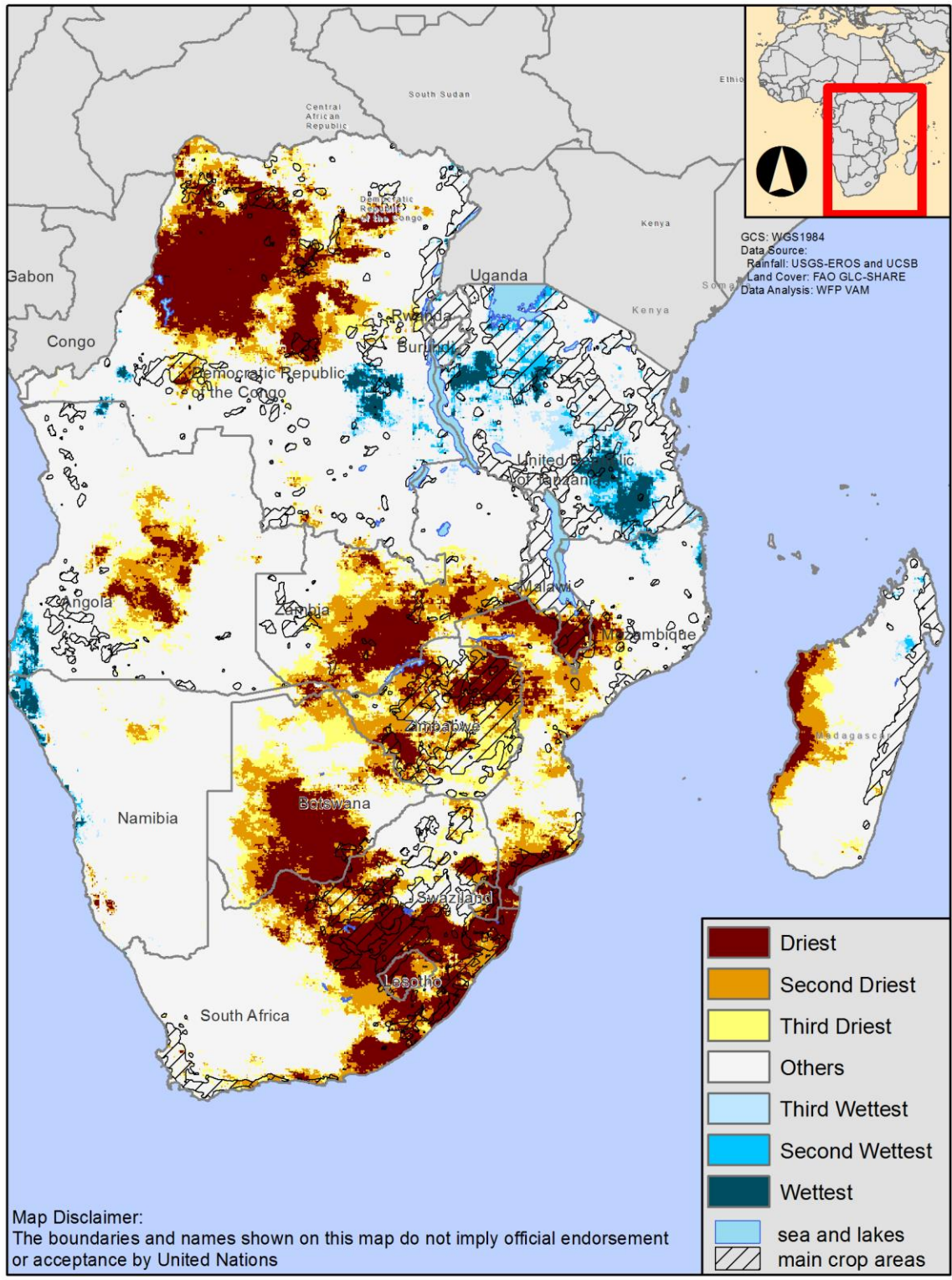


Figure 1. Southern Africa Oct-Jan Rainfall, Ranked within 1981-2016.
 Source: VAM, WFP-HQ, based on CHIRPS rainfall estimates.

Purpose

1. This document serves to outline El Niño's major implications on food and nutrition security in the southern Africa region and highlights immediate and long-term preparedness requirements. Country profiles provided in the **Annex** give contextual national information.

Overview

2. Intense El Niño-related conditions, coupled with multi-year drought have exacerbated an already-deteriorating food and nutrition security situation in many parts of Southern Africa, seriously undermining regional food system resilience.
3. Although it remains too early to predict the full impact of El Niño in southern Africa, early-warning evidence indicates that the current phenomenon will seriously impact regional food security and nutrition until the middle of 2017, the region's subsequent main harvest period.
4. Severe drought, abnormal dryness and other unfavourable weather conditions have disrupted the region's current cropping season, increasing the likelihood of a further reduction in cereal output, particularly for rain-dependent farmers.⁵
5. Vulnerable communities already experiencing food-related stress—resulting from the poor 2014/2015 agricultural season—possess reduced capacity to withstand El Niño-related shocks. Limited pasture, feed price increases, and low farm-gate prices are negatively affecting livestock farming with long-term consequences.
6. The full scope and gravity of the current El Niño event will be known with greater precision when annual post-harvest assessments are completed in April and May.
7. Although El Niño's impact on people's livelihoods varies according to preparedness and response capacities, rain-dependent smallholder farmers—comprising at least **50 percent** of the population—are among the hardest hit.⁶
8. Abnormal and higher-than-average food price increases reduce the purchasing power of poor households in rural areas as well as peri-urban and urban centres throughout the region.
9. As food insecurity tightens and water scarcity increase, there are early signs of worsening malnutrition in a region that exhibits high rates of chronic malnutrition. Some highly-impacted areas already exhibit higher than average rates of moderate

⁵ FEWSNET, 2016. *Global Weather Hazards Summary. February 12-18, 2016.*

⁶ FAO, 2015. *Special Alert No. 336 – Southern Africa.* Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture.

and severe acute malnutrition. People with greater nutritional needs remain most at risk, including young children, nursing mothers, the elderly, and those living with Tuberculosis (TB) and/or HIV and AIDS.

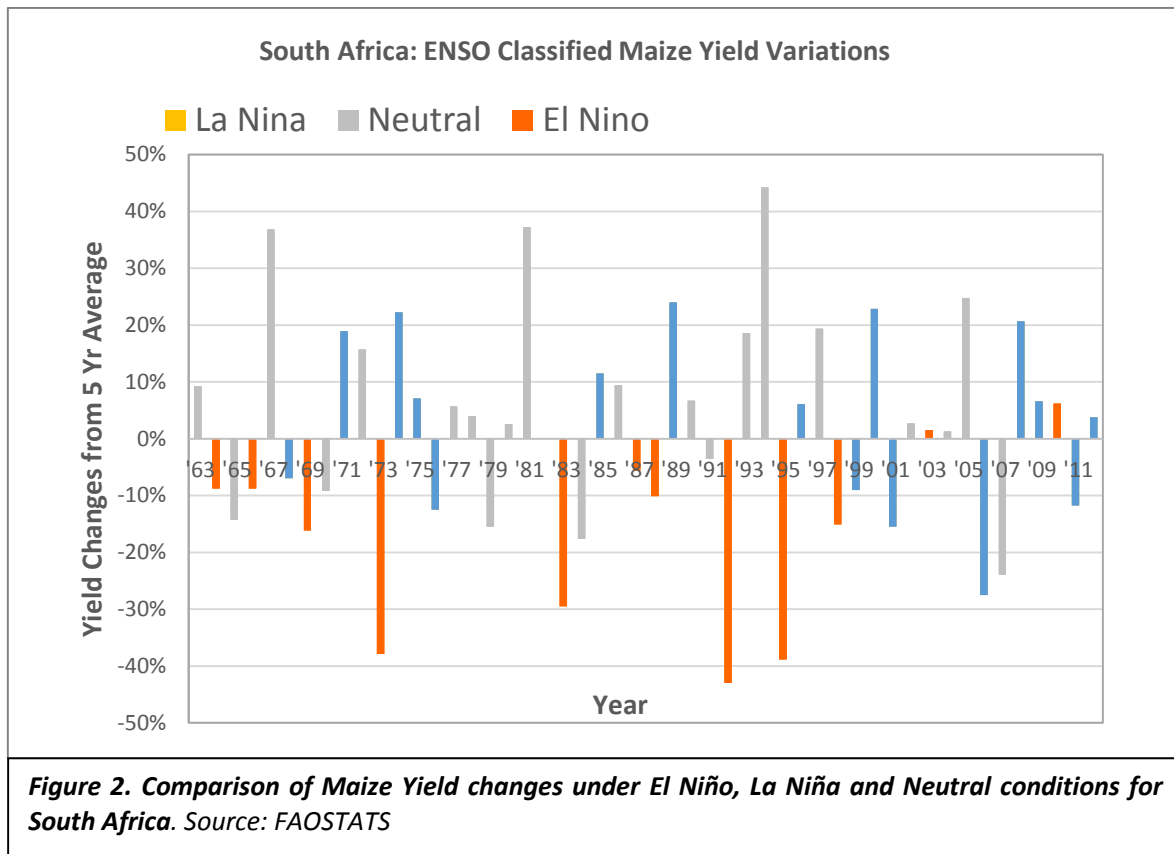
10. Governments recognize the severity of this year's phenomenon. Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe have declared drought emergencies and have requested international assistance. Mozambique has also requested international assistance. Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique have confirmed crisis levels (IPC⁷ level 3) of food insecurity in hard-hit areas. Seven provinces of South Africa have declared drought emergencies. Further drought emergencies may be declared in the coming months. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat is also augmenting contingency and preparedness planning.
11. Given stifled agricultural production in several countries as a result of a bad second consecutive year, potentially undermining the region's recovery in food and nutrition security, and slowed overall economic growth, there is weakened capacity to absorb additional shocks induced by El Niño. In some cases, macro-economic conditions have reduced national capacity to launch the responses required to address arising needs.
12. Governments are reviewing their Contingency Plans; however preparedness levels may still not be adequate in most countries. There is an urgent need to support member states and regional institutions' emergency preparedness in terms of financial resources as well as technical assistance.
13. The use of national social protection and safety nets is key to effective emergency programming, considering that droughts are increasing in intensity and frequency. Response planning must assess the extent to which these safety nets can be upscaled and made broad-based enough to meet both the immediate humanitarian needs as well as for recovery and long term resilience building.
14. Given the interrelated nature of the crisis, coordinated regional responses are necessary to overcome current bottlenecks and risks which, if left unmitigated, will impede the scope and effectiveness of any response.

El Niño's Impact in Southern Africa

15. In Southern Africa, El Niño is associated with a late start of season, rainfall deficits, and poor distribution mostly leading to significant dry spells. The reduced planted areas, delayed planting and depressed yields will reduce food supply significantly.

⁷ In Crisis (Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) level 3) even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five Households in the area have the following or worse: Food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps (IPC Technical Manual Version 2.0 for details).

16. The peak of the current El Niño event coincides with the critical time of the region’s agricultural season.
17. Historical records show that El Niño events are systematically related to declines in maize yields (**Figure 2**). While El Niño impacts vary, the reduction in maize yield is most felt in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi.



18. The region is facing one of the driest rainfall seasons in the last 35 years. Forecasts by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast indicate that the dry conditions will persist until the end of the rain-fed cropping season. With these conditions, an estimated **49 million** people could be at risk of the effects of prolonged drought (**Table 2**). These figures relate to El Niño drought-affected areas derived from 30-year satellite rainfall data series, comparing areas receiving less than 80 percent of average January-March rainfall during El Niño years with average rainfall received in the normal years. Population figures are adjusted from 2014 and 2013 Landscan population estimate.

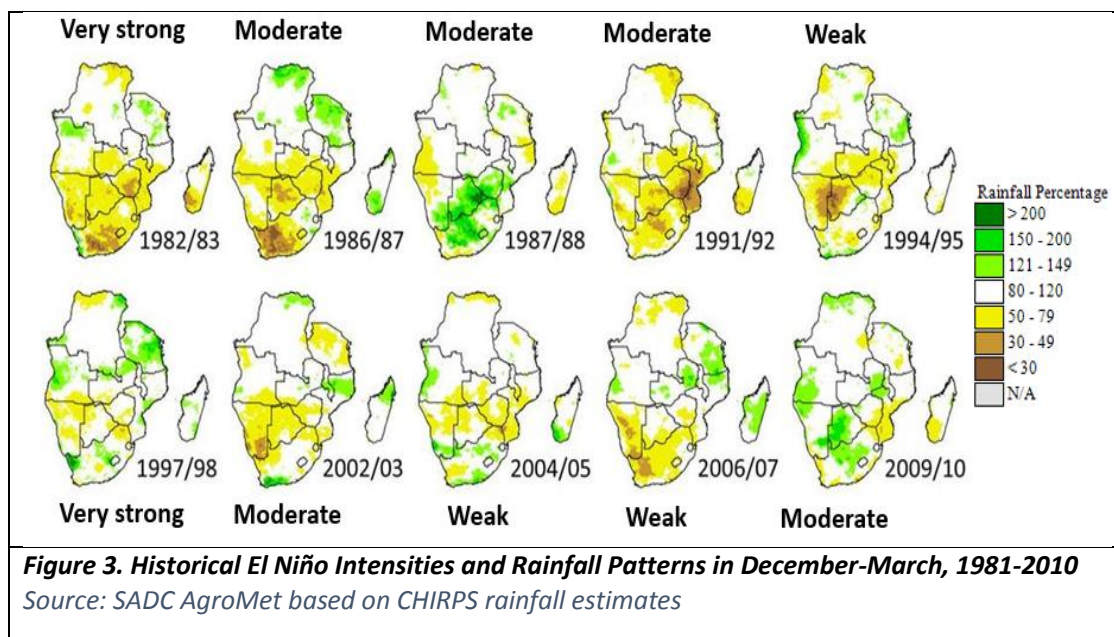
Table 2. Population at Risk of El Niño Related Drought Effects

Country	Rural pop at risk of drought	Poor Urban at risk of drought
Angola	667,126	51,961
Botswana	153,022	5,603
Congo	61,366	12,153
DRC	3,126,185	1,622,009
Lesotho	1,178,388	-
Madagascar	2,946,921	264,059
Malawi	3,289,288	234,908
Mozambique	9,812,501	1,959,666
Namibia	1,148,614	36,278
South Africa	6,503,165	2,502,377
Swaziland	993,014	177,401
Tanzania	337,484	13,462
Zambia	3,041,899	985,808
Zimbabwe	7,565,482	1,374,290
Region	40,697,912	9,230,296

19. Though there has been some recent rainfall in some parts of the region, there is limited scope for recovery. The late onset of rains in parts of South Africa and Lesotho, for example resulted in delays of up to 60 days or more in some parts, resulting in non-optimal planting and yield reductions. Elsewhere in the region especially northern Tanzania and central DRC, high rainfall continues to be received causing heavy flooding and household displacement. In Madagascar, whilst the south-western part of the country will largely receive below normal rainfall, the north-eastern part will receive normal to above normal rainfall, with a high probability of cyclones.

Lessons from Previous El Niño Events

20. No two El Niño events are the same. The signal strength of El Niño does not always correspond to the magnitude of impacts (**Figure 3**). Neither do all El Niño events result in erratic and reduced rainfall. For example, the 1997-98 event was the strongest on record but resulted in a near normal rainfall conditions. However, the 2002/03 event, which was rated moderate, precipitated a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions because it was preceded by a poor agricultural season.
21. This degree of uncertainty in the outcome of an El Niño event underlines the importance of preparedness and contingency planning regardless of its signal strength. Adopting a no-regrets approach enables more timely implementation of response mechanisms should they become necessary.



22. In addition to the direct impacts associated with El Niño on food production, an El Niño event generates a number of secondary effects on the economy that affect: economic production-including agricultural production; employment (both in the rural and urban areas); migration; and health risks especially in Tanzania, Madagascar and DRC where excessive rains increase the occurrence of water-borne diseases.
23. In 1997-98, a large-scale cholera outbreak occurred in the region with over 200,000 cases and over 12,000 deaths in those 2 years. Every effort must be made to contain the spread of water-borne and water-related diseases like cholera which has seen a resurgence in the southern Africa region over the last year.
24. As the situation evolves, close monitoring and surveillance is required at regional, national and sub-national levels to assess and fully understand unfolding impacts.
25. Specific attention must be given to the risks facing People Living with HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Evidence from previous major droughts demonstrates that drug regime adherence is interrupted during periods of lack of access to food.
26. Given that El Niño is both a global and regional problem, response actions taken in isolation by one member state can create instability in the food systems of another. To assure a robust and, positive regional outcome, a coordinated regional approach that leverages on different knowledge, expertise and experiences that member states possess as well as manage consequences of the different response actions to be taken is imperative.

Cereal Food Supply and Pricing

27. The current El Niño induced climate outlook is particularly concerning, because it is coming on top of a poor harvest in 2014-15. Poor regional cereal harvests from the

2014-2015 season have tightened cereal supply. On average, harvests were **21 percent** lower than the 2013/14 season year and **3 percent** lower than the five-year average.⁸

28. The overall cereal deficit for the region in 2015 stands at 7.90 million tonnes for the 2015-16 marketing year as compared to 3.9 million in 2014/15.⁹
29. It is now clear that the expected 2015/16 harvest will be insufficient to cover the cereal needs for the region without significant importation from outside the region, at a time when most currencies in the region have depreciated significantly over the past 12 months and economic performance has declined.
30. Maize prices continue to rise well-above the five year average. Malawi is particularly affected, with the price of maize **73 percent** higher than average by December. In South Africa, maize prices were **51 percent** above average. All countries in the region have recorded significant price increases.¹⁰ In Swaziland, the price of white maize has increased by 66%.
31. In maize surplus-producing countries, month-by-month price rises reflect higher demand for staple cereal in nearby deficit countries. Monthly rises of **11 percent** in Zambia, **8 percent** in Tanzania and Mozambique illustrate the interconnected, region-wide dimensions of the El Niño crisis.
32. In South Africa, lack of rainfall is expected to push yields below average. Estimates indicate maize production may fall by up to **29 percent** compared to last year's harvest.¹¹ Maize imports to South Africa have dramatically increased from 66,000 MT in 2013 to 1.2 million MT in 2014¹². Therefore the projected maize imports of at least 3 million MT¹³ in 2016 will put pressure on port and rail infrastructure.

Macro-Economic Context

33. Southern Africa has a population of about 292 million, with a combined GDP of about US\$ 720 billion from 16 countries. In 2014, the GDP of the region grew by 3.4 percent compared to Sub-Saharan rate of 3.9 percent.
34. Rain-fed agriculture is of fundamental importance forming the main source of livelihood for at least **50 percent** of the population in most countries.

⁸ WFP, 2015. *El Niño: Implications and Scenarios for 2015/6*.

⁹ SADC All Cereal Balance Sheet for 2014/2015

¹⁰ WFP, 2015. *Southern Africa Monthly Food Price Update*. December 2015.

¹¹ University of Free State, 2015. *Implications of the Lingering 2015 Drought on the Economy, Agricultural Markets, Food Processors, Input Suppliers and the Consumer*. December.

¹² <http://www.indexmundi.com/agriculture/?country=za&commodity=corn&graph=imports>

¹³ <http://www.grainsa.co.za/news-headlines/press-releases/grain-sa-preliminary-maize-production-forecast---it-s-early-days>

35. Since 2014, the international commodity prices have dropped precipitously affecting metal-and-mineral dependent-economies of the region. Zambia has been affected by a sharp fall in copper prices, while in Angola, Government foreign exchange earnings have reduced substantially as a consequence of the oil prices plummeting in 2015 by more than 50 percent. The volatile prices of metals also affected South Africa’s economy where such commodities account for more than 40 percent of the total exports.

36. While international maize prices have been declining due to ample global stocks and weak export demand (**Figure 4**), regional maize prices doubled in some markets which reflects tight cereal supply in the region due to the poor harvest of 2015. The July 2016 futures price for South African white maize is R4,891 per ton¹⁴, a record high.

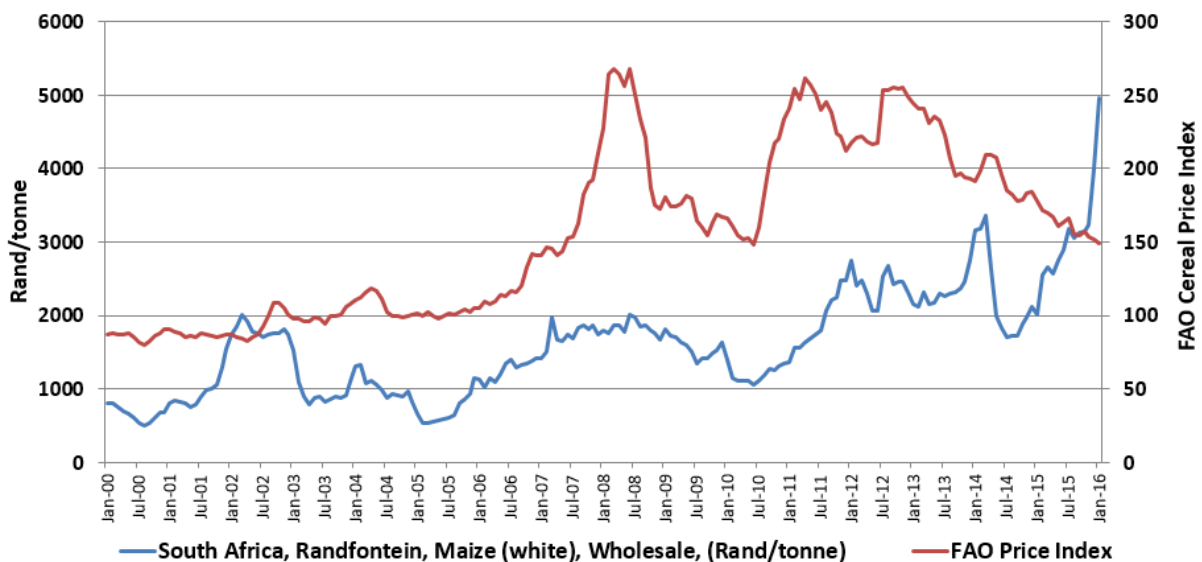


Figure 4. Comparison of South African White Maize and FAO Global Cereal Price Index

(Source: FAO/SAFEX).

37. At least half of the countries in the region have experienced currency devaluation of between 30 and 40 percent which weaken the fiscal position of these economies. This general depreciation of domestic currencies in the southern Africa region adds to the upward pressure on food prices, especially for the urban poor.

38. Reduced rainfall has impacted heavily on water levels in lakes and other waterbodies. Given the high dependency on hydroelectricity by some countries in the region, power generation has been severely affected, affecting general economic activity

39. The current tight fiscal situation in the region raises the question of which policies are needed to counter the adverse effects of El Niño shocks. While in many cases the macro-economic conditions have reduced fiscal capacity of governments to

¹⁴ According to Grain SA Morning Grain Market Commentary of 18th February 2016

prepare and launch adequate responses for people affected by El Niño, the region's infrastructure and presence of regional institutions such as Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) provide a conducive institutional and policy environment to pursue a coordinated regional approach necessary to effectively mitigate El Niño's consequences.

Regional and National Food Policies

40. Some domestic trade policies remain inconsistent with the free movement of foods within the region. Non-Tariff Barriers, such as the requirement of export licenses for maize and maize-meal, are a critical barrier to intra-regional trade.
41. The imposition of import and export bans on agricultural commodities, including export bans on maize and maize products, impede cross-border trade in maize and maize-products. Free flow of food commodities across borders is essential.
42. Subsidization and price controls, may also lead to price differentials between neighbouring countries, hampering the effectiveness of individual national policies and food security strategies.
43. Domestic cereal markets in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland operate with minimal government participation and involvement, allowing the private sector to fill exceptional food gaps in times of major production shortfalls.
44. Most countries have operationalised strategic reserves. Countries possess either virtual or physical stocks, primarily managed by government grain marketing entities. A number of countries have used strategic reserves to stabilize food prices, (for example in Malawi and Zambia), support on-going government run food-based social protection and safety net programmes, as well as emergency food relief distributions.

Regional Food Security Outlook

45. Reduced food access impacts the intensity of rural food insecurity throughout the region with different degrees of severity. SADC-led estimates, as of January 2016, have increased to **15.9 million** people in southern Africa unable to meet their basic food needs without external assistance. It is expected that a full impact of El Niño will render an unprecedented number of people highly food insecure across the region.
46. Due to the low 2014-15 cereal harvests the post-harvest maize prices decreased by less than their usual levels and instead prices started rising well before the lean season.

47. Food price movements are behaving abnormally. As the lean season progresses, regional cereal stocks diminish and as crop losses worsen, further increases can be expected.
48. There has been increased occurrence of crop and livestock disease outbreaks in endemic areas already made worse by diminished pasture in rangeland and drinking water availability for animals. Livestock body conditions have deteriorated and a number are already reportedly dying, particularly in Swaziland and South Africa.

Nutrition Outlook

49. El Niño is expected to aggravate the already serious chronic malnutrition situation in particular for hard-hit communities and for vulnerable groups such as young children, people living with HIV/AIDS¹⁵, TB and the elderly.
50. Reduced food access, resulting from falling food production and food price increases, will likely reduce dietary diversity in affected populations. This will impact the quality of infant and young child feeding and increase the risk of acute malnutrition among vulnerable groups. Access to essential protein and iron-rich foods may also be reduced, particularly in rural areas, as a result of drought impact on livestock.
51. Water scarcity and livelihood stress increases the amount of time women and caregivers dedicate to sourcing water and food, negatively impacting caring practices. In addition, water scarcity and lack of potable water availability is already being reported to have increased the prevalence of water-borne diseases. Lesotho has reported widespread water shortages resulting in long walking distances, long queues and acute water rationing in many areas¹⁶.
52. An alarming number of children are in need of treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition in the region¹⁷. In Malawi, above-normal admissions to nutrition rehabilitation centres and increasing mortality among children with Severe Acute Malnutrition have already been observed. It is estimated that **four percent** of children under 59 months of age in Malawi suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition, with rates in the southern flood-prone districts even higher.
53. Rates of Moderate Acute Malnutrition exceed emergency thresholds of **15 percent** in parts of Madagascar.¹⁸
54. Further deterioration in the nutrition status of children is expected as the lean season progresses. Nutritional surveillance and major nutritional screening campaigns have been launched in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

¹⁵ HIV forms an additional vulnerability for nutritional status (particularly among children).

¹⁶ Declaration of Drought Emergency in Lesotho, 21st December 2015.

¹⁷ http://www.unicef.org/media/media_90252.html

¹⁸ Office National de Nutrition (ONN)/Unicef, October 2015. *Screening Results*.

Overview of Preparedness and Response Mechanisms

55. With the forecast of significant impacts from El Niño, most countries are in the process of reviewing contingency plans.
56. Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland have launched emergency response plans. Namibia has budgeted resources to support preparedness and response activities and is already responding to emergency needs. Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia all have contingency plans that are being or have been reviewed with partners.
57. Within SADC, consultations regarding the development of a regional disaster preparedness and response strategy and accompanying fund to ensure coordinated emergency preparedness and response in the region are underway. The finalisation of this process needs to be supported.
58. Despite these preparedness measures, most of the countries in the region may not be adequately prepared to meet the needs of those that would be affected, nor have adequate resources.

Social Protection Programmes in Southern Africa

59. There is a wide scope for using social protection programmes within Southern Africa to respond to the impacts of El Niño. The breadth of schemes differ by country, and include direct welfare programmes such as conditional and unconditional cash transfers, food assistance, productive safety nets, and public works (**Table 3**).
60. Social protection and safety net programmes provide some of the most viable avenues to protect the food security and resilience of vulnerable people impacted by El Niño, preventing damaging coping strategies such as selling of assets.
61. During an emergency, scaling up of safety nets programmes such as unconditional cash transfers or school meals, can be an effective and fast way to reach the most affected. Whilst these programmes may be small in scale in some countries, there is potential for scale up, and in non-crisis period, have the potential to boost production and contribute towards household resilience. Detailed preparedness planning should therefore be undertaken at country level to determine how to leverage and potentially augment existing social protection and safety net programmes.

Table 3. Estimates of Persons Reached through Social Safety Nets¹⁹

Country	Unconditional Cash Transfers	Conditional Cash Transfers	Food Assistance	School Meals	Total
Angola	900,000	1,000,000	800,000	212,000	2,912,000
Botswana	91,446	-	231,000	333,000	655,446
DRC	234,000	-	717,900	854,546	1,806,446
Lesotho	83,000	30,000	134,000	445,000	692,000
Madagascar	-	222,995	52,000	237,000	511,995
Malawi	700,000	222,995	3,900,000	237,000	2,312,736
Mozambique*	291,604	10,000	125,000	427,000	853,604
Namibia	323,074 ²⁰	20,909	120,029	300,000	616,597
Republic of Congo	-	-	70,000	223,000	293,000
South Africa	11,341,988	-	-	9,159,773	20,501,761
Swaziland*	118,219	-	88,511	328,000	534,730
Tanzania*	-	-	570,000	1,275,000	1,845,000
Zambia	114,500	-	204,251	850,000	1,168,751
Zimbabwe	37,297	-	204,255	7,200	248,752
All Countries	13,531,454	1,506,899	5,025,946	14,888,519	34,952,818

WFP Specific Preparedness Actions

62. WFP's regional bureau in Johannesburg works closely with WFP's Global El Niño Preparedness Working Group in order to benefit from global forecasts and analysis and global preparedness mechanisms.
63. In expectation of decreased regional production levels and the impact that this will have up until the 2017 harvest, WFP initiated an internal regional preparedness plan in October 2015. This plan outlined a series of preparedness actions to inform programmatic and supply chain decisions and to support emergency preparedness and response actions in WFP Country Offices. The key elements of the plan are elaborated below.
64. *Advocacy* with regional entities (such as COMESA and SADC), partners (such as African Development Bank and the World Bank) and traditional and non-traditional donors to raise awareness on potential implications and bottlenecks.
65. *Enhanced monitoring* of the progression of the season. Specifically:
- Strengthening food security monitoring and surveillance through rolling out **mVAM – mobile technology for remote food security monitoring** - a critical tool in ensuring regular flow of food security information. WFP is currently

¹⁹ Source: WFP Country Profiles and World Bank (2015) *State of Safety Nets*.

²⁰ Based on 2013 information for all cash grants.

implementing this tool in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe and will expand to Lesotho and Madagascar.

- b. Supporting the development of the **Nutrition and HIV Trend and Impact Monitoring tool** in close collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Security Working Group (FNSWG). This tool seeks to consolidate national/subnational level data from the region to provide analysis on trends and indications of a deteriorating nutrition situation and possible impact on the HIV situation.
- c. Providing **technical assistance**, together with FEWS NET, to ACTESA to boost capacity to produce near real-time cross-border reports on formal and informal trade in food and livestock.

66. *Supporting governments*: with technical expertise in rapid multi-sectoral assessments (for example Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe), market assessments or ensuring efficacy of food and nutrition monitoring systems (Namibia); and in undertaking national response planning (Swaziland).

67. *Supply-chain*: A series of assessments within the region have been undertaken or are underway - including reviewing regional sourcing options for specialised nutritious foods, assessing major corridors and key supply chain potential bottlenecks (such as milling capacity, customs procedures). Some key findings to date:

- a. While existing major corridors in the region have fair to good infrastructure and are characterized by a well-established intermodal transport system which meets current transit traffic demand, some inefficiencies could be experienced, due to seasonal peak in traffic, port congestion and customs requirements. For landlocked hinterland countries, alternative corridors are available, but could be more costly as well as having longer lead-times.
- b. Coordination of all key players in each corridor in the region will be critical to underpin cost efficiency and enhanced operational throughput capacity for each corridor. The main regional corridors identified are: Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London in South Africa, Walvis Bay in Namibia, Beira, Maputo and Nacala in Mozambique and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.
- c. Cross-border facilitation measures for transit traffic, such as operationalizing the concept of One-Stop Border Posts, harmonizing customs procedures and border operating hours, information sharing of food commodity imports, among other actions, will enhance overall corridor performance.
- d. In-country food distribution in some countries will require special attention due to challenges posed by poor maintenance of internal transport infrastructure.

68. Market monitoring and assessments will inform the choice of the appropriate transfer mechanism.

69. For food-based assistance programmes, both ongoing relief, recovery or development programmes, the main commodities are being procured locally or regionally on a competitive sourcing basis in order to support local market development. It should be noted that most countries in the region have a restriction of importation of genetically modified organism (GMO) products which means that non-GMO will need to be sourced from outside the region.
70. For cash-based programmes, which will be used whenever market conditions allow, WFP is finalizing Regional Long Term Agreements with service providers for Cash interventions to ensure faster response.
71. Opportunities to expand on or scale up resilience programmes which help communities be more resilient to climate variability and shocks, such as expanding community asset schemes that improve water management (for example dam and irrigation), the Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) underway in Malawi and Zambia, will be explored.
72. In sum, WFP is working on a two-track approach – addressing and scaling up to meet the needs of millions of already food-insecure people and, secondly, working closely with government counterparts and partners, monitoring developments and preparing for increased needs. WFP is committed to ensuring the two efforts are closely linked so that the assistance being provided now to the most vulnerable contributes to resilience-building and cushions communities against any climate-related shocks that lie ahead.

Annex: Country Profiles

Technical Notes:

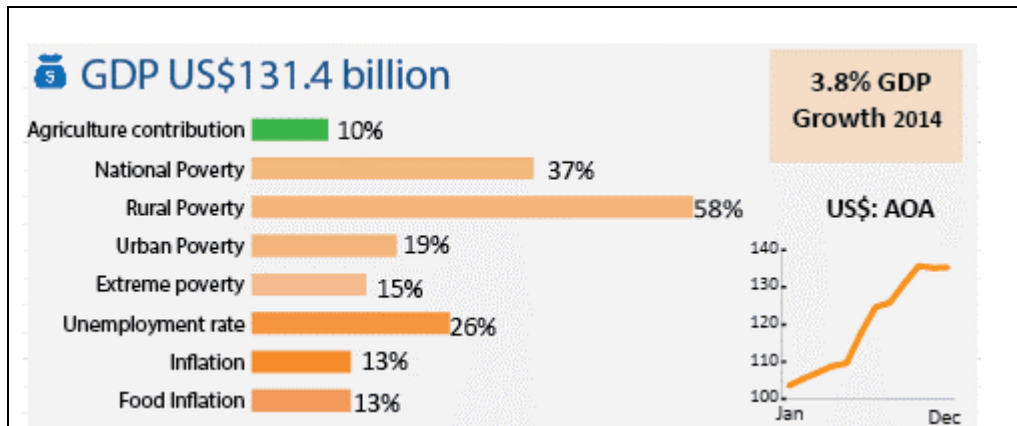
- 1) **Drought analysis** – Agricultural seasons for the last ten years were classified into: “good”, “typical” and “bad”, depending on the performance through expert opinion. The water resources satisfaction index (WRSI) from 2004-2015 was used to calculate the percentage deviation for the average of the “bad” years from the average of the “good” years. The percentage deviation was classified into a 3-point scale as follows: **mild** (<10%), **medium** (10-20%) and **severe** (above 20%).
- 2) **Prioritization** – the prioritisation of geographical areas was based on the following indicators which are likely to be most impacted by the El Niño i.e. food insecurity, HIV prevalence and WRSI. Normalised values of the 5 year average food insecurity (where available), HIV prevalence and WRSI percentage deviation were added together to form a composite index with all the values assuming equal weights. The composite index was classified into a 3-point scale where < or equal to 4 was classified as **low**, > 4 but less than or equal to 6 as **medium** and > 6 as **high**.
- 3) **Scenarios**: using a maximum of 5 year food insecurity prevalence (2011 – 2015 data, where available), three scenarios were calculated as follows:
 - **Least case** - average food insecure population for the bad years in the past 5 years.
 - **Most likely** - incremental change between 2 consecutive bad years in the past 5 years is applied to the 2015/16 prevalence to obtain the estimated food insecure projections.
 - **Worst case** - equivalent to the highest food insecure prevalence in the past 5 years.

Key data sources:

<p>Agricultural production http://www.indexmundi.com http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/ SADC All Cereal Balance Sheet. 2015 SADC Vulnerability Assessments Presentation, 24 July 2015 FAO Stats</p> <p>Population and macroeconomic data (GDP, annual growth rate, inflation, poverty, HDI) http://www.worldbank.org/en/ http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/country-notes/southern-africa/ http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/ http://www.tradingeconomics.com/</p>	<p>Foreign exchange rates and trade data http://www.tradingeconomics.com/</p> <p>Food security and nutrition indicators http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.STNT.ZS Country Demographic and Health Survey Reports National VAC Assessment reports</p> <p>Safety Net Programmes State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015 WFP Country Offices</p>
--	--

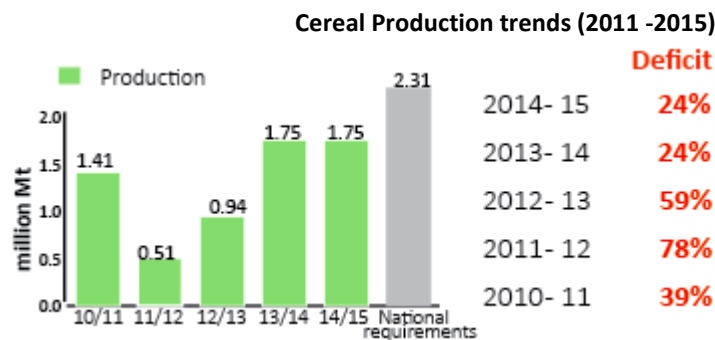
Angola

I. Overview



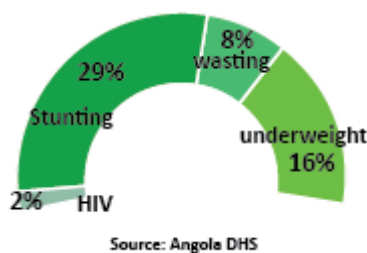
Angola is considered an upper middle income country with a GDP of about \$131.4 billion (2014) and a population of 23.3 million people. Angola is ranked 149 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index and 90 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The national poverty rate is at 37% with the rural population being poorer at 58%. The urban poverty rate is at 19%. The inflation rate is recorded at 12.27% in December 2015, which increased to 17.34% in January 2016. Angola is a net importer of food from mainly from South Africa.

II. Food and Nutrition Security Situation



Angola is rich in natural resources which include oil, minerals, water, forestry and fisheries. About 60% of the population depends on agriculture for food, income and employment. It is estimated that 80% of farmers are smallholders, generally producing little or no surplus, with very low productivity. Lack of access to agricultural inputs is a major obstacle to production. Subsistence farming and

small-scale fishing are the major livelihood opportunities for the rural population. The main crop grown in Angola are cassava and bananas.



Angola has made substantial progress in re-establishing the foundation needed to address many of the social challenges that were caused by conflict. Malnutrition is very high in Angola with stunting rates at 29%, underweight at 16% and wasting at 8%. Causes of malnutrition include Nutrient deficiencies, inadequate access to social services and high poverty levels.

III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Water shortages for livestock leading to livestock diseases and deaths.
- Increased malnutrition and spread of water-borne diseases.
- Decrease in crop production and deterioration in livestock condition leading to panic sales.
- Reduced income from fishing activities.
- Increased food insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Angola is highly susceptible to a number of hazards and these are: Drought—mainly in the southern and south-western parts of the country; floods and landslides; and epidemics, currently yellow fever. **Drought** has destroyed the livelihoods of rural communities and increased food insecurity. **Floods** also pose a serious threat to life. Response to epidemics and natural disasters has been coordinated since 2005 by the National Civil Protection Service (SNPCB/Serviço Nacional de Protecção Civil e Bombeiros) within the Ministry of the Interior. Some capacity within government do exist to respond to emergencies and the Government has taken the lead in coordinating emergency response. The government has in place a Contingency, Response and Disaster Recovery and Natural Disaster Plan which is valid till 2019. The contingency planning process has also been decentralised with a number of provinces updating their plans to address the changing environment as a result of the El Niño phenomenon. To ensure adequate preparedness, simulations are usually undertaken to validate the updated Contingency Plans.

V. Social Protection programmes in Angola

Angola's social protection system is made up three elements:

i) *Compulsory social protection*: This is managed by the National Social Security Institute (INSS) and is financed by contributions from workers and employers and covers all employees and self-employed workers and their families. It provides benefits for sickness, maternity, work accidents and occupational diseases, invalidity, but also the old-age, survivors, unemployment and compensation for people

ii) *Basic social protection*: This is managed under the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) and is non-contributory. It ensures basic subsistence for the most vulnerable in society.

iii) *Complementary social protection*: This is promoted and managed by pension fund management entities, insurance companies or mutual societies. It is optional.

Table 4: Angola -- Safety Net programmes by Type

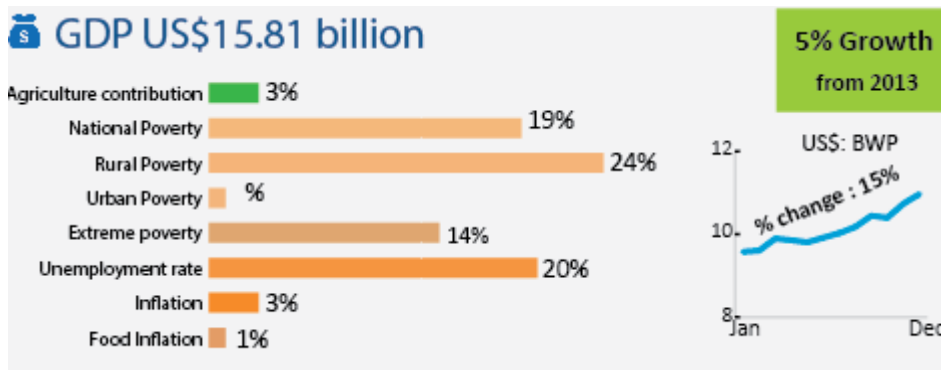
Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Angola CCT School Program	900,000
Conditional Cash Transfer	Angola Social Pension Program	1,000,000
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Angola Social Pension Program	800,000
School Feeding	School Feeding	212,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/WFP Country Offices

Table 4 provides the list of non-contributory safety net programmes being implemented.

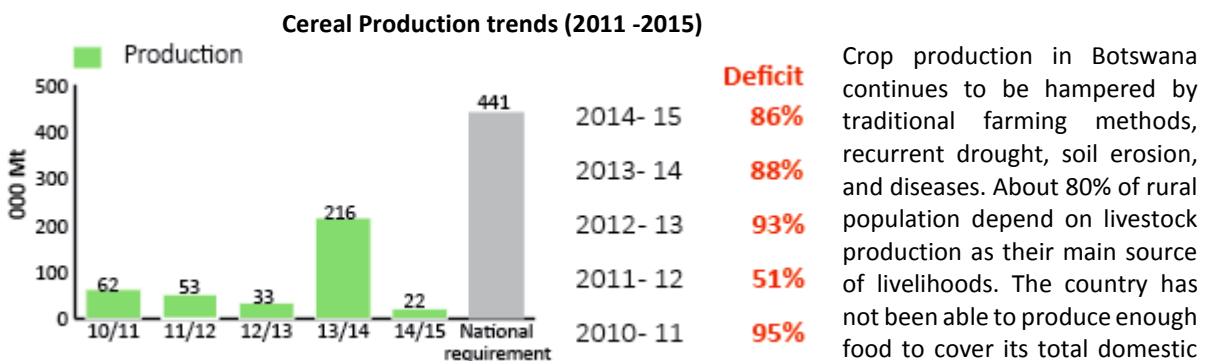
Botswana

I. Overview

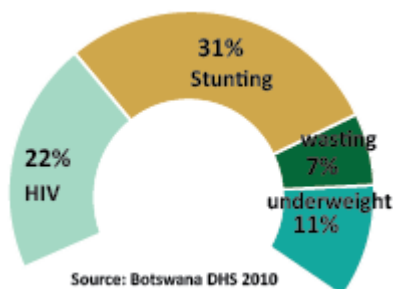


Botswana is classified as an upper middle class income country with a GDP of about \$15.81 billion (2014) and a population of 2.2 million. The national poverty rate is 19.4% whilst the rural poverty is at 24% and very poor at 13.8% (2015). Botswana has a strong Human Development Index (HDI) ranked 109 of 187 countries (2014) and 63 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The inflation rate was 3.1% in December 2015 and then dropped slightly to 2.7% in January 2016. Botswana imports about 70% of its food requirements mainly from South Africa.

II. Food and Nutrition Security Situation



Crop production in Botswana continues to be hampered by traditional farming methods, recurrent drought, soil erosion, and diseases. About 80% of rural population depend on livestock production as their main source of livelihoods. The country has not been able to produce enough food to cover its total domestic needs and has been heavily relying on imports from mainly South Africa and the region. Agriculture contributes 2.4% to the GDP and primarily through beef exports. Botswana’s economy is primarily driven by mining and the service industry.



The level of food insecurity has risen moderately in 2015/16 as a result of the reduced cereal production. Households that are reliant on seasonal farm labour are particularly vulnerable, with reduced farm employment opportunities in 2015 expected to constrain income levels and consequently their capacity to access food. The results from the Botswana Vulnerability Assessment Committee’s 2015 evaluation indicate a 3% increase in the number of people requiring assistance to 303 181. Chronic malnutrition is still very high in Botswana with a prevalence of 25% and 14% of all children under five 5 years are underweight.

Undernutrition is still highly prevalent in Botswana. Almost a third (28%) of children under five years are affected by chronic malnutrition (stunting). Stunting is due to a combination of factors including maternal malnutrition, inadequate infant feeding practices, and low quality of health care and poor hygiene. Child underweight at 14%

remains very high compared to other countries in the region with low income levels. About one third of children age 6-59 months are iron deficient and vitamin A deficient and 69% are anaemic. Chronic malnutrition is not highest in the drought prone areas or regions with the highest food insecurity but in areas where food security is considered to be better.

III. El Niño Forecast and expected Impact

- Historic El Niño linked to below normal rainfall.
- Decrease in crop production and deterioration in livestock condition leading to panic sales.
- Shortages of water for both human and livestock.
- Increased food and nutrition insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.

IV. Overview of Social Protection programmes

Botswana has a strong and long-standing commitment to state-led social protection. Programming for poor, vulnerable and excluded groups is quite comprehensive. However, the proportion of those reached under these programmes is quite low given the status of the country as a middle income country. The main programmes being implemented include:- community home-based care (CHBC); orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) programmes; primary and secondary school feeding; vulnerable group feeding; the destitute programme; state old age and war veterans pensions; the remote area dwellers programme (RADP); and labour intensive public works. Approximately half of the population is reached under these programmes. **Table 5** provided the list of non-contributory safety net programmes being implemented.

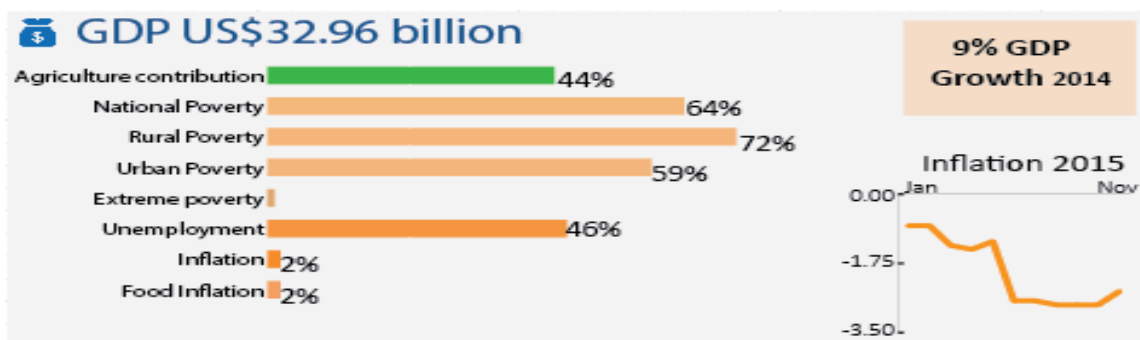
Table 5: Botswana -- Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Old Age Pension	91,446
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Vulnerable Group Feeding	231,000
School Feeding	School Feeding	330,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/WFP Country Offices

Democratic Republic of Congo

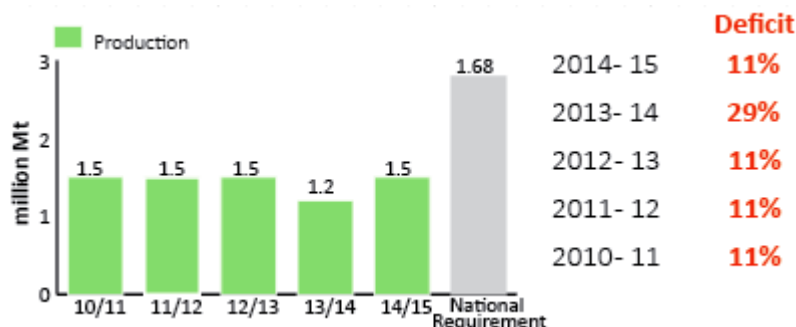
I. Overview



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is classified as a low income country with a GDP of \$32.96 billion (2014) and a population of 74.9 million. DRC has a very low Human Development Index and is ranked 185 of 187 countries (2014) and 72 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The national poverty rate is at 64% with rural poverty and unemployment rate of 46%. The inflation rate in DRC was recorded at around 2% in October through to December 2015. DRC imports 60% of its food from South Africa and Zambia. One main characteristic of DRC is that it has limited physical infrastructure which makes accessibility a challenge.

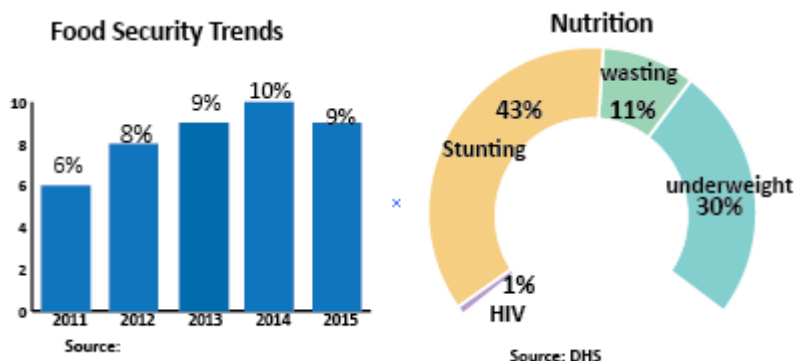
II. Food and Nutrition Security Situation

Cereal Production trends (2011 -2015)



Agriculture accounts for 42.5% of the DRC's gross domestic product, employs 80% of the rural population, and is the country's most promising foundation for establishing food security and sustainable, equitable economic development. Due to endemic conflict, insecurity, and inability to afford seeds and small tools, farmers are often uprooted from

their homes, causing them to miss vital planting seasons. In addition, livestock herds have been shrinking due to displacement and animal diseases.



Mining and agriculture are the main engines of growth in DRC, but they are insufficient to meet the population's basic needs. In addition, the impact of the conflict impedes food security, market access and poverty reduction. Food insecurity is mainly driven by low agricultural productivity, presence of animal and plant diseases, frequent flooding, isolated agricultural

production areas, high population pressure and land conflicts. Chronic malnutrition is at 43%, wasting at 11% and undernutrition at 30%.

III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Historic El Niño linked to above normal rainfall leading to floods.
- South western districts worst affected.
- Decrease in crop production and deterioration in livestock condition leading to panic sales.
- Shortages of water for both human and livestock.
- Reduced income from rain-fed activities.
- Increased food insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.
- Increased migration and weakening of social capital.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Key hazards include, floods, landslides, drought, volcanic eruption, earthquake; gas explosion; as well as conflict-particularly in the eastern part of the country. Over the past few years, and with support from cooperating partners, the government has been preparing contingency plans to enhance the country's preparedness levels. An emergency preparedness platform has been established within the Ministry of Interior- to coordinate all emergency preparedness and response activities including the updating of contingency Plans.

V. Overview of Social Protection programmes in DRC

It is estimated that over 70% of the population live below the poverty line. This is compounded by poor delivery of education and health services. There has been growing attention towards enhancing social protection schemes-though they are few and only benefit a small proportion of the population. They include:-

- Food security and nutrition: Food and seed distribution, agricultural support, nutrition interventions;
- Poverty reduction: Livelihoods support, income generation, capacity building, support to markets, public works;
- Child protection and OVC: Projects addressing children at risk, separated from families, with disabilities, and street children, and increasing access to education;
- Governance: Capacity building, peace building, social cohesion, democracy promotion;
- Basic services: Support to/provision of health services and water/sanitation, rehabilitation of social infrastructure, capacity building;
- Protection and addressing sexual and gender-based violence: Access to medical services, judicial reform, sensitisation, psychosocial care;
- Emergency assistance: Assistance to displaced, returnee and host populations affected by conflict (in all the above sectors, as well as non-food items and shelter).

Table 6 shows some of the specific safety net programmes being implemented.

Table 6: DRC -- Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	WFP Cash&Voucher Programme	234,000
Public Works	WFP Food for Assets	3,145
Unconditional Food and In-kind	WFP Food distribution	714,900
School Feeding	School Feeding	854,546
Fee Waivers	Indigent cards	6,000

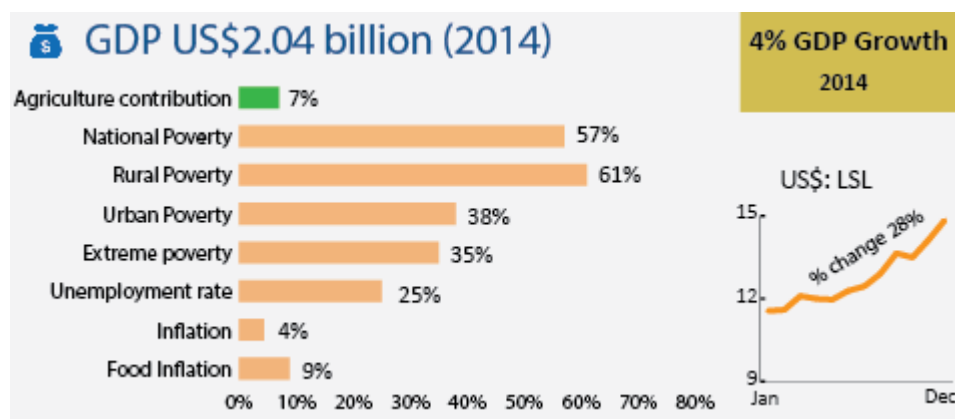
Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/ WFP Country Offices

VI. On-going WFP activities

WFP provides life-saving food assistance for IDPs, refugees and food insecure vulnerable people in conflict affected areas. WFP implements general food distribution (using food, cash and vouchers), treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition, emergency school feeding and nutritional support to people living with HIV/AIDS. WFP supports the coordination of responses through the Food Security Cluster project. WFP provides logistics services, manages the UNHAS aviation service and supports emergency road infrastructure repairs and rehabilitation. As part of WFP's efforts to revive the agricultural sector in the country, WFP implements a Purchase for Progress (P4P) project to enhance smallholder farmers' involvement in agriculture markets.

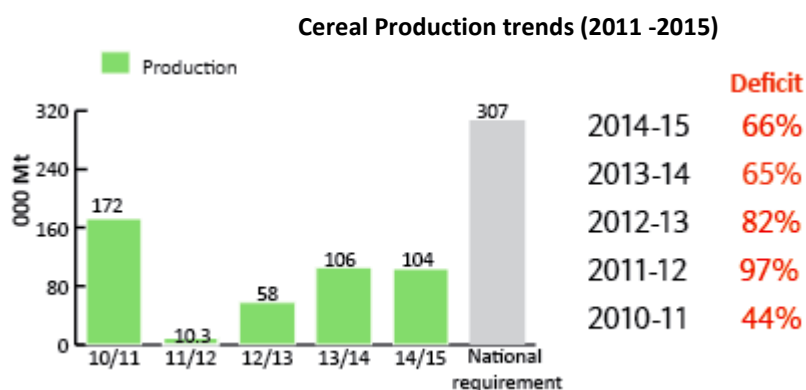
Lesotho

I. Overview



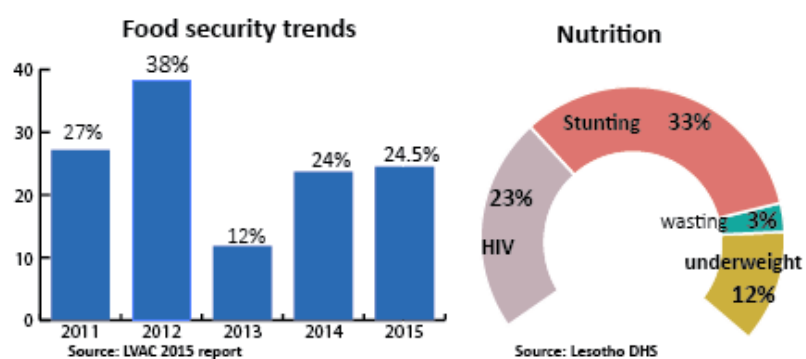
Lesotho is considered an upper middle income country with a GDP of \$2.04 billion US\$ (2014) and a population of 1.9 million. The national poverty rate is 57.1% and very poor at 35.1% (2013). The Gini inequality coefficient is high and has increased from 0.52 in 2002/3 to 0.54 in 2010/11. Lesotho has a relatively strong human development record and ranked 161 out of the 187 development countries by the 2014 UN Human Development Index (HDI) and 87 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. Agriculture, manufacturing, mining and remittances are the main drivers of the economy. Inflation rates increased slightly from 4.8% in October 2015 to 5.1% in December 2015.

II. Food security situation



Agriculture is the main livelihood source for rural economy for 80% of rural population and contributing about 7.4% percent to the annual GDP. About 80% of the population live in rural areas and engage in subsistence agriculture as their main source of livelihoods. The agriculture is mainly rain fed and is vulnerable to weather and climate

variability. Lesotho produces less than 20% of the national food requirements. Currently the country has a cereal deficit of 77% and the country relies on South Africa for much of its economic activity. Lesotho imports nearly 90% of its requirements from South Africa.



Lesotho has faced the devastating effects of three successive crop failures due to poor or erratic rainfall. This situation has led to the deterioration of the food security situation in the country. The Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) 2015 report indicates that food insecure population increased from 447,760 in 2014 to 463,936 people in 2015

i.e. about 24% of the rural population. The country suffers the negative impacts of HIV and AIDS with a

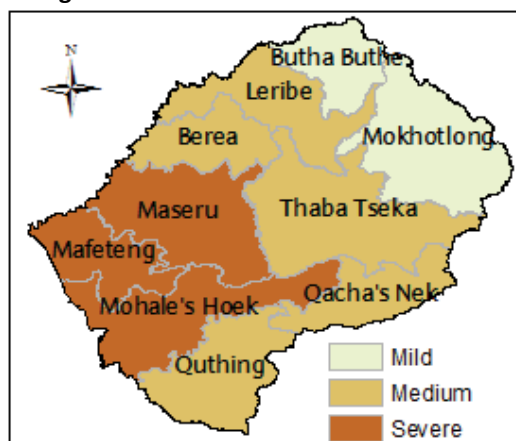
prevalence of 22.9% (2014) for adults. Malnutrition is a challenge in Lesotho with chronic malnutrition prevalence of 33% and underweight prevalence of 12.3%.

Chronic malnutrition: Chronic malnutrition in young children is one of the major national concerns in Lesotho. Widespread persistent chronic poverty, chronic and transitory food insecurity and the effects of HIV and AIDS are noted as significant causes of malnutrition. Despite slight improvements in the burden of malnutrition, the Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS) of 2014 shows that stunting is still very high, with a prevalence of 33 percent; while wasting is 3 percent and underweight 10 percent. Iron deficiency anaemia among children below the age of five years is at 51 percent which is a growing concern in Lesotho. Stunting levels are low below the national levels in districts that have better production, except for Quthing district which has a stunting rate above the national average (34 percent), high food insecurity over the years and high HIV rates. This district has been classified as high priority and there is need to closely monitor the food and nutrition security indicators to ensure there is no rapid deterioration of nutrition status.

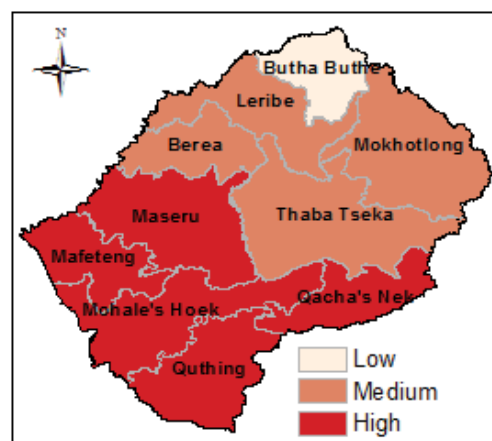
III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Historic El Niño linked to below normal rainfall.
- Decrease in crop production and deterioration in livestock condition.
- Water shortages for both human and livestock.
- Livestock deaths due to water and pasture shortages.
- Increased food and nutrition insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.
- Poor and degraded rangelands becomes susceptible to wild fire outbreaks.

Drought Prone areas



Prioritisation



- 3 districts are at risk of severe drought and 5 are at risk of medium drought.
- 5 districts recommended for high prioritisation and 4 for medium priority.
- 661 337 people estimated to be food insecure due to the El Niño.
- 3 districts critically stunted and have to be monitored to prevent further deterioration.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Lesotho has developed a multi-hazard Contingency Plan for 2015/2016. In addition, the government has also activated the Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan.

Efforts are being made to put in place an early warning system, though lack of adequate institutional capacity may hamper the speedy establishment of the system. Once in place, the system will enhance timely access to information in order to support preparedness and response activities. Other on-going preparedness activities include: awareness campaigns on drought mitigation and disease outbreaks; information dissemination on appropriate agronomic practices, such as conservation agriculture. Key capacity development activities such as simulations; technical support on operationalisation of the Emergency Operations Centre have not been undertaken due to insufficient financial resources.

V. Social Protection programmes in Lesotho

Social Protection in Lesotho is implemented in three sectoral spheres: food security; social welfare; and disaster management. In 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security adopted the Food Security Policy which includes many social protection principles and programmes. The Food Security Policy divides the population into four categories: the extremely poor--who require safety nets and social protection measures; the chronically vulnerable- who require transfers on a temporary basis; the vulnerable to transitory food insecurity- who require immediate food or cash based relief measures; and the not usually vulnerable to food insecurity- who will need support to enable them to become more productive and competitive. Social Welfare programmes include: cash transfers to the most vulnerable (older people, war veterans, orphans, people with disabilities, and the chronically ill). A child grant programme is also being implemented to provide unconditional transfers to households with OVC. The programme focuses on improved access to education, HIV prevention programmes, health and psychosocial support, and nutrition. In addition regular food transfers to school children pregnant and lactating mothers, the terminally ill (monthly rations to people in home-based care), and the chronically and transitorily food insecure have also been implemented. **Table 7** shows some of the specific safety net programmes being implemented.

Table 7: Lesotho -- Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Conditional Cash Transfer	Child Grant Program	30,000
Unconditional Cash Transfers	Old-age social pensions	83,000
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Nutrition Support for Malnourished children and other vulnerable groups	134,000
School Feeding	School Feeding	445,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/ WFP Country Offices

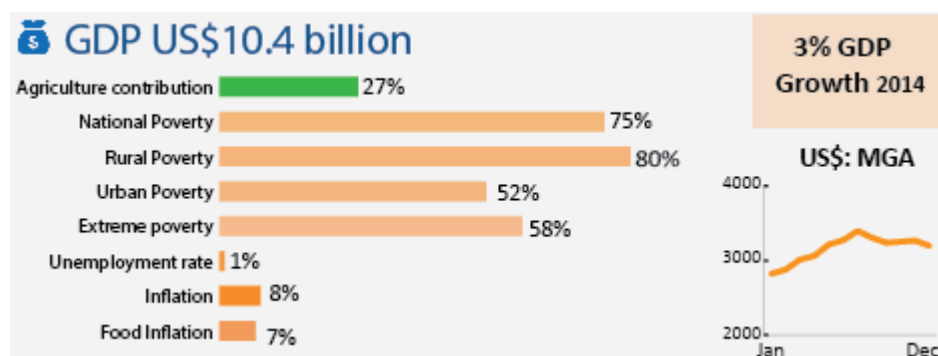
VI. On-going WFP activities

WFP operations in Lesotho support the government's national priorities towards strengthening resilience and responsiveness to food security shocks and enhancing the nutritional and social well-being of vulnerable groups. WFP works with the Government of Lesotho and partners to address the underlying causes of vulnerability among communities prone to weather-related shocks and to target, with nutritional support, pre- and primary school children, pregnant and nursing mothers and food-insecure HIV and TB patients.

WFP supports the Government in the implementation of the school feeding programme, but also provides technical assistance in policy development and systems strengthening as part of the transition process of the school feeding programme to national ownership. WFP and the Government are working together to achieve national ownership of the programme by 2018.

Madagascar

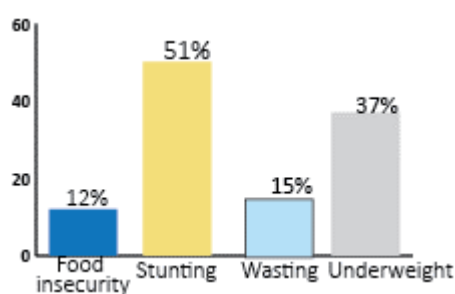
I. Overview



Madagascar is classified as a low income country with a GDP of about \$10.59 billion (2014) and a population of 23.6 million people. The country is ranked 155 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index. Madagascar is also ranked 98 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. It is one of the poorest countries with a national poverty rate of 75%, the rural poverty at 80% and extreme poverty at 59%. The inflation rates have been at 7.5% from October to December 2015.

II. Food and Nutrition security situation

Agriculture accounts for almost 30 % of GDP (2013), 40% of export earnings and employs more than 70% of the labour force. Agriculture accounts for almost 30% of GDP (2013), 40% of export earnings and employs more than 70% of the labour force. About 5% of the land area is cultivated at any given time, of which 16% is irrigated and most farmers practising subsistence agriculture. The country has not been able to produce enough food to meet its national requirements. Livestock is an important income earner for many farmers, with about 60% of rural families depending on livestock for their livelihoods. The current cereal production is at 1.7 million MT and the national requirement is 2.3 million MT resulting in a 45% deficit. The country imports food from countries like South Africa and India.



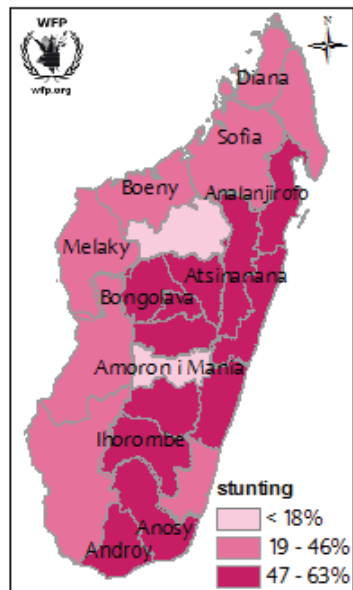
Madagascar farmers practise subsistence agriculture, producing barely enough to feed their families. With the growth in the island's population, this situation has only worsened, so that half of Malagasy children now show signs of chronic malnutrition. The isolation of rural inhabitants also helps to make living conditions particularly hard. Roads are generally in a poor state and are unevenly distributed over the country. Chronic malnutrition in Madagascar is at 51%, underweight at 37% and wasting at 15%. HIV prevalence is very low below 1%. Households have started

adopting negative coping strategies such as the sale of assets at very low prices to procure food, the withdrawal of children from school, migration and consumption of seeds and dearth food due to decreased food access and availability.

Madagascar has the region's highest prevalence of stunting with 51% of children currently too low for their age. Given the fragility of households' food and nutrition security, households currently experiencing low or moderate levels of food insecurity may gradually fall into emergency food insecurity level during the 2015/2016 lean season. A nutrition screening campaign carried out by the Ministry of Health in April 2015 revealed malnutrition rates exceeding critical thresholds: the average prevalence of global acute malnutrition reached 12% with peaks reaching 30% in some communes. A recent screening highlighted that General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates were higher in October 2015 than same time last year. The number of severely food insecure people and malnourished children has increased in 2015 in the Southern regions. The population suffers

from serious quantitative and qualitative deficiencies as their food consumption does not ensure adequate nutritional intake.

Stunting by region



There has been an increase in self-referencing and admissions in malnutrition treatment programs since December 2014, suggesting a rise in global acute malnutrition.

III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Historic El Niño linked to above and below normal rainfall resulting in floods and drought.
- Water shortages for livestock leading to livestock diseases and deaths.
- Increased malnutrition and spread of water-borne diseases.
- Decrease in crop production and deterioration in livestock condition leading to panic sales.
- Reduced income from fishing activities.
- Increased food insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.
- According to the country's contingency plan, approximately **2 million** people are likely to be affected.
- **Southern region** - normal rains have been forecasted between December 2015 and February 2016.
- **Northern region** - above normal to normal rainfall which are likely to result in floods.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Madagascar has a total area of 587 040 square kilometres, 5 500 square kilometres of which is covered by water. The country's economy largely depends on agriculture, mining and tourism. The country is highly susceptible to major cyclone events as well as flooding; particularly in the north-eastern part of the country; drought, in the south west; epidemics; and locust infestations. A number of preparedness measures have been taken by government. The government is reviewing and updating the current Contingency Plan to factor in the impact of El Niño; an emergency Operations Centre has been established to coordinate any emergency response. Other measures include the prepositioning of emergency food stock to meet the needs of approximately 25,000 people for 15 days in cyclone prone areas. The private sector has also been mobilised within the private sector humanitarian platform to support humanitarian actions should the need arise. However, there are some areas that need to be strengthened to ensure adequate preparedness. The early warning system needs to be revamped and strengthened to ensure adequate provision of required information.

V. Social Protection programmes in Madagascar

The Social Protection system in Madagascar is not as versatile as most countries in the region, despite the high levels of vulnerability and many risks the country is exposed to. The on-going safety net programs only reach a small portion of the population. Apart from humanitarian assistance, experience with other types of social transfers is quite limited. However, Madagascar has considerable experience with labour intensive public works. Several organizations have established such programmes, which generally aim to achieve both social protection objectives (improved income and food security among the very poor, especially during the lean period before harvests in rural areas) and broader developmental objectives, such as the repair and maintenance of small-scale infrastructure and environmental protection (reforestation, etc.). School Feeding programmes have also been significant. However, inadequate policy frameworks as well as lack of adequate government financing has limited the scope of these programmes. **Table 8** shows the list of on-going safety net programmes being implemented.

Table 8: Madagascar --Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Family allowance	
Conditional Cash Transfer	CCT	
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Nutrition related transfers	52,000
Public Works	Cash for Work	222,995
School Feeding	School Feeding	237,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/WFP Country Offices

VI. On-going WFP activities

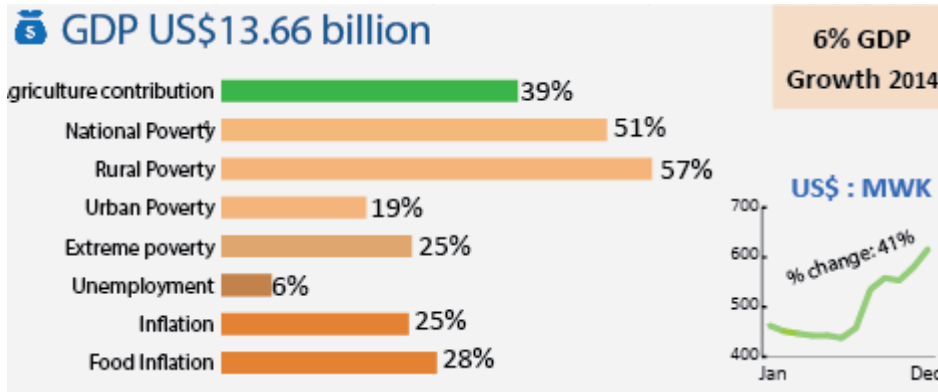
In Madagascar, WFP's programmes provide relief assistance to disaster-affected populations, support human development by increasing education access and retention (through school feeding), enhance socio-economic capacity and resilience by improving vulnerable groups' nutrition, and support the economic empowerment of smallholder farmers, community building and households' livelihood assets in order to break the cycle of food insecurity.

Provision of technical assistance to the government and capacity development to ensure the sustainability of interventions and support fragile state institutions is a key focus, for example the launch of Home Grown School Feeding, which links school meals to local agricultural production.

WFP also acts as a convener fostering strategic partnerships with UN agencies, the government and NGOs to achieve long-term resilience building through seasonal and community-based participatory planning in Madagascar.

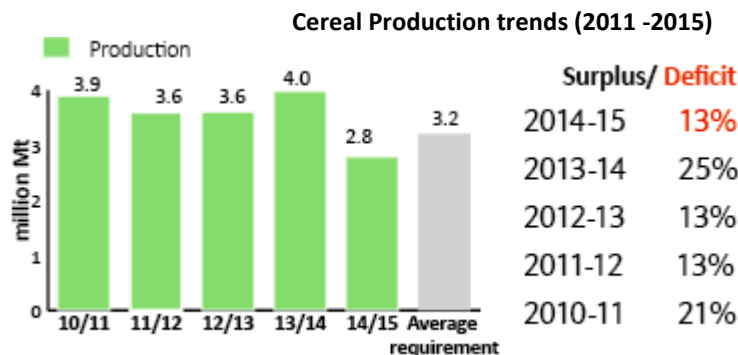
Malawi

I. Overview



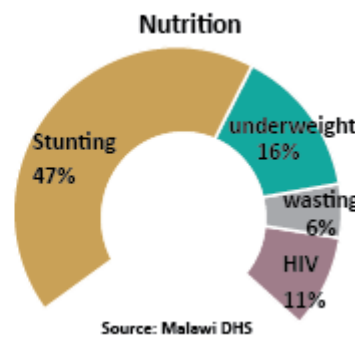
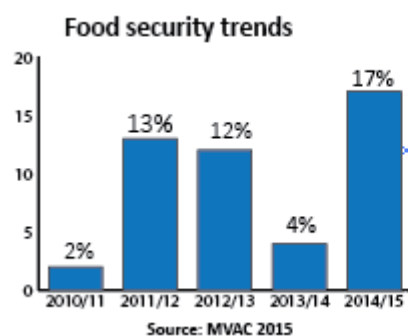
Malawi is considered a low income country with a GDP of \$4.258 billion (2014) and a population of 16.7 million. The national poverty rate is estimated at 56.6% and very poor at 25% (2011). Malawi has a low Human Development Index (HDI) ranked 174 out of 189 countries and 73 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. Inflation remained relatively high at 24.7% in October, 24.9% in December before slightly easing off to 23.5% in January 2016. Malawi imports about 12% of its food requirements.

II. Food and Nutrition Security situation



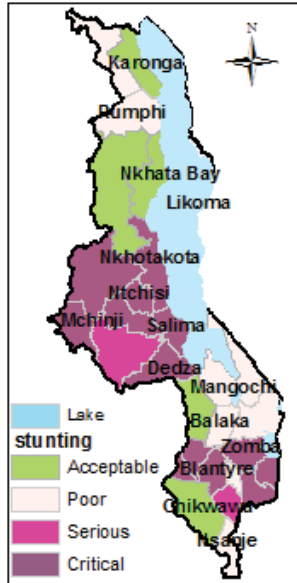
Agriculture plays a critical role in Malawi, contributing to 35% of the GDP and accounting for 80% of the exports. Small scale farmers account for 90% of agricultural land, yet their production is characterised by low and stagnant yields, high vulnerability to weather related shocks, unfavourable prices and inadequate storage facilities. Due to poor rainfall distribution experienced in

the 2014/15 cropping season, most major crops registered decreases including the major exports crops like tobacco which largely account for the economic growth. Several factors contribute to the ongoing food-related challenges regarding food availability and access. These include chronic poverty, degradation of natural resources, high dependence on rain-fed agriculture, high population growth, HIV and AIDS, and natural disasters (i.e. floods and prolonged droughts).



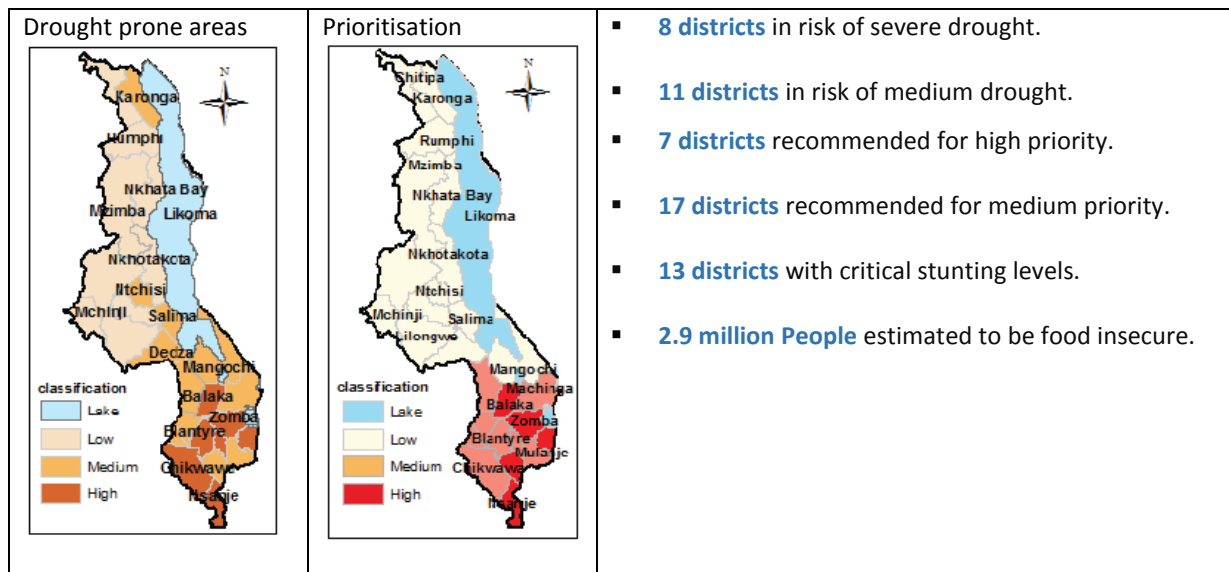
The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) reported that about 17% of the population will not be able to meet their annual food requirements during the 2015/2016 consumption period (about 2.8 million people). Malawi has a high prevalence of malnutrition, with stunting at 47% and micronutrient deficiencies.

Stunting prevalence



Several factors contribute to high stunting and micro-nutrient deficiency levels in Malawi. Overall lack of food in some areas (particularly on a seasonal basis), undiversified and inadequate diet, poor hygiene and repeated illness lead to malnutrition and affect the normal growth of children. This vicious cycle is a result of poverty and ignorance, and the consequent inability of families to adequately care for their children. Malawi has reduced the prevalence of underweight children from 32 percent in 1992 to 13 percent in 2010, incidence of stunting remains high across the nation, particularly in the hunger prone agro-ecological zones of the southern region.

III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact



IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Malawi has a total area of 118 480 square kilometres of which 24 400 square kilometres of which is covered by water. Agricultural is the main stay of the economy and therefore quite vulnerable to the changes in weather. Preparedness Plans have been stepped up in country, with the review of the current multi-hazard Contingency Plan. This has been necessitated by the current El Niño event and the rapidly changing food security environment. The main hazards likely to affect the country are, drought, floods as well as epidemics, such as cholera. As a preparedness measure, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA), have submitted a budget to the Treasury to fund preparedness and response activities in the country. Government contingency food stocks were prepositioned in key hub- centres (Karonga, Ntcheu and Blantyre Warehouses). Whilst preparedness activities are on-going, a number of partner organisations are working in close liaison with the government to meet the needs of already food insecure people in districts that were affected by drought and floods. Capacity building activities through simulations are being planned to strengthen preparedness measures. There are plans to establish Emergency Operations Centres in selected disaster prone districts. A cluster system is in place to ensure proper coordination in disaster response.

To ensure that the level of preparedness is adequate, adequate resources need to be allocated for preparedness as well as response; training and capacity building activities such as simulations need to be undertaken regularly; an enhanced early warning system need to be established; improve capacity for disaster assessments & response at local level.

V. Social Protection programmes in Malawi

In Malawi, government together with other stakeholders, have been implementing a number of Social protection programme, notably since 2000, with the implementation of National Safety Nets strategy and the National Safety Nets Programme under the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2002. The National Safety Nets Programme consisted of four sub programmes: the Public Works Programme, the Targeted Nutrition Programme, the Targeted Inputs Programme and Direct Welfare Transfers Programme. The current National Social Support Programme has the following components: public works, social cash transfers, school meals, micro credit and village lending and saving schemes. This is being implemented in 7 districts, with a total of 26,000 ultra-poor households. Specific activities implemented include; Local Development fund- Public works Programme; Village Savings and Loans Programme; Social Cash Transfer programme; School meals programme for primary schools; School Meal programme for pre-primary. Fee Waived programmes such as the Input support programme are also being implemented. **Table 9** shows the list of on-going safety net programmes being implemented.

Table 9: Malawi -- Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Social Cash Transfer Scheme	143,741
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Food Stamps and Vouchers	1,709,000
Public Works	Cash for Work	222,995
School Feeding	School Feeding	237,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/WFP Country Offices

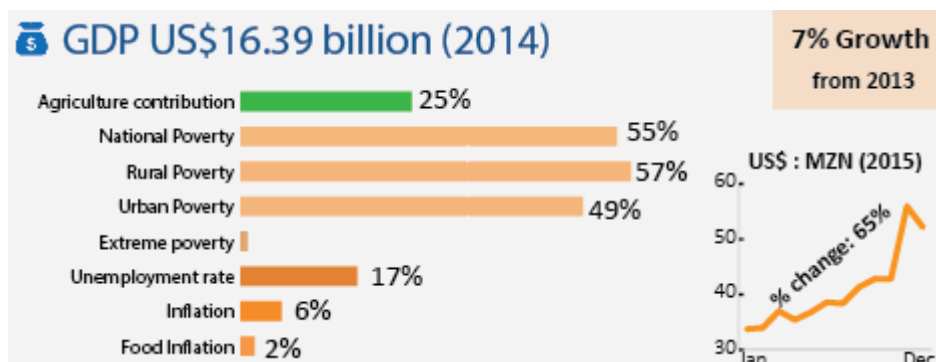
VI. On-going WFP activities

WFP's aim in Malawi is to achieve a food and nutrition secure and resilient country. The programmes implemented by WFP prioritize social and nutritional support for vulnerable groups, resilience building for food security, agricultural market support to smallholder farmers and meeting emergency food needs of vulnerable groups. In emergencies, following the request of the government, WFP provides food and cash transfers to supports the needs of Malawi's most vulnerable. In the post-emergency context, WFP rebuilds lives and livelihoods by linking the acutely food insecure to early recovery and development activities to help prevent dependency and vulnerable people from needing relief assistance in the future.

WFP provides technical support to the Government to facilitate the gradual management and handover of WFP implemented activities and to strengthen government capacity across all levels. A stunting prevention pilot, implemented by WFP and partners, provides children a package of high-impact interventions including nutritious foods (lipid-based nutrient supplements), and care to improve dietary diversity and health. In school feeding, WFP has supported the development of the national school health and nutrition policy and supports the implementation and testing of Home Grown School Feeding models for government scale-up across the country.

Mozambique

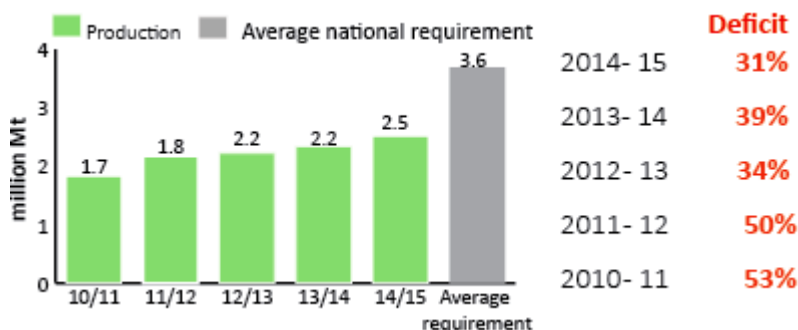
I. Overview



Mozambique is classified a low income country with a GDP of \$16.39 billion (2014) and a population of 27.22million people). The national poverty rate is at 55%; rural poverty (57%) and urban poverty (49%). Mozambique is classified as a low-income food-deficit country, ranked 178 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index and 85 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. Inflation rate increased from 4.7% in October 2015 to 6.3% in November and then spiking to 10.6% in December 2015. In January 2016 it increased to 11.25%. Mozambique imports about 12% of its food requirements including cereals mainly from South Africa.

II. Food and Nutrition Security situation

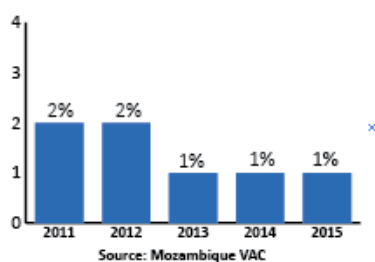
Cereal Production trends (2011 -2015)



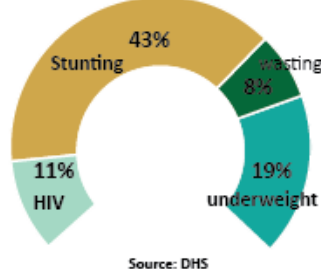
In Mozambique, agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and the country has a great potential for growth in the sector. Agriculture contributes about 25% of the GDP and approximately 80% of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The country is vulnerable to natural disasters such as droughts and floods which normally result in crop damage

and livestock losses. Agricultural commodities exported by the country are mainly tobacco and sugar and imports mainly cereals to meet the annual deficit. Cereal production for the 2014/15 cropping season of 2.5 million MT is 44% below the national requirement of 3.6 million MT.

Food Security Trends



Nutrition



In Mozambique, almost one in two children under the age of five years is nutritionally deficient. Poor nutrition contributes to high rates of childhood mortality. 43% of the children are stunted with 19% children categorized as underweight.

Chronic food insecurity in Mozambique is exacerbated by climate change and natural disasters such as floods, droughts and cyclones. Currently about 1% of the population is estimated by Mozambique Technical Secretariat

for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) to be food insecure at the peak of the lean season (January to March 2016). Mozambique has an HIV and AIDS prevalence of 11% for the adults which is classified as High.

III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Historic El Niño linked to below normal rainfall.
- Crop failure and food shortages leading to food price increases.
- Livestock condition deterioration leading to panic sales.
- Shortages of water for both human and livestock.
- Reduced income from rain-fed activities.
- Increased food and nutrition insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.
- Increased rural to urban migration resulting in outbreak of diseases.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Mozambique has a total area of 801 590 square kilometres, 17 500 square kilometres of which is covered by water. Since the end of the civil war, the country has seen economic growth following the government's use of policies favourable to attracting foreign investment.

The country is highly susceptible to natural hazards such as cyclones, floods as well as drought (particularly in the southern part of the country). The government has reviewed the multi-hazard contingency plan. The CP covers, among other things, the following: undertaking proactive measures such as: resettlement of people in safe areas in river basins most vulnerable to flooding; expansion of early warning systems; prepositioning of stock of materials; establishing and training local Disaster Risk Management Committees; and capacity building activities such as simulation exercises, which have already been conducted at provincial level with participation from key players. Training on the operationalisation of an Emergency Operations Centre has also been undertaken as a preparedness measure. The Government estimates that approximately, 1,785,000 people to be at risk of severe drought in the coming months. The estimated budget of the most likely scenario that the country might experience is estimated at US\$13.5 m. The government has budgeted US\$6m for disaster response.

V. Social Protection programmes in Mozambique

In the last decade, Mozambique's basic social protection system has experienced landmark legislative and institutional reforms, towards the establishment of a national Social Protection Floor (SPF). These advances have been bolstered by a significant growth in budget allocations to basic social protection programmes. The Government of Mozambique has consolidated the social protection system through the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework for social protection; a rapid increase in fiscal space from 0.18% of GDP in 2008 to 0.50% in 2014; and an expansion in the number of beneficiaries covered by basic social protection programmes from 183,000 households in 2008 to 427,000 in 2014. Main programmes being implemented are: Direct

Table 10: Mozambique: Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Food Subsidy Program (PSA)	291,604
Fee Waivers	Fee Waivers for Secondary Schools	5,900,000
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Programa de Apoio Social directo	125,000
Public Works	Programa de Accao Social Produtiva	10,000
School Feeding	School Feeding	427,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/ WFP Country Offices

Social Action Programme- PASD; and Productive Social Action Programme (PASP). The government with support from partners is in the process of revising the National Strategy for Basic Social Security and redesigning of INAS programmes in order to ensure that the government is able to meet the targets set the National Development Strategy (2015-2035). Establishment of a single registry, the finalisation of an updated management and information system and the re-registration of current beneficiaries are still areas that need to be developed and

will ensure a more efficient social protection platform. Key safety nets being implemented include: cash transfers, food and in-kind assistance; public works and school feeding (**Table 10**).

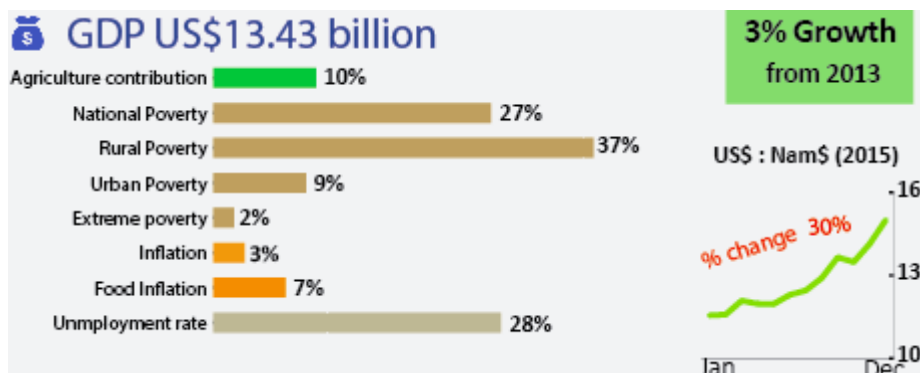
VI. On-going WFP activities

In Mozambique, WFP saves lives and protects livelihoods in emergencies, providing food and nutrition assistance to affected communities as well as logistics support to the government and partners. Through its programmes, WFP supports early recovery from shocks through direct implementation as well as through building government capacity to mitigate disasters and respond to emergencies. To this end, WFP is preparing the National Institute for Disaster Management for a future hand-over by building relief and recovery adeptness at the local level. WFP provides monthly relief food assistance for refugees and asylum seekers in Maratane camp.

In addition to WFP's traditional role in emergency relief and recovery, human and social development, market access, and disaster risk management are prioritized through its programmes. WFP supports government programmes to achieve sustainable national solutions to food insecurity. Specific activities include supporting home-grown school meals, strengthening livelihoods by enhancing smallholder farmers' opportunities to access markets, and improving food security information for disaster risk reduction.

Namibia

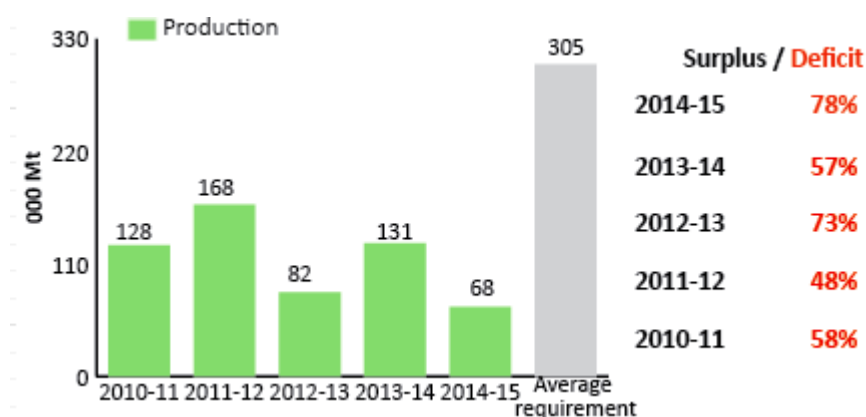
I. Overview



Namibia is considered an upper middle income country, with a GDP of \$13.43 billion (2014) and a population of 2.403 million. The national poverty line is 28.7% with rural poverty at 37% and extreme poverty at 2% of the population. Namibia has a relatively strong human development record and ranked 127 out of the 187 development countries by the 2014 UN Human Development Index (HDI) and 87 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. After a relatively stable inflation rate of about 3.3-3.7% between October and December, the rate increased in January 2016 to 5.3%.

II. Food and Nutrition Security situation

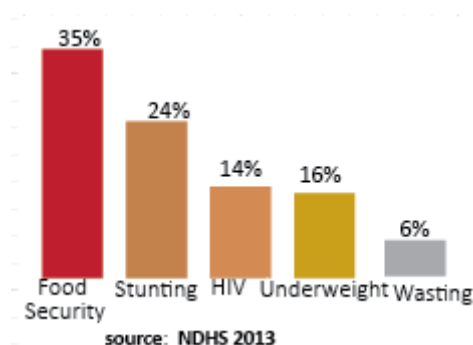
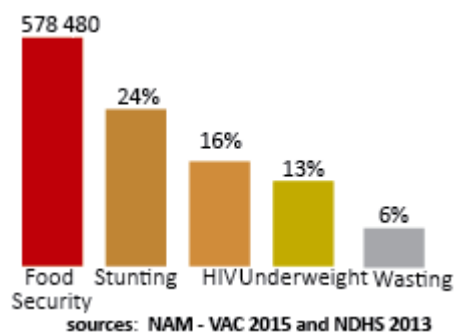
Cereal Production trends (2011 -2015)



Agriculture in Namibia plays a critical role in the formal and informal economy supporting 70% of the population directly or indirectly through employment and income generation.

The agricultural sector in Namibia contributes over 10% to the GDP of which 75-80% can be attributed to

livestock farming. Livestock ownership is about 60% in and accounts for 90% of all agricultural production in Namibia. Of those who own livestock about 40% are poor households. Namibia imports about 60% of its food requirements from South Africa.



Estimation of food insecure population

Region	Most Likely	Worst Case
Zambezi	39,515	19,065
Kavango	103,191	141,865
Omusati	90,428	123,150
Oshana	76,216	137,747
Oshikoto	30,362	69,260
Erongo	61,371	77,180
Kunene	46,069	41,135
Hardap	43,104	59,250
Karas	16,571	20,287
Khomas	9,168	27,751
Omaheke	6,160	10,855
Otjozondjupa	15,075	16,213
Total	556,447	778,504

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Namibia is highly susceptible to two main hazards; drought and floods. Earthquakes as well as Tsunamis are also considered as significant hazards. Over the past years, the country has been putting in place contingency plans to guide preparedness and response activities. A contingency Plan has also been put in place to guide El Niño preparedness and response activities. A number of preparedness and response measures have hence been put in place. These include among others the following:

- A mid-year budget review presented by the Minister of Finance in November, for the allocation of N\$531 million (about 38.2 million USD) for the national drought response up to March 2016.
- In-kind food distribution through the Office of the Prime Minister (8,000 tonnes of maize meal and 368 tonnes of millet meal distributed to 92,700 rural households) in all 14 regions in October and November under the government's food assistance programme.
- In-kind distribution of agricultural inputs (84 tonnes of maize seed, 20 tonnes of cowpea and 123 tonnes of millet seed to communal farmers in all crop growing regions) including vouchers for free government land preparation services such as ripping and fertiliser application.
- Subsidised fertiliser to commercial and resettled farmers under the drought assistance programme.

V. Social Protection programmes in Namibia

Social Protection System in Namibia is quite comprehensive and entirely government-funded. The country's social protection system can be divided into three main components. These are: a system of social grants funded through taxes (Safety nets); a State run contributory component; and a privately managed pension system for the formally employed in the private sector. Safety nets programme being implemented include; a universal Old Age Pension (OAP) provided to all citizens and permanent residents over the age of 60; a Disability Pension (DP) to citizens and permanent residents with the same value as the OAP to persons 16 years and above who have been diagnosed by a State doctor as being temporarily or permanently disabled; mandatory Funeral Grant for OAP and DP beneficiaries; Child Maintenance Grant and a Foster Parent Grant. Child welfare grants have rapidly expanded over the past decade and are now reaching at least 145,000 children. Other safety nets such as School Feeding programmes; subsidised health care; Food distributions, are also being implemented (Table 11).

Table 11: Namibia-- Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	All Cash Grant	323,674
Conditional Cash Transfers	Namibia Students financial Assistance	20,909
Fee Waivers	Disease Control(ART)	120,029
School Feeding	National School Feeding for Orphans and Vulnerable Children	300,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/ WFP Country Offices

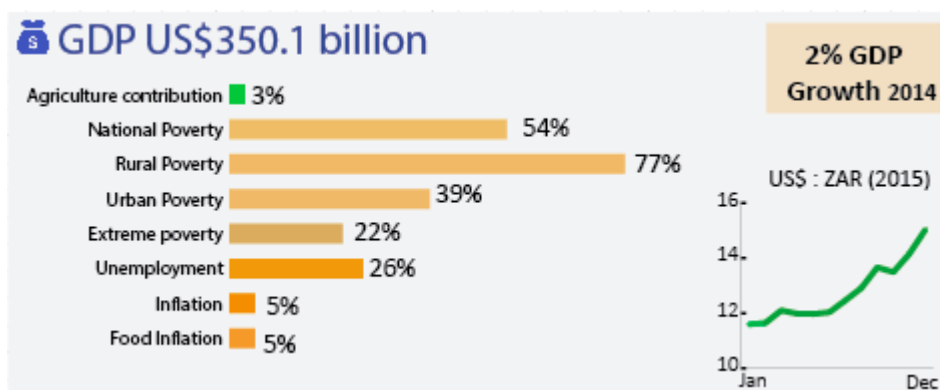
VI. On-going WFP activities

Since 2012, WFP's focus in Namibia has shifted from food aid to food assistance, through the provision of technical support aimed at strengthening government capacity to assess, plan and respond to food security needs in the country. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has established a number of social and food-based safety net programmes, including the national school feeding programme, to mitigate the impact of poverty and food insecurity on vulnerable populations. The school feeding programme is fully managed and funded by the Government and reaches 330,000 children in 1,428 schools. WFP provides technical support to the Government on school feeding to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. This support relates to policy and strategic guidance, systems development and strengthening for food management and monitoring and evaluation. It also includes knowledge generation and management to strengthen the evidence base on school feeding through assessments, surveys and studies.

WFP also provides technical assistance to the Government to strengthen national capacity to manage food assistance programmes in Namibia. This support relates to four broad areas: food security analysis, systems development / strengthening, capacity building and programme support and logistics and supply chain management. The outcomes of this technical support include a functional Food Security Monitoring System to inform decisions relating to recurrent natural disasters which affects the livelihoods of vulnerable people as well as regular Food Security Monitoring updates.

South Africa

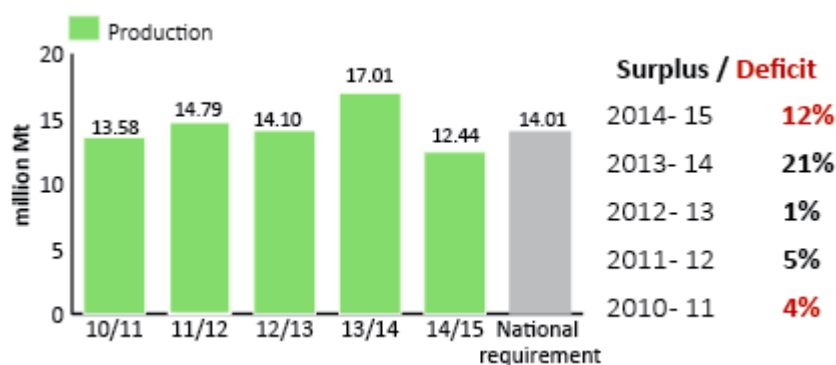
I. Overview



South Africa is classified as an upper middle economy with a GDP of \$350.1 billion (2014) and a population of 54 million. South Africa is ranked 118 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index. The country is also ranked 38 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The national poverty rate is at 54% with the extreme poverty at 22%. South Africa produces most of its food and is a major exporter of food in the region exporting about 30% of its agricultural outputs. The inflation rate is on an upward trajectory rising from 4.7% in October 2015 to 5.2% in December and continuing to 6.2% in January 2016.

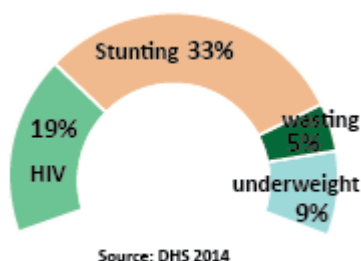
II. Food and Nutrition security situation

Cereal Production trends (2011 -2015)



Agriculture contributes about 10% of formal employment, relatively low compared to other parts of Africa, as well as providing work for casual labourers and contributing around 2.6% of GDP. South Africa has a dual agricultural economy, with both well-developed commercial farming and more subsistence-based

production in the deep rural areas.



Food and nutrition security challenges in South Africa are mainly at household level or intra household where the poor have insufficient and unstable food supplies. Poor households are characterized by few income-earners, and many dependants. Many households are often primarily dependent on migrant remittances and social security grants, making them vulnerable to food insecurity. Stunting levels are high in South Africa at 33% and this is higher than some countries in the region with low income. HIV and AIDS rate is also high at 19%.

III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Historic El Niño linked to below normal rainfall in Zimbabwe.
- Decrease in crop production and cereal shortages.
- Shortages of water for both human and livestock.
- Reduced industrial production which rely on agriculture outputs.
- Reduced income from rain-fed activities.
- Increased food and nutrition insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

South Africa has a total area of 1.2 million square kilometres. The economy is largely diversified and most developed in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite this, the impact of the El Niño has been significant. Drought spells have already been felt in most of the country with livestock reported lost as a result. The government has put in measures to respond to the needs of Disaster Management Plans including Contingency Plans by sector departments and institutions have been prepared and are being updated regularly. Efforts are being made towards strengthening the coordination of existing structures particularly the Disaster Management Centres and targeting sectors that are likely to be affected by drought i.e. Water, Agriculture, Health Sectors. Related capacity building and training initiatives have been initiated. Disaster response mechanisms in place include:-

- Disaster Grants System to respond to the immediate needs of the affected communities as well as address long term needs / Reconstruction and Rehabilitation particularly for big infrastructure projects. The following are existing grants: Municipal Disaster Grant; Provincial Disaster Grant
- Provincial Joint Operational Centres (PROVJOCs) & National Joint Operational Centre (NATJOC)- activated in coordination of stakeholders

A number of programmes are on-going that are addressing the needs of some of those already affected by the current situation. These programmes include Safety net programmes, such as extended Public works; National School Nutrition Programme- through feeding schemes in schools and feeding in Early Childhood development.

V. Social Protection programmes in South Africa

South Africa has made great strides in social security since its transition to democracy and has adopted a broad social protection framework that guarantees various social transfers and basic social services. Within this framework, a number of non-contributory safety net schemes are being implemented. These are:- Old age grant (payable to citizens aged 60 and older); War veterans grant (payable to veterans from World War II or the Korean War); Disability grant (subject to a medical assessment report confirming disability); Care dependency grant (payable to parents or caregivers of children with disabilities between the ages of 1 to 18 – subject to medical assessment report confirming disability); Foster child grant (payable to a person accorded foster parent status by a court of law); Child support grant (payable to poor households with children). In addition, South Africa provides supplementary cash and in kind transfers (Grant in Aid (payable to any person in receipt of an Older Persons Grant); and Social Relief of Distress (payable for a maximum of three months to any person that is not benefiting from another social grant and who is living in the most dire of economic circumstances). Approximately, 14.4 million²¹ people are receiving social grants in South Africa and has contributed significantly to poverty alleviation. **Table 12** shows the list of on-going safety net programmes being implemented.

Table 12: South Africa --Safety Net programmes by Type

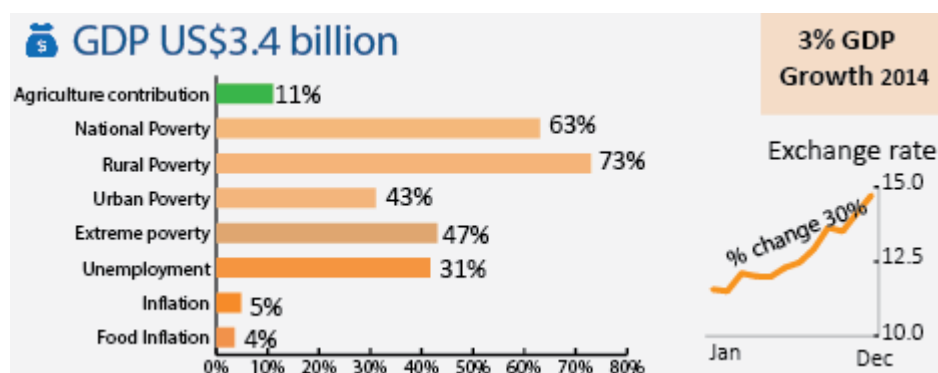
Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	All Cash Grants	11,341,988
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Social relief of distress	
School Feeding	National School Nutrition Programme	9,159,773

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/WFP Country Offices

²¹ www.social-protection.org

Swaziland

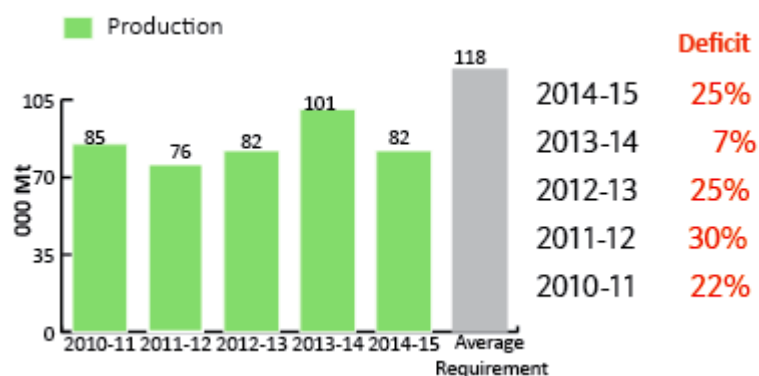
I. Overview



Swaziland is a lower middle income country whose GDP is \$3.4 billion (2014) and a population of 1.1 million. Income inequality remains high, with a GINI index of 51.5 and a national poverty rate of about 63%. Swaziland is ranked 148 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index, and 70 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The Swaziland economy is closely tied to that of South Africa, from which it receives more than 90% of its imports, and to which it sends around 70% of its exports. Inflation rate for Swaziland was relatively stable October to November 2015 at about 4.5 percent.

II. Food and Nutrition Security situation

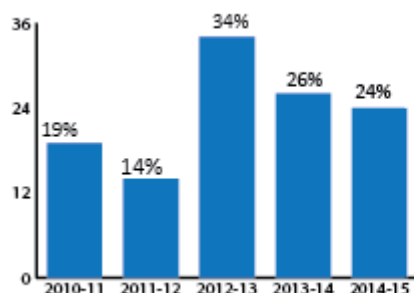
Cereal Production trends (2011 -2015)



Swaziland's economy relies on agriculture with 77% of the population deriving their livelihoods from subsistence farming. The agricultural activities are highly dependent on rain in the dry areas making the communities highly vulnerable to climate shocks. Swaziland had been producing less maize (the staple crop) to meet the national requirements. The 2014/15 cereal harvest Swaziland imports approximately 22% of its cereal requirements mainly from South Africa

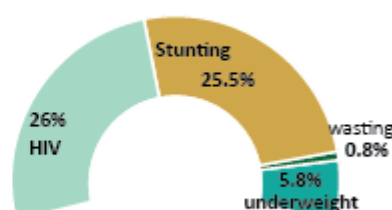
and is a net importer of food. Livestock forms an integral component of the livelihood systems in Swaziland, with households deriving both income and food from the animals.

Food security trends



Source: Swaziland CFSAM 2015 report

Nutrition

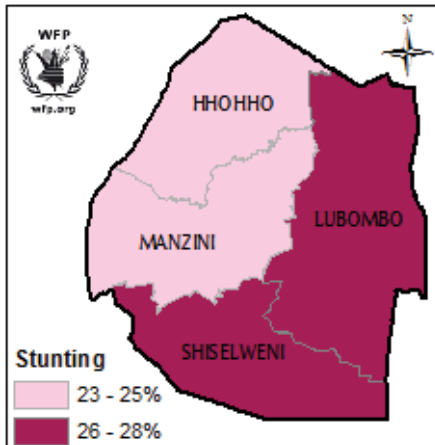


Sources: SDHS 2006 and Swaziland MICS 2014

High dependence on rain-fed maize production in dry areas, very low income levels of rural small holders, inefficient food markets, and high prices of food and agricultural inputs together with high rates of HIV (26%).

Current rural food insecurity in Swaziland is estimated at 23.5% at the peak of the hunger season (about 200 897). Chronic malnutrition is the main nutrition concern in Swaziland with stunting affecting 25.5% of children under five years.

Malnutrition situation

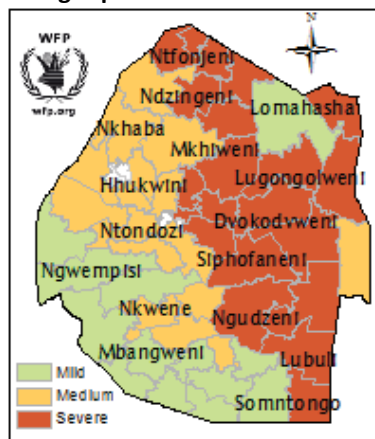


Chronic malnutrition is the main nutrition concern in Swaziland. Stunting affects 25.5 percent of children under five years and child under-nutrition is associated with 8 percent of child mortality. Micronutrient deficiencies affect pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five years and contribute to stunting and maternal mortality. Stunting is prevalence in the south and eastern parts of the country. Lubombo district is the most food insecure and drought prone district, it also has the highest wasting prevalence (3%), the second highest HIV and underweight prevalence in the nation. With the high likelihood of another bad agricultural season, there is need to monitor nutrition levels to ensure they do not further deteriorate.

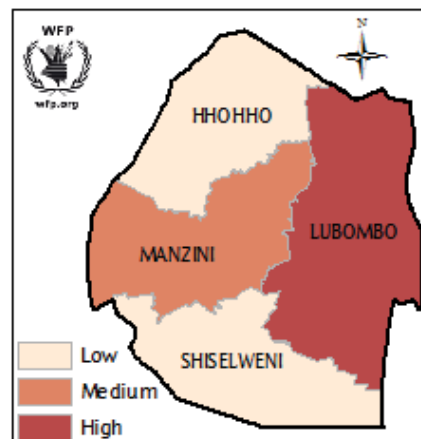
III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Historic El Niño linked to below normal rainfall.
- Reduced production and widespread crop losses.
- Deterioration in livestock condition.
- Shortages of pasture and water for and livestock.
- Increased food insecurity levels.
- Increased malnutrition levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.

Drought prone areas



Prioritisation



From the past 5 years trend analysis of food insecurity prevalence the following scenarios are being proposed:

Least case - average food insecure population for the bad years in the past 5 years i.e. 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Estimated food insecure people

Region	Least case	Most likely	Worst Case
HHOHHO	46,977	86,924	94,586
LUBOMBO	75,727	103,409	94,148
MANZINI	39,308	82,957	77,046
SHISELWENI	51,846	47,684	220,392
Total	213,858	320,974	486,171

Average case - equivalent to the highest food insecure prevalence in the past 5 years i.e. 2013.

Most likely - incremental change between 2 consecutive bad years in the past 5 years is applied to the 2015/16 prevalence to obtain the estimated food insecure projections.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

In Swaziland, agriculture and mining are the key elements of the economy. The heavy reliance on agriculture, makes the country highly vulnerable of weather changes. Like other countries in the region, the country is also facing serious El Niño effects. The Prime Minister of Swaziland declared a state of National Disaster on 18th February 2016 noting that 300,000 people, about 25 % of the population, are in a state of food and water vulnerability. In view of the likely impact of this phenomenon, the country has reviewed the existing multi-hazard contingency plan and stepped up preparedness measures. A drought emergency response has been prepared and adopted by Government. Some simulation exercises are planned to be undertaken. Government is putting plans in place to allocate some resources for emergency response but have appealed to cooperating partners for assistance. A supplementary budgetary allocation has already been requested. Other on-going preparedness activities include strengthening of national and community early warning systems; risk and hazard monitoring at national and regional level. Better preparedness could however be achieved with a properly integrated early warning system; timely allocation of resources to the disaster Management Fund; and a having robust procurement and logistics system, which currently does not exist.

V. Social Protection programmes in Swaziland

A significant portion of the Swazi population are at risk of hazards in a given year. These shocks have, to a large extent, caused extreme vulnerabilities, and have an impact on the household's capacity to meet the daily livelihood needs. Social protection schemes therefore play an important role in shock mitigation and attainment of basic levels of sustenance. Swaziland has moved significantly with regards to social protection. A World Bank mapping of Social protection shows that a number of government led social protection programmes are being implemented. The schemes which are mainly non-contributory consist of cash and in-kind transfers; social care services; and labour market programmes. In-kind transfers make up the bulk of the schemes. Total government expenditure is estimated at 2.2 percent of the GDP. Safety net programmes being implemented include Old Age grant; Child Grant; Disability Grant; Input OVC Education Grant; School feeding; Input subsidies and Fee waivers (**Table 13**).

Table 13: Swaziland: Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Education Grant Scheme for OVCs	118,219
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Food distribution	88,511
Public Works	Pilot Food for Work	
Fee Waivers	Fee waivers for health care	
School Feeding	National School Meal Programme	328,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/WFP Country Offices

VI. On-going WFP activities

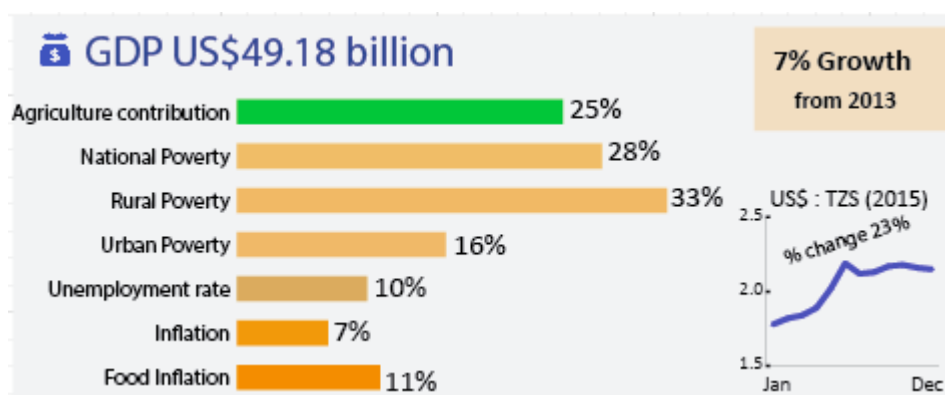
WFP assistance in Swaziland aims to improve food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS. WFP activities are focused on enhancing the government's capacity to manage food and nutrition security interventions, including food security monitoring and emergency preparedness and response. To achieve this, WFP is transitioning from a partner supporting direct implementation to a strengthened advocacy and advisory role.

As the multilateral convener of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, WFP is a leading partner in developing the capacity of government to address childhood undernutrition.

WFP provides food assistance to young Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) while partnering with UN agencies to provide technical assistance toward strengthening the national social protection system to fully absorb OVC as a vulnerable population and to advocate for nutrition-sensitivity in safety nets. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP assists people living with HIV and TB to improve treatment adherence and health outcomes by providing nutrition assessments with care and support services.

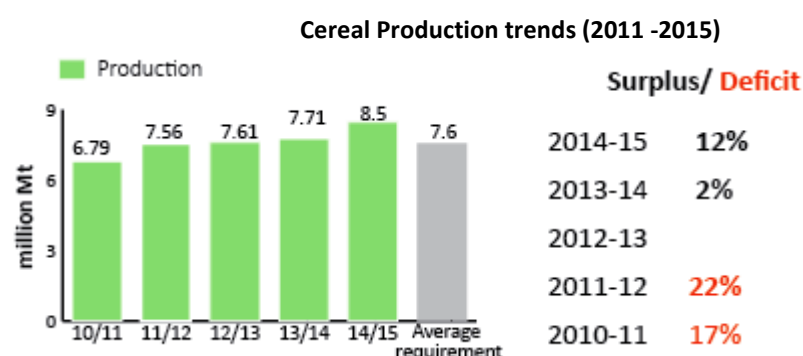
Tanzania

I. Overview



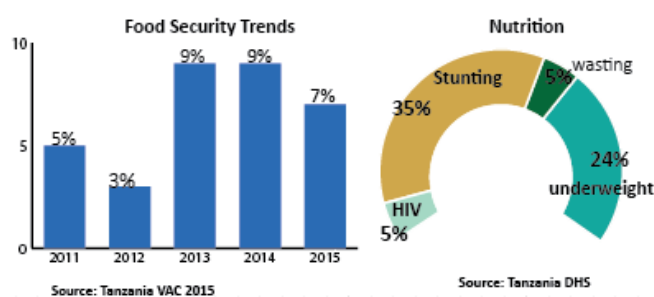
Tanzania is classified as a low income country with a GDP of about \$49.18 billion (2014) and a population of 51 million. Tanzania is categorised as a least developed and low-income food deficit country, ranked 151 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index. The country is also classified as serious under the 2015 Global Hunger Index and ranked 77 of 104 developing countries. Approximately 28.2% of the population lived below the poverty line (2012). The inflation rate of 6.7% in December 2015 rising to 6.5% in January 2016. Tanzania is a net importer and it imports about 7% of its food requirements.

II. Food and Nutrition Security situation



Agriculture plays a critical role in Tanzania, contributing 25% to the GDP, provides 85% of exports, and employs about 80% of the work force. Agriculture is mainly rain fed and remains highly sensitive to extreme weather patterns, such as recent droughts, which have severely affected crop and livestock production as well as power

generation. The best performance in agriculture is in export crops such as sugar, tea and tobacco, which have recorded annual growth rates. The government of Tanzania increased its spending on agriculture to 7% of its budget to support provision subsidised farm implements and mechanisation.

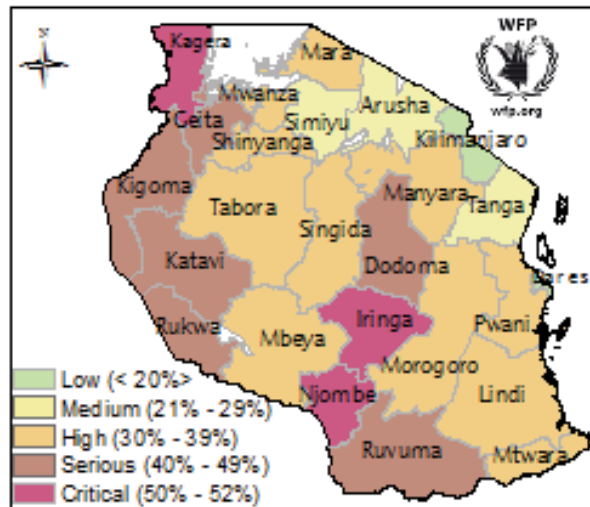


40% of the population in Tanzania live in chronic food-deficit regions, where irregular rainfall causes recurring food shortages. The severe impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as well as repeated climatic and economic shocks, have resulted in many households being vulnerable to food insecurity. According to the 2004/05 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey, 35% of children under five in the country are chronically malnourished. Tanzania has an HIV rate of 5%.

Nutrition Situation

Undernutrition is still highly prevalent in Tanzania. More than a third (38%) of children under five years are affected by chronic malnutrition (stunting). In the Southern zone prevalence surpasses 50%. Stunting is due to a combination of factors including maternal malnutrition, inadequate infant feeding practices, low quality of health care and poor hygiene. Child underweight at 24% remains at unacceptable levels. About one third of children age 6-59 months are iron deficient and vitamin A deficient and 69% are anaemic. Chronic malnutrition is not highest in the drought prone areas or regions with the highest food insecurity but in areas where food security is considered to be better.

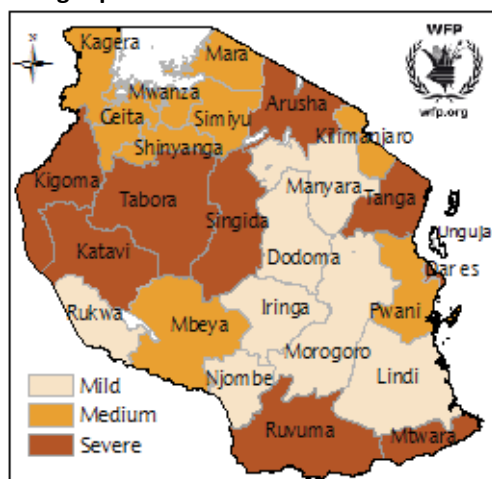
Stunting prevalence by region



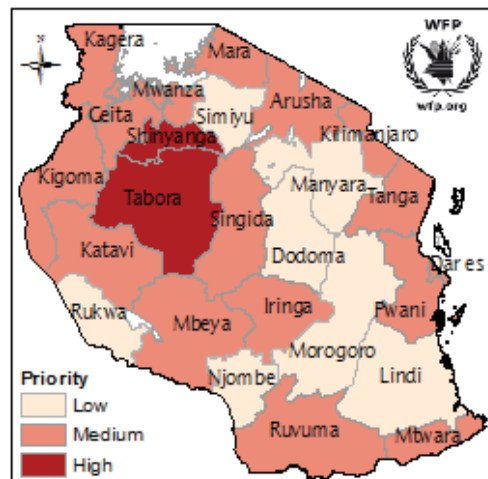
III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Crop failure and crop losses leading to food shortages.
- Lack of pasture and water for livestock resulting in livestock deaths and increased panic sales by farmers.
- Increased malnutrition levels.
- Increased coping mechanisms and risk behaviour.
- Reduced income from rain-fed activities.
- Increased food insecurity levels.
- Increased food shortages and food prices.
- Increased vulnerability to future shocks.

Drought prone areas



Prioritisation



Estimated food insecure population

REGION	least case	most likely	REGION	least case	most likely
Arusha	285,162	246,650	Morogoro	142,653	192,075
Dodoma	511,890	552,435	Mtwara	88,422	118,996
Kagera	6,369	9,554	Mwanza	233,963	227,012
Kigoma	35,324	52,986	Pwani	94,126	87,000
Kilimanjaro	263,260	179,805	Shinyanga	633,648	770,445
Lindi	172,989	259,484	Simiyu	73,619	110,428
Manyara	272,359	284,202	Singida	260,075	390,112
Mara	220,162	283,296	Tabora	369,542	554,313
Mbeya	16,307	24,460	Tanga	188,092	282,138
			Total	3,879,961	4,625,390

From the past 5 years trend analysis of food insecurity prevalence the following scenarios are being proposed:

Least case—average food insecure population for the bad years in the past 5 years i.e. 2011, 2013 and 2014.

Most likely—equivalent to the highest food insecurity over the past years i.e. 2013

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Agriculture contributes a significantly to the Gross Domestic Product and is the mainstay of the economy of Tanzania. Because of this, the economy is also vulnerable to changes in weather conditions. The current El Niño event will also have some impact, however differently from the countries in the southern part of the country. Tanzania will more likely experience normal to above normal rainfall that will induce flooding. To ensure adequate preparedness, a draft Flood Contingency plan has been prepared. The CP will be funded through a Disaster Relief fund that has been established by government. Other preparedness measure include stockpiling of essential relief items in zonal warehouses. Capacity building activities through simulations have also been identified as necessary and are planned for implementation. Emergency coordination mechanisms through the Disaster Management Department, have been put in place. Regional, District and Village disaster management committees have also been established to support response mechanisms.

Some activities are currently being implemented to enhance the Country's preparedness and response levels. Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change is one such project. However, inadequate resources for pre-season preparedness; inadequate real time early warning information; poor coordination in preparedness and response activities; lack of an emergency operations centre; lack of a finalised Contingency Plan; etc. have compromised overall country preparedness level.

V. Social Protection programmes in Tanzania

The Government of Tanzania (GoT) has implemented a number of measures to enhance the social protection system as part of national priorities to be implemented through the "National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP)". The country has seen an increase in public investments in social protection. Non-contributory schemes such as the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme for the extreme poor are being implemented by the government in collaboration with partners. Main safety net programmes include:- Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) Program (social assistance to vulnerable children including orphans); Subsidized Food Distribution (in-kind food transfers in food insecure districts); School feeding (in primary school students); Community-based cash transfers (Tanzania Social Action Fund); Public Works Program (Tanzania Social Action Fund) as well as WFP's Food for Assets programme (Table 14).

Table 14: Tanzania -- Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Most vulnerable Children Programme	570,000
Fee Waivers	National Agriculture Input Voucher Scheme	1,800,000
School Feeding	Food for Education	1,275,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/ WFP Country Offices

VI. On-going WFP activities

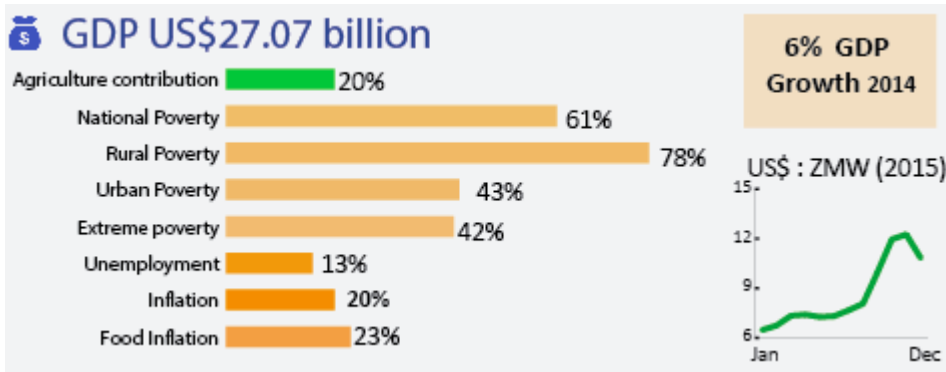
In Tanzania, the agriculture sector provides huge investment opportunities for poverty reduction, food security and growth. WFP has joined a consortium of public and private institutions to unlock new opportunities for smallholder farmers. The Patient Procurement Platform helps farmers transition from subsistence farming to market-oriented agriculture by connecting demand for their crops with commercial markets and providing access to fair contracts before planting.

WFP's food assistance for assets programmes in farming communities are aimed at developing community assets to stimulate economic growth at the household level. Under its climate change initiative, WFP works with local government to provide access to information on climate and weather to enable farmers and livestock keepers to determine the best agronomic options to pursue to mitigate the effects of climate change.

WFP is the only agency in the country to provide supplementary food rations to pregnant and lactating women and children under five. To treat moderate acute malnutrition, WFP provides a monthly take home ration of fortified blended food to Pregnant and Lactating Women and children under five. As part of WFP's stunting prevention activities, Pregnant and Lactating Women and children under two receive a monthly take home ration of Super Cereal. WFP also assists Burundian and Congolese refugees with general food distribution and supplementary feeding.

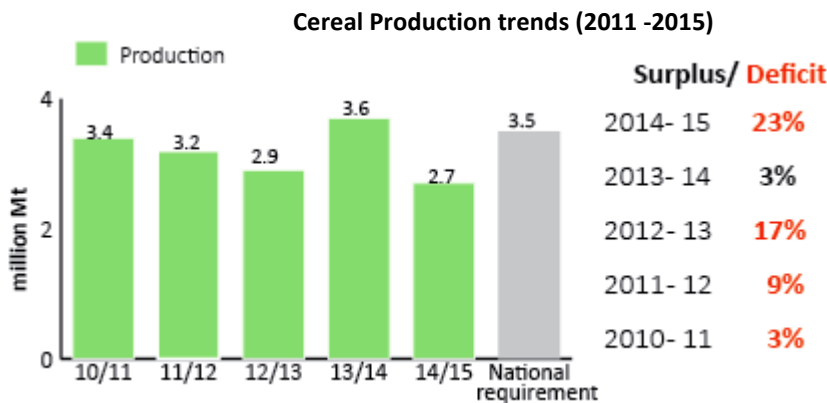
Zambia

I. Overview



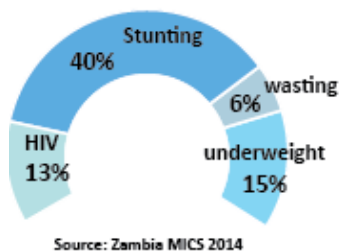
Zambia is classified as a lower middle income country with a GDP of about \$27.07 billion (2014) and a population of 15.72 million. Zimbabwe is ranked 141 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index. Zambia is also ranked 102 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The national poverty prevalence is at 61%, rural poverty at 78% and extreme poverty is at 42%. Since the inflation rate increased from 14.3% in October 2015, 21% in December and to 21.8% in January 2016.

II. Food and Nutrition Security Situation



Agriculture is the most important sector in Zambia, from a socio-economic point of view, providing employment opportunities for 60% of the country's informally employed population and 8% of the formally employed. 80% of the population is dependent on agriculture as the main livelihood source and the majority are small scale farmers

who mainly grow maize. Agriculture is mainly rain-fed which makes it vulnerable to changing weather patterns. Agriculture contributes 20% to the GDP (2013) mainly through exports of tobacco, maize sugar and cotton. The main livelihoods for most people in the assessed districts has remained farming, trading, agriculture wage labour, skilled trade, non-agricultural wage labour and remittances.

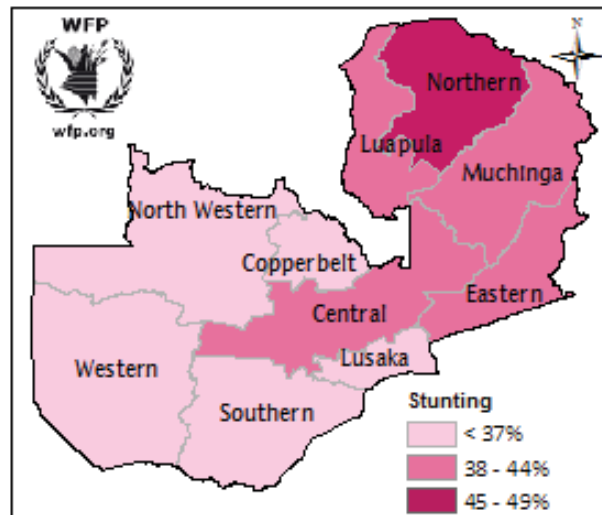


Poverty and food insecurity are widespread in both rural and urban areas, and the country remains extremely vulnerable to recurring natural disasters, including floods, drought and animal disease. Although production was low, households had stocks from previous good seasons. Chronic malnutrition is high with 40% of the children under 5 years stunted and 15% with underweight. HIV prevalence is at 13%.

The immediate causes of malnutrition in Zambia include inadequate dietary intake and disease, the underlying include household food insecurity, inadequate care for women and children, unhealthy household environments and lack of health services. Stunting rates are severely high in Zambia almost one in 2 children under 5 years are stunted (40%).

Rural children are slightly more likely to be stunted compared to urban children. High stunting rates in the northern and eastern provinces.

Stunting prevalence by district



III. El Niño Forecast and expected impact

- Historic El Niño linked to below normal rainfall.
- Decrease in the productivity of primary sectors like agriculture, fisheries, wildlife and tourism.
- Deterioration in livestock condition leading livestock death and panic sales.
- Shortages of water for both human and livestock.
- Reduced income from rain-fed activities.
- Increased food insecurity levels.
- Increased coping strategies and risk behaviour.

VI. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

Zambia's economy is largely dependent on mining, however, agriculture contributes significantly to the country's GDP. Like many countries in the southern Africa, the impact of the El Niño is expected to be severe given that the previous season was not the best. Zambia's reliance on Maize as the main staple has rendered the food security situation very vulnerable and measures are being put in place to enhance the levels of preparedness at all levels. The 2015/2016 Contingency Plan is being reviewed based on the El Niño forecast. As part of the preparedness measures, seasonal monitoring will be increased and plans to preposition food supplies will be activated. An emergency preparedness plan for the energy sector has been developed in anticipation of the low water levels in major water bodies, such as the Kariba Dam. Response mechanisms are in place as established by the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit. The country is already implementing disaster mitigation activities in drought affected regions (relief food distribution; agricultural input support to affected households; rehabilitation and construction of water boreholes).

V. Social Protection programs in Zambia

The Government of the Republic of Zambia considers Social Protection as a key strategy to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and promote equity.

The main custodian of the social protection platform is the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH) under which the following programmes are being implemented: the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS); the Social Cash Transfer Scheme (SCT); the Food Security Pack (FSP); and the Women's Empowerment Fund (WEF). With the support of partners, the government is now scaling up the Social Cash Transfer Scheme to cover 50 districts and eventually, national.

Approximately 580,000 beneficiaries are supported under these schemes. However, the erratic funding, and in most cases the discretionary targeting has had an impact on the efficiency of these systems.

The government is also implementing other policies that are part of the Zambian safety net. About thirteen such programmes which directly provide transfers either in-kind or cash to households are being implemented. One of these programmes is the Farmer Input Support Programme which supports approximately 795,000 households. **Table 15** shows the list of on-going safety net programmes being implemented.

Table 15: Zambia: Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Social Cash Transfer Scheme	114,500
Unconditional Food and In-kind	STEPS/OVC	204,251
Public Works	C-SAFE Zambia Project	22,412
Fee Waivers	Farmer Support Input Programme	
School Feeding	School Feeding Programme	850,000

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015/ WFP Country Offices

VI. On-going WFP activities

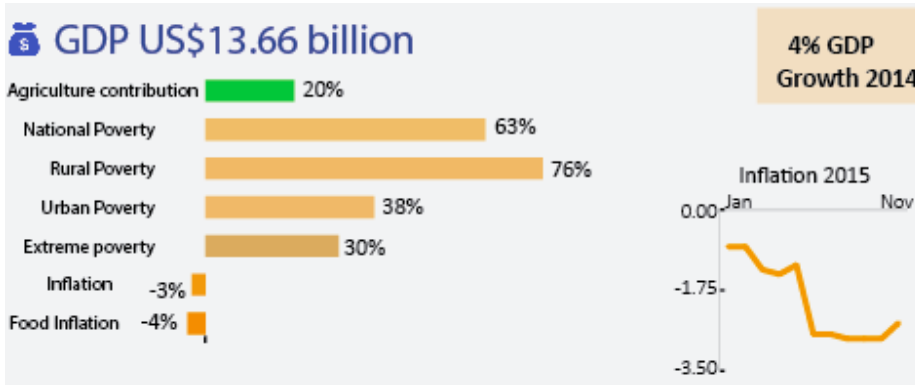
In Zambia, WFP assistance is focused on three broad areas: Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) for primary school children; food security for vulnerable groups; and disaster risk management for government preparedness. The school feeding programme and food security for vulnerable groups both aim to improve human capital through food based safety nets. Whilst WFP maintains its implementation capacity, its role in Zambia is increasingly shifting from traditional implementer to a facilitator and provider of technical assistance partner to the Government.

In collaboration with the Centre of Excellence in Brazil, WFP facilitates South-South cooperation and learning. WFP provides technical support to the government for its social cash transfer programme, assisting with the procurement of a payment service provider and a mobile-based beneficiary registration system. Using commodity purchasing models under the Purchase for Progress project, farmer organisations are contracted to supply pulses to the school feeding programme.

Under the Scaling-Up-Nutrition (SUN) Business Network, WFP provided support to the National Food and Nutrition Commission to coordinate active private sector participation in the sector. WFP continues to build the capacity of government and partners in disaster preparedness and response and provides technical support to the Zambia vulnerability assessment committee.

Zimbabwe

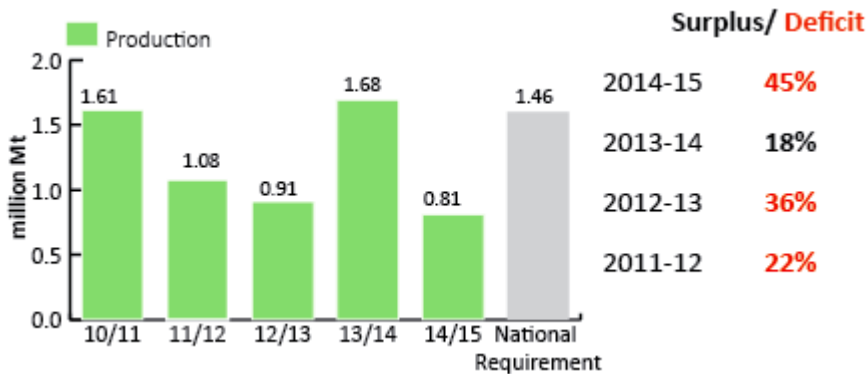
I. Overview



Zimbabwe is considered a low income country with a GDP of about \$13.66 billion (2014) and a population of 13 million. Zimbabwe is classified as a low-income food-deficit country, ranked 156 of 187 countries on the 2014 Human Development Index and 85 of 104 developing countries on the 2015 Global Hunger Index. The country continues to be in a state of deflation with an inflation of -3% in October 2015; increasing slightly to -2.19% in January 2016. Zimbabwe is using a multi-currency system with the main currency being the US Dollar.

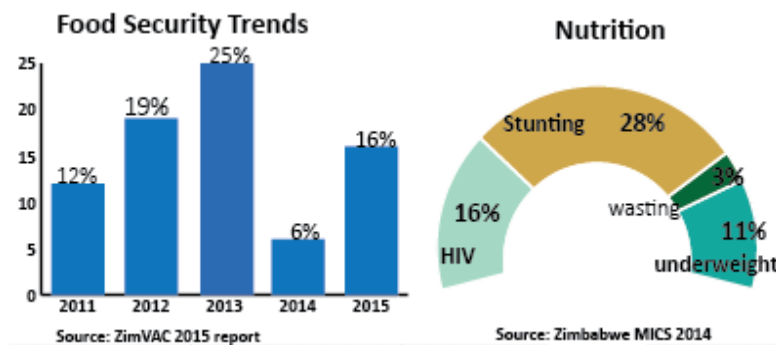
II. Food and Nutrition Security Situation

Cereal Production trends (2011 -2015)



Agriculture plays a critical role in Zimbabwe, contributing to 20% of the GDP and approximately 80% of Zimbabweans depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Agriculture in Zimbabwe is mainly rain fed and is vulnerable to any shocks like drought and mid-season dry spells. Livestock

ownership is generally low in Zimbabwe except for the dry regions mainly in the south and western districts. Zimbabwe is a net importer, importing more than 20% of its food commodities from South Africa.



Food security situation has remained fragile and highly subject to wide range of recurrent natural and economic shocks over the years. Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2015 report estimates 16% of the

Estimated food insecure population

Province	Most likely
Manicaland	455 157
Mashonaland Central	262 947
Mashonaland East	295 902
Mashonaland West	357 906
Masvingo	447 385
Matabeleland North	317 306
Matabeleland South	174 588
Midlands	422 035
National	2 733 226

According to the projections based on the preliminary results of the ZIMVAC rapid assessment in January/February 2016, the number of food insecure people has been revised from **1.5 million** to between **2.7-2.8 million** people upto April 2016. There is a possibility of these figures going upwards during the 2016/17 consumption year.

IV. Government Preparedness/Response Plans

The Government, through the Department of Civil Protection has developed a composite contingency plan to address the possible El Niño impacts. The plan addresses sector-level response strategies. Government and partners, including WFP, have undertaken a rapid assessment to update the food security situation in country and provide a basis for forecasting the impact of El Niño. Government declared a drought emergency early February 2016 and has appealed for external assistance. The Humanitarian Country Team will support the government in operationalizing the contingency plan and link the response strategies to early warning thresholds.

V. Social Protection programmes in Zimbabwe

Like in other countries in the region, the Government of Zimbabwe and partners are implementing a number of social protection and safety net programmes under the National Social Protection Policy Framework. These include the UNICEF supported harmonised social cash transfer programme. The main objectives of the programme, are to lift extremely poor (food poor) people out of life threatening poverty; alleviate the poverty of people that suffer from any of the manifestations of poverty listed in the definition of poverty given above; and to reduce the vulnerability of people to falling into poverty. A number of programmes are being implemented. These include: Cash based transfers (harmonised); Lean Season Assistance programmes (food/cash); and a number of government pension schemes. Approximately 900,000 beneficiaries are covered under Lean Season Assistance and Harmonised Cash based Transfers (HCBT) programmes. **Table 16** shows the list of on-going safety net programmes being implemented.

Table 16: Zimbabwe: Safety Net programmes by Type

Type of Safety Net	Program Name	Estimated Beneficiaries
Unconditional Cash Transfer	Harmonised Cash Transfer	37,297
Unconditional Food and In-kind	Assistance to Food Insecure Vulnerable Groups	204,255
Public Works	Food Mitigation Program	140,500
School Feeding	SPLASH Voucher Program	7,200

Source: State of Social Safety Nets, World Bank, 2015 WFP Country Offices

Table 16 shows the list of on-going safety net programmes being implemented.

VI. On-going WFP activities

WFP activities in Zimbabwe aim at protecting livelihoods, enhancing resilience, treating acute malnutrition and addressing transient food insecurity of the most vulnerable. WFP's strategy represents a fundamental shift to addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in the country through a transition from a primarily relief-driven, humanitarian-focused operation, to a portfolio of assistance targeting the multiple root causes of chronic food insecurity and poverty in the country. WFP, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, places government-owned strategies and priorities at the forefront. Activities increasingly emphasize the use of conditional cash transfers in line with the government's social transfer agenda, initiatives to enhance population's ability to withstand climatic shocks in bridging relief interventions with longer-term recovery and resilience activities, and efforts to harmonize and enhance national social protection systems.



wfp.org

**Regional Bureau for Southern
Africa, Johannesburg**
