

SOUTHERN AFRICA - DROUGHT

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

APRIL 8, 2016

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

12.8

million

Food-Insecure People in Southern Africa*
UN – March 2016

2.9

million

Food-Insecure People in Malawi
UN – March 2016

2.8

million

Food-Insecure People in Zimbabwe
UN – March 2016

1.5

million

Food-Insecure People in Mozambique
GRM – April 2016

1.1

million

Food-Insecure People in Madagascar
ECHO – March 2016

534,500

Food-Insecure People in Lesotho
UN – March 2016

*Includes Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

HIGHLIGHTS

- Eight countries in the region record lowest rainfall amounts in 35 years
- Food insecurity affects 12.8 million people in Southern Africa; may affect nearly 36 million people by late 2016
- USAID/FFP provides nearly \$47.2 million in emergency food assistance in Malawi and Zimbabwe

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$216,611
USAID/FFP ²	\$47,158,300
\$47,374,911	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- During the 2015/2016 October-to-January rainy season, many areas of Southern Africa experienced the lowest-recorded rainfall amounts in 35 years, resulting in widespread drought conditions, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). The drought, exacerbated by the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event, is causing deteriorating food security, agriculture, livestock, nutrition, and water conditions throughout the region, with significant humanitarian needs anticipated through at least April 2017, the UN reports.
- Response actors report that the Southern African Development Community (SADC)—an inter-governmental organization to promote cooperation among 15 Southern African countries on regional issues—is preparing a regional disaster declaration, response plan, and funding appeal in coordination with the UN to support drought-affected countries in the region. The appeal presents an opportunity for host country governments to prioritize requests for assistance responding to the effects of widespread drought conditions and consequent negative impacts on planting and harvesting.
- Between December 2015 and March 2016, the U.S. Government (USG) issued disaster declarations for Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe due to the drought and resultant requests for international support by host country governments. In recent weeks, staff from USAID have coordinated with host government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other humanitarian stakeholders to conduct assessments and identify urgent needs in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.
- To date in FY 2016, USAID has provided nearly \$47.4 million in humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$47.2 million in food assistance from USAID/FFP and \$150,000 for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions from USAID/OFDA.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- In March, FEWS NET reported that parts of the region—including areas of Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—experienced their lowest rainfall amounts in 35 years during the October-to-January rainy season. For many areas, this marks the second consecutive year of below-normal rainfall, which has significantly affected crop production, staple food prices, and livelihoods. According to SADC, 70 percent of the people residing in Southern Africa depend on agriculture for food and livelihoods. As of late March, the UN estimated that 12.8 million people across the region were food-insecure.
 - The UN anticipates that upcoming April/May harvests, although predicted to be well below average in some areas, will result in a short-term improvement in food security conditions. However, the UN World Food Program (WFP) estimates that the number of people at risk of food insecurity between December 2016 and March 2017 may reach more than 35.9 million people across Southern Africa.
 - USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$47.2 million to address urgent food needs among drought-affected populations in Malawi and Zimbabwe. To respond to ongoing drought conditions, USAID/FFP authorized development partners in Madagascar to adapt their programming and provided additional support for emergency programs. USAID/FFP has also pre-positioned emergency relief commodities in Durban, South Africa, to support food distribution during the November-to-March lean season.
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HEALTH AND WASH

- The UN reports that the drought will further limit water access for both rural and urban populations throughout the region. As only an estimated 61 percent of people residing in Southern Africa have access to safe drinking water under normal conditions, response actors expect the drought will significantly increase WASH needs. Some countries—including Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, and Swaziland—have implemented water trucking programs to facilitate water access for drought-affected communities, according to the UN.
 - Limited access to water is impeding health facility operations and contributing to an increase in communicable diseases. The UN reported approximately 12,150 cholera cases and nearly 110 cholera-related deaths across the Southern African region between January 2015 and March 2016. The number of cholera cases will likely increase in the coming months as a result of poor access to safe water sources, according to the UN.
 - Health actors anticipate that decreased access to food and water may limit access to HIV medication and result in individuals stopping medication, which may increase HIV transmission. HIV remains a critical health issue in the region, with nine countries reporting an adult HIV prevalence of more than 10 percent and Swaziland—with a prevalence of 26 percent—reporting the highest HIV prevalence in the world, according to the UN.
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LESOTHO

- Drought conditions impeded planting for most farmers in Lesotho, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expects the upcoming May-to-June harvest to be the lowest on record. In February, a joint Government of Lesotho (GoL)–UN assessment indicated that nearly 535,000 people—approximately 25 percent of Lesotho’s population—were experiencing food insecurity, with an estimated 377,000 people requiring immediate emergency food assistance. The UN expects the food-insecure population in Lesotho to increase to at least 725,000 people after June.
- Due to delayed and insufficient rains, SADC reports that more than 302,000 people in nearly 280 communities—approximately 15 percent of the population—are experiencing significant water shortages, with water rationing occurring in many districts. As a result, greater numbers of people are using unprotected water sources, traveling greater distances to secure water, or purchasing water, which depletes household funds.
- On December 22, 2015, the GoL declared a state of emergency due to the drought and appealed for international assistance. As of mid-March, the GoL had committed \$10 million to address immediate food, health, and WASH needs.

- With \$50,000 through NGO partner World Vision, USAID/OFDA is supporting WASH interventions for drought-affected communities in the districts of Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek. The interventions include repairing broken water systems, providing training and expertise to community water committee members and local officials, and supporting water and sanitation monitoring at community water points.
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MADAGASCAR

- Southern Madagascar has received insufficient and erratic rainfall since September 2014, resulting in multiple consecutive seasons of poor harvests, according to the UN. The Government of Madagascar declared an emergency situation in February 2015, reporting that 579,000 people required emergency food assistance. According to FEWS NET, humanitarian interventions may have helped mitigate the effects of the prolonged drought; however, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) reported that poor rainfall across southern districts in 2015 had left at least 665,000 people experiencing severe food insecurity in southern Madagascar as of February 2016.
 - FEWS NET predicts that April-to-August harvests will improve food security in some areas; however, many households in southern Madagascar will continue to experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity through September.³ Households in Androy Region's Ambovombe and Tsihombe districts—where FEWS NET predicts crop failure in the coming months—will likely continue to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity through September.
 - From February 21–March 1, USAID staff conducted an assessment of humanitarian conditions in the southern regions of Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana. The assessment identified access to food and water as the most urgent needs among drought-affected households.
 - With \$2 million in prior-year assistance from USAID/FFP, NGOs and WFP reached 120,000 people in southern Madagascar—including populations in Ambovombe and Tsihombe—with emergency food assistance between October 2015 and February 2016. As of mid-March 2016, USAID/FFP had also begun redirecting development assistance to emergency programs, to meet the emergency needs of approximately 177,000 people in drought-affected areas.
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MALAWI

- Delayed and insufficient rainfall resulted in a second consecutive poor harvest for Malawi, increasing food insecurity throughout the country. In December, the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) identified nearly 2.9 million food-insecure people in 25 districts following localized floods and dry spells during the 2014/2015 agricultural season. The VAC indicated that approximately 2 million of the 2.9 million people affected were experiencing effects of prolonged dry spells, while flooding affected the remaining estimated 886,000 Malawians. Response actors expect the number of people in need of food assistance to exceed 3 million in the coming months.
- To date, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$38.1 million in emergency food assistance to support drought-affected populations in Malawi. This total includes more than \$21.1 million of in-kind food assistance and approximately \$17 million for local and regional procurement of food and twinning—which includes the transport and distribution of maize from the strategic grain reserve of the Government of Malawi (GoM).
- The GoM launched a national Humanitarian Response Plan in September 2015, requesting \$146 million for emergency food assistance, as well as agriculture, humanitarian coordination, and protection activities. As of December 2015, the GoM had secured \$71 million, or nearly 50 percent, of the requested \$146 million. In coordination with WFP, the GoM reached 2.4 million people across 24 districts with food—including cereals and pulses—and cash-based assistance in January 2016. WFP plans to continue providing assistance through the end of the lean season in April, but is facing a funding shortfall of \$38 million to source maize. The GoM is implementing seed fairs and providing direct seed distributions in 23 districts of Malawi with support from FAO. Agricultural assistance is targeting an estimated

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

300,000 farmers with short-season seed varieties of legumes, maize, millet, sorghum, and tubers. In addition, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and GoM are providing protection mainstreaming training and conducting supplementary feeding activities in 24 districts.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Drought conditions are affecting central and southern Mozambique, particularly Gaza, Inhambane, Maputo, Sofala, Tete, and Zambezia provinces. The results of a Government of the Republic of Mozambique (GRM)-led Food and Nutrition Security Assessment in March indicate 1.5 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance—a significant increase from the 176,000 people reported in November 2015.
 - A recent assessment conducted by the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (SETSAN) reported that rates of global acute malnutrition (GAM) are reaching UN World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent in some areas of Mozambique, which is two to three times higher than the national average. Response actors report that households have exhausted their food stocks and are adopting various coping mechanisms, such as reducing the frequency of meals and food consumption. Less than 10 percent of households surveyed expect to be able to harvest cereals.
 - Although drought conditions persist in southern Mozambique and parts of central Mozambique, heavy rainfall affected Manica Province and parts of Sofala and Tete between March 12 and 21. Additionally, two river basins in the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado and Zambezia reached alert levels in late March, raising flood concerns. Heavy rainfall in Nampula and Niassa provinces damaged or destroyed more than 40 houses, affecting approximately 200 people.
 - On March 7, USAID/OFDA staff visited Maputo Province's Moamba District and found that the onset of drought conditions had reduced already poor access to safe water sources among rural households. An assessment conducted by the GRM found that soils in many drought-affected areas—particularly in Gaza and Inhambane—had high salt and mineral content, causing wells less than 100 meters—approximately 330 feet—deep to be unfit for human consumption. Affected households reported coping strategies including traveling in search of water supplies, reducing water use, and increasing dependence on unprotected water sources to meet their water needs.
 - The GRM had allocated more than \$1.8 million to provide food assistance and facilitate access to safe drinking water in Gaza and Maputo as of February 29. As of mid-March, the GRM had initiated water trucking in Maputo, relying on one 5,000-liter truck, but had not yet instituted a distribution quota per household. In April, the GRM released an additional \$6 million from its emergency contingency fund for other emergency drought response activities.
 - Through \$50,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), USAID/OFDA is reaching drought-affected populations in Maputo with chlorine tablets, safe drinking water, and water containers.
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SWAZILAND

- More than 300,000 people in Swaziland—approximately 25 percent of the country's population—required food assistance as of late March, which response actors expect to increase to approximately 530,000 by May, according to the UN. In addition, the WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—estimated that 320,000 people needed WASH assistance as of late March.
- The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland (GKoS) reported that drought conditions had resulted in the deaths of an estimated 64,000 cattle between January 2015 and March 2016. This figure represents a 45 percent increase from the 44,000 cattle deaths the GKoS had previously reported in February.
- Health facilities in Swaziland are attributing an influx of patients seeking medical attention for diarrheal diseases, malnutrition, and skin conditions to drought conditions, according to NGO The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund). Additionally, The Global Fund reports that HIV-affected populations' adherence to antiretroviral treatment has declined since June 2015, as HIV-affected individuals must take antiretroviral

medications with food and water. Swaziland has the world's highest prevalence of HIV-affected adults—26 percent of people between the ages of 15 and 49—according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- On March 31, UNICEF reported that nearly 8,500 children younger than five years of age in Swaziland are experiencing malnutrition, with more than 1,400 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and more than 7,000 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition.
- On February 18, the GKoS declared a national emergency due to the drought and issued an emergency response plan. As of early March, the GKoS had committed approximately \$6.5 million of \$80.5 million requested for the drought response.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting World Vision with \$50,000 to rehabilitate water supply systems in Lubombo Region's Lugongolweni District.

ZIMBABWE

- Zimbabwe is experiencing its second consecutive year of drought. In February, the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) estimated that more than 2.8 million people—or 30 percent of Zimbabwe's rural population—were food insecure. Response actors predict the number of people experiencing food insecurity will increase in the coming months, due to a well below average April-to-June harvest.
- The ZimVAC also reported that nearly 6 percent of children younger than five years of age were experiencing GAM—twice the average annual rate, and Zimbabwe's highest reported GAM level in 15 years. On March 31, UNICEF reported that the number of children admitted and treated in health care facilities for SAM increased from approximately 1,600 children in January to nearly 1,740 children in February, bringing the total number of children identified as experiencing SAM to nearly 5,100 from December–February.
- The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) declared a national disaster due to the drought on February 4, and issued an appeal for international support to meet emergency food needs and repair water infrastructure on February 9.
- From March 16–23, USAID staff met with officials and humanitarian organizations in the capital city of Harare and assessed conditions in southern Zimbabwe's Chivi, Gwanda, and Tsholotsho districts. The USAID assessment team identified food assistance, agriculture support, and nutrition and WASH interventions as critical needs.
- USAID/FFP has provided approximately \$9.1 million to WFP to address acute food insecurity through cash transfers for food, in-kind food assistance, and locally and regionally procured food for drought-affected populations in Zimbabwe. USAID/FFP assistance also supports activities to increase household resilience to drought. In exchange for cash or food transfers—dependent on food availability in markets—beneficiaries participate in activities to build or strengthen essential community infrastructure, including dams, dip tanks, and irrigation schemes. These structures help improve access to safe drinking water, prevent cattle disease, and protect livelihoods in areas where crop production relies on irrigation.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of April 1, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN to enable timely humanitarian assistance—had provided \$35.6 million since mid-2015 to organizations implementing drought response activities in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe; the UN reports that additional CERF funding for the region is in process.
- In Lesotho, the UN reported that CERF approved nearly \$4.8 million in funding for cash transfers, as well as health, nutrition, and WASH interventions. CERF is also providing \$4.7 million to FAO, UNICEF, and WFP in drought-affected areas of Mozambique for emergency food assistance, and agriculture and food security, nutrition, and WASH activities. WFP plans to provide 76,300 people in Mozambique with food assistance through June. Additionally, the UN has provided more than \$3.1 million from CERF to meet urgent food and water needs in Swaziland. The UN plans to support at least 95,000 people facing critical water shortages between April and June, and plans to provide food assistance to approximately 71,000 people through July.

CONTEXT

- Below-average rainfall—exacerbated by the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event—resulted in drought conditions throughout much of Southern Africa beginning in 2015, causing deteriorating agriculture, food security, livestock, nutrition, and WASH conditions.
- On February 29, 2016, U.S. Ambassador H. Dean Pittman declared a disaster due to the effects of drought in Mozambique. On March 9, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Susan M. Tuller declared a disaster due to the effects of drought and food insecurity in Swaziland. U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Robert K. Scott declared a disaster due to the effects of drought in Zimbabwe on March 16; on the same day, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Elizabeth A. Pelletreau declared a disaster due to the effects of drought and food insecurity in Lesotho.
- Prolonged drought since late 2014 in southern Madagascar has resulted in poor harvests and food insecurity. On December 4, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate redeclared a disaster due to the effects of drought in southern regions of Madagascar.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
IOM	WASH	Maputo, Mozambique	\$50,000
World Vision	WASH	Mafeteng and Mophale’s Hoek, Lesotho	\$50,000
		Lubombo and Shiselweni, Swaziland	\$50,000
	Program Support Costs		\$66,611
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$216,611
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	Local and Regional Procurement	Malawi	\$17,000,000
	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Malawi	\$21,106,200
	Cash Transfers for Food	Zimbabwe	\$2,100,000
	Local and Regional Procurement	Zimbabwe	\$1,000,000
	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Zimbabwe	\$5,292,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$47,158,300
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$47,374,911

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 8, 2016.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>