



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2010

Lesotho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline assessment for the Joint UN Nutrition programme started on 24 October 2010. Final results expected towards end of November. • Due to delayed start of the rainy season, planting started a month later than normal. As a result, the Food Security condition will have to be closely monitored in the coming months • No other information received for this period
Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of Madagascar has a higher chance of Normal to above normal rainfall, in southern drought prone areas recent high rainfall has been beneficial • According to a recent WFP/FAO CFSAM more than 2.5 million people will be expecting food shortages
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For October the overall food security situation remains good with government having reserves of maize. • Southern areas are in a more fragile state due to a poor agricultural season.
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over flooding in the coming months due to forecasted higher than normal rainfall and present high levels of rivers • Household food reserves are remaining good in all areas except southern provinces where 30% have less than 1 month remaining
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans in place for possible flooding in Caprivi region
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Price Index lowest in 5 years • Closing stock of maize at 3,374MT, enough to cover domestic and export demands.
Swaziland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite improve maize production Swaziland continues to import larger quantities of maize.
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally good food availability across the country helped by the record agricultural production for the period 2009/10
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing inflation rate to 4.2% due to increase in prices of food and utilities. • Beginning of the lean period of a concern in provinces in grain deficit areas.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: LESOTHO

Updated – October 2010

Highlights • No information received for this period

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
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SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MADAGASCAR

Updated – October 2010

Highlights

- Most of Madagascar has a higher chance of Normal to above normal rainfall, in southern drought prone areas recent high rainfall has been beneficial
- According to a recent WFP/FAO CFSAM more than 2.5 million people will be expecting food shortages

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated rice production to be at 4.8 million MT, a 5% increase over last year. (WFP/FAO) • Supply of cereals for this commercial campaign is estimated a surplus of 139,500 MT of rice, and 65,400 MT of tubercules. However there is a global cereal deficit of 66,100 MT resulting in the need to import maize and wheat. • Above average rainfall in the drought prone south this month is expected to benefit crops, Oct 2010, FEWSNET Hazard Impact Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets in the South Madagascar remain well provided with foodstuffs. They mainly come from villages outside SAP area. Rice is largely imported or mainly comes from <i>Ihosal, Fianarantsoa, Bezaha or Angaragy-Morombe</i>. Maize comes from <i>Tulear, Antsirabe or Fianarantsoa</i>. Fresh cassava and sweet potatoes come in all the SAP area while dry cassava is mostly from outside the SAP area. • In the other parts of the Island, availability of local rice starts to decrease. • Rice producing areas still have large stock of food which can cover household needs until the next harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particularly in the South, a higher price of livestock was noticed. It has rather improved the income of breeders. • In terms of prospects for food security, the situation can be considered near normal for most areas but the situation of chronic difficulties in the South Madagascar persists. • According to the recent WFP/FAO CFSAM, more than 2.5 million people are expected to be facing severe food insecurity during the coming lean season mainly in the drought affected South and on the Eastern Coast of the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent studies show that overall morbidity rates was 7.5%; for children <5 18% and 6% with the elderly, in the urban district of Antananarivo. • The Joint WFP/UNICEF Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Vulnerability Assessment is underway with preliminary findings expected in early December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to MCRAM 2010, more households are food secure in <i>Antananarivo</i> (65%) than in <i>Tulear</i> (60% in <i>Toliara</i>). • In those two cities, food security is closely linked to household head gender (Female headed households are more likely to be food insecure), marital status (non-legally married rather than legally) level of income (the less their level of income is, the more they are food insecure). • The National Meteorology Department is forecasting a very active 2010/11 cyclone season, based on the prevailing atmospheric and oceanic environmental conditions, which are very favourable to the formation and development of tropical storms. • According to the SARCOF forecasts for October to December, most of Madagascar has a 40% chance of normal rainfall and 35% chance of less than normal.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MALAWI

Updated – October 2010

- Highlights**
- For October the overall food security situation remains good with government having reserves of maize.
 - Southern areas are in a more fragile state due to a poor agricultural season.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Lower Shire Livelihood Zone the April harvest was very poor for both food production and cash crops, in October the harvest of sweet potatoes and maize grown in areas with residual soil moisture can provide some respite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National maize availability is expected to remain favourable in Malawi between October 2010 and March 2011, according to FEWSnet's Malawi Food Security Outlook. • The Government of Malawi in partnership with WFP, NGOs, & district assemblies begin in September a targeted free food distribution in the southern districts of Chikhwawa and Nsanje. • The ADMARC has 45,000 MT of maize as of mid-October, mostly from the 2008 harvest. The National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) has about 165,000 MT • The Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) committee approved 3,122MT for distribution. The distributions are underway in the two districts. The remaining tonnage has not yet been approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market are functioning normally and maize is available • Current maize prices remain stable despite a recent maize production deficit as a result of the significant crop production failures caused by the prolonged dry spell earlier this year in January and February (FEWSnet Malawi Outlook) • Between May and September average national maize prices increased only slightly from MWK 28.21/kg to MWK 28.27/kg; in the central region an increase from MWK 30.78/kg to 31.57/kg; in the southern region a similar increase from MWK 32.78/kg to MWK 33.37/kg • Poor household are experiencing difficulties in accessing food due to reduced incomes from cotton sales and casual labour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CFSVA study conducted by the MVAC with WFP support found lower levels of wasting in the North (2.6%) compared to Central (3.9%) and South (3.6%) similar pattern were observed for underweight (9.6%). Prevalence of underweight was highest in the South (12.2%) followed by Central (10.7%) regions. The prevalence of stunting, however, was highest in the North (65.3%) compared to the Central (57.6%) and Southern (59.1%) regions. • For women, 9.2% had a BMI of less than 18.5 kg/m², 9% were underweight (< 45 kgs) and 4% were stunted (< 145 cms). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) has projected a La Nina rainfall year in Malawi. The department has also warned of flood hazards associated with normal to above normal rains in low lying flood prone areas.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MOZAMBIQUE

Updated – October 2010

Highlights

- Concerns over flooding in the coming months due to forecasted higher than normal rainfall and present high levels of rivers
- Household food reserves are remaining good in all areas except southern provinces where 30% have less than 1 month remaining

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late planted crops combined with the off-season rains in April and May and government efforts to intensify the second cropping season have produce good results. (FEWSNET outlook Oct 2010) • The Maputo river is above alert level and caused small floods in agriculture fields of lower lands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of Vulnerability Analysis conducted in August 2010 indicate that the food security and nutrition situation did not deteriorate much in comparison to last year, • According to the weekly SIMA bulletin (22 October), the quantities of maize available decreased in some of the main markets. • Household food reserves are for about 6 months on average in the north and 3 months in other provinces. In the southern provinces 30% of all households have less than one month food reserves, while in the Northern provinces this represents 10% of households (Moz VAC August 2010). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The period August to September staple food prices for maize, beans, and groundnuts increased according to the seasonal trend. • Urban populations are still complaining about the price of bread, the bakeries reduced the weight/size of bread to adjust to the increase in prices of raw materials. (daily Newspapers). • The cost of the basic food basket for a 5 member household increased by 30% mainly in the southern provinces compared to 2009 cost (Moz VA August 2010). • The informal cross border trade from Mozambique to Zambia and Malawi is still the highest of the region, representing 54% of the total during the period April-June 2010 (Moz VA August 2010). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MultiSectoral National Plan for Stunting Reduction, was approved by Council of Ministers in 29 September 2010. The operational plan for 2011 was prepared and submitted to the Government for budget approval • Recent data on HIV/AIDS prevalence (INSIDA2009) published by Ministry of Health indicates a real prevalence of 11.5% at national level. The highest prevalence of HIV was in Gaza province (25%) where 30% of women 15-49 years of age are infected. • According to the VAC there were 66% with adequate diet 23% in borderline and 11% with poor diet nationally. With the central provinces of Tete and Manica having more people with a poor diet (Moz VAC August 2010). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP Mozambique is in the process of producing District Food Security and Nutrition Profiles and Risk Mapping of 10 districts in 2010. • Accordingly to the National Institute of Meteorology, the weather forecast for Mozambique is said to be above normal to normal rainfall for northern parts of central provinces; normal rainfall for northern, southern provinces and southern parts of central provinces; and normal to below normal to northern parts of northern provinces is predicted for the period of October to December 2010. • The forecast for water levels in rivers for the period October to December 2010 is high risk (red alert) for Maputo basin; medium risk (orange alert) for Umbelúzi, Incomáti, Limpopo, Búzi, Púngoè, Licungo, Zambeze and Rovuma river basins; and low risk (green alert) for costal basins of Inhambane and north of Gaza, Save, Lúrio, Messalo and Montepuez (DNA, 2010).



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: NAMIBIA

Updated – October 2010

- Highlights**
- Plans in place for possible flooding in Caprivi region

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
•	•	•	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Simulation exercise in Caprivi region held from the 17th to 22nd October • 2009 Namibia Flood Season Lessons learned and Review Exercise held • Namibia is expected to have higher chances of receiving normal to above normal rainfall during the 2010/11 season. This area has had floods in the past 2 season and is putting into place a contingency plan to prepare for any likely events.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: SOUTH AFRICA

Updated – October 2010

- Highlights**
- Consumer Price Index lowest in 5 years
 - Closing stock of maize at 3,374MT, enough to cover domestic and export demands.

Agricultural Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited rainfall has been reported for the country • The estimated area of maize to be planted for the 2010/2011 season is estimated at 2,468 million ha, with is 10% less than last year. • Estimated production is 1,571 million tones, which is 19.77% less than last year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projected closing stock of maize for 2010/11 marketing season is 3,374 million tonnes. Enough to cover both local demand and export. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual inflation rate in September 2010 was 3.2%, the lowest in almost 5 years. • The food and non-alcoholic beverages index decreased by 0.2% between August and September 2010. This was largely derived by decreases in prices of vegetables, milk, eggs and cheese. • There was an annual percentage change in the Producer Price Index (PPI) of 6.8%, this rate was lower than the corresponding annual rate of 7.8% in August 2010. the lower rate is partly due to the reduction in the cost of agricultural production. • Futures contract prices for white maize: R1,274/MT (-0.55% decrease from September). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPC analysis of Gauteng province carried out, results soon to be produced



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: SWAZILAND

Updated – October 2010

Highlights

- Despite improve maize production Swaziland continues to import larger quantities of maize.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projected Maize production has increased from 70,672 MT last year to 75,068 MT forecasted for the current marketing season (2010/2011). This can be attributed to an increase in the area planted; however the yield per hectare remained low and in some areas is lower than 2009/10 season. • Cotton delivered to the Ginnery increased by almost 50% compared to the 2008/09 marketing season. The major contribution was from the Lowveld, thus improvement in cotton sales improved lowveld farmers' access to cash for purchasing food. • Winter has been very making it difficult for livestock to have access to water. The October to December forecasts are stating that there is an increased chance of normal to above normal rainfall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the improved maize production last season, commercial imports continued to be received. Between July and September 2010 total maize imported amounted to 6,617 MT. • Other imported commodities include wheat (10736MT), Rice (2282MT) and potatoes (588MT) to meet domestic cereal and starch requirements. • The government of Swaziland has started food distributions for this lean season. The food will be distributed to 20 constituencies of the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a decrease of 1.1% in food prices in the second quarter of 2010, this was a against a 2% growth in the first quarter. • The price of fuel has remained unchanged during the quarter ending in September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry of health has launched a measles campaign whereby all children under the age of 5 years will be immunised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Swazi VAC annual assessment report reveals that an estimated 161,000 people are faced with a food deficit up to the next expected harvest in 2011. • The country has developing an MDG report; the objective of this report is to outline the extent of progress towards MDG achievement in Swaziland as at year 2010. UN agencies are also in the process of compiling a report highlighting how they contribute to the achievement of the MDGS in the country.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE: ZAMBIA

Updated – October 2010

Highlights • Generally good food availability across the country helped by the record agricultural production for the period 2009/10

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimated 2,800,000 MT of maize has been recorded for the 2009/10 agricultural season, representing a 48% increase from last season. • The area of maize being planted was 14% with increases in yields averaging 2.1MT/ha an, with increases in rice and sorghum production being noted. • Wheat production noted a drop of 12% with a balance sheet surplus of 10,352 MT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize prices have continued to be stable in most parts of the country. This is directly attributed to the bumper harvest that the country has recorded during the 2010/2011 consumption season • Food availability in this late stage of the season is good due to the availability of stocks at the household level and in public markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maize prices have been falling as is usual for the season. They are expected to rise from this period onwards due to the lean period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seasonal forecast from the Department of Meteorology indicated a likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall in the southern half of the country. Given the excessive rains received in these areas last season, there is a chance of localized flooding should above-normal rainfall occur in flood prone areas.



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: ZIMBABWE

Updated – October 2010

- Highlights**
- Increasing inflation rate to 4.2% due to increase in prices of food and utilities.
 - Beginning of the lean period of a concern in provinces in grain deficit areas.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 956,000 HHs (out of around 1.5 million rural HHs) are planned to benefit from crop input assistance for the 2010-11 farming season. About 19 donors and 70 NGOs are targeting 556,000 HHs with US\$52 million while the government is targeting 400,000 HHs under its US\$30 million input programme. • Harvesting of the winter wheat has started, with very low yields of 30,000Mt (less than the annual need of 450,000Mt) being expected from 12,367 ha planted. The target was 60,000 ha • There is enough local maize seed to put 1.9 million ha under maize, an increase of 9% from last year, assuming no major replanting • The GMB is accepting maize grain from farmers in exchange for fertilizer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP's monthly Food Security Monitoring System indicated 62% of sampled rural wards reporting the majority of HHs having exhausted own harvested stocks at the end of Sept / beginning Oct 2010. This was up from 51% at the start of Sept. • The lean period has started with most household in the traditionally grain deficit provinces of Masvingo, Matabeleland, the extreme western areas, and northern areas of the country how run out of their own cereal stocks and are already reliant on inadequate and erratic maize supplies on the market. (FEWSNET FS Outlook, Oct 2010) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food distributions by WFP and its cooperating partners have started in selected districts with close to 550,000 people being targeted in October under the VGF/FFA. • Maize grain is selling between US\$0.11-0.22/kg in grain surplus districts. In grain deficit districts the prices range from US\$0.29-0.46/kg or above. • In September the food basket was US\$129.56 (or 27%) of the total expected HH monthly expenses of US\$483.88 consumer basket (Consumer Council of Zimbabwe). Monthly salaries in most sectors of the economy are less than US\$200. • Government has availed funding to support about 221 000 individuals under phase 1 of the food deficit mitigation strategy in 6 districts (Chivi, Kariba, Mberengwa, Zvishavane, Umguza and Gwanda). The assistance is valued at US\$20 per month per HH enough to buy between 50Kg to 70Kg of maize grain at the current prices in maize deficit areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In mid-October, an outbreak of suspected swine flu (H1N1) was reported in Tsholotsho district in Matabeleland North province, with schools being mostly affected. The district authorities are considering banning public gatherings which could impact on planned food aid distributions. Government has assured the public of its preparedness to contain the outbreak. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government has launched a scheme for farmers (mainly A2 and other large scale farmers) not targeted under its US\$30 million input programme to be able to access loans through the banks. • The Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe predicted the start of the 2010-11 rainfall season during the last week of October. It also issued out flood warnings in flood prone areas in the northern parts of the country where normal to above normal rains were expected. • The Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency has reported that year on year inflation quickened to 4.2% in September from 3.6% in August. Month-on-month inflation was at 0.1% from -0.1% in August. Figures showed that rising food, beverages and utility prices drove inflation higher



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