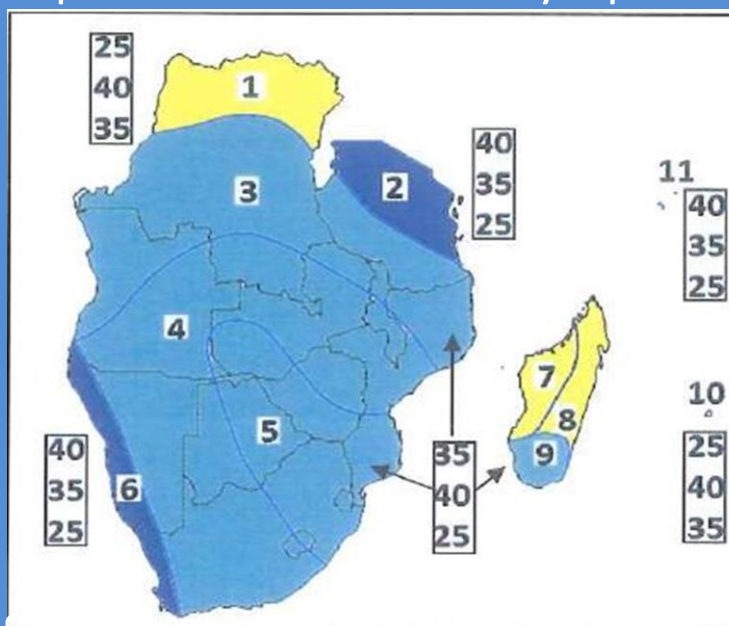


Issue

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Food & Nutrition Security Working Group

September 2014 Monthly Update



Regional Update (updated 15th of September 2014)

As reported in the statement from [SARCOF 18](#), the bulk of southern Africa region is likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall during most part of the cropping season going from October 2014 to March 2015. The only exceptions are the northern tip of DRC, Angola and northern region of Madagascar that are likely to have normal to below normal rains during the first quarter of the season (October to December 2014).

For the November – December 2014 period most of the countries in the region are likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall, while the greater part of DRC and the northern tip of Angola are likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall.

There are localized variations from country to country that are mostly driven by local factors. Examples are the southern Zimbabwe, Southern Mozambique, parts of Malawi and Zambia and the whole of Lesotho and most parts of Botswana that usually receive normal to below normal rains. Normal rains in these areas are within the range of 200 to 400 mm/ year which is substantially below the water requirements of main staples (for example maize which requires 600 mm of well distributed rainfall).

COUNTRY ANALYSIS

DRC

The food security situation in the DRC remains globally precarious. Despite the relative changes observed in South Irumu (Province Oriental) and the North Kivu province since the dismantling of the M23 rebel movement.

The results of the June 2014 IPC analysis show that about 4.1 million people are still affected by acute food insecurity. Areas of concern are the central part of the Katanga province called "triangle of death"(territories of Pweto, Manono and Mitwaba) and Punia territory in Maniema province. These areas were classified Phase 4 (Emergency) and a total of 18 territories located in the provinces of Katanga, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale were classified phase 3 (Crisis).

Lesotho

Most rural households in the country are currently facing Minimal acute food insecurity outcomes (IPC Phase 1), meeting their basic food needs through purchases at adequately stocked markets and through own-produced foods. Staple food prices have started to increase in line with seasonal trends. This trend is likely to reduce the purchasing power of poor, market-dependent households, particularly between October and December. Combined with poor production and reduced income opportunities, this will likely result in poor households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity outcomes during that period.

Ongoing government and partner safety-net programs are also contributing to adequate food access for the chronically food-insecure households. Safety-net programs are currently benefiting 226,000 people.

The SARCOF-18 Statement indicates that the country has increased chances of normal to above normal rainfall. Little rain and snowfall were received in some parts of the country following dry conditions during winter season. Planting of main crops; maize, sorghum, wheat, beans and peas in the highlands was not significant during the month of August. It is expected that the majority of farmers will plant in September which marks the end of the planting time in this region.

Mozambique

The food security situation in the majority of the rural households across the country is stable, including areas in the Limpopo Basin affected by mild floods in February/March 2014. Acute food insecurity outcomes will remain Minimal (IPC Phase 1) from now until December.

Food prices in monitored markets between June and July were consistent with the seasonal trends. Maize grain prices generally remain near or below the five-year average and below last year's prices. Bean prices have remained stable or decreased though still remain above-average in some markets. As typical, imported and locally produced rice prices remain stable.

Zambia

Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity outcomes are projected across the country through December, given the above-average harvest, seasonally declining staple food prices, and good market supply.

Maize and roller maize meal prices are showing typical post-harvest seasonal declines, providing relief to market-dependent consumers. However, maize and maize meal prices remain above the five-year average due to increased production, transportation, and processing costs.

The Food Reserve Agency (FRA) has intensified its maize buying program and has already purchased 78 percent of the targeted 500,000 MT strategic reserve. Farmers are also selling their produce to traders who are providing ready cash, enabling them to purchase inputs for the next production season that begins in October.

Some households in areas of concern in western Zambia have depleted own food stocks and are employing normal livelihood strategies for accessing food and incomes. Eligible households will likely start receiving government food assistance by September.

Zimbabwe

Most households including the very poor are experiencing Minimal acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 1) as cereals and other food items are readily available from their own production and are being supplemented by market purchases.

National average maize grain prices for July are five percent lower than the two year average, though they remain higher than the five-year average. Increasing market supplies and current trends are expected to result in price stability and favourable purchasing power particularly between November and December. Income from typical off-farm activities including brick moulding, construction work, and selling thatch grass are stable and increasing, further improving household access to food and livelihood needs.

Malawi

The country has registered a 9% increase of cereal production as compared to last season's estimate. In spite of surplus production during 2013/14 growing season, pocket areas in 19 districts experienced a combination of late onset of rains, early cessation of rains, erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and flooding. These factors have led households in pocket areas not to meet their food requirements. Total number of people who will not be able to meet their annual food requirement and need humanitarian assistance during the 2014/15 consumption period is 640,009. The duration of assistance to the affected people varies from two to four months.

A market assessment was carried out by MVAC in collaboration with WFP, FEWSNET, Save the Children, OXFAM, Christian Aid and other members to determine maize market functionality during the 2014/2015 consumption year and make recommendations per Traditional Authority on the appropriate response interventions (cash or food). *Official report to be released.*

Important Events in 2014

Event	Dates	Venue	Contact Organization
Regional IPC Level 2 Training	15 to 19 September	Johannesburg, South Africa	SADC RVAA
Zimbabwe IPC Chronic Roll-Out Awareness-raising	23 September	Harare, Zimbabwe	SADC RVAA
Training on IPC Chronic ISS Platform	24 to 26 September	Harare, Zimbabwe	SADC RVAA
Urban Assessment Lesson Learning Workshop	September (Dates TBC)	Maseru, Lesotho	SADC RVAA
RVAC Technical Meeting	September (Dates TBC)	Johannesburg, South Africa	SADC RVAA
Mozambique IPC Level 1 Training and Acute Analysis	30 September to 7 October	Maputo, Mozambique	SADC RVAA
Malawi IPC Level 1 Training and Acute Analysis	5 to 13 October	Lilongwe, Malawi	SADC RVAA
Zimbabwe IPC Chronic Training and Analysis	20 to 29 October	Harare, Zimbabwe	SADC RVAA
World Humanitarian Summit: East and Southern Africa Regional Consultation Meeting	26 to 28 October	Pretoria, South Africa	SADC/IGAD
Regional Conference on VAA and Climate Change	October (Dates TBC)	Seychelles	SADC RVAA
Urban Assessment and Analysis Training	October to November (Dates TBC)	Harare, Zimbabwe	WFP/Oxfam
Annual Organizational Meeting	December	Harare, Zimbabwe	SADC RVAA

The Food Security Update is jointly produced by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group – Southern Africa. The overall mission of the Group is to contribute to enhanced programming for improved Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in southern Africa.

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