



# DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for  
International  
Development

Washington D.C.  
20523

## BOTSWANA - Drought

Date: 1982 - 1987

Location: Nationwide, except for Chobe District

No. Dead: Not reported

No. Affected: 671,000

### The Disaster

For the sixth consecutive year, Botswana experienced below normal rainfall. Rains in October and November were adequate, but between December and April they failed almost completely. Six years of drought have caused the water table to drop significantly and many borehole wells and watering holes had dried up. Cereal production for the year amounted to approximately 30,000 MT, far short of the 260,000 MT needed to feed the country's population. As a result, Botswana had to import approximately 190,000 MT and appeal for 40,000 MT in emergency food aid.

Large numbers of rural families were driven into deeper levels of poverty as a result of the continued loss of crops and livestock. Of the 671,000 people receiving emergency food assistance in 1987, 252,000 were school children, 400,000 belonged to other vulnerable groups, and 19,000 lived in remote areas. However, as a result of government feeding programs, the percentage of malnourished children under five years of age fell from 18 percent to 16 percent.

### Action Taken by the Government of Botswana (GOB)

On April 8, 1987, President Masire declared the sixth consecutive year of drought and appealed to the international community for continued assistance. The GOB's drought relief program continued to support the following components: supplementary feeding of vulnerable groups, a labor-based relief program to provide income to an estimated 230,000 people unemployed as a result of the drought, and an agricultural recovery project which provided water, seeds, stockfeed, and livestock vaccine to farmers and herd owners.

Assistance Provided the United States Government

On April 9, U.S. Ambassador Natale Bellocchi declared a drought disaster in Botswana for the sixth year in a row. Ambassador Bellocchi contributed \$25,000 to the Handstamping Project, part of the GOB's labor-based relief program. The Handstamping Project paid rural women to pound sorghum into flour for the supplementary feeding program.

Following the GOB's appeal and the recommendation of a USAID/ Gaborone food needs assessment team, A.I.D.'s Office of Food for Peace allocated 21,440 MT of CSM for the GOB/WFP supplementary feeding program. The commodity cost was valued at \$5,375,000 and ocean freight and inland transport costs totaled \$2,526,000.

Total OFDA.....	\$25,000
Total FFP.....	\$7,901,000
	<u>TOTAL \$7,926,000</u>

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

EEC - donated well drilling equipment, valued at \$392,000.

UNDP - contributed \$38,000 for agricultural and meteorological equipment.

United Kingdom - donated \$360,000 to purchase seeds.

WFP - provided food for the GOB's supplementary feeding program.

	<u>TOTAL \$790,000</u>
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