



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

SOUTHERN AFRICA – Complex Food Security Crisis

Situation Report # 5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

June 7, 2002

Note: This Situation Report updates Southern Africa Complex Food Security Crisis Situation Report # 4 dated May 31, 2002.

BACKGROUND

Southern Africa is currently facing a regional food security crisis, due to a combination of adverse climate conditions for two consecutive growing seasons in a number of countries, mismanagement of grain reserves in some countries, and questionable government policies, primarily in Zimbabwe. During the past production season, unusually dry conditions extended across much of the region, from southern Zambia eastward to southern Mozambique, resulting in crop failures and limited production in many areas. Normally, food stocks carried over from the previous year help offset production shortfalls. This year, however, regional stocks are exceptionally low, as they were drawn down to fill the previous year's food shortages. Zimbabwe is on the verge of a serious food crisis, with almost half the population at risk. The potential for humanitarian food crises also exists in Malawi and Zambia. Poor and vulnerable households in Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho will also require humanitarian assistance. Although final production estimates are still pending from most countries, preliminary estimates from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) indicate an overall maize deficit of 3.22 million metric tons (MT) within the SADC region. The governments of several countries in Southern Africa have declared national disasters due to actual and anticipated food shortages, including Malawi (February 27), Lesotho (April 22), Zimbabwe (April 30), and Zambia (May 28). Early reports indicate that the crisis may be similar in magnitude to the 1995-1996 drought, which affected approximately six million people. To date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided almost \$52.7 million in emergency humanitarian assistance in response to the food security crisis through the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The majority of the humanitarian assistance has been emergency food relief provided by USAID/FFP.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

NUMBERS AFFECTED	
COUNTRY	POPULATION REQUIRING EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE DURING 2002/2003
LESOTHO	444,800
MALAWI	3.2 MILLION
MOZAMBIQUE	515,000
SWAZILAND	144,000
ZAMBIA	1.7 MILLION
ZIMBABWE	6.07 MILLION

Sources. For Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe, the source is the WFP and FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions. For Zambia, the source is the USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA assessment to Zambia in May 2002.

Note that these figures are cumulative figures for the number of people who will require emergency food assistance during the course of the April 2002 to March 2003 consumption year. Not all the affected people require immediate assistance nor will they necessarily require assistance throughout the year.

FOOD NEEDS IN AFFECTED COUNTRIES				
Annual Corn (or Cereal) Needs¹	Production Forecast (MT)	Deficit (MT)	Estimated Commercial Imports (MT)	Estimated Humanitarian Need (MT)
Zimbabwe (corn)				
2,185,000	480,000	1,705,000	360,000	1,345,000
Malawi (corn)				
2,206,000	1,721,000	485,000	225,000	208,000
Zambia (corn)				
1,250,000	620,000	630,000	480,000	150,000
Lesotho (cereal)				
412,000	74,000	338,000	191,000	147,000
Mozambique (corn)				
1,400,000	1,240,000	120,000	70,000	50,000
Swaziland (cereal)				
188,000	77,000	111,000	96,000	15,000

¹Note that where possible, USAID will use figures for corn (maize). If figures on corn are not available, USAID will use figures for cereals. All figures are in MT.

Sources: For Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, and Lesotho, the source is the WFP and FAO Crop and Food Supply Assessment reports released on May 29, 2002. For Mozambique, the source is the WFP/FAO Food Supply and Crop Assessment report released on June 4, 2002. For Zambia, the source is USAID/FFP.

Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Southern Africa.....\$52,667,388

CURRENT SITUATION

Regional. Joint U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions, working with SADC's Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Office and USAID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET) have been recently completed in the six worst affected countries in the region. USAID staff participated as observers in the WFP/FAO assessments in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The purpose of these missions was to assess the 2001/2002 production season, estimate the level of existing food stocks, review the overall supply situation, and develop a national food balance sheet indicating the magnitude of the food gap. The assessment also provided preliminary estimates of the number of people who will require food assistance, where they are located, and the likely timing and magnitude of food aid requirements during the April 2002 to March 2003 consumption year.

On June 4, WFP and FAO released the preliminary results of their joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to Mozambique, in which USAID staff participated. WFP and FAO released the results of the assessments in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. The results of the Zambia assessment are expected in the coming weeks. The

assessments reveal that at least 10 million people in these countries are threatened by potential food insecurity. WFP and FAO reported that the most severely affected countries are Zimbabwe and Malawi, where almost six million and 3.2 million people, respectively, will face food shortages in the course of the coming year. According to WFP and FAO, nearly 4 million MT of emergency food assistance will need to be imported during the next year to meet the minimum food needs of the region's population. WFP and FAO also indicated that of this total, at least 1.2 million MT are needed immediately.

Although the recent April-June harvests are expected to provide short-term relief for some households, many vulnerable households will continue to require emergency assistance. Significant increases in the price of maize have undermined access to food for large segments of the population within the region. The food security situation in the second half of 2002 and into early 2003 is expected to significantly worsen in the region.

The Toll of HIV/AIDS. High rates of HIV/AIDS in much of the region leave large portions of the population increasingly vulnerable to health problems associated with food shortages, including malnutrition and endemic

diseases, such as cholera and malaria. In addition, the increased incidence of HIV/AIDS in rural communities has two pronounced effects. The first is reduced income because sick members of the household are unable to perform agricultural or wage labor. The second is the additional cost burden of caring for the sick and paying for funerals and other obligatory expenses. The net effect is that households have even less income and fewer capable household members to produce food or generate income with which to buy food

In response to the ongoing HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Southern Africa region, USAID's Africa Bureau (USAID/AFR) is supporting HIV/AIDS prevention, control, care, and support initiatives, as well as programs for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children, in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. USAID/AFR also supports a regional HIV/AIDS program in Southern Africa that focuses on cross-border activities in the region.

Logistical Challenges. The limited capacity of the region's governments and the private sector to effectively utilize transport corridors and logistics infrastructure could hamper the ability of SADC countries and the international relief community to implement a large-scale response to the food security situation. WFP, the lead humanitarian food aid logistics agency, and other partners including the USG are conducting detailed surveys of the region's logistics corridors and formulating recommendations for prioritizing cargo and utilizing the best routes.

Lesotho. The major causes of the current food security crisis in Lesotho include poor cereal crop production due to two years of drought followed by unseasonably heavy rains at the beginning of the growing season. Hailstorms, pest infestations, and poor soil management also negatively affected agricultural production. This is the third consecutive year of reduced harvests. WFP and FAO estimated that a total of 444,800 people throughout Lesotho would require emergency food assistance.

Malawi. The primary cause of the current food security crisis in Malawi is low production during the 2001/2002 growing season, which followed a mediocre 2000/2001 harvest. The most severely affected parts of Malawi include sections of the central, southern, and Lakeshore regions; where a mid-season dry spell reduced corn yields. Corn grain availability was also lower due to early harvesting of green corn for immediate consumption. Another important cause of the crisis is the lack of grain reserves to draw upon; between August 2000 and August 2001 the Government of Malawi sold 167,000 MT of the corn reserves. WFP and FAO estimated that up to 3.2 million people would be affected by food shortages by the end of the coming year.

U.S. Ambassador Roger A. Meece declared a disaster for Malawi on March 8 due to the drought-related food

security crisis. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Lilongwe, which was combined with \$37,000 in development funds, to enable Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to divert 630 MT of P.L. 480 Title II development food stocks to support new supplementary feeding activities. Medecins Sans Frontieres/Luxembourg (MSF/L), Save the Children/United States (SCF/US), and CADECOM (local CARITAS) are implementing the supplementary feeding activities. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Lilongwe to the Malawian Red Cross to address the medical needs of those affected by a cholera outbreak that was aggravated by malnutrition resulting from current food shortages.

USAID/FFP provided 16,490 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at \$8,900,600, which are now in route to Malawi. USDA contributed 3,000 MT of Section 416(b) emergency food commodities, valued at approximately \$1,243,382.

Mozambique. The causes of the current food security crisis in Mozambique include a drought, which has reduced the 2002 harvest in the southern region of the country, and flooding in 2000, which caused widespread devastation and the loss of household assets, leaving the population of the south extremely vulnerable. Total crop failure this year is reported in many parts of the south and partial crop loss in areas of central Mozambique. In the north, Mozambique has an exportable surplus, which is estimated to be 100,000 MT. However, with poor infrastructure, including no viable transport route across the Zambezi River, the surplus production from Northern Mozambique cannot easily be moved to deficit areas in the South. Instead, it will be exported to Malawi, which is a traditional practice in the region. WFP and FAO report that approximately 515,000 people are expected to be affected by the food shortages.

In response to the food security situation, USAID/FFP provided 9,890 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at \$4,791,300, which are currently in route to Mozambique.

Swaziland. The major causes of the current food security crisis in Swaziland include a poor 2001/2002 cereal harvest resulting from a mid-season dry spell at the critical maturing stage, two previous years of reduced harvests, low levels of grain reserves, and inadequate imports. Crop levels have also been affected by the lack of an effective policy for the optimal use of land. In addition, family income has been negatively affected by the high incidence rates of HIV/AIDS among wage earners, as well as from reduced employment opportunities in South Africa. According to WFP and FAO, approximately 144,000 people in Lowveld, Middleveld, and Lubombo Plateau will need emergency food assistance. However, WFP and FAO caution that the needed duration for food assistance will vary among

vulnerable groups, therefore, careful food aid targeting and phasing is required.

Zambia. The primary cause of the current food security crisis is low production from the recently completed (2001/2002) growing season, due to drought in the Southern and Eastern portion of the country, which followed a poor corn harvest last year (2000/2001). Two years of poor harvests, and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, have caused the traditional coping mechanisms of the Zambian extended family to become overwhelmed. According to USAID/FFP and USAID/FFP estimates, Zambia will produce 620,000 MT of corn, while the annual corn consumption needs are 1,260,000 MT. This leaves a corn deficit of 630,000 MT. Commercial imports of corn are estimated to be 480,000 MT, which results in a humanitarian need of 150,000 MT. Based on the findings of their assessment in Zambia, conducted in May, USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA estimated that 1.7 to 2 million rural people will be unable to meet their food needs during the coming months. Currently, Zambia does not have a grain reserve, although legislation is in place authorizing a three-month reserve.

USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA also report that international agencies predict the onset of the “hungry” season in Zambia, which typically occurs shortly before the annual corn crop is harvested beginning in March/April, will occur this year as early as August, as more and more households face complete depletion of their food stocks.

In response to the food security situation, USAID/FFP provided 8,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at \$2,966,100, which are now in route to Zambia. In addition, USDA contributed 15,000 MT of Section 416 (b) food commodities, valued at \$7,093,354.

Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, a combination of factors, including drought, price controls, foreign exchange restrictions, and the government’s expropriation of land from commercial farms have contributed to the food security crisis. In the southern section of Zimbabwe, which is not where the bulk of Zimbabwe’s food is grown, there have now been three consecutive years of low rainfall, resulting in reduced crop production or total crop failure. In addition, high rates of HIV/AIDS have exacerbated the effects of the drought by both reducing the income a family brings in, and by increasing the costs to the household. According to WFP and FAO, approximately 6 million people in Zimbabwe are expected to be affected by the food shortages; this is almost half of the population.

FEWS NET reported that food prices normally drop at this time of year as the harvest reaches the market. While prices had initially dropped in some areas, according to FEWS NET, an increasing number of people are being

priced out of the food market as staple food prices begin to rise.

In addition, FEWS NET reported that cattle and goat prices continue to decline relative to those of maize grain in southern Zimbabwe. For example, in the Zambezi valley areas of Mount Darwin District, income from a sale of one goat was sufficient to buy over 100kg of maize last June, compared to 54kg of maize at this time. This means that the rural households in the southern part of Masvingo Province and most of Matebeleland South and North Provinces—which depend on livestock income for their livelihoods—will find it increasingly difficult to purchase maize grain when it is available on the market.

There have been reports of instances of food distributions being politicized. WFP is investigating reports in three districts that the beneficiary registration process was influenced by party affiliation. WFP has suspended the distributions in those districts until the situation is resolved.

In response to the food security situation, USAID/FFP provided 34,430 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at \$22,589,600, through WFP and World Vision International (WVI) to support 633,000 beneficiaries. In addition, USDA contributed 8,500 MT of Section 416 (b) food commodities valued at approximately \$4,958,052.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of 2002, the USG has provided almost \$52.7 million in emergency humanitarian assistance in response to the food security crisis, including 96,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II and Section 416 (b) emergency food commodities. In addition, USAID/FFP is in the process of procuring an additional 36,450 MT of emergency food commodities, valued at approximately \$16 million, for future use in the region.

In addition to these contributions, USAID/FFP, USAID/OFDA, and FEWS NET are actively monitoring the development of the food security crisis through regular USAID field assessments and participation in wider assessments conducted by the international humanitarian community.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>Malawi</u>				
USAID				\$9,025,600
USAID/OFDA				\$125,000
	USAID/Lilongwe	Supplementary Feeding		\$25,000
	Malawian Red Cross	Health		\$100,000
USAID/FFP				\$8,900,600
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 16,940 MT		\$8,900,600
USDA				\$1,243,382
	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance – 3,000 MT		\$1,243,382
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI.....				\$10,268,982
<u>Mozambique</u>				
USAID				\$4,791,300
USAID/FFP				\$4,791,300
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 9,890 MT		\$4,791,300
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO Mozambique				\$4,791,300
<u>Zambia</u>				
USAID				\$2,966,100
USAID/FFP				\$2,966,100
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 8,500 MT		\$2,966,100
USDA.....				\$7,093,354
	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance –15,000 MT		\$7,093,354
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Zambia.....				\$10,059,454
<u>Zimbabwe</u>				
USAID				\$22,589,600
USAID/FFP				\$22,589,600
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 20,120 MT		\$13,241,600
	WVI	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 14,310 MT		\$9,348,000
USDA.....				\$4,958,052
	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance –8,500 MT		\$4,958,052
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe				\$27,547,652
<u>Regional Assistance Summary</u>				
USAID				\$39,372,600
USAID/OFDA				\$125,000
USAID/FFP				\$39,247,600
USDA.....				\$13,294,788
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Southern Africa Crisis.....				\$52,667,388



Tamra Halmrast-Sanchez
Acting Director, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.htm

