**Overview 2011/12 Crop Production Season**
- Regional cereal harvest (maize, rice, wheat, sorghum and millet) dropped by 4% in 2012 compared to 2011, but still 5% above five year average.
- 2012 harvest lowest in past 3 years.
- Compared to 2011 harvest, all countries experienced a decrease in cereal production except Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania, estimated to have some increases.

**Overview 2012/13 Marketing Year: Cereal Balance**
- Overall regional maize surplus of 57,000 metric tonnes projected in current marketing year, down 98% from 2.73 million tonnes in 2011/12 marketing year.
- Projection of maize grain deficit in all countries, except Malawi, RSA, Tanzania and Zambia.
- Threat of acute food insecurity projected in localized deficit areas, especially in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.
- Increased demand by regional and international buyers of the projected maize grain surplus is expected to raise prices significantly.

**Malnutrition Rates in the Region**
- Total food insecure population up *40%* from last year.
- Malnutrition levels remain very high in the region, particularly stunting, indicating chronic food and nutrition insecurity.
- Certain areas perennially have food insecure populations indicating chronic vulnerability.
- Despite overall declining trend of food insecure population, the last 3 years show an increasing trend.
- Late onset and prolonged dry spells resulted in depressed production in many parts of the region.
- Among the total food insecure populations, there are some populations that need immediate humanitarian assistance.

**Recommendations**
- Immediate humanitarian assistance required in some food insecure populations.
- Continued emphasis on social protection and safety nets to address chronic vulnerability required.
- Local/regional procurement encouraged to promote increased production.
- Small holder irrigation technologies encouraged to reduce reliance on rain fed agriculture.
- Enhance infrastructure development for improved market access.
- Agriculture subsidy programmes encouraged, however changing climatic conditions should be considered.
- Food and nutrition security programmes to be scaled up to reverse high prevalence of malnutrition.
- DRR to be streamlined in policies and programming to mitigate effects of climate change.
- SADC Member state encouraged to facilitate inter-country trade of food crops, livestock and fishery products from surplus areas to deficit areas, particularly the removal of export bans.

**Key Findings**
- Total food insecure population up *40%* from last year.
- Malnutrition levels remain very high in the region, particularly stunting, indicating chronic food and nutrition insecurity.
- Certain areas perennially have food insecure populations indicating chronic vulnerability.
- Despite overall declining trend of food insecure population, the last 3 years show an increasing trend.
- Late onset and prolonged dry spells resulted in depressed production in many parts of the region.
- Among the total food insecure populations, there are some populations that need immediate humanitarian assistance.

**Food Insecure Population 2012/13**

**Food Insecure Population as Percentage of Total Population**

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