

Issue

5

Food & Nutrition Security Working Group

June 2014 Monthly Update



Picture Courtesy of Bbdlive.co.za



Regional Update (updated 13th of June 2014)

According to the latest SADC Agro-meteorological report of 30 May 2014, the season ended well in many parts of the region with good, well distributed rains. The good rains received in many parts of the region have led to above average harvest prospects in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Malawi and Mozambique are also expecting good production despite the late onset of rains and localized mid-season dryness experienced earlier. The full report can be obtained from [here](#).

Generally the region food security situation is positive with most countries having good production situation coming from the last production season. With exception of localised challenges the food insecurity outcomes are expected to be minimal (IPC 1) for most parts of the region.

COUNTRY ANALYSIS

Angola

Rainfall performed generally well in most of the productive parts of the country, and as a result, production is expected to improve from last season. However, poor rainfall was received in parts of south-western Angola for much of the season, prolonging the dry conditions that affected some of these areas since last season. Late March saw an increase in rainfall, which improved pastures and facilitated production of maize. Despite the improved pasture and watering conditions in south western Angola, cumulative effects of the 3 year prolonged dry spell on the livestock production system are still manifested by poor health and low reproductive rates.

Lesotho

The crop production is expected to be below last year's production by around 14% due to a reduction in yield caused by late start in season and the impact of frost in some areas in the highlands. This production level is likely to result in food insecurity levels comparable to last season necessitating an increase in coverage of safety nets.

Madagascar

The country experienced a generally good season, with consistent rains through much of the season. Dry conditions were however experienced in the southern and south-western parts of the country in December, February and March, thereby negatively impacting on maize production in some of these areas. Rice production this year improved significantly compared to last season, which was severely affected by a locust outbreak.

Malawi

The 2013/14 season has generally been a good season in most areas except for localised areas that were affected by prolonged mid-season dry spells. Central Karonga with roughly around 46000 people will be food insecure. Middle Shire has chronic food insecurity and has been facing food insecurity in the last 4 years and around 230 000 people will be likely affected. There is a need to closely monitor the situation. The official numbers of food insecure people will be published by MVAC in the ongoing assessment for the 2014/15 consumption year.

The MVAC seasonal assessment has been delayed due to funding constraints and is now planned to start in mid-June using HEA and EFSA.

The Red Locust situation persists in some parts of Malawi. There are ongoing efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, with technical support from the International Red Locust Control Organization for Southern Africa and FAO to bring the situation under complete control.

Mozambique

Food security remains good and there is no area of concern until December and harvests is still ongoing. There is no crop estimates yet although in some areas there are still stocks from last year. Maize prices are declining and the bean prices trend in Manica is highly variable due to varying demand and supply within the market, mainly because the number of traders are also few. Malawi and Zimbabwe are reportedly some of the destination markets for beans.

Namibia

Good seasonal rainfall was received in the north-east and central parts of the country, while poor rainfall and prolonged January/February dry spells occurred in the north-central areas. The mixed seasonal performance led to a forecast cereal production of 122,390 tons – 50% higher than last year, but 2% below average. Much of the improvement is attributed to irrigated agriculture, while dry conditions in the north/central/western areas negatively affected production in most communal-producing areas. There were also reports of crop pest infestation, particularly the bollworm. Livestock condition was reported to have improved in most regions by March.

Swaziland

The country experienced a slightly delayed onset of rains followed by good rainfall for much of the season. Dry conditions however occurred in some areas from early January through to mid-February. Despite the negative impacts of the dry spell, good maize production is expected.

Tanzania

In the bimodal areas in the northern parts of the country, rainfall performance for the *Vuli* (short season) season was poor, resulting in crop failure and low harvests. In the unimodal areas, crops are reported to be in good condition, with a near average harvest expected. Pastures and water availability are also reported in good condition.

Zambia

The food security situation is good with good harvests still ongoing across the country and the country is not expecting to experience any acute food insecurity. There is an estimated 1 million MTs of cereal surplus from the current production season.

Grain prices are expected to start going down in response to the increase in supply. The Zambian currency has depreciated by about 20% between January and March and inflation has gone up slightly but is expected to stabilize with marginal impact on price of maize although other commodities may remain high.

Zimbabwe

The food production has increased significantly with cereals estimated around 1.6 million up from 910,000 Mt. The MoA has also included the energy values of other crops in the cereal balance sheet using a maize equivalent adding around 600,000 MT (sugar beans, cow peas, potatoes and sweet potatoes). Food prices have started to decline following the increase in supply through harvest particularly for maize grain reducing by 9-26% across monitored markets. Maize meal prices have remained higher on year to year average probably as a result of the last increases in the last year. The country has been in deflation for two months running but this has not translated to price decrease of most commodities.

The ZIMVAC has just completed analysis for the seasonal assessment and the prevalence of food insecurity will be shared once approved by cabinet.

Important Events in 2014

Event	Dates	Venue	Contact Organization
RVAC Dissemination Meeting	30 June – 02 July	Lilongwe, Malawi	SADC RVAA
World Breastfeeding Week	August (Dates TBC)	Mbabane, Swaziland	NEPAD
Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security	30 October	TBC	NEPAD

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.

AGENCY	CONTACT PERSON	EMAIL
FAO REOSA	James Okoth Gertrude Kara	James.Okoth@fao.org Gertrude.Kara@fao.org
OXFAM	Daniel Sinnathamby	DSinnathamby@oxfam.org.uk
WFP	Joao Manja Veronica Rammala	Joao.manja@wfp.org Veronica.rammala@wfp.org
FEWSNET	Phumzile Mdladla	PMdladla@fews.net
OCHA	Hein Zeelie	zeelie@un.org

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the respective **country teams** from the various Agencies in providing contributions to this report. Additional information is obtained from relevant websites as reflected in the main body of the report where applicable.