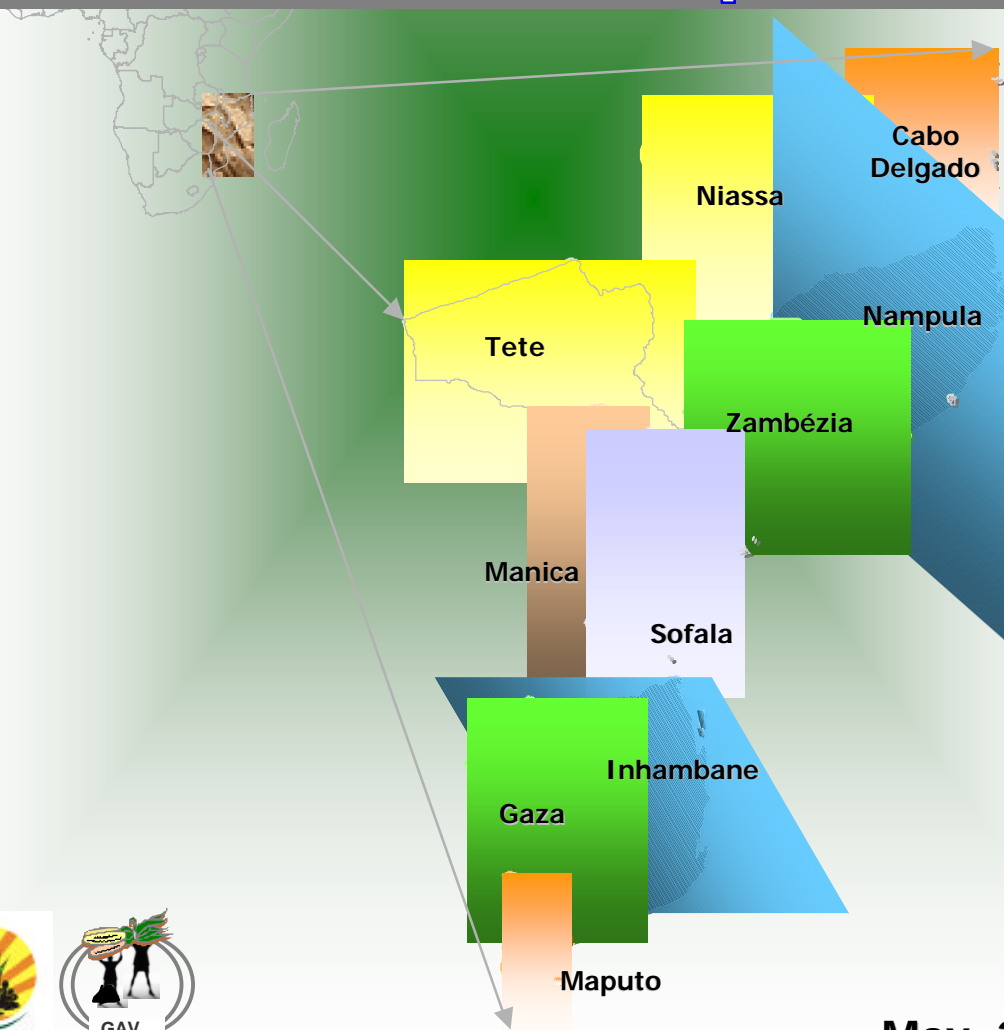




Republic of Mozambique

Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition
Vulnerability Analysis Group

Monitoring Report on Food and Nutritional Security in Mozambique



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Acknowledgements

Obtaining the final results of any analysis requires the multiple interventions of various partners. In fact the results were obtained thanks to the unselfish efforts of many staff and institutions, for which the Vulnerability Analysis Group (GAV) of the SETSAN would like to express its gratitude. Therefore we would like to recognize the valuable contributions made by the technicians of Governmental institutions, NGOs and the provincial SETSAN offices throughout the country, who have played an exemplary role both in collecting primary data and in editing the preliminary provincial report.

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CONTENTS

GENERAL CONTENTS	ii
CONTENTS OF FIGURES AND TABLES	iii
LIST OF ACRONYMS	iv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	v
Food and Nutritional Security Perspectives for 2006/07.....	vi
1. INTRODUCTION	1
Objective of the Monitoring.....	1
Methodology used in the Monitoring.....	1
2. RESULTS OF THE FNS MONITORING IN MAY 2006^S	3
Availability of Food and Livestock.....	3
Access to Food.....	9
Sources of Income.....	12
Health – Nutrition – Water - Sanitation.....	13
Survival Mechanisms.....	17
Agrarian Assistance, Social Protection, Food Aid.....	17
3. COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY	20
Results of monitoring in the provinces	20
Province of Niassa.....	20
Province of Cabo Delgado.....	21
Province of Nampula.....	22
Province da Zambézia.....	23
Province of Tete.....	24
Province of Manica.....	25
Province of Sofala.....	26
Province of Inhambane.....	27
Province of Gaza.....	28
Province of Maputo.....	29
4. CONCLUSIONS	30
Future perspectives	32
5. RECOMMENDATIONS	34
6. INFORMATION	36

Contents of figures

Figure 1: Districts and Administrative Posts visited by the SETSAN/GAV Monitoring Mission in May 2006.....	6
Figure 2: Comparative analysis of real maize prices in 2005, 2006 and the average during the course of 6 years	13
Figure 3: Evolution of volumes of maize informally exported in 2005 and 2006 from Mozambique to Malawi	14

Contents of Tables

Table 1: Preliminary results of the production in the 2005/06 agricultural campaign, comparison with the results of the 2004/05 agricultural campaign.....	3
Table 2: Preliminary Estimates of the Production of cereals in the 2005/06 agricultural campaign per province, comparison with the 2004/05 campaign.....	4
Table 3: Areas to be prioritised	6
Table 4: National Food Balance for 2006/07 (in 000 TONS)	8
Table 5: Regional Food Balance for 2006/07 (in 000 TONS).....	9
Table 6: Actual nominal prices of animals per province	11
Table 7: Fluctuations of fuel prices.....	12
Table 8: Low Birth Weight (BPN) Observed in the Provinces in 2006	14
Table 9: Insufficient Growth in the Provinces in 2006	14
Table 10: Variation in the Number of Meals and in the Quality of Diet of Households	15
Table 11: Response to Drought/Emergency 2005/6 - MOPH/UNICEF	16
Table 12: Beneficiaries of social assistance by the INAS	18
Table 13: Beneficiaries of social assistance by Agriculture – Agricultural Fairs.....	19
Table 14: Demonstration of the gradual reduction of food aid to vulnerable populations	20

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFs	Family Households
AV	Vulnerability Analysis
BPN	Low Birth Weight
CI	Insufficient Growth
CNRS	National Council for Social Reintegration
COV	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
CPT	Food for Work
CSB	Corn Soya Blend
DPA	Provincial Directorate of Agriculture
DDA	District Directorate of Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System Network
GAV	Vulnerability Analysis Group
GAPSAN	Food and Nutritional Security Early Warning Group
GATV	Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centre
GPZ	Zambezi Valley Promotion Office
GOM	Government of Mozambique
HIV/SIDA	HIV Virus/Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome
LGB	<i>Prostephanus Truncates</i>
LOA	Milk, Oil and Sugar
MMAS	Ministry of Women and Social Action
MINAG	Ministry of Agriculture
MISAU	Ministry of Health
OCHA	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
PAAs	Administrative Posts
PMA	World Food Programme
PVCHS	People living with HIV-AIDS
PlumpyNut	Ready-to-eat therapeutic food for undernourished HIV-positive children
SETSAN	Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition
SIMA	Agricultural Markets Information System
SPA	Provincial Agricultural Services
EP1	First Level Primary School
EP2	Second Level Primary School
EPC	Complete Primary School
RFE	Rainfall Estimates
FSN	Food and Nutritional Security
SC-UK	Save the Children United Kingdom
SC-US	Save the Children United States
SETSAN	Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition
SETSAN-P	Provincial SETSAN
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VGf	vulnerable group feeding
WV	World Vision

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vulnerability Analysis mission carried out in May 2006 concluded that the food and nutritional security situation improved considerably after several consecutive years of high acute vulnerability rates owing to drought. However, pockets of food and nutritional insecurity may emerge from September 2006 onwards, due to the running out of the present food reserves.

Food security is determined by three fundamental pillars: the availability of food, access to food and stable food use throughout the year. The analysis in this report is made from the perspective of these three pillars.

In general, the results of the agricultural campaign were good, better than those of the previous year and in some Provinces they made for the best production in the past five years. The food reserves are therefore considerably larger than those of the same period last year. However, some food insecurity pockets are being registered in restricted arid and semi-arid areas in the Provinces of Tete, Sofala, Manica, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo, where reserves will only suffice for some three months after the harvest. The second agricultural season, which still continues, may contribute to improving the food availability situation, especially in these arid and semi-arid areas. It is important to stress that the availability of maize does not necessarily mean that food security is guaranteed, as is commonly thought.

The markets are reasonably well supplied. After a high in February, the prices of the main agricultural products tend to stabilize or diminish. The prices of manufactured products are stable with a slight increase owing to high fuel costs reflected in transport expenses, especially in the most remote rural areas such as the interiors of Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Tete and Niassa.

Livestock is fully recovering, the rains allowed for the recuperation of the pastures, with a relative increase of biomass; the availability of water for the watering of animals improved considerably. The physical condition of the animals reflects all these improvements. It should be noted that outbreaks of Newcastle disease were recorded, which were promptly brought under control, while African swine fever was reported from several Provinces as well. Not one case of bird flu was reported throughout the country. However, awareness campaigns concerning this subject are ongoing.

The levels of chronic malnutrition reflected in a Low Birth Weight, especially in the country's north, endemic malaria in most parts of the country, the incidence of chronic diseases and the limited access to drinking water continue to represent a serious threat to the well being of the communities. This situation shows the persistence of structural problems and represents a challenge to the fight against absolute poverty.

Acute malnutrition, reflected in Insufficient Growth, diminished, due not only to the increased availability of food, but also to the absence of natural disasters and to the various mitigation interventions implemented during the course of the period. Nevertheless, some districts registered values above normal, such as is the case of Quissanga 16% (in Cabo Delgado); Angoche 18% (Nampula) and Manica 17% (Manica).

It was noted that, compared with the same period of last year, no recourse was made to extreme survival mechanisms. This was also accompanied by an improvement in, and a diversification of, the income sources, in particular those linked to agricultural production, which are the most representative ones for the most vulnerable populations in the rural environment.

Although in general the availability of water has improved due to the rains, access to sources of drinking water remains a serious problem in various districts, above all in rural areas, where people walk long distances to fetch water for consumption. The consumption of surface water is still one of the main sources for the population, favouring the occurrence of waterborne diseases such as conjunctivitis, scabies, diarrhoeas, etc. Initiatives for collecting and making use of rainwater are still in the early stages, and aim especially at facing the dry period in wintertime.

Mitigation programmes had a significant impact on the recuperation of the population and on the current food and nutritional security situation. Agricultural input fairs organized in the districts that were most vulnerable and had shortages allowed for an increase in the availability of food. As far as food aid is concerned there was an improvement in the coverage at local level, although problems remained in selecting beneficiaries, which points to the need to improve selection criteria.

AIDS continues to be a threat to human capital, given that this epidemic constrains the implementation of activities such as the provision of services like day-labour, activities that generate income, the selling of produce and own production of food. The reduced work capacity of the Households that are affected and infected by the disease increases their vulnerability to food and nutritional insecurity if alternative measures are not taken.

Food and Nutritional Security Perspectives for 2006/07

The FNS perspectives improved in the whole Country. However, there are still chronic problems related to the poor use that is made of food, the limited access to basic services and the reintegration of markets, especially in the northern region of Mozambique.

Acute food insecurity pockets are recorded in some points of the arid and semi-arid areas of the Provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica and Tete.

In the coming four months (June to September) prices may decrease or stabilize, mainly due to the increase in food reserves at the Household level. It is to be expected that the harvests will hold out until the period of preparation of the next campaign, which generally starts in October.

As far as primary necessities in terms of manufactured products are concerned prices may remain stable, depending however on the fluctuations inherent to the currency and on variations in fuel prices.

Concerning livestock products, one foresees that prices will tend to increase as a consequence of the stability of the food reserves in this time of the year.

1. INTRODUCTION

In May 2005, the Multisectoral Vulnerability Analysis Group of SETSAN (GAV) in its analysis of vulnerability to food and nutritional insecurity considered that 428.234 people in the southern and central regions of the country were in a situation of extreme food insecurity from April 2005 to March 2006, and that some 159.265 people would run the risk of suffering from food insecurity from October 2005 onwards. However, when the same group travelled to the country's ten provinces in October 2005, it identified 801.655 people vulnerable to extreme food insecurity until March 2006, representing 4,4% of the national population, and an increase of almost 50% especially in the northern region of the country.

The rapid monitoring of February 2006 indicated that the Food and Nutritional Security (FNS) situation had improved, that the humanitarian assistance should be reduced by some 30% and that it should cover a three-month period in order to ensure the recuperation of the affected populations. In this period (October 2005), the nutritional evaluation carried out by the MISAU (Nutrition Department) indicated that the nutritional situation was not serious. The nutritional data was statistically valid at provincial level.

Between 28 May and 04 June the GAV carried out the monitoring, with the following objectives:

- 1.1. **General Objective:** evaluate the current situation of vulnerability to food and nutritional insecurity in the country.

- 1.2. **Specific Objectives:**
 - a) Evaluate the geographic extent/magnitude and the impact of the disasters (flooding, earthquakes, drought) on the affected areas and on the most vulnerable groups;

 - b) Analyse the impact of mitigation activities that were developed and are ongoing;

 - c) Evaluate the local resources and capacities available for mitigating the effects of the disasters, and the respective constraints;

 - d) Project the evolution of FSN for the year 2006/07.

2. RESULTS OF THE FNS MONITORING

2.1. Availability of Food and Livestock

The availability of food includes the production of family agriculture, food reserves, seed reserves, livestock, imports and food aid interventions. From among these, it is agricultural production that contributes most to the availability of food.

The availability of food improved significantly, compared with the previous year. This is confirmed by data from the National Directorate of Agrarian Services (DNSA) and reconfirmed by the mission in the field. This result is due to regular rainfall from November onwards in the country's central and southern regions and from December onwards in the north, as well as to an increased availability of seeds.

The performance of the 2nd agricultural season (May – September) is considered good, something which may also contribute to the increase of agricultural products. The contribution of the second season to the total cereals production per year is normally 15% and is also characterized by the production of vegetables.

According to the Report of the 2005/06 Agricultural Campaign, there was an increase of 10% in cereals production, of 10% in legumes and of 14% in cassava, as shown by Table 1 for the national level and by Table 2 for the provincial level.

Table 1: Preliminary production results of the 2005/06 agricultural campaign, compared with the results of the 2004/05 agricultural campaign.

Crops	Agr. Campaign 2004/05		Agr. Campaign. 2005/06		Variation of the Area (%)	Variation of the Production (%)
	Area (ha)	Production (Ton)	Area (ha)	Production (Ton)		
Cereals	2.255.784	1.899.391	2.304.535	2.097.641	2,16	10,4
Vegetables	761.104	332.628	773.667	364.680	1.65	9,6
Cassava	1.106.289	6.634.924	1.125.515	7.551.727	1,7	13,8

Source: DNSA

Table 2: Preliminary Production Estimates of cereals in the 2005/06 agricultural campaign per Province, compared with the 2004/05 campaign.

Provinces	Production of vegetables			Production of cereals		
	2004/05 (Tons)	2005/06 (Tons)	%	2004/05 (Tons)	2005/06 (Tons)	%
Cabo Delgado	60.941,0	63.875,1	4,8	216.428,0	232.042,4	7,2
Niassa	37.366,0	40.696,0	8,9	276.856,0	300.789,6	8,6
Nampula	77.412,0	83.169,0	7,4	281.842,0	287.985,0	2,2
NORTH	175.719,0	187.740,1	6,8	775.126,0	820.817,0	5,9
Zambézia	57.233,0	59.758,3	4,4	395.207,0	435.543,1	10,2
Tete	30.122,0	31.641,4	5,0	219.080,0	246.415,4	12,5
Manica	4.068,0	4.442,6	9,2	254.676,0	284.306,0	11,6
Sofala	13.532,0	14.128,4	4,4	115.736,0	125.298,6	8,3
CENTER	104.955,0	109.970,6	4,8	984.699,0	1.091.563,1	10,9
Inhambane	29.226,0	36.410,1	24,6	52.799,0	72.624,0	37,5
Gaza	17.422,0	22.587,9	29,7	56.056,0	69.860,0	24,6
Maputo	5.306,0	7.971,0	50,2	30.711,0	42.777,4	39,3
SOUTH	51.954,0	66.969,0	28,9	139.566,0	185.261,4	32,7
Total National	332.628,0	364.679,7	9,6	1.899.391,0	2.097.641,5	10,4

Provinces	Production of cassava		
	2004/05 (Tons)	2005/06 (Tons)	%
Cabo Delgado	1261504	1468964,7	16,4
Niassa	211809	220340,15	4,0
Nampula	2316161	2849747,2	23,0
NORTH	3789474	4539052	19,8
Zambézia	2080017	2147086,7	3,2
Tete	9084	9302,7282	2,4
Manica	11748	12724,795	8,3
Sofala	96577	98984,609	2,5
CENTER	2197426	2268098,8	3,2
Inhambane	419177	483056,06	15,2
Gaza	200193	230765,53	15,3
Maputo	28654	30754,735	7,3
SOUTH	648024	744576,32	14,9
Total National	6634924	7551727,2	13,8

Source: DNSA

In general the conditions of pastures, the availability of water and animal health improved and a positive effect on the recuperation of the animals' physical state is noted. An increase was registered in the number of animals, especially cattle and goats, due to the programmes of promotion and livestock health undertaken by the Government and partners. The prevalent diseases, meanwhile promptly brought under control, are, in order of incidence, Newcastle disease in poultry, swine fever in pigs, rabies in canines, anthrax in cattle, scabies and diarrhoeas in goats,

BIRD FLU

To date there has been not a single case of bird flu in Mozambique. Nevertheless, it does at present represent a major risk worldwide and the MISAU, MINAG and cooperation partners are currently designing surveillance systems and rapid response plans in case of an outbreak. The National Contingency Plan for Action against Bird Flu was recently approved by the Council of Ministers and is accompanied by awareness raising programmes.

What is Bird Flu?

It is a virus that affects birds and that is transmittable to humans. It is passed on from bird to bird and from there on to humans. The flu virus is passed on among birds through excrement and eye, nose and beak secretions of infected birds. The virus is transmitted to human beings through direct contact with infected domestic poultry (chicken, ducks, turkeys, birds) and with surfaces contaminated with secretions and excrement of infected birds.

The most common signs and symptoms of Bird Flu in human beings are: high fever, prolonged coughing, inflamed throat and muscular pain, eye infections and pneumonia, serious respiratory complications and other potentially fatal diseases.

The signs and symptoms of Bird Flu in poultry are: birds with obvious signs of being tired, they don't feed, eye, nose and beak secretions, swelling of the head, paws, comb and dewlap, coughing, sneezing and diarrhoea, sudden death.

People running most risks in catching the disease are poultry breeders who work with the various fauna, children (as a result of their vulnerability related to naïveté), hunters and fishermen.

It is recommended that in case of feeling ill upon touching a sick or dead bird, one should immediately contact the nearest health centre.

Source: United Nations, Maputo, May 2006.

The magnitude of the bird flu problem may be devastating in case there is an outbreak in Mozambique, taking into account the role that poultry plays in the food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable Households in particular.

As part of preventive measures, the present GAV round analysed the ongoing awareness raising activities and the existence of the National Contingency Plan at provincial level with a view to guarantee a better response by this plan. In addition a survey was made of the five provinces with most poultry production (Table 3), in order to define the priorities in terms of awareness raising, to evaluate the potential economic losses that have a bearing on FNS, and to intensify the prevention, surveillance and control measures in case the disease does occur.

Table 3: Areas to be prioritised

Province	Sensibilisation		Contingency Plan		Main districts with concentration of poultry				
	Yes	No	Yes	No	1	2	3	4	5
Maputo	X		X		Matola	Namaacha	Boane	Manhiça	Marracuene
Gaza	X			X	Massagena	Chicualacuala	Massingir	Manjacaze	Mabalane
Inhambane	X			X	Funhalouro	Mabote	Massinga	Zavala	Panda
Manica	X			X	Tambara	Guro	Macossa	Mossurize	Machaze
Sofala		X		X	Chemba	Caia	Maríngue	Buzi	Chibabava
Tete	X			X	Angónia	Cahora Bassa	Moatize	Tete -Cidade	Macanga
Zambézia		X	X		Mopeia	Inhassunge	Morrumbala	Niquadala	Namacurra
Nampula		X		X	Nampula	Ribaue	Angoche	Mongicual	Mogovolas
C. Delgado	X		X		Chiure	Balama	Montepuez	Namuno	Mueda
Niassa	X		X		Marrupa	Mavago	Mahua	Mandimba	Lago

Source: DPAs

The availability of food per regions can be summarized as follows:

Southern Region: Almost all districts witnessed an increase in production compared with the previous campaign, due to good rains, the use of quality seeds, an increase in sown areas and a good performance of the 2nd agricultural season. However, owing to an excessive humidity in a number of districts such as Matutuíne, Manhiça, Moamba, Chókwè, Guijá and Govuro, one noted the incidence of some plagues, such as Army worm and elegant grasshopper, but without a negative impact on the crops.

Despite these improvements, food reserves vary from province to province and from district to district. It is estimated that a high percentage of the Households have reserves for some 3 months (until September) in the districts of Magude and Moamba in Maputo province, in the districts of Chigubo, Massangena and Chicualacuala in Gaza province, and in the districts of Funhalouro, Panda, Mabote, Govuro and Inhassoro of Inhambane province. On the other hand, a lesser percentage has reserves between 3 and 5 months (until November) and a smaller percentage still have reserves for more than 5 months.

The situation of the pastures and the availability of water improved much in comparison to February, which contributed to the improvement of the animals' physical condition. Foot-and-mouth disease is under control through annual vaccinations and border surveillance. The same goes for the outbreak of Newcastle, which had little impact in the present period due to an improvement in veterinary assistance.

Concerning food aid, the PMA and its partners considerably reduced the number of beneficiaries in accordance with the GAV recommendations, so as to avoid distortions in the functioning of the market as well as due to the good harvests of this year.

Central Region: A good agricultural production, better than the one of the last campaign, was recorded. In the current agricultural season, the rains started late and there some floods and plagues occurred in the districts of Nhamatanda, Buzi, Dondo (Sofala), Mutarara (Tete) and Chinde (Zambézia), which led to the loss of some areas, without a negative impact on agricultural production. The residual humidity encountered in some districts as well as the use of low lying areas, the timely distribution of seeds through agricultural inputs fairs all contributed to a good performance of the 2nd agricultural season.

The number of animals tends to increase. Conditions with respect to pastures, water and animal health improved significantly in the four provinces, compared to October 2005. Nonetheless, the districts of Changara, Tsangano, Zumbo, Moatize, Mutarara and Cahora Bassa in Tete Province are an exception in that a number of animals had health problems, such as for instance tick-born fever.

In Sofala and Zambézia provinces there were outbreaks of Newcastle disease, having a negative impact on poultry production. At present the outbreaks are under control.

In this region, food reserves may last until the next harvests in almost all districts, with the exception of those that experienced cyclical droughts, namely the districts of Machaze, Tambara, Guro, Machanga (Manica), Chemba (Sofala), Mágoe and Mutarara (Tete), where food reserves may be sufficient for 3 to 5 months.

Owing to the good agricultural season a significant reduction in food aid programmes was registered.

Northern Region: The rains started in December, followed by a dry period and only the end of February saw a significant improvement in their distribution, which contributed positively to a good performance of the agricultural season. The production increased slightly compared with the last campaign, and one of the factors contributing to this improvement was the timely realization of agricultural inputs fairs as well as their good quality. There are good perspectives for the 2nd agricultural season.

Man/Animal conflicts and the occurrence of plagues such as Army worm in maize were reported from the provinces of Niassa and Cabo Delgado. It should be noted that the plague was promptly controlled.

It is estimated that there will possibly be an increase in post-harvest losses due to the fact that the harvests are to be realized in a period with excessive humidity, which hinders the effective drying of the kernels. In general, post-harvest losses vary between 15% and 30% in a normal year.

In these provinces the reserves may last until the next harvests in almost all districts, with the exception of some coastal districts of Nampula (Membra, Nacala-a-Velha, Mossuril) and in the interior of Niassa Province (Mecula) where they may last 3 to 5 months.

The condition of pastures and the availability of water are good, but in some districts some endemic diseases were registered, such as trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), mainly in cattle in some districts of Niassa and Cabo Delgado. Newcastle disease and swine fever were also frequently reported. Rabies and haematic anthrax are sporadically found in some districts.

National Food Balance for 2006/07

The national food balance elaborated by the National Directorate of Commerce (DNC) points to a national surplus of maize (99,000 TM) for the period between April 2006 and March 2007 (Special Bulletin of June 2006 – DNC/MIC).

In general terms, converting the production of cassava in its maize equivalent, the country should be self-sufficient as far as staple food is concerned. However, one should be cautious in interpreting this fact and take into account the regional differences in demand for these products, which are closely linked to consumption patterns and food habits.

Table 4: National Food Balance for 2006/07 (in 000 TONS)

	Maize	Rice	Wheat	Sorghum/ Millet	Total cereals	Cassava	Other tubers	Beans/ Groundnut
Total Available	1.618	207	90	415	2329	6.146	519	407
Initial Stock	84	91	90	33	298	105	41	42
Production	1534	116	0	382	2031	6041	478	365
Consumption	1518	493	369	381	2761	5708	459	363
Shortage/Surplus	99	-286	-279	34	-437	439	61	43
Imports	97	337	372	0	806	0	0	10
Exports	130	0	2	0	132	5	0	5
Final Stock	66	51	91	34	242	434	61	48

Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Directorate of Commerce, 2006

In table 4 above, the DNC shows that the global shortage in cereals of 437,000 TM (maize, rice and wheat) can be covered by commercial imports (806,000 TM) and emergency food aid. The DNC foresees significant surpluses of cassava and other tubers of around 500,000 TM, which may compensate for the cereals shortage. The consumption of wheat in the country is largely covered by commercial imports.

Despite significant improvements in the production of this year, at a regional level the DNC foresees the need of commercial imports in the south to overcome the shortage of cereals (maize, rice, wheat, sorghum (millet) totalling 513,000 TM. The north however has a cereals surplus of 358,000 TM, which might be partially exported to neighbouring Malawi and to the south of the country, although the flux will be severely hampered by the high transportation costs.

Although the final reserves appear to be sufficient at national level to meet the demand for human consumption, there remain local shortages due to the combination of adverse climatic conditions and the inability of some families to overcome these shortages through purchases in the local market.

Table 5: Regional Cereal Balance for 2006/07 (in 000 TONS)

	South	Centre	North
Total Availability	306	734	1284
Consumption	819	1016	926
Shortage/Surplus	-513	-282	358

Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Directorate of Commerce, 2006

2.2. Access to Food

The access to food includes: income from own production, the selling of animals and goods, remittances, supply and demand. From these, agricultural production contributes most to the access to food. The problem of access to food represents one of the fundamental factors of food and nutritional insecurity. The combined effects of cyclical drought, low rates of agricultural production and productivity contribute to the most vulnerable Households having limited access to food. Therefore the market in its global dimension and the buying power of the families are fundamental factors that determine access to food.

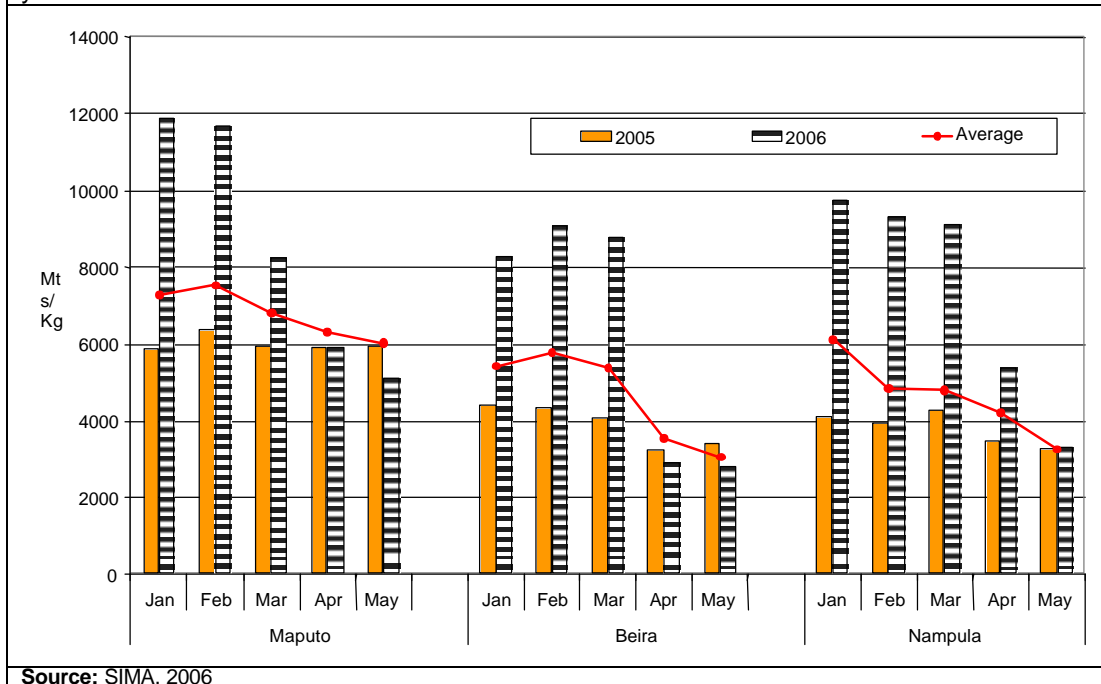
a. The Market dynamics

In general, nominal prices tended to be stable, with slight oscillations in the period that was analysed (February/March). However, a sharp decrease of prices was reported in April, owing to the fact that the production of the 2005/06 agricultural campaign started to enter the marketing circuit.

Maize kernels showed the sharpest price decrease, running the risk of deteriorating the present income sources of the Households, a situation which may be aggravated in times of shortage when the same product has to be bought at higher prices. Because of this, a more coherent analysis of the variations of seasonal prices and their implications for FNS is called for.

Figure 2 below indicates that the prices, despite decreasing, are at a level that is higher than the last five years' average and than last year's level, mainly due to the depreciation of the currency and the rise of fuel prices.

Figure 2: Comparative analysis of real maize prices in 2005, 2006 and the average of 6 years



As far as the market perspectives for the next four months (May to August) are concerned, the prices may decrease or stabilize because it is the time of harvest and of the subsequent increase in food reserves at Household level, and prices are expected to be stable until the preparation period for the next campaign. Concerning manufactured products and basic necessities, prices may remain stable as well in terms of supply, although they depend on currency fluctuations, and on the fuel prices that have a bearing on transport costs.

With respect to livestock products, there exists a trend of price increases due to the stability of the food reserves in this period. Producers don't feel the need to sell their animals as a way to earn income, because they have products of the present agricultural campaign at their disposal.

Table 6: Current nominal prices of animals per province

Province	Nominal prices of animals in May 2006			
	Cattle	Goats	Poultry	Pigs
Maputo	10 to12 million	500 thousand	75-90 thousand	700-800 thousand
Gaza	3,5 a 8 million	350-500 thousand	30-60 thousand	300-350 thousand
Inhambane	5 to 7 million	400-550 thousand	35-60 thousand	300-500 thousand
Sofala	4 to 7 million	300-500 thousand	35-60 thousand	450-500 thousand
Manica	4 to 7.5 million	300-500 thousand	30-65 thousand	-
Zambézia	4 a 6 million	250-350 thousand	45-60 thousand	450.000 thousand
Tete	2 to 5 million	190-280 thousand	35-50 thousand	-
Nampula	10 to 12.5 million	400-750 thousand	50-75 thousand	400-800 thousand
Cabo Delgado	9 million	500 thousand	80 thousand	500 thousand
Niassa	No information			

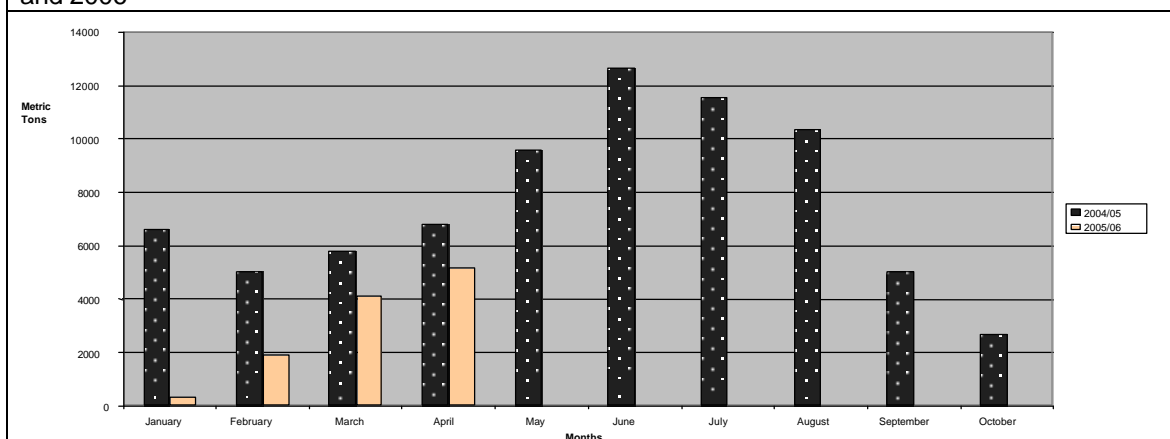
Source: DPAs

The big constraints for the functioning of the market are: undercapitalization of the traders, the formal commercial network, poor access particularly of more remote areas, difficulties in getting food products to and from the shortage/surplus districts, resulting in price increases.

In this category (manufactured products) the strong presence of imported products, especially in the border provinces, is registered. It should also be noted that cross-border trade is very dynamic at all borders, with involvement of formal and informal traders. It is estimated that until April some 5,000 tons of maize were exported informally to Malawi (see figure 3).

In general, the informal traders are the ones most active in marketing products, especially in the areas that are poorly accessible and have a weak formal commercial network.

Figure 3: Evolution of volumes of maize informally exported from Mozambique to Malawi in 2005 and 2006



Source: PMA and FEWS NET, May 2006

As is shown in Figure 3, there is a reduction in the volumes of exported maize in comparison with last year, despite an increase in January to April. This is due to the improvement of the production in Malawi, which supports the expectation that this very trend will continue in the next four months, leading to an increase in local availability.

b. Inflation Rate

The monthly inflation rate hovers around 0,11% and in May around -1,12% (INE, May 06). This level of inflation can be considered normal and contributed to the improvement of the families' buying power, of the national currency, and consequently of the product prices. The Metical remained stable in relation to the Rand (4200Mts/Rand) and to the American Dollar (27.000Mts/US-Dollar) in the period from February to May. However, this rate is considered high and it makes imported products more expensive.

Despite inflation remaining relatively low, it should be noted that the continuous fluctuations of fuel prices have an impact on the costs of living, on the buying power and on the families' incomes, especially in the rural areas. Table 7 illustrates the fluctuations in fuel prices.

Table 7: Fluctuations in fuel prices (Mts)

Province	Diesel Price/Litre		Gasoline Price/Litre		Petroleum Price/Litre		Gas Bottle	
	Oct.	April	Oct.	April	Oct.	April	Oct.	April
Maputo	23.320	26.220	27470	27.730	14.250	15.680	245.000	300.000
Gaza	21.970	22.390	24.320	24.750	-	14.500	-	285.000
Inhambane	25.230	23.510	29.380	25.870	16.910	16.270	-	-
Manica	24.000	27.200	26.100	28.710	12.500	16.660	-	-
Sofala	21.150	22.560	27.000	26.660	-	15.000	300.000	400.000
Tete	26.000	29.000	28.000	30.000	-	-	-	-
Zambézia	27.280	28.430	30.580	29.990	17.200	17.850	-	-
Nampula	24.200	27.830	28.350	28.710	14.520	16.666	-	350.000
C. Delgado	24.430	27.830	26.300	29.340	12.500	17.500	375.000	425.000
Niassa								

Source: DPAs

Market conditions tend to be stable and do not represent a factor that deteriorates the buying power of the Households and, consequently, the FNS situation. Nonetheless, there remains a serious constraint in the analysis of the Households' access to food, because the functioning of the market in the most vulnerable districts is not monitored.

c. Income Sources

Income sources form an important piece of information when it comes to accessibility, because they determine the changes in the buying power of the families and their ability to buy products in the market in order to complement other basic necessities and the food shortage.

The three main income sources for the families are, in order of importance: the selling of agricultural products, small trade and remittances. For the most vulnerable families the main sources are: the selling of agricultural products, the selling of charcoal and firewood and the selling of livestock products.

The expansion of the sugar industry and the small income generating activities, especially in the provinces of Maputo and Sofala, contribute to increasing the income of some families, thereby leading to bigger buying power.

Growing of cash crops does not yet constitute negative competition for the production of food crops, on the contrary, cash crops represent an additional income source contributing to the economic access to food as well as to meeting other basic needs of the Households (e.g. paying school fees, health services, travel, etc.).

In general terms an increase and a diversification of the Households' income sources were registered, which is substantiated by the absence of the use of extreme survival strategies.

2.3. Utilization (Health – Nutrition – Water – Sanitation)

2.3.1. Nutritional Situation

Generally speaking, the Nutritional Situation is considered good and it tends to improve. Not a single abnormal outbreak of disease was reported, apart from cholera in specific areas, nor any deaths due to malnutrition.

Low birth weight (BNP) of infants is associated with poor health and nutrition status of mothers especially during the gestation period (first period of the pregnancy and in the last months prior to the delivery). The child's weight of less than 2,5 kg reflects the fact that the mother did not feed properly during the gestation period, or the occurrence of diseases such as malaria, anaemia and lack of rest. In this phase the availability of micronutrients such as zinc, iron and others, is extremely important.

However, as indicated by Table 8, the **Low Birth Weight (BNP)** in April 2006 did not change much since the last monitoring (February 2006). The provinces of Cabo Delgado 18%, Nampula 14%, Niassa 13% and Zambézia 12% continue to show high BNP rates (BNP = 7% is considered the critical limit).

Studies on the distribution of micronutrients in pregnant women have shown a direct impact on the birth weight as well as on the weight of the child up to two years of age, The occurrence of BNP exposes children to the risk of catching diseases; it reduces the learning capabilities of children; it leads to bigger health costs and increases the risk to die before the age of five. According to MISAU, the BNP situation is serious when 7% or more of the total number of live born children weigh less than 2,5 kg.

Table 8: Low Birth Weight (BPN) Observed in the Provinces in 2006

Province	Average April 06	Average February 06	Remarks
Cabo Delgado	18%	18%	Montepuez with 33% and Balama with 28%
Niassa	13%	11%	Almost all districts have high rates (>15%)
Nampula	14%	9%	Almost all districts have high rates (>15%)
Tete	SI	SI	
Sofala	5%	12%	Chemba 18%, Gorongosa 13%, Nhamatanda 9%, Machanga 8% - no information on many districts
Manica	7%	6%	Tambara 17%, Chimoio 12%, Gôndola 9%, Barue 7%
Gaza	6%	6%	Bilene 11%, Chibuto 8%, Chicualacuala 8%, Guija 9%, Manjacaze 9%, Xai Xai 8%
Inhambane	2%	10%	Inharrime (9%)
Maputo	6%	9%	Magude (7%), Manhiça (15%)
Zambézia	12%	SI*	All districts have high rates except for Maganja da Costa.

The Insufficient Growth (CI) rates in all provinces were considered normal, as is shown in Table 9.

Insufficient growth reflects the lack of growth in the period between two weighings of the child and it is an extremely important indicator of **acute malnutrition**, being an important indicator for measuring acute vulnerability. It indicates that the child either is feeding poorly or suffers from some disease, the first case being the most common. The parameters used by MISAU are that the situation is normal when up to 16% of all weighed children between 0 and 5 years of age have not gained weight; the situation is alarming when this percentage is between 16% and 30%, and serious when it is over 30%. This is the case in some districts in Manica, Nampula and Cabo Delgado, as illustrated by table 9.

Table 9: Insufficient Growth in the Provinces in 2006

Province	Average April 06	Average February 06	Remarks
Cabo Delgado	5%	6%	Quissanga with 16%
Niassa	7%	6%	
Nampula	10%	8%	Angoche 18%
Tete			
Sofala	5%	9%	
Manica	7%	5%	Manica 17%
Gaza	5%	4%	
Inhambane	3%	6%	
Maputo	6%	6%	
Zambézia	6%	17%	Chinde 16%

Both chronic and acute malnutrition are highest in the northern provinces of the country – areas with the best production of food. This shows once more that despite food being available, factors such as absolute poverty rates, poor access to basic services (health and water), food habits and socio-cultural customs are factors that determine malnutrition, something that should be considered in the integrated analyses of FNS.

There are nutritional recuperation programmes ongoing in all districts of the country. A campaign to identify undernourished children was launched in 18 districts in the central and southern provinces. These children receive Vitamin A and treatment against parasites. Nevertheless, there are reports that MISAU and its partners face logistical problems in reaching the remote communities.

Field data in February 2006 indicated the exhaustion of stocks of F75 and F100, however, the present monitoring shows that these products have been restocked already in almost all provinces.

The main problems registered in the rehabilitation programmes are: a lack of material for the collection of adequate anthropometrical data, while the persistent lack of nurses and servants previously trained for this activity is worrying.

Table 10: Variation in the Number of Meals and in Diet Quality of the Households

Regions	Nr of Meals of the Households		Diet Quality of the Households compared with the previous monitoring	
	February 2006	Actual	February 2006	Actual
North	2-1	2-3	same	better
Centre	2-3	2-3	better	better
South	2-3	2-3	better	better

An increase in the number of meals and a diversification of the food diet was noted (e.g. consumed products with a higher nutritional value), which are signs that the diet quality in the various districts is improving (see table 10).

2.3.2. Health Situation

This is considered normal. The most frequent diseases are: malaria, acute diarrhoeas, AIDS, lung tuberculosis and cholera. It should be noted that in the provinces of Nampula, Zambézia, Sofala and Manica localized cholera outbreaks occurred (25 districts). Normally, these outbreaks happen every year between November and May. To date the OMS reported 5.803 cases (with 26 deaths). The capacity of the activists of the Provincial Health Directorates (DPSs) at community level was strengthened and support material was distributed to respond to these outbreaks.

Information collected in the field points to an increase in STDs, HIV/AIDS and chronic diseases. Also reported was the lack of services and sufficient prevention, mitigation and treatment programmes with respect to these diseases.

The effects of HIV/AIDS, be it in terms of diminished production and productivity, be it in terms of a greater demand for more nutritious food by people suffering from AIDS, are not yet well known. On the other hand, HIV/AIDS increases the vulnerability to food and nutritional insecurity due to the increase in risky behaviour as well as to the acceleration of the evolution of the virus into the full-blown disease.

It is important to develop combined analyses of HIV/AIDS and the CI, for instance comparing children with insufficient growth but whose parents are alive, with children suffering from insufficient growth who have lost a parent or both parents.

Meanwhile, it is to be expected that this subject can be approached gradually at various levels, particularly during the national study/inquiry aimed at measuring the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and at collecting information on knowledge, attitudes and practices related to HIV/AIDS, foreseen to being realized before the end of the year by the MISAU and the INE, with funds from the CNCS.

2.3.3. Water

In the water sector it was noted that the rehabilitation of boreholes, the construction of wells and the rehabilitation and construction of water supply systems are slowly being implemented at the level of the Provincial Directorates of Public works and Housing and their partners. The dispersion of the population in isolated areas constitutes a challenge for the authorities of the OPH sector when it comes to increasing the coverage of water points.

Table 11: Response to Drought/Emergency 2005/6 - MOPH/UNICEF

Province	# Planned Water Sources	# Completed Water Sources	# Water Sources to be completed	# of Beneficiaries
<i>Rehabilitation of Water Sources</i>				
Maputo	19	18	1	8382
Gaza	25	25	0	11914
Inhambane	29	29	0	24943
Sofala	14	10	4	12172
Manica	25	22	3	14894
Tete	20	20	0	27984
TOTAL	132	124	8	100,289
<i>Construction of Water Sources</i>				
Inhambane	5	5	0	7482
Sofala	7	6	1	6100
Zambézia	4	4	0	13130
TOTAL	16	15	1	26,712

Source: UNICEF, June 2006

Despite these efforts, access to water remains a serious problem throughout the country. In Nampula for instance, almost half of the holes in the province are damaged. Meanwhile, the province of Gaza increased the coverage rate of water sources with 66%. On the other hand, water quality continues to be a problem, especially in regions where salinity is a problem.

The problem of access to water is affecting the performance of functionaries, one concrete example is that of the district of Chemba (Province of Sofala), where school teachers are obliged to leave the lessons in order to fetch water, thereby affecting the school performance of the pupils.

2.4. Survival mechanisms

Extreme survival strategies, such as passing days without eating, children dropping out of school, the reduction of the number of meals etc., are important indicators of the crisis in the Households. As the very word “extreme” indicates, it refers to activities adopted by the families in order to overcome grave difficulties related to hunger. Hence it is a crucial indicator for combining information on the FNS situation at Household and community level.

To this end an inventory was made of the most common extreme strategies in order to diagnose the situation. It was noted that in general these strategies currently not being used, which strengthens the argument already presented with respect to the indicators, that there are in fact improvements in FNS and that the provinces are far from being in a crisis situation, although there may exist pockets of food shortages.

The changes for the better in the diet quality and the increase of the number of meals also points to the absence of extreme survival strategies.

Lately a gradual improvement in the Households’ income in almost all provinces has been registered. After the continuous diminishing of production in the previous agricultural campaigns (2004/2005) due to the extreme drought, there is awareness campaign ongoing urging the populations to keep a food reserve for self-consumption. The improvement was confirmed by the PMA monitoring system CHS - *Community and household surveillance* – of March 2006, which indicates that a reduction of the CSI (*Coping Strategy Index*) was registered in comparison with October 2005.

2.5. Agrarian Assistance, Social Protection, Food Aid

Mitigation activities after February 2006 continued to involve not only the offering of humanitarian assistance but also development activities that tend to deal with the structural problems in the most vulnerable districts.

The most common programmes were realized in the sectors of social protection, agriculture, water and food aid. These programmes were promoted and implemented by government institutions, United Nations agencies, NGOs and civil society.

One of the big limitations of the social protection and mitigation programmes concerns the selection of the beneficiaries. This “often is not a transparent process, leaving the really vulnerable without benefits at all” (GAV Report, Sofala, June 2006).”

2.5.1. Social Protection

The National Institute of Social Action (INAS) distributes assistance in the form of items (food, soap, etc.) and of money (80-140 Mts/month, depending on the size of the Household). The Provincial Committee on Social Reintegration (CPRS) is also operating in the provinces, carrying out development activities (distribution of cattle, fruit trees, etc.).

Table 12: Beneficiaries of social assistance by the INAS

Province	Type and number of Beneficiaries			
	Elderly	Women Heads of Families	Children (COV)	Disabled
C. Delgado	-	-	-	-
Niassa	-	-	-	-
Nampula	10,658	3,824	372	1,065
Zambézia	518	360	246	84
Tete	-	-	-	-
Manica	13,421	1,084	5,417	765
Sofala	3,850	6,356	29,497	51,592
Inhambane	3,199	84	161	143
Gaza	2,691	9,749	364	452
Maputo	3,822	743	382	8
TOTAL				

2.5.2. Agriculture

The Provincial Directorates of Agriculture (DPA) are promoting agricultural fairs; in particular in the areas where there are neither agrarian shops nor markets. These fairs have two objectives: support the most vulnerable families (in the form of vouchers – each voucher having a value of 200,00 Mtn with a participation of 20 Mtn by the beneficiaries) and stimulate the market (through the creation of demand).

Table 13: Beneficiaries of social assistance by Agriculture – Agricultural Fairs

Province	# Beneficiaries September – December 2005 (1 st season))	# Beneficiaries January – May 2006 (2nd season)
C. Delgado	0	2,000
Niassa	0	3,000
Nampula	0	4,000
Zambézia	2,300	4,000
Tete	4,350	5,000
Manica	5,000	6,000
Sofala	11,250	8,000
Inhambane	21,202	5,000
Gaza	10,950	5,000
Maputo	11,900	11,160
TOTAL	66,952	53,160

Source: FAO

The inputs fairs sold various seeds and agricultural utensils, such as cereals, beans and groundnut among others. The fairs of the second season sold above all vegetable seeds and cereals. They were well attended by formal and informal sellers, especially in the poorly accessible districts. The beneficiaries were selected by local authorities, community leaders and the District Directorate of Agriculture (DDAs) and the DPAs, in accordance with the level of vulnerability and taking into account gender aspects.

In addition to the fairs, seeds were directly distributed in the provinces by several organizations and especially directed towards the families affected by local flooding. In Cabo Delgado for instance, the DPA with support from the Aga Khan Foundation and the Spanish Cooperation distributed over 100 tons of seeds (maize, rice, sorghum, beans, groundnut, irish-potato and vegetables).

2.5.3. Food Aid

In March of 2006, the PMA supported some 568,000 people affected by the drought, which represented some 71% of the GAV recommendation of October 2005. It also offered food aid to people affected by the floods, some 2,000 people in Caia, Sofala. Community assistance programmes were also implemented for people affected by HIV/AIDS (some 90,000 people/month). The GAV in its monitoring of February 2006 recommended reducing food distribution by 30% because of the good production perspectives. To date there has been a gradual reduction of food aid to the vulnerable populations, as can be seen in Table 14.

Table 14: Demonstration of the gradual reduction of food aid given to the vulnerable population

	February		March		April		May	
	Benef	TONSS	Benef	TONSS	Benef	TONSS	Benef	TONSS
Vulnerable groups	441,832	7,390	474,846	8,664	170,565	2,714	110,572	1,275
Food for work	97,824	1,336	93,520	1,400	49,515	864	63,060	704
Total	539,656	8,726	568,366	10,064	220,080	3,578	173,632	1,979

Source: PMA

According to the PMA monitoring systems, especially Post Distribution (PDM), all beneficiaries received beans and cereals between October and March of 2005, however, due to the exhaustion of stocks only 20% of the Households received oil. The main beneficiaries of food aid were women (73%), compared with 79% in October 2005. However, despite the selection criteria of the Households being socially defined (Households headed by women or elderly people, with disabled, chronically ill or poor in terms of assets), the results show that 32% of the selected Households did not meet any of these criteria, while 30% only met one and 38% two or more, which goes to show the need to improve the methods of selecting the beneficiaries.

3. COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

3.1. Results of the monitoring in the Provinces

a) Province of Niassa

Compared with the previous campaign, rainfall in the current agricultural campaign was below normal, though regular and well distributed, which ensured a good growth of the crops. In the districts of Mecula, Sanga, Majune and Lago, rainfall was late, irregular and local.

In general, in preparation for the 2006/7 season, a massive increase of areas in low-lying land can be noted, with the exception of the Districts of Maúa, Majune, Mavago and Nipepen.

The seeds distributed in the course of the campaign, maize and vegetables, were of good quality in all districts.

Despite the good water and pasture conditions at present in the livestock sector, the endemic occurrence of the tsetse fly limits animal production to a mere 6 (six) districts (Cuamba, Mecanhelas, Lago, Lichinga, Ngaúma and Sanga). Goats are to be found in the same districts, except for Ngaúma. Poultry is produced in these 6 districts and in Muembe and Mavago. Cuamba and Ngaúma have a major incidence of Newcastle disease.

The second season was good in all districts, with the exception of those localized in conservation areas, with limited access to low-lying areas and a clear man-animal conflict.

The availability of food at provincial level is in general good as a result of the good harvests, with the exception of the areas of Mecula, Sanga, Lago and Majune, owing to the poor rainfall and the difficulties related to the access roads.

The most common diseases are: malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. However, since February malaria has increasingly been affecting children. As far as nutritional rehabilitation is concerned, there were problems related to the irregular supply of F75.

Prices tend to decrease, with beans registering their lowest price of the year, some 18,00 Mtn to 20,00 Mtn/20-litre can, compared with February when it was 60,00 Mtn to 70,00 Mtn/20-litre can. Maize is 5,00 Mtn/can, compared with 20,00 Mtn/20-litre can in February.

b) Province of Cabo Delgado

The availability of food is good, with improvements being made since February. The estimated production is larger than that of last year, with growth in cereals (113%); legumes (159%) and tubers (112%). Therefore the food reserves are considered sufficient.

The poor access roads inhibit the integration of the markets, so that big volumes are marketed without any control in Tanzania. Fish, seafood and cashew, important resources for the province, are poorly exploited. The prices of agricultural products tend to decrease with the increase of supply.

The nutritional information indicates that in March 5,9% of the controlled children recorded a poor "CI", with Quissanga standing out with 16%, followed by Meluco with 13%. In April the nutritional situation improved, because not one district registered alert levels for CI, except Mecufi with 15%. This clearly shows that with the beginning of the harvests the families already possess food.

The BPN data are worrisome. In March, the BPN rate was 19%, the highest rate being registered in Balama with 28%. Of a total of 137 live born babies 39 had BPN. In April the average was 18%, the highest rate being in Montepuez, with 30%. Of a total of 241 live born babies 73 had BPN. These data point to a nutritional problem in pregnant women.

In general malnutrition is chronic, due to poor food habits and the lack of diversification in the use of food. Joint food aid by INGC/Aga Khan facilitated the recuperation of some of the most vulnerable Households in critical condition.

All districts have nutritional recuperation programmes that use the milk F75, F100 and Plumpy Nut, supplied by UNICEF.

Access to drinking water remains a problem. Of the 1.788 rural water supply sources some 66% are wells, 33% are holes and 1% is springs. There are 1.172 wells of which 703 are operational and 469 are damaged. Of the 591 boreholes, 303 are operational and 288 are damaged.

The shortage of drinking water, linked to poor habits in terms of hygiene has caused a big incidence of diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and scabies.

The mission noted the existence of the following problems: Striking and unsustainable exploration of timber and natural resources in general; Lack of fishing material and of financing; Lack of support services to fishery; Precarious access roads; Absence of traders in rural areas for the marketing of surpluses and the transport of production; Lack of suppliers of agricultural inputs; Loss of production (up to 30%) caused by wild animals, plagues in the fields and post-harvest plagues; Lack of ammunition to keep wild animals at bay.

As far as nutritional rehabilitation is concerned, the following problems were identified: Exhaustion of stocks of therapeutic products; No application of the new therapeutic protocol in treating severe malnutrition; Lack of knowledge about the preparation of the milk F75 and F100 and the reappearance of malnourished cases amongst children when they return home upon treatment, mainly in children from the most vulnerable Households.

c) Province of Nampula

From December onwards, the rains were regular and well distributed in almost the whole province, contributing to the good results of the 2nd season of the agricultural campaign (2005/2006) compared with those of the last campaign (2004/2005).

The food and nutritional situation is normal in terms of quantity and quality of the food diet brought about by the increased availability of food. As an example, the populations in the interior districts at present eat two (2) meals per day and those in the coastal area eat three (3) meals per day, as against one (1) and two (2) respectively in times of crisis. Cases of low birth weight persist in almost all districts, except for Lalaua and Mogovolas, where this indicator was stable in the months March and April.

The food reserves in the districts of the intermediate zone and of the coastal area will start to run out from the end of August/beginning of September of the current year onwards in the districts of Nacaroa, Memba, Nacala-a-Velha, Mossuril and Ilha de Moçambique. In the interior the reserves may last until November.

Meanwhile, the unplanned marketing of agricultural surpluses at Household level may lead to the premature exhaustion of food reserves.

The situation concerning livestock is characterized by optimum pasture conditions; good water availability and good animal health, so that the current selling prices are normal.

The coverage of the water supply is limited owing to the reduced number of functioning boreholes. The population spend an average of 45 minutes fetching water.

The quantity of seeds and other agricultural inputs made available in the current agricultural campaign by the DPA / DDAs and their partners were insufficient.

With respect to the Bird Flu, the province of Nampula does not have the resources nor concrete activities, with exception of the ongoing insignificant awareness raising activities in some districts.

d) Province of Zambézia

In general, the food and nutritional security situation in this province improved significantly, but pockets of food and nutritional insecurity can be encountered in the districts of Chinde, Inhassunge (4.800 families), Mopeia, Chimuará (700 families) and Namacurra. However, the districts of Morrumbala (Chire strip) and Pebane need monitoring of the food and nutritional security situation in the coming months.

Although the province does not present food security problems, the informal supply of above all maize to Malawi, unrestrained selling motivated by high prices, the lack of access in some areas and the occurrence of long periods of local dryness, are factors that might lead to the occurrence of pockets of hunger in some districts, especially Chinde (Inhassunge), Mopeia (Chimuará) and Namacurra. The lethal yellowing of the coconut constitutes one of the most serious problems for the re-establishment of the income sources of the population in the coastal area of the province.

Livestock production shows a growth in the number of animals, especially of cattle, goats and poultry. No outbreaks of diseases were reported, except for Newcastle disease in poultry. The quality of pastures and the availability of water in the pasture areas improved significantly.

Insufficient Growth (CI) rates in all districts are considered normal, with the exception of the district of Chinde, where it is alarming. In general, the cases of insufficient growth showed a tendency to decrease between January and March, as a result of the improved availability of food due to the beginning of the harvests. The Low Birth Weight (BPN) rates in all districts are considered serious, except for Maganja da Costa.

From January to March, some populations took recourse to the consumption of bitter cassava, something which caused food poisoning and the subsequent paralysing of the lower limbs, above all in women and children, in the districts of Mocuba, Lugela, Ile and very recently in Pebane.

e) Province of Tete

The general evaluation of the agricultural production levels indicates significant improvements compared with the 2004/2005 campaign, with the exception of the districts of Mutarara and Moatize, where the situation remained the same. It should be noted that despite the increase in agricultural production, there are still pockets where reserves are already running out (some areas of Changara and Mutarara) and only will last for 3 to 4 months, especially in the districts in the centre and north of the province with reserves of more than 4 months.

Livestock production is able to compensate for the food shortage on the one hand, and to generate income for the purchase of food after the food reserves have been exhausted. In general the rains contributed significantly to the revitalization of the pastures, to the availability of pastures and water for cattle and to the recuperation of the physical condition of the animals in comparison with October 2005, with the exception of the districts of Changara, Tsangano, Zumbo, Moatize, Mutarara and C. Bassa. In the district of C. Bassa some animals suffered from Bad Conditional Scrop (BCS) and tick-borne fever.

As far as animal health is concerned, the existence of several opportunistic diseases was reported, such as: anaplasmosis and conjunctivitis in the district of Changara, soremouth in the districts of Macanga and Chifunde, sleeping sickness and anaplasmosis in the districts of Chiuta and Zumbo, nodular dermatitis in the district of Moatize as well as nodular dermatitis, African swine fever and tripanosomiasis in the district of Mutarara.

The results of production during the second season appear to be good, especially in the districts in the north and in the river basins in the south of the province.

Access to food is normal, except in the district of Mutarara where the mission noted that in addition to a certain scarcity of food especially in the district's south, alternative resources are limited while prices on the market are high (e.g. a 20-litre can of maize costs 6,00Mtn as against 3,00Mtn under normal circumstances in the same period of the year). This district has poor access roads, which hampers the circulation of products through economic agents, be they formal or informal, who resort to doing business with Malawi.

The most frequent diseases in the province from January to March 2006 are: malaria, diarrhoea, tuberculosis, AIDS and severe malnutrition. The analysis of the trends of these diseases in comparison with the same period of last year (January to March 2005) shows that the number of malaria cases increased by 9%; those of diarrhoea by 20% and those of tuberculosis by 24%. The increase in the number of AIDS cases was 13%, increasing from 474 cases in 2005 to 540 cases in 2006. The number of deaths decreased by 32% - from 205 in 2005 to 138 in 2006. Malnutrition showed an increase of 14%, from 185 cases in 2005 to 211 in 2006.

f) Province of Manica

The food security situation in the province is stable. The results of the agricultural campaign suffice until the next harvests, with the exception of some administrative posts with cyclical problems in the districts of Tambara, Macossa, Machaze, Guro and Mossurize, where they may last 3 months. Access to food is normal and prices of the main agricultural products tend to decrease. The situation with respect to low birth weight in the districts of Tambara, Gôndola, Chimoio and Barué is bad, and insufficient growth is prominent in the district of Manica.

Although the agricultural campaign has been good, the food situation in the following districts should be taken into consideration: Tambara – in the administrative post of Nhacafula the food reserves of the families may only last for some 2 months, while they will last 5 months in the posts of Nhacolo and Buzua. In Guro - in the administrative posts of Mandié, Nhamassonge and Mungari the food reserves of the families will be sufficient for a period of 3 months. However, taking into account the large-scale cattle breeding in these posts, these families may have alternative livelihood sources. In the seat of Guro, food reserves may last 5 months. In Macossa – the food reserves of the administrative posts of the seat and of Nguawala will last some 2 months while Nhamagua has reserves for 3 months. In Machaze – in the administrative post of Save-Chidoco the food reserves will last 3 months while they will only last 2 months for the seat. In Mossurize – in the administrative post of Chiurairue the food reserves will last 3 months while the posts of the seat, Dacata and Mpenço, have reserves for more than 5 months.

In the remaining districts the food reserves will be sufficient until the next agricultural campaign of 2006/07.

The prices of basic manufactured products and of livestock products at the level of the main markets tend to go up, due to the increase of fuel prices and of the inflation rate, while the prices of agricultural products tend to decrease.

From February and April onwards the situation with respect to low birth weight is bad in four districts, namely: Tambara, Chimoio, Gôndola and Bárue, while it is acceptable in the remaining districts. The city of Manica showed an increase in the occurrence of insufficient growth. The most common diseases are malaria, diarrhoeas, tuberculosis, malnutrition and HIV/AIDS.

g) Province of Sofala

Agricultural production in general surpassed that of the 2004/05 campaign, with districts having an above average production. The availability of food in general, including the production of animals, their health conditions and the conditions of pasture also improved.

Overall, the nutritional situation is considered good, and it has considerably improved compared with last February and the 2004/05 agricultural campaign.

The general availability of food is adequate until October 2006, with most families being able to sustain themselves with their own production. Nonetheless, in some areas, namely the center of the district of Chemba and in the southern part of the center of the administrative post of Machanga, it is foreseen that the families will have food reserves until August. In the second post some families with fewer resources will need very close monitoring in order to evaluate their food security.

Improved supply of agricultural products led to a reduction of prices in local markets. On the other hand, the prices of manufactured products remained at the level of February 2006.

Access to drinking water continues to be critical. This problem has caused some populations to leave their communities, as in the case of the locality of Titos in the district of Chemba, where the schoolteachers moved to the center of the district.

The quality of the water for consumption has been an important factor in the incidence of diarrhoeas, aggravated by the resistance to changing the negative attitude towards the use of chlorine in water from rivers and other supply sources. People continue to walk long distances to fetch water, which is reflected in health and daily hygiene.

With respect to nutritional rehabilitation programmes, it was observed that these are not sustainable. Nutritional education programmes undertaken by the partners are not inclusive. A lack of nutrition technicians was noted.

Drought mitigation programmes, such as the introduction of drought-resistant crops and the rehabilitation of water sources are ongoing in all districts. Food aid programmes, through food for work as well as through assistance free of charge, will end in the month of June.

h) Province of Inhambane

The production of cereals recorded an increase of 93,7% compared with the ultimate campaign, that of legumes an increase of 37,1% and an increase of 12,5% is estimated for the production of tubers.

An increase in the number of animals was recorded, due to promotion programmes, medical and medicinal assistance, and vaccinations against some diseases. A total of 133.358 cattle were listed in September 2005. The districts with most animals are Zavala, Govuro and Massinga.

The last four months have seen a strong increase in the prices of some manufactured products such as sugar and oil, which amounted to 23% in the market of Massinga, 36% in Morrumbene and 40% in Govuro. However, from February onwards the prices of locally produced agricultural products decreased in the main markets because of the increase in supply. The marketing of maize, beans and groundnut is very dynamic.

The main markets of the province are those of Maxixe, Massinga and Vilanculos, while the main constraint with respect to markets is the poor passability of the access roads in the rural areas, especially in the rainy season.

The most common diseases, in order of importance, are: malaria, diarrhoeas, respiratory infections, anaemia and tuberculosis, which varies from area to area. Diarrhoeas often have to do with the quality of consumed water. The most affected groups are children and women. AIDS remains a threat for the population and the number of HIV-positive people is growing.

The water situation has not changed since February. There are still a great number of damaged boreholes and the population continues to walk long distances, especially in the districts of the interior such as Mabote, Funhalouro and Panda, where precipitation levels are low. The minimum distances walked by the population vary between 5 and 10 km.

In a situation of normal production like the one of the present agricultural campaign, the populations eat two to three meals per day, while in times of crisis the number of meals is reduced to two or one.

In general, the population has as main income sources agriculture, livestock breeding, fishing and natural resources. It is estimated that the population of the interior districts in particular will have guaranteed food reserves until August-September.

At present survival strategies are not used because of the improvements in agricultural production, which is the main revenue source.

Although significant improvements have been registered in all of the FNS dimensions, it is estimated that 133 thousand families have reserves lasting until August, 92 thousand families have food reserves between August and September and 17 thousand have reserves lasting more than 5 months.

i) Province of Gaza

The availability of food improved in comparison with the previous campaign. The rains were late and less abundant than normal. However, overall production and the availability of food improved, compared with the last campaign.

It is estimated that among the poorest Households there is a high percentage of people with food reserves of less than three months, especially in the districts of the north: Chigubo, Massangena and Chicualacuala.

The conditions of livestock improved substantially, owing to the improvements of pastures and water, to lesser diseases and to the strengthening of veterinary assistance.

The prices of the main products remain stable, compared with the situation in February. In the district of Chibuto the price of maize in kernel is lower because there are production surpluses. It is possible that in the months of May to August the prices of beans, maize and groundnut will decrease, due to the second harvest. The prices of essential industrial products remain stable.

As far as the markets are concerned, it should be noted that the traders are undercapitalised, especially in the rural areas. There is a lack of low-interest credit for traders, which has contributed to the closure of some businesses, and access roads are poor, especially in the districts of the north. Generally speaking, there is a certain stability in the supply of the markets in Chibuto, Mandlakazi, Bilene, Chókwè, Xai-Xai, Massingir and Guijá.

The water supply to the population has tended to improve both qualitatively and quantitatively, although there still exist areas with grave salinity problems. The current coverage rate is 66,8%. The availability of water improved compared with February, but the quality only improved in seven out of the eleven districts. At present, the number of boreholes is 1702 – of which 431 are damaged (25%). The time spent on fetching water is 4 hours on average.

There were improvements in the food diet of the Households, with an increase in the number of meals and a better diversification of the food diet.

The main diseases are: malaria, diarrhoea and malnutrition.

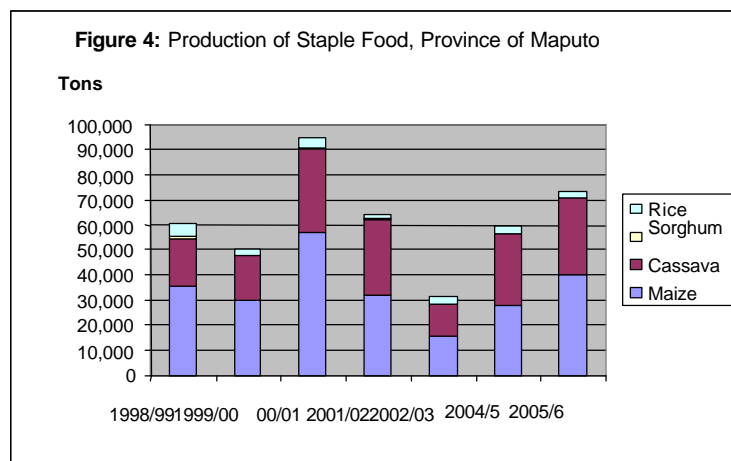
The nutritional situation in general is considered satisfactory, although surveillance is called for in some districts such as Chigubo. In terms of CI, the values are much less than the 16% limit, with a maximum of 9% in Chigubo, which shows that the acute vulnerability situation is reasonable and within the acceptable norms.

The BPN hovers around 7%, with some districts standing out with slightly higher percentages, but nowhere over 11% (the highest value recorded in Bilene).

In general the FNS situation is satisfactory and has improved in comparison with February. It is estimated that there is a considerable number of Households with food reserves for three to five months, which may need assistance from September onwards.

j) Province of Maputo

Generally speaking, the production of the 2005/06 campaign is better than the one of the last campaign and the best one of the last 4 years. The production of legumes alone increased by 150%.



Throughout the province food reserves from the present campaign will last from 3 to 6 months. The places where agriculture is not viable are those that record a low production, especially Panjane and Mahel in Magude, Catuane and Machangulo in Matutuine and Matsequenha and Kazimate in Namaacha. Overall, the province has a production shortage in terms of food needs per capita, which indicates that the market is an important source for food.

The population of Maputo province uses several income sources, varying from district to district, with the most important ones being agricultural production, day labour and informal trade.

At present, the markets offer an abundance of agro, livestock and manufactured products. The prices of agricultural products are decreasing (maize decreased from 23.00Mtn to 9,00Mtn per 20 litre can in almost all districts between February 06 and May 06). The price of cattle remains at 6.000,00 to 8.000,00 Mtn. In some remote areas the problem of access roads continues to be the main constraint to the functioning of the markets, for instance, Moamba, Sabie, Bela Vista, Catuane, Magude-Mapulanguene, Motaze, Manhiça, Calanga, etc.

In general the nutritional situation of the province is good. From February to April the CI rate improved from 6% to 4%. The BPN rate is between 7 and 8%, except for Magude where the CI rate increased from 8 to 15%.

In general, the number of water supply sources has tended to increase but it is still insufficient. Problems with water quality also remain, especially in the coastal areas of the district of Matutuíne.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The vulnerability analysis carried out in May 2006 concluded that the FNS situation improved considerably after five consecutive years of dryness and prolonged drought. However, pockets of food insecurity may emerge from October 2006 onwards, due to the exhaustion of the present food reserves in combination with poor feeding habits.

In terms of food crop production, the current agricultural campaign is better than the one of last year. Increases were noted in cereal production of 10,4%, in that of legumes of 9,6% and in cassava production of 13,8%. In some places of the country, these increases mean the best production in the last five years.

Concerning food reserves, the country is well off with respect to maize (99,000 Tons), cassava (439,000 Tons), other tubers (61,000 Tons) and groundnut (43,000 Tons).

Self-sufficiency in basic food products such as cereals and tubers may be reached in the commercial year from April 2006 to March 2007. Nonetheless, there are pockets of food insecurity in the arid and semi-arid areas where the food reserves at Household level will only last for a period of three months after the harvest. The second season, which only contributes some 10 to 15% to covering the food consumption needs, can contribute to the improvement of FNS in these deficit areas.

Livestock is in full recuperation. The rains allowed for the recuperation of pastures and water levels, with a relative increase of animal biomass. The animal health situation is considered good. However, localized outbreaks of Newcastle disease and African swine fever have been registered, which were promptly brought under control. Not one single case of bird flu has been recorded in the entire country, and awareness campaigns concerning this issue are ongoing.

The markets are reasonably well supplied. After a high in February, the prices of the main agricultural products has tended to stabilize or to decrease. Prices of essential products are stable with a slight increase, especially in the more remote rural areas, due to high fuel prices having a bearing on transport costs.

The levels of low birth weight (BPN), in particular in the country's north, and endemic malaria in various areas, represent a serious threat to the well being of the communities. This reflects the persistence of structural problems such as absolute poverty, poor access to basic services and bad feeding habits largely related to taboos and beliefs.

Acute malnutrition improved significantly, owing not only to the availability of food but also to the reduction of climatic risks and interventions such as are expected this time of the year, with the harvests ongoing.

The availability of water both in terms of quantity and of quality improved, but the sources of water for consumption by the populations continue to be a serious problem in a number of districts, leading to the occurrence of water-borne diseases such as conjunctivitis, scabies, diarrhoeas/cholera, etc.

AIDS was frequently reported in all visited areas. Many children admitted in hospitals with malnutrition suffer from diseases associated with HIV/AIDS. At community level there is a need to improve food security and the FNS state of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

With respect to survival strategies, it was reported that no use is being made of extreme mechanisms (e.g. pass the day without eating, the reduction of the number of meals and the unrestrained selling of animals) compared with the same period of last year.

As far as income sources are concerned, they improved significantly at Household level, in particular those linked to agricultural production.

Mitigation programmes had a significant impact on the recuperation of the population, which contributed to an improvement in the present FNS situation. These programmes include agricultural input fairs and food aid.

Agricultural input fairs were held in the most vulnerable districts and in those facing shortages, which led to an improvement of the availability of inputs, allowing Households to restart agricultural activities.

An improvement in the management of the food aid programmes at local level was noted, despite persistent problems concerning the criteria for the selection of beneficiaries.

FNS continues to be interpreted as something that is guaranteed once maize production is good. The Provincial and National SETSANs face a big task in interpreting and treating FNS holistically.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The analyses of the three FNS pillars have shown that the situation is much better than in October 2005 and February 2006. This conclusion is supported by the fact that there is much more production available; that there are no major price fluctuations and that there are more products available in the market.

There was an increase in the number of income sources and their diversification improved, which may have contributed to the increase of the Households' buying power and hence to the economic access to food.

The diet quality improved, there was progress in the supply of water to the population and various ongoing interventions (such as the social protection network and recuperation and food aid programmes) produced rather positive effects.

As a direct consequence, there are improvements in the indicators with respect to malnutrition and the use of extreme survival strategies, which are indispensable in supporting the argument for or against a FSN crisis.

Although a certain stability in FNS was registered, there are several factors that may positively or negatively influence the current situation and therefore require the activation of intervention programmes. Thus there are three possible scenarios for the coming six months:

- **SCENARIO 1 – Probable scenario**

The first scenario is the one prevailing at the moment. Taking into consideration the production during the first season, keeping in mind that the 2nd season (which normally represents a mere 15% of global production) is developing normally and taking into account the vegetative aspects of the crops, we are of the opinion that the FNS situation will not worsen.

Rainfall is favourable for good crop development such as: vegetable growing, better pastures and access to water for animals. In addition it is noted that the production of cassava and other tubers is expanding and well performing.

It should be noted that tubers play a very consumption important role during times of crisis and when there is a shortage in cereals production.

Meanwhile, due to the reserves at Household and market level, everything indicates that wild price fluctuations will not occur. .

- **SCENARIO 2 – Quite improbable**

It is most unlikely that this scenario will occur, taking into account the facts observed in the field. Scenario 2 is only probable if there would be a total loss of the second season due to drought or to the following factors: serious attacks by plagues and diseases, the occurrence of severe and prolonged drought, and poor access to low lying areas. Related to this scenario is the poor performance of livestock, including the outbreak of diseases that would impede the selling of animals and their subsequent moving in and between districts.

Outbreak of diseases such as malaria, among others, may lead to a worsening of the nutritional situation for humans.

The exaggerated increase of prices of basic food products may hamper economic access to food, as well as drastically reduce food reserves of the Households, in particular of those having reserves for less than 6 months.

- **SCENARIO 3 – Very improbable and possibly localized**

This scenario might unfold among the most vulnerable Households in the arid and semi-arid areas in the interior of the provinces in the south and centre. These areas are typically characterized by a very limited second agricultural season.

This scenario may occur in case the second season is drastically reduced, when the pasture and watering conditions deteriorate and when the low-lying areas are difficult to access.

In addition a drastic reduction of the food reserves in the markets would be noted, an exaggerated increase of prices of essential products, an intensified use of forest resources, a delay of the rains in the first 2006/07 season and an increase of post-harvest losses.

The indicators for monitoring these scenarios are the following:

- Prices and functioning of the markets;
- Condition of pastures and of the state of the animals;
- Development phase of the crops, especially of cassava;
- Situation of nutritional surveillance;
- Availability and distribution of rains; and
- Data on production of the second season.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

General Recommendations

The recommendations were structured around the FNS pillars in order to facilitate a better response capacity on the part of the intervening institutions, which are from the government and partners. Thus, these recommendations should be amply discussed and disseminated, with a view to an effective response adequate to each intervention area, place and persons entitled to it.

Recommendations for institutional questions

- SETSAN-Ps should lead coordination of the analyses of FNS and vulnerability, in response to the process of decentralization of FNS and institutionalisation of the SETSAN at the level of each province;
- Improve and activate the participation of members and partners of the SETSAN-Ps;

- Integrate the data of the AV into the strategic development plans of the province and the districts, namely PEDD, PASAN, PAAO, OGE, among others, in order to reduce the impact of acute and chronic vulnerability;
- Speed up the holistic treatment of FNS in the training and capacity building programmes for leaders, members, partners and technicians of the SETSAN-Ps;
- Strengthen advocacy directed towards the governors and provincial directors so that there is more sensitivity with respect to FNS issues;
- Ensure a better articulation, coordination and circulation of information between SETSAN-C and the SETSAN-Ps.

In the area of Food Availability:

- Monitor the performance of the second agricultural campaign, and the effects on the Household's food reserves lasting less than three months;
- Disseminate and accompany the awareness campaigns concerning bird flu, as well as the implementation of the contingency plan;
- Realize small-scale irrigation plans consisting in the reparation of foot pumps, the rehabilitation and construction of reservoirs in the regions cyclically affected by drought;
- Monitor ongoing activities to reduce the territorial man/animal conflict, especially in the north and centre of the country;
- Monitor and evaluate food reserves in the districts in arid and semi-arid areas (3 to 5 months of reserves);
- Promote, monitor and influence the realization of a sufficient number of high quality input fairs for the beginning of the 2006/07 campaign in semi-arid and poorly accessible areas.

In the area of Access to Food:

- Promote activities and advise local consultation bodies with a view to intensify the rehabilitation of the road network between the areas of high agricultural and livestock production, areas experiencing shortages and the potential markets in the south and centre of the country;
- Enable the commercial sector to collect of prices at district level, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable and remote districts;
- Reactivate the functioning of the multisectoral Market Group at the level of SETSAN Central;

- Promote the construction of silos for the conservation of agricultural surpluses in order to ensure a solid food reserve base in times of crisis;
- Ensure the creation of credit institutions in the districts, in order to finance the extension of the commercial network and of income generating activities, with low-interest rates.

In the area of Food Use

- Intensify education programmes on nutrition, environmental hygiene and food;
- Prioritize activities aiming at improving access to basic services in the PEDDs, especially in the centre and north of the country;
- Ensure more integrated analyses of nutrition, taking into account indicators related to the nutritional state of women in child-bearing age and pregnant women;
- Promote a better understanding of the socio-cultural causes of and factors related to FNS in and among the Households at community level;
- Monitor and systematize separate information on the current situation concerning water supply and the ongoing activities;
- Monitor small social infrastructure activities that enable the installation of gutters and tanks for the conservation and supply of water, giving priority to arid and semi-arid areas;
- Promote the dissemination of information on the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS.

6. INFORMATION

1. BASELINE STUDY ON FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

In 2004 the SETSAN, through the multisectoral vulnerability analysis group (GAV), made a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic situation of families in 7 provinces of the country. These analyses identified the peculiarities of stratified interventions aimed at supporting various wealth groups identified by the GAV.

Two years later, during the retreat of the GAV realized last March/06, it was recommended that a new study be carried out in order to update the FNS database. Accordingly a baseline study is planned for August/September 2006.

At present a task force has been formed and is revising the survey instruments as well as studying the options for decentralizing the data collection process in order to ensure a greater empowerment of the provinces in the process of FNS analysis.

The innovation of the new round foresees that the SETSAN will subsequently create data bases in the provinces and assist in analyzing data in a more objective manner and in accordance with the interest of the issues expressed by the partners in each province. Thus, it is foreseen that a series of thematic publications will be produced as a result of the exercise, which will serve as a basis for strengthening and orienting interventions.

2. REVIEW OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY (ESAN)

The Food and Nutritional Security Strategy (ESAN), was approved in 1998, by Internal Resolution Nr.16/98 of 23 December. The ESAN's objective is to guarantee that all Mozambicans at all times have physical and economic access to the food necessary to lead an active and healthy life.

In 2005, the SETSAN with support from its partners evaluated the implementation of the ESAN from the time of its approval until the year 2005.

A revision of the 1998 ESAN, based on the results of the 2005 evaluation, is planned for the period from July to October 2006. The Human Right to Adequate Food, HIV/AIDS and decentralization, among others, deserve emphasis in ESAN II. The terms of reference for this revision explain the methodology, the strategic pillars and the guidelines, specifically with respect to the definition of the operationalization matrixes of ESAN II, through the creation of an Action Plan for Food and Nutritional Security (PASAN).

The general objectives are related to the strategic matrix of the PARPA II. A timetable, indicators and budget lines for the operationalization will be defined for each specific objective.

3. TRAINING PROCESS

Continuing its role as coordinator and facilitator of FNS activities in the country, the SETSAN has organized courses in the last three months to capacitate district administrators (30) and social communication professionals (30) in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane.

The training of provincial SETSAN technicians is foreseen in the month of August in Sofala and Manica. These trainings will last 5 days, and will eventually be organized in all provinces. Their objectives are the creation of a critical mass of nationals at provincial and district level with a holistic understanding of FNS and the inventory and transmission of FNS instruments that can be immediately used in practice by the provincial SETSAN technicians in performing their functions within the context of FNS.

At the same time it is planned to continue with the training of district administrators in the central and northern provinces of the country. Social communication training will be offered at regional level.

4. PROVINCIAL LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Within the context of provincial decentralization and budgeting, the MINAG/DNSA at its national meeting has determined that each province will henceforth budget an annual amount to ensure the coordination of FNS activities.

In order to have a legal framework in the PAAO, SETSAN-C together with the SETSAN-Ps developed a logical framework that should serve as a basis for the planning of the aforementioned activities. From this perspective, the logical framework already sent to the provinces will serve as a basis for guiding the SETSAN-Ps in registering the priority activities, indicators and the means of verification.

Thus, the members of the SETSAN-Ps should define the priorities of the activities and present the consensus reached to serve as a pivot in the strengthening of the FNS activities in each province.