

**United Nations IASC
Regional Meeting on Humanitarian Needs
in Southern Africa**

**Expanding Vulnerability
Assessments within the
Region**

**A presentation by the SADC-FANR
Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC)
Johannesburg, 6 - 7 June 2002**



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How do livelihoods based vulnerability assessments add to our understanding of the current crisis?

They broaden our understanding of who is affected, where they are, how they are affected and what can be done about it, by answering questions such as ...

- What is the net food deficit effect at household level, for different livelihood zones and wealth groups?
- What are the vulnerabilities of population groups in various livelihoods, such as small-scale farmers, farm workers and the urban poor in terms of access to food and cash?
- What coping strategies and capacities are available to people (food, income, and expenditure strategies)?
- How can agencies respond this year in a way that saves lives and supports livelihoods?



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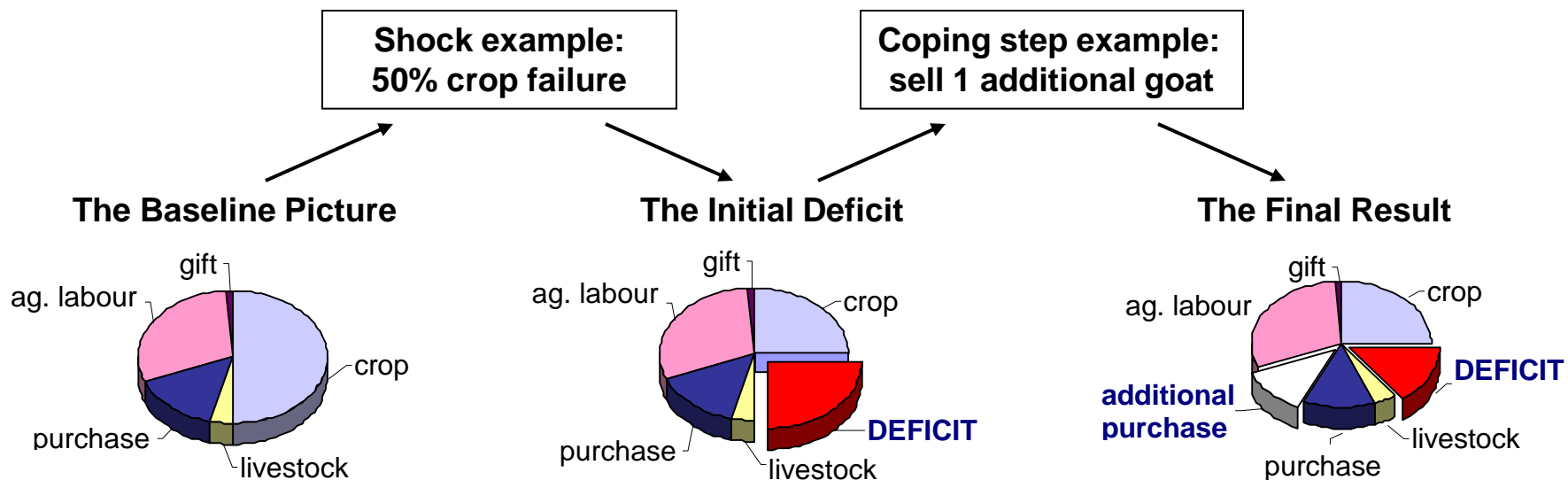


How is this done?

Vulnerability Assessment Framework of Analysis

A **baseline** livelihood profile is established which sets out how households in different food economy zones and different wealth groups access food and income and how they spend their money.

This baseline picture is then used as a **context** against which to judge the effects of a livelihood shock on food security, taking into account the degree to which coping and other strategies can expand to meet basic food and other needs.



How has this approach been used in the context of the current crisis?

	ZIMBABWE	MALAWI	MOZAMBIQUE
Use of baseline, hazard/shock, outcome framework	YES, based on secondary data. Mainly qualitative	YES, based on secondary data plus primary data from key informants. Qualitative and quantitative.	YES, based on secondary data and primary data from key informants plus household level interviews. Qualitative and quantitative.
Nature of vulnerability analysis	Qualitative description of likely effects on different socio-economic groups in different geographical areas.	Quantitative description, giving best and worst case food gaps by food economy zone and wealth group.	Quantitative description, giving best and worst case food gaps by food economy zone and wealth group.
Analysis of intervention requirements	Qualitative description of the pros and cons of different food based emergency interventions.	Quantitative analysis providing estimates of food aid requirements for each food economy zone.	Quantitative estimates of food aid requirements for each food economy zone plus description of relevant longer term interventions for each food economy zone.



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Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe Assessments

IMPORTANT ISSUES

- Zimbabwe and Malawi vulnerability assessment baselines need updating, but there is no national capacity to do this.
- Work in Malawi could have been done earlier if technical capacity to undertake the analysis had been there.
- Mozambique analysis was based on a recent (2001/2) baseline but analysis required expatriate input.

CONCLUSIONS

- Livelihoods based VA provides invaluable information but there is very limited national technical capacity to create national VA maps / baselines OR to undertake analysis.
- Therefore, there is an urgent need to strengthen capacity to undertake such work in the future to ensure earlier warnings through a sustainable national system.



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How is the SADC-FANR VAC going to help expand VA in the region?

- **What is the SADC-FANR VAC?**
- **Who are the VAC partners?**
- **Why does the VAC exist?**
- **What are our near-term plans?**
- **What are our longer term plans?**
- **What will we achieve?**



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What is the SADC-FANR Vulnerability Assessment Committee?

The SADC-FANR VAC is ...

- ... a multi-agency group of technical experts from ...
- ... the FANR Food Security Programme and from associated technical agencies ...
- ... working at the regional level to promote and support vulnerability assessment in the region.

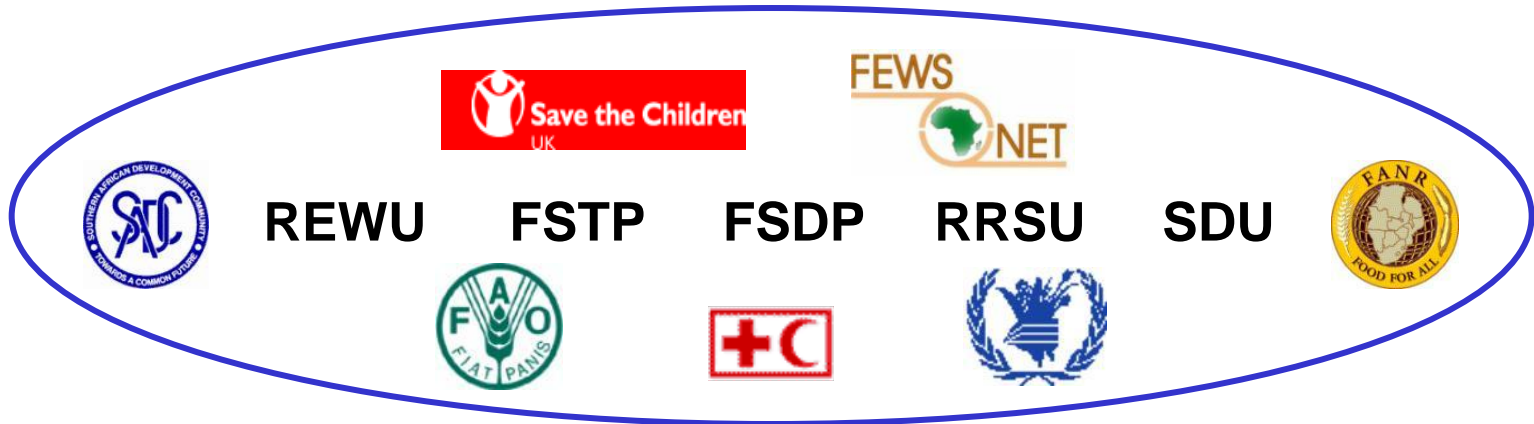


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Who are the VAC partners?

Members of the VAC include ...



Associated donor agencies include ...



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The SADC FANR VAC exists to ...

Strengthen capacity of Member States to undertake and utilise vulnerability assessments for the purposes of food security planning in both emergency and non-emergency situations.

Key responsibilities:

- Harmonisation of VA methods and terminology between key partner agencies: SC (UK), FEWS NET, WFP VAM (now achieved at regional level).
- Training and institutional strengthening at regional and national level.
- Advocating for more widespread use of VA and information dissemination.



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What are our near-term plans?

- Support national level vulnerability baseline assessments to provide immediate guidance in targeting and monitoring.
- Support localized emergency livelihood and vulnerability assessments in the most affected areas and countries of the region.
- Establish a well staffed VAC technical secretariat to co-ordinate analysis, training and institution building at regional level in this crisis period.

PROBLEM: Technical capacity would be stretched but is sufficient to meet essential key information requirements. Our main constraint is funding.



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What are our longer-term plans?

- Major training and institution building programme.
- Establishment of national level vulnerability monitoring systems in SADC states.

These activities will be supported through ...

- A five year, US\$ 5.6 million programme funded by DFID, as part of a larger SADC food security programme. Start date: September 2002 (?).
- An on-going programme to establish / update national level VA baselines in SADC countries, funded by USAID/FEWS NET and DFID.



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Our longer-term efforts will focus on ...

1. Building capacity for national level vulnerability assessments by ...
 - Establishing and operating a VAC technical secretariat within the FANR
 - Implementing our regional training programme
 - Supporting national Vulnerability Assessment Committees
2. Improving vulnerability and poverty monitoring by ...
 - Undertaking national livelihood baselines to derive monitoring indicators
 - Developing and supporting national level vulnerability and poverty monitoring systems



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What will we achieve?

Our expected outputs include ...

- Sustainable systems for conducting livelihood studies, including national and micro-level baselines and emergency livelihood assessments by SADC nationals in most SADC Member States.
- Much better and earlier warnings of future potential food crises through establishment of national level vulnerability monitoring systems.
- Much better monitoring and understanding of the impact of national policies relating to food security, livelihoods and poverty, including national safety net policies, trade policies, and progress towards achieving international development targets.



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IN SUMMARY ...

- In the context of the current crisis, livelihoods based vulnerability assessments have shown their value in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, despite critical capacity and coverage issues.
- The VAC has a critical role to play in building on these VA analyses and the FAO/WFP CFS assessments by supporting countries to undertake national level baseline and emergency assessments to assist in targeting and monitoring efforts.
- Additional assessments are urgently needed in Zambia, Zimbabwe and other countries over the next four months, before humanitarian activities come into full swing, **BUT FUNDING IS NEEDED.**
- Over the longer term, national capacity must be developed to undertake and analyse livelihood based vulnerability assessments in SADC, and national level vulnerability monitoring systems must be established, operationalised and supported.



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THE END



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