



SADC FANR
Vulnerability
Assessment Committee

SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

**The Current State of Livelihood
Vulnerability in Southern Africa and
Implications for Decision Makers**

Johannesburg

11-12 June 2003

What is the SADC FANR Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC)?

- Established in 1999 by FANR
- Comprised of a multi-agency group of technical experts working to enhance food security and livelihood conditions within SADC region.
- Specifically, to :
 - Promote VAs in the region.
 - Harmonize VA methodology in the region.
 - Provide technical, institutional and financial support to National Vulnerability Committees.



SADC FANR
Vulnerability Assessment Committee



Members of the SADC-FANR VAC include ...

- SADC-REWU
- SADC-RRSU
- SADC-Database Project
 - WFP
- FEWS-NET
 - SC-UK
- UNICEF
 - FAO

Associated agencies include ...

- RIACSO
- UNAIDS
 - WHO
 - IFRC

With financial support from ...

- DFID
- USAID
 - WFP

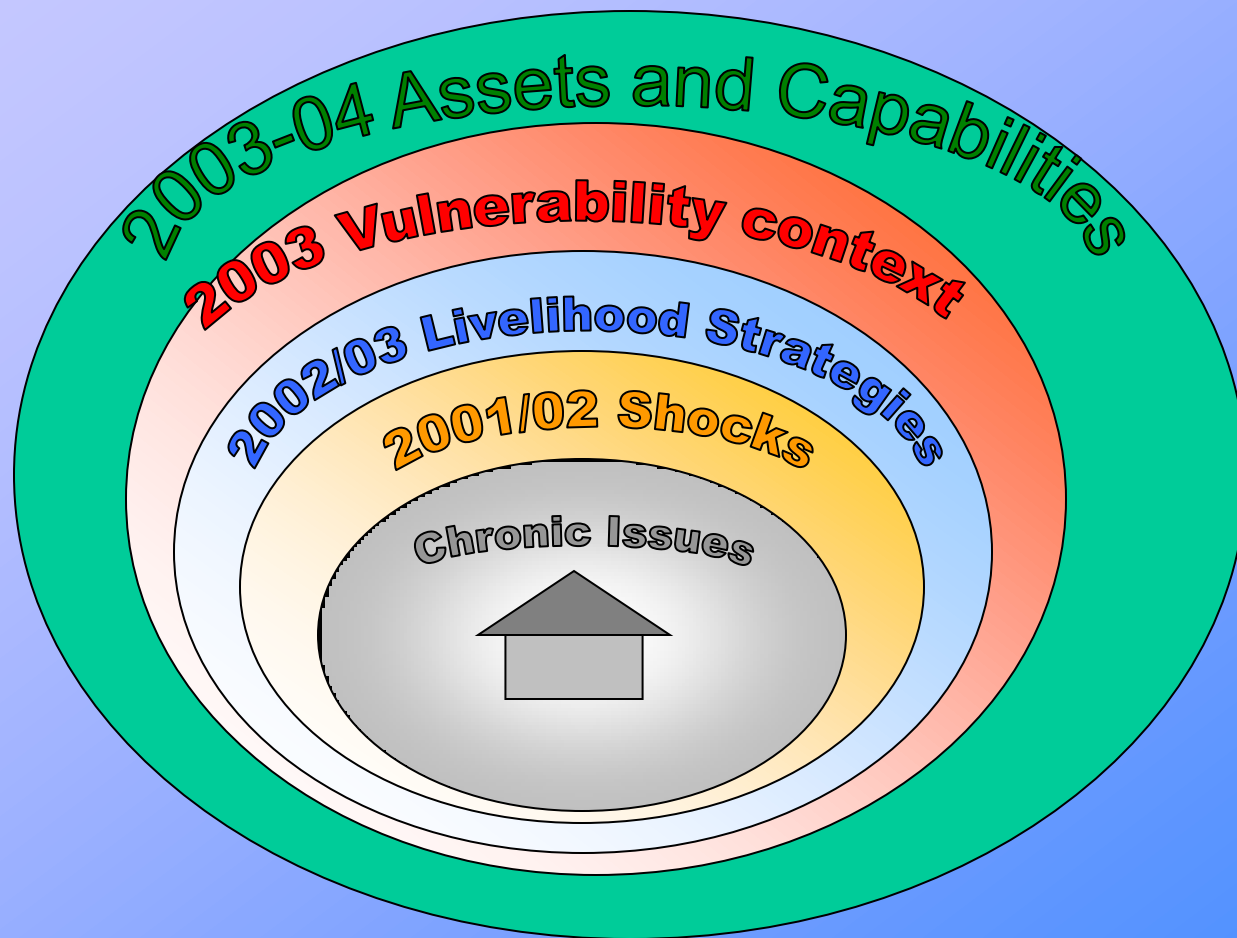
Synopsis of VAC Process

Since 1999 to present	Developing longer term capacity building plans for VA in the SADC region
June 2002	Initiated a series of rolling assessments in six worst affected countries (EMOP)
August 2002	Focused on emergency food aid and updated CFSAM estimates and assumptions
December 2002	Incorporated more multi-sectoral issues, especially impacts of HIV/AIDS
May 2003	More livelihoods-based assessments, in line with longer term vision of the VACs

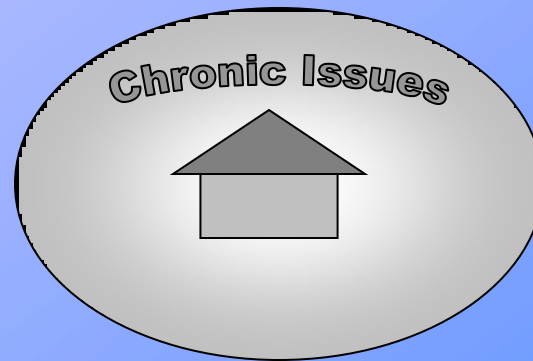
What are the Critical Food Security and Vulnerability Issues in the Region?

- What factors shape chronic vulnerability?
- How did people cope last year?
 - What are the implications of last years coping for this years livelihoods?
 - What are current and expected livelihood hazards and shocks?
- What are the compounded effects of this history on household vulnerability this year?
 - What are the implications for decision makers and interventions?

FACTORS SHAPING CURRENT LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITY



FACTORS SHAPING CHRONIC LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITY



Asset and Income Poverty

	HDI ranking (out of 173)	Under 5 Stunting %
Lesotho	132	45
Malawi	163	49
Mozambique	170	36
Swaziland	125	29
Zambia	153	53
Zimbabwe	128	27

Source: HDR, 2002; DHS 1997-2000; and MICS 2000

Long-Term Policy Failure and Choices

- Inadequate investments in agricultural development
- Unstable macro-economic environment
- Governance challenges
- Trade barriers inside and outside countries and the region
- Pricing policies
- Inadequate social protection

Sources: FANRPAN, 2003; IFPRI, 2003, Devereux 2003.

Physical and Natural Constraints

- Climatic variability: erratic rainfall, re-occurring droughts, and floods
- Reduced land productivity (through high population density and erosive management practices)
- Ineffective water control: Only 2% of arable land in southern Africa is irrigated – one of the lowest percentages in the world
- Generally poor infrastructure (roads, communications).

HIV/AIDS

- Impact on Food Production
 - Land cultivated per capita decreases
 - Proportion of cereal and cash crop decreases while tuber production increases
 - Land rights for the family left are threaten
- Impact on Purchasing Power
 - Income per HH and per capita decreases
 - Expenditure in funeral and health care increases
 - Expenditure on education and non-essential activities decrease
- Impact on coping mechanisms
 - More livestock and assets are lost
- Impact on food security outcomes
 - Increased chronic and acute food insecurity

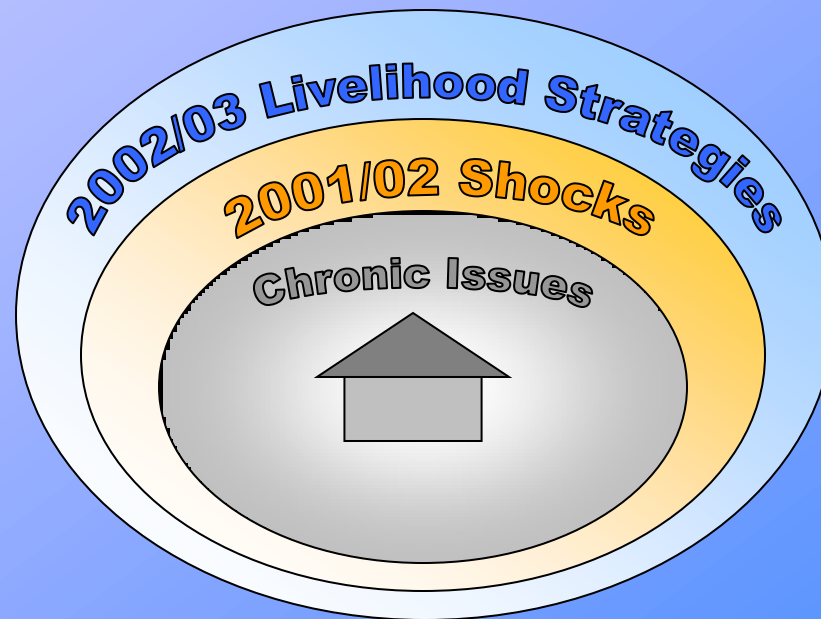
World Rank	Country	Adult (15-49) rate (%)
1	Botswana	38.8%
2	Zimbabwe	33.7%
3	Swaziland	33.4%
4	Lesotho	31.0%
5	Namibia	22.5%
6	Zambia	21.5%
7	South Africa	20.1%
8	Malawi & Kenya	15.0%
10	Mozambique	13.0%

Source: UNAIDS 2002

HOW DID PEOPLE COPE LAST YEAR

.....and.....

**WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT
COPING FOR THIS YEAR'S
VULNERABILITY?**



How did people make a living during 2002-03

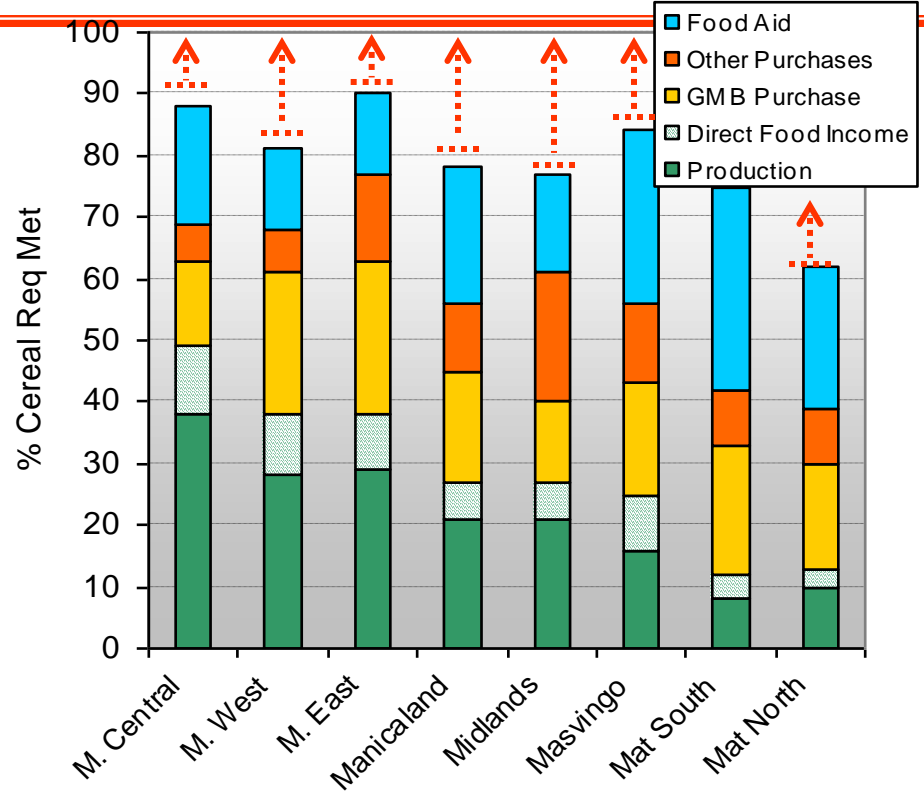
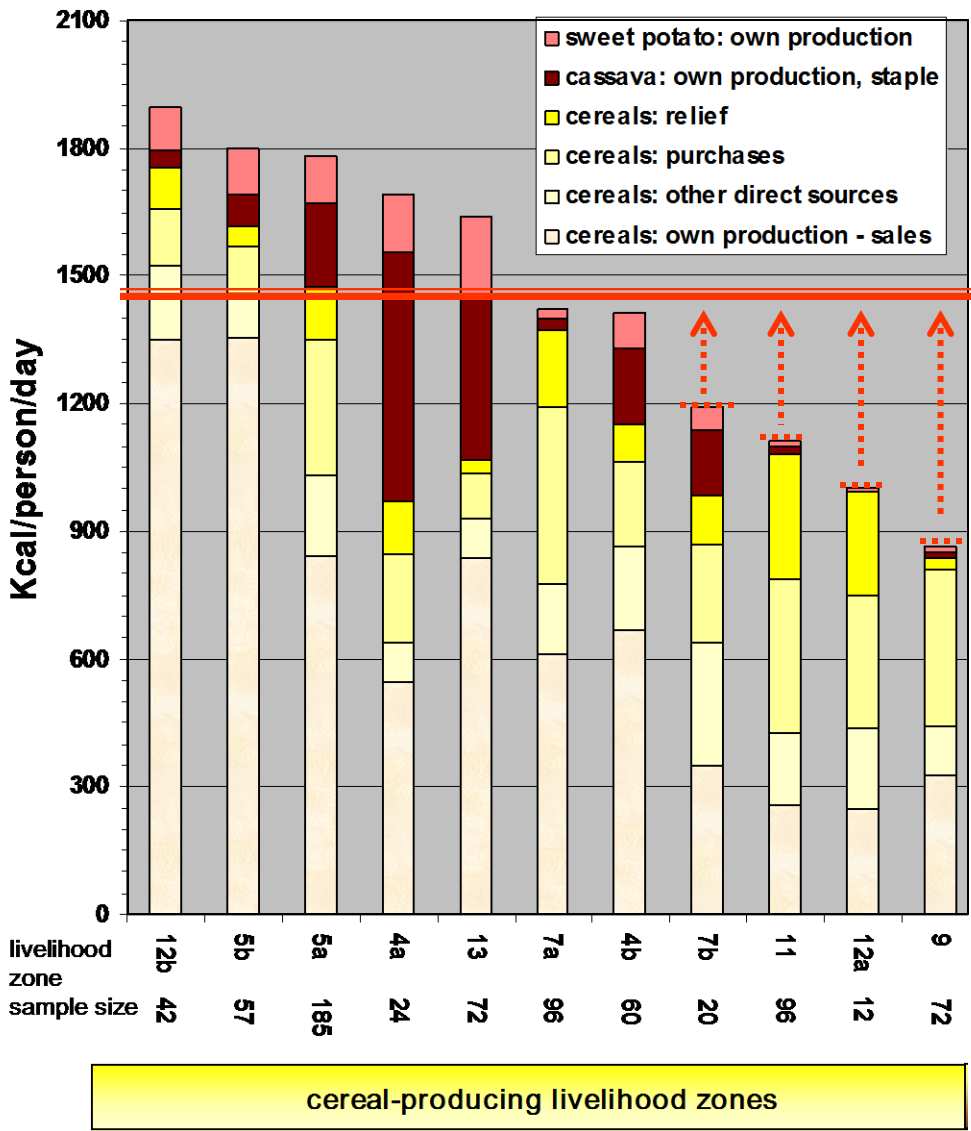
- Low harvests → Reduced food availability and income at household level and increased pressure on other sources of food and income (employment, trade, transfers)
- Scarcity induced price rises → Reduced purchasing potential
- High inflation rates (Zimbabwe)
- Various coping strategies employed
- Food aid helped to alleviate the situation

How did people access food during the past marketing year?

Main Sources of Cereal over Total Requirement

Zambia

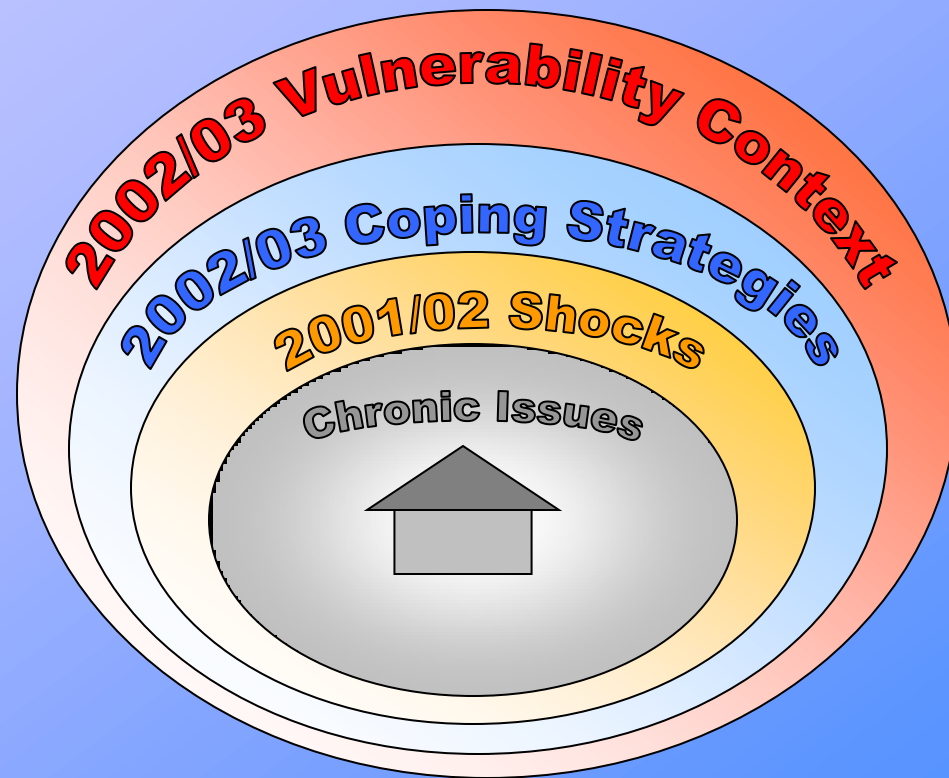
Zimbabwe



FOCUS ON COPING AND FOOD AID

- **Depletion of productive assets:**
 - Particularly a problem in Zimbabwe:
 - Also an issue in other countries (vis Zambia example)
- **Expansion of employment and migration strategies** in the context of lower returns per unit labour and price increases - some distress migration
- **Depletion of human capital:**
 - School drop-outs higher than usual: Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho
- **Consumption strategies generally non-erosive but were pockets e.g....**
 - Gaza Province, Mozambique: GAM above 10%
 - Some districts in Southern Zimbabwe: GAM above 10%
- **Food aid played a significant role in some areas**

THE PICTURE THIS YEAR.....



Household Production 2002/03

- In general, harvests have improved compared to last year, there are however, significant variations:
- Malawi and Zambia: generally good
- Mozambique: good in the north and centre, very poor in the south
- Zimbabwe: significantly above last year but still well below requirements
- Lesotho: still below average
- Swaziland: still below average

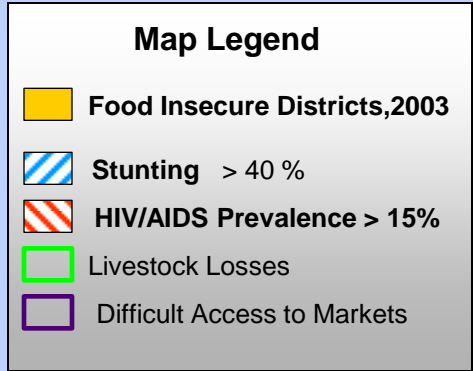
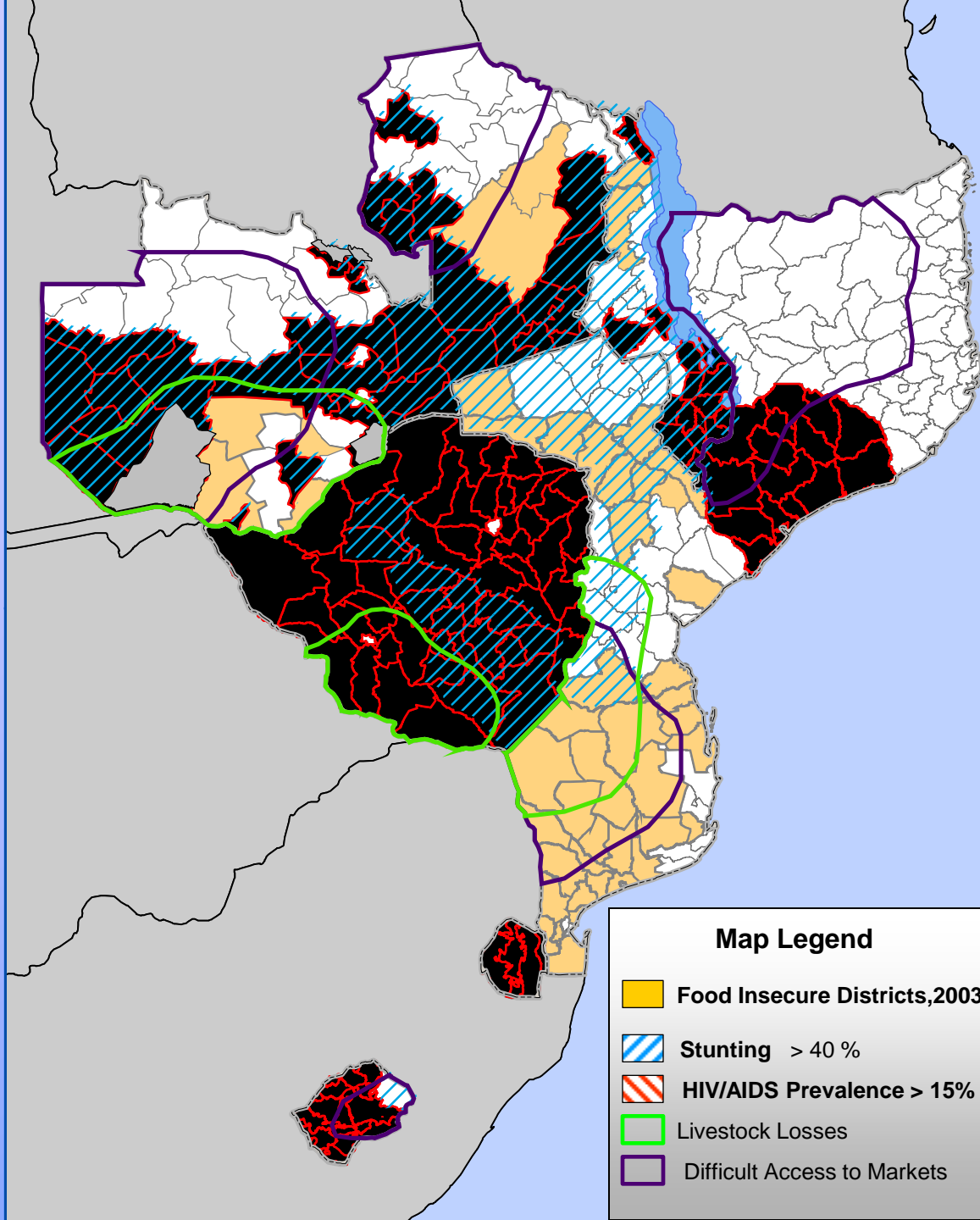
Maize Price and Availability 2003/04

- In Zimbabwe, maize availability is a major issue, and up to 35% of HHs requirement will need to be met thru purchases
- Declining prices in Malawi, and Zambia and parts of Swaziland are improving HHs' food access in comparison to the same time last year
- In Lesotho, subsidize of wholesale of maize does not reach the poorest HHs.
- Recent appreciation of the Rand will impact cost of commercial imports

Other factors

- Poor infrastructure results in difficult access to market in parts of Mozambique, Zambia and Lesotho.
- General decline in remittances – between urban and rural, and between countries
- Depletion of livestock due to diseases and sales beyond normal, especially in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Mozambique
- General increase in unemployment, especially in Zimbabwe
- High cost of health and educational care

**What does this mean in terms of vulnerability
this year?**



**What are the implications for decision-makers
and actions required?**

Addressing Acute Food Insecurity:

- **Commercial imports needed....**
- **....and targeted food aid needed**

Country	Phased Cereal Needs in Southern Africa 2003/04					
	Rural Pop in Need Apr-Jun/03	Rural Pop in Need Jul-Sep/03	Rural Pop in Need Oct-Dec/03	Rural Pop in Need Jan-Mar/04	Urban Pop in Need Apr/03-Mar/04	Estimated Cereal Needs
Lesotho	250,000	145,000	250,000	270,000	-	33,000
Malawi		150,000	300,000	400,000	-	30,000
Mozambique	802,000	802,000	964,000	964,000	-	127,000
Swaziland	132,000	158,000	158,000	217,000	-	24,000
Zambia	*	*	*	*	-	*
Zimbabwe	844,000	2,284,000	3,419,000	4,423,000	1,000,000	611,000
Regional Total	2,028,000	3,539,000	5,091,000	6,274,000	1,000,000	825,000

Implications for actions required: Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Need to complete VAC assessments** and update CFSAM info as necessary
- **Need to confirm any assumptions** used in assessments to develop scenarios
- **Monitoring** – highlight based on VA (e.g., the food profile graph) what people are going to be vulnerable to, in terms of chronic and acute food insecurity over the coming marketing year.

Addressing Livelihood Recovery

- **Agricultural inputs – improving availability and accessibility**
- **Livestock replenishment**
- **Food for Assets**

Addressing Chronic Vulnerability

- **Improve HIV/AIDS awareness, testing and treatment**
- **Risk Management Interventions:**
 - Support community safety nets
 - Intensify agricultural diversification
 - Targeted production and consumption subsidies
 - Targeted public works
- **Review Government policies.**
 - Poverty reduction through growth, market liberalization, reduction of trade barriers
 - Poverty alleviation through social protection eg PRSP
- **Productivity Enhancing interventions**
 - High yielding varieties
 - Small scale irrigation
 - Microfinance

Linking relief and development

