



Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Dissemination Meeting 5th July 2007, Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg

Introduction

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) held an Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Dissemination (VAA) meeting to discuss the food security and vulnerability situation in the region. The meeting took place in Johannesburg on 5th of July 2007. Permanent Secretaries of SADC Member States, members of the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs), UN, NGOs and donor representatives and SADC staff attended the meeting.

The main objective of the meeting was to present and discuss the results of the 2007 vulnerability assessments and the crop and food supply assessments as well as reach consensus on the way forward

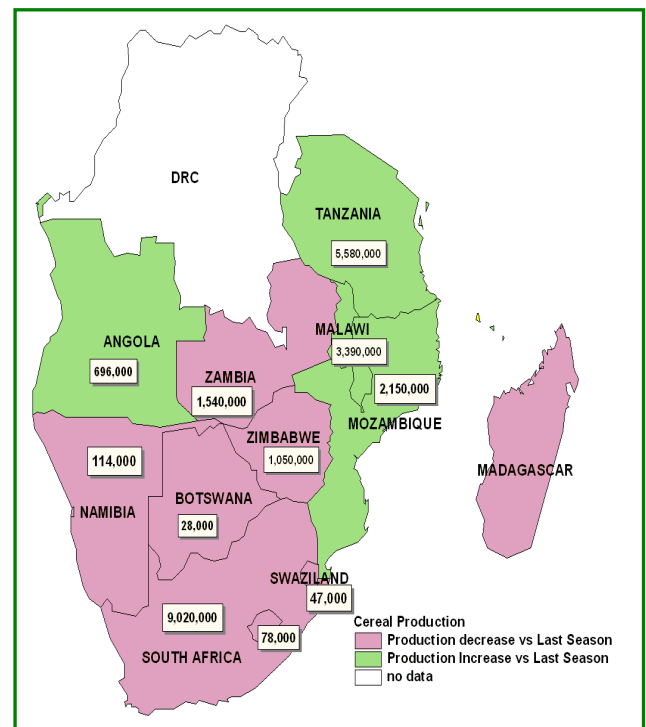
All SADC Member States with the exception of DRC and Botswana attended the meeting and made presentations covering the following area.

Overview of the food security and vulnerability situation this year
Key factors that have impacted on the situation
Groups affected
Key recommendations

The country presentation have been attached as annexes to this report

Overview of the Regional Food Security Situation

- SADC cereal production increases marginally from 23.61 million tonnes to 23.69 million tonnes
- A SADC cereal deficit of 4.35 million tonnes is assessed for the 2007/08 marketing year.
- An overall maize deficit of 939,000tonnes is assessed for the region during the 2007/08 marketing year
- Early indications from vulnerability assessments point to an increase in the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance in the region compared to the 3 million assessed in 2006/07





Country summaries

Each country provided a summary of the situation in their country and the intended / planned government response.

Angola

Current situation

- A decrease on cereals production is expected in some localities due to excess rains and localised floods –
- National availability on maize is expected to be lower than last agricultural campaign
- Cassava and sweet potatoes production has increased. In some areas this will compensate the cereal deficit
- Reduction in the production of Cooking banana in Cabinda, Uige and Kwanza Norte due to a viral disease.
- Markets activities are improving as a result of some road rehabilitation – from rural areas.
- Beginning of the economic year the national currency is getting stronger against USD.
- The prices for basic products (imported) have increased

Planned government response

- Government and partnership support to help HH affected drought and floods

Lesotho

Current situation

- ‘Very poor’ households in all zones except the Northern lowlands will not be able to meet 40 – 60% of their food entitlements in the next 12 months
- In addition, the ‘poor’ households in the peri – urban,, Southern Lowlands and Senqu river valley zones will not be able to meet 10-30% of their food entitlements
- In total 553,000 people will need humanitarian assistance till the harvest of May 2008
- CFSAM estimates 401,000 people in need but its analysis lacked certain essential data which the LVAC was able to collect

Planned government response

- Given that this is both a production as well as a low income problem exacerbated by extreme increase in the price of maize, humanitarian response should include both food and cash transfers.
- Food because some households may not have enough labour to engage in public works programmes, some pledges (food) have already been made & public cash transfers will take time to organise
- Cash because this is not just a production failure but also lack of adequate purchasing power, reduced income opportunities e.g. less weeding, no increase in the casual labour rates since 2004 - so a cash transfer should help increase access to food.
- Long term social protection programmes are necessary for very poor households in addition to the short term



Malawi

Current situation

- cereal surplus of 1.2 million MT
- No need for formal imports
- Significant isolated local production deficits
- Markets expected to function properly (in moving food from surplus areas to deficit areas)
- No high prices expected
- Assumption: cereal prices will move in line with inflation (conservative)
- Cash crop producer prices are good → spin-off on ganyu
- Potential oversupply of food crops → low prices
- Asset bases strengthened in some areas last year

Planned government response

- Well designed Social protection, incl.:
 - Predictable cash transfers to empower people to make choices and enable asset-building.
 - If food aid (e.g. school feeding) is provided; food must be sourced internally (not imported)
- Input subsidies to the active 'poor', the 'middle' and 'better-off' (small holders) to promote investment in better farming. Flood control in flood prone areas, irrigation for drought-prone areas.
- Diversification of economic activities aimed at the 'better-off' and some 'middle':
 - e.g. infrastructure to support investments in asset bases like livestock
 - Markets and market promotion
 - Insurance to encourage risk-taking
- Markets: better to provide incentives to the entire economy to move maize from surplus to affected areas, using
 - Cash transfers
 - Cash for work i.e. public works programmes to target affected areas and increase income and investments

Mozambique

Current situation

- Related to the Affected Zones
- Scarce availability until end of June
 - Access could deteriorate due to:
- Loss of main income source
- Reduction of crop production
- Decreased of purchase power
- Increase of food prices
- Transport constraints
- Poor markets

Planned government response

- Immediate food assistance to 520,000 people; and maybe 660,000 people from Oct. to Mar.
- Supplementary feeding in critical zones
- Nutritional and hygiene education
- Extensive inputs trade fairs
- Animal diseases control: Rift Valley fever
- Infrastructure rehabilitation and credit support
- Water conservation projects



Namibia

Current situation

- Domestic cereal production during the 2006/2007 cropping season is provisionally estimated at 114 100 tonnes, consisting of 52 100 tonnes of white maize, 44 500 tonnes of pearl millet, 4 500 tonnes of sorghum and a forecast production of 13 500 tonnes of winter wheat. The production estimate is lower than last year by about 40 percent, but represents 95 percent of the five-year average
- Commercial cereal import requirements for 2007/08 marketing year (01 May 2007 to 30 April 2008) are estimated at about 132,699 tonnes, of which 89,400 tonnes have already been planned for. There, remains an uncovered deficit of 43,200 tonnes which under normal circumstances is covered by additional commercial imports.
-

Planned government response

- Government, as stated clearly in its Drought Policy, will only assist with Drought Aid Programmes after it has declared a Disaster Drought Situation
- The urgent lowering of stocking numbers should become a priority for the country to relieve the pressure on the available grazing and the Government should support this de-stocking action to its full.

South Africa

Current situation

40% of people in South Africa are food insecure

- A relatively poor maize harvest which could be the lowest in 5 years that is likely to negatively on cereal availability. Yield dropped from 4.14 MT/ha last season to about 2.72 MT/ha this season due to dry climatic conditions.
- Reduced carry over stock (>4 million M T last year to about 2.8 million MT this year), resulting in an increased cereal deficit compared to last year.
- Critical food deficits likely as preliminary estimates point toward severely reduced levels of cereal availability compared to last season.
- Cattle , pigs and goat numbers have increased by 2,36%, 3,02% and 3,36% for the period August 2006 to February 2007

Planned government response

- Strengthen a well coordinated and well managed food security monitoring, evaluation and information system
- Encourage agricultural development and allied non-farm enterprises to promote the livelihoods of those on the periphery of the formal economy
- Strengthen institutional arrangements of the integrated food security strategy including FIVIMS
- A need to import cereals in order to meet domestic requirements.
- Integrated POVERTY REDUCTION strategy:
- Pro-poor economic growth
- Comprehensive social protection



Swaziland

Current situation

- Households facing a food/expenditure deficit = 47,791
- Rural based People facing a food/expenditure deficit = 345,012

Planned government response

- Government has already declared a drought disaster
- A budget to address the disaster is being finalized to cater for Food and Water interventions
- UNCT is engaging with the Ministry of Health and Social welfare to revive the Health Sector

VAC results will be used to inform

- Intersectoral discussions and policy dialogue on how to meet the needs of the food insecure

Zambia

Current situation

Total Availability – 1,799,188MT

- ✓ Carry Over Stocks – 433,031 MT
- ✓ 2006/07 Production – 1,366,158 MT
- ✓ Surplus 250,000MT

Generally marginal reductions in food, significant reduction in cash crops due to reduced ha

Planned government response

- Targeted Relief Food Distribution
- Small scale irrigation schemes
- Animal restocking
- Feeder road rehabilitation/construction
- Winter copping
- HIV/AIDS support (e.g. ART)

Zimbabwe

Current situation

- The country is facing a critical food insecurity situation
- CFSAM estimated harvest of 799MT of maize and 126MT of small grains which is 54% of the previous year's production
- Cash crops showed slight increases in production this year compared to last year
- CFSAM estimated 4.1million people will require food assistance
- Nutrition status relatively stable for acute malnutrition
- Levels are still below critical value where interventions needs to be commenced
- Chronic malnutrition has continued to increase
- HIV prevalence rate has reduced from 20.1% in 2004 to 18.1% in 2005-2006
- Highest prevalences are recorded in border towns
- Malnutrition was highest among orphaned children

Planned government response

- Based on the food gap determined by the CFSAM, government expects no more than 2 million vulnerable households
- Relying on VAC findings to indicate the location of the vulnerable and inform intervention strategies
- NGOs have been invited to submit their plans to assist the (above) indicated number of vulnerable people falling within their usual areas of operation



Issues arising and recommended actions

A number of issues were raised during the plenary discussion. The salient points are summarized below.

Issue	Action points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Timely generation of VAC data to correspond with decision making cycles of government and other stakeholders▪	<p>Gary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Institutionalisation of NVACs and/or establishment of NVAC secretariats is critical
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continuing conflict between CFSAM and VAC findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Need to address this issue to avoid confusion on the part of stakeholders / users of the information and provide clear direction to them on the prevailing situation▪ VAC and CFSAM should be conducted at the same time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Need for consistent funding for NVAC activities▪ Limited or no measurement to date of NVAC performance▪ Need for clearer distinction between chronic and acute vulnerable groups▪▪▪▪▪	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Need for NVACs to conduct surveillance activities▪▪