



# **Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Synthesis Report 2009**

## **State of Food Insecurity and Vulnerability in the Southern African Development Community**

**Compiled from the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee  
(NVAC) Reports:  
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## ACRONYMS

ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (WFP and FAO)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFID	Department for International Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EC	European Commission
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
FANR	Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICP	SADC International Cooperating Partners
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning System Network
MEPD	Ministry of Economic Development and Planning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NVAC	National Vulnerability Assessment Committee
RHVP	Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme
RVAC	Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee
RVAAP	Regional Vulnerability Analysis Programme
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SARCOF	Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum
SFP	School Feeding Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNAIDS	United Nations AIDS Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAA	Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Overview of 2009/10 marketing season**

The national vulnerability assessments conducted by the NVACs from the various SADC member states show an improvement in the regional food security outlook in the 2009/10 marketing season compared to 2008/09 marketing season. The assessments show that the number of households at risk of food insecurity has dropped by about 57 percent from 7.6 million in the 2008/09 marketing season to 3.3 million in the 2009/10 marketing season. The size of the regional food deficit has also decreased from 1.779 million tonnes in 2008/09 to 0.764 million tonnes in 2009/10 marketing season. The reduction in the number of vulnerable households and food deficit has come as result of improved access to inputs such as fertilizers, improved seed through the input subsidy programmes coupled with good rains and sound economic policies some countries are implementing in the region. Although there is an improvement in the overall food security situation at regional level, only South Africa, Malawi and Zambia have produced more than their national cereal requirements with the rest facing deficits.

There are many hazards and shocks that continue to affect food security in the region. These hazards and shocks include excessive rainfall, droughts, late onset and early cessation of rains; low level of asset base amongst households; increase in price of food and non-food items, poor market infrastructure; decline in remittance income due to global financial crisis; decline in employment opportunities and high levels of HIV and AIDS. Most of the affected populations are chronically food insecure with a few cases of transitory food insecurity in particular those in areas that were affected by floods, drought and early cessation of rainfall.

From the findings and discussions during the RVAA forum and meeting, the RVAA experts recommended a number of policy intervention for consideration by governments, cooperating partners and civil society organizations.

### **Recommended Policy interventions**

#### **Short-Term measures:**

- (a) Provision of safety nets or social protection measures to support vulnerable communities:
  - Targeted food aid,
  - Targeted cash/food vouchers.
- (b) Subsidize some commodities to cushion the effects of escalating food commodity prices on the poor:
  - Food export restrictions should be limited and temporary and these should be communicated to SADC Secretariat;
- (c) Promote targeted input subsidies (other countries to draw lessons from Malawi)

**Medium and Long-Term measures:**

- (a) Improve market access for crop and livestock products to improve household income.
- (b) Increase productivity through promotion of access to inputs, technology, and agricultural research and extension services.
- (c) Promote irrigation activities.
- (d) Increase investment in agriculture (minimum 10% of national budgets to Agricultural Sector as stated by the Maputo Declaration which was reaffirmed in Dar-es-Salaam);
- (e) Increase investment in rural infrastructural development:
  - Food storage facilities
  - Road networks
  - Markets
  - Water harvesting and utilization.
- (f) Promote dietary diversity through increased advocacy and education for the low income population through subsidizing fortified foods, blending and provision of vegetable seeds.
- (g) Promote nutritional support to vulnerable groups including HIV and AIDS infected and affected people.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Since 2002, the SADC VAC which comprises the multi-agency Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) and the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) have been conducting a series of vulnerability assessments in the region. The assessments mainly use the livelihoods-based approaches which among other things assess the various sources of food, income and expenditure patterns. The assessments also include overviews of the macroeconomic conditions, seasonal rainfall patterns, current and projected food security situation, vulnerability levels, health, nutrition, water and sanitation status and their relationship to food security in the countries and region.

The SADC VAC hosts annual regional meetings to share information related to food security and vulnerability situation in the region. The main objective of these Annual VAA Dissemination Forums is to allow National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) to highlight the results/findings of their food security and vulnerability assessments, indicating population groups and areas vulnerable to food insecurity, as well as, underlying causes and other multi-sectoral issues impacting on food security. This year's annual meeting and workshop was attended by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) from all SADC Member State except DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.

This report provides an overview of the food security and livelihoods situation for the 2009/10 marketing season as discussed during the RVAA dissemination workshop and meeting at Birchwood Hotel in South Africa on 15-16<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

### **1.2 Objectives of the 2009 RVAA Dissemination Forum**

The main objectives of the 2009 RVAA Dissemination Forum were to:

- Share and disseminate information on the NVACs' food security and vulnerability assessments for the 2009/2010 marketing season.
- Identify threats and opportunities to food security and vulnerability during the 2009/2010 marketing season.
- Profile the depth and levels of food insecurity and vulnerability in the Region for the 2009/2010 marketing season; and
- Develop actionable recommendations for consideration by the SADC Council of Ministers.

### **1.3 Approaches and Methods**

The National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) used a range of approaches to undertake the 2009 assessments including qualitative and quantitative methods such as household surveys, key informant interviews using such tools as the livelihood

analytical framework and others. The design of the assessment methodologies, geographical coverage and depth of analysis by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committees was largely dependent on the technical capacity within the NVACs; external technical support sourced; available financial resources and time constraints. The NVACs used both secondary and primary data as described below

### 1.3.2 Secondary data review and analysis

This included use of secondary information such as previous years assessment reports, population figures from National Statistic Office, baseline livelihood data from NVACs, reports from other development agencies as well as crop estimates reports by government and NGO project reports.

### 1.3.3 Household surveys using structured questionnaires

Household surveys were carried out in livelihood zones and in some cases were complemented by key informant interviews. The assessments also collected and analyzed commodity prices data from selected market centers in the livelihood zones.

## **1.4 Descriptions of Activities and Areas Covered in the Assessments**

The assessments included review of secondary data, preliminary visits to the livelihood zones to identify districts or areas with potential risk of food insecurity. The NVACs conducted the assessments in most of the livelihood zones. For example in Malawi assessments were conducted in 14 out of 18 livelihood zones while in Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Angola, and Lesotho all the zones were assessed. The VAC assessments focused on the food security conditions, vulnerability levels, food and non-food commodity prices, rainfall performance, water and sanitation status. Various other stakeholders such as civil society organizations and development partners supported the NVACs assessment processes.

## **2.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT**

All the countries in the region except Zimbabwe recorded significant economic growth. For example, Angola and Malawi achieved real GDP growth rates of 19.8% and 7.4% respectively followed by Mozambique and Tanzania which also achieved a real GDP growth in 2007 of 7%. These growth rates were within the regional target of real GDP growth of 7.0% for 2008. The regional (excluding Zimbabwe) average rate of inflation decreased from 9.7% in 2006 to 8.3% in 2007. Despite the growth in the economies in the region, the population living below the poverty datum line remains high. According to the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development (2008) report, about 45% of the population live on 1 US\$ a day of which two thirds live in rural areas where they derive their livelihoods from agriculture. Life expectancy in the region has been declining over the years and is estimated at an average of 40 years in 2008.

Malnutrition rates remain a concern and vary across the region as shown in section 2.1. Infant mortality rates remain above 50 per 1000 births. The above statistics reveal the gravity of the poverty situation in the region which is also facing serious negative consequences of climate change such as floods, droughts, livestock diseases among others.

### **2.1 Country Highlights**

#### **2.1.1 Angola**

Angola achieved the highest real GDP of 19.8% during 2007. Its inflation rate remained stable at 11.8% slightly above the regional average of 9.7% (2007). The country's high growth rate is driven by its oil sector, with record oil prices and rising petroleum production. Oil production and its supporting activities contribute about half of GDP and 90% of exports. Increased oil production supported 12% growth in 2004 and 19% growth in 2005 of the national economy. A postwar reconstruction boom and resettlement of displaced persons has led to high rates of growth in construction and agriculture as well.

#### **2.1.2 Botswana**

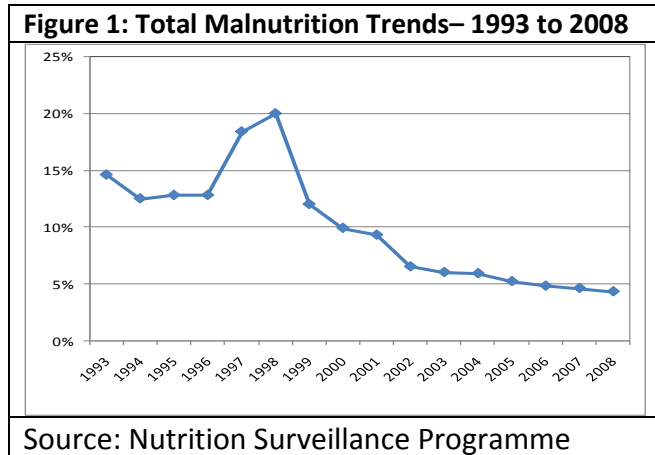
Botswana's macroeconomic situation looked promising. The country's inflation rate as of May 2009 stood at 8.4% compared to 12.6% in 2008. The GDP grew by 3.3% in 2007/08 and foreign reserves stood at P64.4 billion as of February 2009. The head count rate of income poverty declined from 47% in 1993/94 to 30% in 2003/2004.

Child malnutrition has shown a declining trend over the past years from 14.6% in 1993 to 4.3% in 2008 (fig.1). Child malnutrition remains high in some rural districts and lower than average in cities and towns. The nutritional status indicators reveal a general improvement during the last four years (2005-2008). For example moderate malnutrition declined from 4.3% to 3.5% in 2005 and 2008 respectively. Severe

malnutrition was at 0.9% in 2005 and declined to 0.8% in 2008 and total malnutrition declined from 5.2% to 4.3% in 2005 and 2008 respectively. Within the same period growth failure declined from 6.7% to 3.3%. Nearly 100% of the people in the country have access to professional health care services while 85% of the Under-five children attend CWC.

Adult literacy in Botswana is higher than in many SADC countries. In 2003 adult literacy rate was 81% while primary school completion rate was at 95%. The country managed to achieve the gender parity for both primary and secondary schools.

Botswana's crude mortality rate in 2006 (BDS, 2006) was at 11.2% while the HIV and AIDS prevalence was at 17.6% (BAIS 111). The high HIV and AIDS prevalence increased the incidences of acute illnesses and HIV/AIDS related diseases.



Over 77% of the people have adequate sanitation while 98% have access to safe drinking water.

### 2.1.3 Lesotho

The rate of inflation is 12.2% which is comparable with some member states of the SADC like Botswana while its per capita GDP is at \$797. According to the National Nutrition Survey of 2007, about 2.3% of the population had acute malnutrition, 42% were stunted and 13.8% were underweight especially in the mountain region of the country. The HIV and AIDS prevalence rate is currently at 23% especially amongst the population within the ages of 15-45 which is the most economically active population group in the country.

There was an outbreak of Anthrax in the 2008/09 rainfall season which affected livestock especially sheep in the Northern Lowlands. The outbreak affected the livestock condition and quality of livestock products such as wool and mohair. The anthrax outbreak also affected export earnings derived from exports of wool and mohair to countries like China which drastically reduced wool imports from Lesotho.

About 83% and 47% of the households have access to clean water and good sanitation in the country.

### 2.1.4 Malawi

High rates of economic growth above the regional average of 7.0% were recorded in the country. Despite the world economic down turn, the country's economic condition has

been good due to increased food harvest. For the past three marketing seasons, the country has been able to produce food surpluses. Annual average inflation rate reduced from 15% in June 2006 to 8% in February 2008. High fuel prices raised inflation to double digits before slowing down to 9.7% in February 2008 due to falling commodity prices. Despite the IMF survey in October 2008 projecting an economic slowdown in most sub-Saharan Africa in 2008, Malawi's economy continued to grow. It is expected that the real GDP will grow by 7.7% in 2009 before slipping to 5.5% in 2010.

#### 2.1.5 Mozambique

Mozambique's economy is growing above the regional target of 7%. For example in 2007, the real GDP growth was 7.3%. Within the same period, Mozambique achieved a single digit annual average inflation figure of 8.2% which is below the regional annual target of 9%. The economic growth in the country is supported by a strong agriculture growth, donor support and continued inflows of foreign direct investment. However economic growth is expected to slow down due to the increasing commodity and energy prices and natural disasters such as droughts and floods.

The VAC assessment revealed that between 5-10% of the population are considered to be under acute vulnerability while 35% of the population is under chronic vulnerability. The vulnerability is mainly caused by the irregular rainfall especially in Southern Tete, Gaza, Inhambane and Manica providences; plagues, food crop diseases and high prices of staple food.

School dropout and repeat rates are quite varied in the country. Dropout rates were higher in Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Tete and Manica Provinces. Major reasons for dropping out of school are lack of interest and distance to school. Some pupils drop out of school because they have to take care of sick relatives. This seems to support that HIV and AIDS is also playing a significant role in increasing the school dropout rates especially amongst girl children.

#### 2.1.6 Namibia

Namibia economy is expected to contract by 0.6% due to the weak mining sector. The real GDP growth rate has been revised downwards because of the poor performance in the key economic sectors such as mining and tourism related industries which are expected to contract by 20%. The country's inflation rate dropped from 10% in April to 9.6% in 2009. The national unemployment rate is estimated at 36.7% with poverty lines based on a monthly Namibia Dollar per capita stand of N\$127.15 (lower band), N\$184.56 (upper band) and N\$263.45. Overall poverty severity index shows a shortfall in consumption expenditure below the poverty line. The government has however a social pension scheme for the elderly, blind and disabled people and grants for orphans and vulnerable children

The Namibia VAC reported that 17% of the under-five children have acute malnutrition and 29% are stunted. In 2007 the country's under-five mortality rate was at 69% and life

expectancy at birth was at 52 years. The national HIV and AIDS prevalence is 17.8%. During the 2008/09 season the country experienced acute illnesses and outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and meningitis as well as livestock diseases in some districts.

According to the National Health and Demographic Survey report (2006), over 93% of the population have access to safe drinking water from improved water sources. However,, but only 35% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities.

### 2.1.7 South Africa

South Africa's real GDP decreased by 6.4% in the first quarter of 2009 as a result of the poor performance in the manufacturing, mining, quarry and business sectors of the economy. Over 5.5 million people are affected by HIV and AIDS while 4.8 million people are living below the poverty line. The country's social economic indicators are summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Social economic indicators for South Africa**

National Indicator	Measurement
Unemployment	23,5% [48.7 million population]
HIV/Aids	5.5 million affected ( 2005)
People living under Minimum Living Standards	4,8 million people
Vulnerability to food insecurity	972 000 household [6.5 million individuals] GHS Stats SA 2007.
GDP	Decline of 6..4% of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009 (Sectors: 3.3% manufacturing, 1.7% mining &quarry, business 0.5%
Crude mortality rate	22.7% ( 2008)
CPI	CPI - May 2009 = 8.0% [ 0,4 % lower than annual rate of 8.4% in April 2009].

### 2.1.8 Swaziland

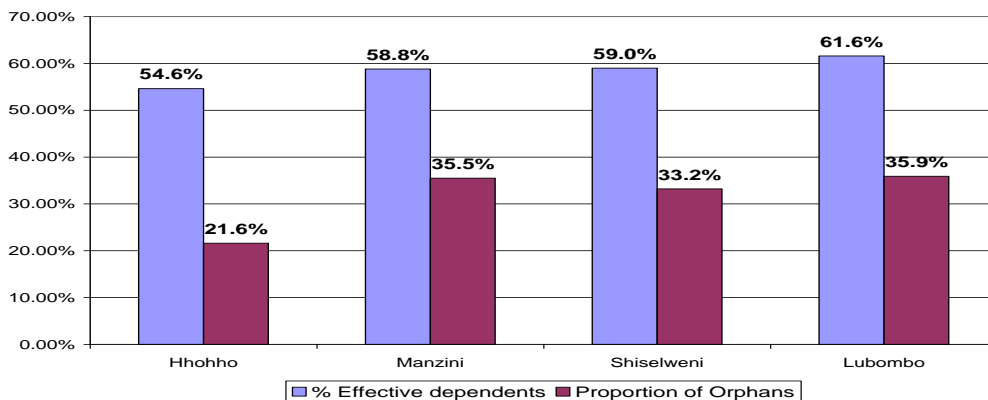
The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development MEPD (2009) estimated that economic growth for 2008 would be 3% but only 2.6% was achieved. The 2009 forecast indicates a further poor economic performance for the country with a growth rate estimated at 1.9% and expected to increase to 2.7% in 2010. The poor economic performance is attributed to a number of factors including volatile oil prices; high cost of agricultural inputs; high energy cost for the manufacturing sector; and high cost of transporting goods and services. Just like in all the SADC countries, the impact of the

global melt down has had an influence on the commodity prices and the cost of borrowing in the country.

On average about 54% and 79% of the households, respectively in Swaziland have access to safe water and improved sanitation. However, there are some regions such as Hhohho which have about 50% of households without access to safe water. Despite having a larger proportion of households with limited access to safe water, the region has a higher percentage of households with improved sanitation. The NVAC report of 2008 reported that 72% of the households have access to improved sanitation while the 2009 report revealed that 89% of the households have access to improved sanitation indicating an improvement in access to improved sanitation in the country.

The assessment revealed that Lubombo and Shiselweni have higher number of households living with chronically ill and disabled members of the family (17% and 16.6% respectively) compared to Manzini and Hhohho. The same region has a higher percentage of dependency and orphans than the other two regions in Swaziland as shown in figure 2 below. As of June 2009, high levels of acute malnutrition were recorded in Hhohho and Lubombo regions which ranged between 1.1% and 1.6% (Lubombo and Hhohho respectively). There was more wasting in Hhohho and Lubombo than Manzini and Shiselweni. There were higher prevalence of underweight in Shiselweni (8.5%) and Lubombo (6.9%) regions than in Manzini (6%) and Hhohho (4.4%) as of June 2009. During the same time of assessment, there were more children that were stunted in Hhohho (55%) and Manzini (52%) than in Lubombo (49%) and Shiselweni (51%). There was a sharp decrease in the number of children who suffered from diarrhea between June 2008 and June 2009. For example in June 2008, over 35% of the children in Manzini suffered from diarrhea compared to 15% in June 2009. Shiselweni has high prevalence of diarrhea amongst children the other three regions despite that a large proportion of the households have access to safe water and improved sanitation. There is also a larger number of households living with orphans and disabled persons resulting in a high dependency ratio which affects household care and management.

**Figure 2. Effective dependency and orphanage**



### 2.1.9 Zambia

The country's real GDP grew at 5.8% in 2008 marketing year an 8% reduction in growth compared to the previous year. Average year-end inflation rate was 16.6% which is above the regional target of 7% and 86% above the 2008 national inflation target. There has been a general slowdown of external sector performance coupled with lower than expected build up of international reserves. There has been a marked decline in value of revenue from mining and non-traditional exports which affected the economy.

### 2.1.10 Zimbabwe

The macroeconomic conditions for Zimbabwe were characterized by the declining per capita GDP from US \$ 600 in 2000 to about US \$ 350 in 2008, representing a drop of 40%. The country faced a critical shortage of foreign currency which resulted in the industries operating below capacity at 20-30 %, high levels of unemployment and reduced levels of remittances. The country faced frequent power cuts and irregular water supply. The road network and other public infrastructure have continued to deteriorate. The adoption of hard convertible currencies from December 2008 led to a dramatic fall in inflation from hyperinflation to deflation. Basic household goods are now being found in shops and the economy is stabilizing. The liberalization of the grain trade has increased competition amongst traders which has also resulted in improved distribution and reduced geographic price disparities.

There is critical shortage of essential drugs and personnel in public health institutions which has affected the health and medical services in the country. Access to water and sanitation has been compromised by the frequent power cuts and irregular water supplies in urban areas. This problem is further compounded by the lack of maintenance of the water supply systems in both the urban and rural areas. The limited access to safe water and poor sanitation in both urban and rural areas resulted into a cholera outbreak which affected 98,591 and killed 42,88 people respectively from August 2008 to June 2009.

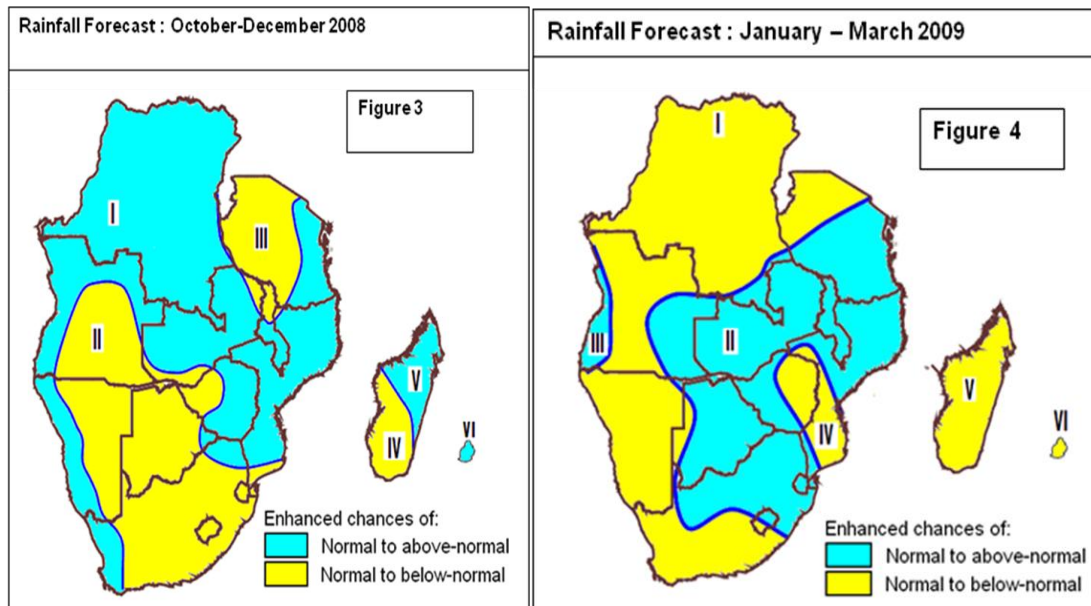
Despite all this, the nutrition status remained stable from 2002 to 2008. For example, acute malnutrition levels ranged from 2.9-6.4%; stunting ranged from 23.5-33.1% and underweight ranged from 14.2-20.4% while HIV and AIDS infection rates fell from 35% in 2002 to 15.6% in 2007.

### 3.0 CURRENT YEAR HAZARDS AND SHOCKS

Many countries in the region experienced a number of hazards and shocks that have had an impact on household food security and vulnerability this season. A number of factors have contributed to the food insecurity in the countries including excessive rainfall; late onset and early cessation of rainfall; drought in some parts of the region; chronic vulnerability to food insecurity especially amongst households dependent on rain-fed agriculture; low level of asset base amongst households; increase in price of food and non-food items, poor market infrastructure; decline in remittance income due to global financial crisis; decline in employment opportunities and high levels of HIV and AIDS .

#### 3.1 Rainfall

Every season, the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) gives a probabilistic forecast of rainfall performance in the region in the coming rainfall season. The forecasts indicate whether rainfall will be above normal, normal or below normal in different parts of the region. Figures 3 and 4 show the SARCOF rainfall forecast for the 2008/09 rainfall season.



The SARCOF forecast generally agreed with NVACs reports on the country specific rainfall performance within the region. During the first half of the season (October to December 2008) the central parts of the region received above normal rainfall while the southern parts particularly Botswana and western part of South Africa received below normal rainfall. Southern Mozambique, Namibia and Angola received high above normal rainfall during the same period. During the second half of the rainfall season, much of the southern and north-eastern parts of the region received above normal rains.

However the eastern central parts of the region and north-eastern Tanzania received below normal rains. There were late onset of rainfall in some parts of the region especially in Lesotho and Swaziland, while in Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe there were localized droughts and prolonged dry spells.

The prolonged dry spells and droughts in southern Malawi, central Mozambique, Tanzania and eastern Zimbabwe affected crops performance and yields. On the other hand, the heavy rains in Cuando, Cubango and Cunene in Angola; northern part of Botswana; northern parts of Namibia and western part of Zambia caused flooding which affected people, livestock and crops. The excessive rainfall caused water logging, disruption of agricultural activities, physical damage to infrastructure and crops as well as loss of lives and displacement of people.

### **3.2 Commodity Prices**

Food security in the region continues to be affected by increasing prices of essential commodities such as agricultural inputs as well as food and non food commodities. High input prices in member states such as Lesotho has forced farmers to put more of their farm land under fallow than before. The land under fallow for instance, increased by about 8% from 159,000 ha in 2006/07 to 172,000 ha in 2008/09 agricultural season. High prices of fertilizer and seed have forced households to use unimproved and low yielding varieties resulting in poor yields. High prices of staple food such as rice, maize and sorghum have also increased the number of vulnerable households since they cannot afford to buy the food when needed.

The high prices of commodities are being attributed to the global price increases which are reflected in higher prices of commodities on domestic markets in the region. For example during 2008/09 marketing season in Malawi, and Tanzania maize prices increased by over 100%, while in Zambia and Mozambique the maize price increased by 32% and 65% between 2007 and March 2008 respectively. In South Africa, spot price in May 2008 was 35% higher than that of January 2007.

### **3.3 Livestock diseases**

Livestock diseases such as anthrax, foot and mouth, black quarter were reported in the region. For example in Lesotho sheep was affected by Anthrax which in turn reduced the quality of wool and mohair especially in the Northern Lowland of the country. Foot and mouth was reported in Malawi especially in the lower Shire where localised drought was also reported during the 2008/09 rainfall season. These diseases affected the performance and contribution of the livestock to the household incomes and national economy which further increased the vulnerability of households.

### **3.4 Access to income**

The economic meltdown is contributing to increased levels of unemployment in the region. The opportunities for casual labour have decreased at the same time the cost of

living has increased beyond the low wages that most of the employed persons are receiving. The increased cost of living has shrunk the disposable income that employed people normally have. The shrinking of disposable income has further reduced the levels of remittances in the region. The reduced remittances mean increased number of vulnerable households in the rural areas. All the countries in the region are facing high unemployment levels. For example in Zimbabwe, the industries are operating at 20-30% below their capacity and unemployment levels are above 80%. The higher the unemployment levels, the lower the amount of remittances which negatively affects the ability of households to survive the hazards and shocks.

### **3.5 HIV and AIDS**

The HIV and AIDS crisis has caused serious threats to food security and nutrition. HIV and AIDS has affected the labour supply for agriculture. For example in Swaziland more especially in Lubombo and Shiselweni regions, there are high numbers of households living with chronically ill and disabled members of the family and have also higher percentages of dependency. The loss of productive family members due to HIV and AIDS is increasing vulnerability amongst households in the region.

### **3.6 Climate change**

The region has become highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change which have affected the normal weather patterns. Other related hazards such as floods were experienced in countries like Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia; droughts in some parts of Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia were experienced during the 2008/09 agricultural season. Droughts and floods adversely affect food production in the region thereby increasing vulnerability of households. The impacts of climate change have been compounded by the overdependence on rain-fed agriculture by the majority of the households.

### **3.7 Human and animal conflicts**

In some countries like Namibia, there were increased human and animal conflicts especially around the protected areas where animals were destroying crops and livestock. The increased levels of these conflicts also push a number of families into vulnerability as a result of crop and livestock destruction.

## 4.0 OVERVIEW OF FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY SITUATION

### 4.1 Food availability, access and utilization

The regional 2009/10 food outlook is better than that of the 2008/09 season. The number of food insecure households in the region this season is estimated to have decreased by about 57% from 7.6 million during the 2008/09 season to 3.3 million this season. The reduction in the number of vulnerable households is as a result of increased cereal production in most countries during the 2008/09 agricultural season. However, all the countries except South Africa, Malawi and Zambia have produced less than their national cereals requirements hence a significant proportion of households will be food insecure this marketing season.

**Table 2, Regional cereal balance sheet**

	2009/10 Required* (’000 tons)	2009/10 Available** (’000tons)	2009/10 Expected Srplus/ Deficit (’000 tons)	2008/09 Surplus/d eficit (’000 tonnes)	2008 Production (’000 tons)	2009 Forecast Production (’000 tons)	2009 Prod.% Change over 2008	5 - Year	
								Average Production (’000 tons)	2009 % Change
Ang	1,527	830	-697	-698	756	757	0%	754	0%
Bot	331	84	-247	-253	37	43	16%	32	34%
Les	350	117	-233	-215	88	86	-2%	103	-17%
Mal	2,638	4023	1,385	570	2,976	3,834	29%	2,505	53%
Mau	318	7	-311	-312	2	2	0%	2	0%
Moz	2,631	2,863	232	-167	2,284	2,453	7%	2,091	17%
Nam	314	224	-90	-133	121	165	36%	130	27%
RSA	16,111	17,385	1,274	1,610	15,560	15,266	-2%	15,550	-2%
Swa	170	82	-88	-96	64	71	11%	64	11%
Tan	6,579	5,280	-1,299	-788	5,621	5,265	-6%	5,622	-6%
Zam	2,005	2,184	179	112	1,452	2,182	50%	1,452	50%
Zim	2,473	1,604	-869	-1,408	836	1,603	92%	1,177	36%
SADC***	35,329	34,580	-764	-1,779	29,621	31,688	7%	25,335	25%

\*\*\* SADC (excluding DRC, Madagascar & Seychelles)

### 4.2 Country Highlights

#### 4.2.1 Angola

Angola’s food production at the household and national level in the 2009/10 marketing season is insufficient to meet the annual national food requirements. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, national food production in 2008/09 agricultural season fell short of the national requirements. The country produced 46%, about 33% and 47% of national cereal, beans and potato needs.

#### 4.2.2 Botswana

The country experienced some extreme weather conditions (unexpected June rains which caused flooding and destroyed crops) and an outbreak of pests which affected cereal and livestock production. However the rains were generally good and this contributed to improved production of crops and pasture, increased availability of water for livestock, wildlife as well as humans. The country produced 43,000 tonnes of cereals during the 2008/09 agricultural season which is 16% higher than in the previous season. Despite this increase in production, the country only produced 36% of its national cereal requirement and food imports will be required during the 2009/10 season. High prices of food and non-food items as well as diseases have contributed to limited access to food by a number of households. Flooding during the months of June 2009 will also affect access to food by many households during the 2009/10 marketing season.

#### 4.2.3 Lesotho

Maize production dropped by 9% while sorghum increased by 57% from 2007/08 to 2008/09 agricultural seasons. Total cereal production during the 2008/09 agricultural season amounted to 86,000 tonnes against the national requirement of 350,000 tonnes. The deficit is expected to be met through the market. Despite the drop in food production, there is ready supply of food and households are buying 40% of their food requirements within the country.

It is estimated that 450,000 people will need humanitarian assistance in 2009/10 marketing season. Approximately 200,000 of these will forego essential expenditure but still have food deficit during the last five to six months of the 2009/10 marketing season. Another 200,000 people will forego essential expenditure and still have around 3 to 7% food deficit. Over 49,000 people in the Northern Lowlands will face an expenditure deficit equivalent to 72% of the estimated cost of the essential basket. These scenarios are based on current prices and any price movements will alter the vulnerable population figures and magnitudes.

Access to food by households will be affected this season because there has been no increase in casual labor wages and reduced remittances due to retrenchment. There has been declining levels of casual labor opportunities and increase in price of food and non-food items in the country.

#### 4.2.4 Malawi

The country has produced 3.6 million tonnes of maize against the national requirement of 2.4 million Tonnes and has a surplus of 1.2 million tonnes. For the past three years the country has produced surplus food and therefore will not need any formal staple food imports during the 2009/10 season. Food and cash crop production increased in the 26 out of 28 districts in the country. Households from 25 districts out of 28 have adequate food from their production for the 2009/10 marketing season. The good rains and effective implementation of government policies such as the Agricultural input

subsidy programme contributed to the increased food production in the country. Despite the surplus, three districts in the Southern part of the country namely Nsanje, Chikwawa and part of Balaka experienced dry spells which affected cereal production. Availability of cereals in ADMARC markets will be critical to ensure that the number of households facing food shortage remain low.

About 147,492 people (1.1% of the total population of the country) in the three districts are at risk and will need a total of 6,678 tonnes of cereals during the 2009/10 market season, especially during the last two quarters of the season. It is expected that the prices of grain will remain stable because most of the households have adequate stocks which will reduce demand. The government through ADMARC is selling maize a fixed price of K52/kg. Prices of other cash crops look good except for cotton and many farmers are going to benefit from sales of these crops. The continued surplus in the country has strengthened the asset base of many households.

#### 4.2.5 Mozambique

The country produced a surplus of 232,000 tonnes of cereals during the 2008/09 season. The increased amount of cereal production was associated with increased utilization of improved seed and use of animal and mechanized power for farming. However, there are some provinces such as Tete, Zambezia, Sofala and Inhambane where household food production was below the required levels and household food consumption is on the decrease. Over 247,000 people are food insecure during the 2009/10 and will need support through food assistance especially in 13 critical districts of Gaza, Sofala and Tete. People from some provinces like Maputo, Zambezia and Nampula will need food for work and social transfers.

#### 4.2.6 Namibia

The national cereal balance sheet of Namibia reveals that during the 2008/09 season the country produced 165,000 tonnes of cereals (23% wheat, 42% maize and 35% sorghum/millet) which is about 50% of the national cereal requirement. Taking into account available stocks, the country has a total estimated cereal availability of 224,000 MT. Given the annual cereal requirement of 314,000 tonnes, this means the country has a shortfall of 90,000 tones. It is expected that the deficit will be covered through commercial imports.

The assessment showed that about 224,975 people are at risk of food insecurity. These are people that are chronically vulnerable. Another 19,212 people will be on watch because they may easily drift into vulnerability if the macro and micro economic conditions such as prices of food and non-food items, casual labor opportunities and unemployment levels change significantly. Other conditions that will affect people's access to food during the 2009/10 include floods, poor feeder roads and limited rural market infrastructure which will affect transportation of food and non-food items.

#### 4.2.7 South Africa

The country produced a surplus 1,585 million tonnes of maize during the 2008/09 marketing season and projections for 2009/10 marketing season indicate an increase in the maize surplus to 1,950 million tonnes as at the end of April 2010. Despite the surplus, 972,000 households are going to be food insecure during the 2009/10 marketing season representing a population of about 6.5 million. This is due to high unemployment rates which range from 21.9% to 23.5%. The high unemployment rates are resulting from the economic downturn in the manufacturing, mining, quarry, finance, real estate, retail and wholesale industry which are key to the economic growth of the country.

The high food prices pushed many households into vulnerability. For example while the wheat prices decreased by 36.24%, the prices of bread increased by 25.39%. Maize price decreased by 12.19% compared to last marketing season but prices of maize products increased by 6.33%. The price of sunflower oil seed declined by 39%, while the price of sunflower products increased by 21.9%. Rural consumers are paying R7.44 more than the urban consumers when buying the same food products

Currently, 13 million people are under the Social Protection Programme and about 6.0 million learners receive meals at school while 6,503 schools have vegetable gardens. To mitigate the impacts of vulnerability, the government has established four food banks in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and one village pilot food Bank in KwaZulu Natal.

#### 4.2.8 Swaziland

The food balance sheet reveals that the country has produced 82 tonnes of cereals against the national cereal requirements of 172, 000 tonnes. About 262,141 people will be food insecure during the 2009/10 market season. The majority of the people who are food insecure are from Lubombo and Hhohho regions where 79,024 and 67,008 people respectively are food insecure. Out this figure 114,000 and 148,000 people are in acute and chronic food insecure categories. For those in acute food insecure category, they will need short term emergency interventions while those in chronic food insecure will require long-term social protection interventions.

#### 4.2.9 Tanzania

The 2008/09 preliminary Food Crop Production Forecast shows that 10,921,536 tonnes of grain equivalent will be produced for 2009/10 marketing season against the national requirement of 10,578,196 tonnes, resulting in a surplus of 343,340 MT. Compared to previous season, production decline has been observed in sorghum (20%), maize (4%) and rice (4%) and pulses (4%), due to late onset; uneven distribution and early cessation; dismal rains in some bimodal areas; soil degradation and pest and vermin attack. Non cereals on the other hand recorded a marginal increase in production of approximately 7% (10% in potatoes and 10% in cassava and 9% in Bananas) during the

same period.

An analysis of carry-over stocks (COS) shows that about 462,870 tonnes was available comprising private stocks (121,560 tonnes), public stocks/SGR (109,876 tonnes) and farm retentions (231,435 tonnes). A total of 806,210 tonnes will be available for year 2008/09 which is over and above the national requirement of 10,578,196 tonnes..

The current forecast of food availability is sensitive to the performance of Vuli rains. Recently the *Vuli* rains have been erratic. During 2008, the Vuli season is estimated to have contributed 13% only of total production compared to an average of 18% in the recent past.

At sub-national level analysis warns of nine (9) deficit regions. Furthermore, though self sufficient, further warnings are focused to 8 additional regions bearing pockets of food shortage. Excluding Dar es Salaam (which is largely non-agricultural), the 17 regions bear vulnerable population in 61 districts. The identified vulnerable areas will need to be subjected to an in-depth vulnerability assessment.

#### 4.2.10 Zambia

Zambia produced 2,184,000 tonnes of cereals against the national requirement of 2,005,000 tonnes representing a surplus of 179,000 tonnes. Despite the food surplus, 110,651 people from seven districts in the North Western Province are food insecure. The majority of the people who are food insecure in the country are coming from Zambezi (21,498), Kabompo (19,753) and Serenje (18174) districts. Approximately over 8,296 tonnes of cereals will be required to support the food insecure households during the 2009/10 season. This is mainly due to floods which affected crops, road infrastructure, livestock and people houses as well as the high prices of food and non food commodities.

#### 4.2.11 Zimbabwe

About 1.5 million hectares of maize was planted with about 38,000 tonnes of seed during the 2008/09 season. About 12,927 tonnes out of the 38,000 tonnes was commercial maize seed from Government, SADC, NGOs and the Private Sector and this was planted to about 34% of the total area under maize. The remaining 66% of the hectareage under maize was planted using carry over seed, retained grain, grain from food aid, purchases and seed from other sources. Out of this the country produced 1.24 million tonnes representing 160% increase compared to last season's production. The total amount of small grains produced during the seasons is 270,000 tonnes while the estimated total cereal production is 1.51 million tonnes which is less than the national requirements. If the current access conditions in terms of grain availability, prices and the rural household purchasing power prevail, then about 1.4 million people are at risk and will not meet their minimum cereal needs during the 2009/10 season compared to 5.1 million during the 2008/09 season. The total amount of cereal required during the

2009/10 is estimated at 107,000 tonnes. The number of food insecure households will be high during the critical months of January to March 2010.

The ZimVAC estimates that 250,000 rural people currently do not have access to adequate food. Food assistance should be provided to this population immediately and measures should be put in place to be able to scale-up food assistance to cater for 1.4 million rural people projected to be food insecure during the peak hunger period. This is based on the assumptions that staple cereals and their appropriate substitutes will be available on the market during the course of the consumption year at the prices observed in mid May 2009.

## **5.0 OVERVIEW OF RESPONSE /COPING STRATEGIES**

The vulnerability assessments reported a number of response and coping strategies that the vulnerable households are applying. Some of the coping and response strategies have consequences on the other livelihood activities of the affected households. Some of the response and coping strategies include:

### **5.1 Forgoing essential expenditure in order to purchase food**

Households switch expenditure from other commodities such as clothes to buy staple food such as maize. For example there are increased cases of households in Chikwawa and Nsanje district in Malawi who are using their incomes from casual labor, sale of crops such as cotton (which apparently is being sold below the recommended government price of K75.00 per Kg) to buy maize and other cereals such as sorghum

### **5.2 Increased sale of livestock:**

Households in Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia were reported selling their livestock to buy staple food. In Zimbabwe for example, the assessment revealed 14% and 16% of the households sold cattle and goats respectively. Increased sales of livestock reduces the households capability to withstand the hazards and shocks in the long-run

### **5.3 Increased search for casual labor opportunities:**

Men and women walk long distances in search for casual labor in order to find money to buy food.

### **5.4 Reducing number of meals eaten per day:**

Households are reducing the number of meals from three a day to two or one per day. The situation could worsen as the season progresses resulting into high rates of malnutrition.

### **5.5 Increased need for social protection**

The number of people requiring social protection has increased in the Region. For instance, over 13 million people in South Africa are under some form of social protection programmes while about 6 million school going children are under school feeding programmes. A number of countries are also implementing school feeding programmes.

## 6.0 SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

A summary of the main findings of the vulnerability and food insecurity assessments is presented below. In general, many of the affected populations are the chronically food insecure with a few cases of transitory food insecurity; in particular those in areas that were affected by floods, drought and early cessation of rainfall.

### 6.1 Crop production

The cereal requirement for the region during 2009/10 is 35,329 tonnes but only 43,580 million tonnes is available. With the current prices of cereals, about 3.3 million people are food insecure in the region, the majority of which are from Zimbabwe (1.4 million people). Zimbabwe has produced high amount of food this marketing season compared to 2008/09 when over 5.1 million people were food insecure (See table 2 and 3).

### 6.2 Malnutrition levels

Levels of stunting continue to be high in the region in most countries. For example high levels of stunting were recorded amongst under-five children in Malawi (46%) Mozambique (46%) Zambia (45%) Angola (45%) and the trend is the same in other SADC countries apart from Zimbabwe where stunting levels has not been significantly affected by the low production of food. High levels of wasting in children were recorded in Zambia (5.2%) and Angola (6.0%) than other SADC countries. Paradoxically, these two countries are performing better than other SADC countries in terms of food production and economic growth.

### 6.3 Numbers of the affected population

The summary of the food insecure population in SADC is presented below:

Country	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10*
Lesotho	270,000	948,300	541,000	245,700	553,000	353,000	450,000
Malawi	400,000	1,340,000	5,055,000	833,000	63,200	673,498	147,492
Mozambique	964,000	202,000	428,200	121,500	520,000	302,700	247,000
Namibia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	224,795
Swaziland	217,000	600,400	634,400	465,000	345,000	238,600	262,000
Tanzania	844,333	686,356	848,019	995,433	581,974	491,787	420,000
Zambia	60,000	39,300	1,232,700	380,537	440,866	444,624	110,651
Zimbabwe	5,422,600	2,300,000	288,4800	1,392,500	4,100,000	5,100,000	1,400,000
Total	8,177,933	6,116,356	1,162,4119	4,434,570	6,60,4040	7,604,209	3,261,938

\*Preliminary figures for Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania

## **7.0 MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The SADC Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) experts deliberated on national assessments and their implication on regional food security and vulnerability for the 2009/10 marketing year. The VAA Experts agreed to uphold the general definition of Food Security agreed during the 2007/08 Dissemination Forum as a state in which “all people, at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 1996). Based on the discussions, the VAA experts proposed a number of policy implications and recommendations aimed at mitigating both acute and chronic food insecurity and vulnerability in the short, medium and long-term which were based on the following conclusions:

### **7.1 Key conclusions**

- (i) The region’s populations rely on food that is either from own production or purchases. Food availability (production plus stocks) in the 2009/2010 consumption year is generally satisfactory as a result of good rainfall and use of improved inputs. The provision of subsidized inputs to targeted vulnerable groups has contributed to the reduced regional cereal deficit from 1.779 million tonnes in 2008/09 marketing year to 0.764 million tonnes in 2009/2010. Malawi, South Africa and Zambia have reported surpluses while the rest of the Member States indicated deficits ranging from 90,000 tonnes in Namibia to 869,000 tonnes in Zimbabwe.
- (ii) In spite of the improvement cereal production, food insecurity and malnutrition among the vulnerable groups remains high. The number of people requiring food and non-food assistance is estimated at 3.3 million, which is high but lower than last year’s estimate of 7.6 million people.

### **7.2 Policy recommendations**

Based on the observations, the SADC VAA Dissemination Forum made the following recommendations for consideration by governments, cooperating partners and civil society organizations aimed at addressing the observed food insecurity and vulnerability challenges in the Region:

#### **7.2.1 Short-Term measures:**

- (a) Provision of safety nets or social protection measures to support vulnerable communities
  - Targeted food aid,
  - Targeted cash/food vouchers.
- (b) Subsidize some commodities to cushion the effects of escalating food commodity prices on the poor.

- (c) Food export restrictions should be limited and temporary and these should be communicated to SADC Secretariat;
- (d) Promote targeted input subsidies (other countries to draw lessons from Malawi) to increase agricultural production.

#### 7.2.2 Medium and Long-Term measures:

- (a) Improve market access for crops, livestock and livestock products to improve household income;
- (b) Increase productivity through promotion of access to inputs, technology including irrigation, agricultural research and extension services.
- (c) Increase investment in agriculture (minimum 10% of national budgets to Agricultural Sector as stated by the Maputo Declaration which was reaffirmed in Dar-es-Salaam);
- (e) Increase investment in rural infrastructural development
  - Food storage facilities
  - Road networks
  - Markets
  - Water harvesting and utilization.
- (f) Promote dietary diversity through increased advocacy and education for the low income population through subsidizing fortified foods, blending and provision of vegetable seeds.
- (g) Promote nutritional support to vulnerable groups including HIV and AIDS infected and affected people

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