



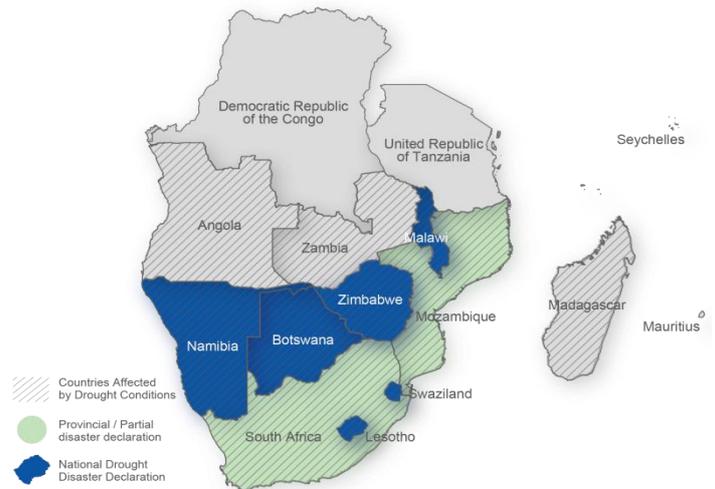
# Regional Situation Update on the El Niño-Induced Drought

Issue 03: 24 October 2016

## Highlights

- ❖ The negative impacts of the El Niño induced drought that has caused a humanitarian crisis affecting 39 Million people in SADC continue to worsen.
- ❖ About 74% of the required Regional Humanitarian Appeal of \$2.9billion is yet to be raised as only \$757 million has been raised by governments (\$222m) and partners (\$535m).
- ❖ A number of measures to speed up and facilitate the flow of humanitarian relief supplies from ports to beneficiaries approved by SADC Council of Ministers but a few bottlenecks exist in some port corridors.
- ❖ Nutrition situation remains of concern in the SADC region with seven countries (Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe) recording wasting levels above 5 per cent. Pockets of very high acute malnutrition reported at sub national level in several countries.
- ❖ Insufficient funding affecting WASH response measures
- ❖ Demand and supply situation in the formal commercial sector in selected drought affected countries including Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland indicates significant gaps in maize and bean seed availability.
- ❖ The latest Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) outlook shows that most parts of Southern Africa are likely receive normal to above normal rains for the October- December period except for northern DRC, Tanzania, northwestern Angola, and northern Mozambique and eastern Madagascar where normal to below normal rains are expected

SADC Regional Map



**39 million**

people affected

**28 million**

people requiring immediate humanitarian assistance

**\$2.1 billion**

appeal funding gap

**6**

countries that have declared national drought disaster

**13%**

of SADC population affected

## Situation Overview

The negative impacts of the El Niño induced drought, the worst in 35 years, which has caused a humanitarian crisis affecting 39 million people or 13% of SADC population, continues to intensify. Several factors including depleted food reserves, rising food prices, lower commodity prices, slowing economic growth among other key factors, are exacerbating the situation.

Staple food prices are rising due to the generally poor crop production over the past two years. The Regional cereal deficit currently stands at close to 7.4 metric tonnes and is 11% below the five year average dropping from 29 million tonnes in 2015 to 26 million tonnes in 2016 (figures exclude Mauritius and Seychelles). The majority of the population is now entirely dependent on the markets for food. However, declining coping mechanisms, which have been eroded due to successive years of drought and general economic slowdown in many countries, is hampering access to food,

especially for the poor and very poor households. Remittances for countries such as Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Mozambique will likely be affected by the depreciation of the South African rand against the US dollar.

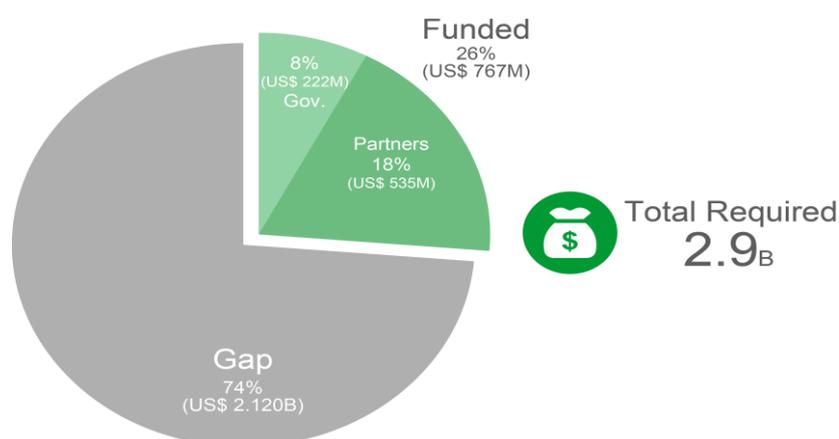
The drought has also led to scarcity of water supply for both human and animal consumption. Unsafe sources of water are now widely being used leading to increased risk of water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Over 600,000 livestock and some wildlife have been lost. In addition, water levels in major dams in the Region have declined significantly thereby affecting hydroelectric power generation. This together with poor food access has in turn contributed to very high pockets of acute malnutrition in several countries. As a result of the power shortages, households, industry and social services such as schools and hospitals continue to be adversely affected.

## Regional Coordination and Response

Since the launch of the Regional Humanitarian appeal for \$2.9Billion by the SADC Chairperson in July, response has started trickling in. As at the end of September, \$757million of the \$2.9B requested has been raised (Government \$222m as at July 2016, partners \$535m), representing 26% of the required amount. Updated Governments funding is still being mapped out. Contributions in response to the SADC appeal as reported to SADC by donors include United Kingdom's Department For International Development (DFID)- £71million, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) \$300million, AusAid \$7,5million, IrishAid \$110,000, Austria \$1,7million. The multi-sectoral appeal includes key sectors of Health, Water & Sanitation, Food security, Education and Nutrition. The Food Security and Agricultural need makes up 73% (\$2,1B) of the total requirement as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Progress of Response to the Humanitarian Appeal**

Country	Requirement (M\$)	Available Funding (M\$)		Gap (M\$)	Gap (%)	Immediate Needs	Population in Need
		Government	Partners				
Angola	261.42	26.72	7.92	226.79	86.75	755930	755 930
Botswana	83.00	16.81		66.19	79.75	1049074	1 049 074
Democratic Republic of Congo	232.00	-		232.00	100.00	5895844	5 895 844
Lesotho	38.00	11.63	29.14	(2.77)	(7.29)	491000	709 394
Madagascar	69.94	-	28.91	41.03	58.67	665000	848 659
Malawi	380.06	50.00	202.91	127.15	33.46	6500000	6 500 000
Mozambique	217.10	10.57	78.16	128.37	59.13	1980000	2 300 000
Namibia	56.60	20.82	-	35.78	63.22	595983	595 983
South Africa	46.96	32.69	-	14.27	30.39	3900000	14 349 445
Swaziland	92.46	6.78	23.24	62.44	67.53	350000	638 251
United Republic of Tanzania	-	-	-	-	-	358505	358 505
Zambia	76.32	43.30	-	33.02	43.27	975738	975 738
Zimbabwe	1 040.31	1.30	165.07	873.94	84.01	4071233	4 071 233
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2 594</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>1 838</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>27 588 307</b>	<b>39 047 471</b>
<b>Regional</b>							
Regional Coordination	1.44	0.92	-	0.52	36		-
Agricultural Inputs	282.00	-	-	282	100		-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 878</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>2 121</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>27 588 307</b>	<b>39 047 471</b>



Several high level meetings and events have been held to highlight the Regional Humanitarian Appeal as follows:

At the Regional level,

- A high level meeting in Rome on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July where SADC presented the appeal to donors and UN agencies.
- A Regional donors/stakeholders SADC Regional Humanitarian launch was held on 26 July whereas a donor briefing in Johannesburg on 16 September, where SADC highlighted the funding gaps and requested partners' support. The meeting was jointly hosted by DFID and USAID at USAID premises in Pretoria. In attendance were: USAID, DFID, Australia, Japan, Norway, Canada, South Africa, Switzerland, SADC, WVI, Save the Children, IFRC and RCs or their representatives from Angola, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Madagascar, Zambia and Mozambique.

The meeting agreed that regular engagement with the international development partners needs to continue. The next meeting with donors in Pretoria should be held in early November after the assessments in October have been finalized and information is available on revised needs. Consideration should be given to hold a follow-up meeting to the London conference that took place in July. The follow-up meeting could take place end of the year or first quarter of 2017 in a donor capital.

- An International donors/stakeholders, high-level event at the margins of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High Level Political Forum was held on 19 July. SADC co-chaired the side event with 2 United Nations Secretary General appointed Special Envoy's for El Nino and Climate.
- A high level meeting at the sidelines of the General Assembly was held on 23 September. SADC co-sponsored the event.
- The SADC Secretariat organized a Regional Disaster Response Monitoring Workshop, which was intended to give SADC Member States a platform for sharing lessons learnt, experiences and best practices from 2015/16 season, and discuss a Response Monitoring Framework for the on-going response to the El Nino-induced drought. The proposed Response Monitoring Framework addresses monitoring and evaluation of the response, and will be used as the main tool to monitor the responses, especially interventions from development partners in response to the Regional Humanitarian Appeal. The workshop, which was held in Johannesburg on the 12-14 October 2016, produced an approved monitoring framework through which all stakeholders will report on the drought response and road map with agreed actions and timelines. The response monitoring framework outlines periodic reports which will be provided by Member States and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) which will allow the compilation of regional publications with the following information:
  - Summary of needs of the population affected, people targeted and those already attended to
  - Who is doing what were
  - Periodic Monitoring report
  - Funds committed to the response and the gaps in funding.

Eleven Member States and several ICPs were represented at the workshop. For Member States, participants were drawn from National Disaster Management Offices, and relevant government departments leading the response to the drought disaster.

At the Member States' level,

- Coordination mechanisms have been setup to coordinate the response i.e. distribution of relief items (food and non-food), scaling up of social safety net programmes and the reallocation of national resources to attend to the needs of the affected populations.
- Several MS have held in-country donor pledging briefings
- A regional early warning bulletin for the rainy season 2016/17 was released at the conclusion of the Twentieth Annual SARCOF held in Harare at end of August. The Meteorological Services of Zimbabwe hosted the meeting. Support was provided by Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), African Development Bank, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and other partners. The user community that participated at SARCOF-20 discussed and formulated the mitigation measures for water resources and Energy, agriculture and food security, livestock, and disaster risk management, and communications, among many other sectors. They analyzed the potential implications of the consensus climate outlook, and developed mitigation measures for their respective area of interests.

## Sectoral Updates

### Transport and Logistics

The SADC Council approved the transport plan that spells out specific measures that need to be undertaken by Member States in order to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of supplies that comes in response to the El Nino drought appeal. These measures were drawn from past experience and the SADC El Nino Logistics and Transport workshop held on the 28-29 July 2016 in Johannesburg. The workshop was attended by 80 participants from key public and private stakeholders in the region that have a major role in the fields of transport/logistics and in the handling and delivery of humanitarian shipments. The workshop was also attended by sector lead representatives from the SADC member states, major donors and UN agencies. In addition, private and public companies from the region involved in the handling and transport of humanitarian shipments also took part. Among the key measures approved by the Council are the following

- Introduction of special drought relief cross-border permits for drought relief transport operators
- Introduction of expedited customs procedures for drought relief cargo
- Minimization of cabotage restrictions and suspend third party rule for drought inputs/exports
- Provision of military escorts for road and rail convoys, and
- Nomination of Focal Point to handle operational matters.

Many of the approved measures are yet to be implemented by Member States at operational levels. There is need for continuous monitoring to address any pressing challenges. Operational agencies are meanwhile, following case-by-case approaches to resolve any operational bottlenecks. Member States are urged to note that delayed implementation of the agreed measures will likely have a negative impact on drought relief shipment deliveries in the coming months as the frequency and volume of humanitarian shipment arrivals is expected to increase.

Humanitarian shipment arrivals are steadily picking up in both volume and frequency in recent weeks mainly through the eastern and southern corridors. So far, regional transport infrastructures and services are adequate, and without any major setbacks, handling both the additional humanitarian shipments and the regular commercial import/export traffic to the region. However, there is an issue of concern with regard to the challenges and potential operational bottlenecks for humanitarian shipment that will be coming through the Beira port and corridor, which handles shipments destined to Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and other countries in the region. According to shipping information in the coming weeks the Beira port will be receiving an upsurge in the number of bulk carrier vessels in addition to the regular break bulk and containerized traffic. These ships will be delivering bulk shipments of maize and wheat. The handling and delivery of all of these cargo arriving at the port will demand substantial coordination and concerted efforts to deliver them in time to their destinations in the interior.

Cognizant of the scenario anticipated at Beira, the SADC Logistics Coordination cell is considering to convene a one day working session at the Beira port by bringing together key port and transport officials from the three concerned Member States and the UN WFP field staff in order to address potential operations challenges and come up with agreed measures to address them. The issues that will be addressed during the Beira session are coordination mechanisms to assist in the timely handling of humanitarian cargo, streamlining documentation and procedural matters in the dispatch and clearance of humanitarian cargo and road haulage services, prioritization in the berthing of ships arriving with humanitarian supplies and minimize delays and formalities in route to the interior as per the spirit and decision of the SADC El Nino transport plan and endorsed by the SADC Council.

At the Meeting of Ministers responsible for ICTs, Transport and Meteorology on 21 October in Swaziland, Ministers noted the regional plan for transporting humanitarian relief cargo in SADC including the challenges on the Beira corridor and urged all mainland Member States to expedite the nomination of Focal Points by end of November 2016 to facilitate coordination of humanitarian relief cargo transport and logistics. Ministers further urged all drought affected Member States to provide the SADC Secretariat with reports on their national plans and coordination arrangements for drought relief transportation by end of November 2016. The report must include volumes of anticipated imports–commodity/volumes and timelines, ports and routes planned and coordination structures including contact details of key officials.

## Nutrition

Although the nutrition situation remains below emergency thresholds in most countries, at national level, pockets of very high acute malnutrition have been reported in several countries. The vulnerability to HIV in the region is of concern. Signs of increasing malnutrition among PLHIV on anti-retroviral treatment are evident with service delivery break downs, indicating that development gains made in the past could be lost.

Developed nutrition monitoring and reporting tools have been circulated to member states. According to available data from the affected seven Member States, the nutrition response has reached:

- 1 244 040 under five children with screening for acute malnutrition
- 69,770 under five children with severe acute malnutrition treatment
- 87627 under five children with moderate acute malnutrition treatment
- 68,300 under five children have been dewormed
- 106 345 pregnant and lactating women with moderate acute malnutrition treatment
- 143,380 caregivers with infant and young child feeding counseling
- 700,584 under five with vitamin A supplementation
- 100,000 people living with HIV with nutrition counseling and support

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH response to the El Nino drought emergency in the SADC Countries have been initiated since the start of the emergency in 2014/2015. Affected communities have been provided with some WASH services relief as allowed by available funds in each country. However, funding gaps where in some countries it is as high as 90% lacking is hindering reaching the required WASH targets of the affected countries. WASH monitoring and coordination tools have been developed for data collection and reporting on the ongoing emergency response. WASH monitoring and reporting currently done by the individual countries and in accordance to SADC predefined mechanisms as was stated by the outcome of the DRR workshop in Johannesburg (12-14 October 2016).

## Agriculture

### Seed Availability and Requirements for next Agricultural Season

Information on demand and supply situation in the formal commercial sector in selected drought affected countries including Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique and Swaziland indicates that there are significant gaps in maize and bean seed availability, as highlighted in Table 3. Despite the deficits of commercial maize seed in Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi, seed traders think the available seed is enough to meet commercial demand due to the eroded capacity of households to purchase seed as a result of the impact of two consecutive drought season. A significant number of farmers in the region rely on informal seed systems but the gaps in seed availability presented in Table 3 is excluding the informal systems which are difficult to monitor.

**Table 3. Seed Availability Versus Requirements in Selected Countries (Mt)MaizeBeans**

	Status	Les	Mad	Mal	Moz	Swa	Zam	Zim
Maize	Availability	354	250	17130	1330	750	77885	44152
	Requirement	3000	10000	32935	9245	1057	27465	37500
	Shortfall/surplus	-2646	-9750	-15805	-7915	-307	-50420	6652
	% Availability vs Requirement	11.8	2.5	52	14.4	71	283.6	117.7
Beans	Availability	109	1500	2365	1	3	325	1075
	Requirement	1500	7200	27267	1156	120	266	5000
	Shortfall/surplus	-1391	-5700	-24902	-1155	-117	59	3925
	% Availability vs Requirement	7.3	20.8	8.7	0.1	2.5	122.2	21.5

Source: FAO

FAO and partners will undertake community level assessments in September to guide response and support for affected farmers for the next planting season and identify best practices for resilience building initiatives for the affected communities.

## Seasonal Forecast

The current outlook is pointing to neutral conditions and favours a weak La Nina event. Based on recent SARCOF results most parts of Southern Africa will likely receive normal to above normal rains for the October- December period except for northern DRC, Tanzania, northwestern Angola, and northern Mozambique and eastern Madagascar where normal to below normal rains are expected. The January – March period will have similar conditions but southern Zimbabwe, Southern Mozambique and Northern South Africa will likely receive normal to below normal rains. In general the forecast looks good for agriculture but distributions issues needs special monitoring.



### SADC Situation Report



**6 of 15**  
countries have declared national drought disaster

**2 of 15**  
countries have declared partial drought disaster

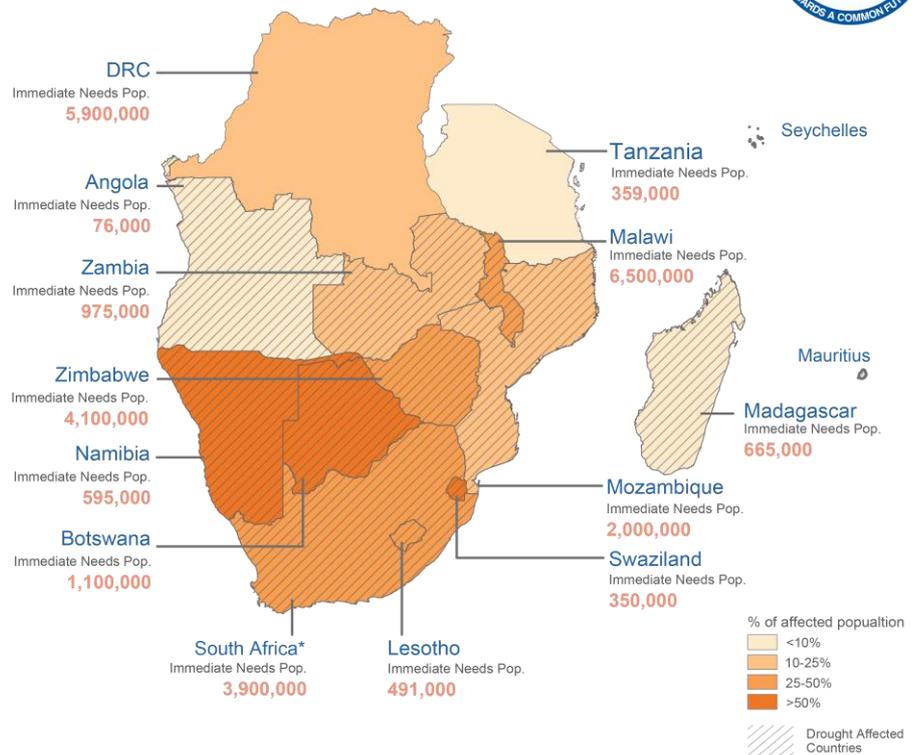


**28M**  
People requiring immediate humanitarian assistance

**39M**  
People affected



**2.1B (US\$)**  
Appeal funding gap (US\$ 2.9B required in total)



Creation date: 05 Sep 2016 Sources: SADC/NVAC, Humanitarian Partners Figures based on 2015/16 NVAC assessments/projections

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For more information, please visit [www.sadc.int/el-nino](http://www.sadc.int/el-nino)

Sources: Reports from MS Governments, International Cooperating Partners and SADC Secretariat