Regional Humanitarian Response Monitoring
December 2016

Southern African Development Community
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AT A GLANCE

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (US$)

- **2.9B**

PEOPLE IN NEED

- **41M**

SADC RURAL POPULATION

- **181M**

PERCENTAGE OF AFFECTED RURAL POPULATION

- *Percentage against total population*

1. **FUNDING GAP US$**

   - **1.9B**

2. **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

   - **220M** Funded by Governments

3. **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

   - **752M** Funded by Partners
A severe drought, associated with the El Niño phenomena, resulted in a humanitarian emergency in which an estimated 40 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Vulnerability assessments and analysis indicated that 23 million required immediate humanitarian assistance, as of June 2016.

In response to this, the Southern African Development Community launched a regional humanitarian appeal for $2.4 billion to support the needs of the affected population in the affected Member States.

The international community was requested to provide assistance to affected Member States with gaps in their humanitarian response, including Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Five countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) declared drought emergencies. South Africa declared drought disaster in all provinces except Gauteng while Mozambique declared an institutional red alert. National El Niño-related government preparedness and response plans were developed and activated in all the affected countries.

Food and nutrition security and strengthening livelihoods were identified as the greatest need. The severe drought conditions resulted in widespread crop failure, poor harvests and loss of livelihoods. Cereal harvest assessments indicate nearly 9.3 million tonnes regional shortfall in production. This meant that a significant amount of cereals had to be imported from outside the region to cover the needs. An estimated 1.66 million tonnes of maize was required for immediate food assistance in the 2016/17 marketing year.

Livestock, which is a key source of livelihoods for many communities, were also significantly impacted by the drought. More than 643,000 drought-related livestock deaths have been reported in Botswana, Swaziland, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe alone due to lack of pasture, lack of water and disease outbreaks.

In many countries it will be necessary to support affected communities to recover their eroded production capacity through provision of emergency seeds, inputs and other appropriate support for next season’s crops. Livestock need to be protected through provision of emergency feed, rehabilitation of watering points and emergency vaccinations against transboundary diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease. There is a need to scale up use of climate smart approaches including water harvesting among high risk farming households.

Water sources and reservoirs are severely depleted, forcing communities and their livestock to share the same unsafe sources, increasing the risk of disease.

The SADC Council of Ministers at its meeting of March 2016 recommended the declaration of a regional drought disaster and issuance of a regional appeal for assistance. Council also recommended the establishment of a SADC El Niño Logistics and Coordination Team at the SADC Secretariat to coordinate a regional response in close collaboration with Member States and supported by international cooperating partners (ICPs). This team was established in May 2016 with the support of several UN Agencies, including the FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO.

Responses in Member States included the scaling up of social safety net programmes, reallocation of national resources to attend to the needs of affected populations. Rapid and in-depth assessments were conducted in many countries to inform their response plans. Sector platforms or cluster coordination mechanisms have been mobilized to coordinate the drought response in most countries and funding needs and gaps have been identified.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE SO FAR

- In anticipation of the large volumes to cover the deficit in the region, an assessment of regional transport facilities was carried and that the capacity and quality of the major ports and corridors in the region was enough capacity to handle the anticipated volumes, provided there was proper planning coordination of the usage of the transport facilities.

- Regional Transport Plan which outlines measures to smoothen the transportation of cargo across the region was developed and approved by SADC Council of Ministers.

- Regional Disaster Response Monitoring Framework with indicators that would be used to monitor the response and the data collection templates that would be used to collect the required information was adopted by SADC Member States.

- An assessment of seed availability and access was undertaken in the region to guide agriculture and Livelihoods support interventions, which have reached 1,246,512 households as of end of October 2016.

- Food assistance provided to 4.9 million food insecure people (as of September 2016).

- Up until end of October 2016, a total of 4,002,131 children were screened for acute malnutrition and 195,739 (82,889 severely and 112,850 moderately malnourished) were treated from acute malnutrition with 50% funding that was received.

- The nutrition sector in SADC region faces a funding gap of about 50% which is likely to influence continued nutrition programme emergency response, coverage as well as meeting the nutritional needs of the SADC community population.

- The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector response continues to be severely underfunded, with only about 24% of funds required for the WASH response were received so far.

- Resilience Building frameworks and strategies are gaining momentum in the region as Member States seek to address the vicious cycle of humanitarian crises.
### Table 4: Country Needs and Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Requirement (M$)</th>
<th>Available Funding (M$)</th>
<th>Gap (M$)</th>
<th>Gap (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Partners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>261.42</td>
<td>26.72</td>
<td>11.28</td>
<td>223.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>83.00</td>
<td>16.81</td>
<td></td>
<td>66.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>245.11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>245.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>38.00</td>
<td>11.63</td>
<td>97.02</td>
<td>(10.54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>69.90</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45.52</td>
<td>24.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>380.14</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>293.18</td>
<td>36.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>217.10</td>
<td>10.57</td>
<td>119.18</td>
<td>87.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>56.60</td>
<td>20.82</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>46.96</td>
<td>32.69</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>92.46</td>
<td>6.78</td>
<td>34.14</td>
<td>51.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>76.32</td>
<td>43.30</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1 040.31</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>211.91</td>
<td>827.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 607</strong></td>
<td><strong>221</strong></td>
<td><strong>752</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 635</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Coordination</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Agricultural Inputs</td>
<td>282.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>282.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 891</strong></td>
<td><strong>222</strong></td>
<td><strong>752</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 917</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The agriculture inputs support is added here because some of the affected Member States did not include it in their response interventions and it is critical in restoring the capacity of affected communities to produce food next season.

### Table 5: Regional Funding Requirements by Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Requirements (M$)</th>
<th>Available (M$)</th>
<th>Gap (M$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Partners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security &amp; Agriculture</td>
<td>1 830.69</td>
<td>138.93</td>
<td>650.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Inputs *</td>
<td>282.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>206.69</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>11.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>89.01</td>
<td>4.23</td>
<td>58.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>93.09</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>48.25</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>3.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience &amp; Early Recovery</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>316.76</td>
<td>14.31</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 891</strong></td>
<td><strong>160</strong></td>
<td><strong>752</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture and livelihood support was one of the priorities of the humanitarian response in the region. One of the first key interventions was an assessment of seed availability and access in the region undertaken by FAO to guide stakeholder interventions. The assessment found was that while some seeds are available from local agro-dealers, local markets and seed suppliers, access to seed is a challenge for smallholder farmers. It was therefore recommended that seed supply to subsistence farmers can be improved by subsidizing seed prices and making them readily available in local markets. Overall, there is a general shortage of small grains and legume seed on the formal market across all focus countries, an aspect which needs to be given attention if the efforts to restore production and build resilience among the vulnerable communities should be continued. Regarding access, the study also confirmed that significant quantities of seed are sourced from the informal market. The informal seed sector was contributing 98.9 percent of the total seed used by farmers in Madagascar, Malawi (61.3%), Swaziland (50.1%), Zambia (76.3%) and Zimbabwe (73.7%). Farmers in the focus countries are likely to have challenges in accessing seed due to the fact that proportion of seeds from own production declined due to the poor harvest. Most the farmers are expecting to engage in the market (informal and formal) to access seed, however some of the farmers lack purchasing power, as a consequence of weak economic conditions and recurrent droughts.

Table 1: Number of households supported with agricultural interventions in some countries as at end of October 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>FAO</th>
<th>Other Partners</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>100,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>80,700</td>
<td>19,314</td>
<td>100,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>218,259</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>279,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>149,750</td>
<td>113,671</td>
<td>263,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>11,350</td>
<td>10,273</td>
<td>21,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>163,515</td>
<td>318,180</td>
<td>481,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>713,574</td>
<td>532,938</td>
<td>1,246,512</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Interventions

- Crop (seed production, distribution of crop and vegetable seed and planting materials, tools, fertilizer, etc.)
- Livestock (forage production, feed provision, animal health, etc.)
- Water-related interventions (irrigation, water point rehabilitation/construction, water harvesting, etc.)

Country Specific Agriculture and Livelihoods support interventions

Botswana

A number of agricultural interventions have been undertaken including:

- Farmers who got guaranteed seasonal loans were bailed out by 85%.
- About 25% livestock feed subsidy was introduced effective 1st July, 2016 until 31st December, 2016.
- Farmers have been provided with water harvesting structures and techniques.
- Maintenance of dams and construction of small earth dams to assist farmers with water for livestock and irrigation.

The government is also implementing a subsidy program, the Integrated Support Program for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD) targeting 110,000 smallholder farmers, 200 emerging farmers and 90 commercial farmers. The scope of the program encompasses provision of seeds, fertilizer, herbicides,
ploughing and planting. The government is also promoting Smart Agricultural Technologies. The drought has also aggravated water scarcity for agriculture and domestic uses. To deal with this, so far around 17,700 boreholes have been drilled to support domestic & livestock use.

Lesotho
A Drought Response plan was prepared based on LVAC report aimed to support 180,880 vulnerable people at a cost of M584,079,131. Following Declaration of State of Emergency, a humanitarian appeal was launched with a resource gap of M429,079,131.00. The Government made an allocation of M155 million for the prioritized activities from the Response plan (Agriculture and Food Security was allocated M10,000,036). Planned agriculture sector interventions included: culling and exchange exercise for sheep; livestock auction sales; construction of earth dams; provision of drugs, vaccines, chemicals for both crops and animals; and increased awareness creation and monitoring and evaluation. Following re-prioritization, the following were identified: procurement and distribution of winter crop inputs (for wheat and peas); procurement and distribution of fodder seeds and termites chemicals; procurement and distribution of inputs (maize seed) for the mountain areas summer cropping season with committed funds of M7,693,800.00; and procurement of drugs and vaccines for livestock with the remaining M2,094,184.31.

Malawi
Interventions implemented by government and other organizations include:

• Restocking of livestock through pass-on programmes targeting more than 17,000 vulnerable households (providing goats).
• An integrated climate change adaption project where 3,657 farmers have benefited with chickens, goats, sheep and pigs.
• Intensification of livestock extension advocating for improved livestock housing, supplementary feeding and disease surveillance. The government has also undertaken vaccination campaigns against Newcastle and Foot & Mouth Diseases.
• Provision of agricultural inputs to affected farmers: seeds, fertilizers and planting materials of root and tuber crops (cassava and sweet potatoes)
• Government contracted private growers to produce irrigated maize for the strategic grain reserves
• 900,000 farmers are being supported with farm inputs under the 2016/17 Farm Input Subsidy Program where each targeted household will access subsidized inputs in form of two 50kg bag of fertilizer (NPK and UREA), 5kg of maize seed and legume seed.

Response initiatives implemented to deal with water issues include:

• Provision of inputs for irrigated production;
• Procurement and distribution of 4,460 treadle pumps to increase access to water for irrigation;
• Distribution and installation of solar pump based irrigation schemes irrigating about 1,000 ha;
• Capacity building of farmers on irrigation water management to increase water use efficiency;
• Rehabilitation of damaged irrigation infrastructure covering about 2,020 ha;
• Fast tracking development of new irrigation schemes covering about 6,000 ha;
• Promotion of conservation agriculture

Mozambique
Interventions which are underway in support of livestock production include: building of 11 multifunctional solar powered boreholes (to provide 20,000 liters of water) and 1 dam in areas where animals and people can access water; and acquisition and distribution of 20 manual bailer machines, training of farmers in
hay production and conservation for the dry season, production of mineral blocks and installation of forage banks. Planned interventions for the livestock sector over the next 12 months include: building of 14 multifunctional boreholes in affected districts to provide water for animals and people; acquisition of bailing machines for the affected areas; and training of farmers in technologies for production and conservation of hay, and production of forage banks in the rain season. The key challenge observed relates to the control of movement of animals resulting in outbreak of FMD in Maputo and Gaza provinces due to uncontrolled movement of animals.

Crop production response interventions that have also been implemented include a FAO supported project that has provided 55,000 households with crop and vegetable seeds. Further, 680 households have been supported on seed production and 1,000 households have been trained on conservation agriculture through farmer field schools. In addition, 50,000 households have been supported with increased access to water through construction of boreholes and constructions of wells on dry river basins and water reservoirs.

**South Africa**

An Inter-ministerial Committee (IMC), a National Drought Task Team and a National Drought Joint Operations Centre (NDJOC) were established under the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (DCOGTA), comprised of officials from relevant departments such as Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), National Treasury (NT), Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR). DAFF Joint Operation Committee (JOC) was also established to implement the drought response plan focusing on livestock feed, water and animal medication. The Private Sector and NGOs also played a major role in the mobilization of resources to assist in the affected areas.

DAFF also allocated R268 million through reprioritization of Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) to provide livestock feed and water to affected farmers. In addition, Provincial Departments of Agriculture allocated R173 million through their Equitable Share to assist affected farmers during 2015/16 financial year. Five provinces allocated R198 million through provincial Equitable Share during 2016/17 financial year for animal feeds and water. Due to the continuation of the drought, DAFF supported a request of R1billion made by provinces to National Treasury, of which R212 million was approved to assist farmers with animal feed. The process of implementing further relief intervention is in progress focusing on procurement of animal feed in all affected areas.

The Land Bank is also currently assisting and supporting the drought affected farmers in its portfolio and it has contributed about R45 million to the sector. This amount has been contributed through financial restructuring of existing client portfolios and debt obligations. The Land Bank has signed a loan agreement with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) for R400 million for production rehabilitation, working capital and operational expenses required for minimizing further losses to current farming operations, re-stocking of livestock, preparing for future seasons activities necessary to continue the farmers’ normal sustainable farming operations and enabling carry-over debt and consolidation of debt. To date, assistance has been provided through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Concessionary Drought Relief Loans. The loans are granted at prime interest of less 3% for all qualifying customers. The term of loan is one to ten years depending on the purpose of the loan and the income of each customer.

**Swaziland**

On-going livestock interventions include distribution of 34 206 hay bales since May 2016, 7 891 through Government subsidy. The government is importing hay bales from South Africa while some are being sourced within Swaziland. FAO is also assisting in the importation of 2000 hay bales. The target is to reach 52,280 households. In addition, an area of 200 HA has been cleared to intensify hay making. About 1,328,000L of water has been distributed to affected communities. In addition, FAO is assisting to drill 28 boreholes in the most affected areas of the country. In addition, 2 water tankers have been procured for livestock water distribution in the most affected areas. 25 areas received assistance from Government with machinery for removing sand in rivers with water levels below ground level. Extension services are also being provided at dip-tank level whereby farmers are also encouraged to sell non-productive stock. So far
a total of 1,700 farmers have been trained and about 12,775 cattle have been sold through auction sales. There is also facilitated animal movement from the most affected areas to less affected areas and so far a total of 16,284 permits were issued. Key gaps include lack of training in livestock emergency response; inadequate resources; and inadequate implementation of phyto-sanitary measures.

Crop production support interventions include the agricultural subsidy scheme which is targeting 21,500 farmers in high precipitation areas (Wet Middle veld, Lubombo plateau and Highveld). The inputs provided are for 1 Hectare of land comprising maize seeds and fertilizer. In 2016/17, the inputs also include bean seed with fertilizer; and sorghum seed and fertilizer. In 2016/17 Farmers’ contribution has been reduced from 50% to 40%. In addition, Red Cross is implementing a project to support 1,002 households through provision of maize and bean seeds costing US$22,000. World Vision is also implementing a project (with a budget of USD 1,000,000) to support 4,200 households with sorghum seed and cowpea seeds. COSPE is also supporting 202 households through the provision of sorghum and cowpeas seeds.

FAO through a Netherlands Government supported project (with a budget of US$ 600,000) is assisting over 500 households to set up nutrition gardens and 2 500 household will receive livestock feeds for core breeding stock. The project is targeting four regions of Hhohho, Manzini, Lubombo and Shiselweni. In addition, FAO is also implementing a project funded by USAID OFDA for the period June 2016 to Aug 2017 with a budget of USD 959,729 targeting 10,000 vulnerable subsistence farmers (in Manzini, Hhohho, Lubombo and Shiselweni) who will benefit from seed distribution (maize, sorghum, beans, groundnuts) and training on conservation agriculture practices.

To improve water access for smallholder agriculture, the following have been done:

- 12,000 ha of communal land has been put under irrigation by smallholders for sugarcane cash crop
- Five sand dams have been constructed to support 1000 households
- Implementation of medium size earth dam programme
- Implementation of smallholder market lead project to benefit 10 000 households

**Tanzania**

Government interventions aimed at addressing the impact of the El Nino include: strengthening of National Meteorological Agency; development of national Smart Agricultural Climate Change strategy and continuation of input subsidization program.

**Zambia**

Ongoing livestock interventions to address impacts of El Nino include: rehabilitation of 4 dams for water harvesting; breeding livestock for disease tolerance; relocating animals to other areas where water is available; establishing pasture fields using drought tolerant varieties; stocking and restocking exercise and implementation of a loan a cow facility where over 500 small scale farmers have benefited. Other selected interventions by partners include Heifer International project targeting 6,000 farmers at a cost of $2.7 million and a World Bank project covering 7,534 farmers for approximately $7 Million. There are also efforts at increased promotion of conservation agriculture and planting early maturing varieties.

Gaps identified include lack of early warning systems; lack of financial resources to fully implement response programmes; and lack of trained personnel in climate change and emergency response.

**Zimbabwe**

On livestock, a project has been implemented with support from FAO- UNCERF to improve access to livestock feed and drought tolerant crops in Matabeleland South and Masvingo provinces. A FAO/ECHO livelihoods and food security project is also being implemented to safeguard livelihoods through provision of vaccines for control of foot and mouth disease (FMD), Anthrax and Newcastle disease in 14 districts. FAO/USAID/ITALY Drought mitigation project is also working on provision of stock feeds and seeds (sorghum and cowpeas) at subsidised prices targeting 9 districts. Key gaps affecting livestock interventions include:
poor marketing infrastructure such as poor road network in rural areas resulting in increased marketing costs; shortage of water for livestock. As a result livestock have been trekking long distances (more than 5km) to get water. This is resulting in uncontrolled animal movement promoting the spread of diseases such as FMD. The country has also faced liquidity constraints that have affected livestock auction markets in communal areas which are mostly based on cash transactions.

On crop production, the Government has embarked on implementation of a special programme on maize production for import substitution (called command agriculture). The program is targeting productive maize farmers in high potential areas of the country including irrigation farmers and irrigation schemes covering 400,000ha to produce about 2 million tonnes of maize. The contracted farmers are provided with seeds, basal and top dressing fertilizer, lime, pesticides and fuel. The Government is also implementing a smallholder Input Support programme targeting 300,000 vulnerable households whereby each household will be receiving 10kgs maize seed or 5kg small grain seed, 50kg bag basal fertilizer and 50kg bag top dressing.

Challenges and Gaps in agriculture response interventions in the region
Overall main observed challenge for the El Nino response is lack of funds to implement planned interventions adequately. In addition, although the countries have relevant policies and plans which could facilitate responses, recovery or resiliency building, the challenge is weak implementation capacity. There is also need for the governments to increase investment in climate smart technologies and irrigation infrastructure to reduce farmers’ exposure to future droughts. There is also lack of a comprehensive monitoring system.

Challenges affecting crop production include: limited seed availability and access affecting poor households. The main gap is the unavailability of certified seed of small grains, pulses and other crops on the formal market. The other gap identified is lack of purchasing power by majority of farmers to access hybrid seeds and certified seed of legumes. This is resulting in use of recycled seeds particularly for leguminous crops. Water availability and access by smallholder farmers has also been reduced thereby affecting irrigation farming and domestic use. Main livestock challenges include outbreaks of animal diseases, insufficient drugs and vaccines and lack of infrastructure to prevent and control the transmission of disease. Other challenges affecting individual farmers are diseases, poor animal husbandry and poor extension.

Recommendations
Given the importance of the informal seed systems to most farmers, seed delivery mechanisms should be promoted to ensure timely access to seed. This includes market based interventions such seed fairs to enable the exchange of local adaptable materials, and local agro-dealers should be encouraged to participate and sell certified seeds. In the medium to long term, there is need to enhance the informal seed sector to bring it to a level where it can be a major source of seed for emergency interventions, with mechanisms in place to guarantee quality of seed. It is also important to preserve and maintain informal seed systems as they are adapted to local climatic conditions and therefore critical for biodiversity.

FOOD SECURITY
Southern Africa faces the highest food insecurity in the last five years with significantly below average harvest in most countries. Regional cereal production is 11% below the five year average (dropping from 29 million tonnes in 2015 to 26 million tonnes in 2016). Many parts of the region have already depleted the little harvest and are already depending on the market.

The main drivers of current food insecurity are poor crop production, high staple food prices, below normal incomes from other sources especially for the very poor and poor households. The majority of very poor and poor households are already experiencing challenges to access food on the market due to low
purchasing power. Income from other sources such as sale of livestock, has also been affected as stocks have been depleted over the past consecutive droughts. Other activities, such as sale of wild foods, brick making; and other petty trading have also been affected by the current drought situation. Consequently, the majoring of the households are in dire need of food assistance.

Many of the food security indicators including food consumption scores, coping strategies indices are showing that most of the poor households do not have adequate food and are engaging in negative and sometimes irreversible coping strategies. This situation that is expected to prevail well into the coming year. As an example, recent results from the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) assessment update indicates an increase in the number of food insecure people. Assessments in other countries are being carried out to ascertain the current number of food insecure people.

Given low levels of cereals across the region, market prices are expected to trend upwards and above last year’s prices and the five-year average between now and the next harvest, further impacting negatively on the most vulnerable.

Despite well above average levels of cereals availability on the global market, the capacity to import within the region has been affected by a number of factors including low resource bases of most countries in the region.

Key achievements in the food security response
Since the launch of the SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal, approximately 4.9 million food insure people received food assistance throughout the region (as of end of September 2016). In October, it is estimated that 6.6 million hungry people were reached. Below are summaries of responses at national level.

Main responses or interventions at country level

Lesotho
In November, WFP will assist 57,000 food insecure people through CBT and food transfers. The plan is to reach close to 100,000 people through food and CBT assistance by December 2016. Beneficiaries will be provided with two months rations.

Malawi
As up to end of October 2016, a total of approximately 2.6 million people were provided with emergency humanitarian food support. Out of this, 2.5 million were provided with in-kind-food assistance while approximately 127,900 were supported through cash-based transfers. Beneficiaries continue receiving maize at full ration, non-maize commodities at half ration while Super Cereal Plus is not being distributed at all due to funding shortfalls. It is expected that the support will be scaled up in the coming months to meet the increase needs for food assistance.

Swaziland
In coordination with the government through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), a total of 250,000 people were targeted for in-kind food assistance as well as cash based transfers in the most drought-affected regions of Hhohho and Lubombo. As of end of October, an estimated 30,000 beneficiaries have received food assistance support through cash based transfers as part of the drought response. In November 2016, food assistance programmes by the World Food Programme targeted approximately
100,000 drought-affected people. As at beginning of November, approximately, 31,618 people had been reached.

**Madagascar**
In October, it is estimated that WFP reached 600,000 people in the seven most severely affected districts with relief assistance (food, cash and nutritional support).

**Mozambique**
During the month of October 2016, WFP provided emergency assistance to 320,644 people. The total number of food insecure people requiring emergency food assistance and supported by WFP was expected to reach 700,000 by the end of December 2016.

**Zambia**
In Zambia, according to an impact VSASC assessment, a total of 975,738 were identified to have been affected by the drought in 31 districts of the country. The World Food Programme was targeting a total of 349,915 school children through school feeding in drought affected 10 districts, until May 2017.

**Zimbabwe**
In September humanitarian partners provided assistance to approximately 1.47 million people in September. In October and November, 866,516 and 796,908 people respectively have been reached by the World Programme alone. According to the ZimVAC, recent assessments show that an additional 1.1 million people are food insecure in urban and peri-urban areas. This brings the total number of food insecure people to 5.2 million for the period of January to March 2017.

**NUTRITION**
The drought experienced in the region continues to contribute to the deterioration of the nutrition situation in communities across the SADC region. In addition, food insecurity, water scarcity, poor hygiene practices, absence of primary caregivers from home, inappropriate infant and young child feeding practices, and frequent child illnesses, all continue to aggravate the maternal and child malnutrition conditions in the most affected countries in Southern Africa including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The number of people in need of health and nutrition assistance has increased by 10%. The vulnerable groups with greater nutritional needs include young children, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly and those living with TB and/or HIV. All of the most affected countries have recorded wasting levels above 5%, with pockets of very high acute malnutrition at sub national levels. An estimated total of 513,000 children are in need of life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 778,000 for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) across Southern Africa until end of 2016.

**Table 2: Summary of numbers reached by the nutrition sector response**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 SAM Targets</th>
<th>SAM Admissions</th>
<th>Indirect SAM Coverage (%)</th>
<th>2016 HAC Funding Gap (%)</th>
<th>2016 Funding Gap (USD)</th>
<th>Funding Gap in (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>44,511</td>
<td>11,513</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>3,724,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>2,445</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>434,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>35,291</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>2,009,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>8,102</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>2,234,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>65,931</td>
<td>45,316</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>9,522,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>13,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>14,711</td>
<td>5,104</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>1,416,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>184,771</strong></td>
<td><strong>82,889</strong></td>
<td><strong>43%</strong></td>
<td><strong>49%</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,355,238</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If left untreated, severe acute malnutrition will result in increased mortality, and may worsen the already recorded high chronic malnutrition rates in the southern countries as a result of the ongoing droughts, and also threaten the significant gains made in stemming the HIV and/or AIDS epidemic.

In 2016, the region targeted to admit 184,771 severely malnourished children (out of which 82,889 have been admitted) and 1,086,580 moderately malnourished children (out of which 112,850 have been admitted in Malawi and Madagascar) aged 6 to 59 months old in the seven most affected Southern African countries (Madagascar, Mozambique, Angola, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland) as part of the El Nino Emergency nutrition response in 2016.

The “lean” season is underway and harvests are not expected until late March through May 2017, which mean the sick and malnourished children will require continued treatment and time to recover after the harvests. Micronutrient deficiencies in children, expecting and lactating mothers will likely worsen during the lean season before the harvest and will require treatment even after the harvests.

### Summary of Key Achievements in the humanitarian response

In line with the nutrition interventions proposed in the SADC humanitarian appeal, joint efforts by Governments and Partners have provided emergency nutrition lifesaving services in the seven most affected countries (Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) and reached the following beneficiaries with nutrition services:

- 4,002,131 under five children with screening for acute malnutrition
- 82,889 under five children with severe acute malnutrition treatment
- 112,850 under five children with moderate acute malnutrition treatment in Malawi and Madagascar
- 68,300 under five children have been dewormed in Swaziland.
- 106,345 pregnant and lactating women with moderate acute malnutrition treatment in Malawi and Madagascar
- 143,731 caregivers with infant and young child feeding counseling
- 2,857,840 under five with vitamin A supplementation
- 134,190 people living with HIV with nutrition counseling and support in Lesotho
• 336,780 children 6-59 months with specialized nutritious foods to prevent acute malnutrition (attached to HH food security interventions)
• 149,591 pregnant and lactating women with specialized nutritious foods to prevent acute malnutrition.

Challenges
Amidst the reported achievements of Governments and Partners to provide emergency nutrition services to the affected communities, the nutrition Sector faces several challenges including:

• The available regional nutrition data is not completely representative of the nutritional status of young children, pregnant and lactating women, and people living with HIV.
• There are gaps in information from nutrition assessments and technical capacity gaps in identification, prevention, treatment and management of acute malnutrition as well as information management to support comprehensive targeting of beneficiaries for nutrition emergency response.
• There has not been a baseline regional nutritional assessment and there isn’t a regional surveillance and/early warning system perform timely nutrition situation monitoring.
• The nutrition sector faces a funding gap of about 50% and this has restricted the coverage of the response.
• There is no multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination in nutrition emergency response with other sectors like HIV and other platforms within SADC region to complement the emergency nutrition response and prevent long term nutritional effects of stunting.
• The is a low level of awareness in the region on malnutrition and its long term effects and therefore there is inadequate financial allocation for emergency nutrition contingency planning, preparedness, response, procurement of therapeutic, development of national nutrition protocols and anthropometric supplies.
• The high stunting levels (ranging between 7.9 per cent in Seychelles to 47 per cent in Madagascar) in the SADC region are of concern since there are not notable robust nutrition initiatives targeted at reducing them.

Recommendations
• Conduct regional nutrition baseline rapid assessments to allow more effective monitoring of nutrition response;
• Map out nutrition emergency services through collection, analysis and sharing of data and information to provide accurate representation of the nutrition situation and how it has been influenced by the emergency;
• Ensure that the nutrition situation is included in contingency planning and emergency preparedness initiatives and allocate financial resources accordingly;
• The region should continue building capacities for baseline nutrition assessments and programming including identification, prevention, treatment and management of acute and chronic malnutrition as well as nutrition information management.
• Advocate for regional funding allocation for nutrition early warning systems to guide emergency preparedness, planning and response.
• Establish/strengthen regional coordination mechanisms on baseline nutrition assessments, information management and response to enable a timely nutrition situation monitoring and response.
• Ensure multi-sectoral linkages to WASH, HIV, health, food security, livelihood among other sectors in addressing acute and chronic malnutrition.
• Develop a regional communication strategy to increase awareness in the region on causes of malnutrition,
preventive measures and existing treatment services and raise nutrition profile to address funding gaps.

- Develop a regional nutrition action plan to reduce the stunting levels and reverse the long term associated consequences on impaired cognitive development, poor school performances, and impaired productivity in adulthood, economic development and increased health care costs.

HEALTH AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A number of public health issues have created vulnerable groups that were particularly affected by the drought and required special consideration in the drought response. The SADC region has been experiencing a declining Human Development Index (HDI) largely due to mortality associated with a high burden of both communicable diseases (such as HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria), and non-communicable diseases. On the other hand, the region is also experiencing the emergence and re-emergence of diseases such as leprosy, anthrax, Ebola, yellow fever and cholera. There is also a notable persistence of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) such as Onchocerciasis, Schistosomiasis and Lymphatic Filariasis.

Health responses in drought affected areas have generally focused on high risk population groups such as children under five years of age, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, the elderly, people living with HIV, Tuberculosis and Non Communicable Diseases (including Diabetes, Hypertension, and Cancer), as well as people living with disabilities.

Main response interventions included Health Promotion and Child Health Day Campaigns, which have been carried out in several affected countries. Where no specific emergency funds were available, there was an attempt to reach emergency affected areas with more intensive and extensive measures.

Health awareness promotions have been carried out through the distribution of posters and leaflets; and public announcements on local media, including television and radio. Ministries of Health have conducted media briefings, as well as other social mobilization and community engagement activities. These activities have been instrumental in encouraging timely disease prevention and health conscious behavior.

Key Achievements in the response so far

A total of 368,512 children in Angola, Malawi and Swaziland were vaccinated against measles. In Angola, 1,722,499 people were vaccinated against yellow fever. Other interventions in various countries have included: de-worming for school aged children, disease surveillance and management, and delivery of water to health facilities. Health supplies have been distributed, including de-worming tablets, temporary chemical toilets, chlorine tablets, cholera kits, hygiene kits, Interagency emergency health kits (each kit serves 10,000 patients for three months); and other medical supplies.

In Malawi, interventions included HSE/surveillance activities included risk profiling and surveillance training. UN and NGO partners are supporting the Government with a cholera vaccination campaign conducted for fishermen on and around Lake Chilwa. In Madagascar, government partners are providing technical support to improve disease surveillance and strengthen the early warning system in the health facilities and communities. In Mozambique, a health facility assessment was carried out in six regions that has been guiding facility level assistance efforts.

Recommended Strategic approaches to the Health Response

Based on the response interventions so far, below are some key recommendations for more effective responses.

- Improve knowledge and practice of community health workers and primary health clinic nurses in management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI), integrated management of pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal care, linkages with integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM), HIV,
TB and specific attention to drought-related illnesses using national protocols and guidelines.

- Ensure uninterrupted availability of lifesaving essential medical supplies, particularly those needed to manage disease outbreaks and the ongoing HIV and TB epidemics.
- Continuous pediatric HIV and PMTCT treatment, community action/prevention campaign to prevent/mitigate risks for drought related migration, in particular in relation to gender and HIV.
- Ensure provision of emergency water and sanitation services in health facilities.
- Scale up coverage by routine immunization services to sustain high coverage of all antigens by reaching every child, including through outreach, and as necessary, through multi-antigen catch-up campaigns.
- Strengthen capacities of rapid response health teams and primary health care facilities and teams to respond to patient surges in emergency situations.
- Target adolescents and pregnant women in drought affected areas with special monitoring, outreach, referral and care, to prevent increases in sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and to ensure adequate nutrition and maternal and obstetric care.
- Provide community-based and referral health services for all emergency medical treatment, outbreak investigation, early case detection, and case management.
- Support social mobilization to improve health seeking behaviour; build trust for the health system, encourage TB and HIV treatment adherence and retention; reinforce positive health promotion and disease preventive action.
- Health Ministries’ Immediate Disease Notification Systems (IDNS) needs updating to include disease associated with the drought.
- Disease surveillance should also involve setting up Health and Nutrition Emergency Committees at all levels and equip them for action.
- Support the integration of SAM in the integrated disease surveillance system.

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

The El Nino-induced drought emergency caused severe water shortages and continues to impose harsh conditions on communities in the affected countries including: Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Although recent rainfall has brought some relief, it is still insufficient to offset the acute water stress that being experienced so far. In some cases where the water shortages are extremely severe, Water Authorities have imposed stringent water rationing measures to ensure prolonged service provision in urban and pre-urban communities.

Households in some communities are paying up to 25% of their income to get water from private water trucking suppliers, while in others, up to 50-80% of population obtain water for domestic use from unsafe sources. In addition to challenges of availability of safe water sources, the WASH Sector also is facing severe funding shortages as only about 24% of funds required for the WASH response was made available. However, despite these challenges the joint efforts by Governments and their partners have succeeded in providing WASH emergency response interventions across the seven most affected countries.

Source: UNICEF, Zimbabwe
affected countries in the Region, and have reached about 790,000 people with safe drinking water in a combination of interventions that include: construction/ rehabilitation of water points, water trucking, and distribution of household water treatment products. In addition approximately 995,000 were reached by partners and benefitted from adequate sanitation, hygiene promotion and sanitation with emphasis on hand-washing and health safety, safe household water treatment and storage, and distribution of sanitation and hygiene emergency items.

Key achievements
Governments and their partners provided WASH emergency measures to affected communities in the form of urgent life-saving water supplies and sanitation/ hygiene promotion interventions aiming to reducing mortality and morbidity that are associated with water / drought related disease. In implementing the WASH emergency response measures, the distances travelled for collecting water was reduced, enabling school attendance, and diminishing of SGBV risks to women and young girls who usually have to go further distances to fetch the water. WASH sector emergency response interventions in affected communities include:

• Provision of temporary access to safe drinking water supplies as an immediate life-saving measures including water trucking.
• Provision of permanent access to safe drinking water supplies as a resilience measure including construction and rehabilitation of water points.
• Improvements of WASH services in schools and health centers.
• Provision of access to adequate sanitation
• Promotion of sanitation and hygiene in affected communities.
• Provision of WASH emergency supplies/ hygiene kits.

Challenges faced:
Despite the great efforts of Governments and Sector Partners to provide WASH emergency services to the affected communities, the WASH Sector faces few key challenges that are unique or also identical to other Sectors including:
Shortages of funds, about only 24% of funds required for the WAS response were received.

Due to shortages in resources, prevention and/or preparedness in WASH to respond to water related outbreaks such as cholera may be restricted.

Difficulties in finding new safe water sources to meet the needs of the affected communities.

The occurrence of floods in the current rainfall season has the potential to disrupt emergency response operations and causes setback to achievements already made by the response.

Internal conflicts in some of the affected areas are hindering the emergency response.

Only 24% of required funds for WASH response have been received. Reported funding gaps in the WASH sector (as of December 2016):

Angola: 83.4%
Lesotho: 66.4%
Madagascar: 81.7%
Malawi: +93%
Mozambique 52%
Swaziland: 71.1%
Zimbabwe: 92.3%

Recommendations:

- Additional advocacy is needed to ensure bridging the current funding gaps to meet scale up the response. Shortages of funds are fundamentally hindering the WASH Sector ability to provide the necessary humanitarian response to the affected communities.

- In addition to provision of life-saving emergency response, resilience building approach is part of the emergency response highlighted in the appeal, investing in long term emergency measures will ensure regional resilience.

- Improving on regional coordination and conducting rapid assessments and baseline to allow effective monitoring of the WASH response.

- Undertake mapping of the WASH emergency services through collecting, analysing and sharing of data and information in real time will provide better understanding of the emergency impact and enable the sector to plan a proper response, rapidly identify gaps, and be able to mobilize resources to address the urgent gaps.

- Recent experiences in two of the affected countries included in this report demonstrate that implementations of the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Concept can be an effective emergency intervention and a resilience measure. Standardizing this concept in all countries emergency response will enable communities to have double benefit while achieving sanitation and hygiene requirements in an emergency response also at the same time putting in place resilience building measures that are long lasting.

**TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS**

Given the large cereal deficit faced in the region, it was anticipated that Member States would import large volumes of grain and other relief resources. The El Nino Response Coordination Team carried out an assessment and review of the regional transport related infrastructures and services. Site visits were conducted to all main ports and corridors in the region to collect information relevant to the processing of the anticipated imports. Meetings and discussions were held with key transport and logistics stakeholders and service providers in order to assess the capacity level of regional transport corridors and preparedness.
to handle the anticipated surge in the import of humanitarian supplies. The assessment concluded that the available capacity in most of the corridors was adequate to handle the projected traffic on the condition that adequate planning and coordination was in place to avoid potential bottlenecks during peak periods of arrival of shipments.

Based on the assessment results, a regional transport plan was drafted, identifying critical points for the smooth delivery of the humanitarian supplies to the affected people in the region. The draft plan was tabled for discussion with all key stakeholders at a workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa by July 2016. The workshop brought together representatives of SADC Member States, logistics and transport services providers in the region from both private and public sectors, donors, UN agencies and SADC secretariat staff. Policies and regulations which constrain smooth cross-border transport operations, limit vehicle and crew utilization and contribute to higher transport costs were deliberated upon. The workshop came up with measures and recommendations to address these problems. The outcomes of the workshop were used to revise the draft Transport plan and presented to the SADC Council for decision and guidance. The Transport plan was eventually approved by the Council for implementation by Member States. The plan spells out specific measures such as the waiver of cabotage and third-country rules on road haulage upon application by transport operators contracted to move humanitarian relief cargo etc. The measures were important to streamline operation and smooth running of humanitarian supplies through all the corridors.

The El Nino Response Coordination Team continues to provide weekly informational reports on cereal imports/exports from South Africa, expected vessel arrivals with a focus on Beira and Nacala which are currently the busiest ports handling relief cargo, and exports of maize from Zambia. This information is shared on the SADC El-Nino web page.

Challenges
During the months of October and November, Beira port experienced a number of significant challenges related to an increase in vessels calling into port with humanitarian cargo. An emergency meeting was held between 27-29 October which involved all key stakeholders in the Beira regional transport corridor. The issues that were tabled in this meeting included.

- Competition for berthing spots
- Shortage of road freight transport capacity for cargo going to Malawi.
- Customs clearance delays at the Mozambique-Malawi border post.
- Concerns about security of transport
- Adoption of corridor humanitarian relief cargo transport plan – encompassing operational regulations and policies that would allow for the smooth flow of humanitarian cargo.

Restrictions by Malawi authorities placed on transporters using trucks with Zimbabwe registration plates has added to the shortage of trucking capacity from Beira port. This issue was addressed to the Malawian government for resolution.

Customs clearance delays at the Mozambique-Malawi Dedza and Mwanza border posts due to power outages has affected the lead time in delivering humanitarian aid. The government of Malawi is looking to provide a generator to resolve this issue.

Another challenge has been the limited exchange of data and information, owing in part to the lack of nominated focal points in the Member States. Consequentially, there are significant data gaps on the imports and distribution of relief cargo.
Recommendations:
Based on shipping information and routine monitoring reports the flow and handling of shipments through the different corridors, the El Niño Response Coordination Team came up with the following recommendation which can support optimal the corridor usage for stakeholders.

- Creation of multi-sectorial corridor working groups as was done for the Beira port in October 2016 involving all key stakeholders;
- Member states who have not already done so should nominate focal persons in the primary coordinating units for collection of data and information on the transportation of humanitarian relief cargo.

RESILIENCE BUILDING
The focus of resilience-building interventions to the El Niño phenomenon has been to address the challenge of breaking the vicious cycle of humanitarian crises and shocks by bridging the gap between immediate humanitarian response and development through resilient recovery and sustainable development. El Niño and La Niña episodes are part of an established "new normal" brought about by climate change, with more extreme weather events and requiring a robust and continuous action to adapt and build resilience. Given the predictable climate changing future, there is growing evidence of the need to scale-up integrated, anticipative, preventive and focused multi-sectoral approaches to reduce the impact of the El Niño and La Niña episodes, including other future risks of climate change. The Resilience chapter of the SADC Appeal highlights the following as key resilience-building areas:

- Multi-sectoral approach to building resilience with both humanitarian and development actions inextricably linked and providing a fluid transition towards strengthening capacities and resilience of households and communities to safeguard lives and livelihoods.
- Resilience building in the Agriculture sector, prioritising increasing productivity through Climate Smart Agriculture, Conservation Agriculture; Risk management strategies; Weather-based index insurance; and investment in productive assets through group savings.
- In addition to productive sectors, building systems at all levels (regional as well as national and sub-national) for the delivery of social services that incorporate early warning and preparedness to recurrent shocks while maintaining the flexibility and capacity to scale up or adjust in times of need to address the root causes of vulnerability.
- Strengthen information management, risk communication, multi-hazard early warning, early action, preparedness planning and implementation in order to protect lives, livelihoods and assets; and the adoption of technology and innovation in resilience building.

Achievements
Member States in collaboration with humanitarian and development partners are increasingly focusing more on multi-sectoral approaches to build the resilience of affected communities in order to help bridge the existing gap between humanitarian and development interventions. Ongoing resilience building work has focused on protection of productive sectors, basic social services, social protection as resilience builders and the adoption of technology and innovation as vital resilience enablers. Additionally, other resilience building work include safety-net programmes, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and early warning systems (EWS), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), integrated water and natural resources management activities; small-holder farmer insurance schemes and access to finance, and importantly, progress in the preparation of national resilience frameworks and strategies.

Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe have drafted national resilience frameworks or strategies, while Angola and Swaziland are in the process of developing theirs. While the depth and content of these policy documents varies, the recognition of the need for national resilience strategies is an important sign of progress on resilience and in transformative capacity for systemic change. Significant programmes in
community-based early recovery programming in support of agricultural livelihoods (assets, infrastructure, training, feeder roads, cash-for-work, purchase-for-progress (P4P), inputs and seeds support), and livestock are evident in all countries.

All countries are making progress in increasing water storage (small multi-purpose reservoirs and sand storage dams); rainwater-harvesting technologies and artificially recharging aquifers; solar powered water pumping; water conservation, water recycling and re-use are underway in all countries. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) climate-resilience building is ongoing in most countries. New models and approaches for generating and using climate data and information, and multi-hazard mapping have started in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Lesotho.

Member States are expanding social protection programmes, including through cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable families. Healthier and better nourished people are more resilient, and there are numerous projects at household, community, school and clinic level for building local, sustained management of disease and malnutrition prevention through better access to clean water and safe sanitation, even during droughts.

Given the positive rainfall forecast and onset of the 2016/2017 season, most countries in the region in collaboration with regional, humanitarian and development bodies, are making resilience-building efforts to support farmers with timely access to inputs, implement climate-adaptive agricultural techniques, and receive livelihood and other agricultural support, such as fertilizer, ploughing, and seed subsidies.

Challenges
Despite growing consensus of resilience building as a “game changer” for the region, there is yet very slow transition to coherent and holistic resilience-building approaches to decide on collective outcomes that are led by Governments and at regional level, which also involve affected persons and communities, and include humanitarian and development partners. There are capacity constraints in resilience programming to better synchronise and coordinate multi-sectoral and multi-level actors to potentially result in systemic change in key areas such as:

- Agriculture systems, through diversification and climate-smart agriculture linked to better nutrition;
- Improved health and nutritional status of vulnerable population groups;
- Harmonised, social protection approaches; and
- Emergency preparedness and expanded scope of DRR and CCA towards systemic change, individual and social transformation.

Despite the various preparedness measures, most countries in the region are unable to translate weather forecasts related to El Niño and La Niña into locally-usable early warning information in order to meet the needs of the affected populations, including building their resilience to disasters and climate risks. Other constraints include low adoption of fiscal risk management instruments. Additionally, constraints were noted in regard gaps in data on resilience and its measurement in order to achieve a more robust resilience-building response.

Recommendations
a. Governments and development partners, in close collaboration with humanitarian partners, should scale up resilience programming as part of coordinated national plans to reduce the risks and mitigate the growing impacts of climate-related shocks by:

- Facilitating capacity strengthening for multi-sectoral and multi-level recovery and resilience programming and DRR programmes that allow for more comprehensive responses to disaster
and climate risk, recovery and resilience building of communities to shocks.

- Scaling up social protection and safety nets, including livelihood protection/diversification and increasing access to basic social services for vulnerable people; ensuring responses support markets and promote private sector approaches; and the adoption of fiscal risk management instruments.

b. Strengthening or, where necessary, creating at country and regional level multi-level resilience building mechanisms aimed at addressing underlying vulnerabilities related to disaster risk, climate and extreme weather events to ensure that development is risk informed and sustainable.

c. Design and implement capacity building programmes to strengthen resilience building capacities to respond to the current drought emergency as well as future risks anchored on five interrelated resilience building dimensions: (a) Absorptive, (b) Adaptive, (c) Transformative, (d) Avoiding Negative Response, and (e) Mind-Set Shift readiness including measurement of resilience outcomes.

d. Governments, with the support of humanitarian and development partners, should double efforts to mobilise internal resources and also from the international community to scale-up resilience-building interventions.

e. Support to Member States to develop capacities that will enable effective integration of global decisions and resolution for climate action and disaster risk management (DRM) outlined in the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 for more risk informed development trajectories aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).