



### IN NUMBERS



**40 million**

people food insecure in  
Southern Africa



**9.3 million**

tonne shortfall in regional  
crop production



**>643 000**

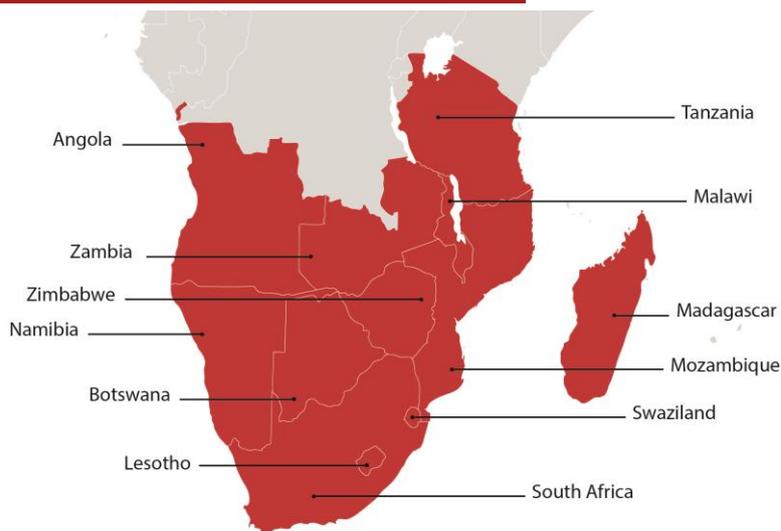
livestock deaths



**USD 109 million**

needed for emergency  
response until mid-2017

### PRIORITY COUNTRIES



### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The 2015/16 agricultural season in Southern Africa was the driest in 35 years. In a region where over 70 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, and following two, and in some cases three, consecutive years of drought, El Niño has had devastating impacts on the lives and livelihoods of farmers and herders.

Food reserves and seed stocks have been depleted, and water and pasture scarce. More than 643 000 livestock deaths have been reported in five countries alone due to lack of feed and water and disease outbreak.

The 2015/16 harvest assessments indicate a regional shortfall of nearly 9.3 million tonnes of cereal production. The high regional deficit is driving up staple food prices and constraining the already limited purchasing power of vulnerable families. The situation is already urgent with at least 40 million people projected to be food insecure in the 2016/17 lean season, 22 million of whom requiring immediate assistance.

#### FAO's response

In response to soaring needs, FAO launched its Southern Africa El Niño Response Plan, **appealing for USD 109 million to assist 3.4 million pastoral, agropastoral and smallholder farming households** across ten countries. The appeal remains just 25 percent funded. To address the scale and magnitude of the crisis, FAO declared **Corporate Surge Support** for Southern Africa on 4 July, lasting until 15 November 2016. Providing overall coordination for the implementation of the Response Plan, the capacity of the FAO Southern Africa Resilience Hub (SFS-REOSA) has been enhanced to increase technical and operational support to affected countries.

**Food security and agriculture information** and analysis are prioritized through support to crop and input assessments, national Vulnerability Assessment Committees and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) processes. To inform response, a **regional seed and agricultural inputs assessment** is ongoing, as well as a regional **water availability assessment** in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute. FAO actively supports **subregional partners**, including the Southern African Development Community, and is an active member of several **coordination platforms**, including the Regional Interagency Steering Committee, Food Security and Nutrition Working Group and IPC Technical Working Group.

Drought emergencies have been declared by Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. In addition, eight of South Africa's nine provinces, which account for almost 90 percent of the country's maize production – and critically important for exports within the region –, have been declared drought disaster areas.

**The planting season is fast approaching. Funding is urgently needed to help improve access to agricultural inputs.** Populations dependent mainly on livestock for their food security and livelihoods will require feed support and protection against pests and diseases during the ongoing dry season.

Emergency activities in the agriculture sector will not only enable families to regain their livelihoods, but contribute to closing the food gap and reduce reliance on emergency food aid.

## IMPACTS AND RESPONSE

### Angola

#### Country overview



**1.25 million people**  
food insecure

Currently, 1.25 million people are in need of emergency assistance due to the drought. Affecting mainly southern provinces, agricultural and livestock production has declined significantly. Some 360 000 cattle have died as a result of lack of water and feed, an economic loss of about USD 345 million. Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, reported along the border with Namibia, have negatively affected livestock prices due to quarantine. Water constraints, particularly in Cunene, are a danger for both people and their animals. Prices of maize, sorghum and millet have increased sharply, affecting access to basic foodstuffs.

#### FAO's response

FAO Angola is providing crop production support to 2 500 households and dairy production and livestock health support to 5 900 households, improving water access for 1 000 livestock-holding households and training community animal health workers.

### Botswana

#### Country overview



**50 000 people**  
food insecure

Botswana has experienced drought conditions in three of the last five years. The 2015/16 drought has severely affected most of the country, despite relatively good rains in central and western areas. Crop production was below average, leading to increased levels of food insecurity and raising concerns over malnutrition. Prices and demand for staple food continue to rise. Nearly 50 000 people require further assistance to existing safety nets (e.g. school feeding, cash and food transfers, Government grants). Of these, 41 400 people require survival and livelihoods assistance and 8 000 require assistance to protect their existing assets.

#### FAO's response

FAO is consulting with stakeholders to identify interventions to protect livelihoods in the most affected communities, building on recent FAO initiatives to scale up conservation agriculture in combination with agro-forestry and livestock management. FAO supported the establishment of a National Task Force on Conservation Agriculture to help scale up good practices in conservation agriculture.

### Lesotho

#### Country overview



**680 000 people**  
at livelihood risk

The Government of Lesotho declared a State of Emergency in December 2015 following one of the strongest El Niño events on record. The poor rainfall season led to widespread crop failure and livestock deaths. Identified needs have since drastically increased throughout the country, with the Vulnerability Assessment Committee estimating 680 000 people to be in need of livelihood support, of which 460 000 require urgent humanitarian assistance from June 2016 to May 2017.

#### Priority actions and funding gap



Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods.



Protect and enhance livestock production; and rehabilitate water points through cash-for-work activities.



Information, coordination and food security analysis.



**Appeal: TBD\***

\*Not included in the subregional appeal

5% funded

#### Priority actions and funding gap



Bush fire control.



Subsidized animal feed; improved access to water.



Nutritional surveillance; early warning; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: TBD\***

\*Not included in the subregional appeal

0% funded

#### Priority actions and funding gap



Inputs distribution for staple crops and home gardening; social protection complementarity with home gardening and nutrition; small-scale irrigation (water harvesting, vegetable production in schools); promotion of climate-smart agriculture.



Animal health; fodder production; protection of water sources; rangelands improvement.



Information, coordination and analysis; use of spatial data for improved decision-making; food security and vulnerability profiling and mapping; livelihood assessments.



**Appeal: USD 11 million**

49% funded

## FAO's response

FAO Lesotho has supported coordination and joint needs assessments focusing on food security and agriculture. Some 19 330 households will benefit from the livelihood package (distributions are ongoing for 4 200 households in mountainous areas), combining input distribution, community productive assets and promotion of climate-smart agriculture technologies, such as conservation agriculture, home gardening and nutrition, and sustainable land management. FAO is also complementing the Government's social protection cash transfers programme with home gardening and nutrition packages, currently supporting 44 600 households, 4 600 of which have already been assisted. Primary schools will be supported with vegetable production assets and water structures.

## Madagascar

### Country overview



**1.8 million people**  
food insecure

In Madagascar, crop failures have affected the food security and livelihoods of communities over the past four consecutive years due to erratic rainfall, recurrent cyclones, tropical storms, flooding, drought and locust plague infestation. Since October 2015, the south and southwestern regions of the county have had very poor rainfall, disrupting crop development and depleting pasture for livestock. Water for human, animal and agricultural purposes has been scarce. About 1.4 million people are estimated to face food insecurity at the peak of the lean season in 2016/17. Of these, 665 000 people are severely affected, of which 80 percent are small-scale farmers.

### FAO's response

FAO co-leads Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster activities, coordinates emergency activities and dissemination of food insecurity and vulnerability information through *Système d'Information sur la Sécurité Alimentaire et Vulnérabilité* bimonthly bulletins. FAO is supporting a joint crop assessment and food security mission in August, and since April has been providing 16 200 farming households with inputs in four affected districts.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Seed and fertilizer distribution through input trade fairs and voucher schemes; vegetable seeds; community-level seed production; small-scale irrigation; promotion of conservation agriculture; training in post-harvest handling and storage; school gardens; nutrition education.



Livestock restocking; animal health interventions; cash-for-work initiatives to rehabilitate water reservoirs and construct water points.



Information, coordination and analysis; early warning; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: USD 12.4 million**

14% funded

## Malawi

### Country overview



**6.5 million people**  
food insecure

About 655 000 ha of cropland belonging to 1.8 million farming households – nearly half the population – has been affected. Drought conditions resulted in a second consecutive year of reduced cereal output; production in 2016 was 40 percent below the previous five-year average. Food insecurity expected to skyrocket, from 2.8 million people to 6.5 million by the height of the lean season in December. Over 47 percent of children under five are currently malnourished, while the number of children with severe acute malnutrition has doubled in the last three months. The price for maize is about two-thirds higher than last year, severely straining food access. Negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets, are becoming more frequent as the lean season approaches and food prices quickly increase.

### FAO's response

In the 2015/16 main and winter seasons, FAO provided 65 900 households in six of the most-affected districts with seed, planting materials and in the irrigation season, fertilizers. So far this year, about 22 000 cattle have been vaccinated and treated against foot-and-mouth disease, 1.8 million poultry vaccinated against Newcastle disease (benefiting 50 000 households), 9 500 households supported with deworming treatment for goats, and 500 households restocked with goats. FAO co-leads the Agriculture Cluster, which supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in designing the Agriculture Response Plan for El Niño. During September, a seed availability assessment will take place in partnership with ICRISAT and CRS in Blantyre, Chikwawa, Ntcheu, Salima, Neno and Mwanza districts.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Provision of crop and vegetable seed and fertilizer; support to community-level seed production; small-scale irrigation initiatives; training in post-harvest techniques and development of storage; support to farmer field schools.



Animal health interventions; livestock restocking; enhance water access; technical assistance and support to operational capacity of Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development.



Food security and vulnerability mapping; information management; early warning; support to district-level agriculture authorities.



**Appeal: USD 10.5 million**

38% funded

## Mozambique

### Country overview



**1.98 million people**

**food insecure**

Drought heavily impacted populations in the southern and central regions of the country in 2015/16. Based on a February assessment, the Government estimates that 459 000 farmers and 864 000 ha of agricultural land were affected. Maize production fell by about 35 percent compared with the previous year. Some 533 700 cattle are at risk, and some 5 700 animals have died. In addition, flooding affected 194 100 people – the vast majority of whom in the south. The 2016 Vulnerability Assessment Committee evaluation indicates that 1.98 million people are in need of emergency assistance; preliminary results from a July assessment indicate this number will likely increase.

### FAO's response

This year, FAO is providing 23 000 households with vegetable seed in Gaza, Maputo and Tete provinces. FAO's emergency livelihood assistance includes: providing inputs for crop and vegetable production, irrigation equipment, promotion of conservation agriculture, support to seed production, constructing and rehabilitating boreholes and reservoirs, mineral supplements for livestock, forage production support, animal health activities and poultry production. In addition, FAO co-chairs the Food Security Cluster together with WFP and supports the Seeds Association of Mozambique.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Crop and vegetable seed distribution; seed multiplication; small-scale irrigation; promotion of conservation agriculture.



Animal feed; mineral supplements; community-level fodder production; animal health initiatives; poultry production; borehole and water point construction.



Seed security assessment; early warning; information, coordination and analysis; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: USD 8 million**



47% funded

## Namibia

### Country overview



**596 000 people**

**food insecure**

The drought has been described as the worst in 80 years. Over 1.5 million people live in rural areas, relying on subsistence farming and pastoralism, and have been severely affected by the drought. Planting was delayed, precipitation below-average and harvests poor for a second consecutive year. Higher temperatures and drier conditions have further resulted in limited pasture and water availability, with many households reporting livestock losses as a result. More than 720 000 people, of the country's population of 2 million, are projected to be food insecure in the lean season.

### FAO's response

FAO has recently supported the Government to undertake a needs assessment to inform the planning and design of crop and livestock interventions. A regional project is underway, enhancing disaster risk reduction capacity through training and improving access to fodder and water for livestock. Further, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, with support from FAO, has been rehabilitating boreholes and providing training to farmers on conservation agriculture and rangeland management.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Vegetable seed and fertilizer; community-based seed production; small-scale irrigation; promotion of conservation agriculture; post-harvest training.



Supplementary feed; livestock destocking; fodder production; rangeland rehabilitation; animal health campaigns; rehabilitation of water points; restocking.



Support to early warning systems; food security and vulnerability mapping; resilience building and capacity development trainings for agropastoral communities.



**Appeal: USD 2.5 million**



14% funded

## South Africa

### Country overview



**14.3 million people**

**vulnerable to food insecurity**

South Africa is facing the worst drought in nearly 25 years. The Government has declared drought disasters in eight of the country's nine provinces, having recorded 227 000 farming households and 21 000 commercial farming units as affected. Delayed rains and subsequent late planting severely limited crop production. Many farmers are selling their productive assets to avoid liquidation, compromising food production in 2016/17. Combined with the low output of 2015 and limited agricultural inputs available, maize prices have nearly doubled from the average, which has negative implications for import-dependant countries in the region.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Vegetable seed distribution; community seed production; training on good agricultural practices and post-harvest management.



Restocking with small livestock; animal health interventions; training of livestock keepers.



Seed security and livestock needs assessments; strengthening of response capacity to reinforce institutional capacity and coordination mechanisms.



**Appeal: USD 10 million**



0% funded

## FAO's response

In response to the Government's request for FAO's support, FAO developed a project in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries to support seed multiplication (particularly for drought-tolerant varieties) and indigenous chicken rearing through training and input provision.

### Swaziland

#### Country overview



**640 000 people**  
food insecure

Food insecurity has soared in Swaziland, from about 45 000 in July 2015 to an estimated 640 000 people by the peak of the lean season in late 2016/early 2017. This is equal to nearly two-thirds of the country's population. If the onset of the rains is delayed or insufficient, it is expected food insecurity will escalate further. Maize production dropped by 64 percent from the previous year, mostly as a result of below-average seasonal rains in 2015/16. The national average maize meal price in March 2016 was 64 percent its year-earlier value, reflecting both low domestic production and high prices in South Africa, the main source of imports. Extremely limited pasture and water due to the effects of El Niño have caused the death of over 80 000 cattle – and this number continues to rise.

## FAO's response

FAO has supported 500 food and nutrition gardens with micro-irrigation kits and vegetable seed packages. Over 3 000 households are currently being provided with supplementary hay, and is facilitating affected households to sell unproductive animals to reduce pressure on grazing land. FAO has been supporting coordination (as co-chair of the Agriculture and Food Security Sector), analysis and early warning, as well as national assessments, data collection and analysis (e.g. Vulnerability Assessment Committee, IPC, markets, seed, feed, etc.) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP.

#### Priority actions and funding gap



Emergency seed distribution; vegetable production and home gardening for nutrition; fertilizer distribution.



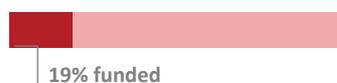
Animal feed; livestock restocking; animal health campaigns; rehabilitation and drilling of water points.



Seed security, livestock needs assessments; early warning; information, coordination and analysis; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: USD 8.4 million**



### Tanzania

#### Country overview



**358 500 people**  
food insecure

Heavy rainfall in ten regions of Tanzania severely affected the agriculture sector, submerging agricultural land, killing livestock, devastating crop production and destroying vital infrastructure. Livestock-dependent households have further been affected by loss of grazing land, clean water sources and elevated risk of water- and vector-borne disease. This has led to heightened risks of food and nutrition insecurity. Farming and herding households have incurred significant economic losses, especially as the health and economic infrastructure on which they depend has been severely damaged.

## FAO's response

FAO supported the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to undertake a needs assessment to inform response to El Niño. FAO has supported a total of 11 500 flood-affected farming households, of which 8 000 were provided with vegetable packages (including various types of seed, two hoes and five storage bags per household), and 3 500 households with a poultry package (each with four chickens and 25 kg of feed)

#### Priority actions and funding gap



Seed provision; harvest and seed storage; community seed banks; training on good agricultural practices; farm machinery and post-harvest equipment.



Animal health interventions; poultry restocking; production and marketing training; improved veterinary extension services; animal dip rehabilitation.



Construction and rehabilitation of dams, drainage systems and irrigated schemes.



Information, coordination and analysis; early warning; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: USD 6.9 million**



## Zambia

### Country overview



**799 000 people**  
food insecure

While agricultural production did not decrease as extremely as elsewhere in the region, main cropping areas in the south faced prolonged dry spells, stressing crops and stunting growth. Maize grain prices remain high due to overall tighter supplies, high export demand and depreciation of the local currency. Mass livestock migration in search of water and pasture is expected, with increased incidences of diseases and mortality likely as a result. About 800 000 people cannot meet their basic food needs, and 49 percent of children are stunted. At the peak of the lean season in late 2016/early 2017, 976 000 people are projected to be in need of emergency assistance.

### FAO's response

FAO supported the Government, together with WFP and extension staff, to evaluate the impact of El Niño and identified immediate response actions, operational requirements and capacity to implement emergency agriculture response activities.

## Zimbabwe

### Country overview



**4.1 million people**  
food insecure

The 2015/16 rainfall season was one of the driest in 35 years, with poor harvests resulting in heightened food insecurity, from 2.8 million people in 2015/16 to nearly 4.1 million people in the lean season. While the results of the Crop and Livestock Assessment are not yet released, it is clear the drought has negatively impacted national maize production – currently estimated at just over 0.5 million tonnes, with a cereal deficit of about 1 million tonnes. Increasing prices and diminishing purchasing power are limiting access to food for the most vulnerable households. Over 25 000 cattle have died, and pasture conditions range from poor to very poor. Livestock body conditions are worsening in the most affected areas due to water and feed shortages, and outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease are further weakening households' coping capacities.

### FAO's response

To-date, FAO has supported vaccination campaigns through the provision of 250 000 and 220 000 doses of anthrax and foot-and-mouth disease vaccines, respectively. During the 2015/16 season FAO provided over 6 700 households with subsidized livestock survival feed and 9 800 households with cereal and legume seeds. FAO has provided technical and financial support for the First Round Crop and Livestock Assessment, as well as the rapid and comprehensive rural livelihood assessments of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee. FAO co-chairs the Agriculture and Food Security Sector Working Group with WFP and provides secretariat functions for the Agriculture National Steering Committee.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Crop pest surveillance; provision of emergency seed to most-affected districts.



Animal feed; health campaigns; livestock destocking; fodder production; restocking.



Seed security and livestock needs assessments; coordination; early warning; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: USD 3.3 million**

0% funded

### Priority actions and funding gap



Market-based interventions to increase access to agricultural inputs; promotion of climate-smart agriculture; capacity building of extension staff and beneficiary households.



Animal health interventions; provision of subsidized feed.



Coordination; early warning; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: USD 35.2 million**

20% funded

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