



### IN NUMBERS



**40 million**

people food insecure in  
Southern Africa\*

\*including in the Democratic  
Republic of the Congo



**9.3 million**

tonne shortfall in regional  
crop production



**>643 000**

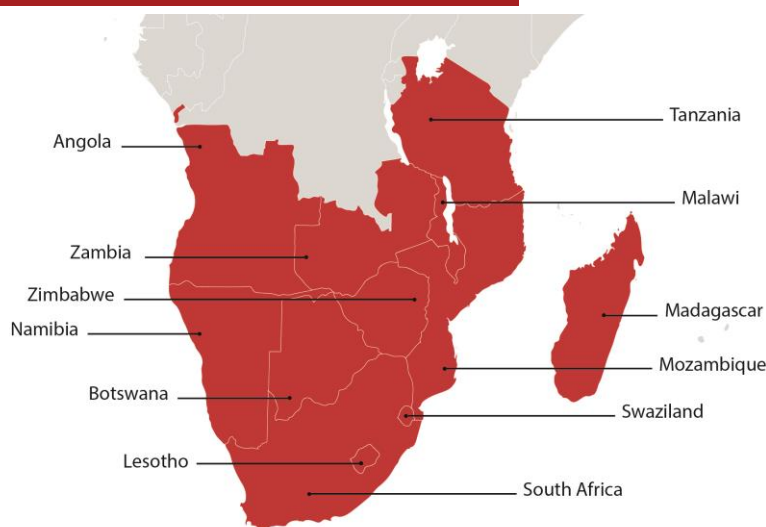
livestock deaths



**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.

Drought emergencies have been declared by Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, as well as in the *Grand Sud* of Madagascar. Mozambique issued a Red Alert, and eight of South Africa's nine provinces have been declared drought disaster areas, which account for almost 90 percent of the country's maize production and are critically important for exports within the region.

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.

**The planting season is starting** and will extend through the end of December in some areas for certain crops. Given the positive rainfall forecast for most of the subregion by the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF), **if farmers do not receive timely input assistance, this could be a missed opportunity** for household recovery. With the imminent threat of locust infestation in the subregion, support must be provided to monitoring, surveillance and pest control.

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.

### 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 is now 38 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 February 2017. 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, **regional seed and agricultural inputs and water availability assessments** have been finalized. 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 (RIASCO), Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, IPC Technical Working Group and RIASCO Resilience Working Group.

## IMPACTS AND RESPONSE

### Angola

#### Country overview



**756 000 million people**  
food insecure

Drought conditions have affected over 1.5 million people in Angola, about half of which are in urgent need of emergency assistance. Nine in ten affected people are rural and depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Amid rising prices for food, limited access to water and declining food and seed supplies, households are becoming increasingly vulnerable, especially in southern areas. Incomes have been devastated as a result of the significant drop in agricultural and livestock production – the Ministry of Agriculture estimates the drought incurred an economic loss of USD 242.5 million. Some 360 000 cattle have died in the past year, affecting both pastoralists and households dependent on draught power for cropping. Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and anthrax, along with worsening body conditions, have negatively affected livestock prices. Water shortages, especially in areas of Cunene and Huila Provinces, are forcing people to trek long distances, affecting livelihoods and constraining horticulture and livestock production.

#### FAO's response

FAO Angola provided crop production support to 2 900 households, who have already begun harvesting. In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, FAO is also providing agricultural support to 2 895 households and monitoring 426 family gardens in three affected provinces. Livestock support is being provided through the training of 342 community animal health workers, provision of mineral supplements to boost animal health to benefit 5 900 households, and is rehabilitating three reservoirs in Cunene Province (one of which is already complete) to improve water access for livestock-holding households.

#### 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



### Botswana

#### Country overview



**1.1 million 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, with 100 percent of the rural population food insecure. Some 1.1 million people are affected and require immediate humanitarian assistance. Crop production was well below average – less than 15 percent of national cereal requirements were harvested. Drought has raised livestock mortality rates to around 20 percent, and body conditions are likely to continue to deteriorate through the lean season. This represents a 60 percent decline from the five-year average. In addition to continuously increasing food prices, food insecurity and concerns over malnutrition have increased. Wasting and stunting rates for children under five are 7 percent and 21 percent, respectively. National food security and agriculture needs alone represent humanitarian funding requirements in the country, estimated at USD 83 million and is just 20 percent funded.

#### 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.

#### Priority actions and funding gap



Bush fire control.



Subsidized animal feed; improved access to water.

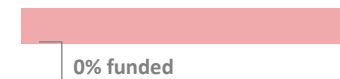


Nutritional surveillance; early warning; food security and vulnerability mapping.



**Appeal: TBD\***

\*Not included in the subregional appeal



## 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, with an 89 percent drop in agricultural production, and livestock deaths, with 69 percent of households having lost at least one head of cattle. Significant increases in food prices have deepened affected households' vulnerability. Identified needs 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.

### FAO's response

FAO Lesotho is targeting some 25 000 households with agricultural livelihood packages, combining input distribution, community productive assets and 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 kits, currently supporting 70 000 households. About 300 primary schools are benefiting from vegetable production assets and water structures. Livestock support activities include animal health and the protection of water and feed sources. FAO also supports coordination and joint needs assessments focusing on food security and agriculture.

### 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**

77% funded

## Madagascar

### Country overview



**1.4 million people**  
food insecure

Food insecurity has reached alarming levels in nine districts of three of Madagascar's southern regions, with over 1.4 million people now considered food insecure, representing more than 80 percent of the affected population. Of these, 850 000 people are severely food insecure and require urgent humanitarian assistance. In worst-affected areas, a large proportion of families are adopting extreme coping mechanisms, including the sale of productive assets and land, consumption of seed as food and migration of whole families. With eight in ten of the affected population being farmers, the impact on agriculture and livelihoods has been severe. Crop failures, livestock deaths and disease outbreaks as a result of poor rainfall in 2015/16 have depleted incomes, limited purchasing power, drastically increased food prices and deepened vulnerability. This latest climatic disaster follows four years of erratic rainfall, recurrent cyclones, tropical storms, flooding, drought and locust plague infestation.

### FAO's response

FAO is currently supporting 82 000 households with agricultural inputs and 9 000 with livestock activities in the affected areas, and has supported a joint crop assessment and food security mission in August and an IPC analysis exercise in October. FAO co-leads Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster activities and supports the coordination of emergency activities and dissemination of food insecurity and vulnerability information through *Système d'Information sur la Sécurité Alimentaire et Vulnérabilité* bimonthly bulletins.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Provision of seed and hand tools 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 22 million\***

\*Revision from the original appeal for USD 12.4 million is not yet included in subregional appeal total

20% funded

## Malawi

### Country overview



**6.5 million people**  
food insecure

In Malawi, food insecurity has more than doubled from 2015/16, and is five times more than in 2014/15. Maize prices remain abnormally high, about two-thirds higher than last year. Limited supplies as a result of two consecutive years of poor cereal output, worsening inflation and depreciation of the local currency is straining access to agricultural inputs and food. Especially as Malawi enters its lean season, negative coping mechanisms are becoming more frequent, with families selling productive assets to cover household needs. With cereal production in 2016 having been 40 percent below the previous five-year average, the impact on farming families was significant, with 655 000 ha of cropland, incomes and the livelihoods of 1.8 million households affected.

### FAO's response

FAO Malawi aims to support about 52 000 households with seed and fertilizer for the upcoming main planting season, expected to start in mid-November. Through the implementation of input trade fairs in ten districts, FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) and implementing partners will provide drought-affected families with quality inputs and technical support. FAO will also be initiating livestock restocking activities to benefit 450 households in three districts, as well as support to national foot-and-mouth disease management, vaccination against Newcastle disease and the training of community-based animal health workers. FAO co-leads the Agriculture Cluster, which supported the MoAIWD in designing the Agriculture Response Plan for El Niño and is supporting district authorities in its implementation.

### Priority actions and funding gap



Provision of crop and vegetable seed and fertilizer; support to community-level seed production; small-scale irrigation initiatives; support to farmer field schools in coordination with ongoing resilience/development interventions.



Animal health interventions; livestock restocking; 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**



## Mozambique

### Country overview



**2.3 million people**  
food insecure

In 2015/16, drought heavily impacted populations in the southern and central regions of Mozambique. The impact on agriculture was significant, with 459 000 farmers and 864 000 ha of agricultural land 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. Access to food has been constrained by extremely high staple food prices – the price for maize grain is 189 percent above last year's and 142 percent above the five-year average. Results from July Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition assessment indicate that 1.8 million people need emergency humanitarian assistance from October to December, and this number is likely to rise to 2.3 million in the first quarter of 2017 if no urgent actions are taken to protect the livelihoods of the most vulnerable.

### FAO's response

This year, FAO is providing 55 000 households with crop and vegetable seed; 680 households with seed production support; 1 000 households with conservation agriculture support through farmer field schools; over 35 000 households with livestock support (poultry production, forage balers, mineral supplements and animal health); and 50 000 households with increased access to water through the construction of boreholes. 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**



## Namibia

### Country overview



**729 100 people**  
food insecure

Namibia has had three consecutive years of below-normal rainfall, with the 2015/16 season described as the worst drought in 80 years. A majority of the country's population is rural and relies on subsistence farming and pastoralism. The drought has significantly affected their livelihoods, with smallholder farmers producing two-thirds below the average maize output and livestock-holding households having lost an estimated 55 100 animals (three-fourths of which were cattle) due to the drought. Pasture and water remain scarce in some areas, threatening the health of surviving livestock. Cereal prices are significantly higher than last year, which were already 20 percent above-average, and more households are seeking casual labour to afford their food needs, though fewer opportunities are available. More than 729 100 people, of the country's population of 2 million, are estimated to be food insecure in the lean season.

### FAO's response

A regional project is underway, enhancing disaster risk reduction capacity and building resilience through training and improving access to drought-tolerant food and fodder crop seeds 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 as well as community animal health workers. To strengthen early warning at community, regional and national levels, FAO has provided the Namibia Meteorological Services with an automated weather station. FAO has supported Government to finalize its strategy for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption mainstreaming, and provided support to the conducting of a needs assessment to inform programming.

### Priority actions and funding gap



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



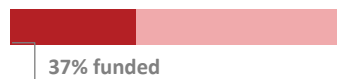
Supplementary feed; livestock destocking; fodder production; rangeland rehabilitation; animal health campaigns; rehabilitation of water points; restocking.



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



**Appeal: USD 2.5 million**



## South Africa

### Country overview



**14.3 million people**  
vulnerable to food insecurity

Having declared drought disasters in eight of the country's nine provinces, South Africa is facing the worst drought in 25 years. In addition to 27 percent less area planted, cereal production harvests were about one-third below average as a result of the dry conditions. Some 227 000 farming households and 21 000 commercial farming units were recorded as affected. Livestock mortality was particularly high, with 253 000 animal deaths recorded, resulting in high economic losses. Combined with the low output of 2015 and limited agricultural inputs available, maize prices reached record highs – nearly double the average. Over the past year, the cost of the food basket has risen by about 12 percent – while 14.3 million South Africans are estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity, this figure may rise as a result of rising food prices and lower availability of locally produced food.

### 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.

### Priority actions and funding gap



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



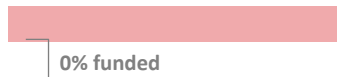
Restocking with small livestock; animal health interventions; training of livestock keepers.



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



**Appeal: USD 10 million**



## Swaziland

### Country overview



**640 000 people**

**food insecure**

Well over half the population of Swaziland is food insecure, up from about just 4 percent in July 2015. Maize production dropped by two-thirds from the previous year as a result of the 2015/16 drought, contributing to a 64 percent rise in the national average price for maize meal compared with last year. Increases in the national staple food price reflect both low domestic production and high prices in South Africa, the main source of imports. The water situation is becoming severe, with shortages affecting both livestock and their owners. Extremely limited access to pasture and water have caused the death of over 80 000 cattle, a figure that is expected to rise in the ongoing lean season.

### FAO's response

FAO is supporting 1 000 households with food and nutrition gardens through the provision of micro-irrigation kits and vegetable seed packages, as well as 12 000 households with agricultural inputs. An additional 7 500 households are receiving supplementary livestock feed and are being supported to sell unproductive animals to reduce pressure on grazing land. As co-chair of the Agriculture and Food Security Sector, FAO Swaziland has been supporting coordination, analysis and early warning, and 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.



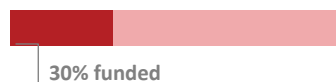
Animal feed; livestock restocking; animal health campaigns; rehabilitation and drilling of water points.



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**

In Tanzania, some 43 districts in 15 regions are facing acute food shortages owing to climatic shocks – the Government plans to conduct a vulnerability assessment in November to further analyse the situation. In September, an earthquake in the northwest devastated homes and infrastructure such as cattle dips, as well as caused hundreds of casualties. While there was no immediate impact of the earthquake on farmland and food security, a rapid Government food and nutrition assessment found affected districts were already vulnerable as a result of the drought, having to cope with reduced income owing to low agricultural production, increased prices for food, and limited dietary diversity and food consumption. Long-term impacts could be severe if households are forced to sell productive assets (e.g. seeds and livestock) to afford rebuilding damaged homes – especially if drought conditions continue as forecasted by SARCOF. With eight in ten people relying on subsistence farming for their livelihood, less investment and labour available are likely to continue to affect agricultural production and food security.

### 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 in six regions, 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 vaccinated chickens, 25 kg of feed and training on chicken production).

### 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



**976 000 people**  
food insecure

As Zambia enters the lean season, food security is expected to increase to 976 000 people, a significant number of which are located in southeastern and southwestern areas most affected by the 2015/16 drought. Households in these areas are depending on reduced grain output – about half of the average in Southern Province – and continue to face higher prices at market for the staple food maize owing to overall tighter supplies, high export demand and depreciation of the local currency. Higher prices have, however, generally benefited Zambian farmers in other areas, who generally did not suffer crop losses as extremely as elsewhere in the region – especially as informal trade has increased to neighbouring countries, with increased direct interaction between farmers and international traders.

### 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

Over 4 million people are facing severe food insecurity in Zimbabwe as a result of the 2015/16 drought, which resulted in a significant reduction in cereal production – about one-third less than the already poor 2015 harvest and about half the five-year average. Combined with macro-economic instability, the estimated 1 million tonne cereal deficit contributed to rising food prices – though these prices are now stabilizing. Livestock production has been constrained by limited pasture and water sources, as well as disease outbreak, resulting in worsened body conditions and the death of over 25 000 cattle. The water situation is expected to remain critical through November in the south, affecting both humans and livestock.

### FAO's response

In the 2016/17 agricultural season, FAO Zimbabwe aims to support 6 000 households with subsidized stock feed and 15 000 households with subsidized small grains seed in 11 of the worst affected districts, as well as provide extension support. In addition, FAO has supported more than 70 000 households through vaccination campaigns against anthrax (600 000 doses), foot-and-mouth (570 000 doses) and Newcastle diseases (12 million doses). 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. Additionally, FAO has provided technical and financial support for the First Round Crop and Livestock Assessment, a seed availability assessment, as well as the rapid and comprehensive rural and urban 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 and other inputs 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**

22% funded

## CONTACT

David Phiri | FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa | Harare, Zimbabwe | [David.Phiri@fao.org](mailto:David.Phiri@fao.org)

Dominique Burgeon | Strategic Programme Leader, Resilience | Rome, Italy | [Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org](mailto:Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org)