

SOUTHERN AFRICA – DISASTER RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

APRIL 27, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

6.7

million

People in Malawi Requiring
Emergency Assistance
UN – December 2016

4.3

million

People in Zimbabwe
Requiring Emergency
Assistance
UN – December 2016

2.1

million

People in Mozambique
Requiring Emergency
Assistance
WFP – March 2017

978,000

People in Madagascar
Requiring Emergency
Assistance
UN – December 2016

679,000

People in Lesotho Requiring
Emergency Assistance
UN – December 2016

492,000

People in Swaziland Requiring
Emergency Assistance
UN – December 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved vegetation conditions across Southern Africa increase likelihood of above-average harvests
- USAID partners provide assistance to cyclone- and drought-affected populations
- USAID/OFDA provides nearly \$1.6 million to UNICEF to help address nutrition and WASH needs in southern Madagascar

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA¹ IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA ²	\$4,237,627
USAID/FFP ³	\$52,174,300
\$56,411,927	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Recent cyclones have damaged crops and infrastructure, impeded agricultural activities in Madagascar and Mozambique, and caused flooding in Zimbabwe, potentially limiting vulnerable households' recovery following two consecutive years of drought.
- USAID partners continue to respond to needs generated by Tropical Cyclone Enawo, which traveled the length of Madagascar after making landfall on March 7. Assessments by humanitarian actors have identified emergency food assistance, health care services, and safe drinking water as priority needs, and determined that cyclone-affected populations require agricultural inputs, relief commodities, shelter assistance, and rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Above-average rainfall across much of Southern Africa from December 2016 to March 2017 has improved vegetation conditions and resulted in positive prospects for harvests, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Some households have experienced improved access to food due to the ongoing green harvest, with additional improvements expected during the main harvest in April and May, when average staple food prices are likely to decrease.
- USAID humanitarian assistance is mitigating the effects of drought and other disasters on vulnerable households in Southern Africa. To date in FY 2017, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$4.2 million in multi-sector assistance and USAID/FFP has provided more than \$52 million in emergency food assistance to meet the emergency needs of disaster-affected populations in the region.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$1.6 million to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help address nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in southern Madagascar. With USAID/OFDA assistance, UNICEF is supporting eight mobile clinics to screen and treat children facing acute malnutrition, as well as constructing and rehabilitating water points to provide safe drinking water for vulnerable communities.

¹ USAID is responding to disasters in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

² USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

³ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

REGIONAL

- A recent U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) analysis of cumulative rainfall in Southern Africa indicated a possible early end to the rainy season due to reduced rainfall since late February. Despite the diminished rainfall, NOAA reports that vegetation indices showed average to above-average conditions across the region due to above-average amounts of accumulated rainfall from late 2016 to early 2017.
- As of mid-April, NOAA projected the likelihood that El Niño conditions may resume between August and December to be 50 percent. Should El Niño conditions resume, Southern Africa is likely to experience a delayed start to the October-to-January rainy season or below-average rainfall, potentially resulting in an extended lean season for the 2017/2018 season.
- In April, the UN reported suspected and confirmed infestations of fall armyworm—an invasive insect species that can cause significant damage to both staple and cash crops—in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, although the extent of the damage remains unconfirmed.
- The advent of harvests across Southern Africa, combined with humanitarian assistance, the availability of green foods, and decreases in staple prices, is likely to improve food consumption for populations throughout the region in the coming months. While some areas in need of sustained assistance remain, primarily in Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, most populations in the region are likely to experience improvements in food security, according to FEWS NET.
- USAID/FFP plans to complete emergency food distributions in Malawi and Zimbabwe by the end of April due to positive harvest projections. However, USAID/FFP plans to continue providing emergency food assistance in Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Swaziland in the coming months. As of March, USAID/FFP's food assistance had reached more than 3.1 million beneficiaries in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe.

LESOTHO

- Rainfall in Lesotho remained above average in March, resulting in positive crop and harvest projections, indicating a significant improvement from below-average harvests in 2015/2016, according to FEWS NET. Lesotho is likely to experience an average harvest, improving food security outcomes during the next consumption year.
- Approximately 90 percent of the 679,000 people experiencing food insecurity in Lesotho are receiving in-kind food and cash assistance, allowing households to cover food gaps and meet non-food needs, according to FEWS NET. As a result of food assistance, populations in Lesotho are likely to experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity through May, rather than deteriorating to Crisis—IPC 3—levels.⁴ Additionally, FEWS NET projects that food security will improve to Minimal—IPC 1—levels between May and September, after the harvest period.

MADAGASCAR

- Tropical Cyclone Enawo caused flooding and destroyed or damaged houses and infrastructure when it made landfall over Madagascar on March 7, ultimately affecting approximately 434,000 people, according to the Government of Madagascar's National Office for Disaster Risk and Management (BNGRC). Additionally, BNGRC reports that the storm damaged food stocks and crops, leaving many cyclone-affected households with reduced access to food. Approximately 170,000 people lost household food supplies and productive assets, and more than 230,000 people require agricultural inputs, including seeds and tools, according to the Food Security Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

- FEWS NET reports that food prices in local markets have increased due to loss of subsistence crops and household food supplies from cyclone-related flooding. In mid-March, prices for rice in urban areas were approximately 30 percent higher than in December 2016, while maize prices increased by 30 to 55 percent during the same period. However, FEWS NET notes that prices in southern areas of the country have either stabilized or begun to decline due to maize and pulse harvests.
- Despite heavy rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Enawo, long-term moisture deficits in Madagascar persist due to below-average rains earlier in the season, according to FEWS NET.
- BNGRC and the UN reported that nearly 95,700 cyclone-affected people had received emergency food assistance as of April 11, while approximately 57,400 people had received WASH support. Humanitarian actors also provided emergency shelter assistance to approximately 11,000 households—approximately 60,000 people.
- From March 28–April 1, USAID/OFDA staff traveled to southern Madagascar’s Androy and Anosy regions to monitor CARE and UNICEF livelihoods and nutrition programs. With nearly \$322,000 in FY 2016 funding for livelihoods interventions from USAID/OFDA, CARE is supporting the rehabilitation of community assets in Anosy through cash-for-work programs. CARE recently restored road access to three villages in Anosy’s Amboasary District, decreasing travel time to key commercial centers, helping drought-affected communities access markets to purchase food.
- In Androy’s Tsihombe District, USAID/OFDA staff observed UNICEF mobile clinics that are providing training and supplies to medical staff to identify and treat children experiencing severe acute malnutrition in rural areas. UNICEF selected the target areas based on population size and distance to health care facilities; the furthest program area is nearly 40 miles from a health facility. USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$1.6 million in FY 2017 funding to scale up to provide additional mobile clinics and water points in drought-affected areas and continue operations through 2018.

MALAWI

- In late March and early April, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP staff assessed the impacts of fall armyworm infestations across Malawi. Although the infestations did impact maize crops in Malawi, the USAID assessment found minimal damage and harvests were largely unaffected. Farmers targeted the infestations with pesticides available in local markets and those provided through a partnership between the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Government of Malawi. The most severe infestations occurred in Malawi’s Karonga District, where local authorities estimated the pest destroyed 20 percent of the maize crop. However, fall armyworms did not damage other crops, such as cassava, pigeon peas, or sweet potatoes, limiting the effect of crop loss on food security levels.
- During February, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food assistance to approximately 5.9 million people in 24 of Malawi’s 28 districts.

MOZAMBIQUE

- In February, USAID/FFP partner WFP scaled-up emergency food operations to assist approximately 749,000 food-insecure people in Mozambique, a nearly 20 percent increase compared to approximately 629,000 people assisted in December 2016. Approximately 2.1 million people continue to experience food insecurity in Mozambique, and WFP plans to continue providing emergency food assistance to approximately 1 million people until at least June. WFP reports that the advent of the green harvest has resulted in decreased maize prices across Mozambique. As the harvest progresses and additional people consume or sell crops, WFP expects maize prices to continue to decrease and food security to improve.
- Due to largely favorable rainfall, FEWS NET predicts a near-average harvest in central and southern Mozambique, although some populations in isolated areas faced seed access challenges or experienced localized flooding that forced them to replant. Below-average agricultural production is likely in coastal areas of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and

Zambezia provinces due to erratic and poor rainfall. Between April and May, FEWS NET expects the number of people facing Crisis levels of food insecurity to decrease significantly as the majority of households experience near-average harvests and reduced staple food prices.

- The Government of the Republic of Mozambique (GRM) expects improved harvests of most staple crops such as maize, pulses, roots and tubers, and vegetables to increase by 8–20 percent during April and May in comparison to the previous year. However, delayed rain negatively affected rice production, particularly in Gaza, Nampula, and Zambezia provinces, possibly reducing yields by up to 40 percent.
- On April 13, the GRM announced it had downgraded the drought disaster alert level from red to orange, stressing that sufficient food is currently available for those recovering from the 2015/2016 drought. Red alerts signal the highest state of emergency readiness, while orange alerts indicate a need for close monitoring and readiness to respond. In response to increased agricultural production, GRM officials intend to reduce emergency food assistance interventions and prioritize seed distributions to vulnerable households.

SWAZILAND

- By April, water availability in Swaziland had significantly improved due to increased rainfall, with most dams at approximately 80–100 percent of capacity, according to USAID partner World Vision. The Hawane dam, which is the source for drinking water in Swaziland’s capital city of Mbabane, is reportedly at 100 percent capacity after dropping to below 10 percent capacity in early 2016. World Vision projects that increased water availability will contribute to improved food security in most areas of Swaziland.

ZIMBABWE

- Above-average rainfall combined with the effects of Tropical Cyclone Dineo resulted in severe floods in Zimbabwe in late February and early March, negatively affecting approximately 2,600 households beginning to recover from prolonged food insecurity due to consecutive years of drought, FEWS NET reports.
- Populations in southern Zimbabwe and some northern areas of the country continue to experience food gaps and face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity due to poor harvests in 2015/2016 and below-average incomes, according to FEWS NET. USAID/FFP partner WFP is continuing to provide emergency food assistance in select districts likely to experience delayed harvests. Despite some gaps, FEWS NET anticipates that the overall food security situation will improve during the main harvest in April/May.
- According to the Government of Zimbabwe, farmers planted approximately 4.2 million acres of maize during the 2016/2017 planting season, a more than 50 percent increase compared to the 2.7 million acres planted in 2015/2016. Projections of increased crop production and above-average rains in early 2017 are contributing to improved food security conditions, according to FEWS NET. As of late March, FEWS NET anticipates that the majority of vulnerable households in Zimbabwe will have sufficient food stocks through September; in comparison, many of the same households faced food shortages as early as June in 2016.

CONTEXT

- Below-average rainfall—exacerbated by the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event—resulted in drought conditions throughout much of Southern Africa beginning in 2015, causing deteriorating agriculture, food security, livestock, nutrition, and WASH conditions throughout 2016.
- On October 13, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate redeclared a disaster for the third consecutive year due to the effects of drought in southern regions of Madagascar. On October 14, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Lisa J. Peterson renewed the drought disaster declaration for Swaziland, followed on October 21 by U.S. Ambassadors Matthew T. Harrington and H. Dean Pittman, who redeclared drought disasters for Lesotho and Mozambique, respectively. U.S. Ambassador Virginia E. Palmer redeclared a drought disaster in Malawi on October 28, 2016, and U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr., redeclared a disaster due to the effects of drought in Zimbabwe on November 7, 2016.
- In late 2016 and early 2017, increased rainfall across Southern Africa improved crop growth and restored water catchments, alleviating drought conditions. Above-average rainfall, however, also caused flooding in some areas, resulting in displacement, crop damage, and additional humanitarian needs.
- On February 17, 2017, U.S. Ambassador H. Dean Pittman issued a disaster declaration for Mozambique due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Dineo, while U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate declared a disaster in Madagascar due to the effects of Tropical Cyclone Enawo on March 13. Both storms resulted in deaths, population displacement, and damage to houses, crops, and infrastructure.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
MADAGASCAR			
CARE	Shelter and Settlements	Sava Region	\$99,937
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Southern Madagascar	\$1,591,539
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MADAGASCAR			\$1,691,476
MOZAMBIQUE			
CARE	WASH	Inhambane	\$50,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$295,500
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Inhambane	\$450,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MOZAMBIQUE			\$795,500
REGIONAL			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional Support	\$1,650,000
	Program Support Costs		\$100,651
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$1,750,651
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE			\$4,237,627

USAID/FFP³			
MADAGASCAR			
WFP	3,300 Metric Tons (MT) of Regionally Purchased Food	Southern Madagascar	\$2,700,000

WFP	3,100 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Southern Madagascar	\$4,995,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP FY 2017 FUNDING FOR MADAGASCAR			\$7,695,200
MALAWI			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Procurement, Vouchers for Food	Countrywide	\$28,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FY 2017 FUNDING FOR MALAWI			\$28,500,000
MOZAMBIQUE			
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,979,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP FY 2017 FUNDING FOR MOZAMBIQUE			\$5,979,100
ZIMBABWE			
WFP	12,000 MT of Regionally Purchased Food	Six districts	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FY 2017 FUNDING FOR ZIMBABWE			\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE			\$52,174,300
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$56,411,927

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 27, 2017.

³ USAID/FFP funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 27, 2017. Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>.