



Synthesis Report

on the State of
Food and Nutrition
Security and Vulnerability
in Southern Africa

2019

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RVAA

Regional Vulnerability Assessment & Analysis Programme

informing resilient livelihoods



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Preface

This report provides an overview of vulnerability across the region, especially as it relates to food and nutrition security. Central to its analysis is the information provided by respective NVACs at the RVAA Annual Dissemination Forum, held from 01 to 04 July 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia. Secondary data complemented the analysis of primary data.

SADC is an organization founded and maintained by countries in Southern Africa. It aims to further socio-economic, political and security cooperation among its Member States and foster regional integration in order to achieve peace, stability and wealth. The Member States of SADC are Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Union of the Comoros Islands, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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Executive summary

An estimated 41.2 million people in 13 SADC Member States are food insecure this year. When comparing the 11 Member States that provided data last year, food insecurity increased by 28%. It is also 7.4% higher than it was during the severe El Niño-induced drought of 2016/17.

Significant increases in the number of people food insecure have been recorded in Zambia (144%), Zimbabwe (128%), Eswatini (90%), Mozambique (85%) and DRC (80%).

The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (wasting - being too thin for your height) among children under age 5 is above 5% in 7 Member States, with some areas above 10%.

The situation indicates a cumulative effect of persistent drought conditions compounded by floods, pests, conflict (in DRC and northern Mozambique), economic challenges, poverty and chronic structural issues. These drivers are exacerbated by climate change.

Much of west and central Southern Africa recorded their lowest seasonal rainfall since at least 1981. Rains were delayed and erratic, resulting in reduced area planted, poor germination and wilting of crops. Poor grazing and water conditions also affected livestock production.

Several countries also experienced flooding caused by extreme weather events: heavy rains, strong winds, hailstorms and tropical cyclones. An estimated 3.8 million people were affected in Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe alone.

Some areas experienced outright crop failure, including in countries that usually produce a surplus. Cereal production declined in every one of the ten Member States that provided data.

Households are expected to exhaust their food reserve crops within zero to three months, compared to the average three to five months, resulting in significant food consumption gaps, especially from October 2019 onwards.

To cope, the selling of livestock – a livelihood asset – is likely to increase. However, oversupply will reduce livestock prices and hence income earned.

Overall purchasing power will deteriorate with below average incomes, decreased casual labour opportunities in the agriculture sector, and increasing staple food prices.

It is recommended that governments and partners urgently assist food insecure populations with food and/or cash-based transfers. Emergency livestock supplementary feeding is also critical to save breeding herds. Transboundary pests and diseases of crops and livestock require close monitoring.

Emergency establishment or rehabilitation of community watering points for livestock and crops should be prioritized.

Shock-responsive social safety nets should be scaled up to protect the vulnerable from recurrent severe climate-related shocks. Special attention must be paid to address the additional burdens faced by women and girls.

Introduction

The SADC RVAA

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme seeks to ensure the timely provision of credible vulnerability information; while strengthening capacities to meet the ever-increasing information needs of governments and partners for developmental programming and emergency response.

The region's vulnerability assessment and analysis (VAA) system is built on the national vulnerability assessment committees (NVACs) of SADC Member States. These NVACs are a key source of information for emergency response and development programming by both governments and partners. In support of this system, the RVAA Programme's 2017-2021 priorities are to:

Extend the understanding of vulnerability through improved assessment and analysis to better inform policies and programmes.

&

Support NVAC institutionalization within government structures, with predictable domestic funding.

The Dissemination Forum

It is here that NVACs and partners share their collective analysis of the regional vulnerability situation, which peaks during the September to March "hunger season", when households and smallholder farmers run out of their meagre April harvests.

Given the cyclical nature of food insecurity in Southern Africa, the RVAA champions the integration of poverty, gender and other dimensions into vulnerability assessment and analysis.

This report presents acute needs, identifies structural constraints, and posits recommendations to address vulnerability to food and nutrition security across the humanitarian-development nexus.

Once finalized at the Dissemination Forum, the 2019 Synthesis Report is endorsed by the SADC RVAA Programme Steering Committee, which is composed of senior government officials.

Approaches and methods

NVACs employ various livelihoods-based approaches to collect and analyze vulnerability data. "Sustainable livelihoods" is the guiding conceptual framework. The Household Economic Approach (HEA) and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) are common analytical frameworks.

Qualitative methods as well as quantitative household surveys (structured questionnaires) are used, supported by secondary data.

In 2018, all NVACs agreed to include a common set of indicators in their assessments, which has since been refined. This progress towards harmonized assessments continues to yield results.

Since 2008, there has been a concerted effort to understand urban livelihoods and how they are impacted by shocks. The RVAA Programme plans to expand this component by locating it within a resilience framework. This will require

assessment and analysis be to re-conceptualized and re-equipped.

Regional overview

Introduction

Food and nutrition security is an outcome of developmental factors such as access to land, credit, education and employment, as well as access to affordable agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, water and seeds. Gender inequalities, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, natural disasters and climate change all contribute in compounding ways.

The regional food security situation is informed by assessment data from Member States. The analysis covers the period April 2019 to March 2020.

Regional food security outlook

About 41.2 million people in 13 countries are estimated to be food insecure this consumption year (see **Table 1**). When comparing the 11 Member States that provided data last year and this year, food insecurity increased by 28%. It is also 7.4% higher than it was during the severe El Niño-induced drought of 2016/17.

Significant increases in the number of people food insecure from last year have been recorded in Zambia (144%), Zimbabwe (128%), Eswatini (90%), Mozambique (85%) and DRC (80%).

This increase indicates a cumulative effect of persistent drought conditions compounded by floods, pests, conflict (in DRC and northern Mozambique), economic challenges and

Food and nutrition security exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life.

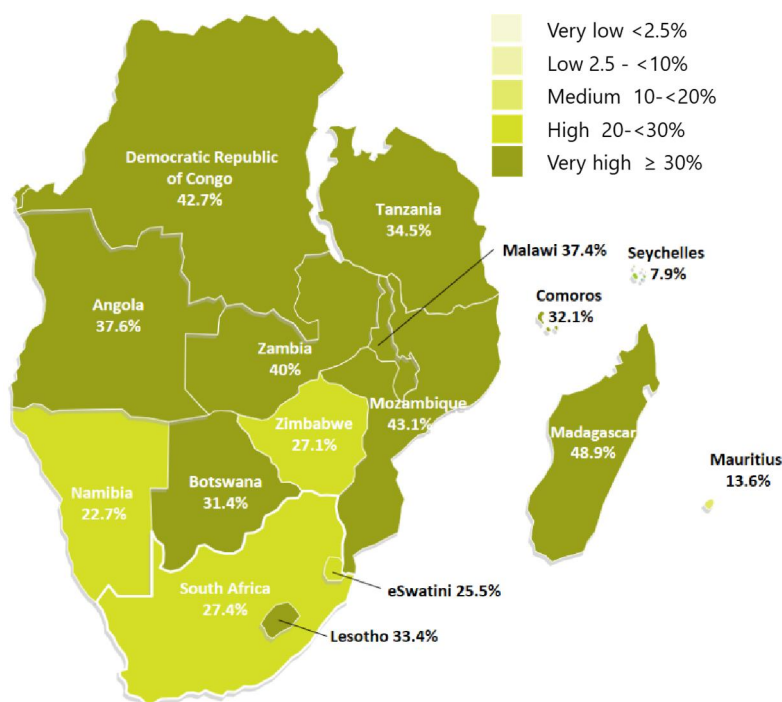
Source: Committee on World Food Security, 2012

chronic structural issues. These drivers are exacerbated by climate change.

Regional nutrition security outlook

Given that diets are mainly cereal-based, even where food is available, it is not necessarily nutritious, and many suffer micronutrient deficiencies (iron, iodine, folate, vitamin A, and zinc). This results in high numbers of children

Graphic 1: Prevalence of Stunting



Source: Surveys range from 2003 – 2017 (except Mauritius 1995), JME data, May 2019

Table 1: Food Insecure Population in SADC Member States, April 2019 - March 2020

Country	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	% change from 2018/19	% change from 5-yr average
Angola	1,253,048	755,930	749,500		1,139,064 [†]		16.90
Botswana	30,318	57,411	12,000	35,055	38,300	9.26	10.64
DRC	4,456,106	5,900,000	7,700,000	7,249,998	13,100,000 [†]	80.69	70.55
Eswatini	320,973	638,251	159,080	122,086	232,373	90.34	-21.11
Lesotho	463,936	709,394	306,942	308,966	433,410	40.28	-2.50
Madagascar	1,800,000	1,140,000	855,796	1,261,323	916,201	-27.36	-23.31
Malawi	2,833,212	6,692,114	1,043,000	3,306,405	1,126,147	-65.94	-62.46
Mozambique	375,905	1,980,000	313,481	891,000	1,648,646 ^{**}	85.03	58.25
Namibia	578,480	729,134	798,384	257,383	289,644	12.53	-45.41
South Africa	14,349,445	14,349,445	13,700,000	13,930,354	13,670,000 [*]	-1.87	-2.36
Tanzania	358,505	358,505	118,603		740,000		87.86
Zambia	798,948	975,738	77,000	954,120	2,330,182	144.22	126.85
Zimbabwe	2,829,159	4,071,233	1,052,768	2,423,568	5,529,209	128.14	73.81
SADC	30,448,035	38,357,155	26,886,554	30,740,258	41,193,176		

Source: Respective NVAC. ^{*}Refers to persons with inadequate food access, from the 2018 General Household Survey.

^{**}Projected to increase to 1.99 million between Oct 2018 and Feb 2019. [†]Update expected July 2019.

and other vulnerable populations suffering from malnutrition (see **Graphic 1**).

With the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as droughts and floods in the region, the risk for malnutrition is higher and the impact borne disproportionately by the most vulnerable.

Addressing malnutrition in a sustainable way and in all its forms – including stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight – requires an understanding of the underlying causes at the level of the individual, household, community and region.

Available 2019 data shows that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (wasting - being too thin for your height) among children under age 5 is above 5% in 7 Member States. There are also pockets of high wasting rates (above 10%) in the DRC (Greater Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces),

Mozambique (Cabo Delgado Province), southern Angola (Cunene and Huila provinces) and southern Madagascar (Atsimo Andrefana and Amosy regions).

The stunting prevalence (being too short for your age) is above 30% - classified as very high - in 10 of the 16 SADC Member States. Reduction in stunting is occurring too slowly to meet the World Health Assembly (WHA) 2025 or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 targets.

The 'double burden' of malnutrition - the concurrence of undernutrition and overweight/obesity - is also a growing challenge in the region. The prevalence of overweight in four Member States (Botswana 11.2%, Comoros 10.6%, Seychelles 10.2% and South Africa 13.3%) reveals an emerging problem.

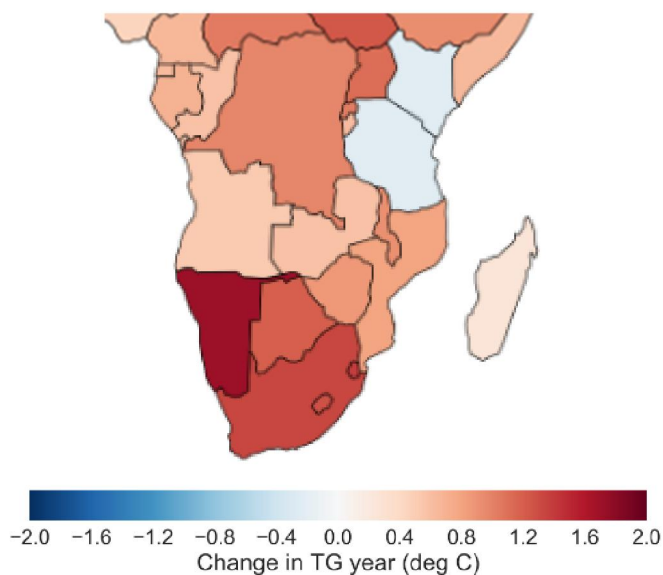
Appropriate feeding is multi-dimensional and influenced by factors such as food quality, mothers' time, level of education and cultural norms. The minimum acceptable diet (MAD) - a measure of the quality of young children's diets, is very low, with most Member States having MAD of less than 15%. This is due to the consumption of monotonous diets and lack of knowledge on appropriate feeding practices; uninformed behavioral patterns which are often influenced by culture; and caregivers' limited access to health and nutrition services.

Contributing factors

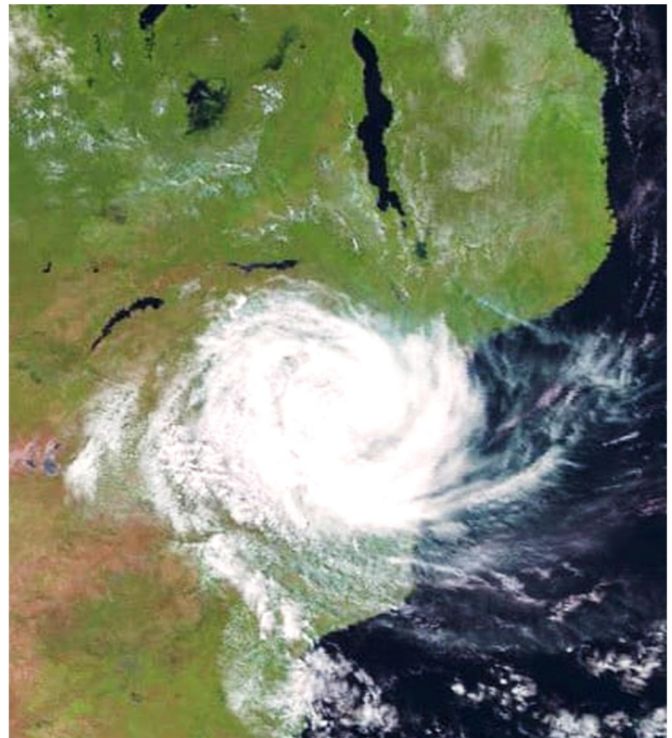
Climate change, variability and extreme events

Southern Africa is heavily affected by climate change and variability, and projections suggest that the impact of climate change will become more severe over the next decades.

Graphic 1: Observed temperature change over cropping areas, 2015-2016 vs historical (15-years)



Sources: SOFI, 2018



Tropical Cyclone Idai maintained significant strength as it moved inland. Source: Eumetsat

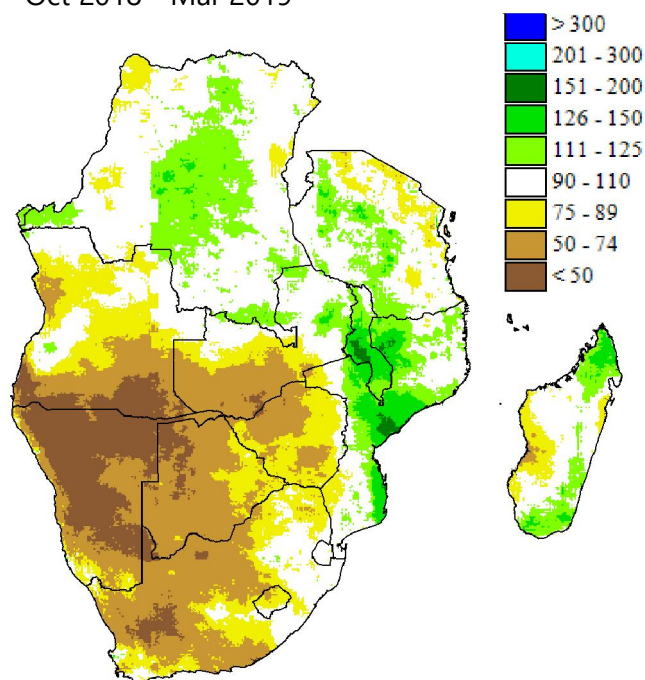
The most pronounced manifestation of climate change will be:

- An increase in temperature, leading to increased heat stress and reduced crop yields. (The region's staple crop – maize – is particularly prone to the effects of climate change.);
- Changes in rainfall patterns: increasingly erratic rainfall events of high intensity, leading to floods and more frequent droughts and dry spells;
- A delayed onset of the rainfall season and an early tailing off, thus reducing the growing period for crops.

Current variability and extreme events across the region are increasingly evident. Observed trends in weather patterns provide evidence of

climate change effects over the region in the last 15 years (see **Graphic 1**).

Graphic 2: Rainfall as percent of average, Oct 2018 - Mar 2019



Source: CHIRPS

Drought

Most cropping is practiced during the November to April rainfall season, with the rest of the year being dry.

A strong drought affected central and western parts of the region during the 2018/19 rainfall season. Large parts of southern Angola, northern and southern Botswana, northern Namibia, north-western South Africa, southern and western Zambia, and north-western Zimbabwe received their lowest seasonal rainfall totals since at least 1981, when regional, comparable records began. (The severe El Niño-induced drought of 2015/2016 had primarily affected the south-central and east-central parts of the region.)

Rains were delayed and erratic, resulting in reduced area planted, poor germination and wilting of crops. Angola, Botswana and Namibia declared national drought emergencies. Other countries affected by localized dry spells and drought included Eswatini, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania.

The drought has affected water supplies for domestic, industrial and agricultural use. Fodder and pasture continue to decline as the dry season progresses. Over 30,000 drought-related cattle deaths were recorded in Namibia between October 2018 and April 2019 – the nominal rainfall season.

Floods and cyclones

In the first half of 2019 several countries experienced flooding caused by extreme weather events: heavy rains, hailstorms, strong winds and tropical cyclones.

By February, Madagascar recorded landslides and floods – worsened by Tropical Storm Eketsang – that affected 9,400 people; Malawi reported 135,000 people flood-affected; and Tropical Storm Desmond in Mozambique resulted in the displacement of 7,155 people.

The situation worsened dramatically when two tropical cyclones - Idai and Kenneth - hit Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, pushing the number of people flood-affected to 3.8 million people in these four countries (see **Table 3**). The cyclones destroyed schools and clinics, disrupting access to basic services and causing widespread displacement.

Table 2: Cereal balance sheet and production

	2019/20 Marketing Year Cereal Balance Sheet			Production (Harvest Year)		
	Required	Available	Deficit / Surplus	2018	2019	% change 2018 vs 2019
	('000 tons)	('000 tons)	('000 tons)	('000 tons)	('000 tons)	
Angola	4,879	3,748	-1,132	3,609	3,570	-1.07
Botswana	300	37,756	-262	66	5.4	-91.83
DR Congo					3,200	
Eswatini	167.88	96.77	-71	112	95.3	-14.99
Lesotho	375.07	87.83	-287	75	37.5	-50.27
Madagascar						
Malawi				3,027	2,700	-10.81
Mozambique				3,174		
Namibia	351.2	200.5	-151	153	71.5	-53.24
South Africa	15,524	19,607	4,083	18,701	15,137	-19.06
Tanzania	8,754	9,007	253	9,386	9,008	-4.03
Zambia	5,225	4,337	-888	2,598	2,217	-14.66
Zimbabwe	2,204	1,443	-761	1,994	1,443	-27.64
SADC	37,780	38,565	784	42,895	37,485	

Source: Respective Member States, SADC

The cyclones hit during the harvest. Idai alone destroyed close to 780,000 ha of standing crops in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

On 11 April 2019, SADC launched a USD 323 million appeal to support the Idai disaster response and recovery. The appeal document can be viewed at <http://www.sadc.int>.

Table 3: The impacts of cyclones Idai and Kenneth

	Idai	Kenneth	Total
Malawi	975,000		975,000
Mozambique	1,851,015	373,626	2,224,641
Zimbabwe	268,808		268,808
Comoros		345,130	345,130
Total	3,094,823	718,756	3,813,579

Source: respective Member States, OCHA

Food production and livelihoods

Cereal production

Cereal production decreased in each of the ten Member States that provided data (see **Table 2**).

Maize accounts for 80% cereal production in Southern Africa. Other important cereals are wheat, sorghum millets and rice. Only 7% of cultivated land is irrigated. Most farmers in southern Africa are smallholders who cultivate less than 5 ha.

Countries that typically account for most of the regional grain supplies - Zambia and South Africa - also recorded below-average harvests, which have reduced exportable regional surplus from 7.5 million tons to 0.8 million tons (a preliminary estimate based on data from 9 Member States). Only South Africa and

Tanzania have cereal surpluses in the current marketing year (see **Table 2**). Zambia which recorded the second biggest surplus (1.8 million tons) last year after South Africa, now has a cereal deficit of 0.9 million tons. The countries with the highest cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year are Angola (1,132,000 tons), Zambia (888,000 tons) and Zimbabwe (761,000 tons). These countries require robust logistical contingency arrangements to meet the import needs in the current consumption year.

Cropping typically contributes about 20% to 60% of annual food needs for poor households in the region. Due to widespread poor harvests this year, most subsistent farming households are expected to exhaust their crops within zero to three months, compared to the average three to five months, resulting in large food consumption gaps, especially during the coming lean season.

Typically, households engage in vegetable production during the dry season to earn some income. However, this is likely to be below average due to poor availability of irrigation water as most water bodies did not recharge to typical levels. This will also affect second season cropping, including winter wheat and maize.

Crop pests, particularly the Fall Armyworm, continued to affect production across the region. The level of impact varies between countries depending on the levels of farmer awareness and capacity to manage the pest. Some Member States are still responding with massive pesticide use, which could have adverse environmental and health implications.

An Integrated Pest Management approach is more sustainable and effective.

Cassava - an important staple in some countries - also faced the Cassava Brown Streak Disease: a new disease reported for the first time in the northern parts of Zambia.

Livestock production

Animal husbandry is an important component of farming systems, and consists mainly of cattle, goats and poultry. It is a key coping and resilient pathway for many farming households. In areas where crop production is marginal, cattle rearing is often dominant, mostly in free-grazing arrangements. In Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, Tanzania and South Africa, the livestock industry is a key contributor to gross domestic product.

A new strain of Foot and Mouth Disease from East Africa has broken out in Zambia, potentially threatening the livestock industry in the region. Farmers in some drought-affected cannot sell their livestock due to movement restrictions.

As a result of its propensity to trigger increased movement of people and livestock in search of water and grazing, drought conditions will increase the outbreak of transboundary animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Anthrax, and other diseases.

Fisheries and aquaculture

In Mozambique, cyclone Kenneth destroyed fishing equipment, and fish ponds were either eroded or inundated with debris. Owing to drought, outbreaks of Epizootic Ulcerative

Syndromes are anticipated in affected inland water bodies. The resultant loss in production quantity and quality will affect the livelihoods of affected people and commercial performance of the sector.

Food prices

Staple food prices typically decrease with the harvest as households start consuming their own production. However, according to FEWS NET, maize grain prices in Zimbabwe and Lesotho continue to increase.

Food prices in Lesotho, especially in the Maseru market, have been increasing since January due to the anticipated poor harvest in South Africa. Rice prices in Madagascar stabilized or decreased in April compared to March. In Zambia, markets continue to have unusually high maize prices: according to the WFP Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS), maize prices in nearly markets monitored in April were in either the "Stress," "Alert," or "Crisis" phase.

Economic challenges

Poverty remains one of the greatest challenges in the SADC region, with approximately half of the population living on less than \$1 a day. The Southern Africa economy is projected to grow slower than other regions of the continent — at 2.2 percent in 2019 and 2.8 percent in 2020. At the core of this slow growth are the major headwinds of high inflation, increasing government debt, and slow growth in South Africa, which contributes about two-thirds of the region's GDP but only grew 1% in 2018. The second largest regional economy, Angola, is expected to grow by 1.2 percent in 2019 and 3.2 percent in 2020, while Mozambique will

grow at 4.5 percent in 2019 and 5.0 percent in 2020 (African Development Bank, 2019).

Conflict and economic challenges continue to drive acute food insecurity in DRC, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In DRC, conflict continues to manifest differently across the country with some improvements in the security situation facilitating the return of some households in Kasai, South-Kivu, Tanganyika, and Maniema Provinces. However, in areas affected by Ebola, repeated attacks on treatment centres continue to hamper efforts to bring the outbreak under control. Conflict in northern Mozambique has also affected food security and the response.

In Zimbabwe, the volatile macroeconomic situation continues to deteriorate with increasing fuel prices, staple food prices, and foreign exchange shortages further weakening household access to food and other basic needs. (Zimbabwe has instituted Statutory Instrument 145 of 2019 to control maize trade, exports, and movement.)

Agricultural employment and income

About 70% of the region's population depends on agriculture for food, income and employment, which relies on the right amount of rain at the right time.

In years of normal rainfall, many poor households supplement their incomes through casual labour activities which they use for purchases of both staple foods and other basic needs.

When crop production drops, households usually rely on markets to access food. However, this year many households are

experiencing deteriorating purchasing power resulting from a combination of below average incomes and increasing staple food prices. Households have less crops to sell this year and hence income earned from the sale of main crops is below average.

Rural employment opportunities are typically centred around casual on-farm and off-farm labour. A decrease in vegetable production and second season main crops implies less opportunities for on-farm labour. Better-off households are earning below average income from selling crops (their main income source), which will likely impact negatively on their ability to hire casual labourers for other non-farm, work which will reduce employment opportunities.

Better-off households sometimes use their grain as payment in-kind -unlikely this year due to poor harvests. To cope, the selling of livestock and bartering is likely to increase during the lean season. However, oversupply will likely reduce livestock prices and hence income earned. Moreover, livestock-to-grain terms of trade will also likely deteriorate due to increased grain demand, and this will continue to affect household food access.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Access to safe drinking water

Most SADC Member States have high levels of access to drinking water services. About 66% of the population (180 million people) have access to basic drinking water services, but coverage varies widely: from 50% in Mozambique to 99.8% in Mauritius. DRC (35 million people) and Tanzania (20 million

people) have the largest populations using unimproved drinking water sources. However, not all drinking water sources are safe from contamination. Climate-related impacts on water resources – ranging from flooding in Mozambique to droughts in Namibia, poses an increased risk for access to drinking water services.

Access to improved sanitation

Household access to and use of improved sanitation facilities is a key component in the prevention of malnutrition by reducing the incidence of cases of diarrhea and breaking the cyclical and synergistic relationship between malnutrition and diarrhea.

One in five people in SADC practice open defecation. Less than half of the population in SADC (46% or 100 million people) have access to basic sanitation services. The practise of handwashing with soap and water is also poor, practised by only 25% of the population.

Health

Disease outbreaks

Cholera

An estimated 50,750 cholera cases and 266 deaths were reported across the region in 2018. In the first half of 2019, about 28,260 cases and 886 deaths have been reported.

Cholera cases vary widely among SADC Member States, with some countries like South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Madagascar, Botswana and Namibia recording no cases since 2018. Cyclone Idai led to an upsurge of cases in Mozambique, with over 7,000 cases and 8 deaths reported in 2019 to date..

Cholera also contributes to malnutrition in the region, and malnourished people are more at risk of cholera.

Ebola

While the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is geographically confined to North Kivu and Ituri provinces of DRC, the risk of it spreading to neighboring countries remains high, making this an issue of public health concern which has potential impact on both food and nutrition security.

HIV/AIDS

SADC remains at the epicentre of the HIV epidemic. Though rates of new infections are declining, at the current rate of decline the region will still have at least 570,000 new infections annually (more than double the target). Gender inequality is still a strong driver of the pandemic: 59% of new infections in Southern Africa are women, but 53% of AIDS-related deaths are men. Young women 15 to 24 years old are only 10% of the total population but account for 26% of new HIV infections (Genderlinks, 2019).

Food insecurity has been found to be a critical barrier to adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and retention in care among HIV- and TB-infected adults, HIV-infected pregnant women and their HIV-exposed infants. There is growing evidence that links food and nutrition security with an increase in health-seeking behaviour; adherence to HIV and TB treatment; reduction in morbidity; prevention of transmission among adolescent girls; and reduction in mortality among people living with HIV/AIDS.

Drought can increase negative coping strategies, especially among young people, including risky sexual behaviour and transactional sex. Food insecurity may place vulnerable individuals, especially women and girls, at greater risk of exposure to HIV due to the adoption of risky behaviours.

Increased cross-border movement due to shocks in the region increases the risk of HIV infection not just among high risk groups but also among migrant populations, adolescents, communities close to border sites, and communities with high levels of in- and out-migration. Many migrants living with HIV across the region (for example economic migrants to South Africa) are more likely to not access ART treatment. People living with HIV that don't receive treatment can experience detrimental effects on their health and nutrition status.

Gender

Food and nutrition insecurity in Southern Africa have a gender dimension. Women play a crucial role across all the pillars of food security: availability, access and utilization. They are generally responsible for food selection and preparation and the care and feeding of children and are more likely than men to spend their income on food and children's needs.

According to the 2019 Sustainable Development Goals Gender Index, Sub-Saharan Africa has an average regional index score of 51.1 - the lowest scoring region globally in terms of gender equality. While women make up about 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, evidence shows that these women do not have the same

access to productive assets and resources as men.

Given the cross-cutting nature of gender, in the current vulnerability context circumstances for women and girls have worsened, and existing gender inequalities have been exacerbated.

Conclusions

a) About 41.2 million people in 13 countries are estimated to be food insecure this consumption year (see **Table 1**). When comparing the 11 Member States that provided data last year, food insecurity increased by 28%. It is also 7.4% higher than it was during the severe El Niño-induced drought of 2016/17.

b) This increase indicates a cumulative effect of persistent drought conditions compounded by floods/cyclonic activities and chronic structural issues.

c) Despite the prevalence of stunting decreasing in some Member States, the change is not fast enough to keep pace with population growth and reduce the number of stunted children, and thereby reach the World Health Assembly (WHA) target of a 40% reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025.

d) Pervasive drought contributed to reduced cereal harvests and the associated high food and nutrition insecurity (see **Table 2**). Cereal production decreased in each of the ten Member States that provided data.

e) Floods and cyclones affected several Member States, resulting in death,

displacement, damage to infrastructure, and flooding of cropland; contributing to food and nutrition security (see **Table 3**).

f) Numerous other factors contributed to food and nutrition insecurity, including rising food prices, poor harvests, conflict and economic challenges.

Recommendations

In the short term

a) Urgently assist food and nutrition insecure populations with food and/or cash-based transfers, ensuring harmonization with national shock-responsive social protection programmes.

b) Provide emergency livestock supplementary feeding to save breeding and draught power herds.

c) Undertake emergency rehabilitation and/or establishment of community watering points for livestock and crops.

d) Monitor and respond to transboundary pests and diseases of livestock and crops. Promote use of an Integrated Pest Management approach which is sustainable and effective.

e) Scale up safety net programs as they play a significant role in ensuring food and livelihood security, especially among the very poor.

f) Expand high-impact nutrition interventions that target children under age five, adolescent girls and women of

reproductive age to accelerate stunting reduction in the region.

g) Mobilize communities to improve access to HIV testing, prevention and treatment services, and promote adherence to treatment, especially of migrant populations.

h) Improve women and girl's access to nutritious food, education, services and production resources and ensure that they participate in decision-making processes.

In the medium to long term

i) Encourage crop and dietary diversity through the growing and consumption of diversified diets, including indigenous foods. This includes species diversification in livestock production, especial small ruminants that are adapted to harsh weather conditions.

j) Promote community irrigation schemes and rainwater harvesting and construct dams to ensure year-round agricultural production.

k) Rehabilitate and reconstruct flood-damaged infrastructure to enhance access to markets and health and social facilities. Address market-related challenges for small scale farmers. In the long term, plan for the expansion of the social services closer to the people.

l) Develop resilience-building initiatives, including employment creation in rural areas, incorporating climate smart technologies in subsidies and conservation agriculture.

m) Enhance the coordination, harmonization and support of response planning, capacity development, monitoring

and evaluation at sub-national, national and regional levels.

n) Manage food assistance in line with the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*, particularly item 3(ii): increasing alignment of aid with partner country's priorities, systems and procedures and helping to strengthen their capacities.

o) Support the restoration of production capacity of affected households through provision of seed and agricultural inputs for the coming season.

p) Facilitate engagements between countries with surplus and those affected by drought for prioritization of import/export inter/intra Member States food availability.

Country summaries

Angola

The drought in the southern provinces continue to worsen. The prices of basic commodities are rising.

The prevalence of wasting - children are too thin for their height is at 8.2%. The mortality rate of children under the age of five stands at 101 per 1000 live births, which means that a tenth of all children die before their fifth birthday.

No food security report is available, but assessments are ongoing. Primary data for Cunene, Namibe and Huila provinces indicates 1.14 million people are affected by drought.

The Government with partners is implementing various feeding and nutrition treatment

schemes, rehabilitating water sources, rebuilding agricultural and livestock production capacity and strengthening resilience. The establishment of food security monitoring systems is needed, as is technical training, database development and timely financial management and mobilization.

Botswana

Rainfall distribution was very poor during the 2018/19 rainfall season and temperatures above normal.

The number of people permanently and temporarily destitute stands at 38,300, which is 9.3% higher than the previous year. All these beneficiaries are assisted by the Government with food baskets, cash and clothing.

The percentage of children underweight has increased to 4.3%. Government will continue with direct feeding in localities with high rates of total underweight (10% and above); and with the introduction of special food baskets to children at all mobile shops in needy districts.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Food insecurity affects one in two households in DRC (49.5%). In August 2018, about 13.1 million people were found to be in an acute food and livelihoods crisis (IPC phases 3 and 4) - updated data is expected in July 2019.

Malnutrition in all its forms is a public health problem. A 2016 Cost of Hunger in Africa study found that undernutrition costs the DRC 4.6% of its gross domestic product – equivalent to US\$ 1.7 billion every year.

Maize production decreased by 15% in 2019. Farmers recorded significant crop losses due to

the Fall Armyworm. The situation is exacerbated by conflict and an Ebola outbreak.

Eswatini

Malnutrition is prevalent, illustrated by a high stunting prevalence of 26%. The food security situation has deteriorated from the previous year, with two of the four regions moving from IPC Phase 2 (Stress) to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). It is projected that between October 2019 and March 2020, an estimated 232,373 people will be facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC phases 3 and 4) – 25% of the rural population. An estimated 28,000 people will slip from IPC Phase 2 to Phase 3 between July and October. Immediate assistance is required.

The inadequacy and misinterpretation of early warning messages communicated to farmers led to poor decision-making in the early planting and preparation phase. A high proportion of farmers chose not to plant, anticipating drought in the second half of the rainfall season. This reduced casual labor opportunities, as well as food availability. Maize and legume prices are expected to increase.

Households are expected to deplete their food stocks before the end of the year. The lean season could start as early as August.

Key drivers of food insecurity in the peak hunger season include disease outbreaks such as cholera, malaria and acute watery diarrhea; and animal disease outbreaks, mainly affecting cattle. The Fall Armyworm will remain a major threat and alien invasive plant species could affect rangelands, livestock and crop production, and water availability.

Lesotho

The current deterioration in the food security situation is being driven by a severe drought and a general increase in food prices. Food availability from household production has decreased and food access has declined due to poor purchasing power.

Nationally, cereal production decreased significantly as poor rains led to less area planted. This also meant that opportunities for agricultural casual labour were significantly reduced. In the current period of analysis, 348,401 people - 24% of the rural population - are in IPC Phase 3 and 4 and require immediate humanitarian assistance.

National maize production decreased by 70%, wheat by 75%, and sorghum by 98%. Total planned imports by millers and wholesalers will cover the gap, but food access will remain a challenge: staple food prices have increased by 12.5% since 2018.

Even though the cereal deficit will be covered with imports from South Africa, the poor climate outlook and possible reduction in agricultural labour opportunities, together with possible price hikes, mean the situation is expected to deteriorate. Between October 2019 to March 2020, about 30% of the rural population – 433,410 people – will require humanitarian assistance, compared to 18% in 2018. In addition, 13.3% of the urban population – 75,000 people – will also require humanitarian assistance, compared to 9.2% in 2018.

The total requirement is estimated at 53,050 tons of maize or M 477.43 million (USD 32.7

million). Food aid donated by the governments of India and China will reduce the existing food gap to 45,100 tons.

Madagascar

As of June 2019, an estimated 730,522 people are in IPC phases 3 and 4 in southern Madagascar. By December 2019, this number is expected to increase to 916,201.

Many will deplete their food stocks early and food accessibility will decline. Cases of acute malnutrition cases are expected to remain high: 188,550 children 6-59 months are projected to require acute malnutrition treatment up to December 2019.

Urgent interventions are needed to reduce food deficits and protect livelihoods. A resilience strategy for the agricultural sector is needed. Food insecurity early warning systems should be strengthened, and households supported in diversifying their income sources and strengthening their productive capacity. Crops with high nutritional value should be introduced.

Malawi

While a few districts reported dry spells, rainfall was better than the previous year, with floods reported, mainly in the south.

Farm-gate prices of most crops slightly improved but remain generally too low for farmers to have good gross margins. All districts reported Fall Armyworm, but with minimal impact on overall crop performance.

As of July, about 676,057 people are food insecure (IPC Phase 3). This figure is expected

to increase between October 2019 and March 2020 to 1,126,147 people.

There are three rural districts that reported high global acute malnutrition rates of above 10%, namely Karongo (13.8%), Balaka (12.6%) and Mchinji (11.4%).

Shock-responsive targeted interventions should be scaled up to address chronic poverty and food and nutrition insecurity issues.

Mauritius

The country is classified as a Small Islands Developing State (SIDS). Mauritius is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its small size, remoteness and exposure to natural hazards, and its future is seriously compromised by the effects of climate change. A projected reduction in rainfall and an increase in evapotranspiration may lead to as much as a 15% to 25% decline in agricultural production by 2050. Freight costs for importation of food are high.

Mitigation and adaptation measures for the agriculture sector includes the planting of crop varieties adapted to climate change, as well as increasing land productivity with sustainable practices.

Mozambique

Multiple shocks affected food and nutrition security, including tropical cyclones, poor rainfall, pests, and conflict in the north.

In the shock-affected areas, about 1,648.646 million people are currently food insecure. This number includes 1,358,046 people food insecure from the 39 districts analyzed in the

IPC acute food insecurity analysis, and 290,600 estimated through secondary analysis.

Food access is a major factor in food insecurity: between 35% and 99% of households reported no maize stocks at time of assessment. Of the 31 districts assessed in 2019, it is estimated that at least 67,000 children are suffering from acute malnutrition and require treatment.

The humanitarian responses in Mozambique have been significant and prevented increasing deterioration in the worst affected areas. Nevertheless, it is projected that between October and February 2019, about 1,994,538 people will require assistance to recover livelihoods. This includes agricultural inputs, infrastructure reconstruction, income-generating activities and food assistance.

Namibia

Key drivers of vulnerability include prolonged drought, traditional agricultural practices, and low economic performance (lack of sustainable incomes and high unemployment).

Preliminary figures indicate that cereal production is 53% lower than the previous year and 42% lower than the 20-year average. According to the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Food Insecurity Indicators (CARI) approach, 36% of the population is food insecure (21% moderately and 15% severely food insecure). This totals 289,644 people severely food insecure and requiring humanitarian assistance.

Increasing food prices will further limit access. Over the short term, supplementary fortified food should be provided to improve the intake of micronutrients. Over the longer term, social

safety nets should be strengthened, agricultural research furthered, and conservation plans developed and implemented.

South Africa

According to the 2018 General Household Survey 2018 (released in May 2019), the number of people facing food access problems decreased from 14.58 million in 2015 to 13.67 in 2018. (Households purchase most of their food and rely on diversified sources of income.)

Current maize stock stands at 1,553 million tons, 42% less than last year. Food prices continue to increase, affecting the affordability of food items.

It is recommended that Government accelerates implementation of its National Food and Nutrition Security Plan, which appears to be bearing fruit. The need for the implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey is urgent for the identification of districts and local municipalities where food security problems are most severe. This will also assist with monitoring of progress in the priority districts of the NFNSP.

Tanzania, United Republic of

The country had a late onset of rains and some parts experienced extended dry spells, all of which affected crop production. Crop pests and market-related challenges were also recorded.

In February 2019, an IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Assessment and Analysis, conducted in 13 out of 31 regions, founds that about 2.9 million people were chronically food insecure.

Of these, 2.2 million people (13%) were in IPC Level 3 (moderately chronically food insecure), while 740,000 (4%) were experiencing IPC Level 4 - severely food insecure. In June 2019, about 25% of districts (46) were identified as having vulnerable pockets, compared to 5% in 2018.

Contributing factors include unsustainable livelihood strategies, high dependency on a single source of livelihood, low literacy rates, poor sanitation, and unimproved infrastructure such as electricity and roads.

Zambia

Preliminary findings indicate that currently about 19% of the rural population – 1,724,614 people - will require urgent assistance to protect their livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps.

About 16% of the rural population is already in IPC Phase 3, marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. An estimated 3% are in IPC Phase 4 and facing large food gaps. In the three most affected districts, the number of households in IPC Phase 4 is expected to increase as people resort to selling their livestock (a livelihood asset).

In the projected period - October 2019 to March 2020 - an estimated 2,330,182 people are estimated to be in IPC phase 3 and 4.

An estimated 5,000 people in Gwebe district, 13,000 in Shangómbo district, and 6,000 in Lunga district, are projected to be in IPC Phase 4. Households in these districts will face significant food consumption gaps. Fifty-two

districts are estimated to be in Phase 3, while 33 will be in Phase 2.

Only 39% of households reported cereal stocks of more than 6 months; of which only 31% had stock for more than 10 months. More districts are expected to slip into more severe IPC phases as food from own production depletes and reliance on purchases increases. It is expected that the current ban on exports of cereals will remain throughout the projected period and will ensure that cereal especially maize prices remain stable though increasing.

Drought, floods and pest infestation has resulted in a decrease in crop production. There should be close monitoring of food security risk factors such as outbreaks of pests and diseases; rainfall; and commodity prices, including the current ban on grain. Any change in the policy will negatively affect the food security situation. Malnutrition is expected to increase, and hence active monitoring of nutrition levels is important. Cash-based transfers should be considered. However, given dwindling food stocks, food assistance may also be necessary.

Zimbabwe

Poor rainfall and extended dry spells exacerbated poor economic performance and the limited availability - or unaffordability - of agricultural inputs for most communal farmers. The Fall Armyworm, livestock diseases and Tropical Cyclone Idai also impacted livelihoods and agricultural production.

Cash shortages remained the most prevalent shock experienced by households (81.5%) followed by changes in cereal prices (78.8%)

and drought (75.9%). Most households (53%) were consuming borderline to poor diets – an 8% increase from 2018. The 2019 national global acute malnutrition is 3.6%, an increase from 2.5% in 2018. The highest prevalence is in Mashonaland East (4.4%) and lowest in Midlands (2.3%).

There was also an increase in the proportion of households with at least one member living with HIV/AIDS: from 12% in 2018 to 27% in 2019.

Between January and March 2019, an estimated 59% of the rural households will be cereal insecure – about 5.53 million people. Assistance required amounts to 818,323 tons of maize, costed at USD 217.66 million.

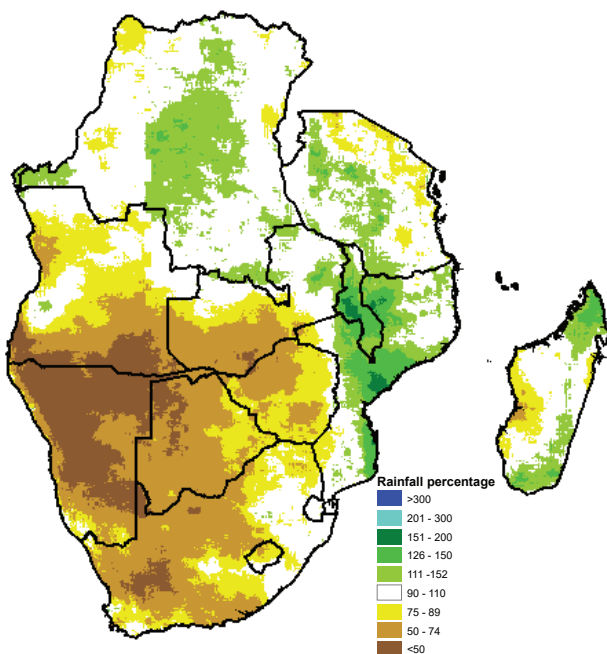
Overview

An estimated **41.2 million** people in 13 SADC Member States are food insecure this year – 10% of the rural population. When comparing the 11 Member States that provided data last year, food insecurity increased by a staggering 28%. It is also 7.4% higher than it was during the severe El Niño-induced drought of 2016/17. Cereal production declined in each of the ten Member States that provided data.

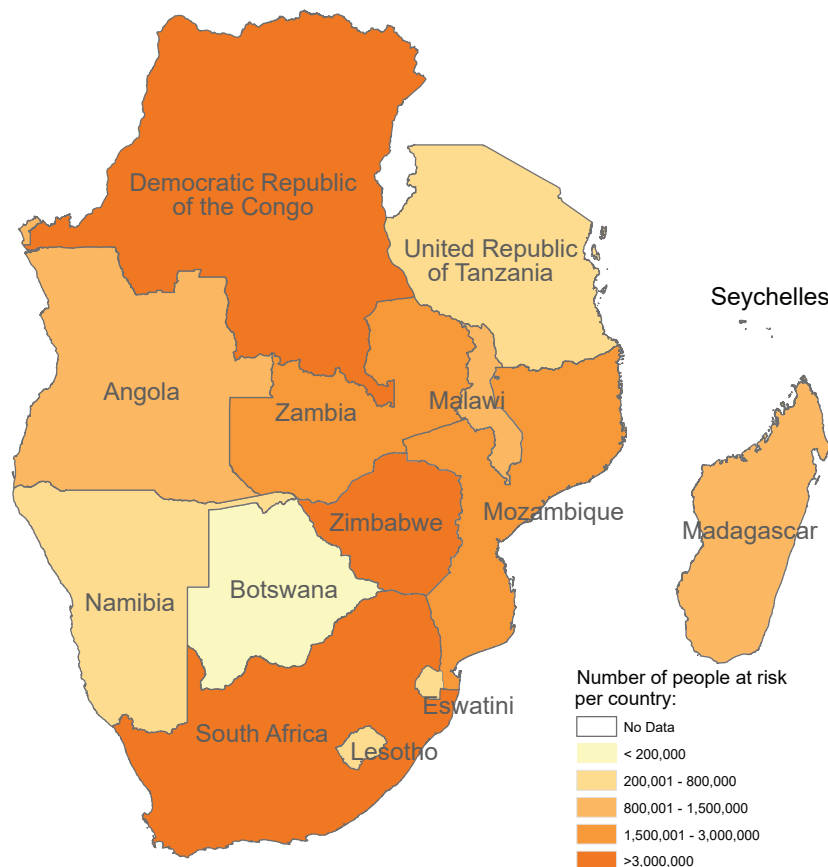
The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (wasting - being too thin for your height) among children under age 5 is above 5% in 7 Member States, with some areas above 10%.

The situation indicates a cumulative effect of persistent drought conditions compounded by floods, pests, conflict (in DRC and northern Mozambique), economic challenges, poverty and chronic structural issues. These drivers are exacerbated by climate change.

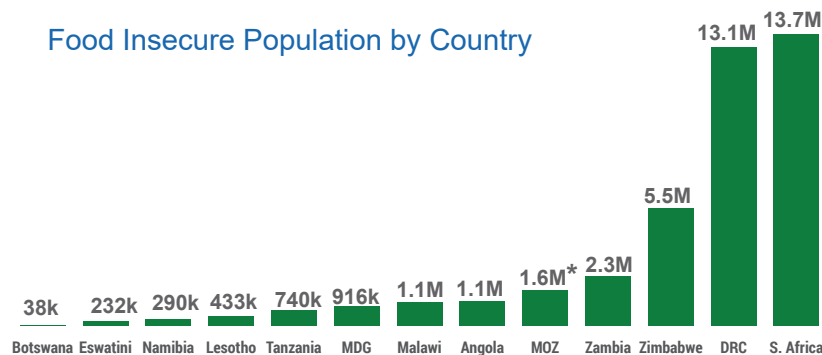
Rainfall as percent of average (1 Oct 2018 - 31 Mar 2019)



Population at risk of food and livelihoods insecurity



Food Insecure Population by Country



*The number of food insecure people to increase to 1.99M in Oct 2019 - Mar 2020.

Key Figures

41.2M
food insecure
people

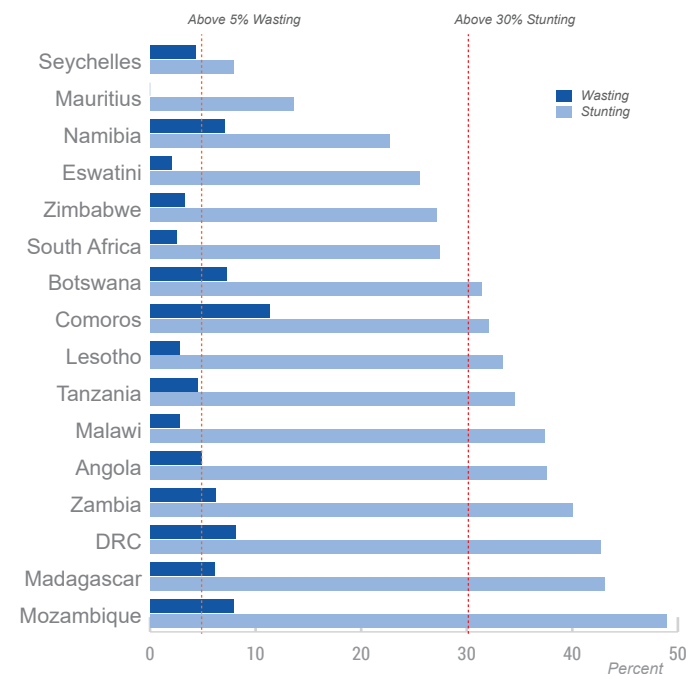
10 Countries
stunting levels
above 30%

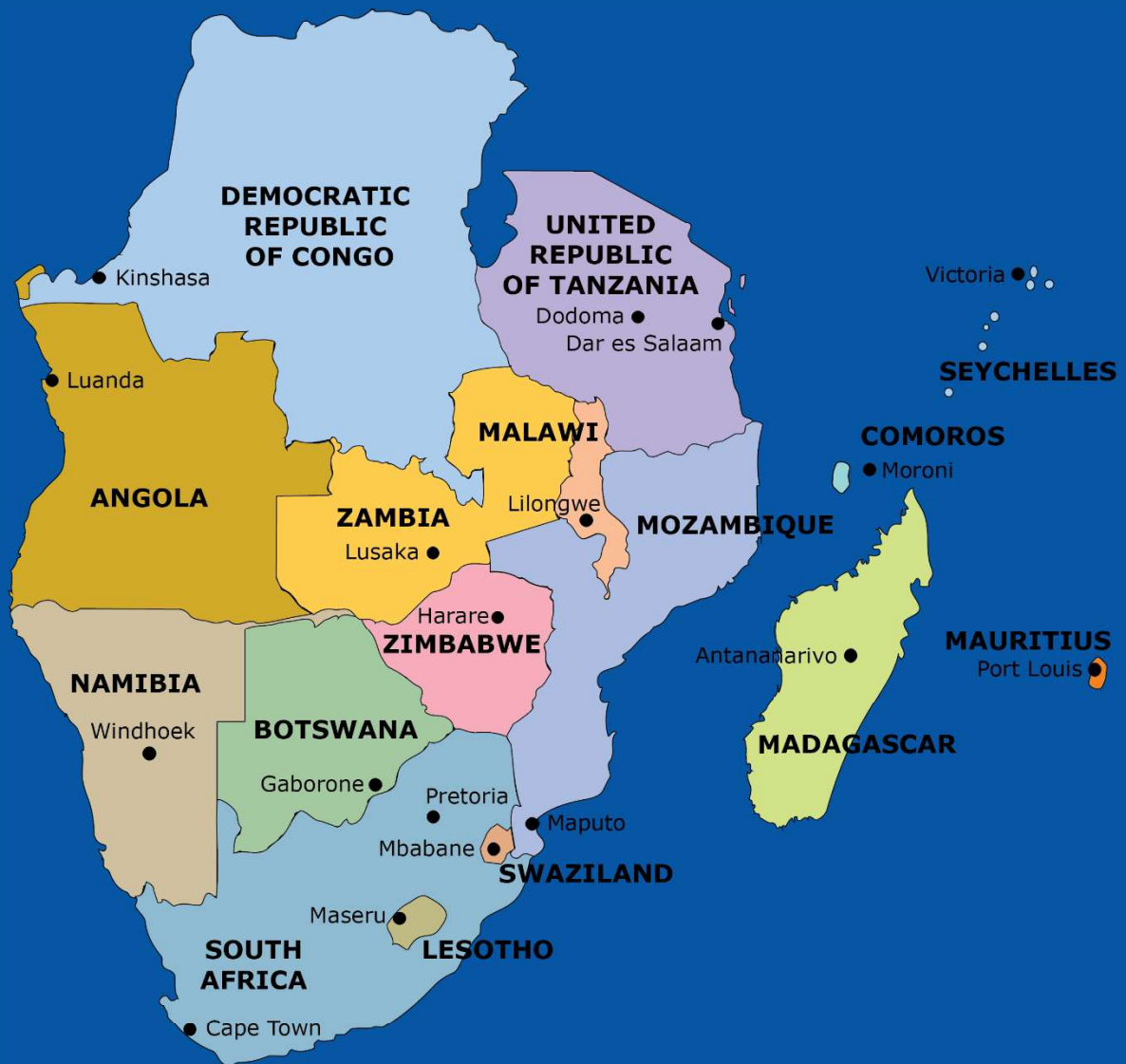
Regional Socio - Economic Context

Life expectancy	60.5 years (2017)
Population under 35 years	76% (approx. 222 million people)
Human Development Index	0.42 - 0.78 (2015)
Adult Literacy	58.8 - 95.3% (2007 - 2016)
Unemployment	4.7 - 28.7% (2011)
Poverty index	6.7 - 77.1%
Economic Growth Rate	-2.5 - 7.1% (2017)
Inflation	0.9 - 54.7% (2017)
HIV and AIDS	0.10 - 27.2% (2016)

Overview of Malnutrition of children under five

Stunting remains very high in the region, with 10 of the 16 countries recording stunting prevalence above 30% as shown below. Wasting among children under 5 is above 5% in seven (7) Member States.





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