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BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**SOUTHERN AFRICA – UPDATE**

Information Bulletin # 2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

May 21, 2004

*Note: the last situation report was dated February 27, 2004.*

**Background**

A number of countries in southern Africa are currently experiencing food insecurity due to adverse climatic conditions during three consecutive growing seasons. The HIV/AIDS epidemic, a poor economic environment, and restrictive government policies that limit private sector commerce continue to exacerbate food insecurity. During the 2001/2002 agricultural season, unusually dry conditions extended across much of the region, from southern Zambia eastward to southern Mozambique, resulting in crop failures and limited production in many areas. The response of the United Nations (U.N.), the U.S. Government (USG), relief agencies, and international donors during 2002 and 2003 reduced the impact of severe food shortages and prevented further deterioration of vulnerable communities. Malawi, Zambia, and parts of Mozambique experienced improvements in cereal production during the 2002/2003 agricultural season. Continued drought and a poor 2002/2003 agricultural season in Swaziland, Lesotho, southern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar resulted in increasing numbers of people requiring emergency food assistance. During the 2003/2004 agricultural season, Namibia experienced both drought and flood conditions. In FY 2004, northern and western areas of Madagascar were impacted by two cyclones, while southern Madagascar experienced a third consecutive year of drought. Zimbabwe continues to face a serious humanitarian crisis, with more than half the population at risk of food insecurity.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		
Country	Population in Need of Food Assistance	Source
Lesotho	600,000	WFP, January 2004
Malawi	435,538	WFP, January 2004
Mozambique	659,000	Mozambique VAC, November 2003
Swaziland	265,000	National Disaster Task Force, January 2004
Zambia	262,000	WFP, January 2004
Zimbabwe	7,520,000	FEWS NET, January 2004 and ZIMVAC, February 2004

**Current Situation**

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network's (FEWS NET) Southern Africa Food Security Brief for April 2004 reported that preliminary harvest forecasts are mixed as most southern African countries have experienced either drought or flood conditions during the 2003/2004 agricultural season. Drought conditions and the delayed onset of the rainy season have adversely impacted Lesotho, Swaziland, central Mozambique, southern Malawi, and parts of Zimbabwe and South Africa. Due to heavy rainfall, flooding along the banks of the Zambezi River and other important river systems, especially in Namibia and Zambia, has caused crop damage and may result in reduced crop yields. Increased rainfall during the January to March 2004 period, however, resulted in significant improvements in crop growing conditions and benefited late planted crops in Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, where preliminary assessments indicate higher production estimates. Increased harvest expectations in South Africa will improve projected regional maize availability and access.

Joint U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)/ World Food Program (WFP) Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAM) and national Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VAC) are underway in the most severely affected countries of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Swaziland, with the exceptions of Zimbabwe, where the government cancelled the CFSAM on May 4, and Zambia, where a second consecutive year of favorable production prospects do not warrant an external crop assessment. The findings of these assessments, to be released in May and June, should provide a more detailed picture of the 2004/2005 marketing season.

**Lesotho.** Three consecutive years of adverse weather, combined with poverty and the effects of HIV/AIDS, continue to negatively affect Lesotho. Late and inadequate rains during the 2003/2004 agricultural season led to significantly reduced plantings and resulted in low crop production. In addition, according to the WFP April 30 Emergency Report, the first frosts of the 2004 winter season have adversely affected maize and sorghum crops in the northern areas of Thaba-Tseka, Quthing, and Semonkong, and horticultural crops, such as beans and pumpkins, in other parts of Lesotho. A "rapid crop assessment" conducted jointly by FAO and WFP in February 2004 indicated a decrease of approximately 54 percent in total grain production compared to the 2002/2003 agricultural season total of 89,000 metric tons (MT).

A livelihood vulnerability monitoring exercise, conducted by the Lesotho VAC from March 3 to 11, indicated that food security is deteriorating. The decrease in crop production has resulted in a 20 to 50 percent increase in food prices. The most severely affected area is the southern Lowlands, where a food needs deficit of more than 40 percent exists. The Lesotho VAC completed a more extensive national assessment during the week of May 3, but results are not yet available.

**Madagascar.** Drought conditions continue for the third year in southern Madagascar with the late arrival of rains in December 2003, resulting in decreased harvests and access to water. According to WFP, between 30,000 and 35,000 people are food insecure in six districts in the south. In addition, northeastern and western parts of Madagascar have suffered from two cyclones in 2004: Elita in January and Gafilo in March. While Elita left approximately 304,000 people without shelter and damaged more than 45,000 hectares of agricultural land, Gafilo affected more than 309,000 people and approximately 47,000 hectares of cropland. Damaged infrastructure and stagnant floodwaters continue to hinder humanitarian access to some affected populations and pose increased risk of waterborne diseases.

**Malawi.** The delayed start of the main rains during the 2003/2004 agricultural season adversely affected maize production in Malawi. In addition, the rains ended in March before the maize crops had fully matured, and some farmers expect to harvest almost no maize, according to the FEWS NET Malawi Food Security Report for mid-March to mid-April. The poor harvest prospects have resulted in high food prices in most areas of the country, causing concern about worsening food insecurity, particularly in the Southern Region. USAID staff participated in the Malawi VAC from March 26 to 31 in conjunction with Government of Malawi, WFP, FEWS NET, and other humanitarian agencies. While the USAID team concluded that the humanitarian situation is stable in the Southern Region, the team noted concern about a potential food security crisis during the upcoming 2004/2005 marketing season due to drought and poor harvest prospects. A final VAC report has not yet been released.

**Mozambique.** The 2003/2004 agricultural season in Mozambique has been characterized by the late onset of rains, dry spells, and heavy rains that caused flooding along the main rivers. Despite the late rains, replanting and improved rainfall in the latter half of the season have permitted crops to develop, leading to near-normal production estimates and a favorable harvest outlook. According to the May 5 FEWS NET Executive Overview of Food Security Threats, the ongoing harvest is gradually coming to markets across Mozambique, which should help to address the significant deficits noted above in southern Malawi.

**Namibia.** Two consecutive years of drought in Namibia have adversely affected an estimated 642,000 people in the northern cereal-producing regions of Caprivi and Kavango. The drought is exacerbating existing problems in these regions, including HIV/AIDS and malnutrition. In addition, heavy rainfall since early March has caused flooding along the Zambezi River in the Caprivi Region. The flooding has forced up to 50,000 Namibians to be evacuated and rely on humanitarian assistance. Livestock grazing areas and fields were completely submerged in the affected areas, and the majority of crops were lost.

**Swaziland.** The prospects for the 2003/2004 agricultural season in Swaziland are poor due to the delayed start and erratic distribution of rains, a poor economic environment, and the impact of HIV/AIDS. From April 19 to 21, USAID/OFDA Principal Regional Advisor visited Swaziland to participate in the national VAC. The visit confirmed that the food security situation is deteriorating for the poorest members of communities, who expect little or no harvest this year. The poorest community members were unable to purchase sufficient seed to replant when initial crops failed due to delayed rainfall. The Lubombo Plateau and the Lowveld region are the most severely affected areas due to the increased effects of HIV/AIDS and worsening poverty, according to the WFP March 19 Emergency Report.

**Zambia.** The 2003/2004 agricultural season has been positive for Zambia as overall crop conditions are favorable throughout the country, according to the FEWS NET Zambia Report for April. However, two months of heavy rain resulted in flooding during March and April in the Western and North-Western provinces, adversely impacting the health, education, and food security of more than 21,000 households, according to U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). A joint FAO/UN OCHA mission in March reported that crops of maize and rice in the Kalabo, Mongu, and Lukulu districts of the Western Province were damaged due to the flooding, raising concern about a potential increase in food insecurity and malnutrition. Due to the favorable harvest outlook, no CFSAM will be conducted in Zambia, and the government survey will be the only source of crop estimates.

**Zimbabwe.** Despite erratic and infrequent rains during the first half of the 2003/2004 rainy season, prospects for the agricultural season in Zimbabwe have improved due to favorable rainfall late in the season. The February FEWS NET Zimbabwe Food Security Update reported that a significant improvement in the country's cumulative rainfall since mid-February has benefited late-season crops planted between mid-December 2003 and early January 2004. However, such

constraints as the Government of Zimbabwe's (GOZ) land redistribution policy, a shortage of seed and other agricultural inputs, high seed prices, and a shortage of draft power resulted in a decrease in crop area planted.

In May, the GOZ indicated that the 2003/2004 season's maize harvest would be 2.4 million MT and informed international donors that the country no longer needs emergency food assistance. However, projections from independent agencies place the harvest in the range of 600,000 MT to 1.7 million MT. Despite prior agreement with the U.N., on May 4, the GOZ cancelled the Zimbabwe CFSAM, without official written confirmation or explanation. Without the CFSAM, no accurate and authoritative data on the country's crop production will be available to establish the need for international food assistance during the 2004/2005 marketing season.

### U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

Since the onset of the complex food security crisis in southern Africa in February 2002, the USG has provided more than \$533 million in humanitarian assistance through USAID/OFDA and USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).<sup>1</sup> To date in FY 2004, the USG has contributed more than \$124 million. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$9.3 million to support humanitarian needs in the southern Africa region. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8 million. USAID/OFDA's programs in southern Africa focus on emergency response in the sectors of food security, agriculture, nutrition, health, and water and sanitation, while strengthening international response coordination, information dissemination, and monitoring.

<sup>1</sup>USG assistance figures do not include FY 2002 funding to Namibia and Madagascar as they were not affected by the complex food security crisis in southern Africa.

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE – Lesotho*</b>			
WVI	Food Security/Agriculture	Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Berea, Leribe	\$347,541
USAID	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$4,800
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$352,341</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE – Lesotho**</b>			
WFP	17,565 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,539,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$10,539,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO IN FY 2004 .....</b>			<b>\$10,891,341</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE – Madagascar*</b>			
CRS	Food Security/Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	Toliary	\$499,108
Diplomat Freight Services	Transport of non-food items	Countrywide	\$79,900
USAID/Madagascar	Disaster Response for Cyclone Elita	Countrywide	\$50,000
USAID/Madagascar	Disaster Response for Cyclone Gafilo	Countrywide	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$679,008</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR IN FY 2004.....</b>			<b>\$679,008</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE - Malawi**</b>			
C-SAFE	14,640 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,350,480
WFP	4,740 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,351,180
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$13,701,660</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI IN FY 2004 .....</b>			<b>\$13,701,660</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE – Mozambique*</b>			
FEWS NET	Risk Reduction	Countrywide	\$185,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$185,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE - Mozambique**</b>			
WFP	27,070 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,242,000

<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$16,242,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE IN FY 2004 .....</b>				<b>\$16,427,000</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE - Namibia*</b>				
IFRC	Three Zodiac Boats, including transport	Caprivi		\$38,227
Africare	Food Security/Agriculture	Kavango		\$50,000
USAID/Namibia	Non-Food Items	Caprivi		\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$138,227</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NAMIBIA IN FY 2004 .....</b>				<b>\$138,227</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE - Swaziland**</b>				
WFP	7,544 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide		\$4,526,400
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$4,526,400</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SWAZILAND IN FY 2004 .....</b>				<b>\$4,526,400</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE - Zambia**</b>				
C-SAFE	5,590 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide		\$3,741,578
WFP	4,000 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide		\$2,677,337
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$6,418,915</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA IN FY 2004 .....</b>				<b>\$6,418,915</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE – Zimbabwe*</b>				
AFRICARE	Food security/Agriculture	Midlands, Mashonaland East		\$942,325
CARE	Food security/Agriculture	Masvingo, Manicaland		\$936,811
CRS	Food security/Agriculture, Nutrition	Matabeleland North and South, Midlands, Masvingo, Manicaland, Mashonaland East		\$775,000
DAI	Food security/Agriculture	Matabeleland North and South, Midlands, Masvingo, Manicaland, Mashonaland East		\$720,353
IOM	Food security/Agriculture	Countrywide		\$1,300,000
UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide		\$200,000
WFP	Food security/Agriculture, Monitoring/Evaluation	Countrywide		\$800,000
WVI	Food security/Agriculture	Matabeleland South, Masvingo		\$510,781
WVI	Water and Sanitation	Matabeleland North and South		\$489,081
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$6,674,351</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE - Zimbabwe**</b>				
C-SAFE	54,360 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide		\$34,410,000
WFP	51,261 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide		\$30,756,600
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$65,166,600</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2004 .....</b>				<b>\$71,840,951</b>

**TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA IN FY 2004 .....** **\$124,623,502**

\* USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of May 21 2004.

\*\* USAID/FFP values are based on average values per metric ton.



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