



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

***SOUTHERN AFRICA – Complex Food Security Crisis***

Situation Report #13, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

October 4, 2002

*Note: the last situation report was dated September 20, 2002.*

**BACKGROUND**

A number of Southern African countries are currently experiencing food security crises, due to a combination of adverse climate conditions for two consecutive growing seasons, mismanagement of grain reserves, and questionable government policies, primarily in Zimbabwe. During the past production 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. Normally, food stocks carried over from the previous year and the intra-regional trade of surplus commodities help to offset production shortfalls. This year, however, regional stocks are exceptionally low, as they were drawn down to fill the previous year's food shortages, and surplus commodities within the region are limited. Zimbabwe is facing a serious humanitarian crisis, with nearly half the population at risk. Humanitarian food crises also exist in Malawi and Zambia. Poor and vulnerable households in Swaziland and Lesotho and some parts of Mozambique also require food assistance. The governments of several countries have declared national disasters due to actual and anticipated food shortages, including Malawi (February 27), Lesotho (April 22), Zimbabwe (April 30), and Zambia (May 28). In July, the U.N. issued a regional Consolidated Interagency Appeal (CAP) to meet the food and non-food emergency humanitarian needs in Southern Africa. The U.N. appealed for \$611 million from donors, including \$507 million for food aid through the U.N. World Food Program's (WFP) Emergency Operation (EMOP). Since the beginning of 2002, in response to the food security crisis, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided or pledged more than \$282 million in humanitarian assistance through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The majority of the humanitarian assistance has been emergency food relief provided by USAID/FFP.

**NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – POPULATIONS IN NEED : SEPTEMBER 1, 2002 TO MARCH 31, 2003**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Maximum Number of Population in Need<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Maximum Percentage of Total (Country/Region) Population in Need<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Cumulative Emergency Food Aid and Cereal Requirements (MT)<sup>1</sup></i>
Zimbabwe	6,700,000	49%	486,000
Malawi	3,300,000	29%	237,000
Zambia	2,900,000	26%	224,000
Lesotho	650,000	30%	36,000
Mozambique	590,000	3%	48,000
Swaziland	270,000	24%	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,400,000</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Anticipated populations and food aid needs are based on SADC FANR assessments released on September 16, 2002. (Numbers are rounded.)

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance provided, to date..... \$282,705,946**  
**Total USG Food Aid provided, to date, in Metric Tons (MT)..... 499,513**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

***Latest Shipment of U.S. Food Aid to the Region.*** The USAID-chartered ships *Liberty Grace*, with 46,00 MT of food commodities, and *M/V Amalfi*, with 14,000 MT of food commodities, are scheduled to arrive in Southern

Africa during the week of September 30. The arrival of these two ships will bring the total tonnage delivered to the region to approximately 260,000 MT.

***Update on the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP).*** As of September 24, WFP reported that 37 percent of the

EMOP, issued on July 1, has been funded. Nearly 70 percent of contributions so far are from the USG. WFP is facing a shortfall in pledges of approximately \$322 million for the entire EMOP.

**Controversy Over Biotech-Derived Food Aid.** Some governments in Southern African have expressed concerns about biotech food aid. The Government of Zambia (GRZ) announced on August 16 that it would not accept biotech-derived food aid due to health and environmental concerns. On September 5, in a reversal of its earlier position, Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) announced that while it would accept biotech-derived food assistance, the biotech corn would be quarantined in country and milled before distribution. The governments of Mozambique and Malawi also share concerns over the environmental effects of biotech food, but will accept such food aid as long as it is milled before distribution. Swaziland and Lesotho have continued to accept all relief food aid of biotech origin, provided it is milled.

## COUNTRY UPDATES

**Zimbabwe.** The September 16 Southern African Development Community's Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Vulnerability Committee (SADC FANR) report noted that Zimbabwe faces an unmet cereal gap of 379,020 MT, and 94 percent of farmers lack seed for the 2002/2003 planting season. As a result, 90 percent of households in the country will be dependent on grain purchases. At present, 75 percent of households have less than 50 kg of corn in stock.

According to the U.N. Relief and Recovery Unit in Harare (RRU), approximately 47,500 MT of corn seed is available in the country. The Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) announced that seed producers can raise their prices by between 120 and 300 percent. The move is intended to encourage the release of seeds for the upcoming planting season. The GOZ also announced that it will provide small-scale farmers with 25,000 MT of corn seed and 500 MT of small grains seed, which would be enough to plant up to 1.0 million hectares. However, there are serious shortages of fertilizer, tractors, and implements and draught livestock have been severely weakened as a result of foot and mouth disease in Masvingo, Matebeleland, and Midlands Provinces.

WFP has distributed 44,742 MT to 825,000 Zimbabweans since February 2002. In addition, in September, the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) imported 5,707 MT, part of the contracted 50,000 MT, which should help to alleviate some bread shortages in urban areas. According to the GMB, winter wheat harvests are reaching depots earlier than in past years. As of September 24, more than 5,000 MT of wheat had been delivered to the GMB, compared to zero MT in earlier years. Local media reports indicate that in addition to dropping the import duties on wheat, the GOZ will

provide \$692,689 to the GMB for the purchase of wheat from local farmers. Additionally, on September 27, WFP, the GOZ, and the GMB agreed to a grain swap that would allow WFP to trade 17,500 MT of U.S.-donated biotech corn to the GMB for an equal amount of non-biotech corn.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of September 24, a cholera outbreak in Masvingo Province has resulted in 462 reported cases and 24 deaths. The outbreak is linked to poor water and sanitation facilities resulting from the drought and the effects of Cyclone Eline. WHO has provided \$210,484 million for the purchase of drugs in response to the outbreak.

**Malawi.** According to the SADC FANR food security assessment, Malawi's 2001/2002 corn production was 1.6 million MT, 28 percent lower than the five year average and six percent less than the previous year. The resulting crop deficit is 572,000 MT. The Government of Malawi is planning to import 250,000 MT of corn to be sold at a subsidized price. Although prices have begun to stabilize, they are highest in the worst-affected southern and central regions.

WFP food distributions to 7,500 AIDS-affected households in Lilongwe, Phalombe, Blantyre, and Chiradzulu Districts are scheduled to begin in late October.

**Zambia.** The SADC FANR assessment estimated that the unrecovered cereal gap in Zambia is 439,000 MT. The worst-affected areas are in the Southern Province where between 90 and 100 percent of the households have run out of grain stocks. The rapid increase in market prices has exacerbated the situation. In addition, more than 70 percent of households lack seeds. The Government of Zambia (GRZ) expects that the purchase of 40,000 MT of roller corn meal from local millers will meet the country's food needs in October/November. WFP has also obtained permits to import 12,000 MT of corn from South Africa for Zambia.

**Mozambique.** According to the SADC FANR assessment, while overall cereal production in Mozambique for 2002 was five percent higher than in 2001, in southern parts of the country production declined by 34 percent. Current trends indicate that food prices could increase to levels beyond the reach of poorer households. However, both cereal imports and winter cropping look promising.

The Government of Mozambique distributed over 30,300 seed kits in the southern and central provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Manica, and Sofala. The Ministry of Agriculture also held an operational meeting with WFP, FAO, donors, and the administrators of 48 drought-affected districts.

**Lesotho.** The SADC FANR assessment revealed that 48 percent of rural households in Lesotho lack cereal stocks and are unable to afford most commercial food commodities. Only 17 percent of households have legume seeds for planting. The worst-affected districts are Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, Quthing, and Thaba Tseka. The assessment found that 7.5 percent of children under the age of five in rural areas were either moderately or severely wasted (weight to height ratio). However, these rates fall below the 15-20 percent levels deemed by the WHO to constitute a nutritional emergency.

Two new WFP sub-offices in Mokhotlong and Mafeteng are operational and are expected to begin food distributions in early October. WFP assistance currently reaches five districts. The Government of Lesotho confirmed that it will fund the milling of 10,000 tons of US maize that has arrived in Durban, South Africa.

**Swaziland.** According to findings from the SADC FANR assessment, crop production in 2001/2002 was 33 percent lower than the five-year average. As a result, Swaziland faces a food gap of 130,000 MT, 71 percent of the total domestic requirement. The Government of Swaziland is preparing a budget to cover 40 percent of the food gap faced by the country. Lowveld and the Lumobo Plateau are the worst-affected areas, where corn prices have doubled from last year. Chronic malnutrition affects 40 percent of children under the age of five. Compounding food insecurity, 29 percent of households are headed by one or no adults between the ages of 19 and 60.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

Since the beginning of 2002, the USG has provided or pledged more than \$282 million in emergency humanitarian assistance in response to the food security crisis.

USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$10 million in non-food programs that are currently underway in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, and Lesotho. USAID/OFDA has also provided \$1 million to WFP to assist with its regional management and logistics coordination. In addition, USAID/OFDA will continue to address needs in water and sanitation, coordination, nutrition, and health, particularly preparing for outbreaks of endemic and other opportunistic diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, and childhood diseases.

In addition to emergency humanitarian efforts for the food security crisis in Southern Africa, USAID programs are designed to reduce the risk of future crises through the Agricultural Initiative to Cut Hunger in Africa. The primary objective of the Initiative is to have a rapid and sustainable increase in agricultural growth and hence rural incomes in sub-Saharan Africa. That initiative will accomplish its objectives in part through advancing scientific and technological applications that will raise agricultural productivity and create agriculture-based

enterprises, and improving the efficiency of, and participation in, agricultural trade and market systems.

In response to the ongoing HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Southern Africa region, USAID's Africa Bureau (USAID/AFR) is supporting HIV/AIDS prevention, control, care, and support initiatives, as well as programs for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children, in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. USAID/AFR also supports a regional HIV/AIDS program in Southern Africa that focuses on cross-border activities in the region.

USAID is also sponsoring the SADC Regional Workshop on the Safety of Biotech Maize in Food Aid in Gabrone, Botswana in November. Participants will include technical experts from Africa, Europe, and the United States, along with technical advisors and policymakers from affected countries in Southern Africa. The meeting will address the immediate technical and policy issues related to biotech corn in food aid.

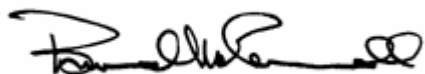
**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE  
SOUTHERN AFRICA FOOD SECURITY CRISIS**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>Lesotho</b>	USAID/OFDA	U.S. Embassy in Lesotho	Agriculture	\$20,000
	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 27,210 MT	\$13,605,000
	<b>TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO</b>			<b>\$13,625,000</b>
<b>Malawi</b>	USAID/OFDA	USAID/Malawi	Supplementary Feeding	\$25,000
	USAID/OFDA	UNICEF	Emergency Nutrition	\$1,099,800
	USAID/OFDA	Malawian Red Cross	Health	\$100,000
	USAID/OFDA	CARE	Agriculture	\$772,552
	USAID/OFDA	World Vision	Agriculture	\$1,172,600
	USAID/OFDA	CRS	Agriculture	\$645,172
	USAID/OFDA	WHO	Cholera Response and Prevention	\$825,866
	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 84,880 MT	\$42,440,000
	<b>Total USAID</b>			<b>\$47,080,990</b>
	USDA	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance: 3,000 MT	\$1,243,382
<b>TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI</b>			<b>\$48,324,372</b>	
<b>Mozambique</b>	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 17,390 MT	\$8,695,000
	<b>TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE</b>			<b>\$8,695,000</b>
<b>Swaziland</b>	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 12,400 MT	\$6,200,000
	<b>TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO SWAZILAND</b>			<b>\$6,200,000</b>
<b>Zambia</b>	USAID/OFDA	U.S. Embassy in Zambia	Transportation Logistics	\$50,000
	USAID/OFDA	CARE	Agriculture	\$611,308
	USAID/OFDA	CLUSA	Agriculture	\$249,383
	USAID/ODFA	World Vision	Agriculture	\$627,869
	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 24,100 MT	\$12,050,000
	<b>Total USAID</b>			<b>\$13,588,560</b>
	USDA	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance: 15,000 MT	\$7,093,354
	<b>TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA</b>			<b>\$20,681,914</b>

<b>Zimbabwe</b>	USAID/OFDA	UN OCHA	Field Coordination	\$100,000
	USAID/OFDA	UN OCHA	IDP Advisor and Monitor	\$231,525
	USAID/OFDA	CARE	Agriculture	\$945,242
	USAID/OFDA	World Vision	Agriculture	\$549,072
	USAID/OFDA	CRS	Agriculture/Nutrition	\$1,099,822
	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 83,820 MT	\$41,910,000
	USAID/FFP*	World Vision	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance: 19,710 MT	\$11,744,001
	<b>Total USAID</b>			<b>\$56,579,662</b>
	USDA	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance: 8,500 MT	\$4,958,052
<b>TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE</b>			<b>\$61,537,714</b>	
<b>Regional Support</b>	USAID/OFDA	WFP	Regional Management and Logistics Coordination	\$1,000,000
<b>Region (Country allocation to be finalized)</b>	USAID/FFP*	TBD	Emerson Trust: 161,050 MT	\$84,870,200
			P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance: 42,453 MT	\$30,977,600

<b><i>SUMMARY OF USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE</i></b>	
<b>USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)</b>	<b>\$10,125,211</b>
<b>USAID/Office of Food For Peace (FFP)*</b>	<b>\$252,491,801</b>
<b>USAID Total</b>	<b>\$269,411,158</b>
<b>U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Total</b>	<b>\$13,294,788</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, TO DATE</b>	<b>\$282,705,946</b>

\* Note: USAID/FFP values are estimates. Commodities may be reallocated as required to meet changing needs.



Bernd McConnell  
Director, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

\*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda).