



**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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

November 1, 2002

Note: the last situation report was dated October 18, 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 restrictive government policies that severely inhibit private sector commerce. 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 \$276 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 Need¹</i>	<i>Maximum Percentage of Total (Country/Region) Population in Need¹</i>
Zimbabwe	6,700,000	49%
Malawi	3,300,000	29%
Zambia	2,900,000	26%
Lesotho	650,000	30%
Mozambique	590,000	3%
Swaziland	270,000	24%
Total	14,400,000	25%

¹ 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..... \$276,029,550
Total USG Food Aid provided, to date, in Metric Tons (MT)..... 499,193

CURRENT SITUATION

Latest Shipment of U.S. Food Aid to the Region.

The *Liberty Sun* is expected to arrive in the region on November 15, with 58,250 MT of corn. The *Golden Bay* is scheduled to arrive at the end of November. The commodities aboard these two ships will bring the total

tonnage delivered to the region to approximately 400,000.

Update on the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP).

On October 28, WFP reported that 56 percent of the EMOP (559,066 MT) had been funded. Approximately 45 percent of contributions so far are from the USG.

WFP is facing a shortfall in pledges of approximately \$256 million for the entire EMOP.

Controversy Over Biotech-Derived Food Aid. On October 29, following recommendations made by a team of Zambian scientists, the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) announced that it would not accept biotech-derived food assistance. The GRZ cited Zambia's lack of biotechnology and biosafety legislation, the potential risk of contamination of traditional crops, and threats to Zambia's ability to export crops as reasons for its decision. The GRZ also rejected all biotech-derived food commodities already in the country, even if milled.

The Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) has stated that it will accept biotech-derived food assistance, provided it is quarantined and milled before distribution. The governments of Mozambique and Malawi have expressed concerns over the environmental effects of biotech food, but are accepting 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. According to an October 29 report from the U.N. Relief and Recovery Unit in Harare (RRU), food import levels by the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) are insufficient to meet national consumption requirements. A shortage of foreign currency has severely limited the GMB's ability to import an adequate volume of cereals. According to the RRU, removing the GMB's monopoly on grain imports, and thus allowing the private sector to assist in alleviating the food shortages, will be required to ensure increased access to food.

WFP plans to significantly increase food distributions in the coming months. In November, WFP will distribute approximately 50,000 MT of food assistance to 3 million beneficiaries in 35 districts. By January 2003, the targeted beneficiaries will increase to 5.9 million people. However, WFP food distributions in Insiza District have been temporarily suspended following the unauthorized distribution of three MT of food commodities by ZANU-PF activists.

Malawi. From October 3 to October 6, a USAID/OFDA team visited Malawi to assess the response to the food security crisis. According to USAID/Malawi, the primary cause of food insecurity in the country is a combination of declining agricultural productivity, limited off-farm employment options, chronic poverty, limited household assets, and high HIV/AIDS prevalence. Domestic production during the 2001/2002 growing season was very low. While annual consumption is estimated at 1,980,000 MT, production in 2001/2002 was only 1,376,000 MT. The early harvesting of green maize for immediate consumption has also compounded current food insecurity. In addition, many rural households are

unable to afford food commodities due to high market prices. USAID/Malawi is encouraging crop diversification into higher-value crops to boost rural incomes and improve food security, an approach recently funded by USAID/OFDA agricultural recovery programs.

The continuing food security crisis and the approach of the rainy season threaten another cholera epidemic in Malawi. However, there is a consensus among the relief community that it is prepared to respond to the situation. USAID/OFDA is supporting UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) programs to strength the cholera epidemic response by improving rural monitoring and surveillance infrastructure, which will more quickly identify and provide accurate information regarding cholera outbreaks.

Zambia. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the GRZ's October 29 decision to not accept biotech food commodities will complicate efforts to provide food assistance to approximately three million people in need. Consequently, WFP announced that it may be unable to provide food aid to all the targeted beneficiaries in the country. WFP currently has two week's worth of food commodities and needs approximately 21,000 MT of food per month to meet requirements. During October, WFP distributions reached only half of the intended beneficiaries in Zambia. WFP's expected levels of food commodities available for distribution in November remain minimal. The next shipments of food commodities are not expected to arrive in the country until December. WFP also plans to transfer 15,000 MT of biotech corn that has been stored in Zambia since the GRZ announced a ban on the commodities in August to other countries in the region.

Mozambique. With present resources, WFP is only able to provide a full food basket to approximately 60 percent of the total population in need in Mozambique. In addition, 92 percent of food assistance distributed during the present food security crisis has been channeled through Food for Work programs. As a result, assistance may not be reaching some of the most vulnerable populations.

Lesotho. WFP food distributions in Lesotho are now reaching six out of the eight targeted districts. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has announced an additional contribution of seeds to Lesotho, valued at \$250,000. WFP plans to distribute the seeds to 21,000 households.

Swaziland. According to WFP, local populations in Swaziland are demanding increased food aid distributions. In response, the National Disaster Task Force is examining the situation. WFP and its implementing partners have signed letters of understanding to increase the number of targeted beneficiaries to 265,400 by December.

Namibia. On October 31, WFP reported delays in food distributions, provided by the Government of Namibia, (GON) to approximately 345,000 beneficiaries in northern areas of the country. WFP assistance is presently reaching more than 18,000 refugees in the Osire refugee camp and 400 refugees in Kassava transit center.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of 2002, the USG has provided or pledged more than \$276 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. USAID/OFDA continues to address needs in water and sanitation, coordination, nutrition, and health, particularly preparing for outbreaks of endemic and opportunistic 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 objective of the Initiative is to promote rapid and sustainable increase in agricultural growth and rural incomes in sub-Saharan Africa by advancing scientific and technological applications that will raise agricultural productivity, create agriculture-based enterprises, and improving the 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 throughout the region. USAID/AFR also supports a regional HIV/AIDS program in Southern Africa that focuses on regional cross-border activities.

USAID is also sponsoring the SADC Regional Workshop on the Safety of Biotech Maize in Food Aid in Gaborone, Botswana in mid-November. Participants will include technical experts from around the world, along with technical advisors and policymakers from the affected countries. The meeting will address the 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>
Lesotho	USAID/OFDA	U.S. Embassy in Lesotho	Agriculture	\$20,000
	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 27,760 MT	\$14,162,907
	TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO			\$14,182,907
Malawi	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: 97,645 MT	\$51,035,612
	Total USAID			\$55,676,602
	USDA	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance: 3,000 MT	\$1,243,382
TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI			\$56,919,984	
Mozambique	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 19,790 MT	\$10,703,251
	TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE			\$10,703,251
Swaziland	USAID/FFP*	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food and Emerson Trust Assistance: 15,242 MT	\$8,292,754
	TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO SWAZILAND			\$8,292,754
Zambia	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
	Total USAID			\$13,588,560
	USDA	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance: 15,000 MT	\$7,093,354
	TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA			\$20,681,914

Zimbabwe	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: 118,696 MT	\$61,066,026
	USAID/FFP*	World Vision	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance: 19,710 MT	\$11,744,001
	Total USAID			\$75,735,688
	USDA	WFP	Section 416(b) Food Assistance: 8,500 MT	\$4,958,052
TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE			\$80,693,740	
Regional Support	USAID/OFDA	WFP	Regional Management and Logistics Coordination	\$1,000,000
Region (Country allocation to be finalized)	USAID/FFP*	TBD	Emerson Trust: 149,750 MT	\$83,555,000

SUMMARY OF USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)	\$10,125,211
USAID/Office of Food For Peace (FFP)*	\$252,609,551
USAID Total	\$262,734,762
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Total	\$13,294,788
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, TO DATE	\$276,029,550

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



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*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda.