

# SOUTHERN AFRICA – REGIONAL DISASTERS

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

JUNE 16, 2020

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**15.6 million**

Estimated Severely Food-Insecure People in Southern Africa  
UN – April 2020

**6 million**

Estimated Severely Food-Insecure People in Zimbabwe  
UN – April 2020

**2.3 million**

Estimated Severely Food-Insecure People in Zambia  
UN – April 2020

**2 million**

Estimated Severely Food-Insecure People in Mozambique  
UN – April 2020

**211,845**

Estimated IDPs in Cabo Delgado  
IOM – June 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

- OAG violence in Cabo Delgado displaces more than 211,000 people since January
- Below-average rainfall likely to exacerbate food insecurity throughout much of Southern Africa
- COVID-19-related restrictions on Zimbabwe’s informal sector causing large-scale livelihoods disruptions

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2020

USAID/BHA <sup>1,2</sup>	\$113,956,556
<b>\$113,956,556<sup>3</sup></b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) across the Southern Africa region—including in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—have slowed economic activity and negatively affected livelihoods, restricting access to food and other essential goods and services, according to relief actors. In April and May, the UN revised Zimbabwe’s 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and released emergency appeals for Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia, requesting a total of \$1.1 billion to respond to COVID-19-related humanitarian needs in the four countries.
- In Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado Province, escalating organized armed group (OAG) attacks since January have resulted in civilian deaths, generated widespread population displacement, and limited access to food and basic services in affected areas, the UN reports. As of early June, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had recorded more than 211,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cabo Delgado—more than twice the number of people that were displaced across the province in January.
- Drought remains a primary driver of food insecurity in parts of Southern Africa, including in areas of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. According to the latest IPC analyses, 4.3 million people in rural Zimbabwe were facing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in March, and 554,000 people in parts of southern Madagascar will likely face Crisis or worse levels of food insecurity through July, primarily due to protracted drought conditions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP).

<sup>3</sup> This total includes approximately \$11.4 million in funding through USAID/BHA for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities under the Supplemental Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to COVID-19 Abroad.

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

## REGIONAL

- Restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have adversely impacted migrant communities in Southern Africa, resulting in a large-scale loss of livelihood opportunities, as well as decreases in remittances from abroad, according to IOM. In addition, community fears of contracting COVID-19 have generated widespread mistrust of migrants, resulting in instances of discrimination in several countries. IOM notes that the stigmatization of migrant populations may prompt local populations to exclude migrants from accessing health care and other essential services. In response, IOM continues to work with national governments and other partners to ensure that migrant communities are included in COVID-19 response activities and have access to basic services.
  - Slowing economic activity and COVID-19 containment measures have undermined food security in urban areas across Southern Africa, especially among poor households, migrants, and other populations reliant on the informal sector and small businesses for income, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). With restrictions limiting household access to livelihood activities, many poor households in urban areas are experiencing diminished access to food, FEWS NET reports.
  - Meanwhile, localized weather patterns contributed to unusually heavy rainfall in parts of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe in late April, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Despite the increase, total seasonal rainfall levels remain well below average across most of Southern Africa, with drought conditions persisting in parts of Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe as of early June. NOAA reports that recent rains are unlikely to alleviate drought conditions, which are expected to exacerbate food insecurity across much of Southern Africa. FEWS NET previously reported that the number of households in Southern Africa experiencing food consumption gaps is at near-record levels, with Crisis conditions present in parts of Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.
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## MADAGASCAR

- More than 554,000 people in southern Madagascar's Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana regions will likely experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity through July due to protracted drought, which has persisted since January and reduced the production of staple foods, according to an April IPC food insecurity analysis. Androy's Tsihombe District and Atsimo-Andrefana's Ampanihy District are the most severely affected areas, with approximately 30 percent of households expected to experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity through July. Additionally, a May malnutrition IPC analysis projects that nearly 120,000 children ages five years and younger in the three regions could face acute malnutrition through December.
  - Government of Madagascar-led efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19—including curfews, limits on public gatherings, restrictions on intercity travel, and the suspension of public transportation—implemented in late March have diminished livelihoods and increased food prices in urban areas such as Madagascar's capital city of Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa city in Haute Matsiatra Region, and Toamasina city in Atsinanana Region, according to FEWS NET. In addition, COVID-19-related trade disruptions, combined with poor agricultural production, will likely result in households exhausting Madagascar's national food stocks by late June. As such, FEWS NET projects that some households in urban areas of the country will experience Crisis levels of acute food insecurity through September.
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## MALAWI

- On May 2, the UN launched an emergency appeal for Malawi, requesting \$140.1 million to provide life-saving assistance to approximately 7.5 million people—including migrants, older people, persons living with disabilities, and other at-risk populations—affected by the country's COVID-19 outbreak. The appeal also includes support for the more than 46,000 refugees sheltering in Malawi, more than half of whom are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With \$70.2 million in humanitarian funding, nearly half of the appeal, the UN aims to reach 4.8 million people in Malawi with food security and livelihoods assistance. Other priorities include supporting the public health response to COVID-19, ensuring

continuity of basic services, and addressing other secondary impacts of the outbreak. Unless response activities are urgently implemented, the UN expects that the COVID-19 outbreak will further impact Malawi's economy, exacerbate food insecurity and humanitarian needs countrywide, and strain the country's already fragile health care system.

- Recent localized flooding in Malawi's Karonga and Rumphi districts in Northern Region and persistent drought in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts in Southern Region have resulted in crop losses and a poor harvest in affected areas, likely causing some households to experience Stressed—IPC 2—conditions through September. Additionally, reduced economic activity linked to the country's COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent movement restrictions have negatively impacted the livelihoods of poor households in urban areas of Malawi, with affected populations similarly projected to experience Stressed levels of acute food insecurity during the same period, according to FEWS NET. However, with greater food availability following the recent April-to-May harvest, most households in the country will experience Minimal levels of food insecurity through September.

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## MOZAMBIQUE

- Conflict between Government of the Republic of Mozambique (GRM) forces and OAGs in Cabo Delgado—which began in October 2017—has continued to escalate since January, adversely affecting humanitarian operations, disrupting livelihoods, and prompting widespread displacement in the province, including in areas still recovering from the impact of tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth, according to relief actors and international media. As of early June, the insecurity had displaced more than 211,000 people in Cabo Delgado, IOM reports. In response to heightened needs in the province, the UN released a response plan on June 4, requesting nearly \$36 million to reach 354,000 people impacted by climatic shocks and violence with critical health, food, protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and other assistance during 2020.
- Escalating violence in Cabo Delgado and subsequent displacement and disruption to livelihoods will force many people in affected areas to experience Crisis levels of acute food insecurity in the coming months, FEWS NET projects. Crisis conditions will also persist in parts of southern Mozambique, including in portions of Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, and Sofala provinces, due to poor harvests resulting from three consecutive years of drought conditions, according to FEWS NET.
- As of February, drought in southern Mozambique and flooding in northern and central parts of the country had destroyed nearly 500,000 acres of crops. In addition, GRM-enacted measures to contain the spread of COVID-19—including border closures, limits on public gatherings, the suspension of nonessential public services—could further exacerbate food insecurity among households in urban and peri-urban areas and households affected by conflict and drought countrywide, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization reports.
- One year after tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth made landfall in March and April 2019, respectively, humanitarian needs in northern Mozambique remain high, according to the UN. Although approximately 2.2 million people received life-saving assistance in the cyclones' aftermath, heavy flooding in December 2019 and January has adversely affected more than 200,000 people and damaged key infrastructure, while a cholera outbreak that began in February has also exacerbated humanitarian needs. In addition, the UN reports that the late March onset of COVID-19 in Mozambique has strained the country's public health infrastructure, particularly in areas where conflict and extreme weather have eroded health care systems.
- On June 4, the UN released an appeal requesting more than \$68 million to address the COVID-19-related humanitarian needs of nearly 3 million people in 11 provinces through December. The appeal's priorities include the provision of protective equipment for health care personnel, increasing case management and monitoring capacity, the implementation of COVID-19 prevention activities, the coordination of multi-sectoral interventions and services to address the secondary impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable populations, and additional aid to address the humanitarian needs of IDPs and refugees.

## ZAMBIA

- Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in March have undermined the food security of approximately 1.1 million people in parts of northern Zambia, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. The UN agency also notes that while above-average harvests in early 2020 enabled most of the country to recover from the effects of the 2018/2019 drought, poor rainfall in parts of southern and western Zambia has resulted in elevated levels of acute food insecurity in recent months.
- Additionally, the continuation of restrictions on nonessential movement and services—imposed by the Government of Zambia in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic—is projected to negatively impact the livelihoods of the more than 65 percent of Zambians employed in the informal sector, further limiting their ability to purchase food and recover from recent drought and flooding, the UN reports. Market disruptions—partially caused by limits on imports due to COVID-19-related movement restrictions—are also limiting access to basic commodities and services; as such, the UN expects the nutritional status of children and women to deteriorate in the coming months.
- In response to the impact of COVID-19-related restrictions, the UN launched an appeal requesting approximately \$133 million to address increasing humanitarian needs among more than 6.2 million people in Zambia on May 15. The UN plans to allocate \$49 million, nearly 40 percent of the appeal, to support the delivery of emergency food assistance, aiming to reach 1 million people residing in urban areas.
- With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP reached nearly 326,000 people in Zambia with food assistance in April, distributing more than 7,000 metric tons (MT) of food in drought- and flood-affected communities.

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## ZIMBABWE

- On April 2, the UN released a revised 2020 HRP for Zimbabwe, requesting \$715 million—a more than 50 percent increase compared to the previous year’s \$467.9 million appeal—to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 5.6 million of the most vulnerable people countrywide. The revised plan includes adjusted funding appeals under each sector to account for emerging needs and vulnerabilities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Separately, the UN also requested \$79 million to support COVID-19 response activities. In response to the appeal, USAID plans to provide \$10 million in funding to WFP to support cash transfers in urban areas of Zimbabwe for a six-month period. USAID provided WFP with \$86.9 million to support the UN’s previous appeal, reaching more than one million rural Zimbabweans with food assistance through April.
- COVID-19-related restrictions and worsening macroeconomic conditions are undermining the ability of poor households to earn income and purchase food, according to FEWS NET. Border restrictions and reduced economic activity in neighboring countries, including South Africa, have slowed inflows of remittances from abroad, which comprised more than 13 percent of Zimbabwe’s gross domestic product in 2019, according to the World Bank. Concurrently, FEWS NET reports that ongoing restrictions on informal businesses have disproportionately damaged the livelihoods of Zimbabweans working in the informal sector, nearly 34 percent of the country’s workforce. Meanwhile, rising annual inflation rates—nearly 770 percent as of April—have increased the cost of food, further restricting household food access.
- In addition, protracted drought conditions across much of Zimbabwe in 2019 have adversely affected vulnerable communities in both rural and urban areas of the country, the UN reports. Erratic and late rains in 2019 and 2020 have led to a second consecutive year of poor harvests in 2020.
- An estimated 4.3 million Zimbabweans, nearly half of the country’s rural population, experienced Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity in March, a period that coincides with the peak of the lean season when food is most scarce, according to the March IPC analysis. FEWS NET projects below-average April-to-July harvests in Zimbabwe, suggesting that most people will likely experience minimal improvement in food security conditions in the coming months. Ultimately, economic decline—coupled with income losses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and a second consecutive year of poor harvests—will drive above-average levels of acute food insecurity in both rural and urban areas of most provinces through at least September.

- USAID/BHA partner WFP continues to respond to acute needs across Zimbabwe, delivering life-saving, in-kind food assistance to approximately 1.8 million people in more than 20 districts countrywide between February and May, a period that includes the peak of the lean season.

## CONTEXT

- Beginning in FY 2019 and continuing into FY 2020, the Southern Africa region experienced several extreme weather events, generating increased humanitarian needs. In particular, tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth caused widespread damage and, coupled with limited rainfall and subsequent drought, exacerbated acute food insecurity in several countries.

U.S. Government (USG) assistance to countries across Southern Africa continues to support emergency relief conflict-, cyclone-, drought-, and flood-affected populations throughout the region. USAID/BHA funding supports agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH activities. Through FY 2019 State/PRM funding, humanitarian agencies continue to provide multi-sector assistance and protection support to refugees.

- U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique Dennis W. Hearne declared a disaster due to the complex emergency in Cabo Delgado on March 13, 2020. Ambassador Hearne also re-declared two separate disasters on November 18, 2019, due to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Idai and Tropical Cyclone Kenneth, which made landfall in Mozambique on March 14, 2019, and April 25, 2019, respectively.
- U.S. Ambassador to Malawi Robert K. Scott and U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe Brian A. Nichols reissued disaster declarations due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from Tropical Cyclone Idai on December 4, 2019, and November 12, 2019, respectively.
- U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Daniel L. Foote and Ambassador Nichols declared disasters due to worsening drought conditions on November 16, 2019, and November 12, 2019, respectively.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
<b>Non-Food Assistance</b>			
<b>REGIONAL</b>			
CARE	Shelter and Settlements, Logistics Support, WASH	Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe	\$1,666,667
	Program Support		\$6,408
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$1,673,075</b>
<b>MALAWI</b>			
CARE	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Chikwawa, Nsanje	\$827,325
Project Concern International	WASH	Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Sofala	\$807,742
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE MALAWI RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$1,635,067</b>
<b>MOZAMBIQUE</b>			
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cabo Delgado, Manica, Nampula, Sofala	\$7,530,920

World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), WASH	Manica, Sofala	\$5,622,114
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$5,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$1,903,823
International Potato Center	Agriculture and Food Security	Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Sofala	\$1,300,000
MENTOR	Health, WASH	Manica, Sofala	\$805,021
	Airlifted Relief Commodities	Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Sofala	\$80,055
	Program Support		\$106,600
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$22,348,533</b>
<b>ZAMBIA</b>			
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security	Western	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ZAMBIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Gokwe North, Midlands	\$1,685,000
IOM	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements	Chimanimani, Chipinge	\$1,495,961
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ZIMBABWE RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$3,180,961</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$28,937,636</b>
<b>Food Assistance</b>			
<b>MADAGASCAR</b>			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	6360 MT of LRIP	Androy	\$500,000
WFP	7,830 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Andrefana, Androy, Anosy, Atsimo, Atsinanana, Fitovinany, Vatovavy	\$7,496,399
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$7,996,399</b>
<b>MALAWI</b>			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Central	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE MALAWI RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>ZAMBIA</b>			
WFP	2,380 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,388,530
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ZAMBIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$3,388,530</b>
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>			
WFP	16,356 MT of LRIP, 38,870 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$61,244,544
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ZIMBABWE RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$61,244,544</b>
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$73,629,473</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$102,567,109</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$102,567,109</b>

## FUNDING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE<sup>2</sup>

### USAID/BHA

#### Non-Food Assistance

ZIMBABWE			
UNICEF	WASH	Chikwawa, Nsanje	\$510,840
CARE	Health, WASH	Mashonaland, Masvingo Province, Masvingo Urban, Mwenenzi, Norton, West, Zaka,	\$498,607
GOAL	Health	Buhera, Chipinge, Mutare	\$380,000
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ZIMBABWE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$1,389,447</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA COVID-19 RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$1,389,447</b>
Food Assistance			
ZIMBABWE			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE ZIMBABWE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA COVID-19 RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$11,389,447</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$11,389,447</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$113,956,556</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$113,956,556</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 16, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Figures represent International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for the COVID-19 response under the Supplemental Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to COVID-19 Abroad as of June 16, 2020.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

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

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>