

# SOUTHERN AFRICA – DISASTER RESPONSE

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

FEBRUARY 1, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**4.4**

**million**

People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance  
SADC – August 2017

**407,000**

Estimated Severely Food-Insecure Population in Madagascar  
FAO/WFP – December 2017

**836,000**

Projected Food-Insecure Population in Malawi From December 2017–March 2018  
MVAC – August 2017

**1.1**

**million**

Estimated Food-Insecure People in Zimbabwe in 2017/2018  
ZimVAC – June 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Overall humanitarian needs decrease as Southern Africa recovers from 2015/2016 El Niño-related drought conditions
- Tropical Cyclone Ava results in more than 50 deaths in Madagascar
- Recent analyses project mixed food security outcomes across Southern Africa through mid-2018

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE<sup>1</sup> IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA <sup>2</sup>	\$35,342,107
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USAID/FFP <sup>3</sup>	\$102,600,406
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<b>\$137,942,513</b>
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## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Countries across Southern Africa continue to recover from prolonged drought conditions associated with the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event. Favorable rainfall during 2017 resulted in above-average harvests in some areas, and the number of people in the region requiring emergency food assistance decreased from 18.1 million people in 2016 to 4.4 million people in 2017—an approximately 75 percent decrease.
- Some vulnerable populations continue to require humanitarian assistance as a result of drought conditions. On October 23, 2017, U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate redeclared a disaster in Madagascar for the fourth consecutive year due to the effects of drought in southern regions of the country.
- Dry conditions and above-normal temperatures intensified from December to mid-January across many areas of Southern Africa, threatening agricultural production and food security conditions, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). In contrast, above-average rainfall in the northern half of the region—including northern Malawi, northern Mozambique, Tanzania, and northern Madagascar—has supported crop development, but could contribute to flooding and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera.
- Fall armyworm (FAW)—an invasive species of caterpillar that can damage staple and cash crops—continues to damage crops in Southern Africa. As of October 2017, all mainland Southern Africa countries, with the exception of Lesotho, had detected and reported FAW infestations, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Host governments in affected countries are implementing activities to respond to, mitigate, and monitor FAW-related impacts on agriculture in the region.

<sup>1</sup> USAID is responding to disasters in Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe during FY 2017–2018

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>3</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

## REGIONAL

- Southern Africa continues to recover from prolonged drought conditions associated with the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event. Most countries experienced improved cereal harvests in 2017, with regional production increasing by more than 50 percent compared to the 2016 season, according to FAO. As a result of improved harvest yields in the region, the number of people requiring food assistance has decreased from 18.1 million people in 2016 to 4.4 million people in 2017, according to the 2017 Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis.
  - USAID continues to support drought recovery across Southern Africa. Through UN and non-governmental organization partners, USAID is supporting the delivery of emergency food assistance, increasing access to nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable populations, and strengthening household resilience through agricultural and livestock programs.
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## LESOTHO

- Lesotho continues to experience a poor 2017/2018 rainy season, with below-average rainfall countrywide resulting in low levels of vegetation, according to FEWS NET. The situation will likely deteriorate further in the coming months, adversely affecting 2018 crop yields and diminishing availability of informal agricultural labor opportunities. FEWS NET anticipates that most areas of Lesotho will continue to experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity through May, with increased risk of Crisis—IPC 3—levels among vulnerable populations.<sup>4</sup>
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## MADAGASCAR

- On January 5, Tropical Storm Ava made landfall over the northeastern coast of Madagascar, resulting in more than 50 deaths, displacing nearly 55,000 people, and damaging infrastructure, according to the Government of Madagascar (GoM). The majority of displaced households had returned to areas of origin by January 18. The GoM estimates that the storm flooded more than 600 wells and damaged more than 500 schools, affecting nearly 49,000 students. As of mid-January, the GoM had largely repaired major roads and bridges; however, some secondary roads, bridges, and dams that sustained heavy damage have not yet been repaired, according to USAID staff in the region.
- Approximately 407,000 people in southern and southeastern Madagascar faced severe food insecurity as of December 2017, according to a recent assessment conducted by FAO and the UN World Food Program (WFP). However, an early January FAO report projects that as many as 1.6 million people could experience Crisis or Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity by June. In addition, populations in Madagascar continue to experience the highest prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in the region, with a national prevalence of 8.6 percent. In pockets of southern Madagascar, some children are facing GAM levels that exceed the UN World Health Organization (WHO) critical threshold of 10 percent, according to SADC.
- From August 1–December 10, GoM Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) officials reported nearly 2,580 confirmed, suspected, or probable cases of plague, including more than 220 related deaths, across 58 of the country's 114 districts. While the MoPH reported containing the plague outbreak in urban areas as of late November, WHO has highlighted the need to remain vigilant in preventing and responding to new cases for the remainder of the annual plague season, which typically lasts through April. Health organizations and MoPH officials continue to conduct surveillance activities and respond to reported cases of plague.

<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, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## **MALAWI**

- As of January 8, health officials had confirmed approximately 200 cases of cholera and four related deaths since the outbreak began in late November 2017. The outbreak recently spread to Malawi's densely populated Lilongwe District, raising concerns that the disease could spread further and lead to a protracted outbreak, the UN reports. As a result, the UN and national authorities are mobilizing resources to support an effective and coordinated response while the outbreak remains in the early stages.
  - The Government of the Republic of Malawi (GoRM) Ministry of Health (MoH) is leading the cholera response in coordination with humanitarian actors. The UN reports that Médecins Sans Frontières is supporting the MoH to conduct case management of cholera patients, while the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is providing WASH supplies in affected areas.
  - On December 15, 2017, GoRM President Arthur P. Mutharika declared a state of disaster in 20 of 28 districts due to FAW infestations that had affected more than 133,000 households since the start of the 2017/2018 agricultural season. The GoRM, with support from international partners, is leading the FAW response, including procurement and distribution of pesticides and surveillance activities, according to international media. A January FEWS NET assessment indicated that current FAW response efforts are effectively addressing infestations across several districts, which could reduce the overall impact on crops. The Ministry of Agriculture reports that FAW infestations had affected approximately 270,000 hectares of crops as of January 12.
  - In Southern Region's Nsanje and Balaka districts, FEWS NET anticipates that ongoing humanitarian assistance will likely maintain Minimal levels of food insecurity through March. In addition, FEWS NET reports that deliveries of humanitarian assistance will likely contribute to improved food security through March for populations in Southern Region's Chikwawa and Mwanza districts, who currently face Stressed levels of food insecurity. More than 40 percent of the population in Southern Region requires humanitarian assistance, according to the 2017 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee analysis. Despite continued acute food insecurity among vulnerable populations in some parts of Malawi, most people are experiencing Minimal levels of food insecurity, FEWS NET reports.
  - In response to drought conditions, USAID/OFDA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is delivering agriculture and food security interventions in Southern Region's Mwanza and Neno districts to support economic recovery and restore livelihoods among affected households.
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## **MOZAMBIQUE**

- FEWS NET reports that vulnerable communities in parts of Manica, Sofala, and Tete provinces will likely continue to face Stressed levels of food insecurity through at least April. As the October-to-February lean season progresses, food security among poor households in northwestern Sofala is expected to deteriorate to Crisis levels until harvests commence in mid-April, with humanitarian assistance required to address gaps in food availability. Across other parts of Mozambique, FEWS NET anticipates that most populations will experience Minimal levels of food insecurity through May due to above-average crop production during the 2016/2017 agricultural season.
  - The Government of Mozambique Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MASA) reports the presence of FAW in Inhambane and Sofala provinces. However, the infestations had not had a significant impact on the provinces' crops as of December 2017, according to MASA.
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## **SWAZILAND**

- In mid-October 2017, USAID/OFDA staff conducted a monitoring trip to observe USAID/OFDA-supported agriculture, nutrition, and WASH activities in Swaziland. During the visit, USAID/OFDA staff observed that many households have limited access to safe drinking water and water for household use, as some populations continue to rely on unsafe or untested water sources due to drought conditions.

- USAID/OFDA staff reported that food security in Swaziland had improved slightly as of October, though many households had not fully recovered from the drought. The 2017 harvest in Swaziland was notably larger than the previous two years, and hospitals and community health workers reported low levels of severe acute malnutrition and GAM throughout the country. USAID/OFDA staff also reported, however, that most farmers interviewed were depleting food stocks and anticipated relying on wild plants and remittances during the upcoming lean season.
- In response to acute humanitarian needs, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.7 million to UNICEF and World Vision during FY 2017 to support agriculture, nutrition, and WASH interventions that aim to benefit up to 175,000 people in Swaziland. As part of a USAID/OFDA-funded nutrition program, World Vision has trained 35 lead farmers—who cumulatively trained up to 700 additional farmers—on conservation agriculture techniques to conserve nutrients, improve water retention, and maximize production.

## ZIMBABWE

- In January, FEWS NET reported that populations in regions with poor agricultural production are facing Stressed and Crisis levels of food insecurity due to diminished food stocks and limited access to livelihoods and income. Uneven and insufficient rainfall across most of Zimbabwe has negatively affected crops and could reduce yields during the upcoming harvest season, particularly in southern and northern regions of the country. In addition, FEWS NET reports that humanitarian assistance is preventing further deterioration of food security conditions; without sustained humanitarian assistance, additional households will likely face Crisis levels by April and May.
- USAID/Zimbabwe officials attended a Zimbabwe Food and Nutrition Security Committee meeting on December 19 to discuss the food security outlook and potential shocks during 2018. Aligning with FEWS NET findings, the Zimbabwe Meteorological Agency reported that inconsistent rainfall in recent months had prompted some farmers to suspend planting activities. Additionally, the low availability and corresponding high price of agricultural inputs and pesticides—exacerbated by national cash shortages—could render farmers unable to purchase necessary equipment for agricultural activities. Meeting participants also noted that FAW infestations will likely significantly affect agricultural yields in 2018. The 2017 Zimbabwe Vulnerability and Assessment Committee estimated that FAW affected nearly 40 percent of households during the 2016/2017 agricultural season.

### CONTEXT

- Below-average rainfall—exacerbated by the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event—resulted in drought conditions throughout much of Southern Africa beginning in 2015, causing deteriorating agriculture, food security, livestock, nutrition, and WASH conditions throughout 2016. In late 2016 and early 2017, increased rainfall across Southern Africa improved crop growth and restored water catchments, alleviating drought conditions. Above-average rainfall, however, also caused flooding in some areas, resulting in displacement, crop damage, and additional humanitarian needs.
- Despite regional improvements in rainfall and 2017 crop production, some countries continue to require assistance as they recover from drought and respond to other climatic events. On October 25, 2017, U.S. Ambassador Robert T. Yamate redeclared a disaster for the fourth consecutive year due to the effects of drought in southern regions of Madagascar and anticipated needs in FY 2018.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2017<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>LESOTHO</b>			
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security	Leribe, Mophale's Hoek, Quthing Districts	\$1,890,997

FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR LESOTHO</b>			<b>\$2,890,997</b>
<b>MADAGASCAR</b>			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Androy Region	\$1,335,572
	Shelter and Settlements	Sava Region	\$99,937
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Androy, Anosy Regions	\$1,386,867
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Androy Region	\$896,018
Land O'Lakes	Agriculture and Food Security	Androy Region	\$1,115,205
Medair	Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Analanjirifo Region	\$500,000
	WASH	Alaotra Mangoro, Analanjirifo, Atsinanana, and Sofia Regions	\$500,783
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Southern Madagascar	\$1,591,539
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MADAGASCAR</b>			<b>\$7,425,921</b>
<b>MALAWI</b>			
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security	Mulanje, Nsanje, and Phalombe Districts	\$1,512,519
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Nsanje District	\$489,906
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security	Mwanza, Neno Districts	\$300,000
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Chiradzulu, Zomba Districts	\$1,206,314
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MALAWI</b>			<b>\$3,508,739</b>
<b>MOZAMBIQUE</b>			
	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection	Inhambane, Tete, and Zambezia Provinces	\$1,896,986
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, WASH	Funhalouro, Homoine, Massinga, Morrumbene Districts	\$1,034,799
	WASH	Inhambane Province	\$50,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$295,500
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Inhambane Province	\$450,000
International Potato Center (IPC)	Agriculture and Food Security	Gaza, Inhambane, Maputo Provinces	\$1,071,710
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR MOZAMBIQUE</b>			<b>\$4,798,995</b>
<b>SWAZILAND</b>			
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini, Shiselweni Regions	\$579,312
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security	Lubombo, Shiselweni Regions	\$1,169,680
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR SWAZILAND</b>			<b>\$1,748,992</b>
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>			
CARE	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Bikita, Chivi, Zaka Districts	\$1,453,438
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Bulilima, Gwanda, Insiza, Umzingwane Districts	\$1,745,770
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Bulilima, Chivi, Gwanda, Insiza, Mberengwa, Mwenezi, Umzingwane, Zvishavane Districts	\$2,191,288
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Nutrition, WASH	Beitbridge, Bubi, Insiza Districts	\$1,427,287

International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Agriculture and Food Security	Chipinge, Chiredzi Districts	\$984,778
Oxfam	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Gutu, Matobo Districts	\$1,140,620
SC/US	Nutrition, WASH	Binga, Kariba, Mbire	\$998,654
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Binga, Hwanga, Kariba, Nkayi, Umzingwane Districts	\$1,219,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Binga, Kariba, Hwange, Mbire	\$1,056,977
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR ZIMBABWE</b>			<b>\$12,217,812</b>
<b>REGIONAL</b>			
FAO	Agriculture & Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management	Regional Support	\$2,150,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional Support	\$500,000
	Program Support Costs		\$100,651
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL RESPONSE</b>			<b>\$35,342,107</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>MADAGASCAR</b>			
WFP	3,150 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana, Vatovavy Fitovinany	\$2,747,000
	4,220 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana, Vatovavy Fitovinany	\$5,379,302
CRS	Food Vouchers, 2,700 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Complementary Services	Androy, Anosy Regions	\$3,686,705
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR MADAGASCAR</b>			<b>\$11,813,007</b>
<b>MALAWI</b>			
UNICEF	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Chikwawa, Dedza, Nsanje, Salima, Thyolo	\$89,614
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Complementary Services	Blantyre, Dedza, Lilongwe, Mzimba, Nsanje	\$120,000
WFP	48,091 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement, Twinning	Countrywide	\$35,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR MALAWI</b>			<b>\$35,709,614</b>
<b>MOZAMBIQUE</b>			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$89,614
	5,810 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$7,016,257
WFP	2,417 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement	Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Tete	\$7,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR MOZAMBIQUE</b>			<b>\$14,105,871</b>
<b>ZIMBABWE</b>			
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Binga, Buhera, Chimanimani, Chiredzi, Gokwe North, Gwanda, Hwange, Kariba, Lupane, Mwenezi, Nkayi, Tsholotsho, Umguza, Zvimba, Zvishavane	\$89,614
	11,310 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$5,182,300
WFP	11,018 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement	Binga, Buhera, Chiredzi, Chirumhanzu, Kariba, Lupane, Mbire, Mt. Darwin, Mwenezi, Nkayi, Tsholotsho, Umguza	\$10,000,000

	8,224 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement, Cash Transfers for Food	Bindura, Binga, Buhera, Bulilima, Chiredzi, Chirumhanzu, Chivi, Gutu, Gweru, Insiza, Kariba, Lupane, Makoni, Mbire, Mt. Darwin, Mutare, Mwenezi, Nkayi, Nyanga, Tsholotsho, Umguza, Zvishavane	\$21,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR ZIMBABWE</b>			<b>\$36,271,914</b>
<b>REGIONAL</b>			
WFP	3,696 MT of Local and Regional Procured Food Procurement	Angola	\$4,700,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL RESPONSE</b>			<b>\$102,600,406</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>			<b>\$137,942,513</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 1, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> USAID/FFP funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 1, 2018. Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

## 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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>.