



# Tackling Southern Africa's Climate-Driven Food Crisis

Update #2

19 November 2019

## In Numbers

A record **45 million** Southern Africans will be severely food insecure at peak lean season (January-March 2020)

WFP to support **7 million people** in **8 countries**: Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Madagascar, Namibia, Eswatini, Lesotho and Malawi

**USD 213 million** being sought to meet urgent food needs (**USD 170 million** of the required **USD 383 million** secured to date)

## Situation Update

The scale of the region's hunger crisis is unprecedented. Within weeks, the number of severely food insecure people in the 16-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) is set to reach a record 45 million.

Erratic weather is the biggest obstacle to ending hunger and malnutrition in the region, and this year has seen many graphic reminders of how devastating climate shocks can be.

Record high temperatures, widespread drought and Cyclones Idai and Kenneth — the strongest storms on record ever to strike the African continent — resulted in widespread crop destruction, lower yields and a shorter growing season.

For hard-hit farming families in a region heavily dependent on rain-fed, smallholder agriculture, this has meant: food stocks wiped out; fewer daily meals; more children out of school; the distress sale of precious belongings; and a diminished ability to deal with the next disaster.

The hunger crisis, afflicting urban as well as rural communities, is being aggravated by rising food prices, large-scale livestock losses and mounting joblessness.

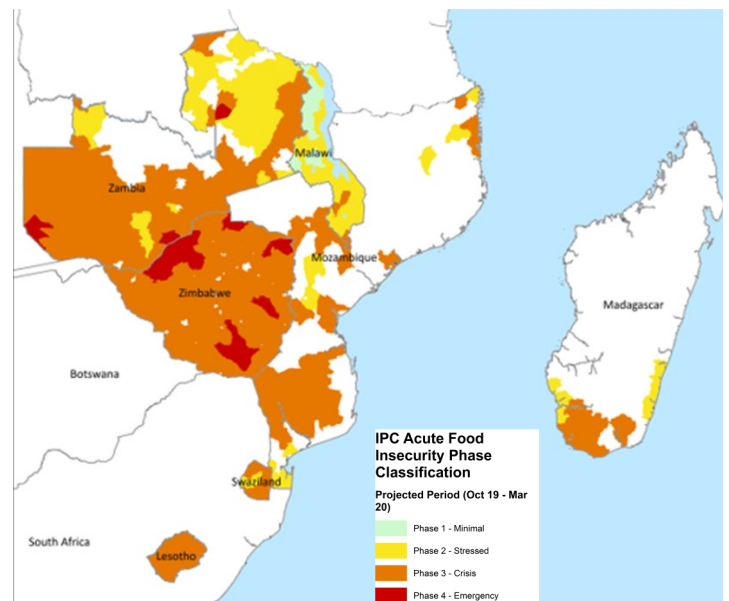
The hunger crisis could deepen next year. National forecasts now indicate an increased likelihood of below-normal rainfall in many parts of the region in January-March, the crucial growing period ahead of the main April-May harvest.

## Highlights

WFP is moving quickly to provide emergency assistance to those facing acute hunger—hunger so severe it is an immediate threat to lives and livelihoods.

To help vulnerable communities combat the impacts of increasingly frequent and intense climate shocks, WFP is also implementing a wide range of resilience-building activities.

## Projected Areas in IPC Phase 3 & 4 October 2019 to March 2020



## WFP Response

With partners, we aim to support 7 million people in eight of the most affected countries over the next six months with in-kind food and cash assistance. Yet with just USD 188 million of the required USD 548 million secured, the international community must promptly step up if a more severe crisis is to be averted.

### Zimbabwe

With Zimbabwe enduring its worst hunger emergency in a decade because of drought, flooding and economic crisis, 5.5 million people in rural areas and 2.2 million in urban areas are forecast to be severely food insecure by January. Given these immense needs, WFP is scaling up to reach 2.7 million people with lean season assistance. Owing to the limited availability of local currency, we are beginning a full transition to in-kind support.



## Needs by Country

	Number of people WFP aims to assist	Net Funding Requirements (November to April 2020)
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	2.7 million	USD 82 million
<b>Mozambique</b>	1.3 million	USD 52 million
<b>Zambia</b>	1.1 million	USD 34 million
<b>Madagascar</b>	783,000	USD 26 million
<b>Namibia</b>	379,000	USD 11 million
<b>Eswatini</b>	166,000	USD 4 million
<b>Lesotho</b>	174,000	USD 3 million
<b>Malawi</b>	415,000	Fully funded

### Mozambique

In Mozambique, 1.7 million people will experience crisis and emergency levels of hunger due to the effects of cyclones and flooding in the centre and north of the country and drought in the south. WFP plans to support 1.25 million of them at peak lean season. That assistance will run in parallel with support to longer-term recovery, reconstruction and resilience-building, anchored in Food Assistance for Assets, for another 1.2 million people.

### Zambia

Because of drought, Zambia, traditionally a breadbasket, is experiencing one of the region's sharpest spikes in acute food insecurity — that now affects 2.3 million people, nearly 20 percent of the population — and has been obliged to restrict maize exports. WFP will support the government's emergency response, procuring and delivering pulses for 1.1 million people and transporting local maize meal to 13 hard-to-reach districts.

### Madagascar

With 25 percent of families in Madagascar's drought-prone south now suffering crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity, and stunting rates the highest in the region, WFP aims to support more than three-quarters of a million people there with food and nutrition assistance through March. Some 200,000 are to be assisted in December. In advance of the annual rains, we are pre-positioning food at key points to ensure supplies to hard-to-reach locations.

### Namibia

Having suffered its worst drought in a generation during the last growing season, a 53 percent drop in 2019 cereal production and massive livestock losses, Namibia has also seen hunger surge. More than 40 percent of its 2.5 million people are now severely food insecure. WFP plans to assist 380,000 of the worst off in eight regions, more than one-quarter of them on antiretroviral treatment.

### Eswatini

Eswatini's hunger crisis is deepening, fuelled by drought, a poor harvest, inflation and rising unemployment. The number of people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 is estimated to have risen to 230,000 — one-quarter of the rural population — from 200,000 in mid-year. WFP plans to support 163,000 people through March.

### Lesotho

Two drought-stricken harvests in succession — cereal production dropped by 36 percent in 2018 and by 70 percent this year — have contributed to an alarming surge in severe hunger in Lesotho. The number of people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 is 430,000, one-third of the population. WFP plans to provide 40 percent of them with lean season assistance.

### Malawi

While Malawi enjoyed a 25 percent year-on-year increase in maize production notwithstanding the impacts of Cyclone Idai, WFP is planning to assist, through March, 415,000 of the 1.1 million people in IPC Phase 3 as a result of drought and cyclone-induced flooding.

## Sustainable Funding is Key

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, six of the nine African countries set to be major food insecurity hotspots because of climate change are in Southern Africa: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

WFP's necessary focus on emergency assistance for Southern Africa's most acutely food insecure must not detract from our vital work to address the root causes of long-term hunger, minimise disaster risks and build resilience to climate extremes.

We are helping propel threatened communities to self-sufficiency. Across the region, it is communities themselves that lead the planning, design and execution of WFP-supported initiatives to conserve soil and water, promote drought-resistant crops, cut post-harvest losses and boost access to markets, credit and insurance.

Early action to build resilience can yield big cuts in spending on emergency response, including lean season assistance. But because resilience can take years to build, multi-year funding – still all too scarce – is paramount.