

Project Number: 200979 | Project Category: **Emergency Preparedness Activity**

Project Approval Date: June 01, 2016 | Planned Start Date: May 26, 2016

Actual Start Date: June 06, 2016 | Project End Date: August 25, 2016

Financial Closure Date: N/A

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**Further Information**

<http://www.wfp.org/countries>

**SPR Reading Guidance**



**Support to SADC El Nino Logistics and Coordination Centre  
Standard Project Report 2016**

World Food Programme in South Africa, Republic of (ZA)



**World Food Programme**

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## Regional Context

By early May 2016, it was apparent that Southern Africa was facing a highly precarious food security situation and very poor prospects for the current agricultural season. The October 2015-January 2016 period was deemed the driest growing season in 35 years, prompting what could have become the driest agricultural season on record. An estimated 32 million people were classified as food insecure across Southern Africa — about 10 percent of the population — largely as a result of drought which led to a poor 2015 harvest. This estimate did not even take into account the impact of what was expected to be an even worse 2016 harvest, starting in mid-May. Macro-economic conditions in the region were also deteriorating, with international commodity prices falling and currencies depreciating. The capacity of countries to secure sufficient food supplies was inhibited.

Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and parts of Mozambique had already declared drought emergencies with Botswana and Madagascar predicted to declare in the near future. On March 15th, 2016, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers approved the declaration for a regional drought disaster and the creation of a regional Logistics Coordination Center (LCC) to harmonize the immediate response.

Following approval from the SADC Council of Ministers, the SADC Secretariat—with support from UN agencies - prepared a Concept Note and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the LCC. Given the need for additional capacity to ensure that an efficient coordination mechanism was put in place, cooperating partners (including WFP) were called upon to support the operationalisation of the center. The main objective of the LCC was to coordinate the regional emergency response to the impact of El Nino in the SADC region. The center was deemed responsible for coordinating necessary El Nino responses across SADC countries. The Coordination Center was to be predominately comprised of SADC staff seconded from different sectors.

# Project Objectives and Results

## Project Objectives

To support the operationalisation of the LCC, WFP prepared IR-PREP 200979 to provide professional staff to the Coordination Center from May 16th to August 15th, 2016. This falls under WFP Strategic Objective 3: *Reduce risk and enable people, communities, and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs.*



## Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	136,226
Indirect Support Costs	9,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,762</b>

## Project Activities

The expected outcome of this IR-PREP was to provide professional level staff support the SADC secretariat to ensure the operationalisation of the Coordination Center with the expected outcome of enhancing SADC coordination of the El Nino Responses across countries.

The following WFP staff were provided under IR-PREP 200979:

- A co-coordinator was designated to support the SADC Coordinator in the day-to-day coordination of the LCC work plan. The co-coordinator was responsible for supporting the dissemination for key information to stakeholders such as donors, SADC management, and UN partner organisations supporting the LCC. The co-coordinator was also tasked with assisting with the coordination of the response plan, ensuring that pledges from the appeal were actualised, and solving any bottlenecks/conflicts that arose due to competing interests.

Key contributions/inputs from the WFP SADC Cell co-coordinator included: Contributed to the preparation of the SADC Humanitarian Appeal, which was launched on July 26th, 2016; Supported the preparation and of bi-monthly Situation Reports (a total of three situation reports were prepared during this period); Assisted with the preparation of a periodic monitoring report (as at December 2016, 1 periodic monitoring report was prepared and disseminated); and Reinforced SADC with the preparation of reporting documents for higher-level donor and government meetings (two high level donor meetings and one Council of Ministers' meeting were held during the period).
- A food security analysts was slated to participate as part of a multi-sectorial team of data analysts tasked with developing a regional needs overview, consolidate numbers received from national Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VAC) on population size and the extent of the impact of the El Nino, ensuring harmonisation throughout the document and within briefs/reports, and establishing each country's food requirements as well as planned imports.

Instead of having a dedicated Food Security Analyst, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Officers based in the Regional Bureau in Johannesburg (RBJ) provided on-the-ground technical assistance as well as remote support primarily via the provision of analytical inputs for the drafting of the *SADC Regional Appeal*. Throughout the drafting process, an RBJ VAM Officer travelled to Gaborone four times to provide technical support and key inputs to the food and nutrition components of the SADC appeal document as well as to ensure that the number of food insecure persons reported by member states harmonised with analytical results from national VACs as well as statistics from other agencies. Once the appeal was launched on July 26th, 2016, the VAM Officer continued providing remote technical support to the team.
- Two logistics/transport experts were tasked with providing analytical support to the Coordination Center. This included advising member states on coordinating and scheduling shipments, identifying and advising on potential legal and non-legal impediments to humanitarian food imports, and organising the provision of

necessary logistics, communications and information needs by various stakeholders for decision making.

WFP staff assigned to the LCC assisted the SADC cell with the drafting of its Humanitarian Appeal. This included conducting a joint rapid assessment mission of ports and corridors (Durban, Maputo, Beira, Dar es Salaam, and Walvis Bay) in July 2016. The LCC also assisted SADC with organising a WFP-sponsored workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, from July 28th-29th for stakeholders to consider and adopt a Coordinated Regional Disaster Transportation Plan. The workshop brought together member states, transporters, International Development partners, UN agencies, SADC El Nino Team members, private and public sector service providers, and the Federation of Southern Africa Road and Rail Associations to familiarise and create awareness on tasks to be done in accordance with the regional appeal and transport plan. The workshop also served to allow stakeholders to consider and map transport facilitation measures in the region for rapid response to El Nino-induced drought. Directly following the workshop, letters were sent by the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary to Member States in relation to the Logistics and Transport Workshop. As a result, the cell started receiving feedback from Member States, some of which included confirmation of planned cereal imports for 2016-2017.

4. An Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Expert (P-2) was slated to be part of the ICT team responsible for the collation and dissemination of information through regular updates in line with SADC Secretariat operational rules and regulations.

An RBJ ICT staffer travelled to Gaborone two times to work with the SADC team. During the first visit in May, he assessed IT capacities to determine what support WFP could provide to fill gaps. He also inspected the office space for WFP seconded staff and participated in response team meetings. Although WFP was ready to provide support, the SADC team opted to keep IT responsibilities in-house, with materials being published on the SADC website and managed by the SADC webmaster. RBJ ICT nonetheless provided inter-person and remote support and conducted a second mission in June to assess the new office and install office equipment, including a conference phone and printer that were provided by WFP.

## Operational Partnerships

WFP's support to the SADC cell involved engagement not only with SADC member states and SADC employees but also involved collaboration with transporters from around the region, International Development Partners, UN agencies, private and public sector service providers, and the Federation of Southern Africa Road and Rail Association members. Once set-up of the cell was in place, the products from SADC's logistics and analytical cell were dispersed to a wide audience including state governments, civil society groups, local, regional and international NGOs, and the general public.

## Results/Outcomes

A total of four VAM analytical support missions were conducted from RBJ to the SADC cell as part of this IR-PREP. In addition, two ICT missions to Gaborone took place to provide ICT support and start-up assistance. Further, the co-coordinator based in Gaborone contributed to several strategic meetings and documents, including the drafting of the SADC appeal, the production of three situation reports, the dissemination of a periodic monitoring report and participation in three high-level government and donor meetings. WFP's logistics team conducted one large-scale training/workshop as part of this IR-PREP, for a total of 60 participants. The workshop served to flesh out the waiver of cabotage and third-country rules on road haulage upon application by transport operators contracted to move humanitarian relief cargo. These measures allowed for a streamlined operation and smooth running of humanitarian supplies through all corridors. A key output from this workshop was a detailed mapping of transport corridors across the region to better facilitate supply routes. Following the workshop, the outputs were then shared more broadly by participants with their relevant sectors.

## Lessons Learned

Key lessons learned from this IR-Prep include:

- Improved coordination among different UN agencies added value to SADC support.
- More engagement with member countries was attained, which afforded an opportunity for continued UN engagement beyond the activities of the SADC cell.
- While information was collected from major corridors on cargo traffic in and out flows, apart from data provided by WFP, it was difficult to obtain information from port authorities, government entities, and other stakeholders

based at corridor points. Thus, there remains a need to identify/implement a sustainable solution that ensures fluid information flow to the SADC Secretariat, WFP, and all stakeholders.

- There is still a need for further engagement between SADC and government entities to promote implementation of measures agreed upon as part of the Transportation Plan. Although select measures have been implemented, follow-up is required to ensure implementation of the remaining proposed measures of the plan.

# Figures and Indicators

## Data Notes

Cover page photo: © WFP

*"Dry pastures in Zimbabwe"*