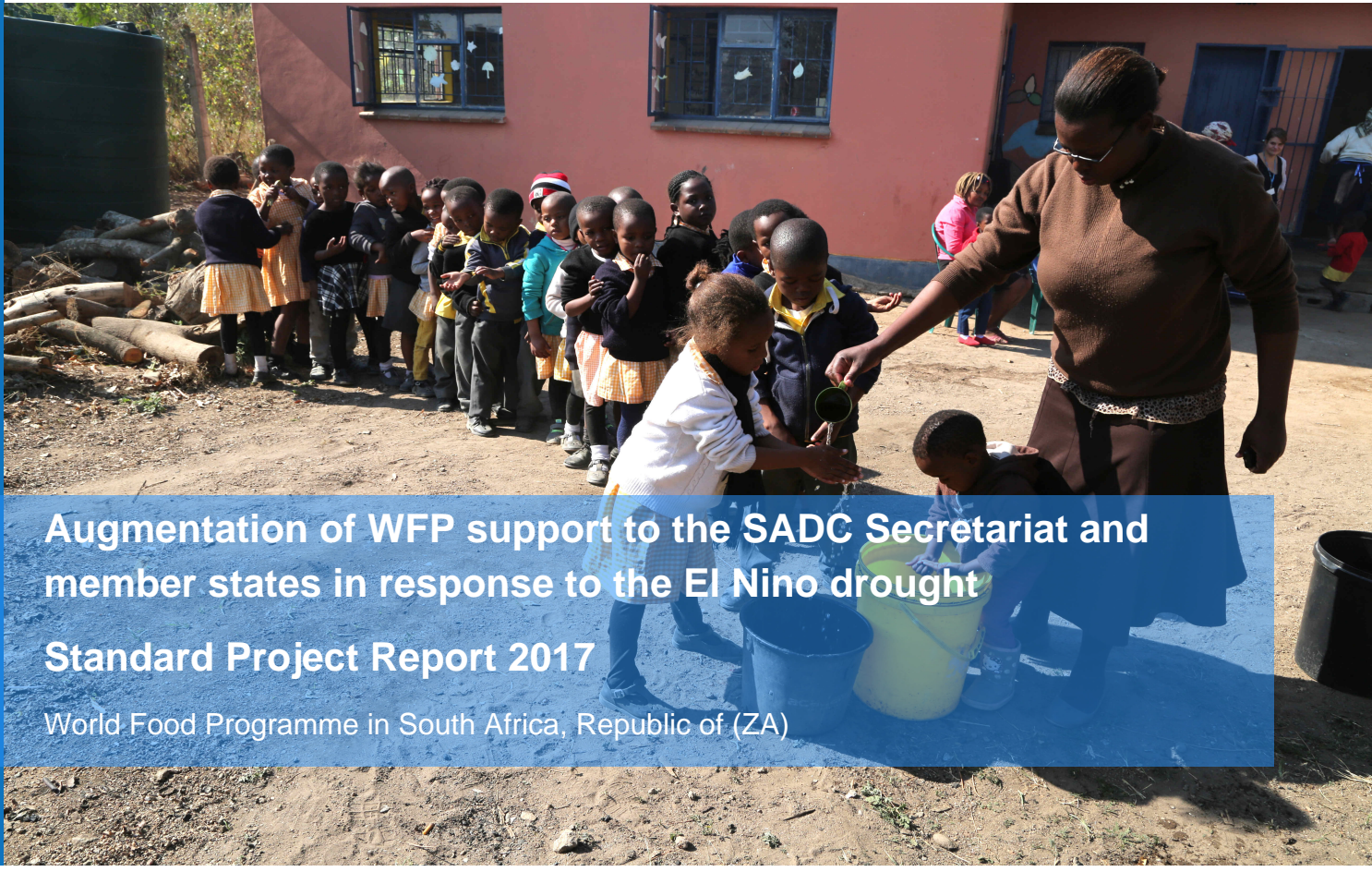


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<http://www.wfp.org/countries>
SPR Reading Guidance



Augmentation of WFP support to the SADC Secretariat and member states in response to the El Nino drought
Standard Project Report 2017
World Food Programme in South Africa, Republic of (ZA)



World Food Programme

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Regional Context

The El Niño-induced drought, the worst in 35 years, caused widespread water scarcity, crop failure and livestock loss across southern Africa. The April 2016 harvest produced only 28 percent of regional requirements - a 9.3 million mt deficit (figure excludes DRC, Tanzania and island nations). The lean season started early (October 2016) and peaked in the months running up to the April 2017 harvest.

During this period, over half a million children suffered from severe acute malnutrition in seven southern African countries, while 3.2 million children had reduced access to safe drinking water as a direct result of the drought. Disease outbreaks spiked as people had to drink from unprotected water sources; and medical care declined as clinics and hospitals ran dry. Children and caregivers living with HIV and TB were at particular risk. Conditions were exacerbated by a deterioration in regional macroeconomic conditions: falling commodity prices and weakening local currencies constrained government capacities.

On 15 March 2016, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers approved the declaration of a regional drought disaster and called for the establishment of a regional Logistics and Coordination Centre (LCC) in Gaborone to coordinate El Niño responses across Member States. Following the approval, the SADC Secretariat - with support from UN agencies - prepared an LCC Concept Note and Terms of Reference (TOR).

SADC opened the LCC on 26 May 2016, constituted primarily of seconded sectoral SADC staff. Cooperating partners, including FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, WHO and WFP, supported the operationalization by deploying sector coordination experts. WFP provided support in food and nutrition security analysis, logistics coordination and information management.

The LCC developed a USD 2.4 billion SADC Drought Appeal for 23 million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance, which was launched by the SADC Chairperson on 26 July.

The Southern Africa Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO), of which WFP is a member, issued an Action Plan in support of the SADC Appeal on 29 July. The Action Plan prioritized assistance to 15 million people in 7 priority countries (Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe). It was based on three pillars: a humanitarian pillar, setting out immediate needs; a resilience pillar to be undertaken in parallel with humanitarian efforts; and a macro-economic pillar, setting out policy options for governments to address the long-term impacts.

Partnerships

SADC established its Regional Vulnerability Assessment system in 1999 to facilitate and support coordinated vulnerability assessment and analysis (VAA) in the region. VAA in turn informs policies and programmes to respond to high levels of poverty and food insecurity. The system includes:

- National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs), established under the leadership of national governments in Member States (MS). NVACs are inter-agency, multi-sectoral committees that carry out annual VAA's regularly used for targeting and responding to acute food insecurity.
- Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC), a multi-agency committee composed of officials from the SADC Secretariat, National VACs and international cooperating partners (ICPs). The RVAC is mandated to "strengthen national and regional vulnerability assessment and analysis systems in order to inform policy formulation, development programmes and emergency interventions that lead to a reduction in vulnerability".
- The RVAA Steering Committee, which provides guidance and policy direction for all RVAA work in the region. It is composed of Permanent Secretaries from Member State institutions that are hosting National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) with the SADC Secretariat as secretariat and RVAA donors and service providers as observers.

The third RVAA Strategic Plan (2017-2021) seeks to consolidate gains made over the past decade. For its implementation, SADC selected WFP to take over from a private company and provide technical assistance in supporting vulnerability assessments and developing the technical capacities of Member States. The plan focuses on:

- broadening and deepening the scope of the RVAA to include chronic vulnerability, poverty reduction, resilience, and climate change;
- strengthening the existing vulnerability assessment and analysis process; and

- contributing to the institutionalization of these processes in national systems (including full funding and ownership) within the SADC region.

Project Objectives

In support of the July 2016 SADC Appeal, WFP launched the two-month regional Immediate Response for Preparedness (IR-PREP) 200979 to provide timely technical support to the LCC. Special Operation (SO) 200993 succeeded the IR-PREP, building on activities that contributed to efficient and effective information sharing in support of the humanitarian response across the region. The SO facilitated collaboration with SADC Member States to enhance assessments and real-time monitoring, and provided surge capacity in emergency preparedness and response at the WFP regional bureau level. The primary objectives of the SO were to:

1. provide technical support to the SADC LCC (located in Botswana at the SADC Secretariat) (Component 1).
2. enhance data comparability, assessment and monitoring in SADC Member States (Component 2).
3. provide surge capacity to WFP's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBJ) in the areas of emergency preparedness and response, humanitarian programming, food and nutrition security data analysis, geographic information systems (GIS), and supply chain and demand planning (Component 3).

Through Component 1, as part of the SADC LCC, WFP provided food and nutrition security analysis, logistics information and mapping services to the humanitarian community and governments. These activities reduced bottlenecks and logistics gaps and facilitated an integrated and coordinated response.

Through Component 2, WFP provided technical and financial assistance to harmonise and standardize data on people affected.

Under Component 3, WFP ensured technical leadership and input on food and nutrition security within the design and implementation of the three pillars of the RIASCO Action Plan.

Project Activities

Component 1: Technical support to SADC LCC

In 2017 the following activities were conducted as part of technical support to the SADC LCC:

- A senior adviser deployed to Botswana to wrap up the El Niño-related activities of the SADC LCC. The adviser assisted in preparing the final SADC Regional Humanitarian Response Report, released in March 2017. The adviser participated in discussions on the future of the LCC, possibly as a SADC resilience coordination hub for the implementation of the SADC resilience strategy (under development as of February 2018).
- The adviser conducted meetings with the Rural Development Council of the Ministry of Local Government to explore areas of bilateral cooperation between the Government of Botswana and WFP. This led to a visit by the acting WFP Regional Director to Botswana in July 2017 to advance collaboration, potentially including technical assistance in the following areas: strategic policy review of food and nutrition needs, gaps and priorities; review and assessment of the national moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment and prevention programs; and harmonization and consolidation of national food security assessment and early warning systems; development of a national Home-Grown School Feeding policy; supply chain remodeling; and the re-formulation and assessment of specialized nutritious foods.
- Together with UNICEF and FAO, WFP funded SADC to hold an El Niño Lessons Learnt Validation Workshop in September 2017. The meeting discussed the findings of the review conducted by a consultant to identify lessons learnt and good practices from the El Niño emergency preparedness, response and resilience building. Representatives from SADC Member States, the SADC Secretariat, and partners such as IFRC participated. The "Review of the SADC Response to the El Niño-Induced Drought Emergency in Southern Africa" summarised the meeting's main conclusions and recommendations.

Component 2: Enhanced assessment and monitoring to support effective decision-making

In 2017 most activities of SO 200993 focused on Component 2. They included Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) training, the initiation of WFP technical service provision for the RVAA Programme, and technical and funding support for assessments.

Support to IPC: Two IPC advocacy missions were supported under this component. In Malawi, an awareness raising workshop was held for each of the country's 28 districts, as was a national workshop for departmental directors. These engagements facilitated the roll-out of IPC in Malawi, and the launch of its first country-wide analysis in March 2017.

In Mozambique, WFP led an advocacy mission to present on IPC at a Food Security Cluster meeting attended by 15 technical officers from the government (represented by SETSAN - a specialized technical analysis unit within the Ministry of Agriculture), NGOs and the UN. The meeting clarified for participants how the IPC's acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition classifications complement each other.

Support to the RVAA Programme: In May 2017, SADC selected WFP as its technical partner in implementing its RVAA Strategic Plan 2017-2021. WFP aims to help strengthen existing vulnerability assessment and analysis systems and contribute to their institutionalization into national systems, with full SADC Member State funding and ownership. For its new role, WFP received interim funding from DFID and the Swiss Development Corporation to:

1. bridge gaps in support for Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) annual assessments;
2. organize a regional VAC dissemination meeting; and
3. facilitate handover and continuity during the transitional phase of the new RVAA programme.

WFP organized a SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) meeting in Swaziland in May to present its proposal for technical service provision for the new RVAA Programme (2017-2021). The meeting was attended by the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) and the RVAC Steering Committee (composed of Permanent Secretaries from the 15 SADC Member States). The Programme was endorsed by the RVAC Steering Committee on behalf of SADC Member States. WFP committed to deploying a full-time technical support team (a technical services manager, data and information officer, communication and advocacy officer and assessment officer) to the SADC Secretariat to support the implementation of the RVAA programme for the next five years, up to 2022. (As of February 2018, seven of the eight positions have been filled).

Upon endorsement, WFP received interim funding for the RVAA technical assistance programme, to support annual vulnerability assessments in eight SADC Members States: Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mozambique and Malawi. A market assessment update was conducted in Malawi as part of this support.

A SADC RVAC meeting was convened in July 2017 to disseminate the results of the assessments and prepare the 2017 SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment Synthesis Report, published on the SADC website.

Other activities under the interim RVAA activities include:

- deployment of a senior RVAA technical staff to manage the transition and handover from the completed RVAA programme to its successor.
- a planning retreat on the new programme was held in Gaborone in July 2017, involving WFP, SADC, Swiss Development Cooperation and the WFP RVAA Technical Support team. Agreement was reached on implementation modalities.

Technical and financial support activities

- The food security analyst and IT officer from the WFP Regional Bureau conducted a field mission to Namibia in August 2017 to support the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in updating its data management tools for food and nutrition security monitoring and train OPM staff on data management principles. Technical staff from OPM were trained to upload surveys in Open Data Kit (ODK) questionnaires, to download data to Android devices and to syntax development for data management. The main outcomes were revised household and community data collection tools and manuals.
- A WFP food security analyst attended the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) held in August, and participated in the technical sessions on the implications of the La Niña forecast for agriculture in the 2017/18 season.

Financial Support were provided for the following activities:

- Zimbabwe Rural Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) rapid rural assessment in February 2017, to update on the food and nutrition security situation for the 2016/17 El Niño-induced drought lean season.
- Lesotho urban vulnerability assessment.
- Production, launch and dissemination of Zimbabwe district profiles in October. This ground-breaking work is co-led by WFP and the Food and Nutrition Council (which houses ZimVAC). It collates detailed baseline food and nutrition security and livelihood indicators for all districts. This is a best practice which is recommended for the region.
- Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Madagascar in July 2017.
- Malawi market assessment.

Component 3: Surge Capacity at WFP's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBJ): This component was completed in 2016 when capacity had to be scaled up quickly. No activities conducted in 2017.

Operational Partnerships

Through this Special Operation, WFP collaborated with several partners. These include:

Component 1: Technical support to SADC LCC: WFP's support to the SADC LCC involved engagement with SADC Member States, SADC staff, international development partners and UN agencies.

Component 2: Enhanced assessment and monitoring to support effective decision-making: WFP collaborated with FEWS NET and the IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) to conduct IPC awareness and advocacy missions in

Mozambique and Malawi. In Mozambique, in addition to providing financial support, WFP deployed a senior VAM officer to facilitate advocacy activities.

Through the RVAA Programme, WFP has expanded its partnership and standing with all SADC Member States, including three where it has no physical presence: Botswana, Seychelles and Mauritius. WFP also partnered with the World Bank in Madagascar and Lesotho.

Component 3: Surge Capacity at WFP's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBJ): This component was completed in 2016 when capacity had to be scaled up quickly. No activities conducted in 2017.

Results

The concerted efforts of all partners in response to the El Niño-induced drought emergency helped avert a humanitarian crisis in Southern Africa. This was the main finding of the El Niño lessons learned meeting held in September 2017, which highlighted the importance of strong coordination and evidence-based planning. The new Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme, currently being implemented with technical assistance from WFP, will help to consolidate the lessons learned on assessments and provide continuity of support to strengthen Member States' ability to conduct assessment and analysis that is harmonized and comparable. The continued advocacy on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) will also galvanize efforts towards regional harmonization in reporting of assessment results.

Specifically, the Special Operation contributed in the following ways:

Component 1: As part of the SADC El Niño LCC, WFP contributed to the proper wrap-up of its work. Together with other UN agencies and members of the RIASCO Resilience Working Group (UNICEF, FAO, OCHA and World Vision), WFP continued to support the development of a common strategic framework for national resilience programmes. An inter-agency-funded position has been established to develop the strategic framework.

Component 2: WFP provided technical and financial support to the coordination of several assessments, food and nutrition analysis trainings, and in-country support missions. The advocacy work done in Malawi and Mozambique has seen these two countries strengthen their use of IPC for reporting on food security assessment results.

In Malawi, the adoption of IPC led to a re-engineering of the assessment process to include a household survey that collects complementary indicators for IPC analysis and reporting. Zambia and Angola have both agreed to host high-level advocacy workshops - an important step towards these countries adopting IPC. In Madagascar, IPC started in 2016 and provided a strong foundation for robust analysis in 2017.

Through the RVAA, annual assessments were supported in eight countries. A dissemination meeting was conducted to consider time-bound strategies, including resilience building.

Support in the development of district profiles in Zimbabwe provided a comprehensive reference for planning and programming resilience activities. This initiative is a best practice that has been recommended for replication by the RVAA.

WFP was collecting remote food security data in all L3 Emergency countries (Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) for monthly bulletins covering trends in food prices and consumption. For Component 2, a user satisfaction survey was conducted for these bulletins covering 2016 and the first half of 2017. It gathered 32 responses from six countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe). About 88 percent of respondents had read the bulletins, and everyone who had read them found them useful. Suggestions for improvements included reporting at lower administrative levels, deeper market analysis, and additional indicators and information sources. The most commonly requested information was on food availability, prices of agricultural inputs and nutrition indicators.

Component 3: This component was completed in 2016 when capacity had to be scaled up quickly. No activities conducted in 2017.

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Key lessons learned from the activities implemented under the Special Operation include:

- Humanitarian organizations must coordinate with social safety net planners and programmers before a crisis hits, especially on the means of expanding such programmes as an emergency response. WFP is committed to working with UN agencies, NGOs, governments and donors to establish methodologies on cash transfer values, and will coordinate with existing safety net programmers. The Southern Africa Cash Working Group has become an important platform for engagement on this issue.
- Governments and partners must be engaged to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity by establishing shock-responsive social protection systems. SADC and its Member States must be called upon to better integrate people that are highly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition into national social protection systems.
- Given the valuable Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) training and analysis in Madagascar, high-level IPC awareness activities should be undertaken throughout the region.
- Supply chain meetings and workshops proved particularly useful, and should be replicated. There should be broad participation, including by SADC Member State, UN agency, donor and private sector representatives.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/David Orr

Water-trucking allows children to wash their hands during the worst drought in a generation in Manzini, Swaziland.

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
National institutions, regional bodies and the humanitarian community are able to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies				
User satisfaction rate				
<i>REGIONAL BUREAU, Project End Target: 2017.04, Latest Follow-up: 2017.06, WFP programme monitoring</i>	=80.00	-	-	88.00

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Capacity Development and Augmentation)				
Number of countries where national annual rural assessments integrated food security, gender and nutrition with WFP support	Country	5	5	100.0%
Number of countries receiving technical assistance in scaling up mVAM	Country	8	8	100.0%
Number of countries where government counterparts are trained in collection and analysis of food and nutrition security data	Country	8	8	100.0%
Number of food security and nutrition monitoring reports produced with WFP support	report	5	5	100.0%
Number of surge staffing capacity supplied to support WFP country offices in priority areas	individual	1	1	100.0%
Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	3	3	100.0%
Number of technical support activities provided on food security monitoring and food assistance, by type (technical workshops, meetings at national and sub-national level)	activity	2	2	100.0%