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Rainy Season Monitoring

World Food Programme
Angola

Highlights

- Provinces of Namibe, Huila, and western Cunene with less than 80% of average precipitation in March 2022.
- Coastal zone of Benguela and Namibe with vegetation cover much below average.
- Provinces of Huambo, Namibe, Huila, and Cunene with below average vegetation cover since the beginning of the rainy season.

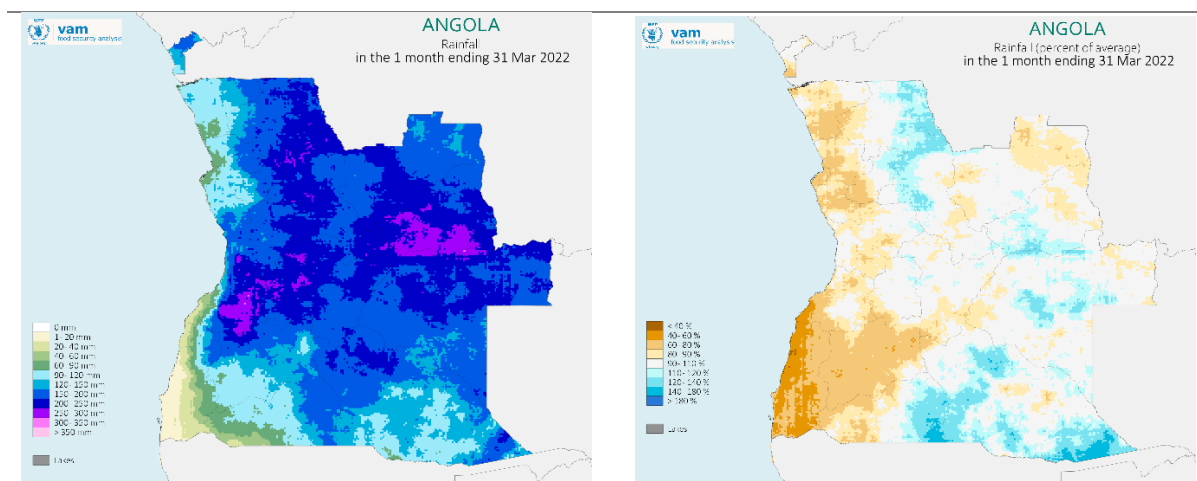
Methodology

The report analyzes rainfall and vegetation cover trends based on the remote rainfall monitoring and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) available on the World Food Programme's DataViz Platform (dataviz.vam.wfp.org). The NDVI is an indicator of vegetation cover; therefore, it can be used to predict agricultural production and grazing conditions as well as to monitor drought. For each geographic region, the precipitation and NDVI data are analyzed by comparing the normal situation values (average values) with the values observed in the present season. The analysis assumes that there is no other phenomenon, such as fires, that could affect vegetation in addition to the climate.

Rainy Season Performance

In March 2022, almost the entire country recorded accumulated rainfall above 100 mm with the exception of the coastal area of the province of Namibe, southwest region of Cunene province, and the western part of Luanda province. Comparing the precipitation observed last March with the average of the last 20 years, the data indicates that the coastal area of Namibe received 40% to 60% of average rainfall, the province of Huila, the western part of Cunene, southwest of Benguela and some regions of the provinces of Zaire, Bengo and Luanda received between 60% to 80% of average precipitation.

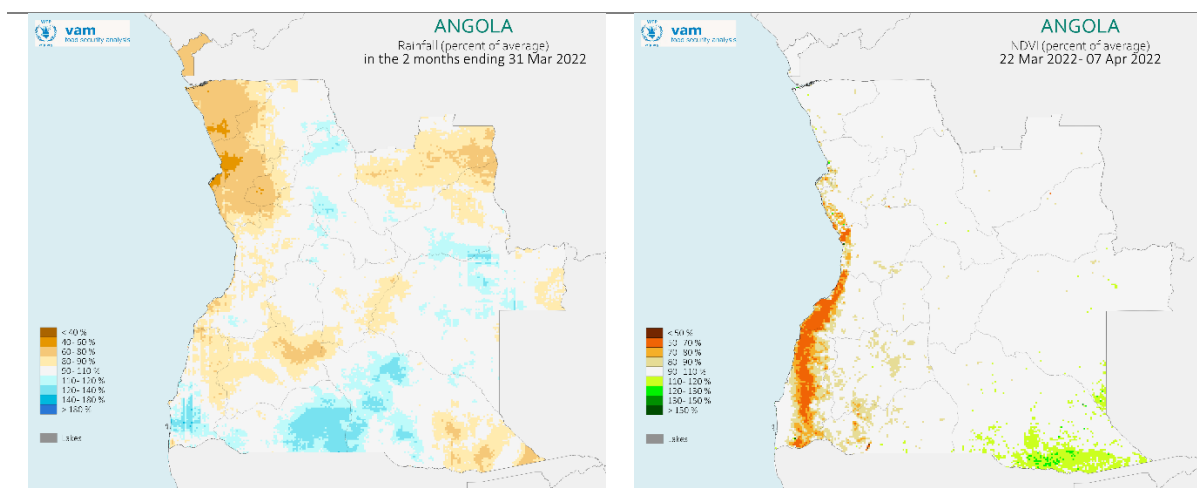
The precipitation balance for the last two months (February and March) indicates that the provinces of Zaire, Bengo, Luanda and the northeastern part of Lunda Norte had 60% to 80% of average precipitation. In the province of Huila, almost all municipalities received below average precipitation.



Map 1: Commulative Precipitation of March 2022 **Map 2:** March 2022 Precipitation Anomaly

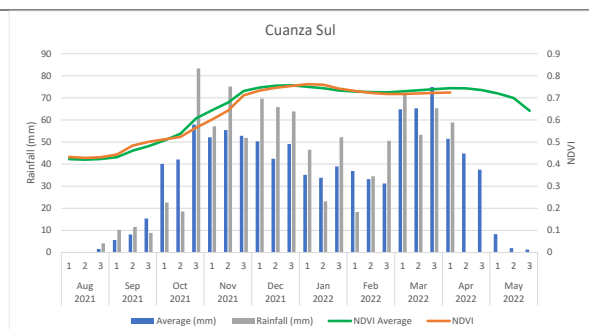
Vegetation cover data suggests that in the period from March 22nd to April 7th, the situation was very critical in the coastal area of the provinces of Benguela and Namibe where the vegetation cover was between 50% to 70% of the average, and the coastal region of the provinces of Luanda, Bengo and Cuanza Sul, and some regions of Huíla and Cunene where the vegetation cover was 80% to 90% of the average.

Historical data indicate that in general, the precipitation ends in April or in the first 10 days of May as shown in the precipitation graphs in the following pages. Therefore, the likelihood of substantial improvements in vegetation cover is very low for areas where it is still below average.

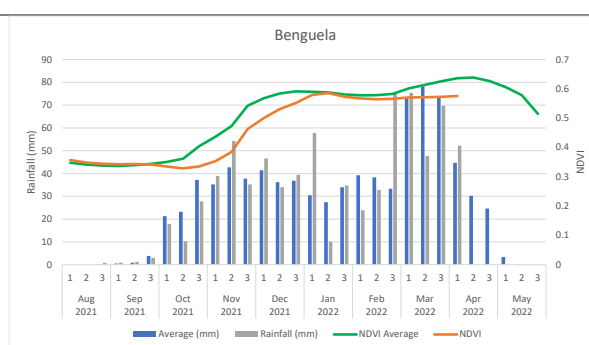


Map 3: Precipitation Anomaly from February to March 2022. **Map 4:** Vegetation Cover Anomaly from March 22nd to April 7th 2022

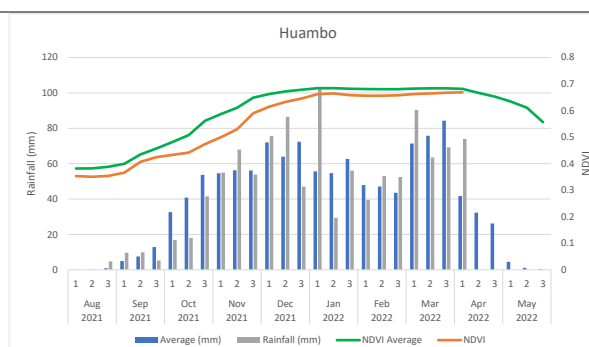
The following is a description of precipitation and vegetation cover in the most affected provinces by drought in 2020/2021 rainy season, namely provinces of Cuanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo, Namibe, Huila and Cunene.



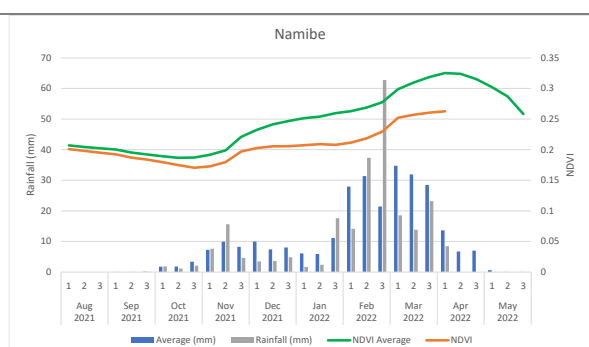
In Cuanza Sul province, precipitation continued to follow the normal pattern until March 2022 and as a result the vegetation cover continues to oscillate around the average since December 2021, being slightly below average in the second decade of March 2022.



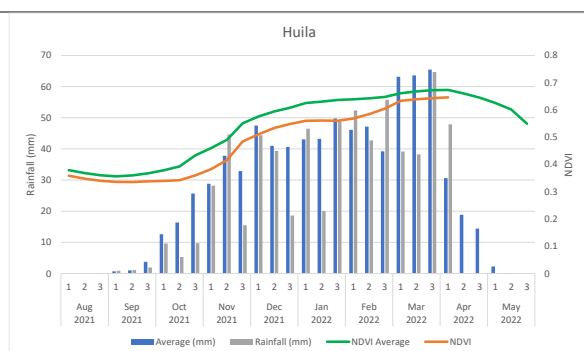
In Benguela province, the accumulated precipitation of March 2022 was below average which slightly reduced the growth of vegetation cover contradicting the average trend. With a few days left in the rainy season, it can be believed that the province will close the rainy season with below average vegetation cover.



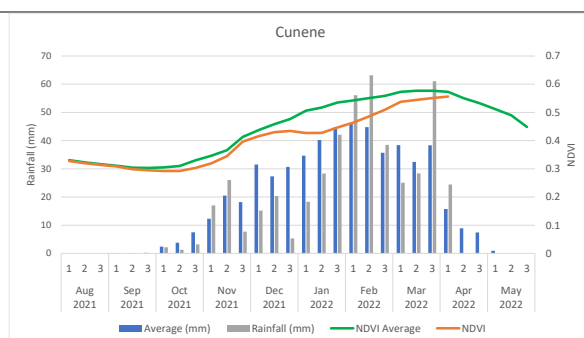
In the province of Huambo, the observed precipitation in March 2022 was below average, contradicting the trend of the previous month. The vegetation cover remains below average and stable since mid-January 2022.



The Namibe province received below average precipitation in March 2022 after observing improvements in the previous month. As a consequence, the vegetation cover grew less when compared to the average trend. Considering the remaining period until the end of the rainy season, it can be expected to end the season with below average cover.



Huila province received below average accumulated precipitation in March 2022 and as a result the vegetation cover remains below average and without significant variations during March 2022. It will most likely close the rainy season with below average vegetation cover.

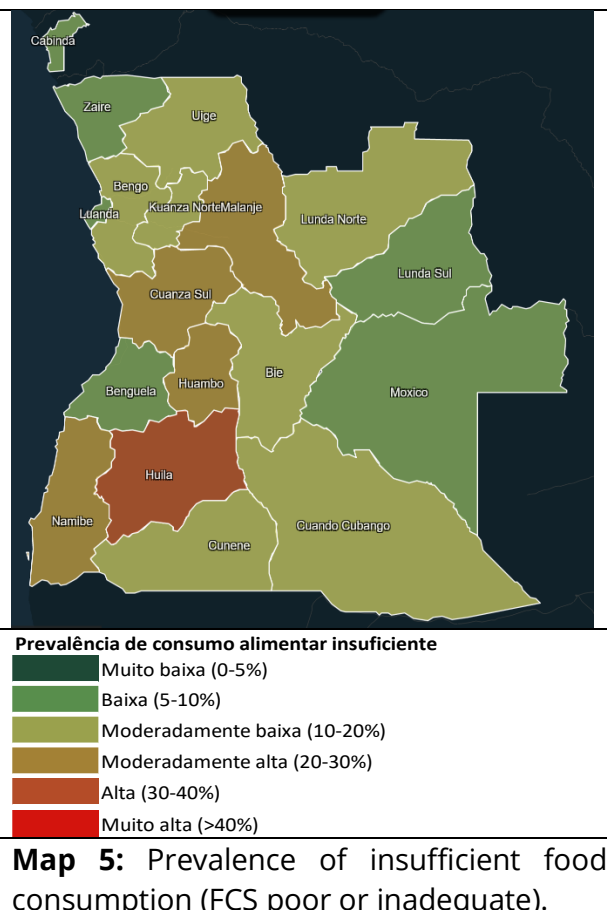


In March 2022, Cunene province continued to receive above average cumulative precipitation, but vegetation cover remains below average although it had slightly increased in March 2022. It will most likely close the rainy season with below average vegetation cover.

Implications for Food and Nutrition Security

The lower than average vegetation cover since the beginning of the season in the most affected provinces by drought in the previous rainy season (Huambo, Namibe, Huila, and Cunene) suggests that the production in the current crop season will not be the best, and pasture conditions will deteriorate earlier than normal, before the start of the next rainy season. These factors pose challenges for households to recover from the food insecurity they have faced since the first half of 2021. It should be noted that the assessment done by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MINAGRIP) in 2021 indicated that 1.32 million people were acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3+) in the provinces of Namibe, Huila and Cunene.

The mVAM data for the last three months (as of April 13th, 2022) indicate that the province of Huila has a high rate (30-40%) of households with insufficient food consumption, followed by the provinces of Malange, Cuanza Sul, Huambo and Namibe with a moderately high proportion (20% to 30%). The situation of insufficient consumption is considered low in the provinces of Uige, Bengo, Cuanza Norte, Bié, Cunene and Cuando Cubango. The quality of food consumption is calculated on the basis of the food consumption score (FCS) of the last seven days.



Recommendations

Precipitation and vegetation coverage evidence continue to point out that the situation is still concerning especially in the south of the country. The food security and nutrition assessment done by MINAGRIP in 2021 recommended a monitoring assessment to measure the trend of some indicators used in the 2021 assessment, however, up to date no monitoring has been done, and therefore the current and expected situation for the consumption year 2022/23 is not known for sure. In this regard, it is recommended that a food and nutrition security assessment to be organized in the coming months to update humanitarian assistance needs and priorities.

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