

FACTSHEET

El Niño Drought Crisis in Southern Africa



OVERVIEW



40 million* people across Southern Africa are affected



23 million people are severely food insecure and require immediate emergency assistance



Nearly **2.7 million children** are severely acutely malnourished



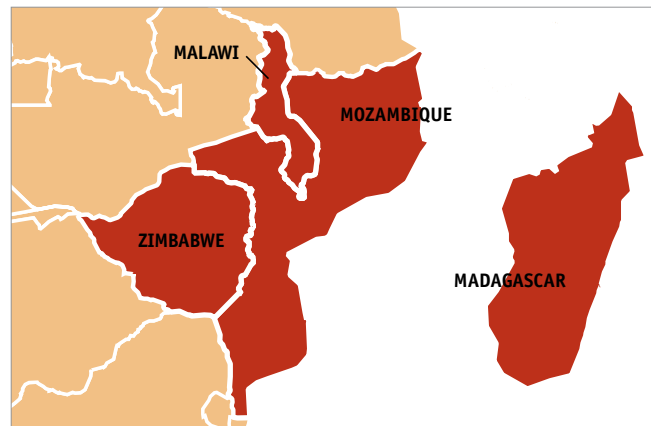
The region faces a production shortfall of nearly **9.3 million tons** of cereal



29% of the population lacks access to safe drinking water



Maize prices have increased by **60%** from the five-year average



HIGHLIGHTS

Southern Africa is experiencing its worst drought in 35 years. In a region in which **more than 70%** of the population depend on agriculture, this has caused the **worst food security crisis since 1991/92**.



The current El Niño is now declining, but hunger is still growing. **Expected peak of food insecurity:** during the lean season from **October until March 2017**.

The humanitarian impact extends beyond food insecurity. It impacts **education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene**.

The situation is compounded by ongoing communicable disease outbreaks, such as yellow fever and cholera, as well as economic shocks.



Food prices continue to be well above the **five-year average**, especially in Malawi and Mozambique.

The scale of drought has overstretched national coping mechanisms. Governments declared a **regional drought emergency**, and have called for urgent international assistance. Southern African countries are amongst the **poorest countries in the world**, with half of the population living on **less than US\$1 a day**.

Women and children are facing significant threats:

- increased risk of **sexual and gender based violence** as they need to travel ever increasing distances in search of water;
- there are reports of **increases in child marriage and survival sex** to obtain food and other resources;
- especially **girls drop out of school** to help find water and food.



1/3 of all people with **HIV/AIDS** live in Southern Africa.

Impact of El Niño:

- increased difficulty to access treatment;
- infection rates in HIV-endemic rural areas **increase by around 11%** with every drought.

EL NIÑO AND LA NIÑA

El Niño is a weather pattern of unusually warm water stretching across the surface of the Pacific Ocean. The relationship between winds and ocean currents changes and modifies weather conditions around the world. Key outcomes are reduced rainfall and drought. La Niña often follows El Niño and brings extreme weather to the same regions which have already been badly affected by El Niño. It is usually associated with above average rainfall. It can reduce water deficits, but can also result in flooding in some areas.

* Includes people in the following 15 countries: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

HOW WE RESPOND TO THE DROUGHT CRISIS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

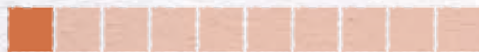
CARE has been working in the region for decades and supports people in Southern Africa through providing emergency and longer-term assistance. CARE distributes food, repairs broken water systems and sets up new ones. CARE helps communities adapt to climate change and prepare for reoccurring disasters. This includes teaching farmers drought-resistant agricultural techniques as well as introducing alternative sources of livelihood and income.



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CARE aims to reach 1 million people in need in Southern Africa.

MADAGASCAR



7% of rural population affected (1.1 million).



More than **7,000 children** are currently suffering from severe acute malnutrition.



665,000 people in immediate need of **food assistance**.



Prediction: 80% of harvest lost.

CARE Madagascar...

- Distributes enriched flour and nutritional supplements to more than **4,800 pregnant and lactating women** as well as **18,000 malnourished children** under five;
- Gives **42,000** people improved **access to water**;
- Distributes **seeds and irrigation equipment** to around **30,000** people;
- Engages more than **3,000** people in **cash for work programs**;
- Sets up **village saving groups** for **1,035** persons.



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MALAWI



45% of rural population **food insecure** and in **immediate need of assistance (6.5 million)**.



39% of country's population face **food insecurity** and require **emergency food assistance**.



This will be the **largest humanitarian response** in the country's history.

CARE Malawi...

- Responds to the **food insecurity** with food and cash distributions, reaching more than **250,000** people;
- Supports **117,000** people with **disaster risk management** and resilience to **climate change, maternal child health and nutrition, economic development, and food for assets**.



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ZIMBABWE



40% of rural population in **immediate need of assistance (4.1 million people)**.



Almost **100,000** children under the age of **5** acutely malnourished.

Global **acute malnutrition** rate of children aged **6 to 59 months** at highest in **15 years**.

CARE Zimbabwe...

- Supports more than **377,000** people among **drought-affected communities** with emergency cash and food for assets;
- Food assistance for **17,271 pregnant and lactating women** and **children** under 2 years;
- Supports **271,000** vulnerable people as part of a 5-year project in the areas of **maternal health and nutrition, disaster risk management and resilience, climate smart agriculture, economic development**.



More than **80%** do not have **access to water** for agricultural purposes.



MOZAMBIQUE



11% of rural population in **urgent need of assistance (2 million people)**.



almost **100,000** children projected to be **acutely malnourished**.



150,000 pregnant and lactating women require support.



Food prices are up to **95%** above average, and are expected to continue to rise.

Conflict causes displacement and constrains flows from the North and exacerbates **food insecurity**.

CARE Mozambique...

- As part of an international consortium aims to reach **500,000** people with **food assistance** as well as improved access to **water and sanitation**;
- Repairs boreholes, drills new ones and trains members of water committees for **maintenance and management** as well as **hygiene and sanitation**;
- Works with households in drought affected areas to increase **productivity and profitability of crops**. This includes distributing **drought-resistant seeds** as well as trainings on **agricultural techniques**.



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Sources: FEWSNET, SADC, UNICEF, UN OCHA, WFP



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CARE CALLS ON DONORS, GOVERNMENTS AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS TO:

Urgently scale-up humanitarian assistance to reach millions of people in urgent need of food, water and livelihood support.

Only **19%** of the UN's regional appeal of **1.2 billion** has been funded so far.

Understand that humanitarian action alone is not enough to break the cycle of recurrent crisis. Funding must be forward-looking and prioritizing humanitarian, preparedness and resilience efforts.

Preparedness is key and it works. Early response and preparedness will prove far less costly in human and economic terms. Studies show that **every dollar invested** into disaster preparedness **saves 7 dollars** when the full scale of disaster has already hit.

Build La Niña preparedness and early action into the current response to El Niño. It is critical to act now to protect livelihoods, preposition supplies and strengthen the capacity of communities at risk.

There is evidence that human-induced climate change increases frequency and severity of natural hazards, such as El Niño and La Niña events. The current situation reveals difficulties vulnerable and poor communities will face in the future. Funding to help people adapt to the changing realities is required.

MAJOR DONORS: DFID; ECHO; USAID/OFDA; WFP; German Foreign Affairs Ministry; Irish Aid