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# SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 2009

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## Countries updated

- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Swaziland
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Others
  - South Africa



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: LESOTHO

Updated – 05 August 2009

### Highlights

- Production slightly lower than the previous season as less area was planted due to higher prices of fertiliser and seeds.
- LVAC estimates 450,000 people will require assistance before the next harvest.

### Actions

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated Maize production: 62,528 MT compared to 68,976 MT last year which represents 10% decrease.</li> <li>Sorghum; 13,241 MT compared to 8,445 MT last year which represents 57% increase.</li> <li>Sorghum cultivation has been on the increase over the past 3 years as farmers know it is more resistant to the weather conditions compared to maize.</li> <li>An average summer and winter estimate of 10,330 Metric tons is estimated, bringing total cereal production estimate to 86,099 Metric Tons which is about the same as 2007/08 estimate of approximately 88,000 MT.</li> <li>The LVAC information on crop production confirms the estimates by BoS e.g. sorghum production is expected to be higher than last year while maize production will be lower. In addition, the LVAC confirmed that in 2008/09 agricultural season, more land was left fallow compared to the previous season.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If cereal production figures are accurate, the government will again have to import cereals from South Africa.</li> <li>According to SAGIS, the production in the Free State (which borders Lesotho) was the highest in South Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LVAC assessment and analysis was completed in June.</li> <li>Increasing prices of essential items coupled with reduced opportunities for cash income for the poorer households has exacerbated the food security situation on these households.</li> <li>The price of fertilizer increased by about 50% and seed prices increased by 20% since May 2008.</li> <li>There have been decreases in casual labour opportunities especially weeding which is a main source of cash and food income for the poorer households</li> <li>Prices of maize flour increased by 10-25% since May 2008 while there has been a drop in the price of paraffin (45%) and cooking oil (25%).</li> <li>A general decline in number of livestock mainly attributed to stock theft and diseases.</li> <li>The LVAC estimates around 450,000 people will need humanitarian assistance in 2009/10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Nutrition Survey report of 2007 revealed that the level of stunting among children below the age of five was at 42% but reaching levels of around 54% in some regions.</li> <li>There is still an indication that the high malnutrition levels might be further exacerbated by the declining production of main staple food; coupled with high food prices.</li> <li>MOH and NFNC with the support of UNICEF are working on strategies of how to reduce the critically high levels of stunting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It appears that Lesotho is the only country in the region with reduced production this year and this could be the result of the impact of the financial crisis where households could not afford inputs for better production as well as repeated poor rainfall performance.</li> </ul>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MADAGASCAR

Updated – 04 September 2009

### Highlights

- The impacts of the financial and political crises continue to be felt across the country.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Multi-Clusters Rapid Assessment Mechanism (MCRAM) survey in the capital city conducted from 6 – 23 Aug. Data analysis in progress.

### Actions

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall 2008/2009 agricultural campaign has been classified as "good". The rice production increased by 16 percent, as a result of a series of incentives, including financial support (subsidized fertilizers and seeds) and technical extension assistance, provided through the Government "Sustainable Green Revolution" initiative. The maize production increased by 22%, masking a 22% decrease in the drought prone south due to rain failure.</li> <li>In some producing areas, the farm gate prices of rice are below than that of the same period last year. Also, due to the political instability, it is likely that the farmers might not receive anymore the Government incentive financial and technical support. These would have a negative impact on the 2009/2010 farming campaign.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rice supplies are adequate and market arrivals remained high. The abundance of rice in the market, due to the good harvest, accounts for the low market prices.</li> <li>Imported rice is found in markets in only 9 out of the 22 Regions, due to the abundance of low price domestic rice.</li> <li>Despite this year's good harvest, the country is experiencing a significant cereal deficit in the drought-affected South – mostly of maize, manioc and sweet potato.</li> <li>Foreseen commercial imports for rice and wheat should cover this deficit if there is no major disruption of the commercial imports system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local market rice prices are falling to a level largely below last year at the same period.</li> <li>The final prognosis of SAP, in July indicates that 45 municipalities in the drought prone South, with a total population of 560,000 people, will be in Food Difficulties as early as September 2009.</li> <li>The joint FAO/WFP rapid crop and food security assessment, conducted in June in selected production zones and some disaster prone districts, showed that 32% of the surveyed population are affected by severe food insecurity. The rate of severely food insecure households is specifically higher in the drought prone southern zones and in the cyclone/floods areas of the east coast. The households in food insecurity are characterized by deficit of production and poor access to food due to their weak purchasing power.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Madagascar consistently has the highest levels of acute malnutrition (15%) and chronic malnutrition (53%) in Southern Africa.</li> <li>The situation is confirmed by the alarming results of the SMART survey carried out by UNICEF in April, showing a 14.5% GAM in 2 districts of Anosy (WHO 2005 standards) and 10.9% in 3 districts of Androy (valid also for 2 more districts in Atsimo Andrefana).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The context of uncertainty and political instability prevailing in Madagascar since January 2009 is aggravating the already precarious situation of the most vulnerable populations.</li> <li>The access to public services and social safety nets has been greatly reduced, but also the partnership with government is limited which often disrupts the situation monitoring and implementation of support activities.</li> </ul>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MALAWI

**Updated – 04 September 2009**

### Highlights

- Bumper harvests have been recorded with an increase in cereal production over last year by 36 percent.
- Despite the bumper harvest it is expected that pockets of food insecurity will remain in some parts of the country.

### Actions

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malawi has recorded an estimated 3.77 million MT total harvest, representing an increase of 36 percent over last year's final estimate and 61 percent higher than the five year average.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The food security situation across the country has improved with the coming in of the new harvest. Households across the country now have access to own produced food.</li> <li>The MVAC annual assessment found that despite good rains resulting in a national surplus production, three districts in the southern region: Chikwawa, Nsanje and Balaka experienced some prolonged dry spells that resulted in local production deficits.</li> <li>Availability of grain in ADMARC markets will be crucial to ensuring that households facing food shortage in affected areas access the food.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The projected total number of people missing entitlements is 147,500. Chikwawa and Balaka have the highest populations of people project to miss food entitlements at 57,600 and 55,300 respectively and Nsanje is projected at 34,600 people. The figures translate to 6,678 MT in maize and US\$2,282,000 in cash equivalents.</li> <li>The majority of the markets continued to record decreases in maize price. The government has set the minimum buying price of maize at MK40/Kg however; private traders are buying from farmers at an average price of MK29.95/Kg as of mid August 2009.</li> <li>At local markets, maize is sold at an average price of MK36.66/Kg. the government has set the maximum selling price of maize at MK52.00/Kg.</li> <li>Since ADMARC markets have not opened; farmers are currently trading with private traders.</li> <li>WFP Malawi and its partners implemented the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis in sampled rural areas of the country. Nearly 5,000 households were interviewed, the report is being finalised and will be circulated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malawi has very high levels of stunting (46%), and underweight (19%) while global acute malnutrition is less than 5%. Under 5 mortality rate is at 118/1000 live births and infant mortality rate is at 69/1000 live births (MICS 2007). Levels of micronutrient deficiency in the country are high. About 80% of under-five children and 48% of pregnant women are anaemic. About 60% of under-fives and 38% of school aged children are deficient of vitamin A.</li> <li>About 38% of child mortality is related to malnutrition while 62% are caused by other factors. About 8% of the nutrition related deaths are due to severe acute malnutrition while 29% and 63 % of the deaths are caused moderate and mild malnutrition respectively.</li> <li>A National Micronutrient survey was conducted in July-August 2009 and the report is expected by November 2009 that will update the nutrition statistics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The record harvest this year has resulted in a generally improved food security situation across the country. Dry spells affected three districts in the Southern region of Malawi.</li> <li>The families will rely on food purchase until the next harvest. Availability of maize in ADMARC and local markets will be crucial to ensure these families access the required food. ADMARC markets have opened for buying of maize and other crops across the country.</li> <li>The food security situation is expected to remain stable for the whole country, except for the Middle and Lower Shire Livelihood zones, where food security conditions are expected to worsen as they approach the hunger season</li> </ul>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: MOZAMBIQUE

Updated – 04 September 2009

### Highlights

- Food security situation is apparently stable with pockets of food insecurity
- National crop production for 2008/09 was better than last season.
- Staple food prices registered slight decrease with harvest season, but remain higher than the five year average

### Actions

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent harvest was good overall, with an increase of about 14% in cereals, 7% in pulses and 9% in cassava</li> <li>• As the 2008/09 main harvests continue, food security is generally stable throughout Mozambique.</li> <li>• Food balance sheet released by Ministry of Commerce show deficit on rice (255,000 MT) and wheat (440,000 MT).</li> <li>• Red Locust aerial spray operations were completed by the 14th August 2009 and another evaluation of residual parental population set for October – November 2009</li> <li>• A FAO €7.2 million European Union (EU) funded project was launched and will promote and protect food and livelihood security of farmers through sustainable seed value chain interventions. This will be done through focus on seed multiplication and marketing, strengthening national seed services, and input support to small holder farmers in high potential areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently released production estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture indicates that 2008/09 cereal production (including maize, sorghum, millet and rice) was about 2.617 million MT, an increase of 14 percent from last season (2007/08).</li> <li>• The production of pulses at the national level is estimated to be 409,630 MT, nearly 7 percent higher than the last season. Cassava production was 9.2 million MT, an increase of 9 percent over the previous season</li> <li>• Food availability has improved substantially over the last two months with the majority of households having adequate access to food from own production. Moderate levels of food insecurity exists in most of the semi-arid zones where poorer households are struggling to meet their food needs through own production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to Agriculture Market Information System (SIMA), indicates that weekly maize prices at the consumer level have been generally stable with small fluctuations in the central zone where some increases were observed. However, at the consumer level the maize prices though stable are at higher levels than last year and the 5-year average limiting food access by the poor households.</li> <li>• The Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) projected that as early as August an estimated 175,000 persons in the critical districts in the provinces of Tete, Gaza and Sofala will be in need of food assistance, until the 2009/10 harvest, while an additional 72,000 persons in poor households in Maputo and Inhambane provinces will require food assistance from October until April 2010.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general, acute malnutrition levels are low (4% in the DHS 2003, ranging from 7.6% (Sofala) to 0.5% (Maputo Province).</li> <li>• However, the levels of stunting/chronic malnutrition in the Northern provinces are among the highest in the region (47%) which is ironic since it's the bread basket of the country. Under 5 mortality is also very high (132/1000 live births).</li> <li>• The MICS national nutrition and health survey findings should be released in the coming weeks.</li> <li>• The most recent Community and Household Surveillance survey<sup>1</sup> shows a 21% increase of poor food consumption in households; significantly higher than values recorded in the past 5 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National CFSVA/VAC assessment is under way and a preliminary report on the food security situation is expected by September 2009. Teams are analyzing the field data collected.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> WFP Community and Household Surveillance survey, April 2009 (sampled 1,910 people in 18 districts in the 7 provinces of south and central Mozambique: Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Tete, Zambezia)



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: NAMIBIA

Updated – 04 September 2009

### Highlights

- The 2009 total crop production was 48% higher than last year.
- Vulnerable households in the northern and eastern Central regions face food shortages as early as August due to successive crises in those areas.

### Actions

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FAO/WFP Crop, Livestock and Food Security report (July 09) indicates that overall crop production is 138,797 MT, comprising 63,324 MT of millet, 6,758 MT of sorghum and 56,552 MT of maize, an increase of 45,278 MT, or 48% above last year's harvest of 93,519 MT.</li> <li>However the NEWU second round estimates are: Maize = 56,900 MT, sorghum = 4,700 MT, millet = 37,300 MT and wheat = 12,200 MT</li> <li>The impact of heavy rains and flooding on livestock mortalities in the northern communal areas (NCAs) was not as severe as originally thought</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking into account the estimated grain production of about 139,000 MT in 2008/09, no planned stock draw-down by millers and virtually no household food stocks at the farm level due to a succession of disasters, as well as an estimated national utilization requirement of about 289,000 MT of grain, it is projected that the country will need to import 150,000 MT of grain during the 2009/10 marketing year (FAO/WFP).</li> <li>However, according to the Namibia NEWU report (July 09) that shows a grain import need of 156,000 MT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The slow onset of the 2009 floods exacerbated the impact of the 2007 drought and the 2008 floods on subsistence farmers, causing a deterioration of the chronic food insecurity situation of around 225,000 vulnerable households in the Northern and Eastern Central regions, moving into acute transitional food insecurity.</li> <li>These households are already having poor food access, and will have difficulties in maintaining an adequate level of food consumption in the coming months from August – September to the next main harvest in April, unless they are provided with food assistance (FAO/WFP).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prime Minister's Office is proposing the formation of the Namibian Alliance against Malnutrition where the inception meeting took place on July 13<sup>th</sup> in Windhoek. A follow up meeting took place in August, again chaired by the Prime Minister.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic food insecurity (food access) compounded by transitory shocks – droughts/floods in the northern communal crop producing areas.</li> <li>Namibia is a net cereal importing country. A strong commercial sector assures good availability of staple cereals to cover effective demand. Vulnerable households' needs are usually addressed through Government intervention programmes.</li> </ul>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: SWAZILAND

Updated – 04 September 2009

### Highlights

- Crop estimates show that production is better than last season although area under cultivation had decreased.
- The Swazi VAC finds more than 260,000 people are facing a food deficit in the 2009/10 marketing year.

### Actions

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The forecasted production level for 2008/09 is 70,672 tonnes, this shows a slight increase from 2007/08 where production was 62,000 tonnes. Current domestic consumption requirement of the staple food crop (maize) stands at 113,000 MT reflecting a shortfall of an estimated 42,000 MT. The shortfall will be met through commercial imports and food aid.</li> <li>It was recently noted that in Swaziland's small-scale farmers are tempted by high sugar prices to cultivate cane at the expense of edible food crops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food continued to be available through markets and the phenomenal price increases observed in 2008 subsided slightly for some commodities. Compared to the same period (June) last year, the major driver (fuel) for commodity price hikes shows a downward trend.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Findings of the Swazi VAC indicate that 256,000 people are facing food deficit - 114,000 with acute food insecurity and 148,000 chronically food insecure.</li> <li>Despite the decline in fuel prices, food basket commodities have not followed a similar trend but have rather remained stable over the one year period under review in most cases. This puts a strain on households that heavily rely on purchase for consumption.</li> <li>Terms of trade (cooking oil/maize grain) for rural consumers declined slightly during recent months due to a modest increase in the price of cooking oil and the decline of the price of maize on the market in June</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malnutrition in young children (&lt; 5 years) was most recently measured in the National Nutrition Survey which took place in 2008. Overall, only 1.1% of the children were <b>wasted</b> (low weight-for-height) which was lower than the 2.5% found in the 2006 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). It was slightly higher in rural areas compared to urban.</li> <li><b>Stunting or chronic malnutrition</b> was found to be around 40 percent and was also slightly higher in children from rural areas.</li> <li>The Swazi VAC has been collecting information on maternal nutrition for four years and it's clear that there is a problem with over-nutrition rather than under-nutrition. Consistently, at least half of the women sampled are found to be <b>overweight or obese</b>. This can be a reflection of the poor quality diet which consists mostly of cereals/carbohydrates with little diversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Swaziland UNCT is in the process of preparing the initial document to share with Government for the UNDAF preparation and includes food security and nutrition as a core pillar for UN support to the Swaziland Government.</li> <li>Trend analysis of nutrition information shows that despite (or in spite of) the low levels of wasting, the levels of stunting have been increasing over the years and could be the reflection of both an economic decline in the country as well as the high prevalence of HIV and AIDS – the highest in the world. It can also be a reflection of the poor quality diet consumed by many of the households that is high in calories but low in micronutrients necessary for good linear growth.</li> </ul>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION UPDATE: ZAMBIA

Updated – 05 September 2009

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| <b>Highlights</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malnutrition levels in flood affected areas are within normal ranges.</li> <li>• The impact of high food prices had been most felt by the rural and urban poor households who are dependent on market supplies during the lean period.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Actions</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• </li> </ul>   |

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The food balance sheet for the 2009/10 marketing season, released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO), established that Zambia recorded a surplus during the 2008/09 production season. As such, no commercial or humanitarian imports are anticipated to be required during the 2009/10 consumption year.</li> <li>• Total cereal production is estimated at 2.2 million MT, which is 34 % higher than last year's total of 1.6 million MT</li> <li>• Government has this year revised FSP program and farmers are going to access half a hectare worth of agriculture inputs through camp agriculture committees to cover 534000 farmers as opposed to last year's 200,000 farmers. Input distribution for the 2009-10 farming season.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With a general surplus in food production, food security has continued improving in much of the country and should improve further as staple food prices decrease from last season's high levels.</li> <li>• The Zambian Government announced the lifting of the maize export ban on 23/07/09 and has initially allowed export of up to 100,000 MT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food access in 7 food insecure districts identified by the Vulnerability Assessment Committee is however not promising as most of the households lost their crops due to floods. Furthermore, these households had their livelihood bases eroded thereby reducing their ability to offset food gaps through purchases.</li> <li>• Although the overall annual food inflation rate dropped by 0.3% recording 14.6% in August, 2009 when compared to the previous month of July, the price of white maize grain recorded a 4% increase in the retail price.</li> <li>• The substantial increase in the price of maize grain in Mongu will negatively affect low income households that depend on purchase for the food requirements</li> <li>• Although food prices have remained relatively stable in the last four months they are generally higher than those of last year by 13% for white roller meal and 19% for white maize grain implying that as the hunger period draws near price increases are imminent and low income households will increasingly find it difficult to access food especially in urban areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zambia has the highest rates of under 5 and infant mortality (170/1000 live birth and 102/1000 live birth respectively) in the region.</li> <li>• The May 2009 Zambia VAC assessment established that malnutrition levels were generally comparable to those of other surveys.</li> <li>• Stunting rates for assessed under-five children in affected areas were found to be 45.5% while wasting and underweight were at 3.6% and 15.2% respectively.</li> <li>• Acute malnutrition levels have remained within acceptable levels and are slightly lower than last season's VAC estimates.</li> <li>• The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in Zambia has attributed high levels of child malnutrition in rural areas to food insecurity triggered by recurrent floods whilst in urban areas, the high levels of child malnutrition is attributed to poverty compounded by high food prices affecting low income households.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assessment results of the 2009 in-depth flood impact assessment by the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment committee indicate that more than 110,000 people in 7 flood affected districts have been exposed to food insecurity and would require 8,300 metric tons of cereal for a period of 9 months starting August, 2009.</li> <li>• In food surplus areas, WFP intends to provide market to small scale farmers through P4P Programme.</li> <li>• The substantial increase in the price of maize grain in Mongu will negatively affect low income households that depend on purchase for the food requirements</li> </ul>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE: ZIMBABWE

Updated – 03 September 2009

- Highlights**
- Households generally food secure as they consume cereal from own harvest.
  - Cereal prices stable due to stable supplies onto the markets.

### Actions

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In April 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) estimated cereal production to be 1,510,000 MT, and in May 2009, the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) estimated cereal production of 1,370,000 MT. Both estimates indicate an improvement compared to last season's production. This improvement was attributed to the good rainfall and distribution, though inputs were in short supply.</li> <li>• In July 2009, the area prepared for the winter wheat was 21,275 ha, of which 18,201 ha had been planted compared to 31,663 ha planted in 2008.</li> <li>• Donors have committed/pledged approximately USD 74 million to assist about 630,000 HHs for the 2009/10 season. On average, each HH will receive input support for <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> ha translating to between 300,000-350,000 ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national food security situation has remained stable in 2009.</li> <li>• According to the CFSAM, national utilization of cereals for direct human consumption is 1.74 million tonnes, which gives a cereal deficit of 680,000 tonnes after factoring in cereal for industrial use.</li> <li>• Zimbabwe's capacity to import is still a challenge, due to financial constraints given the current economic conditions and the fact that households that are chronically vulnerable due to production losses may not have the means to access market supplies and may require assistance.</li> <li>• The supply of both food and non-food commodities, mainly from South Africa have been favorable in most urban centres since January 2009 and this situation is expected to continue through December 2009, given the extended relaxed import regulations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In many parts of the country, grain prices have remained stable with a kilogram of maize grain ranging between ZAR1.71 and ZAR2.29</li> <li>• Unrefined maize meal prices are also stable, ranging from ZAR3.00 to ZAR5.00 per kilogram.</li> <li>• The major food aid pipelines, i.e. WFP and C-SAFE are making preparations for the start of the Vulnerable Group Feeding programme in October 2009. Targeted rural beneficiaries are 1.8 million (1.2 WFP and 0.6 C-SAFE)</li> <li>• A rural ZImVAC Household Assessment is planned for September/October 2009 to update the preliminary figures of food insecurity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The November 2008 Nutrition Surveillance Survey Report by UNICEF indicates that nationally the prevalence of malnutrition has remained static over the past 3 years. Global acute malnutrition was 4.8% which is below national emergency cut-off points (using national and international standards)</li> <li>• UNICEF and partners are planning to carry out another round of the Nutrition Surveillance in November 2009. Funds for the exercise have already been secured.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The month on month inflation rose to 1% in July 2009 from 0.6% in June 2009 according to the Central Statistical Office. The month-on-month food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation also rose to 0.23% in July 2009 up from -1.26% in June 2009. Prices of goods and services remained relatively stable in July with the family basket declining slightly by one percent to US\$ 501.36 from US\$ 502.20. August 2009 figures are yet to be published.</li> <li>• The amount of foreign currency in circulation is still limited and some rural households are still relying on barter trade.</li> <li>• Economic recovery has been slow with industrial capacity utilization improving slightly from 10% to around 20%. Critical challenges are still being faced in the provision of basic services and utilities such as power, fuel, health, transport and education.</li> </ul>



## Other Countries:

### **South Africa** (information obtained from <http://www.sagis.org.za>)

Crop estimates released on 26 August 2009 indicate that estimated total commercial maize production, set at 11,684 million metric tonnes which is 80,450 metric tonnes higher than the July 28 2009 forecasts of 11,603 million metric tonnes. The production estimates are lower than the final maize production estimates (12.7 million metric tonnes) obtained during the 2007/08 season. The corresponding estimated area planted with maize is also lower, at 2,428 million hectares compared to the final estimated area (2.799 million hectares) of last season. The area estimates for maize are to a large extent based on the Producer Independent Crop Estimation System (PICES) as undertaken by the National Crop Statistics Consortium (NCSC), which is led by the ARC.

The production forecast for sorghum increased slightly to 265 200 tons. The area estimate for sorghum is 85,500 Ha and the expected yield is 3.10 t/ha.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the respective country teams from the various Agencies in providing contributions to this report. Information for countries such as South Africa is obtained from relevant websites as reflected in the main body of the report where applicable.

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