



SADC Regional Vulnerability
Assessment & Analysis (RVAA)

SYNTHESIS REPORT

on the State of Food and Nutrition
Security and Vulnerability in
Southern Africa

2018

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Maseru, Lesotho





RVAA

Regional Vulnerability Assessment & Analysis Programme

Informing resilient livelihoods

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Contents

Acronyms.....	3
1. Introduction.....	4
1.1 Background to the SADC RVAA Programme.....	4
1.2 Objectives of the 2018 RVAA Dissemination Forum.....	4
1.3 Approaches and methods.....	4
2. Regional food and nutrition security outlook: 2018/19.....	5
2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Regional food security outlook.....	6
2.3 Regional nutrition security outlook.....	7
3. Factors contributing to food and nutrition insecurity.....	9
3.1 The 2017/2018 rainfall season.....	9
3.2 Food production.....	10
3.3 Agricultural employment and household income.....	14
3.4 Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).....	14
3.5 HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB).....	15
3.6 Gender.....	16
4. Conclusions and recommendations.....	17
4.1 Conclusions.....	17
4.2 Recommendations.....	17
5. Country summaries.....	18
Angola.....	18
Botswana.....	18
DRC.....	18
Eswatini.....	19
Lesotho.....	19
Madagascar.....	19
Malawi.....	19
Mauritius.....	19
Mozambique.....	19
Namibia.....	20
Seychelles.....	20
South Africa.....	20
Tanzania.....	20
Zambia.....	20
Zimbabwe.....	20
Annex A: NVAC minimum common assessment indicators.....	22

Acronyms

AU	African Union
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAW	Fall armyworm
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System Network
FNSWG	Food and Nutrition Security Working Group
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HEA	Household Economy Approach
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
ICP	International Cooperating Partners
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
ISP	Institutionalization service provider
MAD	Minimum acceptable diet
MS	Member State
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NVAC	National Vulnerability Assessment Committee
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RISDP	SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RTST	Regional Technical Services Team
RVAA	Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
RVAC	Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SARCOF	Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SVAC	Eswatini Vulnerability Assessment Committee
TB	Tuberculosis
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UVAA	Urban Vulnerability Assessments and Analysis
VAA	Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee
WHA	World Health Assembly
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the SADC RVAA Programme

Since its establishment in 2005, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme has facilitated the strengthening of a regional vulnerability assessment and analysis (VAA) system. This is in alignment with the SADC Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020. Composed of the multi-sectoral and multi-institutional SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) and national vulnerability assessment committees (NVACs) in SADC Member States, the system has become a critical source of information for emergency response and development programming by both governments and partners.

The first phase of the programme (2005-2011), transitioned from food aid as a 'one size fits all' response to hunger and vulnerability. The programme sought to inform broader approaches to tackling food insecurity including safety nets and social protection. A second phase of the programme implemented from 2012-2016 focused on expanding the scope of VAA to include urban areas and chronic poverty issues (including gender, HIV/AIDS and climate change), and on influencing policies and programmes. The current phase (2017-2021) seeks to consolidate gains from the previous phases, to strengthen chronic vulnerability and poverty analysis. It also aims to institutionalize NVACs into national government institutions that provide VAA products and services to policy-makers and humanitarian responders. The plan recognises that predictable resource allocation from national governments is fundamental to multi-year programming and enhancing value.

The goal remains the timely provision of credible vulnerability information, while building capacities to meet the ever-increasing information needs of governments and partners for developmental programming and emergency response.

1.2 Objectives of the 2018 RVAA Dissemination Forum

Every year the RVAA programme convenes a meeting that affords NVACs the opportunity to share results and experiences from their annual assessments. The main objective is to prepare a SADC Regional Vulnerability and Assessment Synthesis Report for endorsement by the SADC RVAA Programme Steering Committee (composed of senior government officials). Specifically, the workshop objectives are to:



This report addresses these objectives while providing the necessary contextual analysis. It presents current acute needs, structural constraints and recommendations for addressing the vulnerability to food and nutrition security so determined.

1.3 Approaches and methods

The NVACs employed a number of different approaches to design, collect and analyse data for the 2018 annual assessments. However, all are livelihoods based approaches. The main guiding conceptual framework for the assessments was the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework. This was complemented by the UNICEF Child Nutrition conceptual framework, the Food and Nutrition Security conceptual framework and the Risk, Hazard, and Vulnerability conceptual framework. In Zimbabwe, the resilience conceptual framework was an additional conceptual framework, and a cohort for household resilience capacities measurement was established.

NVACs used mixed methods to collect data on a wide range of livelihoods aspects. Judicious review of secondary data buttressed primary collection. Qualitative methods as well as quantitative household surveys

using structured questionnaires was a common mix of methodologies employed throughout the region. Many NVACs used android tablets to collect primary data for their assessments, an innovation that the RVAA Programme recommends. The assessments also largely deployed cross-sectional survey design.

The Household Economic Approach (HEA) and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) are two broad analytical frameworks that the NVACs used in their assessments. Both analytical frameworks offer the desired means for integrated analysis, which the RVAA Programme is advocating for and promoting among NVACs.

To facilitate consolidation of the assessment results from the different NVACs into this Regional Synthesis Report, a pre-Season Workshop for NVAC Lead Technical Officers' produced an Integrated VAA and Harmonized Reporting Guideline in March 2018. In addition to refreshing NVAC technical officers with the key assessments conceptual frameworks, the workshop facilitated development of consensus on minimum reporting indicators. These provided guidance to NVACs on indicators for data collection and reporting (see [Annex D](#)). This report is a synthesis of the NVACs annual assessment reports presented at the 2018 Annual Dissemination Forum held in Maseru, Lesotho from 2 – 6 July 2018.

Since 2008 there has been a concerted effort to understand urban livelihoods and how they are impacted by shocks. The RVAA Programme plans to expand this component, as well as emergent themes, by locating its work within a resilience framework. It will require that assessment and analysis be re-conceptualized and re-equipped. It is the fundamental view of the RVAA Programme that there is a pressing need to advance from planning for response to planning for and building resilience, which will require poverty analysis as well as resilience measurement and monitoring.

2. Regional food and nutrition security outlook: 2018/19

2.1 Introduction

The SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme estimates show that almost 16% of SADC's rural population have been consistently designated food insecure over the past 5 years. This is despite improved production in some Member States. Climate change, actualized as increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters (especially drought and flooding) contributes to the situation.

Food and nutrition insecurity is fundamentally related to structural societal factors, including developmental issues such as access to land, credit, education and employment, as well as access to affordable agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, water and seeds. Slow and uneven economic growth, high population growth, environmental degradation and unplanned urbanization is contributing to ever-greater numbers of people affected by shocks. About 70% of the region's population depends on agriculture for food, income and employment, all of which hinges on the right amount of rain at the right time. Only 7% of arable land is irrigated – 3.4 million ha of 50 million ha. What is more, the region's staple crop – maize – is particularly sensitive to dry spells.

The SADC region's population is over 340 million. Life expectancy remains within the range of 51 to 75 years and unemployment rates remain in the range of 4% to 80%. These statistics call for investment in activities to increase employment throughout the agriculture value chain. The poverty incidence remains high, ranging from 0.7% to 65%. Stunting rate reduction is occurring too slowly to meet the World Health Assembly (WHA) 2025 or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 targets. Currently at least one in three individuals is stunted in 10 out of 16 SADC Member States (with a prevalence above 30%), with 4 countries recording stunting rates above 40%. According to WHA, stunting rates of 20% and above are considered high.

The region's children are facing a double burden of malnutrition: undernutrition (including micronutrient deficiency) and overnutrition. Given that diets are mainly cereal-based, even where food is available, it is not necessarily nutritious, and many suffer micronutrient deficiencies (iron, iodine, folate, vitamin A, and zinc). This results in high numbers of children and other vulnerable populations suffering from malnutrition, which at its extremes can be a matter of life and death, and in the long-term can undermine economies and development. Data available in 2018 shows that the prevalence of wasting (being too thin for your height) among children under age 5 years is above 5% in six Member States, while stunting prevalence (being too short for your age)

is above 30% in 10 of 16 Member States (some of which are classified as middle-income countries), and above 40% in four countries.

2.2 Regional food security outlook

The NVACs' food and nutrition security assessments and analyses are guided by the definition of food and nutrition security given by the Committee on World Food Security that states that: "Food and nutrition security exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life."

The definition is operationalised by collecting and analysing multiple indicators that measure different aspects of food access and food security outcomes. In this report the regional food security situation is informed by assessment data from 11 Member States and the analysis is for the period April 2018 to March 2019.

About 29.4 million people are estimated to be food insecure in the 2018/19 consumption year. The number represents about 14.2% of the total population in the 11 countries. It is 13% higher compared to the previous year and about 3% higher than the five-year average for the 11 Member States who provided data. Given that there were no drastic climatic and weather-related shocks in the region, the increasing trend in the number of food insecure population is highly suggestive of chronic long-term structural issues being at the core of the causes of the food insecurity in the region. Additionally, the rise in the number of the food insecure population in tandem with the poor rainfall seasons, is indicative of vulnerability of livelihoods in the Region to climate variability. As such, both chronic and acute food insecurity appears to be reinforcing each other.

The food insecure population in DRC, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe makeup close to 90% of the food insecure people in the 11 Member States. The largest increase in affected people compared to the previous year are expected in Zambia, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Decreases in food insecure populations are recorded in Namibia and Eswatini. In many of the 11 countries that provided data, many households are experiencing Minimal (IPC Phase 1) and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity outcomes from May to September 2018. Areas affected by earlier seasonal dryness in southern parts of Mozambique and Madagascar are already experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes, as well as three provinces affected by conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Tanganyika, Kasai, and Ituri). From June to September Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and the DRC.

Table 1: Food Insecure Population in SADC Member States, April 2018 - March 2019

Country	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19 vs 2017/18	5yr average
Angola	665,000	755,678	1,253,048	755,930	749,500			835,831
Botswana	28,936	29,306	30,318	57,411	12,000	35,055	192%	31,594
DRC	7,318,639	6,591,535	4,456,106	5,900,000	7,700,000	7,249,998*	-6%	6,393,256
Eswatini	289,920	223,249	320,973	638,251	159,080	122,086	-23%	326,295
Lesotho	223,055	447,760	463,936	709,394	306,942	308,966	1%	430,217
Madagascar			1,800,000	1,140,000	855,796	1,261,323	47%	1,265,265
Malawi	1,855,163	1,312,376	2,833,212	6,692,114	1,043,000	2,397,220*	130%	2,747,173
Mozambique	212,000	150,000	375,905	1,980,000	313,481	531,476	70%	606,277
Namibia	778,504	117,662	578,480	729,134	798,384	257,383	-68%	600,433
Seychelles			7,195	13,706				10,451
South Africa	13,798,024	14,060,928	14,349,445	14,349,445	13,700,000	13,930,354	2%	14,051,568
Tanzania	828,063	424,136	358,505	358,505	118,603			417,562
Zambia	209,498	351,267	798,948	975,738	77,000	954,120*	1139%	482,490
Zimbabwe	2,206,924	564,599	2,829,159	4,071,233	1,052,768	2,423,568	130%	2,144,937
SADC	28,413,726	25,028,496	30,455,230	38,370,861	26,886,554	29,471,549		29,826,793

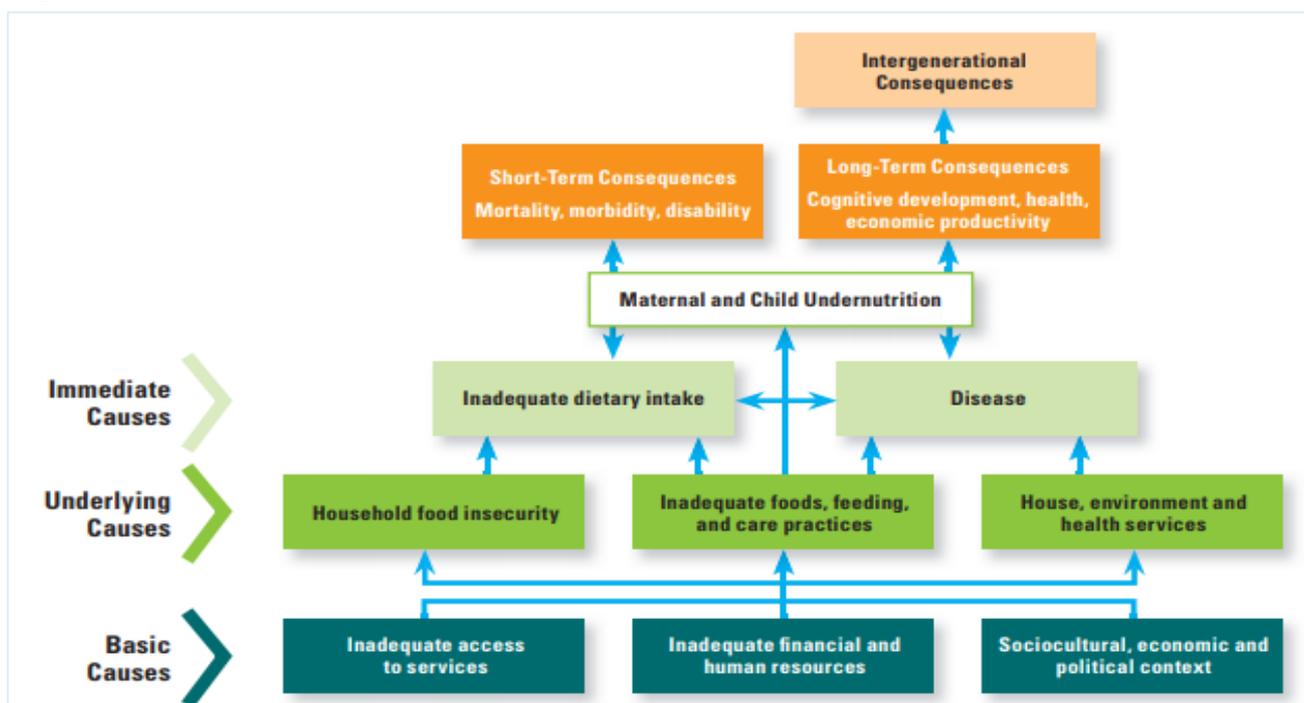
*Preliminary estimates. No 2018 data for Eswatini, Mauritius and Seychelles. Source: SADC Member States

2.3 Regional nutrition security outlook

Malnutrition is the result of a complex set of interacting factors that are multi-sectoral, related to health, sanitation and care practices as well as consumption and access to food. Further influencing factors include education, gender, social equity, and the local social and environmental context. These causes of malnutrition are classified as immediate, underlying, and basic, whereby factors at one level influence other levels (see Figure 1).

Addressing malnutrition in a sustainable way and in all its forms – including stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight – requires an understanding of the underlying and basic causes at the level of the individual, household, community and region.

Fig 1. Malnutrition: A conceptual framework



Source: UNICEF (adapted)

Stunting reduction is off track in the Southern Africa region, with 20 million children under 5 years who are stunted. Progress towards meeting the World Health Assembly target of a 40% reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025 is too slow to keep pace with population growth. The proportion of stunted children is declining in the region, with the notable exception of Angola, Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa. However, the rate of reduction is not great enough to reduce the number of children who are stunted. Figure 2 shows that currently, at least one in three individuals are stunted in 10 out of 16 Member States in the SADC region, indicating high or very high stunting (prevalence above 30%). Four countries have very high prevalence of stunting (above 40%): DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique and Zambia. This data clearly shows the need to accelerate high impact nutrition interventions.

No major increases of global acute malnutrition (GAM) have been observed during the 2018 peak lean season (January – March). However, acute malnutrition continues to be a problem in parts of the region. Pockets of high GAM (above 10%) persist in specific areas, such as districts in southern Madagascar. Additionally, prevalence of overweight in three countries in Southern Africa is 10% or higher (Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa), revealing an emerging problem in the region (See Figure 3).

Fig 2. Stunting prevalence in SADC Member States

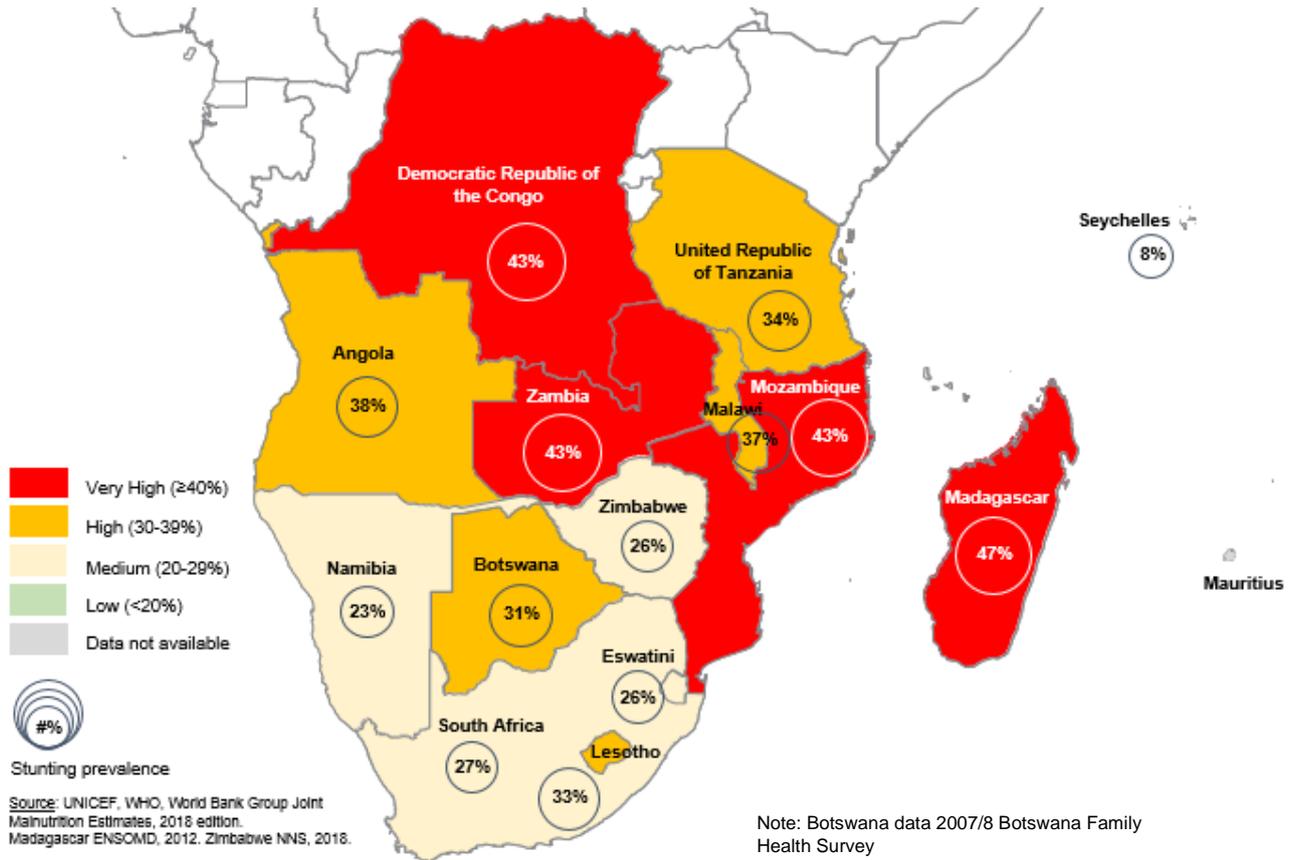
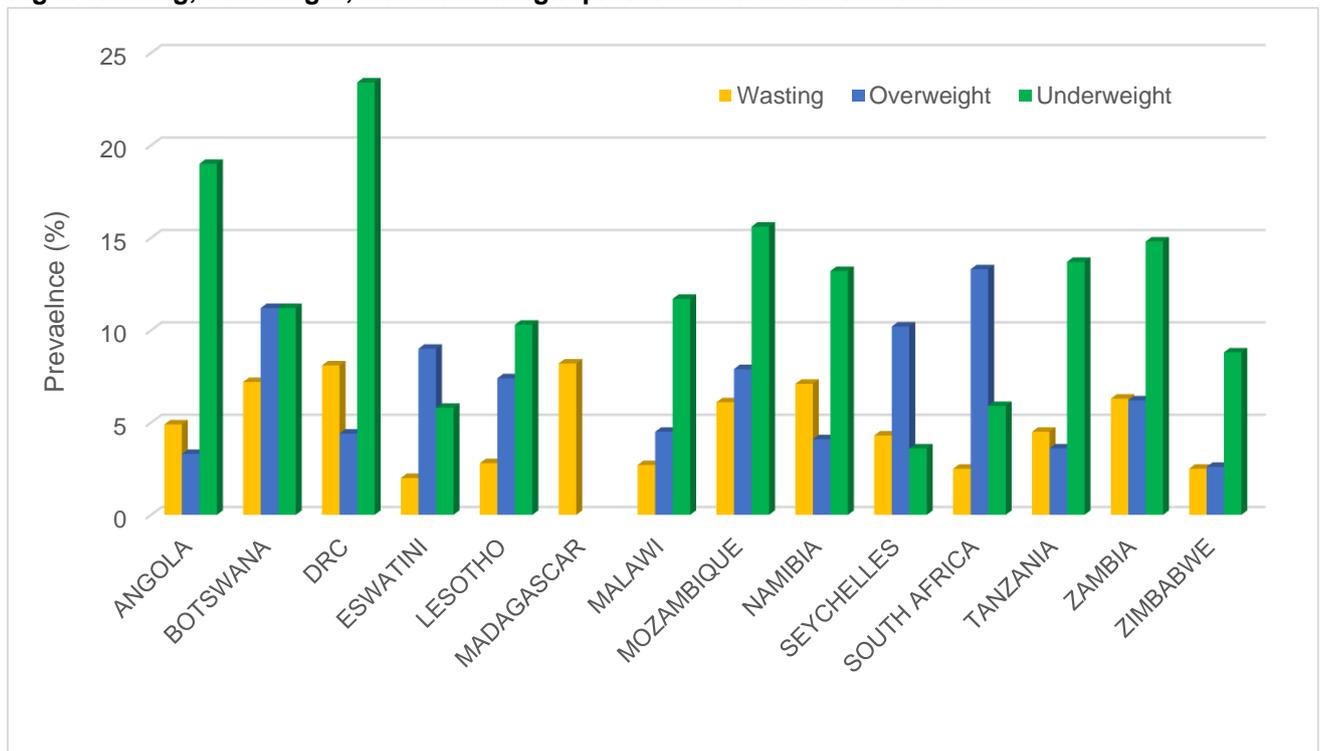


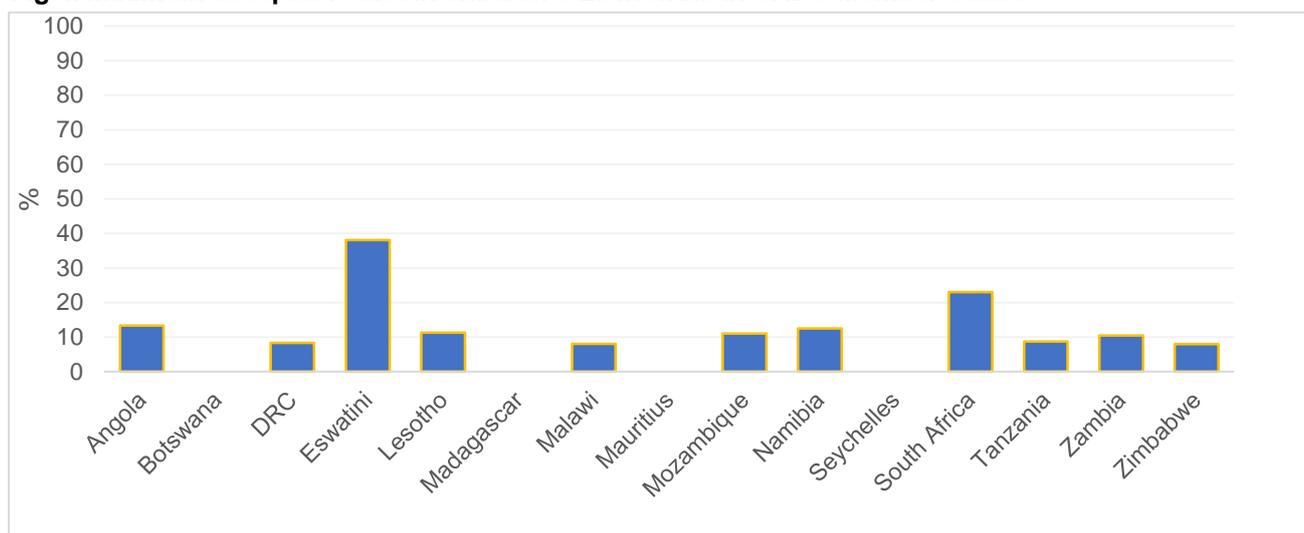
Fig 3. Wasting, overweight, and underweight prevalence in SADC Member States



Source: SADC Member States

Dietary diversity is a proxy indicator for adequate micronutrient density of foods, while the number of meals that an infant or young child needs in a day depends on how much energy the child needs. Infant and young child feeding practices are core to understanding the nutritional status of children. In addition, appropriate feeding is multi-dimensional (including factors such as quality of food, mother's time, level of education and cultural norms). Therefore, the minimum acceptable diet (MAD) is a composite indicator that reflects both diet diversity and frequency. In the SADC region, minimum acceptable diet is very low, ranging from 8% (Zimbabwe) to 38% (Eswatini). See Figure 4.

Fig 4. Minimum acceptable diet in children 6-23 months in SADC Member States



Source: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report, 2017

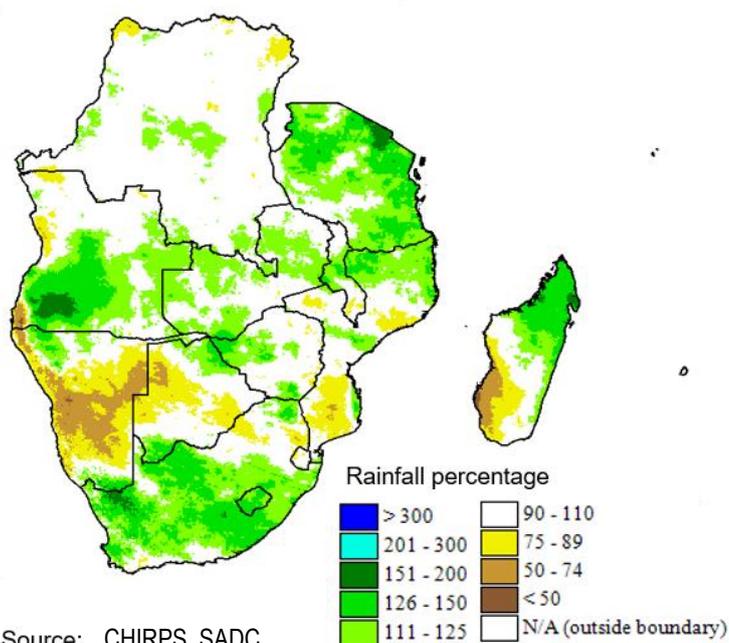
3. Factors contributing to food and nutrition insecurity

3.1 The 2017/2018 rainfall season

The SADC region continues to confront natural hazards that adversely affect food security, vulnerability and livelihoods. In the 21st century the region has been markedly affected by droughts, floods, pests and epidemics. In 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) observed increasing temperature extremes, and anticipates that by the end of this century temperatures will increase by 3-6°C (the high emission scenario). Droughts will be more intense and more frequent, as will floods. SADC estimates that 75-250 million people will be exposed to increased water stress by 2020 due to decreasing rainfall.

Every year, the September-to-April rainfall season largely determines the region's main summer harvest, as crop agriculture is mainly rainfall dependent and irrigation is minimal. An erratic onset of rains in the southern half of the region resulted in a reduction in area planted, as well as poor crop germination and establishment in some areas.

**Fig. 5: Rainfall as % of average
01 Oct 2017 - 30 Apr 2018**



Source: CHIRPS, SADC

An extended dry spell in late December to late January in central parts of the region caused moisture stress and permanent wilting in many areas, with greater negative impact on early (November 2017) planted crops. Extreme high temperatures also occurred in the dry areas during this period. Most Member States were affected to varying extents by the hot dry conditions, resulting in yield reductions in affected areas, in some cases due to crops wilted beyond recovery. Rains resumed in late January, allowing for recovery of some late planted (December-January) crop. The high February and March rainfall also promoted the recharging of hydrological reserves, and regeneration of pasture for livestock.

Floods

Floods and cyclones affected several Member States, resulting in fatalities, displacement of populations, damage to infrastructure and flooding of cropped areas. Tropical Cyclone Ava hit Madagascar in early January 2018, causing fatalities, displacement, infrastructure damage and significant crop losses. Northern Mozambique was also affected by heavy rainfall in January. In March, Madagascar was hit again, this time by Severe Tropical Storm Eliakim, while Tropical Cyclone Dumazile affected Mauritius and La Reunion. Localised floods caused displacement and infrastructure damage in Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. This brought the number of Southern Africans impacted by floods and cyclones in 2018 to about 329,900.

Outlook for 2018/19

Looking ahead, global models run by international climate forecasting institutions are predicting the occurrence of El Niño during the 2018/2019 season. El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean, but influences climatic patterns in many parts of the world, including Southern Africa. In the SADC region, El Niño has historically been associated with more frequent occurrence of below average rainfall in central and southern parts of the region, while the northern-eastern parts of the region have historically experienced a more frequent occurrence of above average rainfall during El Niño years. The SADC region seasonal rainfall forecast for the 2018/2019 season will be issued at the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) in August 2018.

3.2 Food production

Cereal production

The major cereal crops produced in the SADC regional are maize, wheat, sorghum millets and rice. Maize – the main staple food – accounts for 80% cereal production in Southern Africa. Between 2010 and 2016, South Africa and Tanzania produced more than 50% of the region's cereals, followed by (10%), Malawi (8%), Zambia (7%) and DRC (7%).

Available data from nine Member States (Table 2) indicates that the dry spells that characterized the 2017/18 rainfall season have resulted in reduced cereal harvests compared to the 2017 bumper crop. South Africa's production estimates have decreased by 19% but is still 4% above the 5-year average. Tanzania's cereal production is comparable to the previous year and the 5-year average. The most significant contractions from the previous harvest and the 5-year average were recorded in Lesotho (-68% and -35%), Zambia (-33% and -20%) and Botswana (-30% and -38%).

Table 2. Cereal production in SADC Member States: 2012/13 to 2017/18

Country	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2017/18 vs 2016/17	2017/18 vs 5yr Avg.
Angola	1 672 184	1 820 348	2 016 566	2 374 208	2 820 611		-100%	-100%
Botswana	33 756	260 000	90 317	54 000	94 436	66 093	-30%	-38%
DRC	2 583 228	2 797 317	3 127 252	3 257 829	3 378 200		-100%	-100%
Lesotho	120 094	103 526	89 035	26 747	238 362	75 399	-68%	-35%
Madagascar	3 989 872	4 344 037	4 051 671	4 530 365				-100%
Malawi	3 639 866	3 978 123	3 001 730	2 531 703	3 487 000	3 027 404	-13%	-9%
Mauritius	123 748	126 118	124 068					-100%
Mozambique	2 371 190	2 509 788	2 845 000	2 388 806	2 754 700	3 173 702	15%	23%
Namibia	81 500	131 900	67 800	80 000	139 900	135 770	-3%	35%
Seychelles								
South Africa	14 502 889	16 940 000	12 206 315	9 323 455	18 157 600	14 790 500	-19%	4%
Eswatini	81 934	118 871	93 653	33 860	107 360		-100%	-100%
Tanzania	7 806 580	9 828 540	8 918 999	10 139 108	9 388 772	9 537 857*	2%	3%
Zambia	2 890 045	3 643 877	2 898 054	2 943 807	3 888 588	2 597 841	-33%	-20%
Zimbabwe	943 620	1 718 630	868 017	637 843	2 443 119	1 994 145	-18%	51%
SADC	40 840 506	48 321 075	40 398 477	38 321 731	46 898 648	35 398 711	-25%	-18%

*The Tanzania figure is provisional, pending official release of the May-June 2018 Crop Assessment. Source: SADC

The significance of planting date on crop production this year suggests the need to intentionally use staggered planting as a crop production risk management strategy. The impact of climate shocks can be minimized by adoption of climate smart agriculture practices, including the practice of agricultural activities that are suited to the climate and soils of each area. Irrigation also needs to be up-scaled to reduce the impact of dry spells, which occur regularly in some areas.

Despite the deficits expected in the affected areas, the regional supply situation remains positive. This is mainly because many countries registered significant carry-over stocks. Zambia and Zimbabwe reported carry-over stocks of about 900,000 tons each and Malawi 217,000 tons. South Africa also has significant carry-over stock. The carry-over stocks should help mitigate the gaps in cereal production resulting from the impacts of the dry spells. Most of the carry-over stock is held by strategic grain reserves and grain marketing agencies and is likely to be on sale earlier than usual due to the expected early depletion of households' stocks.

Based on the 10 SADC Member States that provided cereal balance sheets for the 2018/19 marketing year, the region is estimated to have a cereal surplus of 6,294,000 tons compared to 7,513,000 tons for the same countries in the previous marketing year. This means carryover stocks and surplus from some countries are compensating for those with deficits. The cereal surpluses are expected in South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia and the deficits are expected in Botswana, Eswatini Lesotho and Namibia.

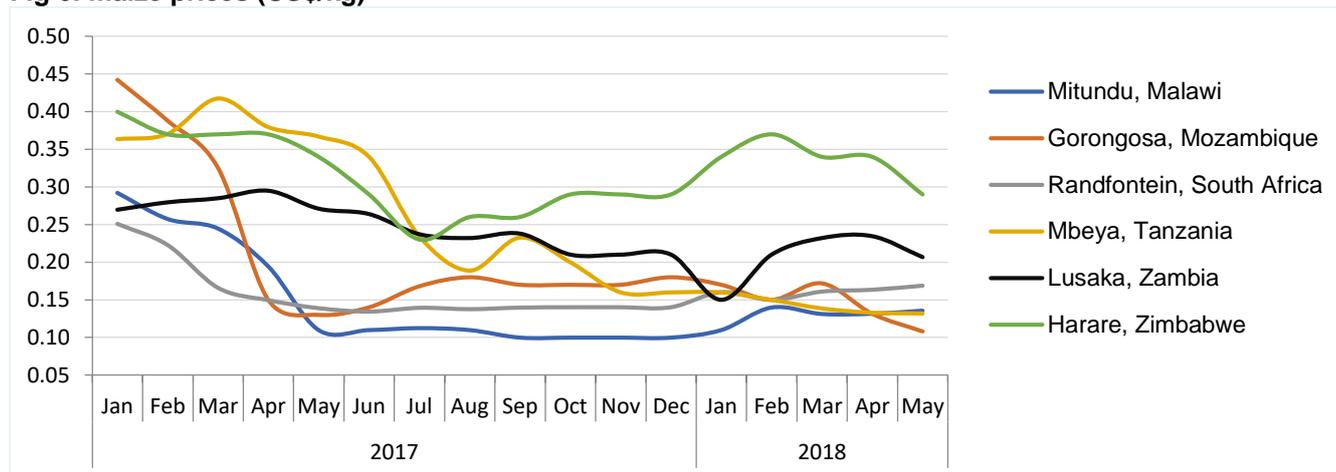
Table 2: Cereal supply and demand, 2018/19 marketing year

Country	Marketing Year			2017/18 Deficit/ Surplus ('000 ton)
	2018/19 Required* ('000 tons)	2018/19 Available** ('000 ton)	2018/19 Deficit (-) /Surplus ('000ton)	
Angola				
Botswana	562	100	(462)	(489)
DR Congo				
Eswatini	168	114	(54)	(197)
Lesotho	375	162	(213)	(59)
Madagascar				
Malawi	3,359	3,601	242	305
Mozambique	2,101	3,174	1,073	653
Namibia	348	136	(212)	(167)
South Africa	15,404	19,287	3,883	3,886
Tanzania	8,456	9,481	1,025	933
Zambia	2,749	3,513	764	1,751
Zimbabwe	2,766	3,014	248	897
SADC	36,228	42,582	6,294	7,513

Note: Mauritius and Seychelles does not produce cereals and relies on imports.

Maize prices

As households begin to consume food supplies from the 2018 harvest, prices for major staples, especially maize, are following typical seasonal trends and have started decreasing (Fig 6). In general, prices for maize grain in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are below last year's prices and about 20%-33% below the five-year average.

Fig 6: maize prices (US\$/kg)

Source: FEWS NET

However, given the below-normal 2018 maize harvest, prices are expected to start increasing earlier than usual (around August 2018) as farming households will start depending on markets sooner, especially those residing in areas affected by the January 2018 dry spells. Without assistance, poor households are likely to have reduced access to grain on the market. Assessments confirmed that many household have limited carry-over stock.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

The region has been experiencing the impacts of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) since early 2017. The pest continues to spread throughout Southern Africa, with reports of infestations in 13 Member States (except Lesotho and Mauritius). The pest has overwintered since its introduction to the region, indicating that it has adapted well to local conditions. There is a need to develop management strategies that will enable sustainable management of the FAW since it will not be eradicated, as evidenced elsewhere in the world.

Uncontrolled FAW infestations can cause significant crop losses. Case studies conducted in 2017 in Zambia and Mozambique indicated farmer perceptions of localized FAW incidences ranging between 25%-50% and 5%-77% respectively, with a marginal impact to date. The increased use of pesticides and labour for spraying against FAW results in rising production costs and creating pesticide resistance which can be detrimental to sustainably managing the pest. Other negative impacts included the rejection of commodities at markets due to pesticide residue and quarantine restrictions. It is therefore vital to employ an integrated pest management approach, combining various context-specific practices to manage the pest: cultural, time of planting, use of resistant varieties, bio-control, use of bio-pesticides and, where absolutely necessary, timing of appropriate low toxicity pesticide application with proper dosages and application rates.

Other newly introduced pests and diseases that require regional attention include the cassava brown streak virus, which has been reported in Zambia, and maize lethal necrosis diseases, whose current frontline is Tanzania. There are concerns about the possible introduction of the Southern Armyworm that has been reported in some West African countries, as well as Asian citrus greening disease. All these pests are transboundary in nature and require the cooperation of Member States, not least in early warning.

Root and tuber production

Cassava production has increased in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Sweet potato production increased in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, but decreased in Tanzania and Irish potato production increased in both Botswana and Tanzania. In general, despite the minor reduction in the cereal harvest, roots and tubers have done relatively better (Table 3) and is expected to ameliorate food deficits by substituting for grains in areas grown.

Table 3. Root and Tuber Crop Production in SADC Member States: 2015/16 to 2017/18

Country	Cassava			Sweet Potato			Irish Potato		
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Angola	7,788,480	799,5480		21,661,980	1,973,643		638,194	638,734	
Botswana					148	360	8,765	11,807	17,359
DR Congo	36,648,235	37,548,294		502,261	514,610		102,032	103,172	
Madagascar	2,968,566			1,113,176			249,229		
Malawi	5,009,846	4,960,558	5,410,506	4,462,219	5,472,013	5,668,543	1,066,602	1,226,603	1,125,874
Mauritius					446,240			16,326	
Mozambique	9,100,000	10,920,000	12,706,250	1,601,996	1,800,000	2,214,450	263,000	1,800,000	
Seychelles							1,6427		
South Africa					741,20			245,050	
Tanzania	2,205,000	1,341,755	2,790,737	522,000	1,813,608	1,248,027	969,000	19,4364	360,049
Zambia	854,000	923,796	1,025,575	231,882	206,676	183,280	24,000	3,1750	13,546
Zimbabwe				203,697	513,000	321,662	438,354		
SADC	64,574,127	63,689,883	21,933,068	30,299,211	12,814,058	9,636,322	3,775,603	4,267,806	1,516,828

Source: SADC Member States

Fisheries and aquaculture production

Fisheries and aquaculture remain important to the economies of SADC Member States. In many countries fish is the only affordable source of dietary animal protein and therefore, of overwhelming importance for food and nutrition security. The fisheries and aquaculture sectors employ a total of about 2.5 million people in the region, equivalent of about 1% of the SADC population, and accounts for an estimated 3.5% of the region's gross domestic product (GDP) and 9% of the region's agriculture GDP (Table 4). More than 95% of this production comes from a diversified capture fisheries sub-sector, which has been stagnating around 2.5 million tons in last 10 years or so, but has recently increased to 2,8 million. This bears testimony to the efforts of Member States towards improving management of fisheries resources. A small but growing percentage of fish comes from an emerging aquaculture sub-sector which has recently increased from 69,851 tons in 2015 to 95,761 tons in 2017. To support future needs, capture fisheries need to be sustained and if possible enhanced. Aquaculture will need to be developed rapidly to increase by an annual average of more than 8.3% up to 2026, in line with the SADC Regional Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan. The current growth of an average 15% is due to a low baseline and sustaining such growth is key.

Table 4. Performance and value of fisheries and aquaculture in SADC Member States

Country	Capture fisheries production in 2016 (tons)	Aqua-culture production in 2016 (tons)	Total employed (fisheries)	Total employed (aqua-culture)	Fisheries & aqua-culture as Agric. GDP (%)	Fisheries GDP (%)	Per capita consumption (kg)
Angola	531,841	655	45,782	267	3	1.7	18.6
Botswana	234		581		0.16	0.002	3.0
DRC	238,970	2,869	376,275	2,035	6.31	5.53	5.3
Eswatini	110	100	174	441	0.094	0.013	1.3
Lesotho	390	1,300	244	708	0.15	0.021	0.8
Madagascar	112,875	26,029	171,300	15,250	28	6.7	4.6
Malawi	144,315	4,984	173,328	7,139	5.87	3.83	7.3
Mauritius	8,353	500	6,838	346	3.76	0.19	22.9
Mozambique	302,204	1,180	352,252	4,167	10.0	2.0	10.1
Namibia	414,359	740	386,973	1,132	52.42	6.5	11.4
Seychelles	87,408		6,249		20.68	17.73	58.7
South Africa	416,520	6,013	499,749	7,168	6.73	0.25	6.3
Tanzania	362,595	11,000	203,529	24,307	6.8	2.0	5.6
Zambia	80,000	32,000	142,204	6,490	8.0	1.6	6.2
Zimbabwe	18,102	10,090	26,101	4,685	2.73	0.56	2.8

Source: FAO FishStat, SADC Member States, World Bank

Livestock production

The livestock sector is a key contributor to food and nutrition security in the region. It provides the vital source of protein and is a source of livelihoods for many people. In countries such as Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, Tanzania and South Africa, the livestock industry is a key contributor to the GDP.

Based on analysis of satellite imagery, vegetation and pasture conditions was moderate in most parts of the region, but below average in the western parts. Although vegetation conditions in many southern parts of the region were poor at the end of the December/January dry spell, the high rainfall from February through April in many areas facilitated the regeneration of pastures for livestock and the recharge of hydrological reserves. Poor pasture conditions, however, continued in western parts of the region and southern Madagascar. This was observed particularly in much of Namibia, western South Africa, south-western Botswana, and south-western

Angola. Some of these affected areas have also reported low-to-critical water availability. A lack of pasture and water available for livestock may have adverse impacts on livestock, particularly if the 2018/2019 season experiences poor rainfall in the affected areas.

The seven countries (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa) that reported on livestock reveal good livestock conditions. Grazing areas are also reported to be in fair condition and is expected to sustain livestock until the next season. Countries such as Botswana, Zambia, and Malawi reported an increase of close to 10% in cattle production from 2017 to 2018.

Transboundary animal diseases

The H5N1 strain of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continued to threaten the region's poultry industry. This disease poses major risks to trade, food and nutrition security, as well as the livelihoods of many farmers. Its reported mortality rate is 90% among wild and domestic birds. There is the potential for transmission to humans, although no cases have yet been reported. In 2017 outbreaks were confirmed in the DRC, South Africa and Zimbabwe. DRC reported 32,000 chicken and ducks affected and 14,00 succumbing around Lake Victoria. South Africa reported the disease had affected 813,000 breeding stock and backyard chickens; and Zimbabwe reported the disease (on a single farm) affecting 857,000 breeding stock chickens. About 2 million eggs had to be destroyed. Egg production losses in these three Member States totalled US \$810 million, causing more than 3,000 jobs losses. No subsequent outbreaks have been reported.

Other animal diseases contributing to food and nutrition insecurity include foot and mouth disease, *Peste des Petit Ruminant*, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Newcastle disease (NCD), rabies and African swine fever. Since 2014 food and mouth disease outbreaks have been reported in ten Member States: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3.3 Agricultural employment and household income

About 70% of the region's population depends on agriculture for food, income and employment, all of which hinges on the right amount of rain at the right time. In normal years, many poor households earn incomes through casual labour activities. Between June and August, these households rely on harvesting for additional incomes for both staple purchases and other basic needs.

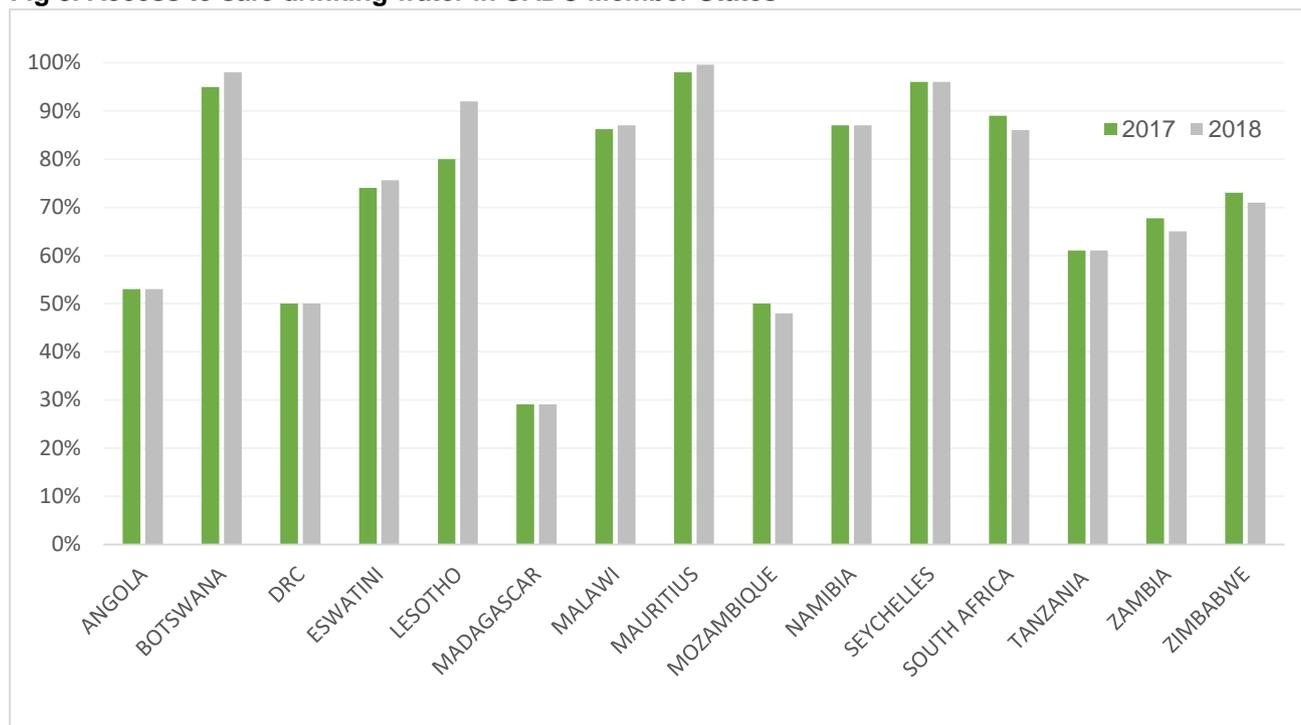
Crop harvesting periods provide labour opportunities, thereby allowing very poor and poor households to earn income for staple purchases. However, when compared to the 5-year average these opportunities are becoming limited and competition among households for labour is high. In some areas, the increased competition for labour will push down labour wages and earnings. Household purchasing power is likely to decline later in the consumption year as food prices begin to rise earlier than usual.

3.4 Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Access to safe drinking water

The 2018 assessment reports from the Member States indicate that the proportion of households that have access to safe drinking water is relatively high, ranging from 50% to 99.6% at national level. Generally, across the region, the proportion of households accessing safe drinking water in 2018 compared to 2017 has remained static, except for Lesotho which has shown an increase from 80% in 2017 to 92% in 2018. However, there are Member States where 55% or less of households access safe drinking water such as Angola, DRC, Madagascar and Mozambique which challenges progress towards reaching the sustainable development goal of ensuring that all have equitable access to safe drinking water by 2030. The main issues that affect access to safe drinking water range from long distances to the water points, lack of infrastructure and the compromised quality of water in some of the Member States.

While the national levels are high in most of the Member States, significant disparities persist between rural and urban areas, where more households in urban areas have access to safe drinking water as compared to the rural areas.

Fig 8. Access to safe drinking water in SADC Member States

Source: SADC NVACs

Access to improved sanitation

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.2 aims for improving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and an end to open defecation by 2030. The proportion of households with use of basic sanitation in rural areas ranges from 10.6% in Madagascar to 93% in Mauritius. Use of sanitation services is slightly higher in urban settings, ranging from 99% in Mauritius to 23% in DRC.

Improving household access to and use of safe water sources and improved sanitation facilities is a key component for prevention of malnutrition, through limiting diarrhoea cases and breaking the cyclical and synergistic relationship between malnutrition and diarrhoea. Promoting good hygiene practices is also important for the same reason.

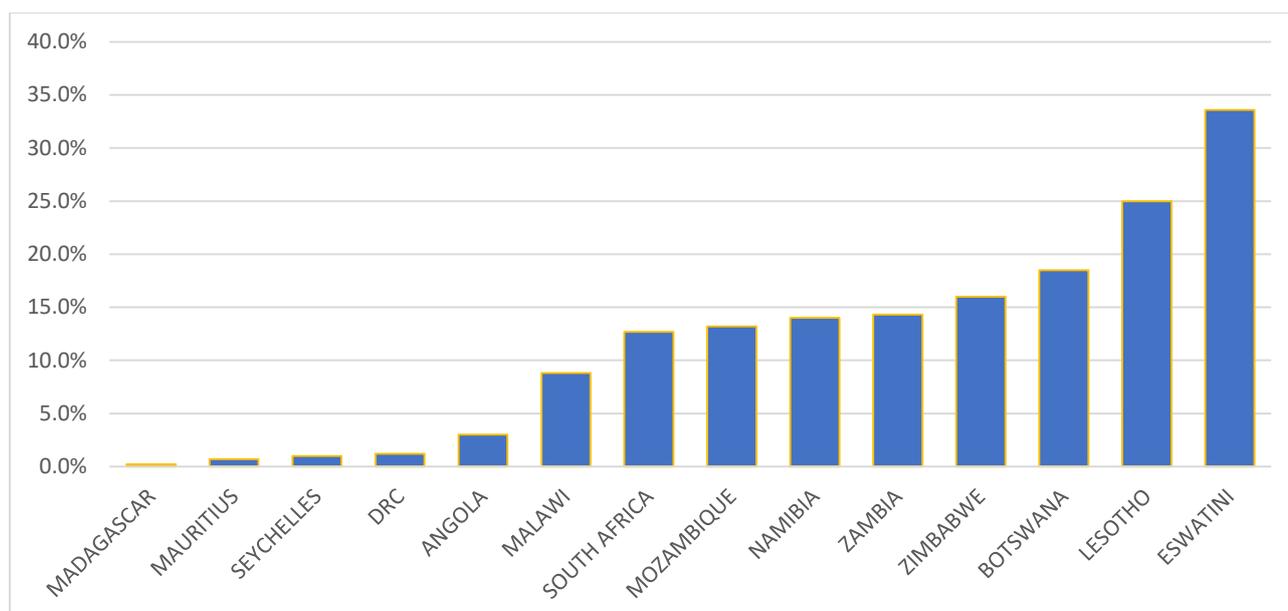
If member states are to make strides towards preventing malnutrition, as well as improving water, sanitation and hygiene indicators, there is a need to scale-up efforts to improve the coverage and use of improved sanitation facilities coupled with influencing behaviour change for improved hygiene practices and to improve infrastructure that facilitates access to safe drinking water.

3.5 HIV/AIDS & tuberculosis (TB)

There have been efforts to address the burden of HIV and AIDS in the region as demonstrated by the number of people who are newly infected with HIV which is continuing to decline, as is the decline in AIDS-related deaths. However, the region continues to experience the most severe HIV epidemic in the world. Eight countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe - have adult HIV prevalence rates of over 10%. At an estimated 33%, Eswatini has the highest HIV prevalence rate in the world, followed by Lesotho (25%) and Botswana (18.5%).

Food insecurity is a critical barrier to adherence to ART and retention in care among HIV and TB infected adults, HIV infected pregnant women and their HIV exposed infants. There is growing evidence that links food and nutrition security with an increase in health seeking behaviour, adherence to HIV and TB treatment, reduction in morbidity, prevention of transmission among adolescent girls and reduction in mortality among people living with HIV/AIDS.

Fig 9. Prevalence of HIV (%) in the SADC Member States



Source: SADC Member States

High food prices in the region and an overall economic downturn in many countries add another layer of complexity leading to negative coping strategies for people living with HIV/AIDS. In resource-limited settings, where food insecurity affects many households, people are more vulnerable to high-risk sexual behaviour that may increase their risk of HIV transmission. HIV infection then increases vulnerability to undernutrition by exacerbating poverty and food insecurity, because of additional expenditures on accessing medical care, and the often-simultaneous loss of income due to prolonged illness.

For HIV programmes to be more effective, they must reach more people on a sustainable basis, including addressing social and structural issues that deter people from accessing services. For the first time, there is a global consensus to aim for 90% of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 90% of people who know their status receiving treatment and 90% of people on HIV treatment having a suppressed viral load so their immune system remains strong and they are no longer infectious.

Member States should invest in community mobilization to improve access to HIV testing, prevention and treatment services, and promote adherence to treatment. In addition, synergies with other development sectors – including education, health, social protection and gender equality – will help improve HIV outcomes.

3.6 Gender

Food and nutrition insecurity and vulnerability in Southern Africa has a gender dimension. Women play a crucial role in attaining each of the pillars of food security: availability, access, and utilization. They are generally responsible for food selection, preparation, care and feeding of children, and are more likely than men to spend their income on food and children's needs.

However, like in other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the roles of women in Southern Africa are generally undervalued and constrained by limitations on their access to education, services, labour market opportunities and factors of production including land, capital, credit and technology. Women and girls are also more vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity and constitute more than 50% of the poor population in the SADC region (SADC). Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is prevalent in the region and leaves the victims in physical and emotional pain and their ability to work and be caregivers compromised. This re-enforces the vicious cycle of poverty and jeopardizes agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition.

Member States need to improve women and girl's access to nutritious food, education, services and production resources in addition to ensuring that they participate policy decision-making processes.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

- a) Available data from 10 Member States (Table 2) indicates that the dry spells that characterized the 2017/18 rainfall season have resulted in reduced cereal harvests compared to the 2017 bumper crop. The most significant contractions from the previous harvest and the 5-year average were recorded in Lesotho (-68% and -35%), Zambia (-33% and -20%) and Botswana (-30% and -38%).
- b) Floods and cyclones affected several Member States, resulting in fatalities, displacement of populations, damage to infrastructure and flooding of cropped areas.
- c) Looking ahead, global models run by international climate forecasting institutions are predicting the occurrence of El Niño during the 2018/2019 season.
- d) Based on the 10 SADC Member States that provided cereal balance sheets for the 2018/19 marketing year, the region is estimated to have a cereal surplus of 6,294,000 tons compared to 7,513,000 tons for the same countries the previous marketing year. Carryover stocks and surplus from some countries are compensating for those with deficits. Cereal surpluses are expected in South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia and deficits expected in Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia.
- e) In general, prices for maize grain in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are below last year's prices and about 20%-33% below the five-year average. However, given the below-normal 2018 maize harvest, prices are expected to start increasing earlier than usual (around August 2018) as farming households will start depending on markets sooner, especially those residing in areas affected by the January 2018 dry spells.
- f) The region has been experiencing the impacts of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) since early 2017. The pest continues to spread throughout Southern Africa, with reports of infestations in 13 Member States (except Lesotho and Mauritius). Uncontrolled FAW infestations can cause significant crop losses.
- g) The 2018 assessment reports from the Member States indicate that the proportion of households that have access to safe drinking water is relatively high, ranging from 50% to 99.6% at national level.
- h) The proportion of households with use of basic sanitation in rural areas ranges from 10.6% in Madagascar to 93% in Mauritius.
- i) About 29.4 million people are estimated to be food insecure. The number represents about 14.2% of the total rural population in the 11 countries. This is 13% higher compared to the previous year and about 3% higher than the five-year average for the 11 Member States who provided data.
- j) The food insecure population in DRC, Malawi, Madagascar, South Africa and Zimbabwe make up close to 90% of the food insecure people in the 11 Member States. The largest increase in affected people compared to the previous year are expected in Zambia, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Decreases in food insecure populations are recorded in Namibia and Eswatini.
- k) Despite the prevalence of stunting decreasing in some Member States, the change is not fast enough to keep pace with population growth and reduce the number of stunted children, and thereby reach the World Health Assembly (WHA) target of a 40% reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025.

4.2 Recommendations

In the short term:

- a) Assist food insecure populations and scale up safety net programs as they play a significant role in ensuring food and livelihood security, especially among the poor and the very poor households.
- b) To accelerate stunting reduction in the region, Member States need to invest in high impact nutrition interventions that target children under five years and women of reproductive age.

- c) Improve household access to and use of safe water sources and improved sanitation facilities by improving infrastructure. Promote good hygiene practices is also important for the same reason.
- d) Member States should invest in community mobilization to improve access to HIV testing, prevention and treatment services, and promote adherence to treatment.
- e) Member States need to improve women and girl's access to nutritious food, education, services and production resources and ensure that they participate policy decision-making processes.
- f) Employ integrated pest management approaches, informed by context-specific research, to manage FAW and other pests.
- g) Considering the forecast of El Niño in the 2018/19 season, intensified preparatory interventions that mitigate the potential impacts of mid-season dry spells on crop production, especially in areas traditionally affected by El Niño. This may include (but is not limited to) use of drought-tolerant crop varieties, promotion of conservation agriculture and installation and maintenance of irrigation equipment.

In the medium to long term:

- a) Member States should encourage crop and dietary diversity through the growing and consumption of diversified diets including indigenous foods.
- b) Promote community irrigation schemes and rainwater harvesting to ensure all year production of crops and vegetables.
- c) Rehabilitate and reconstruct damaged infrastructure to enhance access to markets, health and social facilities. In the long term, plan for the expansion of the social services closer to the people.
- d) Develop resilience-building initiatives including (but not limited to) employment creation in rural areas, incorporating climate smart technologies in subsidies and conservation agriculture.
- e) Enhance the coordination, harmonization and support of response planning, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation at sub-national, national and regional levels.

5. Country summaries

Angola

In 2016, 77,000 people in Southern Angola were in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 272,500 people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), translating to 37% and 21% of the assessed area's population respectively (and totalling 58%). Lack of potable water contributed to the situation. At the national level, in 2016 about 38% of population suffered from chronic malnutrition. In south-central Bie Province, this figure surpassed 50%. The country is experiencing financial difficulties and lack of funding is a major constraint in expanding VAA to the whole country.

Botswana

Rainfall patterns were unusual, with dry spells and wet spells punctuating the season. The estimated total area planted decreased to 185,700 ha from 284,500 ha the previous season. In turn, cereal production is estimated at 87,672 tons, down from 128,075 tons. Around 32,800 permanently destitute people are being assisted through social protection programmes in 2017/18 nationally, compared to 32,200 in 2016/17.

DRC

As one of the countries in the region with a prevalence of chronic malnutrition above 40%, there is a need to invest in high impact nutritional interventions. The Government has national initiatives on-going, which includes the collection of key nutritional indicators on a daily basis from 250 zones across the country, further transmitted to technical officers for analysis. Food insecurity remains relatively high due to political unrest in the country. Ebola was reported in Bikoro territory.

The country is in the process of finalizing IPC Chronic analysis in July 2018. An agricultural campaign has been carried out to assess the impact of the FAW. Climate change remains a concern, affecting agricultural production. Rains were below average and long dry spells were observed in the south-eastern, central and western parts of the country between August and October 2017.

Eswatini

The country suffered from dry spell and extremely hot temperatures in January 2018 - 26% of households reported experiencing drought, 12.4% reduced income (12.4%) and 10% unusually high food prices.

About 3% of households reported severe hunger and 11% moderate hunger. About 122,000 people - 14% of the total population - have been assessed to be in a survival deficit, which is a 23% decline compared to 2017/18. An estimated 22.1% of children are stunted, a 2.2% increase from 19.9% in 2017. Minimum acceptable diet in children 6-23 months is 38% - the highest in the SADC region. The malnutrition rates show a slight increase in stunting to 21.1% in 2018 from 19.9% in 2017 and a decrease in underweight (5.3%) and wasting (2.4%).

Lesotho

Even in good harvests the country does not produce enough food to meet national requirements. This year the rainfall season was delayed. Unseasonal snowfall, extreme cold temperatures and frost experienced in November 2017 damaged early planted crops. Other parts of the country received localised hailstorms and flash floods in March 2018, which also damaged crops. From May to August 2018, 154,000 Basotho will be in IPC Phase 3 and 7,200 in IPC Phase 4. This is expected to increase from September 2018 to February 2019 to 216,000 people in IPC Phase 3 and 41,200 in IPC Phase 4. Stunting stands at 33%. About 18% of the rural population - 257,200 people - require humanitarian assistance.

Madagascar

The island was affected by two cyclones this season - Ava and Eliakim - which collectively affected 212,200 people, of which 74,200 were displaced. Madagascar recorded widespread FAW outbreaks and a drought that affected two-thirds of the country (south-central). From March to June 2018 in southern and south-eastern Madagascar, a total of 709,000 people (21% of the population) were classified as in IPC Phase 3 and 350,000 in IPC Phase 4 (10% of the population). From July to September 2018, this figure is projected to increase to 861,000 people in IPC Phase 3 and 400,000 in IPC Phase 4.

Malawi

Dry spells early in the season affected most crops, especially across southern Malawi. Floods were reported in some areas, as was FAW. Maize production decreased by 28% from the previous harvest and is 20.2% below the 5-year average. There was also a decrease in the production of pulses (-10%), soybeans (-19%) and beans (-5.5%).

The number of severely food insecure is expected to double to 2.4 million people (preliminary estimate), compared to 1.06 million the previous season.

Mauritius

Data is sourced from the national statistics office as no VAC has yet been established in Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius has set up a national database of vulnerable households living in absolute poverty under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM), in line with Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5 & 10, which estimates the poverty rate at 0.7%.

Mozambique

National cereal production increased by 4% from last year to 3.2 million tons, legume production increased by 17.7%, and tuber production increased by 17.3%. However, southern and central Mozambique reported a

delayed start to the rainfall season followed by extensive dry spells. The 36 most affected districts, spanning 4 provinces, were assessed. Around 80% of assessed households reported crop pests, including FAW. About 65% of households in Gaza Province and 78% of households in Tete Province reported having no maize stocks as of May 2018.

About 2% of the population - 491,500 people (98,300 households) - in 19 districts requires assistance to avert IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). This is an increase of 63% from the previous year, when 313,000 people were classified as food insecure. The most affected province is Tete, with 265,000 people affected, followed by Gaza, with 178,500 people affected. About 34,000 Mozambican children suffer from acute malnutrition.

Namibia

Below normal rainfall was experienced over most of the country, although floods were recorded in northern Namibia. Being an arid country, most Namibians depend on markets for their food, and staple prices are increasing. The Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) indicates that 39% of rural Namibians are moderately food insecure and 1.4% severely food insecure. In urban areas, 69.3% are food insecure and 1.1% severely food insecure. About 24% of children under age 5 are stunted.

Seychelles

Assessments found that 9% of the population is moderately or severely food insecure, with 0.68% severely food insecure. Data needs to be collected on the purchasing food insecure households.

South Africa

An outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1) led to destruction of over 200,000 chickens, with some producers reporting losses of up to US\$ 3.6 million. An outbreak of Listeriosis, traced to processed meats and contaminated processing facilities, caused the deaths of at least 180 people. According to a 2017 general household survey, the number of South Africans with inadequate or severely inadequate access to food stands at 13.9 million (25% of the population), of which those with severely inadequate access to food numbers 3.55 million (6.4%). This is the second consecutive year of decrease, from a peak of 14.3 million in 2015. South Africans with inadequate or severely inadequate access to food. The stunting rate stands at 27%.

The expected commercial maize crop has been set at 12,909 million tons - 23,25% (3,911 million tons) less than the previous season's 16,820 million tons. Projected closing stocks of maize for the current 2017/18 marketing year stands at 1,778 million tons - 68,9% more than the previous year's closing stocks. A projected export quantity of 2.16 million tons of whole maize is estimated for export in the 2018/19 marketing season, with zero import requirements expected.

Tanzania

Parts of the country experienced excessive rains leading floods and displacement, while the north-eastern region experienced significantly below average rainfall. FAW has been widely reported. The food situation is expected to remain satisfactory, with crop production slightly higher than the previous year. Analysis of food insecurity is ongoing. There are indications 5% of districts will record crop production lower than 30% of average, pointing to pockets of food insecurity. The stunting rate of children under age 5 stands at 34%.

Zambia

Prolonged dry spells, floods and pests impacted agricultural production. Maize production is forecast to decrease to 2,394,900 tons from 3,606,549 tons the previous season - a 33.6% drop. This is 20% below the five-year average. Carryover stock amounts to 844,200 tons, leaving an exportable surplus of 341,300 tons. However, an estimated 45,000 tons of rice will have to be imported to meet national requirements. The total population in IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4 from July to September 2018 stands at is 609,500. This figure is expected to increase to 954,100 from October 2017 to March 2018.

Zimbabwe

The cereal production for Zimbabwe is estimated to be 1,998,041 tons, against a human cereal requirement of 1,735,146 tons, resulting in a cereal harvest surplus of 101,000 tons. The late start of the rains in some parts of the country, erratic rainfall during the first part of the season, as well as the dry spell in January 2018 affected crop production. Furthermore, incessant rains in the latter part of the season also affected weeding and harvesting.

According to the ZimVAC 2018 Rural Livelihoods Assessment, the number of severely food insecure people are expected to increase from about 567,000 people between April and June 2018 to 2.4 million between July 2018 and March 2019, translating to 28% of the rural population. The report also indicates that household average incomes were reported to be lower compared to last year. There was an increase in the percentage of households consuming poor diets, from 16% to 20%. About 72% of households were accessing water from improved sources and 50% had access to improved sanitation. Stunting in Zimbabwe is reported at 26% and wasting at 2.5%.

END

Annex A: NVAC minimum common assessment indicators

- a) Who is food and nutrition insecure? Profile individuals, communities and socio-economic groups with gender as cross-cutting.
- b) How many are food and nutrition insecure? Estimate current numbers and lean season projections, disaggregated by sex and age.
- c) When are they food and nutrition insecure? Inform on seasonal trends.
- d) What is the nature of their food and nutrition insecurity? Distinguishing between acute, transitory and chronic food and nutrition insecurity.
- e) What is the duration and severity of their food and nutrition insecurity?
- f) Why are they food and nutrition insecure? Show relation to resilience capacities as a function of available livelihood strategies, quality and quantity of livelihoods assets and fragility of livelihoods. Also show relation with hazards, shocks and stresses that could be natural, anthropogenic, idiosyncratic/covariant, such as crop and livestock pests and diseases, human diseases or economic downturns. Climate change must be considered, as well as structural issues and processes: institutions, policies, etc.
- g) How are they responding to food and nutrition insecurity? Consider coping strategies and informal social safety nets.
- h) What is being done to address their food and nutrition insecurity? Consider formal social safety nets and social protection programmes.
- i) What can be done to improve their food and nutrition insecurity?
- j) Answers to these questions need to be given in the context of the sub-national, national and regional socio-economic and vulnerability situation, described in a manner that facilitate aggregation of the food and nutrition situation analysis from the national to the regional level.

Source: Proceedings of the SADC RVAA NVAC Lead Technical Officers' Pre-Season Workshop on Integrated VAA and Harmonised Reporting (March 2018).