



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Southern Africa

El Niño Response Plan (2016/17)

In Southern Africa, the effects of the 2015/16 El Niño event continue to devastate the lives and livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agropastoralists. Two, and in some cases three, consecutive seasons of drought and poor harvests have particularly hit vulnerable families, as prices of staple foods have risen and their own production fallen. Lack of water and pasture has also severely constrained livestock production. Almost 40 million people are expected to face food insecurity by the peak of the coming lean season (late 2016/early 2017).

A combination of approaches is required to ensure vulnerable families can rapidly improve their food security and build more resilient agricultural livelihoods. As the planting season nears, it is critical that farmers can access the seeds, tools, fertilizers, chemicals and services they need to ensure a better crop next year. Without support now, they face another year of crop failures and will require humanitarian assistance through 2017 and into 2018. If farmers receive timely support, consumption of the green harvest can help to mitigate the current precarious food security situation.

At the same time, investments must be made now in rebuilding livelihoods. For example, by promoting community-level production of drought-tolerant seed and fodder, along with climate-smart agricultural technologies like conservation agriculture, to enable families to weather future shocks. Partnerships are critical to building resilience and tackling food insecurity. FAO is working closely with the Southern African Development Community, as well as with the World Food Programme and other UN agencies within the framework of the Regional Interagency Standing Committee.



Almost
40 million
people affected

23 million people in need of
urgent assistance

**Worst drought
in 35 years**



2nd consecutive year of drought, 3rd for some countries

Drought emergencies in
Lesotho | Malawi | Namibia | Swaziland | Zimbabwe



8/9 provinces
in South Africa drought disaster areas



>640 000
animals dead



At least
**70% of region's
population** rely on
agriculture-based livelihoods



14 out of 15 countries
have stunting rates above WHO-acceptable level of 20%

FAO response plan



USD 109 million

3.3 million pastoralist, agropastoralist
and smallholder farming households
(19 million people)

REGIONAL

\$1.75 million needed

- 1 Support country-level interventions, leveraging regional and global initiatives
- 2 Strengthen monitoring of transboundary pests and diseases
- 3 Facilitate joint monitoring, evaluation, learning and impact assessment of El Niño
- 4 Strengthen response coordination

Namibia

**\$2.3 million needed
to assist 49 560 families**

Vegetable seed and fertilizer provision, community drought-tolerant seed production, small-scale irrigation, conservation agriculture, etc.
Supplementary feed, livestock restocking, animal health, community fodder production, de-bushing for rangeland rehabilitation
Resilience building and capacity development
Cash-for-work to construct and rehabilitate water points

Zimbabwe

**\$40 million needed
to assist 255 000 families**

Access to agricultural inputs, climate-smart agriculture, capacity building of beneficiaries and extension services, rehabilitate community assets
Animal health, supplementary feed
Rehabilitate and construct water points

South Africa

**\$10 million needed
to assist 602 600 families**

Vegetable seed provision to urban/peri-urban households, community drought-tolerant seed production, post-harvest management & storage, micro-gardens, nutrition education
Livestock restocking, animal health

Zambia

**\$4.8 million needed
to assist 353 500 families**

Livestock destocking & restocking, supplementary feed, community fodder production, animal health
Cash-for-work to rehabilitate and construct water points

Tanzania

**\$6.9 million needed
to assist 884 000 families**

Crop and vegetable seed kits, storage, community seed banks
Poultry restocking, animal health, capacity building of extension services, animal dips
Water resource management, cash- or food-for-work to rehabilitate infrastructure, farm machinery and post-harvest processing, storage

Malawi

**\$10.5 million needed
to assist 260 000 families**

Seed and fertilizer provision via input trade fairs/ vouchers, vegetable seeds, drought-tolerant seed production, etc.
Livestock restocking, animal health, capacity building of government authorities
Construct boreholes and water points, rehabilitate reservoirs, technical assistance to district irrigation and water authorities, equipment

Madagascar

**\$12.4 million needed
to assist 102 000 families**

Seed provision through input trade fairs/ vouchers, vegetable seeds, drought-tolerant seed production, etc.
Livestock restocking, animal health
Cash-for-work to rehabilitate water reservoirs, construct water points

Mozambique

**\$7 million needed
to assist 700 000 families**

Seed provision via input trade fairs/vouchers, vegetable seeds to urban/peri-urban areas, conservation agriculture, etc.
Supplementary feed and mineral supplements, community fodder production, animal health
Construct boreholes and water points, rehabilitate reservoirs

Swaziland

**\$8.4 million needed
to assist 66 900 families**

Seed and fertilizer provision via input trade fairs/ vouchers, drought-tolerant seed production, etc.
Livestock restocking, supplementary feed, animal health
Cash-for-work to rehabilitate and drill water points

Lesotho

**\$5.2 million needed
to assist 44 000 families**

Seed and fertilizer provision, small-scale irrigation, nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture, etc.
Emergency destocking, animal health

FAO El Niño Response Plan for Southern Africa



USD 109 million*

Objective

To support the recovery and resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods affected by El Niño through restoring agricultural production, incomes and assets, as well as increasing vulnerable households' access to nutritious food.

Priorities

- **USD 63 million:** Agricultural inputs for 2016/17 season
- **USD 25 million:** Protection of livestock assets – animal health, supplementary feed, restocking
- **USD 13 million:** Increase water access through improved infrastructure
- **USD 5.5 million:** Coordination, information and analysis, including support to SADC and partner response

Reduce the food gap

- Agriculture input provision – in-kind/vouchers – for 2016/17 season
- Strategic small-scale irrigation, cash-for-work for soil & water conservation
- Scale up household and school gardens
- Promote climate-smart technologies and practices (e.g. conservation agriculture)

Protect & enhance livestock production

- Supplementary feed and water
- Animal health (vaccination, treatment)
- Rehabilitate & improve water points for animals, including through cash-for-work
- Herd restocking, community fodder production

Strengthen coordination, information & analysis

- Support to national Ministries of Agriculture and Disaster Management Authorities
- Support National and Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committees and food security clusters

Within the framework of the Response Plan, seed security assessments, food security assessments, livestock needs assessments, etc. will be conducted to ensure response aligns with needs.

**These figures are valid as of 25 July and could change to reflect the results of the ongoing assessments.*

CONTACT

David Phiri, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa. David.Phiri@fao.org

Lewis Hove, FAO Subregional Resilience Coordinator. Lewis.Hove@fao.org