

Annex: The Southern African Humanitarian Crisis of 2002-03: A Chronology

2001	REGION	ZIMBABWE	MALAWI	ZAMBIA	LESOTHO	MOZAMBIQUE	SWAZILAND
January	WFP reported 500,000 MT of food aid needed for southern Africa due to flooding.	Maize production 40% less than last year due to smaller area planted.	Good 2000 harvest, low maize prices (MK4/kg).				Government asked donors for 23,000 MT of maize for flood victims.
February			Flooding and dry spells predicted to cause 15% drop in maize production.	Loss of crops due to dry spells in the south.		Floods in central region displace 380,000.	
March	Flooding still affecting Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia.	Projected deficit of 460,000 MT of maize needed for 2001/02 consumption year.	Government of Malawi appealed for US\$6.7m as flood assistance.	Excessive rainfall in the north affected maize crops.		Retail price of maize rose by 26% in Beira due to floods.	
April	National Early Warning Units report bad climatic conditions will affect maize production in the region.		WFP launched a \$3.2m Emergency Operation to assist 208,000 people. Second-round production estimates predicted 24% drop in maize harvest.	Maize supply remained good and prices stable.		42,000 ha of food crops lost due to flooding in Zambezi valley. First season production decreased by 40-80% following 2 successive seasons of crop loss.	
May		National Crop Forecasting Committee estimated grain harvest at 14% above 1990s average. A Farm Community Trust report indicated some farm workers had lost 33% of their income. Maize price increased by 12% to Z\$8,500/MT.	Harvesting caused maize prices to start falling. National maize stocks low, due to ADMARC not buying maize in 2000.			First production estimates predict food crops levels to remain stable.	
June		Ministry of Agriculture granted temporary monopoly to Grain Marketing Board for	Final-round production estimates concluded that national maize harvest had fallen by 32% over	Maize prices still relatively low at US\$100/MT	15% of Lesotho population predicted to need food aid.		Cereal production down but consumption expected to be met by

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		buying and selling maize internally and externally. Government announced plans to import 544,000 MT of maize.	the 2000 record harvest. FEWS NET predicted a 437,775 MT food surplus "due to high root crop production". ADMARC announced that it would purchase 120,000 MT of maize locally, to replenish the Strategic Grain Reserve.				imports.
July	FAO reported maize production for the region is down by 23%. (Maize accounts for 90% of total coarse grain production in the region making it the most important crop).		Traders were reportedly stockpiling maize.	Maize prices rose by 9-16% due to drop in supply. Government appealed to donors for 83,400 MT food aid. Estimated 1.7 million affected by bad weather or civil strife.		Joint crop and food availability mission predicts a substantial increase in crop production for first season.	FAO predict drop in maize production will cause food security problems.
August			Official national maize stocks were effectively exhausted. ADMARC failed to buy local maize due to no surpluses.	Italian Government pledged US\$500,000 for purchase of maize. Rapid vulnerability analysis estimated 1.3 million people in 23 districts required relief.			
September			Government announced that National Food Reserve Agency would import 220,000 MT of maize to bridge local deficits. ADMARC quadrupled its	Private grain trading sector proposed a system for importing maize. Government imposed ban on maize export. Maize price stabilised		Production expected to increase by 17% and food availability expected to cover 87% of national needs. 100,000 MT of maize exported, mainly to	

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			maize price as it shifted from local purchases to imports. Government announced distribution of 60,000 MT of free maize to food insecure households.	due to new cheaper South African import.		Malawi.	
October		WFP opened a new office in Zimbabwe. WFP Food Needs Assessment estimated about 706,000 required food aid.	Limited maize imports arrived from South Africa. SCF-UK reported indicators of stress in some Districts: maize prices up 340% since January, production down 40% on 2000.	Maize stocks were running low. Delay in imports due to delay in signing contracts with importers.	Heavy rain delayed and prevented planting.	Shortages of food stocks in rural areas predicted to affect 369,000 highly food insecure people. Maize prices rose by 4-5%.	
November	SADC reported that all the region had suffered a cereal production shortfall and would need to import.	Establishment of a Relief and Rehabilitation Unit, partly funded by DFID. 13,636 farm worker families displaced and required assistance.	Livestock prices fell as the poor sold animals for food. Several major donors (EU, Denmark, UK, US) suspended aid to Malawi due to concerns about governance issues.		Planned commercial imports of cereal will cover 80% of requirements.	Maize prices at record level of 350,000 Meticals per 70 kg sack.	Shortfall of cereal requirements estimated at 143,000 MT. Imports only expected to cover 65% of this.
December	Heavy rains and dry spells continue to affect crop growing.		Maize imports totalled only 27,000 MT. ADMARC maize sales too limited to affect prices. Global malnutrition rates of 11.8% recorded in Mchinji District. Targeted Inputs Programme (TIP) to 1 million households.	Only 5,000 MT of food relief procured by Government. WFP purchased 10,000 MT of maize with help of German government aid of US\$1.9 million.			Swaziland Human Development Report produced with support from UNDP called for more action against HIV/AIDS – a third of the population are HIV positive.

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January		<p>Government listed 4,874 commercial farms (9.2m hectares) for acquisition. Around 1,000 farms were no longer working.</p> <p>WFP sent its first consignment of food aid.</p>	<p>Transport bottlenecks on rail, roads and ports restricted maize imports to 40,000 MT to date.</p> <p>ADMARC opened more rural markets to improve distribution to vulnerable communities; purchases rationed to 25kg/person.</p>	<p>Only 26,000 MT of maize imports received.</p> <p>WFP secured 12,000 MT from South Africa.</p>	<p>7,000 households affected by flooding began receiving food aid.</p>	<p>National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) presented its draft contingency plan for 2001/02 rainy season for expert review.</p> <p>Limpopo River on flood alert.</p>	<p>SADC reported heavy rains expected to cause more problems with flooding.</p>
February	<p>The region is suffering its largest maize production gap in years. Slow imports caused food shortages.</p>	<p>UNDP blamed fast-track land reform programme for economic, political and social instability.</p> <p>EU and United States imposed sanctions against President Mugabe and certain ministers due to human rights violations.</p>	<p>Crop forecasts predict 16% higher maize harvest than last year.</p> <p>Catholic priests pressed Government to declare a national emergency and to subsidise food prices.</p> <p>Civil society released a press statement noting that "hunger has reached crisis levels". The BBC reported famine deaths.</p> <p>President Muluzi declared a 'State of Disaster'.</p> <p>Maize prices peaked at MK43/kg in some areas.</p> <p>The Kwacha continued to depreciate, further raising food import costs.</p> <p>ADMARC cut quotas for maize from 25kg to 10kg per person. Traders were banned from purchasing maize from ADMARC.</p>	<p>Significant crop losses predicted in the south due to prolonged dry spell.</p>		<p>Government approve INGC contingency plan.</p> <p>WFP added 170,000 to food aid beneficiaries bringing total to 390,000.</p>	<p>Following a WFP visit in January, the Government is supplying 1,200 MT of maize to households affected by dry conditions.</p>

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March	UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group met in Rome to assess the Southern Africa Food Crisis.	Mugabe took his oath of office following his re-election, pledged to accelerate land reform.	Global malnutrition rates of 19% were recorded in Salima district. Malawi had received 83,000 of 150,000 MT planned maize imports. WFP launched an EMOP to provide food aid to 300,000 people. Vice President Malewezi appealed for food aid. The government set up a Task Force on the Food Shortage Situation. Farmers harvested green maize.	86,000 MT of maize imported. Eastern, southern and western provinces reported higher than normal livestock sales due to food insecurity.	Frost curtailed the end of the growing season.	Rainfall below normal affected maize yields in southern Mozambique. Northern and central districts were also affected by a moderate drought. INGC, FAO and others visited Gaza province in February to analyse the effects. Maize prices remained high due to demand from Malawi and Zimbabwe.	
April	WFP coordinated UN vulnerability assessments in the six worst affected countries. DFID appointed a full-time Food Security Adviser for the region in its Harare office.	Farm Community Trust launched supplementary feeding programme for children of up to 100,000 retrenched farm workers. Farmers' associations warned of diminished crops due to disruptions to farming. Zimbabwe declared a national drought disaster.	Maize prices fell as early maturing crops were harvested and imports arrived from Tanzania and Mozambique. Maize forecasts were revised downward from 2m MT to 1.6m MT after a 3-week dry spell. Kwacha depreciation reduced government capacity to import maize. Only 92,000MT of maize imports had arrived.	Government awarded a further contract for supply of 30,000 MT of maize. Heavy rainfall – concern of crop loss.	Government declared a state of famine and requested WFP/FAO assistance.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER) announced Emergency Plan for the Reduction of Drought Impacts in 2002.	FAO reported food shortages in Swaziland.
May	WFP set up a regional coordination and logistics unit in Johannesburg.	The Land Acquisition Amendment Act speeded up farm seizures: listed farms had to stop work in	US pledged 11,330 MT, and EU 95,000 MT, of emergency food aid.	WFP/FAO Crop and Food supply mission started.	WFP bridging emergency operation for Lesotho finalised.	MADER reported 83,690 ha of maize lost due to drought.	WFP completed logistics arrangements for its intervention in

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		45 days and vacate their homes in 90 days. A Farm Community Trust survey found that 50% of farm workers in several districts had lost their jobs.	FAO predicted a maize deficit of 600,000 MT. WFP estimated that 53% of Malawians would need food aid by December. The IMF argued that: "Urgent action is needed to prevent starvation", but suspended US\$47m in loans, because of budget overspending by government, "corruption and weak governance".	Significant improvement in maize availability but shortfall still expected for 2002/03 consumption year.	WFP/FAO assessment reports 500,000 in need of food aid. 25 th May elections held in Lesotho.	Distribution of 30,300 kits of seeds to drought affected areas. Maize prices lower at the start of the harvest and substantial quantities reported to be exported informally (on bikes) to Malawi.	Swaziland. FAO/WFP report 188,000 MT of maize needed over next 6 months.
June	The UN Inter-Agency Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) held a Humanitarian Needs meeting in Johannesburg.	5,872 farms totalling 10.5m hectares were now listed for acquisition.	WFP/FAO report said 1.7 million MT of relief food aid needed for 2.3 million in need of emergency food.				National Early Warning Unit reported that pastures and drinking water has seriously deteriorated due to dry conditions. It also reported that the National Maize Corporation will have to import 50,000 MT of maize to last until the end of the year.
July	WFP launched an appeal for 992,000 MT of food aid for 10.3 million people, at a cost of US\$507m.	About 500 farm schools were closed due to farm worker retrenchments.		Price of maize rose sharply in rural areas where 60% of households in highly food insecure areas have run out of food.	Britain donated £2.5 million for food relief.	WFP estimated that 600,000 Mozambicans would need food aid.	WFP estimated that 144,000 people will need food aid due to the severe drop in agricultural production.
August		Government was called to assist 300,000 farm workers and 200,000 to 300,000 casual labourers who have no income.			WFP report food aid secured for Lesotho is insufficient for 444,000 people at risk of starvation.	Prices for maize higher than normal.	Swaziland's National Disaster Relief Task Force reported that it was confident it could cope.

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September	36.5% of WFP's appeal was funded.	An estimated 6 million people were affected by food shortage.				WFP's food aid for cereals expected to cover requirements only to October.	Government purchase E9 million worth of white maize to assist drought victims.
October	A 'Consortium for the Southern Africa Food Emergency' (C-SAFE) was established, with lead agencies being CARE in Malawi, CRS in Zambia and World Vision in Zimbabwe.	The Government failed to deliver inputs (seeds, fertiliser) to smallholders in resettlement and communal areas. National cattle herd had fallen from 1.1 million to 20,000-40,000 head.		Government decided to refuse GM food aid.		WFP expected to have food aid for approximately 60% of the population in need. Retail maize prices rose sharply.	Donors withdraw aid from Swaziland due to Swaziland's insistence on buying a luxury jet for King Mswati III.
November		Allegations of cronyism and corruption in farm allocations.		Southern region still in desperate need of food aid estimated at 8,700 MT/month. Poor rains led to late planting for 2003 crop.		Food insecurity in urban areas increased.	
December	WFP estimated that 16 million people in the region were in need of food aid.	Women had received only 16% of redistributed land, despite being 61% of communal farmers.				Below average rainfall caused setback to 2003 crops. SADC drought monitoring centre released warning statement.	
January	US government pledged US\$114m emergency aid grant to C-SAFE (Catholic Relief Services, CARE and World Vision).	Drought, land reform, inflation (198%) and HIV/AIDS caused widespread hunger. 125,000 of 150,000 rural residents of Binga district received food aid.	A Commission of Inquiry into the sale of the Strategic Grain Reserve was established. Tearfund report a worrying number of children coming on to the streets in search of food and money.	WFP donated 80,000 MT of GM food aid to Zambia. Some reports of looting of GM food aid.	Inter-agency vulnerability assessment reported that 650,000 people need of food aid until the end of March; HIV-AIDS - Lesotho has 4 th highest rate in the world - is exacerbating	National Disaster Management Institute projected that 1.4 million people would need food aid. Large gap between WFP planned distributions and estimated needs. 43%	Heavy rains have helped crops in some places but in others have devastated maize crops. WFP field staff report that only 20-40% of farming land has been cultivated.

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February	EMOP more than 70% funded, with shortfall of US\$132 million through March 2003. WFP and UN advocate that all UN agency programmes are planned through the lens of HIV/AIDS and its impact on women and children.	Deteriorating food security situation nation-wide. WFP field reports predict "grim prospects" for coming harvest. Cereal deficit of 1 million MT predicted for 2003-04.	Flooding damages crops of 81,600 households, 6,800 houses, and damages roads. Government and World Bank launch US\$50 million Emergency Drought Recovery Project. Government maize stocks at high levels; sales restrictions eased; donor-supported decision to sell 50000 MT of imported maize to prevent future glut.	Zambia is establishing a crop monitoring system to provide timely information on the location and scale of crop failure.	the situation.	coverage. Nine hunger-related deaths confirmed in the north-west. Outbreaks of cholera reported. Poor harvest predicted, leading to a dramatic increase in food insecurity, especially in central and southern regions.	

Sources:

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