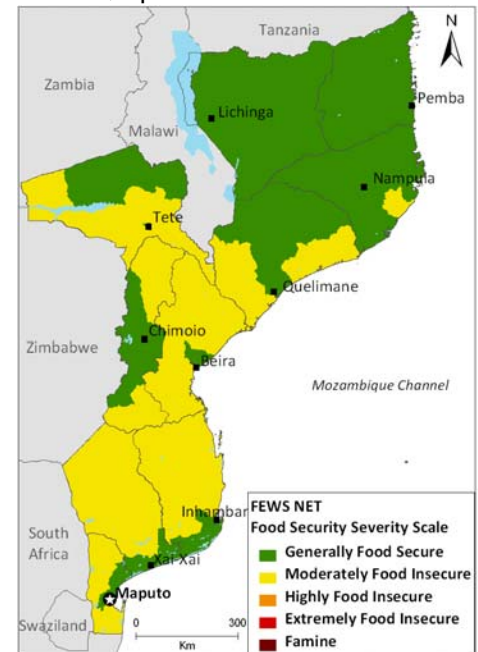


MOZAMBIQUE Food Security Outlook

April to September 2010

- Food is currently available on most markets, including supplies from the ongoing green harvest in the north. Although prices are above average, they are still affordable for the majority of poor households. However, pockets of moderate food insecurity exist in parts of central and southern Mozambique (Figure 1).
- From April to June 2010, moderate levels of food insecurity will continue in the central and southern areas; however small improvements will occur due to the ongoing main harvest, even with a poor season, as expected. With a poor season, the greatest impacts would be felt in the semi-arid zones after June, when household food stocks begin to be depleted.
- From July to September 2010, although moderate food insecurity will continue, food insecurity conditions are not expected to worsen due to contributions from second season production in the south and center. During this period, food assistance will be required for 460,000 food insecure people identified in February 2010 by the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition / Vulnerability Assessment Group (SETSAN/GAV) until April 2011, when the next major harvest occurs. SETSAN/GAV will update these figures in June.
- Reductions in crop production in productive areas may cause staple food prices to rise up to 50 percent above the five-year average, especially in the semi-arid zones. These declines in production will also affect crop sales, the primary source of income for households.

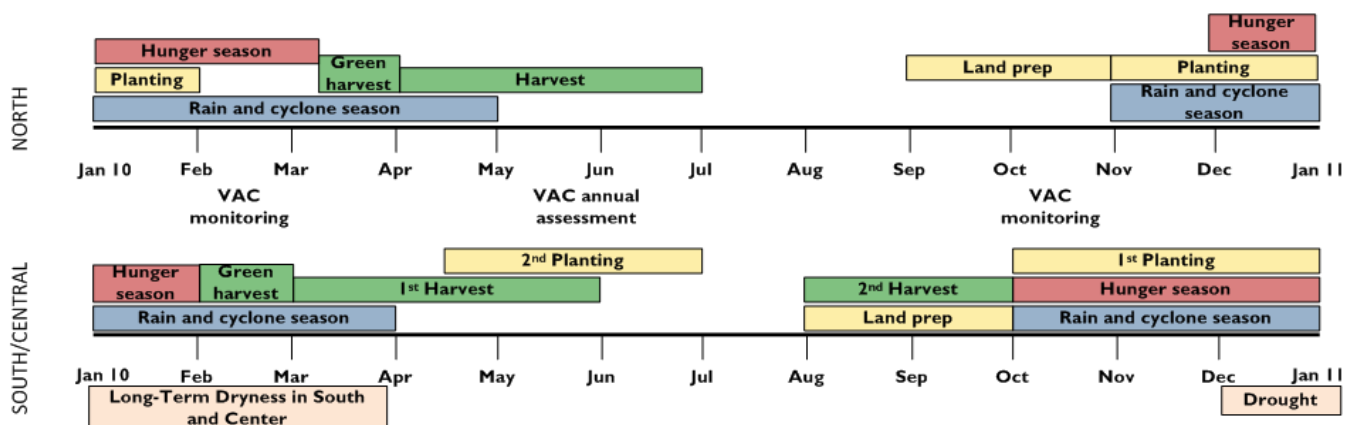
Figure 1. Estimated food security conditions, April 2010



For more information on FEWS NET's Food Insecurity Severity Scale, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

Source: FEWS NET

Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

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FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

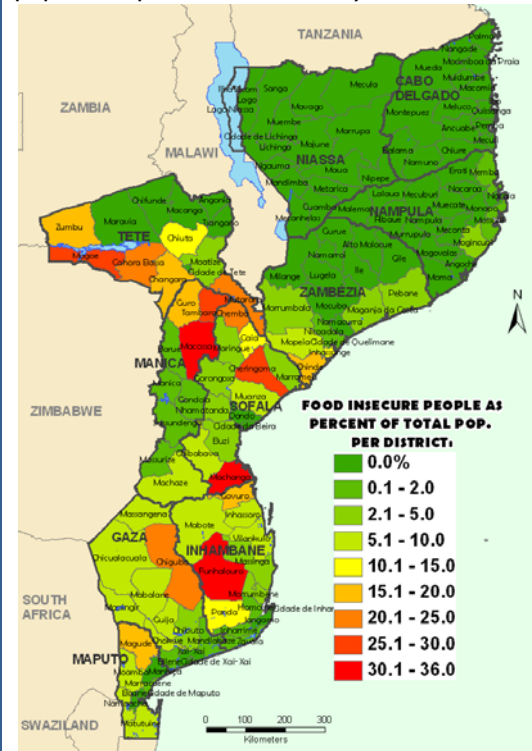
Current food security conditions

Areas of moderate food insecurity are present in parts of the country that were affected by this season’s drought and recent floods. According to the February SETSAN/GAV assessment, nearly 460,000 people are most vulnerable to food insecurity and will require emergency food assistance to meet basic dietary intake from July until April 2011 (Figure 2). The food insecure population mostly includes poorer households, primarily farmers with small cultivated plots and few or no livestock, with one or no source of income, limited or no food reserves, and few or no assets. Most of this population has faced recurrent shocks that have eroded their coping capacities. Coping strategies currently employed include selling productive assets and natural products such as grass, building poles, firewood, charcoal, and domestic animals, informal labor, and hunting. The break in the food aid pipeline in April is of great concern. Current levels of food assistance cover only 175,000 persons (38 percent) of the total number identified by SETSAN/GAV. Areas of concern include the interior of Gaza and Inhambane provinces, parts of Maputo province, and parts of the Zambezi basin. In the Zambezi basin, the recent floods in late February and early March have forced the government to evacuate nearly 7,000 people to the previously established resettlement centers.

Following the prospects for poor harvests in the southern and central provinces due to drought and floods, in March 2010 the government of Mozambique requested the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM), which is expected to begin field work in early May. CFSAM will evaluate food crop production in the 2009/10 agricultural season, assess the overall food supply situation, forecast cereal import requirements and possible exports in marketing year 2010/11 (April/March), and determine what responses would be most appropriate and feasible to ensure both adequate availability and access throughout the coming year.

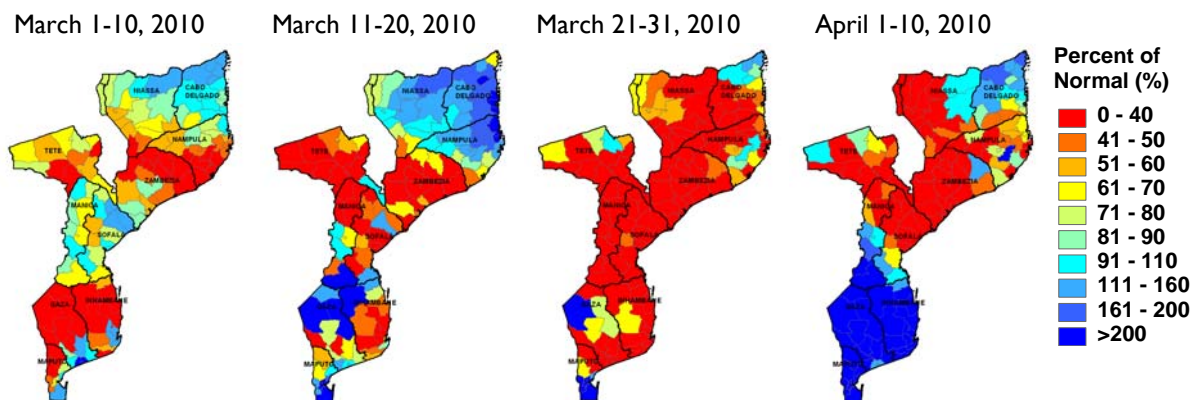
While March normally marks the cessation of rains in the south, this season’s rains have extended beyond that period (Figure 3). During the first ten days of April, rainfall amounts in the south and southern part of the central zone have been above 200 percent of normal. Heavy rains have been falling in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane and parts of southern Manica and Sofala provinces. While extended rains can be beneficial for the second agriculture season, they can also have adverse impacts on near-mature to mature crops. Also, excessive moisture content in the soil can make ploughing difficult. At present crops are at mixed stages of development, and some planting is still taking place.

Figure 2. Food insecure people as percent of population per district, February 2010



Source: SETSAN/GAV

Figure 3. Rainfall estimates as percentage of normal from March 1 to April 10, 2010



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

The combination of drought and localized floods resulted in losses of most early-planted crops in the south and central zones of the country, and those planted in some floodplains. To mitigate the effects of the adverse conditions in these areas, the Ministry of Agriculture developed an action plan that includes massive supplies of short-cycle seeds and other agricultural inputs for the second agriculture season. The main purpose of the action plan is to increase second season production of the main crops such as maize, beans, sorghum and wheat by using short-cycle seeds. The plan includes intensification of production of cassava, sweet potatoes and potatoes by maximizing the lowlands zones and the existing irrigation systems. The second agricultural season commences immediately after the main harvest and is characterized by low or no rains, which is why cropping normally takes place in areas where residual moisture from the main season is present. These excess rains could benefit areas in the south for second season production. The harvest from the second season is normally expected in August/September, although throughout the season fresh horticulture crops such as lettuce, cabbage, onions, and tomatoes are grown.

Crop harvest prospects

Results from the recent assessment carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture in late March 2010 indicate that overall production in the north of the country is favorable. Rainfall has performed well in terms of amount and distribution, which has favored all crops in the main agricultural season. The north zone is therefore expecting above-average production, with surpluses that will flow within the zone and partly to neighboring countries and to the central zone. Some crops such as groundnuts and beans will flow further south to Maputo province.

The situation in the central zone is mixed. In northern Tete province and the highlands of Zambezia province, expectations are favorable for good crop production, especially for maize. Rice planted in February in Zambezia and Sofala is at vegetative stage and in good condition. In the semi-arid areas of the central zone, farmers have gone through multiple plantings but prospects for good yields are low due to the drought and flooding.

In the south, early planted crops, especially those from November, were severely affected by long dry spells and abnormally high temperatures that occurred in December and January. However, late-planted crops, especially those from February onwards, are still in good condition and represent potentially successful crops, particularly in Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces. Second season production is nonetheless the great hope for most households, even though this harvest typically contributes only about 15 percent of annual production.

Most likely food security scenario, April-September 2010

The most likely April to September scenario is based on the following assumptions:

- Continuing rainfall during April–May 2010 will raise prospects for a favorable second season, which will mitigate food insecurity in southern Mozambique in particular;
- Provision of inputs for the second season will be timely;
- High food prices in most of the southern and central areas will affect market access from July to September;
- Government and partners will make resources available to replenish the food aid pipeline;
- Food aid will enable the food insecure population meet food requirements, and prevent deterioration of food insecurity; and
- Targeted food aid to households vulnerable to food insecurity will continue in parts of the south and central areas through September 2010.

From **April to June 2010**, moderate levels of food insecurity will prevail but small improvements will occur, even if the season is poor, as is expected for many parts of south and center (Figure 4). The semi-arid zones including the interior of

Table I. Planted and lost area in the south and center of Mozambique – March 2010

Province	Planted area (ha)	lost area (ha)	Percent of lost area (%)
Maputo	134,245	54,806	41
Gaza	420,783	99,518	24
Inhambane	506,154	131,658	26
Manica	729,106	161,794	22
Sofala	437,080	139,913	32
Tete	441,559	46,000	10
Zambézia	1,253,586	127,039	10
Region (South and Center)	3,922,513	760,728	19

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Gaza and Inhambane, southern Tete, and northern parts of Maputo will be the most affected, since food reserves at the household level are limited. Southern Zambezia province also deserves special attention because the most heavily cultivated crop in that area is rice, which requires more water. In these areas, poor and very poor households are expected to remain moderately food insecure following a below-average main harvest that will result from poor rainfall during the 2009/10 agriculture season, perpetuating the effects of the chronically vulnerable conditions in those areas.

From **July to September 2010**, moderate levels of food insecurity will continue for the 460,000 people identified by SETSAN/GAV as food insecure (Figure 5), although conditions are not expected to worsen due to the expected contributions from second season production in August. Second-season production will be crucial, especially for those who have access to lowlands with enough moisture or irrigation facilities. However, in the central zone, the reduced rainfall and early cessation of the main season rains, particularly in semi-arid areas of Tete, Manica, and Sofala Provinces, could limit second-season production, since much of it relies on residual moisture from the main rainy season between October and April. Food assistance beyond normal safety-net programming will likely be required beginning in July.

For those who will not benefit from the second season, the market will be the primary source of food, but expected high prices will limit food access. Prices are typically driven by main season production, and with a poor season expected in the southern and central areas, prices are likely to rise. From July, reductions in overall crop production in productive areas will affect commodity prices usually found in the area. Prices may rise up to 50 percent above the five-year average especially in the semi-arid zones. Reduction in crop production will also affect crop sales, the primary household's source of income, limiting the options to earn income.

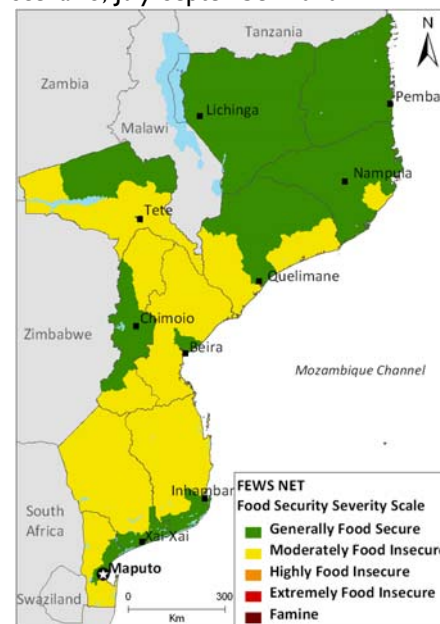
In both periods, poor households will not produce enough grain for their consumption needs and will not earn enough money from cash crops or labor to purchase sufficient food on the market. They will face food deficits, especially from July 2010 to March 2011. The most critical period is expected to be after September 2010 and likely worsening toward the hunger period, which typically begins in October in the south and central areas. Households in the moderately food insecure areas indicated above will likely make up for some of these deficits by employing coping strategies, but not necessarily extreme coping strategies, which may be employed after June 2010 if the second season and humanitarian assistance (if needed) fails. Alternative and coping strategies include reduction in the frequency and quantity of meals, selling of forest products such as firewood, charcoal, traditionally distilled alcohol, and other goods and crafts. Some families, especially those living near the South Africa border, will receive remittances from family members working there and elsewhere. Poorer households will begin to exchange casual labor in neighboring areas for food, though these sources, too, will likely be limited.

Although livestock body conditions are currently good throughout the country, drought conditions after August, when water for humans and animals is typically scarce, will affect pasture and water availability. By August/September, households from the semi-arid zones of the country will travel longer distances in search of water, allocating less time for other activities like school and farming. Also, water shortages will force humans to share water with animals and to take it from less potable sources, which may result in disease outbreaks such as cholera and diarrhea.

Figure 4. Most likely food security scenario, April-June 2010



Figure 5. Most likely food security scenario, July-September 2010



Source: FEWS NET

The deterioration of food security conditions to the levels of employing negative coping strategies can be avoided by timely precautionary measures, including urgent allocation of short cycle and drought resistant seeds, maximum utilization of the lowlands and enhancement of second season production. Contingency planning for possible humanitarian assistance should be updated and ready to be activated. Food security and vulnerability assessments are needed to evaluate the level of assistance needed. Special and immediate attention – including humanitarian assistance – is needed for the most vulnerable households, especially those headed by elderly people, children and women unable to undertake hard work.

The planned FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) will estimate the overall cereal production and inform about deficit and surpluses including whether the country would require cereal import or export and whether food assistance is recommended. Interventions addressing access to food, water, inputs, and health services could be needed until the next major harvest in March/April 2011.

Table I. Events that could affect the food security outlook

Geographic Focus Area	Possible events in the next 6 months that would change the most likely scenario	Impacts on food security conditions	Likelihood of occurrence*	Key variables to monitor
Semi-arid zones of Tete, Manica, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza, and Maputo provinces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near average to reduced food prices Good harvest Inadequate humanitarian assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would increase access to food through market purchases Most households will become generally food secure People in need unable to meet their food needs and/or input needs, and likely to become highly food insecure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlikely Unlikely Unlikely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food prices Crop development and rainfall Level of humanitarian assistance (number of beneficiaries vs number of people in need)
Southern Zambezia province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved rainfall performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of rice improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlikely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainfall
Center and south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good second season production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most current moderately food insecure households become generally food secure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlikely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second season performance

* Probability levels	Description
Unlikely	Could occur in the time period if conditions changed moderately
Very unlikely	Could occur in the time period if conditions changed significantly



Maize, rice, and beans are the most important food commodities. Maize is the staple food for the poor, with rice most often used as a substitute. Beans are important to all wealth groups. Each of the markets represented here act as indicators for the broader region. Tete is representative for the province by the same name, Nampula is the main market in the north and is representative for the region, and has linkages with the interior of Zambezia and Nampula provinces and coastal Nampula. Beira, Gorongosa, and Manica market has links with Chimoio market, which has links with Gorongosa and southern markets. The Chokwe and Maputo markets in the south are linked to the Chimoio, Manica, and Gorongosa markets in the central region. Chókwe is the reference market for the southern region, except Maputo, the capital.

Monthly prices are supplied by the market information system in Mozambique.

