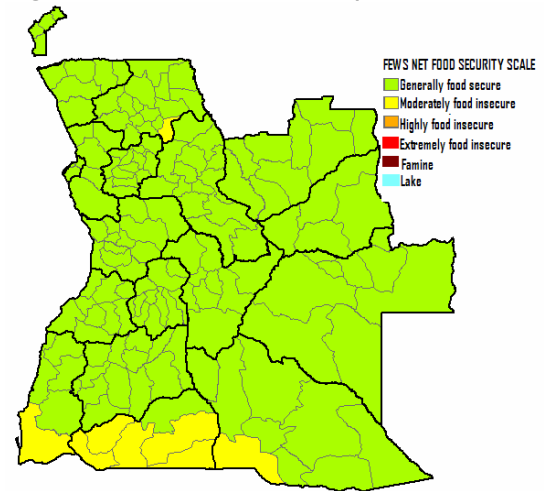


## ANGOLA Food Security Update

July 2007

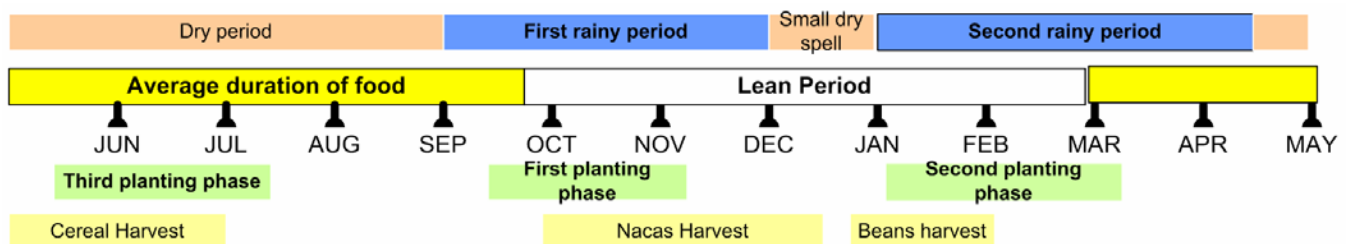
- The majority of the population is generally food secure thanks to recent harvests of cereals, tubers and beans. This food security status is likely to remain so for the months ahead due to additional harvest from nacas cropping in winter. Some populations in localized areas are experiencing moderate food insecurity.
- About 15,000 households in Cunene (crop-farming, female-headed, *Vatua* and *Khoisan* households) are moderately food insecure because of poor harvests of sorghum, millet and beans, a lack or reduced number of livestock for sale.
- About 2,000 households in Alto Cauale in Uige are moderately food insecure due to a reduced cassava harvest resulting from the cassava mosaic virus.
- Prices for maize and sorghum grains in some reference markets have remained stable when they would normally drop considerably. This unusual trend is also reflected by consumer prices in Luanda, which have increased by 0.89 percent between May and June, 2007. It is suggested that poor roads, poor market infrastructures, reduced number of traders and transporters have negatively affected the flow and increased the cost of products from productive districts to consumers. The continual increase in consumer prices will negatively affect poor households living in urban areas.

**Figure 1. Current food security conditions**



Source: FEWS NET Angola

### Seasonal calendar and critical events



### Food security summary

The majority of the population is generally food secure because of recent harvests of cereals, tubers and beans. As consequence, most key informers have reported stable nutritional status of children below five years of age. However, some moderately food insecure population can be found in Cunene and Uige, where harvests has been affected by poor rainfalls, disease and pests. Recent reports suggest that the level of harvest in Cunene is below expectation due to the extended dry spell that reduced yields by 30 - 40 percent. The reduction in harvest is highest in Curoca district compared to other districts of Cunene. About 15,000 households in Cunene are moderately food insecure; this includes crop-farming, female-headed, *Vatua* and *Khoisan* households.

There is a general consensus that the virus attack on cassava has not had a wide impact on current food security. The 20 percent drop on production did not affect food availability and food self-sufficiency because there is usually excess production of cassava in the northern provinces. Surplus production of cassava in other areas will be sufficient to improve cassava availability in deficit areas. However, a combination of low production, limited diversification in food production and income generation will negatively affect some 2,000 households in Alto Cauale districts in Uige province.

The intense rains in Uige, Huambo, Benguela, and eastern Moxico have not had a considerable impact on local food security. However, localized communities whose livelihoods have been affected by floods will continue to be moderately to potentially severely food insecure.

The current good status of food security is likely to be maintained in the months ahead due to the current involvement of smallholders in *nacas* production (lowland production where water supplies are adequate during winter). Harvests from *nacas*, expected between September 2007 and February 2008, will improve food availability in local markets and self-sufficiency at the household level. Current reports from Uige, Kwanza Norte and Benguela suggest that smallholders are involved in land preparation, sowing of beans and preparation of vegetable seedlings for *nacas* land cultivation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) is providing support for winter cropping as mean of improving food security. MINADER facilitates the supply of fertilizers, vegetable seeds and Irish potato planting material. However, there are reports of a lack of fertilizers and pesticides in Cunene. Some provincial IDAs (*Instituto de Desenvolvimento Agrário*) have also received trucks in order to facilitate the distribution of inputs and provide assistance in isolated areas. IDA has also extended its support to some associations in order to help them cultivate under irrigation. For example, in Kwanza Norte, Benguela and Uige, IDA effort extends to rehabilitating and opening new small-scale irrigation schemes.

While the majority of provinces have completed harvests in June, smallholders in Benguela are still harvesting sorghum and millet. Progressive harvesting of cassava and cooking banana will maintain the availability of these food products in local markets and improve household food self-sufficiency.

No major problems have been reported for livestock that could negatively affect the food security in the majority of provinces. Veterinary assistance is being availed on demand or when there is an indication of an outbreak. A vaccination campaign is going on in Cunene and Benguela. In Cunene, for example, more than 400,000 animals have been vaccinated. While there is no major concern in terms of pasture and water availability, a key informer in Cunene suggests that shortages are expected in the month ahead due to poor rains observed during the last rainy season.

## Markets, trade and food access

The stability or insignificant drop in the average prices of maize and sorghum grain in some reference markets (provincial capital markets of Uige, Kwanza Norte, Benguela and Cunene) during this period of year should be viewed with concern, as it suggests the potential for maize prices to increase in the months ahead. While maize prices are expected to drop as the marketing process progress, there is a need for a close observation of prices during August.

A drop in maize price has been observed in Benguela while sorghum and millet prices have dropped in Cunene. This drop in prices of sorghum and millet in this province that has experienced poor harvests this season suggests that there is an active trade of sorghum and millet from neighboring provinces (Benguela, Northern Namibe, Huila and Kuando Kubango). Therefore, household food security in Cunene will be determined by access to income sources. A poor harvest is not a major concern for the livestock farming population who can buy 450 kg of grain (average yield for one ha of land) by selling a single cow. Yet there is concern for crop-farming, female-headed, *Vatua* and *Khoisan* populations.

Data from the *Instituto Nacional de Estatística* (INE) suggests that food and beverage consumer prices rose by 0.89 percent in between May and June. Commodity specialists from the INE share the view that cereal prices have been rising despite the recent harvest, the current relative improvement on movement of trucks on unpaved roads compared with rainy

season, and the weakening of USD toward AKZ. Sustained price increases from August will drastically erode the purchasing power of poor households living in urban areas such as in Luanda and Benguela.

The slight increase in consumer prices may result from a reduced supply because of poor roads resulting from residual effects of extended civil war and the low level of action for road rehabilitation, as well as lack of transporters and lack of rural markets. There are major constraints to the transportation of products from productive localities or communes to district cities, and from there to consumers' centers in provincial urban centers. While there are some solutions being implemented to improve roads, the extent of investment in road and market infrastructure does not match the current demand and the required investment. Greater and accelerated investments in rural roads and market infrastructures will have a positive effect on agricultural marketing and will subsequently create an incentive for agricultural production.

Angola is still deficit in cereal and beans production, depending largely on imports to satisfy the country's requirement for these staples. Data from the Ministry of Trade suggests that Angola imported some 500,102 MT of beans at an average price of about USD880/tons. Angola also imports large quantities of maize, rice and wheat.

## Fishing

The 1,650 km of coastal line in Atlantic Ocean offers resources that provide food and income to about 26,000 small-scale fishermen. This activity also provides income generating opportunity to women who specialize in processing and marketing of fish products. However, fishing communities in coastal areas faces many food security challenges, including: limited capacity to diversify into crop production because of the aridness of costal areas, limited water resources and technical capacity to master irrigation technology and by the lack of potable water. More concerted efforts in order to help coastal communities to diversity into livestock, cropping, trade and handcrafts will help coastal households improve their food security.

Efforts by IDA to promote fishing activity in rivers in interior of Angola will also result in an improved food and income security in Angola. Some efforts under way in Cunene, for example, have allowed IDA to organize seven fishing cooperatives, specifically in Ombadja district, benefiting those communities along the Cunene River. Fishing cooperatives are being provided with fishing nets, boats and other fishing material.