



SOUTHERN AFRICA

Food Crisis Sustainable Recovery Initiative

Disaster Context

The Southern Africa region is facing a drought triggered humanitarian and food security crisis, which has been further exacerbated by the HIV pandemic, governance and poverty issues. Factors contributing to the crisis are numerous and vary from country to country. They include: drought, floods, disruptions to commercial farming, depletion of strategic grain reserves, poor economic performance, poor governance, foreign exchange shortages and delays in the timely importation of maize etc. The crisis builds upon the frequent re-occurrence of disasters in the region and an accumulation of disaster risk.

The regional Consolidated Appeals (CAP) for Southern Africa were launched in July 2002. These CAP's covered six of the southern African countries in which the crisis has been prevalent. These are: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Since then, the humanitarian community, Governments, South African Development Community (SADC) and donors have been working in concert to address the acute vulnerability of over 14.4 million people in the region whose lives are threatened by the devastating impact of food insecurity, exacerbated HIV/AIDS, severe poverty, disease outbreaks and limited access to social services.

In view of the gravity of the emerging crisis in Southern Africa and in recognition of the critical non-food areas of this crisis, particularly HIV/AIDS, a Regional Inter Agency Coordination Support Office (RIACSO) was established in October 2002 with a key role of ensuring that multi-sectoral and coordinated support is provided to country teams for strategic planning, assessment, monitoring and analysis of the Southern African Crisis. RIACSO has just coordinated the launching of a follow-up CAP for the period 2003/2004 in light of the recognition that serious problems in food security will remain, as deep economic problems and market inefficiencies continue to exist in the region.

Project Title

- Southern Africa Sustainable Recovery Initiative
- The UNV Capacity Stabilization and Rebuilding Programme
- SADC

Sectors

- Recovery
- Disaster Reduction
- Institutional Strengthening
- Environmental Resources and Food Security
- Disaster Management

Funding

- UNDP contributed a total of \$ 500,000 from TRAC 1.1.3. to the Southern Africa Sustainable Recovery Initiative.
- SADC contributed \$ 163,000
- The UNV Capacity Stabilization and Rebuilding Programme was supported with \$ 1 Million from TRAC 1.1.3. Funds.

Partners

- RIACSO Members
- SADC

Programme Activities

UNDP activities supported the following:

- Proposals for recovery projects in each country, which address immediate recovery needs in worst affected areas and take into consideration long-term risk reduction.
- Advocacy and support for sustainable recovery and risk management in ongoing humanitarian

and development responses to the crisis through the provision of a Regional Recovery Coordinator to RIACSO.

- Reinforcing the capacity of SADC to assist southern African countries in the management of the current humanitarian crisis and disaster risks.
- An integrated UNDP strategy to address sustainable recovery from food insecurity in southern Africa, which provides guidance to BCPR and UNDP Country Offices.
- Support to country office initiatives on the ground through UNV support to Resident Representatives, the provision of programme support staff, and Disaster Management expertise.
- Support to the UNDP/UNV Capacity Replenishment Programme submitted to the CAP in 2003/4. This will facilitate the response to the increasing demand for skilled personnel from national governments of the six countries in the region and UN partners by providing professional expertise to mitigate the devastating loss of skilled human resources and rebuild local capacity.