

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE HUMANITARIAN/RESIDENT COORDINATOR
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

Country	SWAZILAND
Humanitarian / Resident Coordinator	Dr Jama Gulaid RCai
Reporting Period	2007

I. Executive Summary / Background

In May 2007, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) carried out a joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in Swaziland. According to the report issued on 23 May, the maize production in the 2006/2007 agricultural season reached only 26,170 tonnes, almost 60 percent lower than the previous season. About 407,000 vulnerable people, including orphans, children under five, school kids, malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women, and persons on antiretroviral therapy (ART), were in dire need of some 40,000 tonnes of food assistance to meet their basic food needs and to protect their livelihoods until the next harvest.

Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received (per reporting year)	Required: \$ 7,804,442 Received: \$ 3,136,815			
Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window	Rapid Response: \$ 3,136,815 Underfunded: \$ 0 Grand Total: \$ 3,136,815			
Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency/IOM implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners	Total UN agencies/IOM: \$ 3,136,815 Total implementing partners: \$ 0			
Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding (disaggregated by sex/age if possible)	Total	under 5 years of age	Female (If available)	Male (If available)
	145,000	12,650	57,500	44850
Geographic areas of implementation	All regions of the country (Lowveld, Middleveld, Lubombo, Shiselweni, Hhohho and Manzini)			

Maize production in Swaziland has been on a steady decline for the past decade. Until 2000, Swaziland was in a normal agricultural season harvesting more than 100,000 tonnes of maize. Since then the average has steadily dropped to around 70,000 tonnes, a production still three times higher than the current harvest. Erratic weather, the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS and a decline in the use of improved agricultural practices and inputs are among the factors contributing to this decline. Swaziland has the highest adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world, estimated at 42.6 percent. Surveys show that affected families farm less and grow less food than non-affected families.

WFP started distributing food to some 220,000 beneficiaries in early 2007, but this pipeline dried up by the end of June. With the CERF grant, WFP purchased and distributed 2,628 tonnes of assorted commodities such as cereals, pulses and oil, and met the short term food needs (July to September 2007) of 145,000 people suffering from the effects of drought. The CERF funded project covered the areas of Lowveld, Lubombo Plateau and Dry Middleveld.

The CERF allocation to FAO allowed FAO to conduct input trade fairs (ITFs), complementing WFP's efforts to provide food aid. The input trade fairs included the timely provision of farming equipment in the most affected areas, provision of portable and agricultural water to affected areas, improvement of farming practices to counter negative effects of climate change, and promotion of crops and livestock systems that is more suitable in the existing climate. Up to 30,000 households (an estimated 325,000 beneficiaries) in 26 of the driest constituencies (Tinkhundla) received vouchers to purchase a variety of seeds, fertilizers, agricultural tools and equipment of their choice, available at the input trade fairs.

II. Coordination and Partnership-building:

(a) Decision-making process

The CERF proposal came as a result of extensive consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) and NGOs and the CFSAM. The CFSAM, in which FAO and WFP were joint lead agencies to a team of NGO staff, the Government and other UN agencies, provided an estimated number of people in need. The decision to apply for CERF funding was taken within the UN system after consultations and confirmation that the situation was urgent and that there was no other funding sources available at the time. Allocations were based on consultations with the Government on resource gaps, after taking into account the Government's own resources for the drought response.

(b) Coordination amongst the humanitarian country team

Collaboration between FAO and WFP ensured that the farmers that received the agricultural inputs actually planted and did not divest the inputs. This in turn assured longer term food security. Coordination meetings were held every fortnight through the Food Security Consortium involving all the major stakeholders [partner NGOs, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the Coordinating Assembly of Non Governmental Organizations (CANGO) the coordinating body of all NGOs and FAO]. The meetings were held to plan, share information, and discuss progress, problems and solutions.

(c) Partnerships

In both projects, collaboration with the NDMA ensured that duplication of assistance was avoided, coverage was adequate and distribution mechanisms were harmonized. The project carried out by FAO was done in close collaboration with MOAC and World Vision Swaziland. Departments within the MOAC that were involved in the ITFs included: (i) the Seed Quality Control Unit, to ensure that only certified seed was sold; (ii) the Research Centre, for the production and multiplication of legume seed; and (iii) the Directorate of Agriculture, which was responsible for agricultural extension and technical staff and assisted with implementation on the ground. Four key NGOs were engaged by WFP to distribute food.

(d) Prioritization process

The food sector was prioritized in order to avert possible death and acute malnutrition that would have resulted if the assistance was not forthcoming. In addition, the CERF funding went directly to the agriculture sector to ensure long term food security.

III. Implementation and Results

Food Security

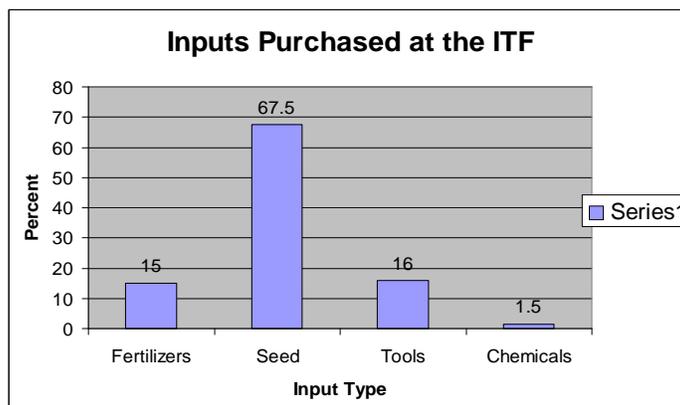
In terms of results for the FAO project, CERF funding enabled the Government to assist 30,000 households, who had just been affected by the most severe drought on record through ITFs. The ITF

approach involved the distribution of vouchers with cash value to selected beneficiaries for the purchase of agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizers and tools. Without this assistance, families who were already heavily relying on food aid would have gone for a whole season without producing food further putting them at risk of starvation. The total area that can be planted with the inputs provided through the ITFs amounts to 15 000 hectares, which has a potential crop yield of 24 000 tonnes.

The timely provision of inputs gave farmers a head start, which over the years has proven to result in better harvests. Last year, farmers who planted early reaped at least a minimal harvest despite the drought, whereas those who began later had no harvest at all. Non-intervention would have left these households with nothing to eat and thus at risk of starvation as the country is already running low on food-aid resources. In addition, as a result of the ITFs, families will not only be able to produce enough crops to meet their household food requirements but some farmers may have excess yields which they can sell and use the cash in order to meet other basic needs, such as clinic and school fees.

During the ITFs, farmers showed willingness to practice crop diversification, although maize was still the major seed product traded. Other seeds purchased by farmers included sorghum, juko bean, common bean, groundnut, mung bean, sesame and cowpea. Crop diversification reduces the risk of farmers to lose all of their harvest, improves soil fertility and structure.

The chart below illustrates the inputs purchased at the ITFs. Most farmers purchased various types of seed with their vouchers. Tools and fertilizers ranked as the second and third preferences of beneficiaries and very few purchased farm chemicals.



There were also other indirect benefits of the FAO project. The FAO project benefited participating traders, which included both large-scale and small-scale suppliers. Through direct input sales, traders shared in the substantial profit of the total value of inputs sold, which totaled E 9,000,000 (equivalent to US\$ 1,296,000). These sales amount to more money than most traders make in a whole year or, in some cases, in over two years.

The money also provided employment opportunities for a number of seasonal employees and improved the rural economy. Seed producers reported that they were able to sell all of their seed stock produced during the last farming season and are getting ready to plant for the upcoming season.

The project had an additional benefit for MOAC staff on the ground as well as for input suppliers. MOAC staff is now better equipped to manage large-scale projects and to coordinate with communities, traditional leaders and other organizations like FAO. The suppliers underwent rigorous exercises to ensure that they were selling quality inputs to farmers, especially in terms of seed.

The project worked closely with rural health motivators, who interact on a nearly daily basis with people who are terminally ill and HIV positive. This collaboration ensured that most of the families caring for these people received inputs through the project, enabling them to produce enough food to support the entire household. Diet is an important factor in taking care of HIV positive persons and the terminally ill, especially for those on antiretroviral treatment as they must take their medication consistently and cannot do this without food.

Households caring for orphans also greatly benefited from increased food production. In resource-poor households with many members, the entire family often must skip meals to ensure that everyone eats at least once per day. The ability to produce a reasonable harvest this year will help to ease the pressure on household food supplies.

Some households are headed by orphaned children, whom communities often assist in producing food. With the increased availability of inputs, these children will be able to learn from senior members of the community how to produce crops, which is an invaluable skill and will help them to survive in the near and distant future.

The project was implemented in close collaboration with MOAC and World Vision Swaziland. Departments within the Ministry that were involved in the ITFs included: (i) the Seed Quality Control Unit, to ensure that only certified seed was sold; (ii) the Research Centre, for the production and multiplication of legume seed; and (iii) the Directorate of Agriculture, which was responsible for agricultural extension and technical staff and assisted with implementation on the ground.

A planning and management committee was formed by FAO and MOAC at the national level and consisted of FAO, MOAC, World Vision Swaziland; large- and small-scale input traders and certified seed producers. At the constituency level, the committees included MOAC field staff and local leaders, including representatives of chiefs, local representatives and rural health motivators. The committees were responsible for assisting community leaders in selecting beneficiaries and ensuring that the ITFs were run in the most professional and efficient manner.

The extension staff was also encouraged to monitor the activities of ITF beneficiaries and report on overall progress to FAO, which reported to partners and documented findings for early warning purposes.

Food

The CERF funds enabled WFP to urgently purchase 2,901 MT of food commodities including cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and corn soya blend (CSB); make adequate and timely deliveries of the purchased commodities to targeted beneficiaries; meet adequately the nutritional needs of affected the vulnerable people affected by drought; and provide life-saving food to 115,000 people affected by drought for a period of three months. This caseload was in addition to 45,000 people reached by WFP under its existing relief programme.

(a) Monitoring and evaluation

Food Security

With regard to the FAO project, a planning and management committee was formed by FAO and MOAC at national level that consisted of FAO, MOAC, World Vision Swaziland, large- and small-scale input traders and certified seed producers. At the constituency level, the committees included MOAC field officers and local leaders, including chiefs' representative and rural health motivators. The committees were responsible for assisting beneficiaries and ensuring that ITFs were run in the most professional and efficient manner.

FAO and the Ministry conducted a post planting survey and the extension staff are still monitoring the crop in the field up to post harvest and offer advice where and when needed. World Vision is providing advice and monitoring to households in their areas of operation.

A post project evaluation meeting (post-mortem) was conducted with all the stakeholders which did a review on the successes and challenges of the ITF, documentation of activities for early warning purposes and plans were made on how to continue monitoring farmers and also conducting an evaluation at the end of the season.

There was no end of project evaluation due to the time frame and the fact that the season had just started, however input trade fairs as a whole will be part of an evaluation at the end of May 2008 by FAO and other partners.

Food

For the WFP project, the monitoring and evaluation was conducted under the existing WFP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system as follows:

- The number of beneficiaries and quantity of food distributed which form part of WFP's core indicators were monitored using the existing WFP consolidated monthly output report.
- Food process monitoring was carried out at final distribution points (FDP) to monitor the effectiveness of the distribution mechanisms; community participation and role played by women; and availability of complementary inputs.
- An exit survey was done on a sample of beneficiaries at distribution points to monitor the correctness of the food basket and ration sizes, beneficiary perceptions of the distribution systems, information dissemination and the opportunity cost of the food assistance to the beneficiaries.
- In cooperation with other stakeholders (National Nutrition Council, NGOs, World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)), WFP also monitored malnutrition and mortality trends through the nutrition surveillance system and the Community and Household Surveillance.

Initiatives complemented by CERF-funded projects

The beneficiaries of the FAO ITFs also received food assistance to ensure that they actually planted and did not divest inputs to meet food needs. WFP also provided supplementary food rations through its existing Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) to 145,000 people, including orphans and vulnerable children, school children and patients on HIV treatment programmes. This ensured that the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable people were adequately met.

ECHO funded an additional 20,000 households with inputs in the wetter parts of the country, which improved the coverage. As a result, some areas did not record a good harvest, the food availability situation was better than last season. World Vision also mobilized resources to intervene through ITFs in communities where they were present.

Other complimentary interventions included a project on rehabilitation of water supply facilities and promotion of water harvesting technology in Swaziland, which concentrated on 10 constituencies in the Lowveld. This project assisted some of the targeted households to harvest water and engage in vegetable farming on a small scale to supplement field crops harvested from the ITFs supplies. Families were also able to have food in between the period of planting and harvesting. As water became a very critical issue during the period, households were also trained on water utilization and management and generally on water, sanitation and hygiene matters.

IV. Results

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector (Add project nr and title)	Amount disbursed (\$)	Number of Beneficiaries (by sex/age)	Implementing Partners	Expected Results/Outcomes	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
Food	07-WFP-038 Food assistance to drought affected population	1,594,453	145,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Vision ▪ ACAT ▪ LDS ▪ Red Cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2,628 metric tons of assorted commodities purchased and distributed ▪ 145,000 beneficiaries provided with food rations ▪ Deterioration of nutritional status prevented ▪ Mortality due to acute hunger minimized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2,901 of assorted food commodities (cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and corn soya blend) were procured. This allowed WFP to extend its existing relief assistance to people affected by drought. A total of 115,000 people received food assistance. The total number of people reached in combination with government direct effort was 390,000. In collaboration with government, all regions were covered. ▪ Acute malnutrition among under five children has been maintained at <two percent (Community and Household Surveillance). ▪ Crude mortality rate stabilized at one per 10,000 per day (mainly attributed to HIV&AIDS)
Food Security	07-FAO-023 Improved access to diversified crop seeds for farmers affected by drought in Swaziland through Input Trade Fairs	1,542,362	30,000 households Affected by drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government of Swaziland ▪ (Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up to 30,000 vulnerable households including; widows, child headed households, families with members on ART (approximately 195,000 beneficiaries) will be provided with vouchers valued at \$43.20 each to purchase a variety of agricultural inputs of their choice. ▪ 30,000 farmers will have planted diverse crop varieties suitable to their climatic areas to enhance household nutrition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30,000 households received farm inputs that would enable them to plant up to 15,000 hectares and estimated to give 24,000 tons of harvest ▪ Households planted their crops (the harvesting period has just started and no data has been collected on the actual yield yet)

V. CERF IN ACTION: Success stories

Sixty-Eight year old Gogo Gwebu lives in Mpolonjeni, an area north east of the capital of Swaziland, Mbabane. She is a grandmother taking care of six grandchildren between the ages of five and twelve years old, these children were born to her two daughters and a son whom have all since passed. Gogo



Gwebu is one of the 400,000 people receiving relief food under either the government or WFP pipelines, which is part of the 2007/ 2008 drought response partly funded through the Central Emergency Response Fund.

Three of the grand children go to the nearby Siphoso primary school where they receive meals courtesy of government grants for orpahs and vulnerable children (OVC). The other three children that are under five receive food aid under the WFP supplementary feeding programme at the nearby Mpolonjeni clinic. Gogo Gwebu feels that the food aid improves their health and nutrition status. She added that her household relied on food aid for survival and that they would have died had WFP not intervened.

During the 2007/ 2008 cropping season, the Gwebu household used 20 kg of maize seeds received from the FAO Input Trade Fairs and cattle manure to plant their three hectare field. Gwebu said that the food assistance they received gave them energy to plough and plant the field. However, all their efforts were frustrated by dry spells and a heat-wave that dried everything in the fields. Even the late rains received between February and March did not revive the maize plants. When asked how they would cope in the coming months without any harvest, as they had used all their resources in tilling the land and planting their maize crop, Gogo Gwebu answered that God would decide their fate. Rains were promising in the early stages of the summer season.

Muhle Ngcane is 25 years old and can not recall when her mother passed away. However, she remembers well that her father died in 1994. It was soon after his death that Muhle had to drop out of school to become the primary caretaker of her elderly grandmother and five siblings.

Muhle supports the family working as a casual labourer on other farmers' land. In return for weeding their fields, she receives one 10kg bucket of maize. She also weeds community garden schemes, for which she is paid in tomatoes.

The Ngcane family had never received food aid before and was thrilled to be included as one of 30,000 beneficiaries of this year's Input Trade Fairs. They also received 25 kg of maize from an NGO working with WFP, which can last for up to one month and should help her family get through the cropping period.



Muhle's grandmother can no longer walk. She clearly remembers last year's drought - it was one of the worst in all of her 101 years of life. From the family's 0.6 hectare field, they harvested just two 50kg bags of maize. This lasted the family only two months. Last year, Muhle explains, they made the mistake of using seed that was not certified but saved from previous seasons.

This year, Muhle is hopeful of a good harvest. "With the E 300 voucher," she says, "I was able to purchase maize seed and a hoe for cultivation." The local extension officer says that the inputs should allow the Ngcane family to produce 20 bags of maize, totalling 1,000 kg, which should be enough to last them through the next harvest.

ACRONMYS

ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CANGO	Coordinating Assembly of Non Governmental Organizations
CFSAM	Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission
FDP	Final Distribution Points
ITFs	Input Trade Fairs
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations