



MEDIA ADVISORY

19 April 2024

ADDRESSING THE EL NIÑO CRISIS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: DROUGHT THREATENS MILLIONS IN THE SADC REGION

Southern Africa is in the grip of an urgent crisis. A record-breaking dry spell lasting over 30 days is scorching eight countries - Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. El Niño and climate change are fueling this disaster, inflicting severe damage on crops and livestock over the past five years.

The situation is dire and demands immediate attention. Widespread crop failure looms in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Livestock are dying at alarming rates due to a lack of water and vegetation. The movement of desperate people and animals is spreading diseases, including those transmissible to humans. Over 9000 cattle deaths have been reported since October 2023 (RIASCO, 2024). This is a humanitarian crisis demanding immediate action. Without urgent intervention, the suffering of affected communities will only worsen.

The media briefing will shed light about the scale of the drought in Southern Africa and the steps governments, donors, and international actors must immediately take to save lives and avoid further catastrophes.

The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and its partners invites members of the media to this media briefing as follows:

Date: 22 April 2024

Venue: Agricultural Research Council, Conference Centre,
1134 Park Street, Hatfield, Pretoria 0028

Time: 14:00 – 17:00

THE END

Media enquiries: Mashao Mohale | 073 181 8046 or dmohale@namc.co.za or Thembi
Mwamakamba | policy@fanrpan.org or Adziliwi Nematandani | 082 765 9191 |
anematandani@hsrc.ac.za