

SAVING
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Rainy Season Monitoring

World Food Programme

Angola



World Food
Programme

April 2021

Highlights

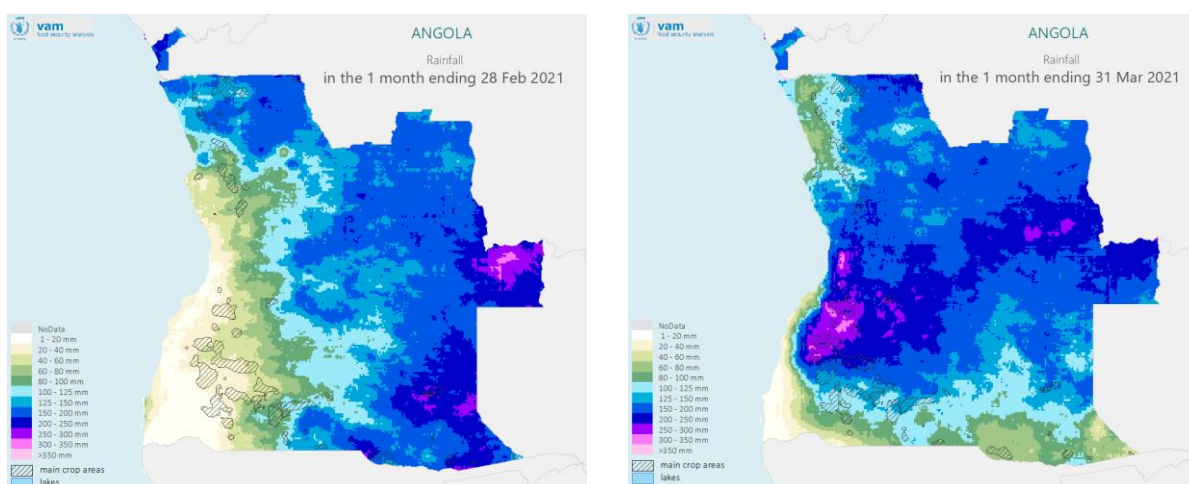
- Increase in precipitation in March 2021 compared to February 2021.
- Vegetation coverage below average but with an increasing trend from the beginning of March 2021.

Methodology

The analysis is based on the data from remote rainfall monitoring and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) available at WFP-VAM DataViz Platform (dataviz.vam.wfp.org). NDVI is an indicator of vegetation cover and, therefore, can be used to predict agricultural production and pasture conditions, as well as to monitor drought. For each geographical region, the rainfall and NDVI data are analysed comparing the values of the normal situation (average values) with the values observed at the present time. The analysis assumes that there is no other phenomenon, such as fires, which can affect vegetation in addition to the climate.

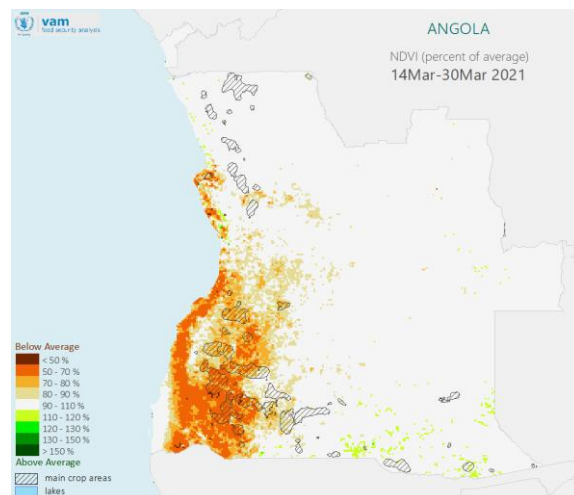
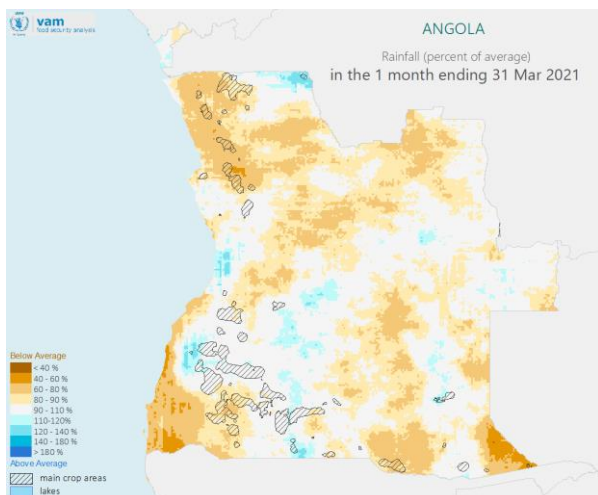
Rainy Season Performance

In general, the month of March 2021 was better than February 2021 in terms of the amount of precipitation in Angola, with some regions, particularly in the west, recording more than 200 mm in 30 days. However, despite the improvements in rainfall, the southeast of Namibe continued with precipitation levels 20-40% below the average. Historical data indicate that in April there will be a significant reduction in rainfall with the end of the rainy season approaching.



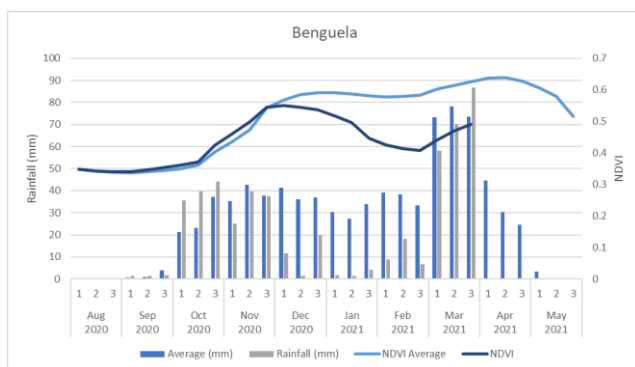
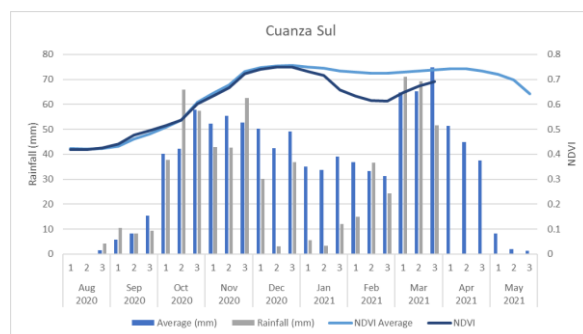
The increase in rainfall observed in March 2021 resulted in improved access to water for livestock, while the vegetation cover is likely to improve in the coming weeks. Until the end of March 2021, the provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Huíla, Benguela, Huambo, Cuanza Sul, Bengo and Luanda had below average vegetation cover.

Angola Rainy Season Monitoring 2020-2021



The following briefly describes the trends of precipitation and vegetation cover (NDVI) in the provinces of Cuanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo, Namibe, Huila and Cunene as they are the most affected by drought.

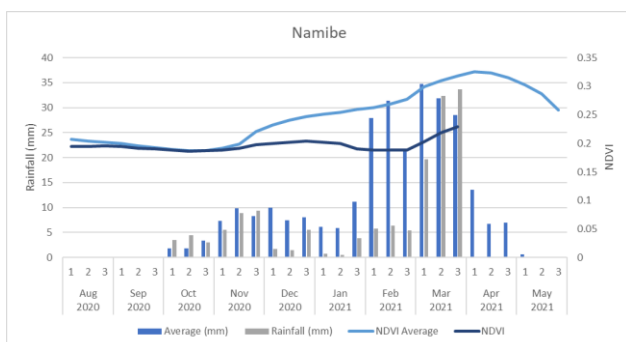
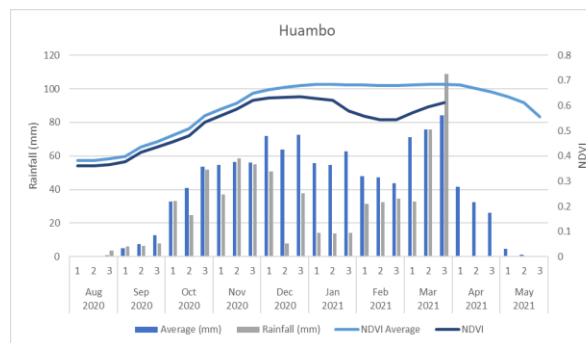
In Cuanza Sul, rainfall was critically low in December 2020 and January 2021 when it did not reach 65% and 45% of the average, respectively. The increased rainfall observed in the middle and late February and early March 2021 improved the vegetation cover.



The province of Benguela received little rainfall from the beginning of December 2020 to the end of February 2021 totalling monthly below 55% of the average in December 2020, and below 30% of the average in January and February 2021. In March 2021 there was a significant increase in precipitation and consequent improvement of vegetation cover.

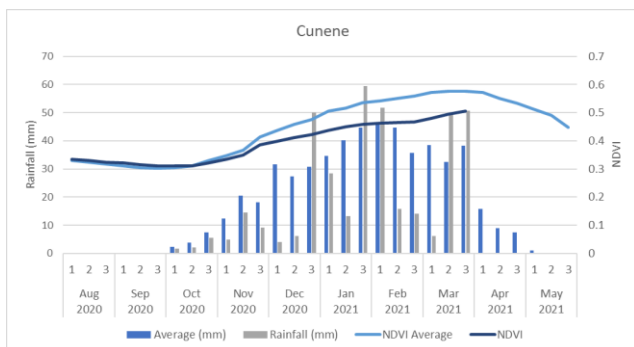
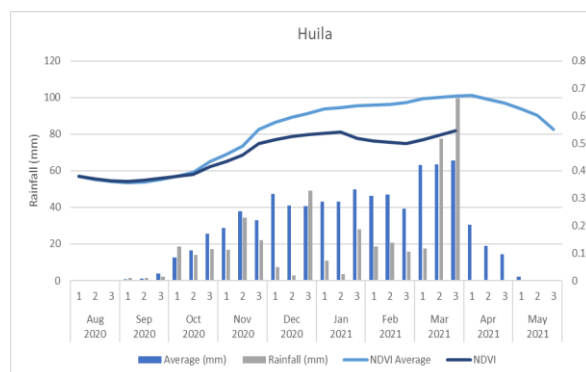
Angola Rainy Season Monitoring 2020-2021

In Huambo, the scarcity of precipitation exacerbated between December 2020 and January 2021 when it rained less than 70% and 35% of the average, respectively. From February to March 2021, precipitation was increasing, and exceeded the average at the end of March. Vegetation cover tends to improve from the beginning of March 2021.



Namibe is one of the provinces with the very low normal rainfall, less than 12 mm from October to January. In January 2021 the province received rainfall below 55% of the average and in February 2021 – below 40% of the average. In the second half of March 2021, Namibe received above average rainfall and the vegetation improved significantly.

Huíla province received monthly precipitation below 60% from December 2020 to February 2021. However, in the second half of March 2021 there was an increase in precipitation, which exceeded the average for this period. As a result, the vegetation cover started to improve from the beginning of March 2021.



In the province of Cunene, precipitation started in October 2020 but in very small quantities, below 15mm per every 10 days, until mid-December 2020. From mid-March there were significant improvements with rainfall levels above average, which translated into improved vegetation cover.



Implications for Food and Nutritional Security

The increase in rainfall observed in March 2021 improved access to water for livestock and grazing conditions, which can reduce the migration of families and cattle in search of water and pasture, a scenario that was already observed in some provinces such as, for example, Cunene. It should be noted that animal husbandry is a source of income for many rural families.

In relation to agricultural production, it is important to mention two aspects: i) the recent rains have fallen already after significant crop losses for many families as a result of drought; and ii) given that the end of the rainy season is now approaching, no considerable success with new sowing can be expected. In addition to lack of precipitation, the occurrence of locust pests in some areas of Cunene province has taken away the hope of harvesting for crops that are in the stages of flowering, fruiting, or grain filling.

In summary, the recent rains have reduced the risk of loss of animals that constitute an important means of livelihood, but they do not guarantee the full recovery of agricultural production which is the main source of food and cash income in rural areas.

Recommendations

Permanent monitoring of the impacts of drought on food and nutritional security remains important in the most affected provinces, namely Cuanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo, Namibe, Huíla and Cunene, in order to guide evidence-based decision making. The ongoing food and nutrition security survey in the provinces of Cunene, Huíla and Namibe will provide data on the current and expected situation of food security and acute malnutrition. For the remaining provinces, there is also a need for at least a post-harvest food security assessment as the impact on nutrition is visible after some time with food insecurity. Supporting and strengthening various multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, at both national and sub-national level, could help to facilitate information sharing and analysis, identify synergies and coordinate operations in agriculture, nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and other areas.

The current situation reinforces the need for organizations focused on food security and nutrition to start designing drought mitigation interventions now, including technical assistance interventions for the Government, at the central and provincial levels, for monitoring and programme development to mitigate the impacts of the drought.

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