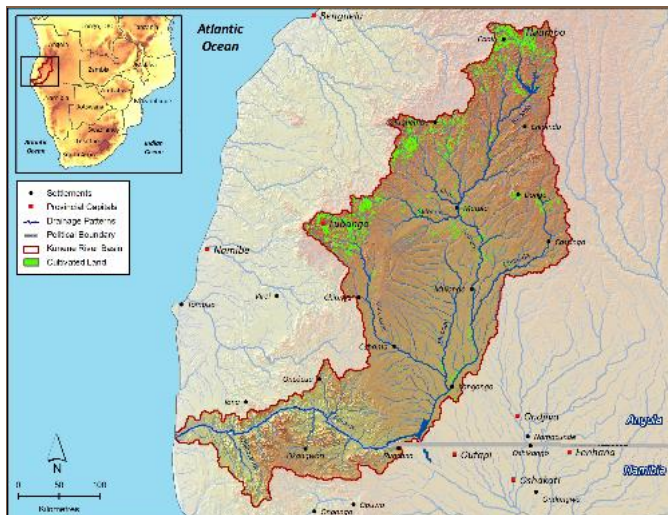


Food Security

Food security can be defined at various levels: the regional, national, provincial, community and household level. Food security is achieved when at each respective level “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (FAO, 2009). Food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus (FAO, 2009).



Distribution of cultivated land in the Kunene River basin.

Source: AHT GROUP AG 2010, after GLCF 1998

International Initiatives to Achieve Food Security

In the past, international initiatives aiming at food security have been developed:

- The [Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations \(FAO\)](http://www.fao.org/) (<http://www.fao.org/>) called the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996 in response to widespread undernourishment and growing concern about the capacity to meet future food needs. The conference produced 2 key documents, the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action. The Rome Declaration calls for the members of the United Nations to halve the number of chronically undernourished people on the earth between 1990 and 2015 (World Food Summit 1996).
- A further initiative is the UN [Millennium Development Goals](#). Just as the World Food Summit Goal 1 states that the UN is to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people suffering from hunger.

Regional Initiatives

In order to avoid future food emergencies, the [Southern African Development Community \(SADC\)](#) (<http://www.sadc.int/>) developed a Regional Early Warning System (REWS) through its Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources sub-committee. The REWS early warning system is part of the USAID-funded [Famine Early Warning Systems Network](#) (<http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>) (FEWS NET), a collaborative activity designed to provide early warning of food security issues.

REWS provides advance information on food crop yields and food supplies and requirements. The information is disseminated to States and stakeholders of impending food shortages/surpluses early enough for appropriate intervention. Early Warning Units have been established in all Member States to collect, analyse and disseminate early warning information at country level (SADC – FANR website 2010).





Angola
Grinding maize into flour.



Maize is a staple crop enabling food security.

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Angola has developed a National Strategy on Food and Nutritional Security (Estratégia Nacional de Segurança Alimentar / ENSAN) for the period 2009 to 2013 and a corresponding Action Plan (Plano de Acção / P) approval of the strategy in 2009, the next step will be the institutionalisation of the National Food Security provincial and district councils.

ENSAN (2009-2013) aims to contribute to strengthening food security policies and actions and to reduce food insecurity in Angola. The specific objectives of ENSAN for 2009 to 2013 are to (GoA 2008):

- Increase and diversify sustainable agricultural, livestock, and fishery production in order to improve living conditions in rural areas;
- Ensure the availability and stability of food supplies, and restore the internal market by linking areas with greater demand and consumer needs;
- Improve the conditions of access to food by guaranteeing social protection to disadvantaged groups;
- Reduce levels of malnutrition of the population by improving health, education and sanitation conditions;
- Develop and implement national and local early warning and monitoring systems;
- Ensure sanitation safety as well as food and water quality to protect public and consumer health.

Namibia

One of Namibia's national food security initiatives is the creation of a National Early Warning and Food (NEWFIU) under the [Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry \(http://www.mawf.gov.na/\)](http://www.mawf.gov.na/). NEWFIU is a livelihood security monitoring system in six regions in Namibia for an improved understanding of imports and trends in food security. In the context of the monitoring system a Coping Strategy Index (CSI) has been developed to measure the frequency and severity of actions taken by households in response to the presence or threat of food insecurity (Bäckman *et al* 2009). An insight into Namibia's [Household Food Security Situation](#) is provided in a NEFIU report from December 2009.

Food Security Survey Including Angolan Kunene Basin Provinces

In 2005 a "Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)" was carried out in four Angolan provinces by the SENAC project for the United Nations World Food Programme. Three of the provinces (Huila, Namibe and Kunene) fall within the watersheds of the Kunene basin. To measure household food security the survey used different proxy indicators such as children's nutrition and health, frequency of food consumption and household access to food (WFP 2005).

Vulnerability to Food Insecurity & Vulnerability Groups

The survey divided the sample households into three classes with different levels of vulnerability to food insecurity. The most vulnerable group (47 % of the sample households) included the households specialised in cattle rearing with an average cereal production covering nine months of the household's food needs. Around 25 % of the sample households had a low vulnerability to food insecurity and included the fishermen, the households living from forest products and the agricultural *biscateiros* who obtain their main income from daily labour work on other farmers' land with their own land as well as a range of other activities. The remaining one third of sample households

with their own land as well as a range of other activities. The remaining one third of sample households typically having low agricultural production, with cereal production covering a maximum three months crop. Nearly 70 % of these were returnees after the civil war, and 41 % were households headed by women.

Reasons for Vulnerability to Food Insecurity

The outcome of the study was compared with another survey done in the central highlands in January 2005 in Huambo Province which falls within the upper reaches of the Kunene basin. The comparison showed that the central highlands are amongst the most vulnerable areas to food insecurity in the country, due to different structural factors including (WFP 2005):

- Generalised poverty and few productive or domestic assets at household level;
- Few options for income diversification through income generating activities;
- Localised high population density, resulting in limited access to agricultural land;
- Impoverished soils, poor farming practices with few agricultural inputs; and
- High pressure on natural resources.

Implications for Further Programmes

To improve household food security and reduce vulnerability in rural households, the study gave recommendations to complement food interventions by non-food interventions, including the improvement of (WFP 2005):

- Micro-credit facilities;
- Information on commodity markets;
- Market access;
- Access to safe drinking water and sanitation; and
- Rural infrastructures.