



## EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (EmA-FSS) BULLETIN

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### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Households relying on purchase as the main source of food increased by 1.5 percent from 64.1 percent in the second half of October to 65.6 percent. The southern region continues to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food estimated at 75.7 percent up from 73.1 percent in the second half of October, representing a 2.6 percentage increase. In the northern region, households relying on food purchase remained relatively lower than the other regions at 46 percent, representing a 5.9 percent increase from 40.1 percent in the second half of October.
- ◆ Nearly 19 percent of households owning any type of livestock reported livestock diseases and dropped by 1.9 percent from 21 percent in the second half of October 2020. The southern and northern regions recorded the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 21 percent down from 24.9 percent and 20.7 percent down from 24.1 percent, respectively and the central region was the least at 15.7 percent up from 14.8 percent in the second half of October. Districts of Chiradzulu, Chitipa, Karonga, Mangochi, and Mwanza had over 30 percent of the households reporting livestock diseases.
- ◆ Nearly 2.3 percent of the households were involved in fishing related livelihoods dropping by 1 percent from 3.3 in the second half of October 2020. The northern and central regions recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities both estimated at 2.5 percent and the southern region was the least at 2.1 percent. Out of them, 23.3 percent of the households reported some suspected fish diseases, up from 17.6 percent in the second half of October, representing a 5.7 percent increase. Districts that reported fish diseases included Karonga, Chitipa and Nkhata Bay in the northern region; Mchinji, Nkhotakota and Salima in the central region; Chikwawa and Mangochi in the southern region.
- ◆ The average price of maize per kg increased by 0.4 percent from MK192.37/kg in the second half of October to MK193.19/kg. The southern region continues to record high maize prices per kg estimated at MK218.5 up from MK217.9 in the second half of October 2020, increasing by 0.3 percent. The northern region continues to register lower average maize prices estimated at MK171.3/kg up from MK165.1/kg, increasing by 3.8 percent from the second half of October 2020.
- ◆ The average crop prices for the other selected crops were MK678.85 down from MK 693.58 for rice, MK796.07 up from MK769.23 for beans, MK818.30 up from MK759.51 for ground nuts, MK499.01 up from MK439.76 for Irish potatoes, and MK345.30 up from MK330.99 for sweet potatoes compared to the second half of October 2020.

### 1. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD —INCREASE IN FOOD PURCHASE

Food purchase as the main source of household food continues to increase from **64.1 percent** in the second half of October to **65.6 percent**, representing a **1.5 percent increase**.

### 2. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD —DECREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION

Consequently, households relying on own food production dropped from **33.2 percent in the second half of October to 31.3 percent in the reporting period, representing a 1.9 drop**. Trend analysis shows continued upward trend in the proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food (Fig 1).

**By region**, the southern region continues to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food estimated at:-

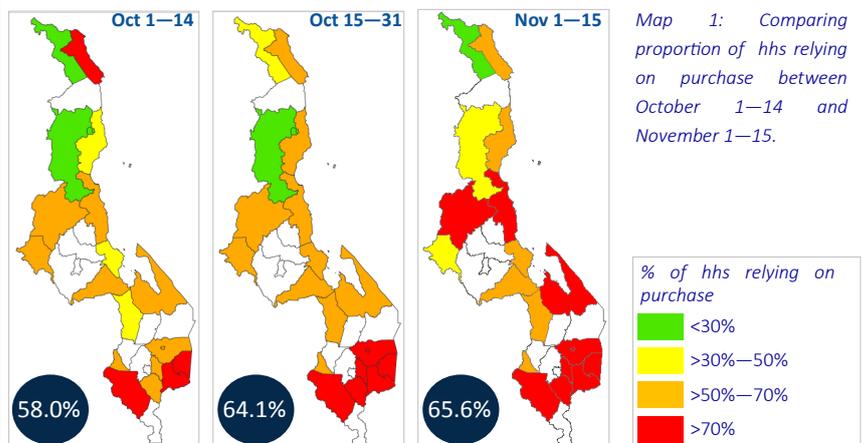
**75.6 percent** up from **73.1 percent** in the second half of October, representing a **2.6 percentage increase**.

# RESULTS

In the northern region, households relying on food purchase remained relatively lower than the other regions and was at **46 percent** up from **40.1 percent** in second half of October, representing a **5.9 percent increase**.

**AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL**, Mzimba and Chitipa continue to record the highest proportion of households relying on own production as the main source of household food estimated at 69.6 percent down from 76.6 and 64.9 percent down from 68.1 percent reported in second half of October, respectively.

The districts with the highest proportion of households relying on purchases as the main source of food, included Mulanje (89.3 percent) and Phalombe (88.5 percent).



The other districts with over **70 percent** of the household relying on food purchase included Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Kasungu, Mangochi, Nkhotakota, Thyolo and Zomba, majority of which are from the southern region (**Map 1**).

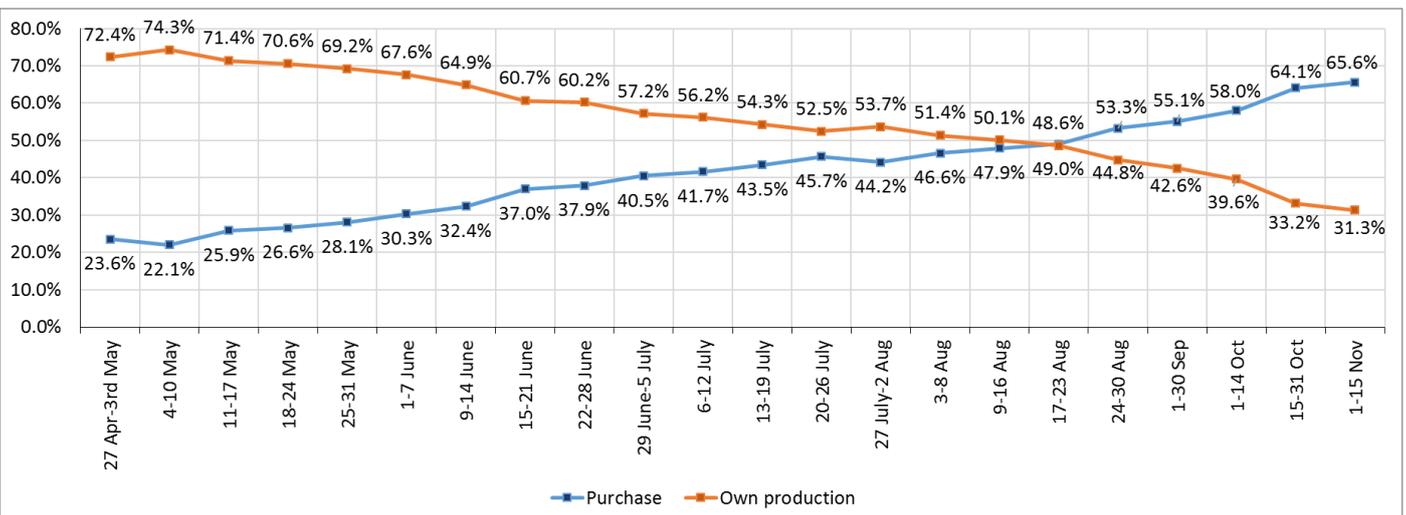


Figure 1: Main Source of Food within the 14 days recall period

### 3. LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP AND DISEASES

Overall, the proportion of households owning any type of livestock was 54.1 percent down from 55.4 percent reported in the second half of October 2020, representing a **1.3-percent drop**.

**By region**, the northern region recorded the highest proportion of households owning livestock at 74.4 percent up from 72.9 percent compared to the second half of October, followed by the central region at 53.4 percent down from 55.5 percent, then the southern region at 48 percent down from 49.6 percent.

**Of the households owning any type of livestock**, 19.1 percent reported livestock diseases in the first half of November slightly dropping from 21 percent in the second half of October, representing a **1.9 percent drop**.

The southern and northern regions recorded the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 21 percent down from 24.9 percent and 20.7 percent down from 24.1 percent, respectively and the central region was the least at 15.7 percent up from 14.8 percent compared to the second half October.

Districts of **Chiradzulu, Chitipa, Karonga, Mangochi, and Mwanza** had over **30 percent** of the households reporting livestock diseases.

**Trend analysis has shown continued dropping on the proportion of households reporting livestock disease beginning the first half of October (Fig 2).**

# RESULTS

In households owning livestock, Newcastle disease continues to be the commonly reported livestock disease estimated at 13.9 percent down from 14.7 percent in the second half of October. The southern region recorded the highest proportion of households reporting Newcastle disease (15.9 percent down from 18.6 percent in the second half of October) followed by the northern region at 13.5 percent down from 15.2 percent and the central region at 11.7 percent up from 10 percent.

Other livestock diseases mentioned in the reporting period include Mange disease, smallpox, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and African swine fever disease.

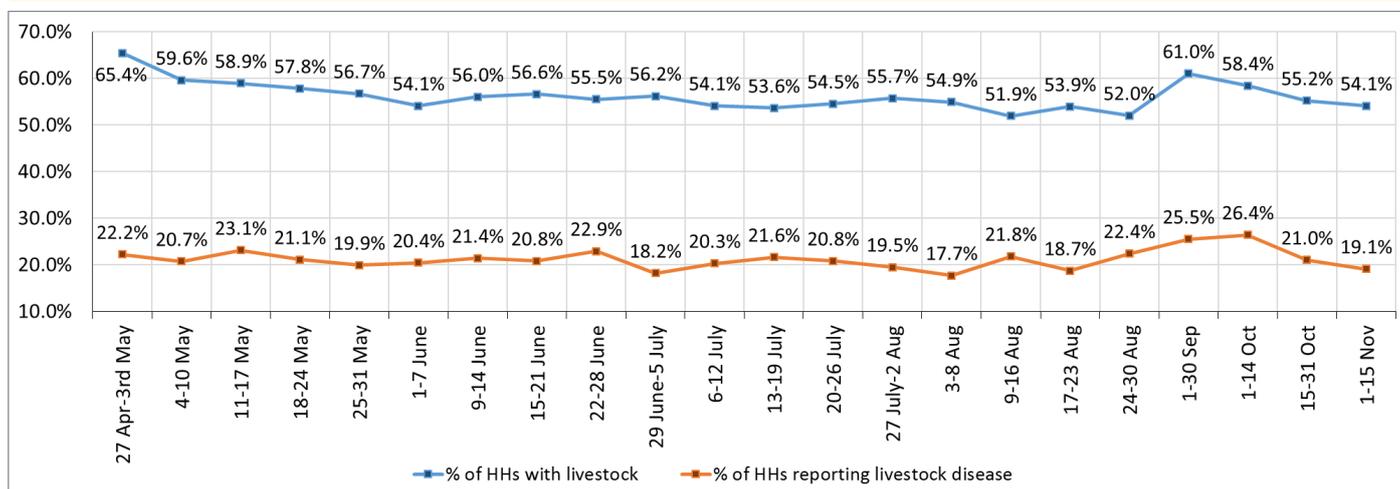


Figure 2: Livestock ownership and livestock disease

## 4. FISHERIES DISEASES

In the reporting period, 2.3 percent of the sampled households were involved in fishing related livelihoods dropping by 1 percent from 3.3 in the second half of October 2020.

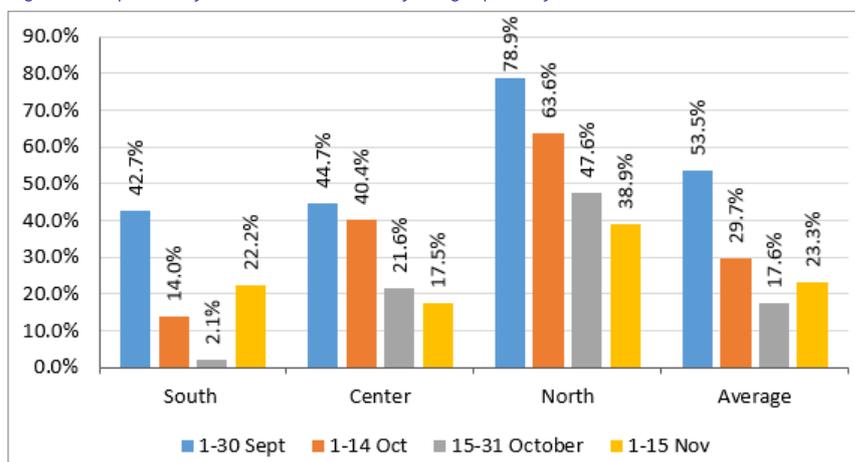
The northern region and central regions recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities estimated at 2.5 percent each and the southern region was the least at 2.1 percent.

Out of them, 23.3 percent of the households reported some suspected fish diseases, up from 17.6 percent in the second half of October, representing a 5.7 percent increase.

The northern region continues to record the highest proportion of households reporting fish diseases estimated at 38.9 percent down from 47.6 percent reported in the second half of October.

The proportion of households reporting suspected fish diseases in the central region was 17.5 percent down from 21.6 percent and the southern region was 22.2 percent (Fig 3).

Figure 3: Proportion of households involved in fishing reported fish disease



Lesion or ulcers was the most common fish diseases reported by 9.9 percent of the households involved in fishing up from 3.6 percent in the second half of October.

The other fish diseases reported by the households included loss of scales reported by 3.0 percent up from 1.5 percent and red areas on body by 1.8 percent. The districts that reported fish diseases included Karonga, Chitipa and NkhataBay in the northern region; Mchinji, Nkhotakota and Salima in the central region; Chikwawa and Mangochi in the southern region.

## 5. MARKET FUNCTIONALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF VARIOUS FOOD ITEMS

Nearly all sampled markets have remained functional and operational over the period. During the reporting period, 98.2 percent of the markets were operational which is similar to the second half of October that reported 98.2 percent. In Mchinji and Mwanza, markets that were operational were 95.8 percent and 86.7 percent respectively due to limited supply of agricultural produce and some other reasons. Availability of various food items in the market such as vegetables and fruits increased in the reporting period compared to the second half of October. However, availability of maize declined between the two reporting periods (Fig 4).

In the reporting period, maize availability was at 82.9 percent slightly down from 83.8 percent in the second half of October. The availability of vegetables was 92.4 percent up from 89.7 percent and fruits was 84.1 percent up from 78.2 percent (Fig 4). By region, availability of maize was lowest in the northern region (62.7 percent down from 68.7 percent) since most households rely on own production and highest in the central region (88.2 percent down from 90.8 percent) followed by the southern region (84.3 percent down from 86.1 percent) when compared with the second half of October 2020.

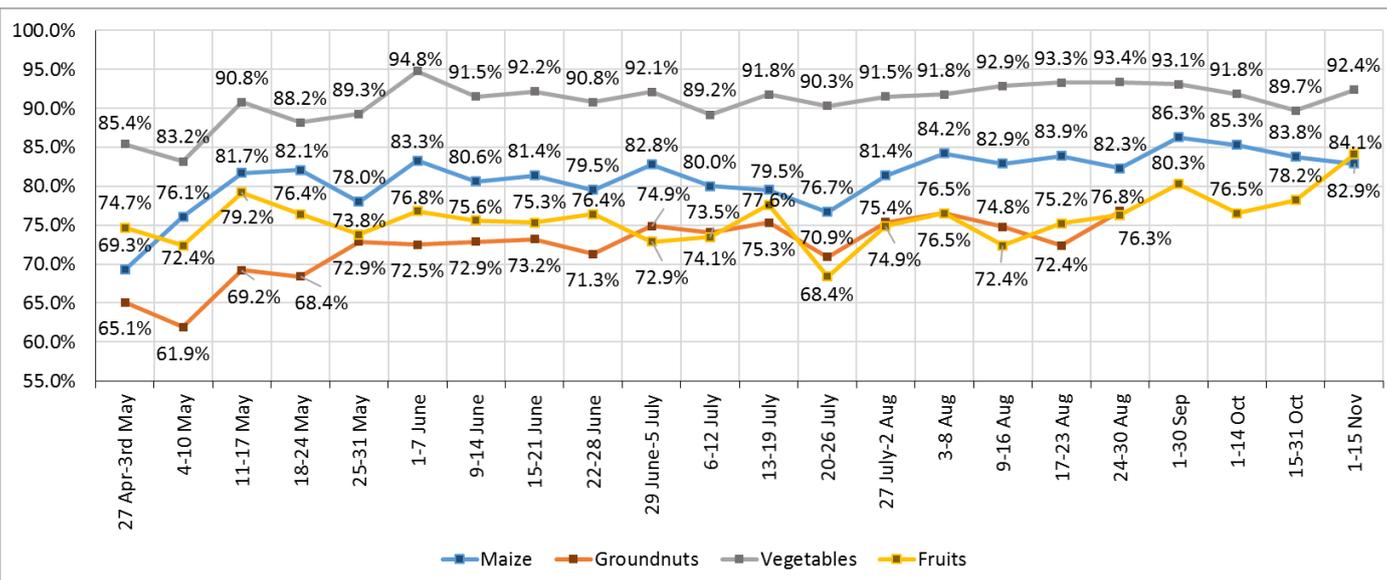


Figure 4: Availability of various items in the market (Some Availability)

In the reporting period, the price of maize recorded a 0.4 percent increase with one kilogram of maize trading at an average price of MK193.19/kg compared with the MK192.37/kg in the second half of October. Average prices for ground nuts and Irish potatoes continued to rise during the reporting period (Fig 5).

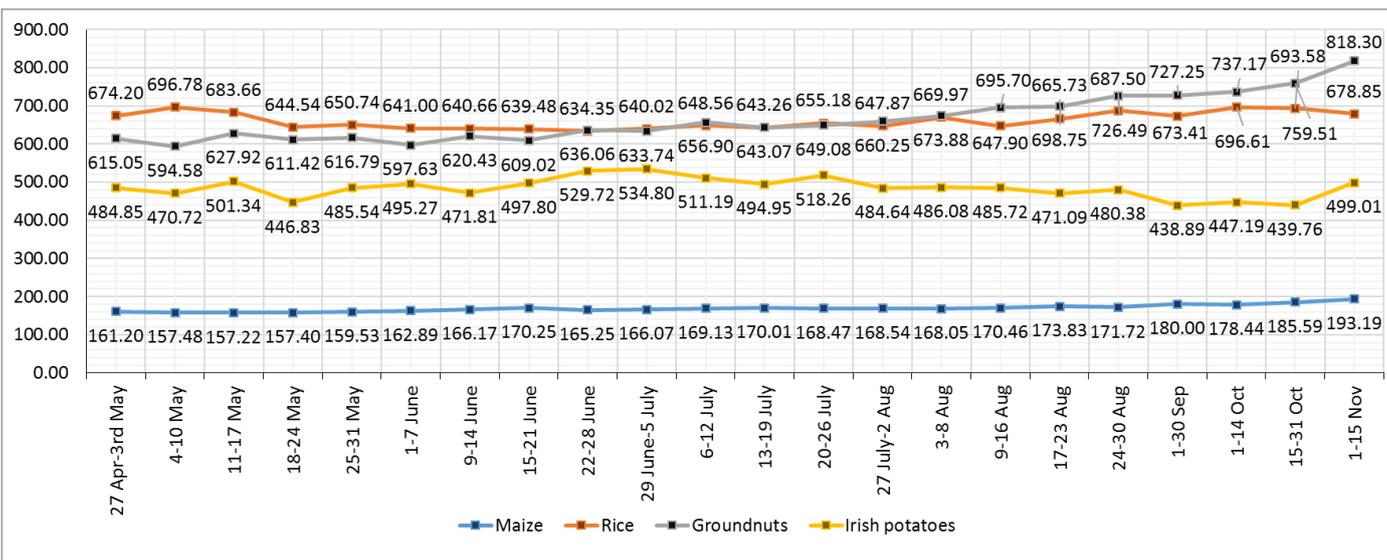


Figure 5: Average price in MK of various commodities at the market

## RESULTS

**At regional level**, the southern region continues to record high maize prices per kg estimated at MK218.5 up from MK217.9 in the second half of October 2020, an increase of 0.3 percent. In the central region, the maize prices dropped from MK176.5/kg in the second half of October to MK174.0/kg, **dropping 1.4 percent**. The northern region continues to register lower maize prices with an average price of MK171.3/kg up from MK165.1/kg, increasing by 3.8 percent from the second half of October 2020.

**Table 1 provides a summary of average crop prices by district for selected crops.** Average crop prices per kg were MK678.85 down from MK 693.58 for rice, MK796.07 up from MK769.23 for Beans, MK818.30 up from MK759.51 for ground nuts, MK499.01 up from MK439.76 for Irish potatoes, and MK 345.30 up MK330.99 for sweet potatoes compared to the second half of October 2020.

District	Maize	Rice	Beans	Ground nuts	Irish potatoes	Sweet potatoes
Chikwawa	197.08	632.22	789.50	820.00	483.33	386.36
Chiradzulu	222.50	675.00	840.00	880.00	1500.00	425.00
Chitipa	143.00	540.00	630.00	834.67	400.00	143.33
Dedza	165.00	692.86	728.57	792.86	293.33	300.00
Karonga	203.00	461.60	798.00	511.00	388.50	220.00
Kasungu	118.75	507.14	416.67	460.00	175.00	100.00
Mangochi	191.33	683.33	900.00	1495.83	550.00	445.00
Mchinji	156.30	753.13	780.00	814.76	418.18	437.50
Mulanje	215.00	675.00	875.00	950.00	365.00	533.33
Mwanza	184.17	750.00	900.00	955.56	340.00	300.00
Mzimba	157.67	666.67	750.00	720.00	600.00	300.00
Nkhata Bay	181.50	687.50	800.00	766.67	406.25	258.33
Nkhotakota	211.25	735.71	847.06	827.78	725.00	344.23
Ntcheu	192.86	850.00	618.75	638.89	428.57	458.33
Phalombe	210.00	662.50	935.71	922.22	250.00	291.11
Salima	200.00	708.33	840.00	583.33	450.00	316.67
Thyolo	212.50	808.33	950.00	958.33	528.33	560.00
Zomba	315.50	730.00	930.00	797.50	680.60	396.25
<b>Average</b>	<b>193.19</b>	<b>678.85</b>	<b>796.07</b>	<b>818.30</b>	<b>499.01</b>	<b>345.30</b>

Table 1: Average crop prices in Malawi Kwacha per kilogram for the selected crops in September 2020

# EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (EmA-FSS) PROTOCOL

## INTRODUCTION

With the exponential increase in COVID-19 cases globally in the first quarter of 2020, nearly all countries have implemented various containment measures to curb its spread. The Government of Malawi declared a State of Disaster on 20 March 2020 and various preventive measures were put in place including: closure of all learning institutions, restricting public gatherings, suspension of international travel, restrictions on various market activities including limiting the timing. Given the restrictions and measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, it has been projected that the situation might have a significant impact on agriculture and food supply chains.

To monitor the situation during this period, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoA) through the Department of Agriculture Planning Services (DAPS) with technical and financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union set up an Emergency Agriculture and Food Security National Surveillance System (EmA-FSS) in the last week of April 2020. The EmA-FSS complements other existing national systems by MoA and focuses on real time information generation of rapid indicators on weekly basis to help track the evolving dynamics in the country.

## OBJECTIVE

The main objective of EmA-FSS is to provide weekly data on key agriculture and food security information for monitoring, planning and evidence based decision-making. The following are the specific objectives:

- ⇒ to monitor trends of market functionality and availability of various food items in the markets;
- ⇒ to monitor post-harvest loss both at the household and produce market levels;
- ⇒ to monitor the main source of food and income/livelihood at the household level;
- ⇒ to monitor suspected livestock diseases at the household level, and;
- ⇒ to monitor access to veterinary extension services.

To monitor the above, few indicators at the market and household levels are being tracked on weekly basis and they include:

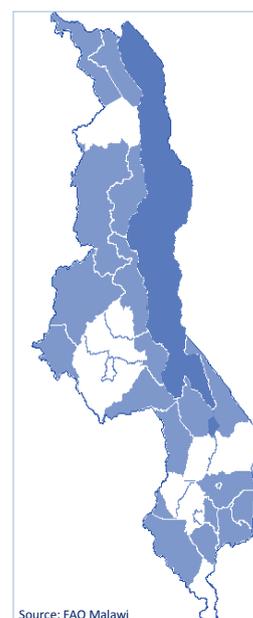
- \* Percentage of households reporting any form of post-harvest losses
- \* Percentage of households whose main source of food is from own production
- \* Percentage of households whose main source of food is purchase
- \* Percentage of households reporting suspected livestock diseases
- \* Percentage of households reporting access to livestock veterinary services
- \* Reduced coping strategy index
- \* Percentage of markets functional

## METHODOLOGY

Data is being collected from 18 districts which have been selected taking into consideration various factors such as livelihood zones. The selected districts include Chitipa, Karonga, Dedza, Kasungu, Thyolo, Chiradzulu, Mchinji, Ntcheu, Chikwawa, Mzimba, Salima, Nkhata Bay, Mangochi, Zomba, Nkhatakota, Mulanje, Phalombe and Mwanza.

In each of the 18 districts, nine sections have been sampled where three villages and at most three markets are being monitored in each section. Thus, in each district 27 villages and markets are being monitored. At the village level, ten households are being selected randomly on a weekly basis. The villages and markets were sampled in late April and will be tracked for the next four months.

Data collection is being implemented by Agricultural Extension Development Officers (AEDOs), electronically and uploaded almost in real time, using Kobo Collect Application. All COVID-19 preventive measures are being observed during the data collection including social distancing when administering interviews, use of face masks and hand-sanitizers by the AEDOs, among others.



For further information contact:

MoA: (PS MoA: [ericamaganga@yahoo.com](mailto:ericamaganga@yahoo.com) or Acting Director, DAPS: [rmosopolep@gmail.com](mailto:rmosopolep@gmail.com))

FAO: (FAOR: [Zhijun.Chen@fao.org](mailto:Zhijun.Chen@fao.org) or Deputy FAOR: [James.Okoth@fao.org](mailto:James.Okoth@fao.org))

