1. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD – INCREASE IN OWN FOOD PRODUCTION AS MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD FROM 2020 TO 2021

The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food was 51.7 percent, which is 19.7 percentage points lower than the 71.5 percent reported same time last year. The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food is 1.7 percentage points higher than the 50.4 percent reported in the first half of December 2021. The southern region continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food estimated at 63.0 percent, which is lower than the 78.9 percent reported during the same time last year, dropping by 15.9 percentage points. The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food in the southern region is similar to the 63.2 percent recorded in the first half of December 2021.

AT REGION LEVEL, the southern region continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food estimated at 63.0 percent, which is lower than the 78.9 percent reported during the same time last year, dropping by 15.9 percentage points. The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food in the southern region is similar to the 63.2 percent recorded in the first half of December 2021.

The central region recorded the second highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food (50.1 percent down from 69.3 percent reported same time last year but up from 42.9 percent in first half of December 2021). The northern region recorded the least households relying on food purchase (26.4 percent down from 60.8 percent reported same period last year but higher than the 18.2 percent reported in the first half of December 2021).
RESULTS

On the other hand, the proportion of households relying on own food production as the main source of food was 46.8 percent, which is higher than the 24.9 percent recorded same period last year but lower than the 50.4 percent reported in the first half of December 2021 (Fig 2).

At the district level, Chikwawa (74.2 percent), Phalombe (74.3 percent) and Mwanza (71.7 percent) recorded the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food.
2. LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP AND DISEASES

The proportion of households owning any type of livestock was 54.4 percent, which is slightly higher than the 53.6 percent recorded same period last year but higher than the 52.1 percent reported in the first half of December 2021 (Fig 3).

The northern region continues to record the highest proportion of households owning livestock estimated at 85.8 percent up from 69.7 percent reported in the first half of December 2021.

The proportion of households owning livestock in the central was 45.4 percent down from 51.1 percent and in the southern region was 49.4 percent up from 47.1 percent when compared with the first half of December 2021.

Newcastle disease continues to be the commonly reported livestock disease reported by 75.5 percent of the households reporting livestock diseases which is similar to the 74.7 percent in the first half of December 2021.

Other livestock diseases reported in the reporting period include Mange disease (17.1 percent down from 24.7 percent), Foot and Mouth Disease (2.2 percent up from 1.1 percent), Chicken pox disease (6.3 percent up from 5.1 percent) and African Swine Fever Disease (3.7 percent up from 3.4 percent) when compared with the first half of December 2021.
3. FISHERIES

The proportion of households involved in fishing related livelihoods activities was 2.2 percent, which is similar to the 2.3 percent reported during the same period last year but is lower than the 3.1 percent reported in the first half of December 2021 (Figure 5).

The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities (7.3 percent up from 6.9 percent), followed by the southern region (1.7 percent down from 2.4 percent) and the central region was the least (0.5 percent down from 2.4 percent) when compared with the first half of December 2021.

Households involved in fishing related activities reporting some suspected fish diseases was 26.9 percent, which is similar to the 27.2 percent same period last year and is also similar to 26.8 percent reported in the first half of December 2021 (Fig 6).

The northern region reported the highest proportion of households reporting suspected fish diseases (35.6 percent), followed by the central region (16.7 percent) and the southern region (14.8 percent). Localized swelling, skin erosion or loss of scales, lesions or ulcers and red spots or red areas on the body were the fish disease reported.

Figure 5: Proportion of households involved in fishing related activities by region in 2021/2022

Figure 6: Proportion of households reported suspected fish diseases among households involved in fishing related activities by region in 2021/2022
4. MARKET FUNCTIONALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF VARIOUS FOOD ITEMS

During the reporting period, 98.0 percent of the markets sampled were functional and operational which is similar to the 98.8 percent reported in the first half of December 2021. Districts of Mchinji (90.9 percent) and Mwanza (95.5 percent) did not have all the markets operational.

Availability of maize in the markets was estimated at 68.2 percent, which is similar to the 68.9 percent reported same period last year but lower than the 70.4 percent reported in the first half of December 2021 (Fig 7).

By region, availability of maize in the market was highest in the central region (86.0 percent up from 82.8 percent), followed by the southern region (66.7 percent down from 69.0 percent) and the northern region (35.7 percent down from 40.0 percent) when compared with the first half of December 2021.

Availability of fruits in the markets was 77.7 percent, which is higher than the 72.6 percent reported same period last year and is also higher than the 77.4 percent recorded in the first half of December 2021 (Fig 8).

At regional level, availability of fruits was highest in the central region (87.7 percent up from 79.3 percent), followed by southern region (73.0 percent down from 76.2 percent) and the northern region (67.9 percent up from 50.0 percent) when compared with the first half of December 2021.

Availability of vegetables in the markets was 67.6 percent, which is higher than 59.1 percent same time last year and is also higher than the 63.0 percent reported in the first half of December 2021.

At regional level, availability of vegetables was highest in the central region (74.5 percent up from 69.0 percent), followed by the southern region (66.7 percent up from 64.3 percent) and the least was in the northern region (53.6 percent up from 40.0 percent) when compared with the first half of December 2021.

The availability of vegetables in the markets is now surpassing the previous year (Fig 9).
At regional level, the southern region continued to record the highest average maize prices per kg at MK178.60, which is lower than the MK191.53/kg recorded same time last year but higher than the MK166.50/kg recorded in the first half of December 2021. Again, the average price for maize were above the minimum farmgate price of MK150.00 per kg set by Government in 2021.

Average maize prices were MK142.40/kg down from MK187.05/kg reported during same period last year in the central region, MK135.70/kg down from MK1189.19/kg reported same time last year in the northern region.

Table 1: Average crop prices in Malawi Kwacha per kilogram for the selected crops during the second half of December 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Maize</th>
<th>Rice</th>
<th>Beans</th>
<th>Ground nuts</th>
<th>Irish potatoes</th>
<th>Sweet potatoes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chikwawa</td>
<td>178.33</td>
<td>646.67</td>
<td>1280.00</td>
<td>941.67</td>
<td>625.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiradzulu</td>
<td>155.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>1350.00</td>
<td>1150.00</td>
<td>633.33</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chitipa</td>
<td>146.67</td>
<td>753.00</td>
<td>795.83</td>
<td>770.00</td>
<td>628.57</td>
<td>582.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedza</td>
<td>156.25</td>
<td>731.25</td>
<td>906.25</td>
<td>898.75</td>
<td>392.14</td>
<td>373.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karonga</td>
<td>145.00</td>
<td>645.75</td>
<td>814.67</td>
<td>425.00</td>
<td>405.33</td>
<td>364.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasungu</td>
<td>113.75</td>
<td>750.00</td>
<td>917.14</td>
<td>750.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinga</td>
<td>202.86</td>
<td>838.89</td>
<td>1033.33</td>
<td>927.78</td>
<td>580.00</td>
<td>383.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mchinji</td>
<td>116.84</td>
<td>818.75</td>
<td>943.75</td>
<td>943.75</td>
<td>628.57</td>
<td>516.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulanje</td>
<td>190.00</td>
<td>725.00</td>
<td>1075.00</td>
<td>1166.67</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwanza</td>
<td>177.00</td>
<td>814.29</td>
<td>1019.23</td>
<td>1110.00</td>
<td>405.25</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mzimba</td>
<td>88.75</td>
<td>983.33</td>
<td>1193.75</td>
<td>712.50</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkhata Bay</td>
<td>162.50</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td>1200.00</td>
<td>875.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkhata buta</td>
<td>170.00</td>
<td>720.00</td>
<td>950.00</td>
<td>875.00</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>197.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ntcheu</td>
<td>147.69</td>
<td>910.71</td>
<td>837.14</td>
<td>910.71</td>
<td>475.00</td>
<td>357.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phalombe</td>
<td>171.43</td>
<td>585.71</td>
<td>1185.71</td>
<td>1085.71</td>
<td>450.00</td>
<td>357.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salima</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>1200.00</td>
<td>1200.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyolo</td>
<td>208.00</td>
<td>780.00</td>
<td>1180.00</td>
<td>1120.00</td>
<td>520.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zomba</td>
<td>146.00</td>
<td>785.71</td>
<td>1385.71</td>
<td>1255.14</td>
<td>801.43</td>
<td>494.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>157.00</td>
<td>787.07</td>
<td>1019.88</td>
<td>949.36</td>
<td>537.78</td>
<td>412.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 provides a summary of average crop prices per kg by district for selected crops. Average crop prices per kg were MK787.07 up from MK758.32 for rice, MK949.36 up from MK882.78 for groundnuts, MK537.78 up from MK570.55 for Irish potatoes compared to average prices recorded during the same time last year.

Only the average prices for maize showed a downward trend while the other crops showed a general upward trend when compared to prices recorded during the same period last year.
**INTRODUCTION**

With the exponential increase in COVID-19 cases globally in the first quarter of 2020, nearly all countries 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 was projected that the situation would have a significant impact on agriculture and food supply chains.

To monitor the situation during this period, the Ministry of Agriculture (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 to help track the evolving dynamics in the country on a weekly basis during phase 1 (May to August 2020) and on biweekly basis under phase 2 and 3 (from September 2020 to to-date).

To monitor the above, few indicators at the market and household levels are being tracked on bi-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
- Percentage of markets functional

**METHODODOLOGY**

Data is being collected from 18 districts were 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, Nhata Bay, Mangochi, Zomba, Nkhotakota, Mulanje, Phalombe and Mwanza.

In each of the 18 districts, nine sections were 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 bi-weekly basis.

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.

**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.

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