



EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE FOOD
SURVILLIENCE
SYSTEM - EMA-FSS

[*November 2020 Highlights*]

Evidence Based Decision
Support in Emergency Situation
through Provision of Data and
Information



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ In the month of November 2020, the proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food increased by 2.1 percent from 64.1 percent in October 2020 to 66.2 percent. The southern region continues to record the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food and increased by 4.8 percent from 71.2 percent in October to 76 percent.
- ◆ Nearly 20.1 percent of the households that owned livestock reported some suspected livestock diseases down from 23.7 percent in October, representing a 3.6 percent drop. Newcastle disease continues to be the most common livestock disease reported by 75.8 percent of the households that reported livestock diseases up from 73.2 percent in October 2020, increasing by 2.6 percent.
- ◆ Nearly 2.2 percent of the households were involved in fishing related activities, dropping by 1.2 percent from 3.4 percent in October 2020. The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities estimated at 3.1 percent down from 4.2 percent. About 20.3 percent of the households involved in fishing reported some suspected fish diseases down from 23.7 percent in October. Karonga, Chitipa, Nkhata Bay, Mchinji, Nkhotakota, Salima, Mangochi, Zomba and Chikwawa districts reported suspected fish diseases.
- ◆ In November 2020, the price of maize per kilogram recorded a 1.8 percent increase from MK187.78 in October to MK191.16. In comparison with results from IFPRI, the maize prices are lower than the IFPRI maize price which recorded a retail price of MK196/kg in the month of November 2020. The southern region continues to record high maize prices per kg estimated at MK212.68 in November 2020 from MK210.06/kg in October 2020, representing a 1.2 percent increase.
- ◆ The average crop prices per kg between October and November for selected crops such as rice, beans, ground nuts and Irish potatoes were MK683.96 down from MK 695.10, MK817.23 up from MK786.26, MK808.56 up from MK748.34, and MK500.85 up from MK443.48 respectively.

MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD—DECREASE IN OWN FOOD PRODUCTION

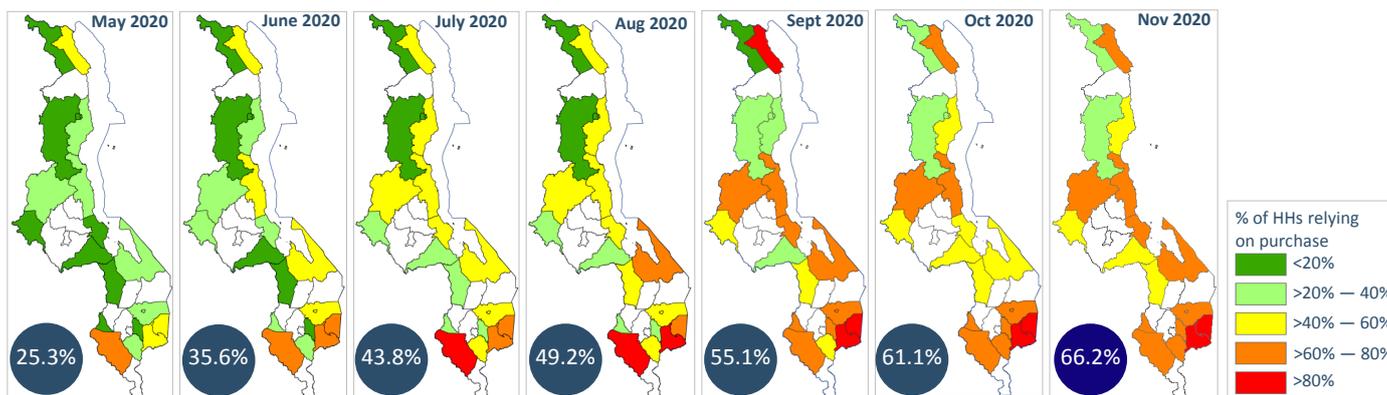
In the month of November 2020, the proportion of households relying on own food production as the main source of food **dropped by 2.4 percent** from 33.2 percent in October 2020 to 30.8 percent.

The southern region recorded the lowest proportion of households relying on own food production estimated at 21.3 percent down from 26.6 percent and the northern region recorded the highest at 52.6 percent down from 56.3 percent. This is mainly as a result of continued depletion of food stocks as the country enters the main staple food planting season.

Consequently, the proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food increased by 2.1 from 64.1 percent in October 2020 to 66.2 percent (Fig 1). In coming days, more households are expected to begin relying on purchase as the main source of food.

AT REGION LEVEL, the southern region continues to record the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food and increased by 4.8 percent from 71.2 percent in October to 76 percent in November.

MONTHLY SCALE—INCREASE IN FOOD PURCHASE



Map 1: Percent increase of hhs relying on purchases as the main source between May and October 2020.

MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD—AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

The central region recorded the second highest proportion of households relying on food purchase and increased by 3.9 percent from 58.3 percent to 62.2 percent and the least was the northern region that increased by 4 percent from 42.1 percent to 46.1 percent in October 2020 (Fig 1), suggesting a worsening food security situation affecting all the regions.

At district level, Mulanje and Phalombe continue to record the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food, registering 89.9 percent up from 85.3 percent and 89.2 percent up from 86.8 percent respectively between October and November.

Nearly 12 of the 18 districts had over 60 percent of the households relying on food purchase up from 10 districts in October. Districts of Chitipa and Mzimba continue to record the lowest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food as shown in Table 1 below.

Figure 1: Proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food.

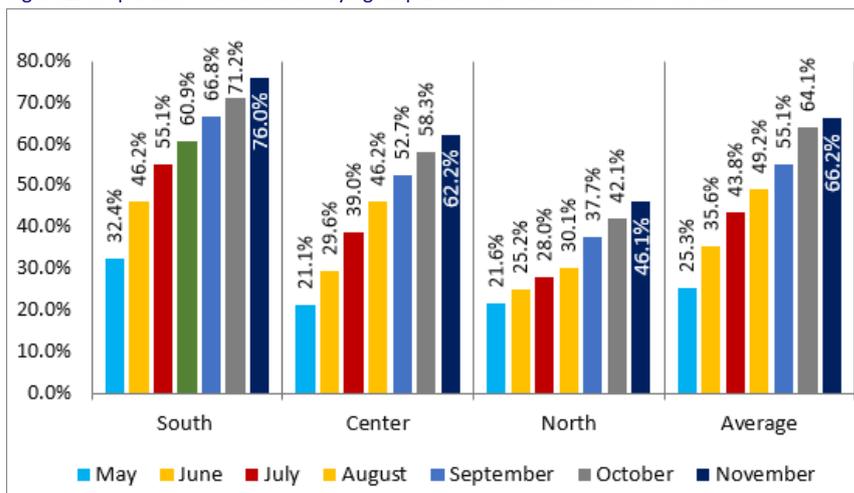


Table 1: Proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food.

| District | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | % change | Change Sign |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Chikwawa | 62.8% | 74.4% | 82.5% | 82.6% | 65.8% | 70.8% | 70.3% | -0.5% | ▼ |
| Chiradzulu | 8.8% | 17.8% | 26.7% | 39.9% | 63.0% | 68.2% | 72.7% | 4.5% | ▲ |
| Chitipa | 8.0% | 5.5% | 5.6% | 8.7% | 20.5% | 25.5% | 33.0% | 7.5% | ▲ |
| Dedza | 15.5% | 15.2% | 26.5% | 34.8% | 38.1% | 51.7% | 53.3% | 1.6% | ▲ |
| Karonga | 40.9% | 50.0% | 54.8% | 59.5% | 82.9% | 69.0% | 62.6% | -6.4% | ▼ |
| Kasungu | 23.2% | 30.7% | 42.0% | 53.3% | 65.8% | 65.9% | 74.9% | 9.0% | ▲ |
| Mangochi | 28.2% | 43.7% | 50.0% | 60.4% | 67.4% | 59.9% | 70.6% | 10.7% | ▲ |
| Mchinji | 17.6% | 24.4% | 31.4% | 37.3% | 45.5% | 53.3% | 53.5% | 0.2% | ▲ |
| Mulanje | 55.8% | 75.6% | 77.7% | 82.4% | 86.0% | 85.3% | 89.9% | 4.6% | ▲ |
| Mwanza | 11.7% | 26.1% | 33.3% | 39.0% | 61.2% | 61.8% | 65.8% | 4.0% | ▲ |
| Mzimba | 4.3% | 6.0% | 5.4% | 8.8% | 23.8% | 23.9% | 38.0% | 14.1% | ▲ |
| Nkhata Bay | 33.2% | 39.1% | 46.1% | 43.7% | 39.8% | 50.0% | 50.8% | 0.7% | ▲ |
| Nkhotakota | 38.5% | 53.5% | 53.7% | 57.0% | 64.0% | 68.5% | 75.0% | 6.6% | ▲ |
| Ntcheu | 13.3% | 19.4% | 33.6% | 44.5% | 43.7% | 52.0% | 51.9% | -0.1% | ▼ |
| Phalombe | 46.6% | 62.1% | 73.4% | 79.6% | 84.3% | 86.8% | 89.2% | 2.5% | ▲ |
| Salima | 18.6% | 34.4% | 46.7% | 50.3% | 67.0% | 58.4% | 64.8% | 6.4% | ▲ |
| Thyolo | 22.8% | 28.7% | 42.9% | 45.3% | 51.3% | 70.7% | 75.1% | 4.3% | ▲ |
| Zomba | 22.4% | 40.8% | 54.5% | 58.1% | 61.5% | 66.6% | 74.8% | 8.2% | ▲ |
| Average | 25.3% | 35.6% | 43.8% | 49.2% | 55.1% | 61.1% | 66.2% | 5.2% | ▲ |

LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP AND DISEASES

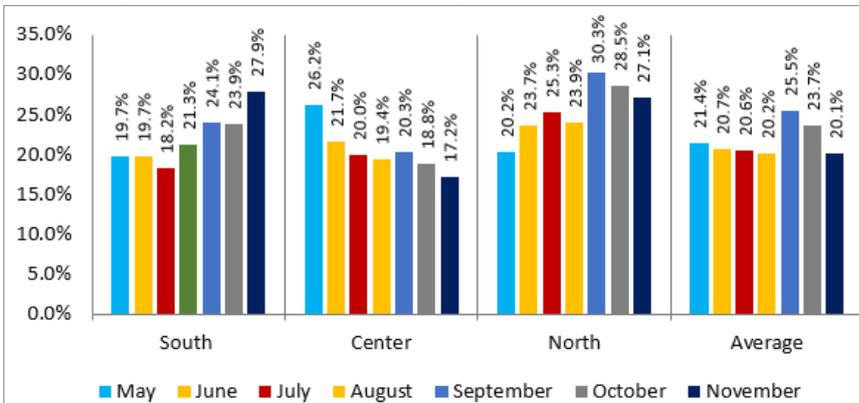
Ownership of livestock, including poultry **dropped by 2 percent** from 56.8 percent in October to 54.8 percent in November 2020.

By region, the northern region continues to register the highest proportion of households owning livestock estimated at 74.3 percent in the month of November which is similar to the 74.3 percent in October.

Ownership of livestock, was 54.3 percent down from 57.4 percent in the central region and 48 percent down from 48.8 percent in the southern region when compared between October and November.

At district level, ownership of livestock was highest in Chitipa (82.7 percent up from 74.3 percent in October) followed by Mzimba (76.2 percent down from 79.8 percent) and was low in Mwanza (41.4 percent), Mchinji (41.8 percent) and Mangochi (41.8 percent).

Figure 2: Proportion of households with livestock reported livestock disease.



In November 2020, the proportion of households that reported some suspected livestock diseases among those that own livestock dropped by 3.6 percent from 23.7 percent in October to 20.1 percent. By region, the southern and northern regions recorded higher proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 27.9 percent up from 23.9 percent and 27.1 percent down from 28.5 percent in October, respectively.

The central region, recorded 17.2 percent down from 18.8 percent in October 2020 (Fig 2). **Newcastle disease**, continues to be the most common livestock disease reported by 75.8% of the households that reported livestock disease up from 73.2 percent in October 2020, increasing by 2.6 percent. Trend analysis indicates that prevalence of Newcastle disease as a commonly reported livestock disease has been on an upward trend in the past 4 months, increasing from 41 percent in July to 75.8 percent in November. During the same period, mange disease has been the second commonly reported livestock disease estimated at 10.2 percent in July and 9.9 percent in November after rising up to 13.6 percent in October.

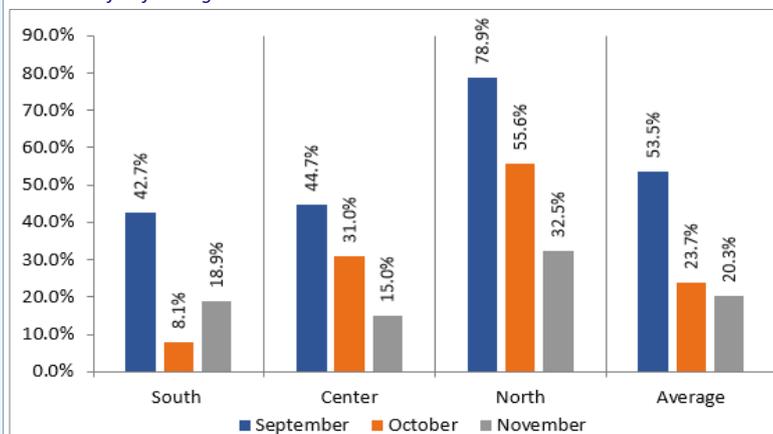
FISHERIES DISEASES

In the month of November, 2.2 percent of the households were involved in fishing related activities, representing a **1.2 percent drop** compared to 3.4 percent recorded in October 2020.

By region, the northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities estimated at 3.1 percent down from 4.2 percent in October 2020, followed by the central region at 2.4 percent down from 2.6 percent and the least was the southern region at 1.8 percent down from 3.7 percent recorded in October.

Among the households that were involved in fishing, 20.3 percent reported some suspected fish diseases down from 53.5 percent in September and 23.7 percent in October, showing a continued downward trend.

Figure 3: Proportion of households reporting suspected fish diseases from households involved in fish farming.



The northern region continues to record the highest proportion of households reporting fish diseases and was estimated at 32.5 percent down from 78.9 percent in September and 55.6 percent in October.

Similar, downward trends were observed in the other two regions as shown in Fig 3.

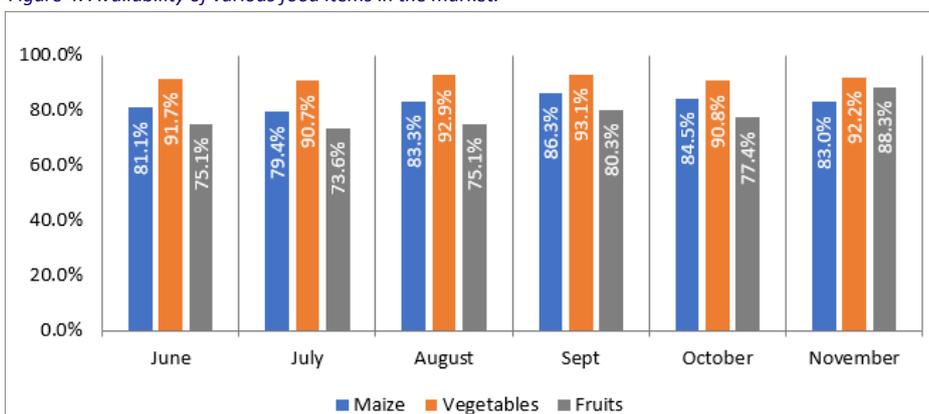
Lesion or ulcers was the most common fish diseases reported. The other fish diseases reported by the households included **localized swelling, and loss of scales**. Districts that reported fish diseases include Karonga, Chitipa and Nkhata Bay in the northern region; Mchinji, Nkhotakota and Salima in the central region; Mangochi, Zomba and Chikwawa in the southern region.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY AND MAIZE PRICES

The sampled markets have remained functional and operational in the month of November. The overall proportion of markets that were operational was 98.1 percent and ranged from 90.9 percent in Mwanza to 100 percent in 15 of the 18 districts. **Lack of agricultural commodities** to be sold at the markets and other reasons resulted in the lower coverage of markets that were operational in Mwanza, Mchinji and Kasungu districts.

Availability of various food items in the market such as maize, vegetables, and fruits slightly dropped in November compared to October 2020. Maize availability was 83 percent down from 84.5 percent in October and 86.3 percent in September 2020. The availability of vegetables and fruits was 92.2 percent up from 90.8 percent, and 88.3 percent up from 77.4 percent, respectively between October and November.

Figure 4: Availability of various food items in the market.



In November 2020, the price of maize per kilogram recorded a 3.38 percent increase from MK187.78 in October to MK191.16 in November. Comparison with results from IFPRI, the maize prices are lower than the IFPRI maize price which recorded a retail price of MK196/kg in the month of November 2020.

At regional level, the southern region continues to record high maize prices per kg estimated at **MK212.68 in November 2020** from **MK210.06/kg in October 2020**, representing a **1.2 percent increase**. **In the central region,** the maize prices increased by 0.1 percent, from MK173.71/kg in October 2020 to MK173.98/kg in November 2020. Maize prices in the northern region increased by 5.9 percent from MK164.30/kg in October 2020 to MK173.93/kg in November 2020. Table 2 summarises the estimated average price of maize per district since May 2020 and the percentage change in maize price comparing November and October 2020.

Table 2: Average Price of Maize in Malawi Kwacha per Kilogram.

| District | May | June | July | August | Sept | October | November | % Change (Nov vs Oct) | Change sign |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Chikwawa | 191.59 | 186.84 | 186.11 | 182.92 | 201.00 | 198.89 | 199.00 | 0.1% | ▲ |
| Chiradzulu | 161.18 | 172.90 | 184.25 | 186.89 | 197.00 | 203.55 | 226.25 | 11.2% | ▲ |
| Chitipa | 173.17 | 160.84 | 168.01 | 147.15 | 128.33 | 148.44 | 150.00 | 1.1% | ▲ |
| Dedza | 149.11 | 149.43 | 142.30 | 146.51 | 173.00 | 172.52 | 165.63 | -4.0% | ▼ |
| Karonga | 179.03 | 188.82 | 172.83 | 171.51 | 180.00 | 178.22 | 192.25 | 7.9% | ▲ |
| Kasungu | 118.07 | 125.89 | 124.43 | 127.72 | 124.40 | 134.38 | 132.10 | -1.7% | ▼ |
| Mangochi | 173.44 | 174.31 | 186.80 | 193.55 | 200.00 | 213.82 | 203.67 | -4.7% | ▼ |
| Mchinji | 121.68 | 129.83 | 130.10 | 126.64 | 157.30 | 163.35 | 154.29 | -5.5% | ▼ |
| Mulanje | 180.20 | 185.50 | 193.88 | 188.75 | 216.70 | 218.57 | 207.50 | -5.1% | ▼ |
| Mwanza | 144.21 | 164.23 | 175.39 | 159.24 | 145.20 | 183.53 | 183.19 | -0.2% | ▼ |
| Mzimba | 139.14 | 141.60 | 145.01 | 186.54 | 166.79 | 148.57 | 173.83 | 17.0% | ▲ |
| Nkhata Bay | 194.18 | 188.19 | 175.86 | 174.40 | 196.80 | 181.99 | 179.83 | -1.2% | ▼ |
| Nkhotakota | 190.65 | 210.77 | 203.39 | 209.64 | 222.50 | 208.74 | 206.27 | -1.2% | ▼ |
| Ntcheu | 150.06 | 146.95 | 141.81 | 146.83 | 177.50 | 179.96 | 188.29 | 4.6% | ▲ |
| Phalombe | 170.86 | 182.71 | 190.12 | 190.57 | 208.20 | 210.48 | 208.33 | -1.0% | ▼ |
| Salima | 137.71 | 142.98 | 144.33 | 149.05 | 182.00 | 183.33 | 197.00 | 7.5% | ▲ |
| Thyolo | 194.00 | 190.00 | 185.83 | 198.33 | 216.00 | 214.00 | 214.58 | 0.3% | ▲ |
| Zomba | 168.18 | 164.99 | 187.67 | 192.06 | 238.30 | 237.67 | 258.95 | 9.0% | ▲ |
| Average | 163.14 | 167.04 | 168.78 | 171.02 | 185.06 | 187.78 | 191.16 | 1.8% | ▲ |

The average crop prices per kg between October 2020 and November 2020 for selected crops such as rice, beans, ground nuts and Irish potatoes were MK683.96 down from MK 695.10, MK817.23 up from MK786.26, MK808.56 up from MK748.34, and MK500.85 up from MK443.48 respectively (Table 3).

Table 3: Average crop prices in Malawi Kwacha per kilogram for the selected crops in September 2020

| District | Rice | | Beans | | Ground nuts | | Irish potatoes | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Oct | Nov | Oct | Nov | Oct | Nov | Oct | Nov |
| Chikwawa | 629.80 | 595.11 | 808.33 | 827.25 | 835.12 | 841.14 | 510.69 | 494.79 |
| Chiradzulu | 702.50 | 700.00 | 856.25 | 870.00 | 940.91 | 890.00 | 583.33 | 1112.50 |
| Chitipa | 556.61 | 395.00 | 508.95 | 640.00 | 582.8 | 660.33 | 457.14 | 250.00 |
| Dedza | 676.56 | 693.30 | 635.71 | 741.47 | 716.47 | 803.57 | 300.51 | 304.52 |
| Karonga | 528.15 | 431.09 | 657.46 | 714.50 | 574.73 | 566.25 | 423.16 | 391.38 |
| Kasungu | 565.36 | 636.07 | 750.00 | 673.96 | 478.75 | 546.67 | 418.62 | 507.50 |
| Mangochi | 668.83 | 658.33 | 786.11 | 850.00 | 772.22 | 1142.92 | 491.67 | 525.00 |
| Mchinji | 749.02 | 756.25 | 819.12 | 790.00 | 803.86 | 776.83 | 365.63 | 398.15 |
| Mulanje | 659.29 | 662.50 | 857.14 | 937.50 | 985.71 | 950.00 | 322.92 | 365.00 |
| Mwanza | 779.25 | 762.50 | 900.00 | 902.08 | 1009.7 | 988.19 | 301.50 | 333.89 |
| Mzimba | 890.22 | 786.46 | 922.22 | 791.67 | 694.26 | 690.00 | 425.42 | 633.33 |
| Nkhata Bay | 696.41 | 712.50 | 755.56 | 795.83 | 758.84 | 745.83 | 475.00 | 415.63 |
| Nkhotakota | 721.15 | 736.61 | 807.81 | 869.68 | 709.23 | 822.22 | 605.00 | 779.17 |
| Ntcheu | 720.45 | 828.13 | 625.00 | 627.95 | 597.98 | 631.59 | 332.14 | 535.12 |
| Phalombe | 607.17 | 668.75 | 900.00 | 920.98 | 825.89 | 927.78 | 441.94 | 302.00 |
| Salima | 707.58 | 701.67 | 786.36 | 860.00 | 542.23 | 751.67 | 510.42 | 471.43 |
| Thyolo | 807.05 | 854.17 | 927.27 | 967.86 | 1011.36 | 986.31 | 452.27 | 501.67 |
| Zomba | 727.41 | 732.86 | 921.00 | 929.29 | 856.61 | 832.81 | 700.10 | 694.09 |
| Average | 695.10 | 683.96 | 786.26 | 817.23 | 748.34 | 808.56 | 443.48 | 500.85 |

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-

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

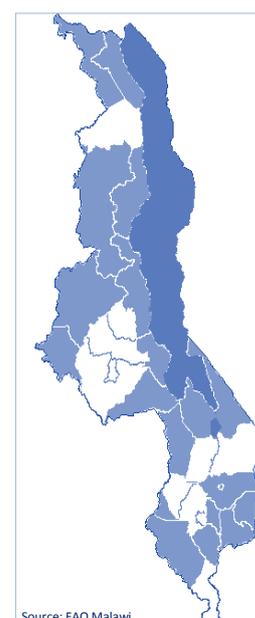
- * Percentage of households reporting any form of post-harvest losses
- * Percentage of households whose main source of food is from own production
- * Percentage of households whose main source of food is purchase
- * Percentage of households reporting suspected livestock diseases

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, Nkhonkhotakota, 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.



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