**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The proportion of households relying on food purchase as a main source of food increased by 1.3 percentage points from 14.3 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 15.6 percent. The proportion of households relying on own food production as a main source of food dropped by 0.6 percentage points from 84.0 percent to 83.4 percent. The southern region continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase as the main source of food, increasing by 2.9 percentage points from 22.9 percent in the first half of June to 25.8 percent.

- In households owning any type of livestock, the proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases rose by 3.2 percentage points from 14.2 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 17.4 percent. The northern region continued to record the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 25.1 percent up from 19.9 percent in the first half June.

- The proportion of households involved in fishing related livelihoods activities dropped by 0.2 percentage points from 1.8 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 1.6 percent. The northern region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities and increased by 3.0 percentage points from 2.4 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 5.4 percent. Households involved in fishing related activities reporting some suspected fish diseases increased by 12.5 percentage points from 15.8 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 28.3 percent.

- The average price of maize per kg dropped by 3.2 percent from MK124.96 in the first half of June 2021 to MK121.00. The southern region continued to record the highest average maize prices per kg and increased by 4.4 percent from MK137.0/kg in the first half of June 2021 to Mk143.0/kg.

- Average crop prices per kg for selected crops were MK644.16 down from MK708.10 for rice, MK939.69 up from MK791.33 for beans, MK753.91 up from MK746.23 for groundnuts, MK539.76 up from MK531.10 for Irish potatoes, and MK269.58 down from MK299.79 for sweet potatoes compared to the first half of June 2021.

**1. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD – SLIGHT DECREASE IN FOOD PRODUCTION**

The proportion of households relying on food purchase increased by 1.3 percentage points from 14.3 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 15.6 percent. Consequently, the proportion of households relying on own food production as a main source of food dropped by 0.6 percentage points from 84.0 percent to 83.4 percent in the same period (Fig 1).

**AT REGION LEVEL, the southern region** continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food, increasing by 2.9 percentage points from 22.9 percent in the first half of June to 25.8 percent.

**In the central region,** the proportion of households relying on food purchase rose by 2.1 percentage points from 5.9 percent in the first half of June to 8.1 percent.

**While in the northern region,** the proportion of households relying on food purchase dropped by 2.3 percentage points from 8.0 percent to 5.7 percent during the same period.

**AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL,** Chikwawa continued to record the highest proportion of households relying on food purchase estimated at 59.1 percent down from 59.6 percent in the first half of June 2021 followed by Mwanza at 40.6 percent up from 34.0 percent. Timely interventions in these districts to avert further deterioration of the situation are needed.

**Districts** of Chitipa, Nkhata Bay and Mzimba in the northern region, and Dedza, Kasungu, Mchinji, Ntcheu, and Salima in the central region registered less than 10 percent of the households that are relying on food purchase in the second half of June 2021.
In the southern region, all the districts had 10 percent and above of the households relying on food purchase as the main source of food.

RESULTS

In the southern region, all the districts had 10 percent and above of the households relying on food purchase as the main source of food.

Figure 1: Main source of food within the 14 days recall period

2. LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP AND DISEASES

Overall, the proportion of households owning any type of livestock dropped by 2.8 percentage points from 58.9 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 56.1 percent.

By region, the northern region continues to record the highest proportion of households owning livestock at 73.9 percent down from 78.5 percent in the first half of June, followed by the central region at 52.6 percent down from 55.5 percent and the least was the southern region at 51.9 percent down from 54.4 percent in the same period.

In households owning any type of livestock, the proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases rose by 3.2 percentage points from 14.2 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 17.4 percent. The northern region continued to record the highest proportion of households reporting livestock diseases estimated at 25.1 percent up from 19.9 percent in the first half June. The proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases were 14.8 percent up from 13.0 percent in the central region, and 15.3 percent up from 12.0 percent in the southern region in the first half of June.
RESULTS

In the reporting period, the proportion of households involved in fishing related livelihoods activities dropped by 0.2 percentage points from 1.8 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 1.6 percent.

3. FISHERIES DISEASES

By region, central region recorded the highest proportion of households involved in fishing related activities and increased by 3.0 percentage points from 2.4 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 5.4 percent, followed by the southern region (1.0 percent down from 1.9 percent) and the central region was the least (0.6 percent down from 1.3 percent).

Households involved in fishing related activities reporting some suspected fish diseases increased by 12.5 percentage points from 15.8 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 28.3 percent.

By region, the northern region continues to register the highest proportion of households involved in fish production related activities reporting some suspected fish diseases estimated at 38.7 percent down from 53.8 percent in the first half of June 2021, followed by the central region at 14.3 percent up from 0.0 percent and the southern region at 13.3 percent up from 6.9 percent (Fig 3). Lesions or ulcers, localized swellings, and skin erosion or loss of scales were some of the fish diseases reported.

Overall, there is a downward trend in the proportion of households reporting livestock diseases when compared with the same period in the previous year as shown in Fig 2.

Newcastle disease continues to be the common reported livestock disease and dropped by 0.7 percent from 65.1 percent in the first half of June 2021 to 64.4 percent.

By region, central region continues to register the highest proportion of households reporting Newcastle disease estimated at 65.3 percent up from 64.6 percent, followed by the southern region (64.9 percent down from 67.3 percent). In the northern region, the proportion of households reporting Newcastle disease was 63.2 percent slightly up from 62.8 percent in the first half of June 2021.

Other livestock diseases reported in the reporting period include MANGE disease (19.7 percent down from 24.5 percent), Foot and Mouth Disease (4.8 percent down from 5.2 percent), Smallpox (3.8 percent down from 8.9 percent) and African swine fever disease (1.6 percent down from 3.0 percent).
Nearly all sampled markets remained functional and operational over the reporting period except Karonga and Mwanza. During the reporting period, 98.5 percent of the markets were functional down from 99.3 percent in the first half of June.

Availability of fruits in the markets continues to be high but slightly dropped by 0.5 percentage points from 84.8 percent in the first half of June to 84.3 percent. This was followed by maize availability (69.4 percent down from 71.7 percent in the first half of June) and vegetables (66.4 percent down from 67.4 percent) (Fig 4).

By region, availability of maize in the market was highest in the central region (82.1 percent down from 85.7 percent in the first half of June), followed by the southern region (68.5 percent slightly up from 67.9 percent) and the northern region (41.7 percent down from 51.7 percent).

In the reporting period, the average price of maize per kg dropped by 3.2 percent from MK124.96 in the first half of June 2021 to MK121.00. Average maize prices continue to show a downward trend as shown in Figure 5.

At regional level, the southern region continued to record the highest average maize prices per kg and increased by 4.4 percent from MK137.0/kg in the first half of June 2021 to MK143.0/kg. This was followed by the northern region (MK126.00/kg down from MK129.80/kg) and the central region (MK106/kg up from MK105.70/kg) during the same period.

Table 1 provides a summary of average crop prices per kg by district for selected crops. Average crop prices per kg were:

- MK644.16 down from MK708.10 for rice
- MK939.69 up from MK791.33 for beans
- MK753.91 up from MK746.23 for ground nuts
- MK539.76 up from MK531.10 for Irish potatoes
- MK269.58 down from MK299.79 for sweet potatoes

Compared to the first half of June 2021.
Figure 4: Availability of various items in the market (Some Availability)

Figure 5: Average price in MK of various commodities at the market
### Table 1: Average crop prices in Malawi Kwacha per kilogram for the selected crops during the second half of June 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>155.00</td>
<td>615.56</td>
<td>1911.11</td>
<td>862.50</td>
<td>592.86</td>
<td>425.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiradzulu</td>
<td>143.33</td>
<td>591.67</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>864.29</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>235.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chitipa</td>
<td>121.67</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>533.33</td>
<td>570.00</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>135.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dedza</td>
<td>115.00</td>
<td>593.75</td>
<td>625.00</td>
<td>633.75</td>
<td>342.50</td>
<td>253.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karonga</td>
<td>122.50</td>
<td>396.00</td>
<td>783.00</td>
<td>597.00</td>
<td>444.00</td>
<td>245.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kasungu</td>
<td>88.33</td>
<td>733.33</td>
<td>841.67</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>940.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangochi</td>
<td>140.00</td>
<td>464.29</td>
<td>557.14</td>
<td>621.43</td>
<td>870.00</td>
<td>314.29</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mchinji</td>
<td>87.38</td>
<td>778.13</td>
<td>847.37</td>
<td>845.00</td>
<td>416.43</td>
<td>279.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulanje</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>9000.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwanza</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>755.56</td>
<td>842.86</td>
<td>775.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
<td>245.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mzimba</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>575.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nkhata Bay</td>
<td>160.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>230.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nkhotakota</td>
<td>144.38</td>
<td>616.67</td>
<td>764.29</td>
<td>881.25</td>
<td>640.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ntcheu</td>
<td>95.00</td>
<td>731.25</td>
<td>615.00</td>
<td>602.50</td>
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<td>Phalombe</td>
<td>134.00</td>
<td>517.50</td>
<td>1050.00</td>
<td>850.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
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<td>Salima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thyolo</td>
<td>147.50</td>
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<td>925.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zomba</td>
<td>124.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>1020.00</td>
<td>881.43</td>
<td>675.00</td>
<td>280.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>121.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>644.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>939.69</strong></td>
<td><strong>753.91</strong></td>
<td><strong>539.76</strong></td>
<td><strong>269.58</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data not collected*

NA - Not Available at time of data collection
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.

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, Nkhotakota, 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.

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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