Malawi: Food Security
Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)
United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator
Situation Report No. 4, January to February 2017
(as of end of February 2017)

This report is jointly produced by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), Government of Malawi, the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator and humanitarian partners in Malawi.

Highlights

- In May 2016, the Malawi Vulnerability Annual Assessment Committee (MVAC) revealed that 6.5 million people, about 39% of the total population was at risk of food insecurity in 24 of the 28 districts. However, in October 2016, a field assessment to update the situation reported that the number had increased to 6.7 million people.

- WFP’s weekly price monitoring at the end of February shows that maize prices are declining across all the 25 monitored districts compared to previous weeks (from 270 MWK/kg in January to 250 MWK/kg) and were 20 percent lower than the same time last year. However, monthly prices were still 119 percent higher than 2015 prices and 30 percent higher than the previous three-year average.

- Rainfall in January and February resulted in flooding in parts of Lilongwe and Salima, affecting 1008 and 1836 households respectively. The impact was a combination of loss of houses and subsequent displacement, damage to crop fields, roads education and hygiene facilities. The needs are being addressed by government and humanitarian agencies.

- The number of asylum seekers in Malawi continues to increase at a weekly average rate of 15 individuals during January and February for Luwani, and an average monthly rate of 450 during the same period in Dzaleka. There has, however, been a sharp reduction in arrivals in Luwani from its peak in April 2016, with a gradual increase from less than 2000 people in April to 3496 people as of February 2017. The continual increase in Dzaleka camp is a result of the endless insecurity problems in their countries of origin, most of whom come from Congo DR and Burundi, where there is continuous political instability.

- The response continues to be characterized by underfunding and delayed funding, for example, at present with less than one month left of the response, there is a funding gap of 10.5 percent (US$41,336,174.31).
Situation Overview

Malawi like many other countries in the Southern African Region experienced erratic weather conditions associated with the El Nino phenomenon that affected the region in 2016. Late onset, prolonged dry spells and early cessation of rains in the central and southern regions of the country reduced maize production to 2.4 million Metric Tons (MT) against a national maize requirement of 3.2 million MT, and resulted in a 0.716 million MT deficit (Ministry of Agriculture, 2016). The current La Nina rainfall is forecast to be short and weak. Historical data shows that La Nina rains are often favorable and lead to better than average crop production.

In October 2016, a field assessment by MVAC to update the situation reported that the number of people needing food assistance had increased from 6.5 million to 6.7 million people. This figure represents the highest caseload over the past decade. The Food Security Cluster began to target the additional 200,000 people in December with food rations.

According to WFP’s weekly price monitoring, maize prices during the last week of February were decreasing compared to previous weeks (from 270 MWK/kg in January to 250 MWK/kg) and were 20 percent lower than the same time last year. This is attributed to increased supplies from private traders, which has been a major factor in preventing much higher price projections, as well as the anticipation of the early harvest and ongoing humanitarian assistance. However, the average monthly prices were still 119 percent higher than 2015 prices and 30 percent higher than the previous three-year average.

As the cropping season progresses, most areas continue to receive normal rainfall, so early maize harvest is shaping up positively. A press release on the results of the first round of 2016/17 agricultural production estimates survey shows that national maize production is projected at 3,220,712 metric tons, which is 35.9 percent higher than the 2015/16 final round estimate of 2,369,493 metric tons. Wheat production, however, is projected to drop by 6.4 percent.

A significant risk that has emerged is the entry of the Fall Army Worm into Malawi. A field survey conducted in Kasungu, Mzuzu and Karonga Agricultural Development Districts (ADDs) shows severe levels of damage (34-61% of maize planting stations with damage signs in Kasungu ADD, 45-88% in Mzuzu ADD and 60-100% in Karonga ADD). The infestation is a significant threat to food security and The Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders are currently gathering information and responding with pesticides.

During the first two weeks of February, heavy rainfall and flash floods in Lilongwe and Salima affected 1008 and 1836 households respectively. The main impact in Lilongwe was on houses roads, WASH facilities, etc.; while in Salima, additional to damage on infrastructure, about 1827 hectares of crops were destroyed. DoDMA in collaboration with the humanitarian community is responding to the needs of the affected population. Local community support has also been very critical. In Lilongwe, most of the displaced people were sheltered by neighbors and in a local primary school and camp. The camp has been decommissioned, as the affected people were provided with MK10,000 each to assist with shelter and business start-up, and in-kind assistance that included food and kitchen utensils. DoDMA and the WASH cluster are responding to resultant breakdown of hygiene. Overall the situation is almost totally contained, and is being monitored.

The number of refugees in Malawi is increasing. From a population of less than 2,000 POCs in Luwani as of April 2016, there is now over 3496 – as of February 2017. The average arrival rate for Luwani in January and February is 15 individuals per week. The figures for Dzaleka are also increasing with the majority coming from Burundi and Congo DR. Following the recent verification exercise conducted in December 2016 a total of 27,126 POCs are now verified to be residing in Dzaleka Refugee Camp, but this number is expected to increase. In 2017, 710 new

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1 A household is constituted by 5 individuals
Arrivals and new-born babies were registered in Dzaleka against a planned annual increase of 4,000, which has been the trend for the past 2 years.

**Funding**

The response continues to be characterized by underfunding and delayed funding, for example, of the required $395 million, there is a $41,336,174.31 million/10.5% funding gap when we are in the last month of the response duration. The received contributions are so far from USAID, DFID, World Bank/Government of Malawi, Swiss Natcom, ECHO, Irish Aid, Norway, Belgium, Scottish Government, Sweden, Canada and Germany Natcom. Partners continue mobilizing resources to meet the needs of the food insecure populations identified by MVAC.

**Humanitarian Response**

**Needs:**

Based on the updated MVAC assessment, the Food Security Cluster is meeting the needs of 6.7 million people across 24 districts through in-kind food transfers, cash-based transfers, and vouchers for maize at the peak of the response (January-March 2017). Out of the 6.7 million, the World Food Programme is targeting 6 million while an INGO consortium and the Malawi Red Cross Society are covering the remaining 700,000 people.

**Response:**

**Assistance provided to-date**

- As of 27 February, the Cluster has reached approximately 5.3 million people with lifesaving food and cash-based assistance. This translates to 79 percent achievement of the planned 6.7 million across 24 districts, with full rations provided for all commodities. Delays were caused by inaccessibility from heavy rains but distributions are scheduled to be completed within the first week of March. Out of the eight months of the humanitarian response, February is the second month where full rations for all food commodities (maize, pulses, vegetable oil and Super Cereal for households with pregnant/lactating women and/or children under age two) were provided (September was the last month when full rations were provided).
- While provision of lifesaving assistance remains critical, WFP and partners are also prioritizing complementary productive asset creation and social behavior change to help break the cycle of food and nutrition insecurity in the long run. Social and Behavior Change Communication is also being implemented through a partnership with Art & Global Heath Center Africa (AGHCA), which trained community drama groups using the Theatre for Development Approach. These groups will be carrying out participatory community performances illustrating food and nutrition-related behavior change messages at food distribution points. Productive asset creation is complementing relief assistance and some 115,000 households (i.e. 632,000 people) have received this complementary support across targeted eight priority districts. However, there are additional 40,000 households supported in other non-priority districts bringing the total number of beneficiaries under complementary productive asset creation to 155,000 households.

**Arrangements for food prepositioning**

- Food prepositioned at 76 sites enabled WFP and partners to provide uninterrupted assistance to beneficiaries during the ongoing rainy season, particularly in hard to reach areas which are at risk of becoming impassable during heavy rains.

**Coordination**

- The Food Security Cluster’s response is closely coordinated with Agriculture, Nutrition, Logistics and Protection clusters to ensure that food assistance is provided as part of a package of services and in a safe and dignified manner.

**Gaps and Constraints:**

**Access challenges:**

- Heavy rains led to some infrastructure damage, temporarily cutting off routes in the central and southern regions. WFP is employing all means of transport including 25 heavy duty (4x4 and 6x6) trucks and boats to maximize operational capacity.

**Resourcing situation: In-kind assistance**

- Maize is expected to be sufficient at full ration for the entire response (subject to timely arrivals, all pledges materializing, funds to cover associated costs of maize donated by the Government, known as ‘twinning costs’ etc.). **Twinning needs have been**
covered by the latest US contribution of US$ 2.5 million. WFP is still awaiting transfer of US$ 47 million from the Government of Malawi.

• US$ 0.85 million is still required to fill gaps for non-maize commodities (oil) while requirements for pulses will be covered by the latest in-kind contribution from the Government of Malawi.

**Resourcing situation: Cash Based transfers (for WFP and INGO)**

• US$ 3.4 million ($2.9 million for WFP, $467,064 for the INGO consortium) is still required for the cash-based transfer component for the month of March.

• The WFP portion of the shortfall represents gaps for the non-maize cash-based transfer component for March. Maize is covered by an e-voucher programme that will ensure beneficiaries under this component of the response can access the commodity throughout the lean season. However, without additional contributions, WFP will not be able to provide full transfers in March 2017 (mainly the cash component meant to cover non-cereals).

• The INGO portion of the shortfall represents gaps for areas in Lilongwe district for March 2017.

**Resourcing situation: Food Security Cluster**

• A total of USD 5.52 million is still needed for the Food Security Cluster including: US$ 0.85 million for WFP non-cereal commodities, US$ 2.57 million for WFP cash-based transfers for non-cereal commodities & US$ 2.1 million for an advance internal WFP loan that needs to be repaid.

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**Agriculture**

**Cluster Lead: Ministry of Agriculture**

**Co-Lead: FAO**

**Needs:**

• As per the meteorological forecast, normal to below normal rainfall is expected during February, March and April 2017 for the entire country. Localized dry spells could compromise crops if no mitigation activities are planned.

• The 2016/2017 planting season started in November 2016 and as per information gathered by the agriculture cluster as of December, 2016; nearly 1.142,000 households (including FISP) have received support with inputs to resume food production. According to stakeholders reports, sixty percent of the funding requested for the emergency response has so far been mobilized, however, there is still need for further funding to tackle pest outbreaks, foster irrigation farming and support water harvesting practices.

• The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development has finalized the first round of 2016/17 Agriculture Production Estimates Survey. The results show production increase of maize by 35.9%, rice by 41.5%, millet by 118.6% and sorghum by 79.3% as compared to the final round for the 2015/16 agricultural season. However, wheat production is projected to drop by 6.4 % due to unavailability of seeds and poor market. The results also show an increase in pulses production due to seed injection, better market prospect and favorable weather. In terms of livestock, the population of cattle has increased to 1,508,299, representing 2.5% increase as compared to the final round for the 2015/16 agricultural season. Fish production (including captured fisheries and aquaculture) has increased by 10.0%.

• The measurement of the impact of Fall Army Worm outbreak in several regions of the country is needed to estimate the possible impact on food production. The Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders are currently gathering information while also responding with pesticides.

**Response:**

• Potato and cassava planting material distributions, organization of seeds fairs in areas with water availability and livestock restocking activities are planned for the first half of 2017 and irrigation activities were also planned in 11 districts to start in March 2017. The targeting of beneficiaries of agricultural interventions was based on the MVAC food beneficiary register in order to complement the food security, agriculture, nutrition and protection clusters at district level, with the objective of maximizing the impact of recovery activities. Likewise, households that are receiving support from resilience building activities would be covered depending on funding availability.

• Water harvesting and micro-irrigation interventions will take place in 4 districts during the next months. Further support is required to strengthen disaster reduction management activities in agriculture, information management and strategic decision making processes at district level.

• A field survey of the fall armyworm conducted in Kasungu, Mzuzu and Karonga ADDs shows severe levels of damage (34-61% of maize planting stations with damage signs in Kasungu ADD, 45-88% in Mzuzu ADD and 60-100% in Karonga ADD). The infestation is a significant threat to food security. Farmers require urgent support to access and apply Cypermethrin 200EC and there is an urgent need to train extension workers to enable them to support farmers to effectively respond to the pest.
Education

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:
The cluster needs as outlined below aim at ensuring that access to quality education is sustained and numbers of dropouts are minimized during the food insecurity emergency:

- Provision of school meals in 200 schools to 208,000 learners and Super Cereal as take home rations (THR) to all vulnerable children.
- Nutrition education, especially on food diversification, to change mind-set on nsima dependency.
- Provision of psycho-social support to reduce trauma in emergency affected children and communities.
- Procure and support Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers with ECD kits and teaching and learning materials for primary schools.
- Refresher courses for standby emergency teachers to support drought response and child protection measures including real time monitoring in affected schools.
- Training of 41,600 adolescents, including teen mother and youths on gender based violence, literacy, agribusiness and entrepreneurial skills and provide seed inputs, implements and livestock.
- Training of 2,000 head teachers/teachers, Parents Teachers Association members, communities and district clusters on disaster preparedness and drought response.

Response:
- The cluster is providing emergency school meals (including take home rations) to primary school children in 121 drought affected schools through WFP and Mary’s Meals projects.
- 172,400 are being reached with emergency school meals and take-home rations.
- Absenteeism has been reduced by 70 percent in all schools that the education cluster is supporting.
- Provided teaching and learning including psychosocial support & care and education supplies to primary school learners in 100 schools in Dedza, Mangochi, Salima and Chikwawa districts.
- Provided 18 tents and learning materials to districts affected by storms.
- Support to out of and in-school adolescents and youths with livelihood (agri-business and small-scale enterprises), life skills (sports) and social services in four districts (Dedza, Mangochi, Salima and Chikwawa).
- The cluster is collecting information from disaster affected and disaster prone areas in real time.
- Education cluster participated in an inter-agency rapid assessment on the impact of floods in Lilongwe and Salima in February 2017.
- Conducted supervision of emergency school feeding program in Chikwawa, Nsanje, Balaka and Phalomwe with support from WFP.
- Emergency information survey was sent to all District Education Managers (DEMs) to collect data on number of schools affected by heavy rains and hailstorms which have affected teaching and learning in schools.
- The education cluster has intensified its coordination through cluster meetings which are being held fortnightly.
- The cluster is conducting rapid assessment in 9 districts (Dedza, Lilongwe, Salima, Mulanje, Thyolo, Mangochi, Machinga, Ntcheu and Karonga) which have been affected by hailstorms and floods which have left over 40,000 learners with no learning space.

Emerging Issues:
The humanitarian response has been constrained by the flooding emergency in Lilongwe and Salima districts:

Lilongwe Disaster Response
- A total of 1,008 households were affected by riverine floods in Lilongwe. Some households were displaced. The displaced population that sought refuge at Kamkodola Primary School moved to Chilmalame CCAP Church to pave way for classes at school. The IDP population was as follows:
  - Preliminary assessments were undertaken, to determine the affected households and needs;
  - Erecting of tents for additional shelter space at Chilmalame CCAP;
  - Provision of food, health care and other support to the displaced households;
  - All the displaced households were using water from a tap at Church. It was suggested that DoDMA talks to the Management of Lilongwe Water Board for free water contribution at the site, as a corporate responsibility.

Salima Disaster Response
- The disaster assessments have been conducted from 5th February, 2017 and are on-going. Some households were in the camps. The camps were established as follows: Kandulu Safe Haven Camp, accommodating IDPs from GVH Mtauchira T/A Pemba. The camp is in GVH Kandulu T/A Ndindi; Mg wirizano Camp at Mg wirizano Primary School, GVH Chembe T/A Pemba; Lifidzi Primary School Camp; Mtandawoyera Warehouse camp; and Msumwa Primary School Camp.

Gaps & Constraints:
• The education cluster has a funding gap of US$ 1,167,441
• The flooding emergency has compounded the strain on the cluster in terms of resources.

### Protection

**Cluster Lead: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare**

**Co-Lead: UNICEF**

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<th>Needs:</th>
<th>US$306,926.00</th>
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<td>Following the recent floods, the cluster took part in the inter-agency assessment to identify protection needs. The recent floods have caused displacement making communities vulnerable to protection issues. There is also a need to strengthen protection mechanisms and forge a harmonized way of collective effort to especially Prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) of affected populations and beneficiaries.</td>
<td>$93,000 funding gap</td>
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**Response:**

The protection cluster participated in the Inter-Agency Assessments in Lilongwe and Salima to identify protection problems. Through its members, the Protection Cluster has provided family planning and other sexual reproductive health services in flood affected areas in Lilongwe and Salima. The cluster is also currently forging effort in establishing a harmonized PSEA mechanism involving the Government, UN, I/NGO and Civil Society Organizations as such, it has through the support of the Resident Coordinator’s Office got 91 PSEA focal persons nominated from all spectrum of stakeholders. 76 of the total 91 have been trained on PSEA by the Cluster. The Cluster is also currently implementing PSEA activities in 10 disaster affected districts through the Malawi Police. The interventions include raising community awareness among 10,000 people. Identification of potential risks to sexual exploitation and abuse and mitigation services are also offered including referral services to service providers.

The Cluster held two meetings during this reporting period, provided updates to DoDMA, and made presentations to the Inter-Cluster Coordination meeting and to the HCT respectively.

#### Gaps and Constraints

- The cluster has a 9 percent financial gap.

### Water & Sanitation

**Cluster Lead: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development**

**Co-Lead: UNICEF**

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<th>Needs:</th>
<th>$22.08 million for 755,000 people</th>
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<td>In the most seriously drought affected districts 1.55 million people are still in need of sufficient safe drinking water and sanitary facilities. They also need support in changing their behavior in terms of water storage and usage, hand washing and proper latrine use. Special needs are for people in cholera affected areas, to prevent them from getting the disease and not infecting others. Their numbers vary because of constant flare ups during the season. Finally, we consider the asylum seekers and refugees from Mozambique, presently in Luwani and Dzaleka camps, some 30,000 people in all to be the most at risk.</td>
<td>$21.8 million funding gap</td>
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**Response:**

From December 2016 to February 2017, the Cluster through its members, continued to provide vital WASH support to vulnerable communities in Malawi, which resulted in mitigation of an outbreak of cholera and improved health of the beneficiaries. An estimated 4,732 people in emergency prone districts had access to safe water through the use of 17,746 bottles of water guard to treat unsafe water at household level. Safe water was further provided by rehabilitation of protected water points, with vital involvement of the community members to ensure sustainability.

The Provision of safe water was supplemented by distribution of 11,250 IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material posters in the 6 Districts of Balaka, Mwanza, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Thyolo. These posters were used to disseminate messages on good hygiene and sanitation practices like proper hand washing, safe water chain, safe sanitation and cholera prevention.
For the flood affected IDPs in Salima and Lilongwe Districts, the WASH Cluster has supported and continues to support provision of safe water by provision of water treatment chemicals and water collection and storage containers. Good hygiene and sanitation are ensured by distribution of soap, construction of temporary latrines and hygiene promotion messages. These interventions will continue until the IDPs return to their villages, where recovery activities will take place, like rehabilitation of water points and promotion of good hygiene and sanitation.

District level coordination meetings and consultations with the technical leads in the districts were vital in updating district level contingency plans, as well as requirements for supplies. Cluster members have also supported preparedness for response by prepositioning of WASH supplies in strategic locations in the districts to facilitate speedy emergency response.

The WASH results were achieved through effective collaboration between the WASH Cluster and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, with UNICEF as co-lead. A major result of the WASH Cluster was the development of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) of Malawi, where contingency concerns for WASH were articulated.

Nutrition

Cluster Lead: Department of Nutrition

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:
The overall nutrition situation remains at the Acceptable level (GAM<5%) per WHO Classification. According to recent SMART survey results an estimated 357,000 children under five are expected to fall under acute malnutrition category during 2017. In addition, the country recorded the highest admissions of acute malnutrition cases in under-five children with 25% rise of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in Nutrition Rehabilitation Units/Out-patient Therapeutic Feeding program, and 125% rise of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in Supplementary Feeding Program have been recorded in January 2017 compared to January 2016. Approximately 61,810 children under five are targeted for lifesaving treatment of SAM and 107,700 children for treatment of MAM and 97,400 people on ART and TB are targeted for treatment of acute malnutrition and nutrition safety nets. Similarly, 45,300 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are targeted for acute malnutrition. The immediate needs were procurement and distribution of lifesaving therapeutic and supplementary feeding supplies to the last point of distribution, treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition, active case identification and referral, social behavior change, communication on key infant and young child feeding, and intensive surveillance of the nutrition situation.

Response:

- In January 2017, 15 districts conducted active case finding and referral activities, and reached 1,158,442 children under five years through active case finding campaign and identified 24,192 children (2,507 SAM and 21,685 MAM) which were referred to facilities for further investigations and admissions in CMAM program;
- During the month of January, 6,110 children under five suffering from SAM were provided with lifesaving treatment at Out Patient Treatment Programs (OTPs) and Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) and a total of 14,099 children under five and 6,206 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with MAM were treated in Supplementary Feeding Program;
- At least 12,496 People Living with HIV, AIDS and TB with SAM and MAM were treated in Supplementary Feeding Program;
- In November/December 2016, seven nutrition SMART surveys were conducted and results were disseminated in January 2017.

Gaps & Constraints:

In December 2016, Nutrition cluster has identified targeting gaps in food and cash responses, where CMAM and NCST beneficiaries were not being included as vulnerable groups. To generate evidence, Nutrition cluster has carried out a rapid assessment to determine estimated percentage of the excluded households with CMAM and NCST beneficiaries from MVAC response. The assessment revealed an approximate of 57% of CMAM and NCST cases not included in the food and cash distribution components of overall response; nevertheless, those households are among the most at risk for food insecurity. As a way forward, automatic enrolment is strongly recommended for households with SAM and MAM children aged 6-59 months or severely and moderately undernourished adolescents and adults to be added to the targeting criteria to address this gap. Nutrition cluster will be closely working with food security cluster in revision of JEFAP targeting criteria for upcoming food security responses.
General Coordination

The Government of Malawi is leading the response, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), with support from NGOs, the UN and donors. A government-led cluster system has been activated, and inter-cluster meetings are taking place to ensure cross-sector coordination. The clusters meet monthly. The Office of the Vice President, through DoDMA, convenes meetings of the Humanitarian Response Committee; while the UN and partners also meet as frequently as necessary.