

Malawi: Food Security

Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)

United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator

Situation Report No. 4

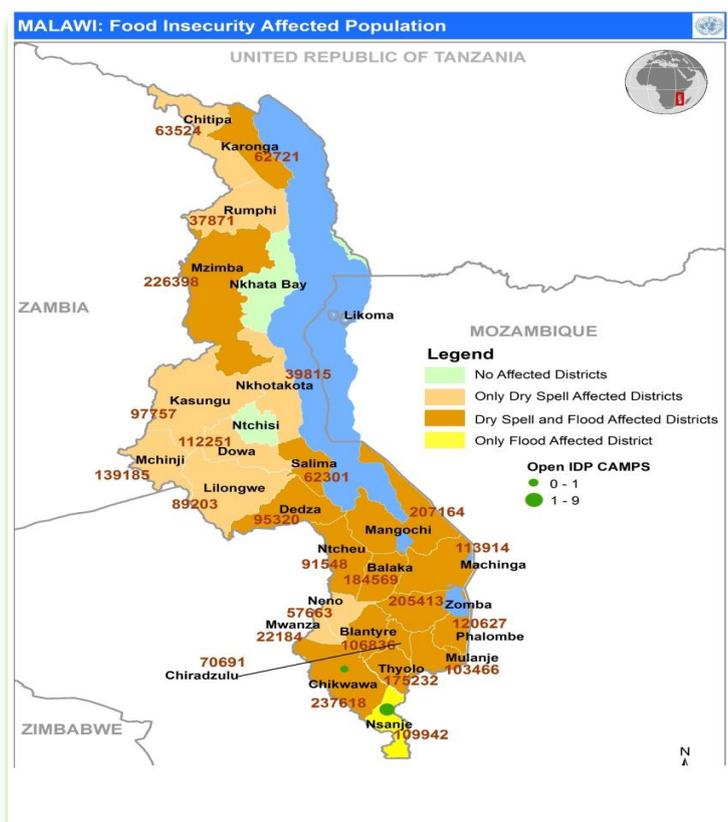
(as of 15 December 2015)



This report is produced jointly by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) of Malawi and the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator in Malawi, in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from October to December 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 15 January 2015.

Highlights

- The Malawi Vulnerability Update Assessment Report of October 2015 found that a projected population of 2,833,212, will be at risk of food insecurity in 25 out of 28 districts. This represents no change from the June assessment. A rapid monitoring exercise will be conducted from December 27, 2015.
- A Humanitarian Response Plan with Food Security, Agriculture, Nutrition, Education Protection and Coordination components was launched by the President. The total cost of the response is \$146 million.
- The number of people fleeing political disturbances from Mozambique has reached 1,600. These are being hosted at Kapise area in Mwanza district. Their needs range from WASH, Food, and Shelter, and other Non-Food Items. This is in addition to the 7708 refugee and asylum seeker families that are hosted at Dzaleka refugee camp. UNHCR has reported that the Dzaleka caseload is surviving on 40% ration due to insufficient funds for the Malawi Refugee program.



- The food security, agriculture, nutrition, education and Protection response to food insecurity is underway
- Preparedness planning (National and district level) towards the coming season which has been classified as a strong EL NINO season is underway.
- The country has been receiving reports of damage resulting from strong winds associated with first rains. To date, the Department of Disaster Affairs has received reports indicating that 7,209 households have been affected of which 1956 households have been assisted. DoDMA is still in the process of assisting the affected families.

25

Affected districts

2,833,512

Food Insecure people

3 – 6

Recommended period of assistance

\$146.5 million

required for the response: based on scenario 1 for Agriculture

Situation Overview

Following the launch of the consolidated response plan, various clusters have commenced responding to the needs of the food insecure populations. The food insecurity resulted from delayed and erratic rains that affected parts of the country. An annual vulnerability assessment exercise revealed that the country is likely to have 2,833,212 people at risk of food insecurity across 25 of the country's 28 districts. An assessment aimed at assessing if the food insecurity had gotten worse or better based on variables being tracked from the June assessment was carried out. Results show that the number of food insecure people has remained unchanged from the 2.8 million figure identified in the June assessment. A follow up assessment will be underway from the 27th December 2015.

Several factors are contributing to the situation remaining the same, key among which has been prices of maize that have remained within the price ranges of MK110 to MK170/kg. However, among the areas surveyed, districts in the southern region of the country recorded on average higher maize prices than other regions. For example, Mulanje district reported the highest maize price of MK170 /kg in October.

Meanwhile the country is also undertaking preparedness planning for the season which has been reported to be a strong El Nino year. According to the Meteorological Services, Malawi is likely to receive higher to normal rains for parts of the Northern Region and normal to below normal rains for the Central and Southern Region. The Department of Disaster Management is leading preparedness planning based on the following hazard scenarios: Floods, Dry Spells, Food Insecurity, Earthquake and Disease outbreak.

In addition to the over 7000 families of asylum seekers and refugees that the country is hosting there are reports of about 1,300 people fleeing violence from Mozambique. These are hosted by communities at Kapise in Mwanza. UNHCR is experiencing funding challenges which has resulted in the Dzaleka caseload receiving 40% of their ration. UNHCR is therefore struggling to meet needs of 1,300 displaced people in Mwanza. Needs are Shelter, Food, and WASH.

Funding

Regarding contributions against the Food Insecurity Response Plan, out of US\$ 146 million required, US\$ 71.0 million has been contributed so far. It is important to note however that \$146 million is based on a minimum requirement for the Agriculture cluster which requires: \$19.55 million under scenario 1, \$30.9 million under scenario 2 and \$44.6 million under scenario 3 of a full comprehensive response. The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) will be keeping an updated tracking of in-kind and cash donations. The information will be shared regularly with partners in country.

The United Nations accessed funding under the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to kick start the implementation of the humanitarian response to the food insecurity. A total of \$9.963628 was provided towards prioritized sectors of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. Food Security got 72% of the funding under CERF.

Partners will continue mobilizing resources for meeting the needs of the food insecure populations identified by the MVAC. Meanwhile, discussions of linking affected populations to ongoing resilience-building and social protection interventions are continuing as well as using market-based interventions in areas where maize is available and affordable on local markets.

Humanitarian Response



Food Security

Cluster Lead: DoDMA

Co-Lead: WFP

Needs:

2.83 million beneficiaries across 25 districts will require food assistance in January, the peak of the lean season. The response is taking a phased approach to assistance based on severity of need and will progressively scale up to reach all affected districts by January 2016. Based on the market survey, 70 percent of the food insecure population was recommended to receive food, while 30 percent of the affected population resides in areas with sufficient market functionality to support cash-based assistance. Cash-based assistance will require strong risk management given the first food deficit in 10 years and high food prices.

US\$ 118.86 million

Response:

- Food distributions for November took place in all ten planned districts: Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje, Nsanje, Phalombe and Zomba. Cash-based distributions took place in Blantyre, Chikwawa, Karonga, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje and Nsanje. For December distributions, the response will continue

to scale up to reach a planned total of 2,007,854 million people in 15 districts. WFP began December food distributions on 4 December and plans to cover all of the in-kind food needs by 24 December, weather providing, while cash based assistance will be provided by WFP to 221,878 targeted beneficiaries (ongoing from 5 December) and by the INGO consortium to 94,797 targeted beneficiaries (ongoing from 10-17 December). TWFP has dispatched some 25,000 mt of food and WFP and the INGO consortium have jointly disbursed approximately US\$ 1.9 million worth of cash transfers directly to beneficiaries.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The current funding gap for life-saving food assistance stands at USD 43 million. With current resources, maize and vegetable oil and Super Cereal will be available at full ration until February and pulses at a reduced ration are sufficient to meet needs until mid-February. Additionally, without additional cash and voucher contributions, cash-based assistance led by WFP will experience a funding shortfall starting in February.

Preparedness

- As co-lead of the Food Security Cluster, WFP contributed to the development of the food security component of the national contingency plan, which will guide preparation and response activities for 2016 in the case of any El Nino shocks. Additionally, through the new mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) initiative, WFP continues to gather real-time household food security information to monitor prices and household coping strategies that will serve as early warning indication of worsening food insecurity. It was rolled out as 1 week pilot in Chikwawa in November and has been scaled up to reach all districts to monitor coping strategies. Price monitoring will be scaled up to reach a total of 15 districts beyond Chikwawa from January. The information will be shared through the Food Security Cluster and other coordination groups to inform the most appropriate response during the lean season.



Agriculture

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Agriculture

Co-Lead: FAO

Needs:

- Malawi has reported a significant reduction in crop production compared with 2013-14 production (mainly maize with a 30% decrease but also legumes, rice, sorghum, millet, vegetables and tubers in specific districts), leaving the country with a deficit of around 230,000 tons of maize in terms of national food requirements.
- Despite the efforts conducted by the Malawian Government and donor community through development initiatives and subsidies, the production capacity of vulnerable farmers is compounded by recent climate and for the need to acquire food during the lean season. At least 300,000 vulnerable Malawian farmers would need urgent support with short maturing and drought resistant varieties as maize, sorghum, millet, legumes and tubers. About 50,000 of them will also need support with livestock-related activities in the next 3 – 6 months.

Scenarios **US\$19.55**
million for 300,000
households

Response:

- The Agriculture Cluster reviewed its response plan 2015 and established the urgent fund requirements as follows: USD 9.57 million required for seeds and inputs for the rainfed planting season (covering 300,000 households; USD 4.59 million required for irrigation agriculture activities in 2016 and USD 5.5 million for livestock related activities. So far 65 % of the requirements, especially for rainfed agriculture has been confirmed (from government, development and humanitarian partners).
- By November 15/2015 the Agriculture Cluster had identified near 231,000 households in 23 districts that will receive support with seeds, inputs and technical assistance from different stakeholders before the end of the year.
- The distribution of seeds through seed fairs is underway in all the districts. Near 120 seed fairs have been organized in 8 districts and direct distributions are also being conducted for other stakeholders. Distribution of roots, tubers and irrigation materials will take place in 25 districts during the first months of 2016. Cluster members and Government counterparts should follow-up the rainfall patterns in view of the likely negative effects of El Nino phenomenon.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The current funding gap stands at USD 7 million. Due to limited resources for livestock activities and agriculture the possibilities to provide support with livestock and irrigation agriculture remains limited. Those activities are key to tackle the likely negative effects that El Niño Phenomenon brings to the country on the first quarter of 2016.
- There is not available funding to conduct preparedness activities to protect livelihoods and resume food production in the case of a major disaster. Especially in the case of livestock, it is quite crucial to access new contributions that ensure that health-related programs and re-stocking could be conducted quickly if dry-spells or flash floods hit vulnerable communities during the next months.
- The erratic weather patterns could favor the pest and diseases outbreaks in several regions of the country.

Preparedness

- A contingency planning process has started and revision of current capacities is ongoing at National level.
- Reorientation of extension workers on early warning and preparedness for crop pests has been conducted.



Education

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:

- Provide school meals to 200 schools for 110,800 learners
- Provide refresher training for 176 volunteer teachers to provide psychosocial support and child protection measures in 200 schools in collaboration with Child Protection
- Improve ECD centres and provide 500 ECD kits to 100 schools and teaching and learning materials for 200 schools in collaboration with Child Protection
- Provide recreation kits (1,000 footballs and 100 netballs) for adolescents and youth
- Train 11,000 adolescents and youth on gender based violence, agribusiness skills and provide seed inputs and implements
- Train 2000 head teachers/teachers, PTA, SMC members, communities and district clusters on disaster preparedness and drought response
- Orient 10 situation room volunteer teachers, supervisor and EMIS staff on identification of drought affected schools
- Psycho-social support is needed, including play and recreation facilities.

US\$1.6 million to reach 110,800 learners

Response:

- Recruited the situation room supervisor in September 2015 and mobilized volunteer teachers for the reactivation of the situation room at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for real time monitoring.
- Trained 176 standby volunteer teachers from 11 to 12 December 2015 in Lilongwe and will be deployed in early January 2016 when schools open for the new academic year. These will be deployed to four districts of Dedza, Salima, Mangochi and Chikwawa to support implementation and monitoring of school feeding activities in collaboration with district coordinators; work with youth groups and school communities on home grown model and agri-business activities and support teaching and learning and psychosocial support and care; and collect and provide data on drought affected schools including real time monitoring for the cluster information management and reporting.
- Revised the drought response to leverage with the Joint Programme on Girls Education targeting 78,000 learners and 5,000 adolescents and youth in four districts of Dedza, Salima, Mangochi and Chikwawa out of the 15 cluster target districts to be supported with livelihood and agri-business activities as part of the drought response supported by the Norwegian Government funding. Additional 7 districts are been reached through joint MOEST/Ministry of Sports and Culture and the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Manpower Development through the Action 4 Adolescents Programme. All 11 district Youth and Sports Officers underwent a drought response training in November 24th -28th in Blantyre.
- The Government is funding School Meals Programme in 698 schools for over 2 million learners and some are in the drought affected districts.
- Other partners are supporting Government with the provision of school meals programme in the drought affected school communities.

The current coverage of the School Meals programme is in 22 districts as indicated in Figure 1.

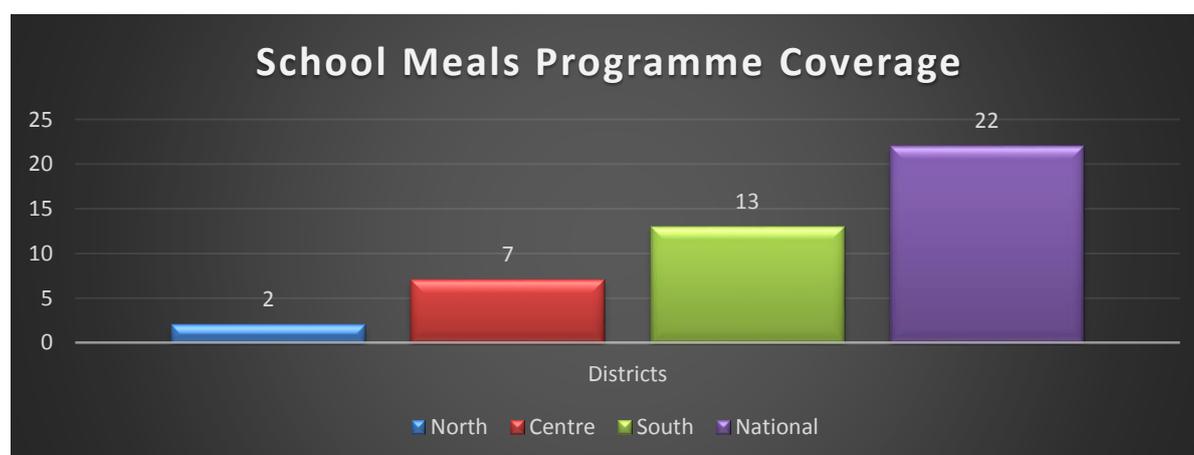


Figure 1: School meals programme coverage

Gaps & Constraints:

- The education cluster has a funding gap of US\$486,641 from the total requirement of US\$1,331,641) after the Norwegian Government has supported the cluster through the Joint Programme on Girls Education with US\$845,000 to ensure the cluster functions.
- Coordination mechanisms within the cluster are also limited due to unavailability of resources for logistical support to organize meetings. There is a need for sustaining access to learning through provision of school meals in 200 schools in the 15 most affected districts.

Preparedness

- The cluster activated 176 cluster volunteer teachers previously used for resumption of education and real time monitoring during flood emergency and recovery response and have since been trained for drought response and resilience building in schools. The cluster received financial support from UNICEF for the training which was conducted from 11 to 12 December 2015. Preparations are underway to train 24 additional volunteer teachers from Salima, Mangochi and Dedza districts to ensure adequate coverage in the targeted districts.
- The cluster, led by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology sensitized affected school communities in 20 districts where 82 schools were identified for rehabilitation and 2 schools for reconstruction and BOQs have been collected and technically verified and ready for action with Chingoli school in Mulanje and Chikonje school in Nsanje as first priority for full reconstruction through the World Bank funding.
- The cluster mobilized partners and prepared cluster work plans for the implementation of the food insecurity response plan

**Protection***Cluster Lead: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare**Co-Lead: UNICEF***Needs:**

- The cluster plans to reach all beneficiaries participating in the entire response intervention with protection interventions.
- Focus will be on strengthening capacities to mainstream, monitor, report and management of protection cases.

US\$297,294**Response:**

- 45 food distributors and monitors have been trained on protection mainstreaming, and mainstreaming has tentatively been implemented in Nsanje and Zomba.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The cluster is fully funded through the Malawi Humanitarian Fund.

Preparedness

A training package on protection mainstreaming, messages and a guideline for a complaints and feedback mechanism has been developed by the protection cluster including the GBV sub-cluster. Emergency focal points for the police and district social welfare office have been identified for affected districts.

**Water & Sanitation***Cluster Lead: Ministry of Water Development and Irrigation**Co-Lead: UNICEF***Needs:**

- The cluster though not activated will be complementing response efforts to minimize risk of disease among the affected populations. The cluster will make use of existing programs to meet the needs of affected population.
- The Cluster through UNICEF will be carrying out an assessment of WASH needs among displaced Mozambicans in Kapise in Mwanza district.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The cluster will be using resources from its development programs



Nutrition

Cluster Lead: Department of Nutrition

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:

- Continued active case identification, treatment and management of acute malnutrition among high risk groups (infants, children, pregnant and lactating, PLWHIV, etc.)
- Vitamin A supplementation, home fortification, deworming and general food distribution for high risk groups (infants, pregnant, lactating, HIV, etc.) to ensure prevention and protection, against the deterioration of nutrition situation
- Strengthening and reinforcement of nutrition surveillance systems to monitor the nutrition situation of affected communities

\$9.6 million for 35,235 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition & 86,486 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition & pregnant and lactating mothers

Response:

- Nutrition Cluster treated 1,737 Severely Malnourished Children at the NRU and OTP centers in November 2015 with therapeutic lifesaving supplies (Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), ReSoMal, Therapeutic milks (F-75 and F100) as reported by 24 out of 25 districts. In addition, treated 1,914 Severely Malnourished Children at the NRU and OTP centres in October 2015 with therapeutic lifesaving supplies (Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), ReSoMal, Therapeutic milks (F-75 and F100).
- The cluster reached 1,846 children and 971 pregnant and lactating women moderate acute malnourished through supplementary feeding program using fortified food blend super cereal plus as reported in 24 out of 25 districts. In addition, reached 2,888 children and 1,398 pregnant and lactating women moderately acute malnourished in October.
- The Cluster is distributing 3,283 cartons of life saving RUTF and 100 cartons of ReSoMal to the 25 drought affected districts for December 2015 to ensure no stock-outs of supplies in managing severe acute malnourished children. In addition, 2,520 packs of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference tapes (126,000 tapes).
- Community mobilization and mass nutrition screening for active case identification and referral for treatment is ongoing. At least 6 out of 15 priorities districts conducted mass screening week of 7th to 11th December, 2015 and the remaining 9 districts scheduled week of 14th December 2015. It is expected that more children will be admitted in CMAM program.
- The cluster conducted mentorship and supportive supervision and supplies end-user monitoring in thirteen districts (Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Thyolo, Blantyre, Balaka, Nsanje, Mchinji, Ntcheu, Rumphu, Chitipa, Karonga and Mzimba North). The field visits were part of efforts to strengthen the quality of CMAM service delivery, effectiveness in supplies utilization in the districts strategizing the district wide mass nutrition screenings.
- Routine supplementation of children aged 6 to 59 months with vitamin A capsules and deworming of children 12 to 59 months to improve their micronutrient status is ongoing.
- Finalized preparations for training district teams on Nutrition in emergencies scheduled 14th to 18th December 2015.
- Mentorship trainings for clinicians/nurses (70 in number) and home craft workers (70 in number) for improved in-patient management of SAM in Nutrition Rehabilitation Units underway from 14th to 18th December 2015.
- Nutrition Cluster held their December monthly meeting on 11th December 2015 where the response plan implementation progress was discussed and way forward drawn.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Inadequate funding to conduct mass nutrition screening in all the 25 affected districts
- Inadequate district capacity to monitor and conduct nutrition mass screening. Expected to deploy 14 Field Monitors to support the cause.
- No updated nutrition situation and expected SMART survey to provide the update.
- The cluster has mobilized \$4.6 million dollars of the \$9.6 million, funding gap.
- Availability of trained medical professionals at NRUs to lead clinical management of SAM cases using CMAM protocol is a challenge.

General Coordination

The Government of Malawi is leading the response, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), with support from humanitarian partners, including NGOs, the UN System and donors. The cluster system has been activated, and inter-cluster meetings have been taking place to ensure proper cross-sector coordination. In order to ensure strong coordination, the Food Security Cluster is meeting once a month and with the nutrition and agriculture clusters once every two months throughout the duration of the response. The Office of the Vice President, through DoDMA, continues to convene meetings of the Humanitarian Response Committee to monitor the implementation progress of the food insecurity response. Meanwhile the UN and partners also continue having the monthly Humanitarian Country Team meeting to follow up on the progress of both the response and preparedness planning for the coming season.

In addition, the DoDMA is facilitating the finalization of the 2015/16 National Contingency Plan as well as district level contingency plan reviews and coordination capacity strengthening.

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