



# MALAWI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

Prepared by the UN Disaster Management Technical Working Group

## GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI DECLARES STATE OF DISASTER

On Friday 14 October, The Government of Malawi declared a state of disaster in all areas following the wide spread hunger situation. In this statement the President expressed concern that the situation is deteriorating much faster than had been anticipated and that maize prices in many parts of the country have gone beyond initial projections.

## UPDATE ON UN FLASH APPEAL

On Tuesday 30 August, The UN system in Malawi issued a Flash Appeal. The overall purpose of the Appeal is to alert the wider international community of the seriousness of the food insecurity in Malawi and raise funds for a comprehensive approach to address the situation. Thus far, the UN system and Government of Malawi have received approximately US\$29 million against the originally required US\$88 million. Since the launch of the Flash Appeal, the situation has shown a serious deterioration, especially in the health, nutrition and food security sectors. Additionally, it is now too late for track two—the agricultural inputs component—subsequently, that project has been removed. Collectively, the UN revised requests total approximately US\$67 million. The lower figure is a result of the removal of the Agricultural Inputs Project; the revised amount also reflects increased needs in other sectors, particularly health and nutrition.

Sector Name	Original Requirements (US\$)	Revised requirements (US\$)	Commitments, contributions & uncommitted pledges (US\$)	Commitments & contributions received in kind
AGRICULTURE	36,455,000	2,000,000	7,520,658	
EDUCATION	450,000	500,000	285,000	
FOOD	48,805,869	48,955,869	18,664,250*	
HEALTH / NUTRITION	1,750,000	13,400,000	1,633,000	30 MT dried skim milk
PROTECTION	300,000	300,000	228,000	
WATER / SANITATION	0	1,700,000	100,000	
(Recipient agency & sector not yet specified)			365,854	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>87,760,869</b>	<b>66,855,869</b>	<b>28,067,102</b>	

\*A portion of these funds will be used to buy maize options

For full official updates on humanitarian funding for Malawi, including the Flash Appeal, visit [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts).

## **UPDATE ON FOOD SECURITY**

The 2 scenarios developed by the MVAC illustrate the correlation of maize prices to the number of households vulnerable to food insecurity. Under scenario 1, maize prices are assumed to rise in line with the average rate of inflation, or 35 percent above the baseline, which translates into a maize price range of MK 19.00/kg to MK 23.00/kg. In scenario 2, maize prices are assumed to reflect the import parity price of maize from South Africa plus a 5 percent mark up, resulting in a 110 percent increase in the maize prices above the baseline price, which translates into prices ranging from MK 32/kg to MK 40/kg. In scenario 1, the number of households at risk of food insecurity is estimated to be about 4.2 million, and 272,000 MT of food is required. In scenario 2, the number of households at risk increases to 4.6 million, and the food aid requirement swells to 424,000 MT.

The food security situation continues to worsen in all the districts with general maize price increases as the major indicator. Maize prices in most local markets in the Southern Region are in the scenario 2 (MK 32- MK40) of the MVAC June 05 assessment report. Other commodities are also seeing significant price increases including rice, ground nuts and beans. This is especially evident in the Southern Region, and is indicative of a rapidly deteriorating food supply situation. Maize prices are generally high for this time of the year. Prices are highest in the southern region, followed by the central and northern regions.

The MVAC has been requested to revise their report in light of new information, especially on prices, that is now available. Preliminary results of the revised report are expected to be released on 1 November 2005.

Recent media reports indicate that government intends to raise the price of ADMARC maize soon. Despite these indications, it is not clear at which price the government will sell the 30,000 MT of commercial maize being imported. The news about the imminent ADMARC price increase has raised fears that it may result in inability of even more poor households to access sufficient quantities of maize, thereby increasing the number of people at risk.

Ganyu activities (informal labour) are apparently not readily available, as the agricultural season which provides most of the ganyu activities has not yet started. Additional resources are needed to ensure that all the targeted beneficiaries are reached. This becomes increasingly important as the agricultural season approaches and people are expected to be working in their gardens. Without adequate food, many households will be forced to spend a disproportionate amount of time away from their gardens engaging in *ganyu* to earn income to buy food. This could in turn affect production, even if the country receives good rains in the next season.

The situation is further exacerbated by rising fuel prices, which are likely to increase the costs of importing maize and the costs associated with distribution of both humanitarian and commercial maize.

## **HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE—FOOD SECTOR**

From October, agencies began distributing based on 100% of the MVAC identified needs (maize only). From November, full food ration would be provided including maize, pulses and oil to 100% of those in need in all affected districts.

The volume of food aid distribution through the Joint Emergency Food Assistance Programme (JEFAP) and the logistics unit of DFID/EU continues to increase. The food distributions started in June in some of the worst affected areas in the southern region. WFP is responsible for distribution in 7 of the 12 districts in the southern region, namely: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Zomba and

Machinga. All 7 districts have started receiving the food. The Government of Malawi voucher scheme is responsible for distributing food aid in the affected districts in the rest of the south, the northern and central regions. Distribution of food has also started in 9 districts under this scheme.

Confirmed food aid pledges as at the end of September were at around 200,000 Mt. The bulk of this maize is yet to arrive in the country and this is a cause for concern for both the humanitarian pipeline and commercial requirements. It is clear that the various stakeholders are putting considerable effort into averting an even worse food crisis. However, time is of the essence, especially considering that maize can sometimes take long to arrive in country, due to various logistical problems and competition from other countries in the region as well as fertilizer imports into the country.

The Government of Malawi fertilizer subsidy programme will be implemented this planting season. The programme is intended to reduce the fertilizer price from about MK 2,500- 3,500 per 50 kg bag to MK 950 per bag. The sale of these fertilizers started anytime from September 29, 2005. The subsidies are targeting smallholder farmers who grow maize, tobacco and/or cotton. The subsidies have also been extended to include 6,000 MT of maize seed. Although there has been a significant drop in fertilizer prices due to subsidy, there are still poor households who are faced with choice of buying food or fertilizer. Timeliness in distributing this fertilizer is also important as the rainy / planting season is about to begin.

## **UPDATE ON HEALTH**

### **Cholera**

On 26 October, the Malembo Health Centre in Mangochi district reported 5 suspected cases of cholera. The first case was admitted on 20 October. UNICEF together with national counterparts carried out an assessment to confirm the suspected cases. Chlorine was used immediately for the water points and Lingers Lactate was used for treatment. These supplies had already been pre-positioned. Health workers were also mobilised to conduct dissemination campaigns to prevent further spread of the disease. Water tests are currently being conducted to identify the source of contamination.

UNICEF and Ministry of Health (MoH) this week agreed on the content for the basic hygiene package to prevent cholera. A total of 20,000 households are planned to receive this package with priority on the 15 cholera prone districts. A total of 400 packages will be distributed to various institutions. Steps have been taken to procure 450 drums of extra chlorine (all chlorine in stock has been sent to all 15 cholera prone districts). 25 drums of HTH will be procured locally and distributed to districts with reported cases.

### **Malaria prevention and control**

The preparation for the national re-treatment campaign of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) is ongoing. Approximately 2.8 million bed nets are expected to be retreated (80% of the total nets distributed), thereby providing increased protection against malaria during the crisis period. 1,000 ITNs were cleared and delivered this week to UNICEF warehouse and are now ready for distribution to NRUs on a monthly basis.

## **UPDATE ON NUTRITION SITUATION**

### **Treatment of severely malnourished children**

UNICEF currently supports 62 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) in the country through technical assistance, training and provision of specialized nutrition supplies. Procurement of specialized nutrition supplies for the treatment of severe malnutrition (F100, F75 and essential drugs) to treat up to 1,300 for

a period of eight months is complete. Some of these supplies have already been pre-positioned in the districts, others are in the UNICEF/WFP warehouse in Lilongwe and more supplies are expected to arrive by air and surface in the coming weeks.

In order to ensure that 100 percent of NRUs adhere to the WHO protocol on management of severe malnutrition, UNICEF plans to train health workers from the 32 NRUs that are not yet using the protocol. The training is expected to be completed by the end of November. Once the training is completed, the NRUs will receive F100 and F75 and other supplies, bringing the number of NRUs supported to 94.

### Supplementary feeding

The World Food Programme plans to reach approximately 92,000 children under five and 42,000 pregnant women with moderate malnutrition through supplementary feeding (dry ration of CSV plus oil). This plan represents an increase in the percentage of beneficiaries receiving supplementary feeding from 15 percent to 64 percent (there are an estimated 208,000 moderately malnourished under five children and women). In the coming week, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WFP will work with the Targeted Inputs Programme to validate baseline data for supplementary feeding; agree on target districts; and modalities for collaboration.

**Table 1. The number of children and women in need of either therapeutic or supplementary feeding**

Population Groups	Population Affected (%)	Total Expected Beneficiaries
A Populations (11,500,000)	40	4,600,000
B Children Under 5s	20	2,300,000
C Severe malnourished under 5s	2	46,000
<b>Sub-total for therapeutic feeding</b>		<b>46,000</b>
D Moderately malnourished under 5s	4	92,000
E Pregnant women (2.4% of total pop) *	15	41,400
F Lactating women (2.6% of total pop) **	25	74,750
<b>Sub-total (D+E+F) for supplementary feeding</b>		<b>208,150</b>

\* Only those moderately malnourished around 15% prevalence

\*\* Only mothers breastfeeding infants 1-6 months.

### Nutrition Survey

Training tools and the programme for the national nutrition survey have been developed. From 3-5 November, training of 54 districts trainers will take place. Data collection is scheduled to take place during the third week of November. Preliminary results will be available on 30 November and the final report is expected during the third week of December.

## EDUCATION

### School Feeding Programme

Discussions are currently taking place on the possibility of expanding school feeding. WFP plans to double the number of beneficiaries during this hunger period. Currently 249 schools benefit from WFP/UNICEF school feeding activities, reaching close to 200,000 primary school children. The identification of an additional 85 schools for the emergency school feeding programme to be supported

by GTZ has been completed. The identified schools will also be supported with the implementation of the “UNICEF package”.

### **School Sentinel Surveillance**

The Centre for Education, Research and Training (CERT) conducted an “on-the-spot” orientation of teachers on data collection in the additional 27 sentinel sites in 9 districts to be included in the school sentinel surveillance reports. Additional materials for the *Lesson-for-Life*, which will be intensified in the 4<sup>th</sup> term to help adolescents reinforce positive behaviours in the context of the humanitarian crisis, have been received from New York and will be distributed to all 967 secondary schools.

### **PROTECTION**

In response to the increasing number of reported cases of sexual exploitation, UNICEF has scaled up training of Village Relief Committees, district teams, staff of NGOs taking part in food distribution on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in collaboration with partners such as OXFAM, Concern Universal, Salvation Army Goal Malawi, Emmanuel International and WFP.

NGOs in food distribution began trainings in the Southern Region. By 7 November, a total of 200 village relief committee members will have been trained. IEC materials are now being distributed by the seven NGOs distributing food in the South including WFP. Musical tapes have been produced for distribution to truck drivers at Mwanza (truck drivers coming in with food) and at warehouses, who bring food to the distribution sites.