



# UN MALAWI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

## 6 JANUARY 2006

Prepared by the UN Disaster Management Technical Working Group

### HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

#### **Floods**

In recent weeks, parts of Malawi have experienced heavy rains and strong winds causing damage to houses, crops and livestock. The two districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje in the southern region are the worst affected as heavy rainfall since mid-December has resulted in rising water levels in the Lower Shire and Ruo River, culminating over the New Years weekend with highest levels reached. Families were forced to evacuate their houses to homes of relatives residing on higher ground. The evacuees had time to take their belongings with them, including the WFP food rations which GOAL and other NGOs had distributed to them before Christmas. Government have begun distribution of plastic sheeting for urgent roof repairs and other non-food relief items to affected households. Assessments of the damages are still being undertaken, but initial figures from GOAL and WFP state that in 6 EPAs in Chikwawa district, ie Kalambo, Mbewe, Mitole, Livuzu, Mikalango and Dolo, **551** houses have been destroyed and a total of **13,778** households affected through damage to crops, livestock and property (5,047 hectares of crops damaged). Early estimates from the four EPA's of Mlolo, Mbenje, Tengani and Malemia in Nsanje district speak of **25** houses destroyed and a total of **6,148** households affected. The number of people affected is likely to increase as the areas currently inaccessible due to flooding are assessed for damages. WFP and a number of NGO's, notably World Vision, Goal, Care and CRS, are already present in the area, the districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje being among the 23 districts receiving food assistance due to the poor 2004/2005 harvest. The UN system is presently in dialogue with Government on the type of assistance needed.

Other weather related damage since mid-December include the displacement of 702 people in Nkhata Bay where strong winds and heavy rainfall caused damage to houses. The 116 affected households are presently staying with relatives, in churches and school buildings. Also, 11 people were reported killed in Mzimba when lightning struck a church where people were attending a service.

#### **Food Security**

Further amendments have been made to the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) figures pertaining to the second food assessment, which was conducted in the period 25-30 October 2005. If looking at the whole consumption year, discounting any humanitarian interventions carried out in this period, there has been an increase in the population at risk from 4.2 million as identified in scenario one of the MVAC June Report to 5.071.000 million people. However, taking into account the various interventions, including food aid<sup>1</sup> that have already taken place to alleviate the situation, the population currently at risk of not meeting their food entitlements is 4,916,000 million. This is an increase from scenario one of 691,600 people at risk. The maize equivalent required to cover the missing food entitlements in the period of October 2005 to March 2006 has also increased by 52,700 MT to 255,000 MT, as compared to scenario one.

The Malawi Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Surveillance System November report compiled by Action Against Hunger with financial support from EU and UNICEF show an increase in wasting (a measurement of acute malnutrition) in all regions of the country. Of the three regions, the southern and central regions have the worst nutrition situation based on average weight for height measurements and wasting. In the southern region 11.6 % of children are wasted compared to 9% last year, while

<sup>1</sup> Food aid distributed up to 30 September 2005

figures reported from the central region show an increase in wasting by 4.3% to 9.1%. The situation in the northern region is comparatively better to the other regions at 6.3 %, although this is a slight increase by 1% for the region compared to same time last year. Moderate and severe acute malnutrition rates for children under 5 increased from 7.6 % in October to 13.1% in November. According to Action Against Hunger/UNICEF the admissions of severely malnourished children to 48 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) in November showed a 17% increase nationwide compared to same time last year, with the highest increase recorded in the southern region at 45 %. The increase in admissions from the month of October 2005 to November 2005 was 30% nationwide.

## **UPDATE ON HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

### **FOOD SECTOR**

WFP and the DFID supported Government Voucher Scheme (VS) continue their food aid distribution in 26 districts. WFP is responsible for distribution in 7 of the 12 districts in the southern region and for Mzimba in the northern region. The affected districts in the central region, and the remaining northern and southern districts are being covered by the Government VS. Both WFP and the Government VS plan to distribute full rations of cereals and pulses in January, and provide a third of the oil ration (1ltr.). With the general food crisis in the Southern African region, the lack of transport and blockages of transport corridors continue to create major challenges in getting food commodities into Malawi.

WFP will provide food assistance to the people affected by flooding in the Districts of Nsanje and Chikwawa. The districts are already recipients of food assistance under the WFP/JEFAP Targeted Food Distribution. The monthly beneficiary list is presently being checked to ensure that people affected by the floods are registered all receive January food rations.

### **HEALTH**

#### **Cholera**

In the period 26 December 2005 to 1 January 2006, eighty-five cases of suspected cholera have been reported in Blantyre, nineteen in Mangochi, seven in Balaka, three in Phalombe and one in Dedza. All suspected cases have been treated for cholera after samples collected from each district were tested positive. Since 1 October 2005 the total number of suspected cases reported amounts to 418. Three people have died as a result in Dedza and Blantyre.

In response to the cholera outbreak in Blantyre City, the District Health Office (DHO) dispatched two drums (50kg each) of chlorine before Christmas and is currently undertaking preventive and control activities in the affected communities. These activities include awareness campaigns, training of health workers on detection of cholera and on procedures for treatment. Water tests to identify sources of contamination have also been carried out.

The National Cholera Task Force Committee launched the National Social Mobilisation Campaign for the 2005/06 cholera season on 17 December. UNICEF is providing financial support to the community mobilisations, which include training of health workers on case management. The Cholera Campaign, which will also be carried out in the flood affected districts of Nsanje and Chikwawa, aims to raise awareness on cholera, and includes a hygiene promotion component. Presently, there have been no reports on cholera outbreaks from Nsanje and Chikwawa districts which were affected by the flooding.

## Avian Influenza

The multiple deaths of migratory birds in Ntchisi in mid-December have now been investigated. The results of the laboratory tests came back negative for avian flu. The Government of Malawi is presently preparing an Avian Influenza Emergency Preparedness Plan for Malawi. The plan which deals with animal health, wild life, and human health, includes activities such as risk assessment, disease surveillance and investigation, public awareness campaigns, procurement of pharmaceuticals and equipment, and strengthening of local technical capacity.

## Malaria prevention and control

There have been no reports on unusual increase in cases of malaria.

## NUTRITION

Several donors are supporting activities in the nutrition sector carried out by UNICEF in collaboration with Government and implementing NGO partners. These donors include Canada, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, United States, United Kingdom, Sweden, and Switzerland. The National Committees of UNICEF in United States, United Kingdom, and Sweden are also providing financial support. The activities include:

### Treatment of severely malnourished children

UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance and supplies, as well as supervision for the treatment of severely malnourished children. All Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU) are presently adequately equipped with specialised nutrition supplies. The training of health workers of 35 NRUs on the use of the new guidelines for the treatment of severely malnourished children is set to begin this month. These NRUs will be added to the 62 NRUs currently supported by UNICEF, bringing the total NRUs to 97.

### Supplementary feeding

A joint WFP/UNICEF field mission to prepare for the scale up of the supplementary feeding programme (SFP) has been completed. The mission assessed the needs for training, equipment and storage facilities for the opening of 15 new emergency centres in eleven districts starting from early January 2006. 17 priority districts have been identified for the first phase of the expanded SFP targeting, in which WFP will target approximately 100,000 moderately malnourished children, and pregnant and lactating women. These include all 13 districts in the South, three districts in the central region and one district in the North. WFP has already scaled up supplementary feeding in six districts (Dedza, Lilongwe Rural, Ntcheu, Mulanje, Thyolo and Blantyre).

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 (12,341,170*)	40	4,215,000
B Children Under 5s	20	2,468,234
C Severe malnourished under 5s	2	49,365
<b>Sub-total for therapeutic feeding</b>		<b>49,365</b>

D Moderately malnourished under 5s	6**	148,094
E Pregnant women (2.4% of total pop) ***	15	44,428
F Lactating women (2.6% of total pop) ****	25	80,218
<b>Sub-total (D+E+F) for supplementary feeding</b>		<b>272,740</b>

NSO 2004 \*\* Projected Global Acute Malnutrition of 8% (2% severe and 6% moderate) \*\*\* Only those moderately malnourished around 15% prevalence \*\*\*\* Breastfeeding mothers (0-6 months postpartum)

### **Micro Nutrient Support:**

Agreements are being finalised between UNICEF and Africare, Save the Children US and Action Against Hunger on active case identification of children under five and lactating women to be included in a distribution of Vitamin A and de-worming tablets for children under the age of five.

### **Nutrition Survey:**

All 26 districts included in the National Nutrition Survey have completed and submitted their preliminary reports. UNICEF is currently aggregating all the collected data into one single national database. The final district reports are expected to be ready by mid-January 2006.

### **Community Therapeutic Care:**

Concern Worldwide and UNICEF have entered into partnership to scale up Community Therapeutic Care (CTC) in Lilongwe district. Another agreement with Save the Children US for Mangochi district is in the process of being finalised. Technical support is being provided to Concern Worldwide to start a CTC advisory service that aims to provide training and mentorship to other NGOs that wish to involve in CTC.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Rehabilitation of Schools**

Upon request from the District Education Managers (DEM), UNICEF is currently assessing the damages done to 18 schools by floods in the districts of Nsanje and Chikwawa with a view to repairing the buildings.

### **School Feeding Programme**

WFP School Feeding Programme has been expanded from targeting 249 schools to now benefiting 482 schools and approximately 410,000 children in seven of the districts most affected by the food crisis. In addition, the programme will benefit some 8,000 pre-school children in 125 early childhood care centre (Community-Based Child Care Centres) during the lean period of January to March 2006 in the same districts.

As part of the German Government's response to the crisis, GTZ has started supporting school feeding in 138 primary schools, reaching 89,000 school children. UNICEF with financial support from United Kingdom, and Sweden, and the National Committees for UNICEF in United States and United Kingdom, contributes to both WFP and GTZ supported school feeding programmes through the provision of kitchen and feeding utensils, construction of kitchen and storage rooms and the provision of safe water and sanitation

## PROTECTION

### Sexual Exploitation:

The Swedish government and the National Committee for UNICEF in United Kingdom is presently supporting a number of activities relating to child protection through UNICEF. These include the Zero Tolerance Campaign which focuses on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child labour and trafficking especially during the humanitarian crisis. In addition, support continue to be provided to community-based organizations working with street children. Efforts are also being made to monitor the situation of children in conflict with the law and provide them with legal assistance in partnership with the National Juvenile Justice Forum and NGO partners, including Penal Reform International.

Child protection workers in Karonga district reported on increased provision of counselling to young girls around Songwe border into Tanzania. These girls work as child prostitutes by having sex in exchange of small portions of maize from traders. UNICEF provides the child protection workers and the District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) with posters and leaflets on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse

## AGRICULTURE

The Government of Malawi is providing subsidized (70% subsidy) fertilizer and seed, to 2 million smallholder farmers in the country reducing the fertilizer price from about MK 3,100-3,600 per 50 kg bag to MK 950 per bag. Of the 147,000 MT of fertilizer being procured by Government, the Smallholders Farmers Fertilizer Revolving Fund of Malawi (SFFRFM) had received 99,915 MT of fertilizers in their three main depots from suppliers by 11 December 2005 (54,151 MT of NPK and 45,764 MT of UREA). As of 29 December 2005, 124,000 MT has been drawn by ADMARC, and 52,920 MT by SFFRFM for their outlets. UNDP is providing logistical support to the Government on the fertiliser importation subsidy scheme, and assisting Government in agricultural extension public messaging.

With the support of UNDP and funding by the Swedish and Irish government, the subsidies have also been extended to include 6,000 MT of maize seed. As of date 3,900 MT of the 6,000 MT of seeds have been purchased and distributed successfully.

## UPDATE ON UN FLASH APPEAL

On Tuesday 30 August, The UN system in Malawi issued a Flash Appeal. The overall purpose of the Appeal was 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\$41 million** against the originally required US\$88 million. The UN system in Malawi has since revised the requirements in some sectors of the Appeal to address the deteriorating situation especially in the health, nutrition and food security sectors. Meanwhile, UNDP has withdrawn the agricultural inputs project, as the planting season has begun and the window of opportunity passed. Collectively, the UN revised requests now total approximately **US\$ 74 million**.

The below table indicates the current response to the UN Flash Appeal. In addition, ECHO has made a pledge of US\$1,175,913 to support activities in the nutrition, and water and sanitation sectors to be carried out by UNICEF. Also, Norway has provided in kind assistance of 81.6 mts of BP-5 biscuits. It should also be noted that a number of donors, notably the European Union and the United Kingdom have responded significantly to government's request for emergency assistance outside or prior to the

appeal. Further information regarding the contributions given outside the appeal is available from Government, while information regarding pre-appeal contributions can be found at the UN Financial Tracking Service on [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts).

RESPONSE TO UN FLASH APPEAL (updated 9 January 2006)

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Revised Requirements (US\$)	Commitments & Contributions (US\$)	Source of Funds
AGRICULTURE	36,455,000	6,971,878 2,000,000	4,767,000 1,290,244 914,634 304,878 243,902	United Kingdom Sweden Ireland Ireland Luxembourg
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>8,971,878</b>	<b>7,520,658</b>	
EDUCATION	450,000	500,000	100,000 100,000 85,000 158,730	Sweden UK Nat.Com. (NC) for UNICEF US NC for UNICEF UK NC for Unicef
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>500,000</b>	<b>443,730</b>	
FOOD	48,805,869	48,805,869 150,000	361,882 996,016 4,000,000 14,239,521 1,184,133 608,973 1,785,714 302,663 100,000	Belgium France United Kingdom United States The Netherlands Ireland Japan Spain Turkey
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>48,955,869</b>	<b>23,578,902</b>	
HEALTH & NUTRITION	1,750,000	10,500,000 2,900,000	200,000 101,503 400,000 400,000 200,000 225,694 300,000 169,856 258,175 121,951 641,026 4,823,245 750,000	UK NC for UNICEF Sweden NC for UNICEF Sweden United States United States United Kingdom US NC for UNICEF Switzerland UK (Scotland) Luxembourg Canada The Netherlands Norway
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>13,400,000</b>	<b>8,591,450</b>	
PROTECTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW	300,000	300,000	61,010 167,000	UK NC for UNICEF Sweden
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>300,000</b>	<b>228,010</b>	
WATER & SANITATION	-	1,700,000	100,000 213,675	US NC for UNICEF Canada
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>1,700,000</b>	<b>313,675</b>	
RECIPIENT AGENCY & SECTOR NOT YET SPECIFIED			51,219 525,766	US NC for Unicef Denmark
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>			<b>576,985</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>87,760,869</b>	<b>73,827,747</b>	<b>41,253,410</b>	

The US\$ 4,767,000 provided by United Kingdom was given to Government of Malawi as direct budget support against the appeal and earmarked by Government for agricultural inputs.