



## UN MALAWI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT 21 MARCH 2006

Prepared by the UN Disaster Management Technical Working Group

### **HUMANITARIAN UPDATE**

#### **Floods**

In the second week of March, parts of Malawi experienced heavy and continuous rains causing flooding and damage to houses, crops and infrastructure. The districts of Mangochi, Machinga and Salima are the worst affected districts with a total of 2,808 households affected. Families are residing with relatives or have sought temporary shelter in schools, churches and mosques. According to the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs (DoPDMA) 1,884 households were affected in the Traditional Authorities (TA) of Chowe, Chimpala and Mponda in Mangochi District. In Machinga Districts 674 households were displaced in TAs Liwonde and Mlomba, and 250 households were affected in Salima District. Other affected districts are Thyolo (44 displaced households), Balaka (14 displaced households) and Ntcheu (130 displaced households). The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security is currently assessing the extent of damage caused to crops in the flood affected areas.

In the period 9 to 12 of March Government with support from UNICEF have provided non-food relief items to the six affected districts, including blankets, plastic sheeting, pails, plates, cups, spoons and some 65 tents. On 10 March 2006, an assessment of five sites was carried out by Government Environmental Health Officers and UNICEF in Mangochi district, where an estimated 364 families have taken shelter following damages to their houses. In general the condition of the water sources in the sites were found to be acceptable, but in four of the sites sanitary facilities needed improvement. Malawi Red Cross is presently working on providing improved sanitary structures. Sufficient supplies of chlorine and Ringer's Lactate has been made available by UNICEF to prevent and control the spread of cholera. Chlorination of water points and hygiene promotions were intensified in all villages affected by floods.

5 tents with the capacity to hold 150-200 people were dispatched to Mangochi last week by UNICEF. The tents will be used by school children to restore schooling, as presently three schools in the district are occupied by displaced families. Learning materials for 22,580 children has also been forwarded. Other organisations providing assistance to flood affected households are Save the Children (USA), Asian Muslim Association, ZAMZAM Foundation, and the Anglican Church. This assistance includes blankets, maize flour, beans and cooking oil. People in the flood affected areas of Machinga and Chikwawa are already receiving food aid under the targeted food distribution (TFD) from WFP/JEFAP partners.

#### **Food Security**

The availability of affordable maize in ADMARC depots continues to be scarce and erratic across the country and maize prices in local markets remain high. In the week 2-8 March 2006, Ministry of Agriculture price data mapped by WFP, reported price increases in local markets in Lilongwe, Mchinji, Dowa and Salima districts with prices ranging from MK 55 kg to MK 70 kg. Meanwhile, Mulanje district saw a drop in maize prices from MK 52 kg to MK 37 kg, as a result of early harvesting in some parts of the district.

The Ministry of Agriculture expects to release the second round agricultural production estimates on 7 April 2006. The first round crop estimates indicated a 96% increase in maize production, e.g. a total of 2,471,126 MT of maize, as compared to last years final round crop estimate. However, past trends have shown that the difference between first and second round estimates can be quite substantial. This year it is likely the crop estimates will be lower than first projected, as parts of southern, central and northern Malawi have experienced prolonged dry spells causing extensive damage to crops. In particular, the situation in Kasungu district remains serious. According to FEWSNet, district officials estimate that the yield loss for maize, pulses, groundnuts and tobacco will range from 40% to 100%. Kasungu accounts for 8% of the total national maize production in the first round maize production estimate, with only Mzimba and Lilongwe districts expected to contribute more to the national maize production. Flooding and water logging conditions in other districts are also likely to affect the second round crop production figures downwards.

## **HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO FOOD SECURITY CRISIS**

### **FOOD SECTOR**

The targeted food distribution for March is presently underway. WFP is distributing 50 kg of cereals and 4 litres of oil in all 8 WFP/JEFAP districts. Due to a shortfall in pulses, districts with GAM levels above 10% e.g. Phalombe and Machinga will receive half a ration of pulses (5kg), while the remaining districts will receive 2 kg of pulses. The Government Voucher Scheme (GVS) is repaying a loan of pulses made by WFP which will ensure that pulses are available for all food distribution points in March. WFP expect to finish distributions to 2,097,100 beneficiaries by 31 March 2006.

Slow delivery of cereal has hampered the completion of the GVS February distribution out of Balaka depot. Districts experiencing delays in food distribution are Mangochi (90% complete), Balaka (85% complete), and Ntcheu (70% complete). February distribution in all other districts in the Southern Region has been completed. All cereal coming into the Southern Region is now being directed to Balaka to speed up the delayed February distribution in these three districts. The GVS February food distribution in the Northern and Central Region has been completed with the exception of a small balance in Chipita, which is delayed due to transport difficulties.

In March the GVS plan to distribute 50 kg maize, 10 kg of pulses and 1litre oil targeting 2,804,367 beneficiaries. March distribution has commenced in Karonga, Rumphi, Mchinji, Salima and Dedza. The GVS expect to complete March distributions by the April 7.

A decision has been made at the Joint Food Security Task Force to extend the targeted food distribution till end-April 2006 for selected districts. This is mainly due to delayed on-set of rains; prolonged dry spells in some areas which will likely lead to late harvesting; high malnutrition rates; flooding; and high and continued rise in maize prices and prices of other foods during the 2005/06 season. The April distributions will be carried out by WFP, as the Government Voucher Scheme distributions come to an end with the March distribution. 14 out of 26 districts will have food aid interventions extended till April 2006, namely: Phalombe, Machinga, Nsanje, Dowa, Ntchisi, Lilongwe, Kasungu, Mchinji, Salima, Dedza, Rumphi, Chitipa, Karonga, and Mzimba. All the districts in the northern region and Kasungu in the Central Region will receive a full ration of 50kg cereals, 10 kg pulses and 4 l oil. The remaining districts will receive half rations.

## HEALTH

### Cholera

The cholera outbreak is continuing its downward trend with fewer cases being reported weekly. According to the Ministry of Health, a total number of **265** cases of suspected cholera and **2** deaths were reported in the week of 6-12 March 2006. Blantyre and Lilongwe were the worst affected districts with **73** and **56** cases, respectively. The total number of reported cholera cases since beginning of October 2005 now stands at **4,157** and **51** deaths, which is significantly higher than the 851 cases reported same time last year. The cholera cases are distributed across the districts as follows:

Districts	Cholera Cases	Deaths
Blantyre	1108	12
Mangochi	751	12
Ntcheu	292	0
Balaka	234	0
Lilongwe	223	6
Dedza	211	1
Salima	199	3
Nsanje	190	1
Machinga	182	3
Chiradzulu	179	4
Chikwawa	130	5
Mulanje	115	0
Zomba	90	0
Mwanza	87	1
Phalombe	70	0
Thyolo	33	0
Kasungu	33	0
Dowa	30	1

To date more than 1100 cases of cholera have been reported in Blantyre. In response to the cholera outbreak the City Council of Blantyre with support from UNICEF has been organizing the removal of rubbish around public places and schools, as well as intensifying the social mobilisation campaigns and chlorinating water sources to prevent further outbreaks of cholera. Social mobilisation campaigns have also been undertaken by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF nationwide through radio and television.

### Avian Influenza

An avian flu meeting, hosted jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, was held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February to appraise donors of preparedness activities undertaken by Government to deal with a possible outbreak of Avian Influenza in the country. These activities include an Avian Influenza Emergency Preparedness Plan and an Implementation Plan for Malawi developed by government with technical support from WHO and FAO. The two plans focus on animal health, wild life, and human health and comprises activities such as risk assessment, disease surveillance and investigation, public awareness campaigns, procurement of pharmaceuticals and equipment, and strengthening of local technical capacity. Commercial poultry producers are participants in the implementation plan and have

agreed to comply with all required bio-sanitary controls and manage the immediate areas surrounding their location in the case of an HN51 outbreak.

An estimated MK 70,000,000 is required to undertake identified priority activities in the National Preparedness Plan. Presently, USAID has provided 25,000 US\$ towards surveillance activities and pledged an additional 75,000 US\$. Taiwan will be contributing with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and MK 1 Million. The Government of Malawi are also pledging resources towards surveillance activities totalling MK10 million. Other pledges have been received from WHO, FAO, DFID, Norway, and NGOs.

## **NUTRITION**

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

Recently, a training of health workers from 35 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU) on the use of the new guidelines for the treatment of severely malnourished children was completed. This week, the UNICEF supplied the 35 NRUs with therapeutic milk (F-100 and F-75) together with other items such as blankets, kitchen utensils, plastic buckets and basins, bed nets, drug kits, soap, and specialised nutrition supplies. WFP is providing Likuni phala, oil and sugar to children in the NRUs. Caretakers of severely malnourished children also receive food support from WFP in the form of maize meal or rice, oil and pulses. UNICEF and WFP are now supporting 97 NRUs countrywide.

### **Supplementary feeding**

WFP is providing supplementary food to 42,845 moderately malnourished children (29,302) and women (13,543) under their regular Country Programme. WFP in collaboration with UNICEF is also implementing an Emergency Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) in 14 districts benefiting a total of 38,406 beneficiaries (25,133 moderately malnourished children and 13,273 pregnant and lactating women). In total 81,251 moderately malnourished children and women are benefiting from the Supplementary Feeding Programme. Emergency Supplementary feeding refresher trainings are presently being carried out by various NGOs and the Ministry of Health. The trainings have been completed in some districts. Screening of under-five children and pregnant and lactating women is continuing in all districts and malnourished children are being referred to the Supplementary Feeding centers.

### **Nutritional Support to children living with HIV/AIDS**

WFP, WHO, FAO and UNICEF this week signed an agreement on a joint programme on food security and nutrition support for people living with and/or are affected by HIV/AIDS in line with the millennium development goals. Activities of this joint programme will revolve around treatment, care and mitigation of HIV/AIDS. Implementation will take place between January 2006 and December 2007.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Emergency School Feeding Programme**

School feeding is ongoing in 620 schools throughout Malawi. WFP School Feeding Programme has been expanded from targeting 249 schools to now benefiting 482 schools. The Emergency School Feeding Programme will benefit a total of 200,000 pupils and 8,933 pre-school children in 125 Community-Based Child Care Centres during the lean period of

January to March 2006, in addition to the 210,000 pupils which are already being targeted under WFP's Country Programme. A total of 14 districts are receiving support under the School Feeding Programme.

As part of the German Government's response to the crisis, GTZ supports school feeding in 138 primary schools, reaching 89,000 school children. UNICEF with financial support from Netherlands and the UK National Committees for UNICEF 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

## **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, 139,413 MT of fertilizers had arrived in country by 8 March 2006. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the fertiliser subsidy programme has resulted in an increase in agricultural input availability and uptake by smallholder farmers in the country. Based on sale figures and the short time by which the subsidised fertiliser sold out, the demand and uptake has been high in most districts.

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. 4,700 MT of the 6,000 MT of seeds have been purchased and distributed to ADMARC and SFFRFM.

FAO with financial support from Ireland and Luxembourg has provided planting materials for cassava, sweet potatoes, and seed for improved and recommended varieties of soya beans, *phaseolus* beans as well as ground nuts to 6,000 small holder farmers. The agricultural inputs were distributed to the beneficiary households in 7 district in the Southern Region to multiply and redistribute to other households in their locality. Ministry of Agriculture Field Officers have received training to aid proper implementation of the activities of the project.

## **UPDATE ON UN FLASH APPEAL**

On Tuesday 30 August 2005, 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 Government led comprehensive approach to address the situation. Thus far, the UN system and Government of Malawi have received approximately **US\$56 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. UNDP withdrew 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. It should 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 20 March 2006)**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Requirements (US\$)</b>	<b>Revised Requirements (US\$)</b>	<b>Commitments &amp; Contributions (US\$)</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>
AGRICULTURE	36,455,000	6,971,878 2,000,000	914,634 301,125 242,455 1,290,244 4,767,000 290,000	Ireland Ireland Luxembourg Sweden United Kingdom Spain
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>8,971,878</b>	<b>7,805,458</b>	
EDUCATION	450,000	500,000	400,000 158,730	Netherlands UK NC for Unicef
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>500,000</b>	<b>558,730</b>	
FOOD	48,805,869	48,805,869 150,000	361,882 996,016 608,973 1,785,714 168,823 339,213 13,013,892 1,184,133 292,401 100,000 4,000,000 14,239,521	Belgium France Ireland Japan Luxembourg Luxembourg Malawi Netherlands Spain Turkey United Kingdom United States
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>48,955,869</b>	<b>37,090,568</b>	
HEALTH & NUTRITION	1,750,000	10,500,000 2,900,000	427,350 525,766 764,343 121,065 3,200,000 381,840 750,000 644,330 101,503 169,856 258,175 361,010 400,000 200,000 485,000 51,219	Canada Denmark ECHO Luxembourg Netherlands Norway Norway Sweden Sweden NC for Unicef Switzerland UK (Scotland) UK NC for Unicef United States United States US NC for Unicef US NC for Unicef
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>13,400,000</b>	<b>8,841,457</b>	
PROTECTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW	300,000	300,000	400,000	Netherlands
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>300,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	
WATER & SANITATION	-	1,700,000	427,350 411,569 800,000 51,816	Canada ECHO Netherlands UK NC for Unicef
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>		<b>1,700,000</b>	<b>1,690,735</b>	
AGENCY & SECTOR NOT YET SPECIFIED				
<b>Sector Subtotal</b>			-	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>87,760,869</b>	<b>73,827,747</b>	<b>56,386,948</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.