



UN MALAWI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

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Prepared by the UN Disaster Management Technical Working Group

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

FLOODS

According to assessments carried out by Government/WFP/GOAL an estimated 35,576 households were affected by the floods, which occurred in Chikwawa and Nsanje during the last week of December and the first days of January. Many families were forced to evacuate their houses and stay in homes of relatives and friends residing on higher ground. One life was lost, when a vehicle was washed away with the floods. Three weeks after the flood water subsided accessibility to the most affected areas did improve, but the destruction of roads and bridges in some Traditional Authorities (TA) will continue to hamper passage of vehicles until reconstruction of infrastructure has taken place.

In total 9,824 hectares of crop fields were damaged in the districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje. While some farmers have returned to their fields and have begun replanting hoping to salvage part of the March harvest, the situation is precarious as the area remains prone to further flooding before the rainy season tapers off in March. The loss of crops due to flooding increases the risk of continued food insecurity in these areas.

Government have initially responded to the needs of the flood affected communities by providing 6 MT of the hybrid maize seed donated by Monsanto Malawi Limited to Chikwawa District, and food and non-food relief items to a 1,000 households in Nsanje and 1,000 households in Chikwawa. The latter comprising 1,000 bags of maize flour (20 kg), 50 bags of salt (20kg), 100 rolls of plastic sheets, 5,000 plastic cups, and 3,680 plastic plates. In addition, UNICEF have made 600 survival kits available to Government for immediate distribution, each containing two blankets, two mosquito nets, two tarpaulins, a jerry can, soap, three bottles of water guard, and cooking utensils and pots. UNICEF continues to provide non-food relief items up to a total of 3,000 households through Government. Logistical support is also provided to Government by UNICEF for the distribution of relief items.

A number of NGO's have taken steps to assist families in the affected areas. Danchurch Aid by way of local partners ELDS and CARD, are distributing non-food relief items to 1,300 households in Chikwawa and 1,200 households in Nsanje, respectively. The items are similar to those provided by Government, but include tents for temporary shelter. Likewise, Malawi Red Cross Society is planning to assist approximately 2,500 households in Nsanje, Chikwawa and Mangochi covering shelter needs, and water and sanitation, including material for provisional latrines.

UNICEF will shortly commence the rehabilitation of damaged water installations and sanitation facilities in the affected area through the NGO partners World Vision and Fresh Water. Repairs to nine schools in the districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo and Mulanje will also be carried out.

In terms of food aid, WFP is scaling up their targeted food distribution (TFD) to include flood affected households who are not already receiving assistance through the monthly TFD programme. An estimated 80% of the flood affected families are already registered under the targeted food aid distribution. Out of 13,778 flood affected households in Chikwawa, 2,756

households are being registered as new beneficiaries. The latest report from GOAL in Nsanje indicates that approximately 21,500 households have been affected by floods. Out of these 18,799 have been affected through loss of crop only. WFP is operating with two categories of food aid beneficiaries. The first are moderately affected households who have temporarily become food insecure, but are expected to have recuperated at least partially within 4-6 weeks. These households will receive a one month TFD ration, following which their need for further assistance will be revised. The second include the severely affected households who have become food insecure to the extent they will not be able to recuperate in the medium to long term. These households will receive a TFD ration for 3 months. Households that have lost crops due to floods are not necessarily considered food insecure presently, but may well become in future.

WFP will furthermore be carrying out a three month food distribution to 124 displaced households in Nkhata Bay. The households that were displaced, when heavy storms caused roof damages to houses on 24 December, 2005 will receive maize, pulses and vegetable oil.

Heavy rainfall and flooding in neighbouring Mozambique reportedly prompted approximately 1,500 households from 14 villages in Mozambique to cross the border into Malawi seeking temporary shelter. The Mozambicans have settled near Phokera School in TA Mbenje (Nsanje), where land has been allocated to them by a local Chief. WFP visited the site in Nsanje and found that many of the Mozambicans are staying with friends and family. Early estimates indicate 500 households may be in need of assistance, but further investigations are ongoing.

On 16 January, 2006 floods occurred in Southern part of Mangochi Boma, as Nasenga River overflowed following a period of heavy rains. The initial assessment suggests 102 households in seven villages were affected by the floods, but numbers may rise once the assessment has been finalised. Government have initially responded to the needs of the flood affected communities by providing plastic sheeting.

OUTBREAK OF ARMY WORMS

The Ministry of Agriculture has reported outbreaks of army worms in 19 districts, Lilongwe Agricultural Development Division being the worst affected. A total of 27,445 hectares of cultivated land nationwide have been affected with 2,638 hectares of maize completely destroyed. The army worm attack occurred in the following districts: Lilongwe, Dedza, Ntcheu, Kasungu, Ntchisi, Salima and Nkhotakoka in the Central Region; Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Mulanje, Blantyre, Machinga, Zomba, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Neno, Balaka in the Southern Region; and Karonga and Chitipa in the north. Government has provided sumicidin to all affected areas in an effort to control the outbreak and distributed maize seeds for replanting donated by Monsanto Malawi Limited.

FOOD SECURITY

The food security situation in the country remains serious as the availability of affordable maize in ADMARC depots continues to be scarce and erratic across the country. In general maize prices in local markets have remained high, but stable, with prices ranging from MK 32/kg to MK60/kg depending on supply and specific market location.

The preliminary results of the National Nutrition Survey conducted in December 2005 which took place in 26 districts in Malawi has noted global acute malnutrition levels ranging from 2.7 % in Dowa in the Central Region to 12.2% in Machinga in the Southern Region. A total of 3 districts have global acute malnutrition rates above 10%, two of them in the Southern region

while one is in the Central Region. A total of 11 districts recorded malnutrition rates between 5 % and 9.9% while the remaining 9 districts had malnutrition level below 5 %. This distribution of malnutrition closely matches the picture painted by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment report of May and November 2005. The Survey was conducted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) with technical and financial support from UNICEF. The National Statistical Office (NSO), University of Malawi, Action Against Hunger (AAH) and other stakeholders provided technical assistance at district level. A final national report is expected shortly.

According to Action Against Hunger/UNICEF the admissions of severely malnourished children to 48 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) in December showed a 38% increase nationwide compared to same time last year, the highest increase recorded in the Central Region at 47 %. The increase in admissions from the month of November to December, 2005 was 63% nationwide. The total number of admissions in December were 1,410.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO FOOD SECURITY CRISIS

FOOD SECTOR

In January, WFP and the DFID supported Government Voucher Scheme (VS) continued the targeted food aid distribution in 26 districts to a total of 4,350,734 beneficiaries. Full rations of cereals (50 kg) and pulses (10 kg) and a third of the oil ration (1ltr.) are being distributed totalling 49,130 MT of food commodities.

The lack of transport, blockages of transport corridors, and poor performance of some of the main food suppliers continue to create major challenges in getting food commodities into Malawi. WFP report that the food is trickling into the country slowly in January and it may eventually result in a pipeline break. WFP and the Government VS intend to reduce the distribution of pulses to 5 kg in the February distribution, due to short supply to both schemes. The shortage of supplies in February is unfortunate, as it is at the peak of the hungry season. Additionally, the Government VS may face a serious pipeline break in cereals in the month of March, unless new donations are made immediately, exacerbating the already precarious situation.

HEALTH

Cholera

In the period 9 to 15 January, 2006, a total of 163 cases of suspected cholera and 5 deaths were reported by the Ministry of Health as follows: Blantyre (**81** cases and **2** deaths), Mangochi (**49** cases and **1** death), Phalombe (**11** cases and **1** death), Salima (**5** cases and **1** death), Balaka (**6** cases), Dedza (**4** cases), Lilongwe (**3** cases), Ntcheu (**2** cases), and Machinga (**2** cases). 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 650. Eight people have died as a result of cholera in representing a case fatality rate of 1.2%.

WHO is providing cholera medical supplies to the Ministry of Health and supporting internet connectivity in Blantyre, Mangochi and Balaka to enhance timely reporting on communicable diseases. Internet connectivity will be extended to all districts by end of month.

Cholera in urban Blantyre continues to be a major problem (91 suspected cases between 1-13 January), especially in areas with unplanned settlements. A recent UNICEF field mission

found that a number of unplanned settlements had not been provided with safe water in the past four months. Blantyre City in collaboration with UNICEF will now embark on activities to improve service delivery in terms of safe water, sanitation facilities and waste management. Furthermore, the social mobilisation campaign will be intensified to prevent the cholera outbreak from spreading further.

Sanitary and water quality testing conducted in Zomba and Dowa in the week 6 to 13 January, 2006 indicated water contamination at household level were as high as respectively 50% and 52%. The District Health Offices have taken measures to address the problem.

Avian Influenza

WHO and FAO have provided technical support to the Government of Malawi in 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.

Rapid Health Assessment

Data analysis is just being finalised on the Rapid Health Assessment facilitated by WHO. The Rapid Health Assessment Report, which covers 10 food insecure districts, will be made available within 2 weeks.

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. Additional tents have been procured to provide extra space at the Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU's) to cope with the increased caseload of severely malnourished children. Likewise, additional supplies of therapeutic milk (F-100 and F-75) have been dispatched to all the NRUs together with other items such as blankets, kitchen utensils, plastic buckets and basins, bed nets, drug kits, soap and specialised nutrition supplies.

Supplementary feeding

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. The scale-up of supplementary feeding began in the six districts of Dezda, Lilongwe Rural, Ntcheu, Mulanje, Thyolo and Blantyre in December, and will expand further to the remaining 11 districts by the end of January in coordination with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF. 13 districts are being targeted in the southern region, three in the central region and one in the northern region. However, the preliminary results

of the National Nutrition Survey do indicate that an additional three districts may be in need of supplementary feeding, ie. Nkhotakota, Karonga and Rumpfi. UNICEF will collaborate with a number of NGO's on community screening and referral of moderately and severely malnourished children in the 17 districts.

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 |
| Sub-total for therapeutic feeding | | 49,365 |
| 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 |
| Sub-total (D+E+F) for supplementary feeding | | 272,740 |

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)

Micronutrient Support

UNICEF has received reports of an increase in cases of pellagra. The World Health Organisation, UNICEF and World Food Programme will further investigate these reports. Cases of pellagra in Malawi were last reported in 1990 after ground nuts were removed from general rations. UNICEF will take the opportunity to also monitor for Scurvy and Beri-beri and ensure that treatment is procured in the form of Vitamin B3 (Niacin), Vitamin C and Vitamin B1 (Thiamine).

EDUCATION

Emergency School Feeding Programme

WFP School Feeding Programme has been expanded from targeting 249 schools to now benefiting 482 schools in seven of the districts most affected by the food crisis in the South. The Emergency School Feeding Programme will benefit a total of 200,000 pupils and 8,164 pre-school children in 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.

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 continues 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.

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 112,244 MT of fertilizers in their three main depots from suppliers by 19 January 2006. 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.

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, 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.

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 |
| Sector Subtotal | | 8,971,878 | 7,520,658 | |
| 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 |
| Sector Subtotal | | 500,000 | 443,730 | |
| 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 |
| Sector Subtotal | | 48,955,869 | 23,578,902 | |
| 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 |
| Sector Subtotal | | 13,400,000 | 8,591,450 | |
| PROTECTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW | 300,000 | 300,000 | 61,010 167,000 | UK NC for UNICEF Sweden |
| Sector Subtotal | | 300,000 | 228,010 | |
| WATER & SANITATION | - | 1,700,000 | 100,000 213,675 | US NC for UNICEF Canada |
| Sector Subtotal | | 1,700,000 | 313,675 | |
| RECIPIENT AGENCY & SECTOR NOT YET SPECIFIED | | | 51,219 525,766 | US NC for Unicef Denmark |
| Sector Subtotal | | | 576,985 | |
| Grand Total | 87,760,869 | 73,827,747 | 41,253,410 | |

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.