



UN MALAWI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT 21 April 2006

Prepared by the UN Disaster Management Technical Working Group

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Floods

In the first and second week of April parts of Karonga and Nkhata Bay district experienced heavy rains causing flooding and damage to houses, crops and infrastructure. According to the initial reports of the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs (DoPDMA) some 3,250 households in the areas of Kaporo and Hara/Chilumba in Karonga District, were affected by flooding, when heavy rainfall on the nights of 4th and 5th April caused the Lufirya and Songwe River and the tributaries Kasisi, Mpherere and Kyungu to burst its banks. In response DoPDM provided basic relief items to 200 families that were most affected. In addition, UNICEF dispatched chlorine, Oral Re-hydration Salt (ORS), mosquito nets, powder for water purification, cups/plates, buckets, soap, plastic sheets and blankets to Karonga.

In Nkhata Bay preliminary figures indicates 3,433 households affected by floods, including 50-60 displaced households in the Traditional Authorities of Malanda, Malengamzoma, Fukamapiri, Mankhambira, Mkumbira, and Zilakoma. The displaced families are currently residing with relatives and in churches. These families have now returned according to UNICEF. The damages are still being assessed and figures being verified. In early response, DoPDMA has sent relief items (such as maize, salt, blankets, plastic pails and plastic cups) to address the immediate needs. In addition, UNICEF which has assisted the DoPDMA with provision of blankets, cups/plates, plastic sheets and Oral Re-hydration Salt (ORS) and chlorine to prevent outbreaks of cholera.

As the flooding coincided with the school holidays (which will last until 2 May), this has caused no immediate interruptions in the learning activities for the children.

Food Security

Maize prices in the southern region of Malawi have been decreasing in the last month, as people have begun harvesting their maize and the supply of food commodities in the market has improved. There have been no significant changes in the price of maize in the central and northern region yet.

In the period 23-28 April 2006 the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) will conduct its annual field assessments in the following 13 Districts: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Kasungu, Mzimba, Dowa, Ntchisi, Salima, Mangochi, Phalombe, Zomba, Rumphu, and Karonga. Six teams will meet with local authorities, visit markets, and interview villagers carrying out household economy surveys to assess levels of vulnerability in the selected areas. A separate nutrition assessment will be conducted parallel to the MVAC assessment in three livelihood zones in Mzimba, Kasungu and Phalombe districts over the coming week starting from 22 April. The respective outcomes of the MVAC food assessment and the nutrition assessment will subsequently be integrated into one final report. The nutrition assessment will focus on anthropometric indicators, care practices, livelihoods, wealth, morbidity and mortality indicators.

It is anticipated that the preliminary findings of the MVAC field assessment will be presented to decision makers and donors in the second week of May 2006, following which the final MVAC report will be released in mid-June 2006.

The Ministry of Agriculture released its Second Round Agricultural Production Estimates on 6 April 2006. As expected the floods and prolonged dry spells in certain districts have negatively affected the crop estimates compared to the first round crop estimates. The second round crop production estimates total 2,35 Mio MT of maize, a decrease by 120,967 MT from the first estimates of 2,47. However, this is still a vast improvement to last year's final round crop estimate of 1,2 Mio MT.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO FOOD SECURITY CRISIS

FOOD SECTOR

The targeted food distribution for March and February is still underway in some Government Voucher Scheme (GVS) districts. As of 20 April 2006, distribution had been completed in Karonga, Rumphi and most of Central Region. Likewise, distribution in Mwanza and Neno districts in the Southern Region had been finalised. However, significant delays are presently experienced in Thyolo, Blantyre, Mangochi, Balaka and Ntcheu with distribution not expected to be completed until end of this week. In Chitipa district distribution is expected to resume on 24 April following repairs to a collapsed bridge. The GVS March ration per household is 50 kg maize, 10 kg of pulses and 1litre oil targeting a total of 2,804,367 beneficiaries. The GVS targeted food aid scheme ends with the March distribution.

14 out of 26 districts have had food aid interventions extended up to April 2006, namely: Phalombe, Machinga, Nsanje, Dowa, Ntchisi, Lilongwe, Kasungu, Mchinji, Salima, Dedza, Rumphi, Chitipa, Karonga, and Mzimba. This is mainly due to delayed on-set of rains; prolonged dry spells in some areas leading 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. WFP began April distributions on April 6, and will include ten districts previously covered by the Government Voucher Scheme. All the districts in the Northern Region and Kasungu district 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

According to the Ministry of Health, a total number of **104** cases of suspected cholera and **1** death was reported in the period 27 March to 9 April 2006. Blantyre and Lilongwe were the worst affected districts with **28** and **22** cases, respectively. For the period 10 - 16 April 2006, Ministry of Health reported 35 outbreaks of cholera. The reported cases for the period include Blantyre (8), Mangochi (7), Nsanje (7), Machinga (4), Chikwawa (3), Thyolo (2), Balaka (2) and Lilongwe (2). No deaths have been reported during this period as a result.

The total number of reported cholera cases since October 17, 2005 now stands at **4,433** and **55** deaths with an overall case fatality rate of 1.2%. The Epi Curve peaked in mid-February with 655 cases reported in a week and has since been declining steadily. Social mobilisation campaigns continue in districts affected by cholera up to end of April.

Avian Influenza

The Government of Malawi with technical support from WHO and FAO has prepared an Avian Influenza Emergency Preparedness Plan and a 1-year Implementation Plan. The two plans focus on animal health, wild life, and human health and include 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 H5N1 outbreak. A national communication and social mobilization campaign to raise public awareness on Avian Flu has also been developed by Government through the Ministry of Information and other relevant line ministries support by UNICEF. Department of Animal Health working with FAO has completed a comprehensive proposal which addresses all the above mentioned activities, including a proposal for a compensation plan.

UNICEF is also supporting the UN Country Team with procurement of drugs and vaccines for UN staff and their families as part of the UN Contingency Plan on Avian Flu.

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 has contributed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and MK 1 Million. The Government of Malawi has pledged resources towards surveillance activities totalling MK10 million (approx \$85,000). Other pledges have been received from DFID and Norway.

NUTRITION

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, which will run to June 2006.

Therapeutic Feeding

All 97 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) that are supported by UNICEF have received adequate supplies (including F-100 and F-75) to cover the anticipated needs until May. Orders for the May distribution to both the NRUs and the supported Community based Therapeutic Care (CTC) are currently being prepared. WFP provides food supplies to care takers on monthly basis to the same NRUs

Support to Community Therapeutic Care (CTC)

In response to the food crisis, CTC has been scaled up and is now been arranged with support from UNICEF for a total of 13 districts (Lilongwe, Dowa, Nkhotakota, Salima, Balaka, Mzimba, Mangochi, Mulanje Thyolo, Dedza, Ntcheu, Phalombe and Nsanje districts) through

NGO partners (such as Concern Worldwide, Valid International, and Management Science for Health (MSH), MSF-Belgium, St Louis Nutrition Project and Save the Children US) and Ministry of Health.

Terms of Reference (ToR) for a newly established CTC Steering Committee are currently being drafted. The Steering Committee has been established to provide strategic directions for CTC on management of severe malnutrition at community level. The Committee comprises of UNICEF, WHO and WFP together with Ministry of Health and the Office of President and Cabinet-Nutrition and HIV department.

EDUCATION

Emergency School Feeding Programme

School feeding continues in 670 schools throughout Malawi in 14 districts. WFP School Feeding Programme has been expanded from targeting 249 schools to benefiting 482 schools. The School Feeding Programme is benefiting a total of 410,000 primary school pupils. While these schools will continue to receive support under WFP's regular school feeding programme, the support to some 8,933 pre-school children in 125 Community-Based Child Care Centres ceased end of March. WFP has also got private donations to improve storage facilities for the schools as well as provide them with fuel efficient stoves .

Consequently, WFP and UNICEF have agreed to use an in-kind donation of BP-5s (80 metric tonnes) from the Norwegian Government in continuation of the programme for a period of four months. Guidelines for the use have already been prepared by UNICEF and the distribution is currently being coordinated with WFP

GTZ will continue its support of 188 schools up to end of April. 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

EVALUATION OF 2005/2006 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Ministry of Agriculture is presently preparing to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the 2005/2006 Emergency Response. Terms of Reference have been drawn up for a team of 5 consultants, who will review the response in the following four modules: 1) Humanitarian Assistance, 2) Maize procurement, 3) Safety net activities, and 4) Subsidised inputs. The European Commission has indicated its willingness to fund the evaluation exercise. The bidding process will close on April 24 2006 following which the Executive Steering Committee will meet to review the bids. Expected arrival date in Malawi for the team of consultants is May 1, 2006. The evaluation is scheduled for completion by end of June 2006.

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\$57,5 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 had 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. Contribution in kind has also been received from Catholic Relief Services totaling 260.688 MT of Vegetable Oil and 369.75 MT of Pulses and 80 metric tonnes of BP-5s from the Norwegian Government for supplementary feeding purposes. 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.

RESPONSE TO UN FLASH APPEAL (updated 20 March 2006)

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Revised Requirements (US\$)	Commitments & Contributions (US\$)	Source of Funding
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
Sector Subtotal		8,971,878	7,805,458	
EDUCATION	450,000	500,000	400,000 17,310 158,730	Netherlands CIDA UK NC for Unicef
Sector Subtotal		500,000	576,040	
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
Sector Subtotal		48,955,869	37,090,568	
HEALTH & NUTRITION	1,750,000	10,500,000 2,900,000	427,350 525,766 764,343 592,415 121,065 3,200,000 387,517 750,000 644,330 101,503 169,856 545,455 258,175 361,010 400,000 200,000 485,000 51,219	Canada Denmark ECHO Ireland Luxembourg Netherlands Norway Norway Sweden Sweden NC for Unicef Switzerland UK UK (Scotland) UK NC for Unicef United States United States US NC for Unicef US NC for Unicef
Sector Subtotal		13,400,000	9,985,004	
PROTECTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW	300,000	300,000	400,000	Netherlands
Sector Subtotal		300,000	400,000	
WATER & SANITATION	-	1,700,000	427,350 411,569 800,000 51,816	Canada ECHO Netherlands UK NC for Unicef
Sector Subtotal		1,700,000	1,690,735	
AGENCY & SECTOR NOT YET SPECIFIED				
Sector Subtotal			-	
Grand Total	87,760,869	73,827,747	57,547,805	

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.