



UN MALAWI HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

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HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

FLOODS

In recent weeks, parts of Malawi have experienced floods and strong winds causing damages to houses, crops and livestock. The districts of Chikwawa, Salima, Mulanje, Blantyre, Nkhata Bay, and Machinga are among the adversely affected areas. One of the worst affected districts is Chikwawa where heavy rainfall in Mozambique caused the Mwanza River to burst its banks. A joint assessment team comprising participants from Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs (DoPDMA), UN Resident Coordinator's Office, WFP, FAO, UNICEF, Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), World Vision (WVI), and Islamic Relief visited the district to assess the damages caused by the floods on Sunday, 26th November 2006. In total 6,632 farm families¹ are estimated to have lost their crops and approximately 110 houses have collapsed, while others are damaged. 4 lives were reportedly lost when 2 women and 2 children were swept away by floods while working in their gardens.

The floods are affecting people mainly through the loss of crops. Many people had planted their first crops, although the team also came across farmers who were preparing to plant for the first time this season. Most villages have identified seeds as their priority need. FAO and the District Agricultural Development Office are taking steps to

distribute seeds to the worst affected households.

In villages Mtombosola 1, Mtombosola 2 and Chikaoneka the water level had risen to more than ½ meter and destroyed some of the mud and stick houses, whereas most brick houses had withstood the floods. The brick houses are in some cases still uninhabitable due to dampness in the houses and wet mud deposited on the floors. UNICEF has provided Survival Kits to the District Commissioner's Office for distribution to the affected households, while tents have been distributed by MRCS to the worst affected communities. For the month of December, Government has provided a food basket to the households who have lost their homes. This basket comprises of maize grain/flour, vegetable oil, salt and pulses. Upon request from Government, WFP will look into including the 110 households in their ongoing Targeted Food Distribution (TFD) Programme from January to March.

To date no cases of cholera have been identified in the flood affected areas, although water sources were submerged and latrines overflowed in some communities. The cholera situation is still being monitored. In Mtombosola 1 and Chikaoneka some villagers have taken initial steps to prepare for a move upland by allocating plots and clearing land. Islamic Relief is looking into the possibilities of establishing water points for the resettled communities from Mtombosola 1 and Chikaoneka. The resettled villages will be targeted under Islamic Relief's Water and

¹ A farm family equals five family members

Sanitation project and receive a new water point², sanitary platforms and training on the importance of good sanitation in addition to hygiene awareness training.

FOOD SECURITY

Despite a good harvest this year, a total of **833,000 people**³ will have little or no food at some point before end of March 2007 according to the estimates of the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC). In addition, 147,800 people are at risk of not meeting their food entitlements if the household economy deteriorates further as a result of high maize prices.

The Government of Malawi has requested WFP's assistance in providing an initial food aid response to the vulnerable households, which are not covered by other food related interventions carried out by NGO's and MASAF⁴. A total of **18,578 MT** of different food commodities will be required by WFP to meet the MVAC missing food entitlements in the period January 2007 to March 2007. This figure excludes requirements by other on-going WFP emergency interventions such as emergency school feeding, supplementary feeding, food for assets, and support to people affected or infected by HIV/AIDS at community level.

To date WFP have received the following confirmed contributions towards PRRO 10310 to facilitate the food aid response:

- 10,000 MT of maize from Government as an in-kind contribution to WFP.
- US\$872,500 from Netherlands as twinning funds to cover associated costs of moving 7,549 MT of maize from the Strategic Grain Reserves.
- €1 million from EC/Brussels for local purchase of maize and pulses.

Taking into account these resources, the total commodity shortfall in the PRRO 10310 to meet the MVAC needs and the other emergency interventions for the period January 2007 through March 2007 is **16,372 MT**. This is equivalent to **US\$5,876,678** at full cost recovery

The following are pledged contributions which will help meet the above mentioned shortfall once received:

- €1.6 million pledged by EU/Malawi earmarked for covering twinning costs for the balance of the Government's maize contribution.
- £1.5 million pledged by DFID for local food purchase.
- US\$ 3 million approximate value of in-kind contributions of vegetable oil, CBS, and pulses pledged by USAID.
- US\$282,521 of Spain confirmed balances to be programmed to purchase High Energy Biscuits (HEB) locally.
- US\$17,760 of Liechtenstein confirmed balances to be programmed to purchase HEBs locally.

WFP has stock to cover food distributions into early January 2007, but local procurement needs to begin now so that food can be received and pre-positioned in a timely manner to meet needs in February. Hence, it is important that the pledges be converted into contributions shortly.

² Depending on the availability of suitable ground water resources

³ There are localized hotspots in Malawi, where the harvest has failed due to dry spells and floods.

⁴ Including World Vision, Plan International, Malawi Red Cross Society, Salvation Army, the US-funded I-Life project, and GTZ's School Feeding Programme in Emergency Areas.

STRATEGIC GRAIN RESERVES AND MAIZE MARKET

The Government, DFID and EU are in the process of replenishing the Strategic Grain Reserves following last seasons draw down of 60,000 MT of maize during the food security crisis. By end of September 2006 DFID had repaid in full their pledge of 22,000 MT, while Government have delivered 29,825 MT of their pledged 40,000 MT as of November 24, 2006. EU will be repaying a pledge of 15,000 MT. In total the Strategic Grain reserves should hold a total of **77,000 MT** of maize at the end of the purchasing period.

NUTRITION

According to the latest Malawi Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Surveillance System Data Report, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate for children under 5 years of age is registered at around 5.9 per cent for the month of September 2006. The proportion is lower than previous year's 8.3 percent. The Southern region continues to have the worst nutrition situation based on wasting. The national wasting rates are lower than the same time last year with 5.7 percent registered in September 2006 compared to 7.3 percent in September 2005. However, in the Northern, Central and Southern regions the wasting rates are not statistically different from last year with 4.0, 5.1, and 6.7 percent respectively.

The admissions of severely malnourished children under 5 years of age to 64 NRUs reached 678 in October 2006. The trend shows that the number has continued to steadily decline since February 2006, but are expected to increase the coming months reaching a peak in January and February 2007. Some of the

decrease in NRU admissions might be explained by the scale up of Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC). An increased number of malnourished children without additional medical complications are now being treated in their communities.

New admissions of severely malnourished children to Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) centres in October were 1,222 in 12 districts out of 14 where CTC is arranged with support from UNICEF. In total, 1,900 new admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition have been reported to the Therapeutic Feeding Programme in September (NRU and CTC).

UPDATE ON HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

FOOD AID/CASH TRANSFERS

In November, WFP provided assistance to 67,243 households through the targeted food distribution programme. A total of 4,143 MT of food commodities was distributed, the assistance consisting of 50kg of maize per household, 5kg of pulses and 2 kg vegetable oil. WFP plan to reach 100,088 households in 13 Districts in December. In total, 5,004 MT of maize, 500 MT of pulses and 185 MT of oil will be provided in December.

In December 2006, Concern Worldwide will begin implementing a cash transfer project funded by DFID in Dowa District targeting 8,267 households. A total amount of **MK 13,981,930** will be disbursed in December. An estimated additional 1,500 households will be targeted in the month of January 2007. The cash transfer interventions target people

identified in the MVAC, as missing their food entitlement during this period.

COMMUNITY THERAPEUTIC CARE (CTC)

UNICEF's Support to Community Therapeutic Care (CTC) programme for severely malnourished children is currently implemented in 14 districts. Plans are under way to scale up the intervention to all 26 districts with support from Clinton Foundation.

UNICEF and partners from the Targeted Nutrition Programme have finalised national guidelines for outpatient treatment of severely malnourished children without additional medical complications. The CTC guidelines will be printed in January 2007 and the current version is currently being implemented in 199 centres.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING

UNICEF has supported district trainings in supplementary feeding and active case identification in Kasungu, Ntchis, Mzimba and Dowa. Supplies to scale up the programme from November 2006 have been provided by WFP in Kasungu, Ntchisi, Blantyre, Mzimba, Chikwawa, Dowa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Mwanza/Neno.

The Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) already covers the whole districts of Lilongwe and Mulanje through WFP Country Programme funds. A total of 29,666 moderately malnourished children under 5 years, pregnant and lactating women are reached through supplementary feeding in these districts.

The SFP will be scaled up in Rumphu, Mangochi, Balaka, Salima, Nkhata Bay and Machinga in January 2007. Supplementary feeding is currently

available as take home ration in all Nutrition Rehabilitation Units in these districts. Due to early scale up of supplementary feeding, the caseload of severe acute malnutrition is not expected to be as high as it was during the period November 2005 to March 2006.

The scale up of the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) under WFP and UNICEF will target a total of 42,336 moderately malnourished children and 53,449 pregnant or lactating women during the food crisis. In addition, WFP plans to provide supplementary food to 17,000 children and 6,550 women each month under the regular programme.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

On 8th November, the Cabinet under leadership of H.E. President Mutharika endorsed the Mchinji social cash transfer pilot scheme and requested a scale up of the pilot in 2007 to an additional six districts namely Salima Machinga, Mangochi, Likoma, Chitipa and Phalombe. The Malawi social cash transfer pilot scheme, which is funded by UNICEF and implemented by the District Assembly in Mchinji, targets the ultra-poor and labour constrained households, such as the elderly headed households, persons with disabilities, chronically ill, child- and female headed households. Presently, 800 households in Mchinji are receiving a cash transfer of an average of MK 1,700 per month. By February 2007, the pilot scheme will be scaled up further to reach a total of 3,000 households in the district.

CHOLERA

Since the current cholera outbreak began on 7th August 2006, a total of **67** cases of suspected cholera and **1**

death have been reported in Machinga, Phalompe, and Chiradzulu. The 47 reported cholera cases in Machinga were treated in Mposa, Namanja, Nayuchi, and Ntholowa health centers. In Chiradzulu, where one case was reported, the source is suspected to be the Lake Chilwa where fishermen have temporary structures inside the lake itself, defecating in the same water which is their drinking water source. In Chiradzulu, awareness campaigns are ongoing around the three health centers Mauwa, Ndundi, and Milepa Health centers.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

According to the latest ECTAD HPAI Situation Update of November 24th 2006, the following countries in the African Region have confirmed outbreaks of HPAI: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan. There have been no changes in the number of confirmed human cases in Africa since the last reporting period. In total 16 human cases have been reported and 7 deaths (Djibouti 1/0 and Egypt 15/7).

Twenty one health workers comprising nine clinicians/medical officers, four public health officers, three programme managers, and four laboratory technicians have been trained with a view to strengthening the preparedness and response capacity at district level for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The training focused on HPAI infections in humans, and aimed to improve early warning for detection of human infection, strengthen capacity to investigate and confirm human cases, manage human patients, facilitate rapid containment of A(H5N1) disease in human, and support preparedness for a epidemic/ pandemic at national and district level. The training was

organised by the Ministry of Health with technical assistance from WHO.

Multi-sectoral AHI Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) are established in Malawi and have been trained on avian influenza surveillance and response. The Government of Malawi with technical support from FAO and funding from USAID has developed a detailed response manual which has been distributed to relevant stakeholders. Surveillance in hot spot areas continues, but no H5N1 strain has been identified in Malawi to date.

With funding provided by USAID, UNICEF and Population Services International (PSI) continue working on the implementation of the National Communications Plan. A soft campaign has been launched on selected radio networks and printed materials on avian influenza distributed. Save the Children US and the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) are contributing to the awareness campaign by supporting community mobilisation through the training of community leaders.

AGRICULTURE

The Government of Malawi is providing subsidized fertilizer and seeds to approximately 1.5 million smallholder farmers in the country. The subsidy programme reduces the fertilizer price to MK 950 per 50 kg bag which is less than a third of its retail value. A new feature of the agricultural inputs scheme is the increased engagement of the private sector, who has been allowed to participate by supplying fertilizers and seeds to the subsidy scheme.

A total of 150,000 MT of fertilisers is being purchased. By 6 December 2006, the SFFRM warehouses in Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Blantyre had

received and distributed the following fertilisers:

Lilongwe SFFRFM		
Item	Received	Distributed
CAN	3,981,900	3,928,700
D Comp.	2,876,400	3,529,800
NPK	19,934,800	19,811,450
Urea	28,806,180	18,912,750
Total kg	55,599,280	46,182,700

Mzuzu SFFRFM		
Item	Received	Distributed
CAN	2,298,300	488,500
D Comp.	1,195,000	845,200
NPK	7,046,114	6,717,500
Urea	7,586,240	6,110,450
Total kg	18,125,654	14,161,650

Blantyre SFFRFM		
Item	Received	Distributed
CAN	3,813,100	1,266,000
D Comp.	3,609,300	991,000
NPK	23,212,010	21,601,450
Urea	19,540,400	13,617,550
Total kg	50,174,810	37,476,000