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Emergency Appeal Operations Update Malawi: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRMW012	Operations Update 6
Date of issue: 21 March 2017	Timeframe covered by this update: 25 May 2016 – March 2017
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Denis Bariyanga, DM Delegate, Southern Africa Cluster	Point of contact: Hastings Kandaya; Programmes Director; Malawi Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 17 September 2015	Expected timeframe: 20 months (revised from 18months) Expected end date: 31 May 2017
Overall operation budget: CHF 3,590,677	Appeal coverage: CHF936,777 (26%)
Number of people being assisted: 22,474 individuals (4,268 households)	
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 12 Staff and 250 volunteers actively engage on Emergency response in four districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Blantyre and Phalombe.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, ICRC, IFRC Pretoria Country Cluster Office.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) is coordinating the disaster response activities at country level, WFP, Goal Malawi, Oxfam, Christian Aid, CADECOM, Irish Aid, Save the Children, World Vision, Norwegian Church Aid, COOPI, UNICEF are all active in Malawi.	

Appeal History:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 17 September 2015 for CHF 749,268 Swiss francs to enable the IFRC to support the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) to respond to the food security needs of 10,000 drought and flood-affected beneficiaries for six months. The strategy entailed the immediate provision of food assistance (carried out through cash transfer programming) and strengthening community resilience in two southern districts of Nsanje and Phalombe to allow vulnerable households to meet their basic food needs.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 74,900 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to start up the operations by meeting immediate needs of affected people.
- In May 2016, the [Emergency Plan of Action was revised](#) to a total budget of 3,590,677 Swiss francs to seek the extension of the operation to March 2017 to accommodate the lean season that is anticipated to peak between Sept 2016 and March 2017. In this Plan of Action the number of households to be supported by MRCS increased from 2,000 to 5,000 households, or 25,000 persons.
- [Operations Update no. 1](#) was issued on 5 October 2015.
- [Operations Update no. 2](#) was issued on 26 October 2015.
- [Operations Update no. 3](#), issued on 18 April 2016, follows a change of implementation strategy and to extend the timeframe of the emergency operation to March 2017.
- A [Six-month Update](#) was issued on 27 April 2016.
- [Operation Update no. 5](#) was issued on 6 December 2016.

- This operations update is being issued to highlight implementation to date and request a non-cost extension to allow the NS to finalise the remaining activities related to cash distribution and final operation evaluation.

This Operations Update extends the operation's timeframe by two months – until 31 May 2017. The extension is to allow the National Society (NS) to finalise the remaining cash transfer activities to 3,603 beneficiaries as well as undertake a final evaluation. Therefore, there is no change in budget, no change in beneficiaries and no change on the intervention zones.

IFRC, on behalf of Malawi Red Cross appealed to various donors to support this Emergency Appeal to enable Malawi RC meet the needs of vulnerable people in affected communities. On behalf of the MRCS, IFRC would like to thank the Canadian, Japanese, Finnish, Monaco, Netherlands and Swiss Red Cross for their generous support towards this appeal.

B. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Malawi, typically a self-sufficient maize producer, experienced weather related hazards because of the effects of El Nino that included late on-set of rains, erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells in most parts of the Central and Southern Regions and floods in Northern Region that affected parts of Karonga and Mzimba districts. On 12 April 2016, the Government of Malawi declared a state of emergency and appealed for humanitarian relief assistance from the international donor community, United Nations agencies, NGOs, the private sector as well citizens of goodwill.

The Agriculture Production Estimate Survey released in April 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) estimated maize production at 2,431,313 metric tonnes compared to 2,776,277 metric tonnes during the 2014/15 production season. The national maize requirement was estimated at 3.2 million metric tonnes translating to a maize deficit of about 768,687 metric tonnes.

The MVAC forecast for the April 2016 to March 2017 consumption period, showed that a total of 6,491,847 people, out of the total projected population of 16,832,910, would not be able to meet their annual minimum food requirements (using the survival threshold) during the 2016/2017 consumption period, representing 39 percent of the total population. This represents a 129 percent increase over last year's vulnerable population of 2,833,212 people. The affected people are in most districts of the country apart from Chitipa, Karonga, Likoma and Nkhata Bay. The IPC analysis projected that by September 2016 the population that will be in phase 3 and 4 (in crisis and emergency) and therefore the immediate assistance required to save lives and livelihoods would be 4.5 million (69 percent of the total affected population).

Nominal maize prices at the start of the 2016/2017 consumption obtained from the Agro-economic Survey of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development in April, 2016 show a record high price of Malawi Kwacha 177/kg compared to MWK115/kg same period last year. Seven nutrition surveys were conducted in May 2016, covering seven Livelihood Zones (and 25 districts), using the SMART Survey Methodology. The survey has estimated the overall Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at 2.5 percent, which is classified as normal using the WHO classification of malnutrition.

Coordination and partnerships

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent actors' in-country

Malawi RC has entered into partnership with WFP to do food distribution in Mangochi District targeting 53,951 households (291,231 people) for a period of 5 months. MRCS receives technical support from in-country Partner National Societies (PNS) including Netherlands, Danish, Swiss Red Cross, Finnish and Icelandic Red Cross. Monthly coordination meetings were held with PNSs where programme updates were shared. The Pretoria Country Cluster Office provides technical support to MRCS on an on-going basis. Danish Red Cross has deployed a cash technical delegate to the National Society. IFRC through RDRT system identified the Disaster Management Manager who underwent a cash transfer training in Denmark, and this is anticipated to add value to the CTP program of MRCS.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in-country

Malawi Red Cross (MRCS) conducted stakeholders' meetings with WFP at their Head Office in Lilongwe, Nsanje and Phalombe and District Executive Committees in the week beginning 12 October 2015. Another DEC meeting was conducted in Chikwawa in August 2016 to introduce the project. This was followed by another meeting with the District Civil Protection Committee and finally, another meeting was conducted with Area Development Committee. The District Executive Committee (DEC) is composed of technical departments in government, the Red Cross as well as humanitarian agencies including Goal Malawi, WFP, Concern, CARE and MSF among others. The meetings served as inception meetings where Malawi Red Cross shared their plans, modalities of the transfers as well as emphasising the need for coordination with other agencies to avoid overlapping and double targeting of beneficiaries. In addition to the coordination meetings bi-lateral meetings were also held with Goal Malawi in Nsanje and the Ministry of Gender in Phalombe district. The objectives of the bi-lateral meetings were to share detailed plans as the two organisations were implementing Cash Transfer Programmes in the respective districts. MRCS also held a bi-lateral meeting in Phalombe district with the Ministry of Gender who were implementing a Social Cash Transfer programme in the same district that was being targeted by the National Societies.

In Malawi, the CTP is provided by WFP and by INGO consortium consisting of several NGOs like World Vision International, Concern Universal, Emmanuel International, ACF, SCF and COOPI. MRCS attends the INGO coordination meetings which gives direction on implementation of CTP. MRCS also attends food and CTP coordination meetings hosted by WFP in collaboration with the Government through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA).

Goal Malawi and CARE were implementing food assistance operations in Nsanje district. Goal has been using Cash Transfers, and CARE is involved in direct food distribution. In Phalombe district, Adventist Relief Services (ADRA) was also implementing food assistance activities using direct food distributions. MRCS coordinated with these agencies in the selection and registration of beneficiaries to avoid overlapping using the open-air selection criteria. When the NS was involved in CTP in Nsanje and Phalombe, meetings and discussions were held with the Agricultural Development Marketing and Research Cooperation (ADMARC) the agency mandated by government to source and distribute cereal and pulses in the country. The visits to the ADMARC depots showed that the agency had capacity to meet increased cereal and pulses demand which also helped control the risk of inflation.

Summary of the current response

From the beginning of the operations, Malawi Red Cross Society received the support from the Red Cross Movement partners (IFRC, ICRC and PNS). Immediately the NS mobilised the volunteers to conduct needs and capacity assessment of the beneficiaries, local markets and traders. To ensure an efficient response, the NS maintained close contacts with other stakeholders, the administrative authorities and the beneficiaries themselves.

Capacity building has been provided to the volunteers and staff in CTP and Livelihoods. In terms of distribution, approximately CHF 30 was given per month for 8 months to 2,000 household and 7 months to 2,268 households. The volunteers and the district executive committees conducted post distribution monitoring and beneficiary satisfaction survey in all districts of intervention.

As medium assistance through the distribution of seeds and fertilizers, only 100 farmers (out of 1,000 planned) were provided with seeds and fertilizers. This was caused by the insufficient fund of this Emergency appeal.

This timeframe extension will allow Malawi Red Cross to finalise the remaining distributions to 3,603 beneficiaries. A final evaluation is also organised in April or May 2017 to give an idea on the impact of the delivered assistance and develop a CTP preparedness plan for future operations

Operational implementation

CHF 74,900 was released from the DREF to start the operation. Additional support was received from the Canadian RC, the Japanese RC, the Finnish RC, the Monaco, the Netherlands RC and the Swiss Red Cross. Surge Support was provided to the Malawi Red Cross to support in the start-up of the operation particularly the Cash Transfer System and beneficiary selection. The IFRC recruited an Operations manager to provide technical support to the operation and the NS.

Coordination meetings with stakeholders resulted in the identification of operating areas in Nsanje where MRCS shared operating space with Goal Malawi in the two communities recommended for cash interventions. Hence, through the DEC meetings, it was recommended that members of the Food Assistance Sub-committees in the two districts second a staff to support MRCS in the selection and registration processes for transparency and to ensure risks of overlapping are managed. MRCS also worked with Goal Malawi in the selection of their project beneficiaries.

The EA has a coverage of 26% to be able to meet the needs (both immediate and recovery) of the targeted households, the NS requires additional resources to ensure comprehensive support. The needs on the ground remains big and if resources are made available the NS will be able to scale up its interventions to reach more people.

Areas common to all sectors (assessments, monitoring and evaluation)			
Outcome 1 The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive assessment, monitoring and evaluation system	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.1: are updated following consultation with beneficiaries and stakeholders		57%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Management of the implementation team	X		100%
Coordination and engagement with key stakeholders, partners and operational agencies	x		80%
Joint monitoring of operations	X		50%
Evaluation of the impact of assistance delivered		x	0%
From the beginning of the operations, Malawi Red Cross set up a management team to coordinate and guide the operation's implementation. The Department of Disasters management, health and Nutrition, and Communication were the key pillars for the overall operations. As usual, the NS coordinated with other stakeholder and the beneficiaries themselves in order to provide efficient assistance. The NS volunteers have been given the capacity to run the operations (assessment, beneficiary identification, distribution processes and monitoring. By the end of the project, an evaluation will be organised to assess the impact of the delivery services.			
Food security, Nutrition			
Outcome 2: Immediate food needs of 22,474 beneficiaries (4,268 households) are met over a period of 18 Months	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 2.1: 4,268 households (22,474 beneficiaries) receive cash in order to purchase food to meet their nutrition needs		61.7%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Information for authorities – awareness sessions in district Assemblies	X		80%
Targeting process, identification and registration	X		100%
Survey verification	X		70%
Training on beneficiary identification, registration, rapid assessment and field data collection and analysis	X		75%
Coordination with Ministry of Health for development of a referral system for malnourished people	X		10%
Establishment of CTP and payment process	X		50%
Operational training to staff and volunteers on CTP and monitoring on the utilization and adequacy of transfers to meet household food needs	X		100%
Validation of beneficiary lists and establishment of an accountability mechanism (including beneficiary communication and feedback systems)	X		100%
Cash distributions	X		80%
Mobile providers input into training of volunteers in mobile phone registration, provision of free Sim cards, reduced price handset provision to beneficiaries with no existing phone	x		100%
Monitoring Malnutrition indicators		x	0%

Coordination with Ministry of Health for monitoring of referral malnutrition cases	x		10%
Training and capacity building in CTP among the staff and volunteers	x		70%
Development of CTP preparedness plan for future operations	x		20%
<p>Before the implementation, the NS organised the assessment and coordination meetings with the administrative authorities for better orientation and same understanding. Two volunteers training sessions were organised in Phalombe and Nsanje and not in Chikwawa as a Financial Service Providers and Cash in envelopes were used in Chikwawa. The monthly mobile cash transfers were done in Phalombe and Nsanje. The beneficiaries have been trained as well. Approximately CHF 30 was given per month for 8 months to 2,000 household and 7 months to 2,268 households. The post distribution monitoring, reporting and feedback to partners was done though not as planned due to untimely and insufficient funding for the project. This extension will allow Malawi Red Cross to finalise the remaining distribution to 3,603 beneficiaries as the Government required all partners that cash distribution activities should end with March. Due to insufficient fund, all nutritional planned activities have not been implemented. The development of CTP preparedness plan for future operations will be combined in the final evaluation.</p>			
Livelihoods			
Outcome 3: Livelihoods of 100 households are reinforced to build community resilience in targeted regions	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 3.1: Appropriate agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilisers) are distributed to 100 farmers (500 people) in two irrigation sites in Mwanza are supported		85%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Assessment to identify most vulnerable households in the irrigation schemes that have capacity to work and have available land for planting	X		100%
Conduct specific needs assessment via Ministry of Agriculture to identify most appropriate items to be distributed depending on the market availability and period	X		100%
Assessment to establish capacity of local traders to provide proposed seeds and fertilizers		X	100%
Organize procurement of seeds and fertilizers for 100 farmers		X	10%
Conduct distributions of seeds and fertilizers with volunteer	X		100%
Monitoring and evaluation of the activities	X		100%
<p>In collaboration with ministry of Agriculture services, Malawi Red Cross Society organised assessment to identify the most vulnerable households and to identify the capacity of the local traders to provide proposed seeds and fertilizers. However, due to insufficient fund, only 100 (out of 1000) farmers from Mwanza district have been provided with seeds and training. The seeds have been distributed by the volunteers and the monitoring has been conducted by the District Executive committees in collaboration of agriculture agents.</p>			

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
