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Emergency Appeal Operations Update 7

Malawi: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRMW012	EA Operations Update 7
Date of issue: 26 May 2017	Timeframe covered by this update: 21 March 2017 – 26 May 2017
Operation manager: Jamie LeSueur, Operations Coordinator, Southern Africa Cluster	Point of contact: Hastings Kandaya; Programmes Director; Malawi Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 17 September 2015	Expected timeframe: 22 months Expected end date: 31 July 2017
Overall operation budget: CHF 3,590,677	
Number of people being assisted: 22,474 individuals (4,268 households)	Appeal coverage: CHF936,777 (26%)
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 Southern Africa Country Cluster Office (SACCO).	
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 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 the 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.
- IFRC, on behalf of MRCS appealed to various donors to support this Emergency Appeal to enable MRCS meet the needs of vulnerable people in affected communities. Support was received from Canadian RC (CHF 25,000), Japanese RC (CHF 24,700), Finnish RC (CHF 32,748), Monaco RC (CHF 5,397), the Netherlands RC (CHF 108,406) and Swiss Red Cross (CHF 357,700) respectively.

- [Operations Update no. 1](#) is issued on 5 October 2015.
- [Operations Update no.2](#) is issued on 26 October 2015.
- [Operations Update no.3](#), is issued on 18 April 2016, follows a change of implementation strategy and to extend the timeframe of the emergency operation to March 2017.
- The [Six-Month Update](#) is issued on 27 April 2016
- In May 2016, the [Emergency Plan of Action](#) is revised to a total budget of CHF 3,590,677 seeking an extension of the operation to March 2017 to accommodate the lean season that is anticipated to peak between September 2016 and March 2017. In this Plan of Action the number of households to be supported by MRCS is increased from 2,000 to 5,000 households, or 25,000 persons.
- [Operation update no.5](#) is issued on 6 December 2016
- [Operations Update no. 6](#) is issued on 21 March 2017
- **Operations Update no. 7** is issued on 26 May 2017. 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 the final operation evaluation, which is feeding into a Southern Africa evaluation of the food insecurity emergency appeals.

This Operations Update extends the operation's timeframe by two months – until 31 July 2017. There were challenges related to working advances for other Federation-supported projects in Malawi that affected the last few weeks of the operation. A satisfactory plan for reimbursement/reporting has been agreed upon. Given this reality, this extension is requested to allow the National Society (NS) to finalise the remaining cash transfer activities to 3,603 beneficiaries and undertake a final evaluation. Therefore, there is no change in budget, no change in beneficiaries and no change in the intervention zones.

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.

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 showed 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.

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, were not 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 using the same threshold. 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). IPC projections continue to note much of the country will be in phase 2 (stressed) until May 2017.¹

Coordination and partnerships

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent actors' in-country

The 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 SACCO 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 cast transfer training in Denmark, and this assisted in adding value to the CTP program of MRCS.

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

The MRCS conducted stakeholders' meetings with the District Executive Committee (DEC), a committee 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 Malawi, the CTP is provided by WFP and by an INGO consortium consisting of several NGOs like WVI, 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).

MRCS entered into partnership with WFP for food distribution in Mangochi District targeting 53,951 households (291,231 people) for a period of five months. In addition, 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.

¹ <http://www.fews.net/southern-africa/malawi>

Summary of the current response

Areas common to all sectors:

From the beginning of the operation, MRCS received the support from the Red Cross Movement partners (IFRC, ICRC and PNS). Immediately MRCS mobilised the volunteers for conducting needs assessment and capacity assessment of the local markets and traders. To ensure an efficient response, MRCS maintained close contacts with the beneficiaries, other stakeholders, and the administrative authorities.

Food Security and Nutrition:

Capacity building has been provided to the volunteers and staff in CTP and Livelihoods. In terms of distribution, approximately CHF 30 was given to 2,000 households for eight months and to 2,268 households for seven months. By the end of the Emergency Appeal timeframe, MRCS will have distributed assistance to its target of 4,268 households. The volunteers and the DEC keep conducting post monitoring and beneficiary satisfaction survey in all districts of intervention until the final CTP distribution is complete.

Livelihoods:

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.

There were challenges related to working advances for other Federation-supported projects in Malawi that affected the last few weeks of the operation. A satisfactory plan for reimbursement/reporting has been agreed upon. Given this reality, this extension is requested to allow the National Society (NS) to finalize the remaining cash transfer activities to 3,603 beneficiaries as well as undertake a final evaluation. As such, this extension will allow MRCS to finalise the remaining distributions to 3,603 beneficiaries in the respected period as the required. The final evaluation will also be organised in the summer 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 MRCS 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. The Operations Manager supported MRCS.

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 work with Goal Malawi in the selection of Goal Malawi project beneficiaries.

The Emergency Appeal has a coverage of 26%, which is not enough to be able to meet the needs (both immediate and recovery) of the targeted households and MRCS required additional resources to ensure comprehensive support. The needs on the ground remained a concern, though had additional resources been made available, MRCS would have scaled 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		72
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		90
Joint monitoring of operations	X		80
Evaluation of the impact of assistance delivered		X	0
From the beginning of the operations, MRCS set up a management team to coordinate and guide the operation's implementation. The Department of Disaster management, Health and Nutrition, and Communication were the key pillars for the overall operations. As usual, MRCS coordinated with other stakeholder and the beneficiaries themselves to provide efficient assistance. The MRCS volunteers have been given the capacity to run the operations (needs assessments, assessment in markets and with local traders, 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 and 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 to purchase food to meet their nutrition needs		85
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Information for authorities – awareness sessions in district Assemblies	X		100
Targeting process, identification and registration	X		100
Survey verification	X		100
Training on beneficiary identification, registration, rapid assessment and field data collection and analysis	X		100
Coordination with Ministry of Health for development of a referral system for malnourished people	X		10
Establishment of CTP and payment process	X		100
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	x		100

phone			
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		100
Development of CTP preparedness plan for future operations	x		100
<p>Before the implementation, MRCS organised the assessment and coordination meetings with the administrative authorities for better operational programming. Two volunteers training sessions were organised in Phalombe and Nsanje. and the monthly mobile cash transfers were done in Phalombe and Nsanje. The beneficiaries have been trained as well. CHF 30 was given to 2,000 households for eight months and to 2,268 households for seven months. 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 MRCS to finalise the remaining distribution to 3,603 beneficiaries. 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) irrigation sites in Mwanza are supported	
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	100%
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, MRCS organised assessments 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 1,000) 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 DEC in collaboration of agriculture agents.</p>			

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Zimbabwe Red Cross Society:** Maxwell Phiri, Secretary General; phone: +263 4 33 26 38; email: phirim@redcrosszim.org.zw
- **IFRC Cluster Representation:** Lorraine Mangwiro, Head of Southern Africa Cluster; phone: +27113039715; email: lorraine.mangwiro@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Region:** Farid Aiywar, Disaster Management Unit; Nairobi; phone: +254 20 2835213; email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Cristina Estrada, Response and Recovery Lead, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: cristina.estrada@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of zone logistics unit; phone: +254 733 888 022/ Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Africa Zone:** Fidelis Kangethe, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordinator; Addis Ababa; phone: +251 930 03 4013; email: fidelis.kangethe@ifrc.org

Please send all pledges for funding to zonerm.africa@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Zone:** Dan Ayuka, PMER Coordinator Africa, phone: +254 731 067277; email: dan.ayuka@ifrc.org

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.**