

Emergency appeal operation update Malawi: Food Insecurity

Emergency Appeal	Appeal n° MDRMW012
Date of Issue: 5 October 2015	Period covered by this update: 17 September to 1 October 2015
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Hung Ha Nguyen, Disaster Preparedness Delegate, IFRC, Southern Africa.	Point of contact: Hastings Kandaya; Programmes Director; Malawi Red Cross Society.
Operation start date: 17 September 2015	Expected timeframe: 6 months (End date: 17 March 2016)
Appeal budget: CHF 749,268	
Total number of people affected: 2.8 million	Number of people to be assisted: 10,000 individuals (2,000 HH)
Host National Society presence Malawi Red Crescent Society, 17 Staff and 350 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 SARO	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) will coordinate the disaster response activities at country level, WFP, Goal Malawi, Oxfam, Christian Aid, Irish Aid, Save the Children, World Vision, Norwegian Church Aid, COOPI, UNICEF are all active in Malawi - response plans and funding are still in the early stages of discussion but will be based on the findings of the MVAC and guided by WFP.	

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 entails 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.
- This update provides information regarding the first 15 days of the operation since the launch.

This appeal has not received any funding to date and IFRC, on behalf of the Malawi Red Cross, would like to encourage partners to consider supporting the Appeal to enable MRCS provide assistance to the targeted beneficiaries through the planned activities as detailed in the [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#).

[<click here to view the contact details >](#)

Summary: Malawi, typically a self-sufficient maize producer, has suffered poor crop performance this year due to a late and erratic start to the rainy season, followed by damage from severe flooding in the southern half of the country, and periods of prolonged dry spells across most of the country for the latter half of the season. According to the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) report of July 2015 it is estimated that maize production has reduced by 30% from last year. The national consumption requirement for 2015/16 is 3,000,000 MT of maize. The estimated maize deficit is 223,723 MT.

The prolonged dry spells and floods did not only affect maize production, other crops such as groundnuts have also been affected, and harvests are down by 21 percent, rice 13 percent, cotton and tobacco cash crop reduction is also down by 31% and 5% respectively. This will leave more than 2.8 million people in Malawi food insecure for a period of between three to 8 months, October 2015 – March 2016. 25 out of the 28 Districts in Malawi have been affected. Of the 2.8 million people affected 886,204 are living in the hard hit flooded districts and 1,947,008 are in Districts affected by poor rainfall. An estimated 20 to 40 percent of Malawi's population are in need of humanitarian assistance to help them cope with this acute food shortage.

The national market assessment conducted by WFP in July 2015 indicates that 40 percent of markets have the capacity to support cash interventions, whilst 60 percent of markets will not and therefore would benefit from in-kind/food distribution interventions. The peak price of maize on the markets during the lean period (October – March) will depend on the Government response to the crisis and levels of maize imported. National average maize prices were already 61 percent above the three-year average at a period when prices are normally at their lowest. Price projections, based on month-to-month price trends, estimate that average national maize prices will likely be about 50 percent above the three-year average between July and September, possibly rising to levels that are 55 percent above the three-year average between October and December. During the July-December period, prices for alternative food commodities, particularly cereals, pulses, and cassava, will likely be about 20-50 percent above average prices.

The national Market Assessment (July 2015) indicates that:

- The national average maize market price is MK 117/kg, which is above the MK105 for 2014/15 and MK102 for 2013/14 consumption season.
- For the 2015/16 lean season, projected maximum maize prices of MK 250/kg are expected compared to maximum prices of MK 200/kg obtained in the past two marketing seasons. This is largely due to high demand against low supply.

Immediate intervention: the MRCS will assist 10,000 people (2,000 households) that are food insecure in the Nsanje and Phalombe Districts through:

- A monthly cash transfer of CHF43 per household per month over 5 months. The transfer will be sufficient to meet the immediate food needs of a household of 5. The cash transfer value has been calculated based on the current prices of a standard food basket (50kg bag of maize, 5kg beans, 2 litres cooking oil).
- The operation will use mobile money transfers, working in partnership with the mobile provider Airtel Malawi who has extensive experience in implementing humanitarian cash transfers. Free Sim cards will be provided and Airtel will train staff and volunteers in the registration and transfer systems. Airtel will also be required to conduct information dissemination sessions with beneficiaries to build and transfer knowledge on the use of mobile money platforms. In addition to these sessions they will be requested to produce Factsheets/FAQs on mobile money transfer in local languages to be distributed to beneficiaries. Airtel are also negotiating price reductions on handsets from a provider to be given to those beneficiaries who do not have existing handsets.

Medium-term intervention: within the planned beneficiary figure of 10,000 people (2,000 households), the National Society will support 1,000 households with the following medium-term interventions:

- Support to agricultural production through the provision of agricultural inputs (hybrid seeds of maize, groundnuts and beans and top and base fertilizers for crop season (March 2016) distributed in October/November 2015
- Provision of agricultural training to 100 lead farmers with each lead farmer being responsible for cascading knowledge and skills to 10 follower farmers.
- Integrating nutrition training and dissemination of nutrition education in agricultural training

Coordination and partnerships

The Government of Malawi leads the overall coordination of disaster response through its Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in the Office of the Vice President. MRCS participates in the coordination meetings held by the DoDMA Technical Group, as part of monitoring and information sharing at National level to ensure effective support for government-led coordination mechanisms. Several clusters are in place, MRCS being a member off the Food Security Cluster chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP as co-chair.

At District level in Nsanje and Phalombe, MRCS participates in monthly District Executive Committee (DEC) meetings which provide policy guidelines as well as having general oversight and management of districts. The DEC meetings provide a platform for information sharing by humanitarian actors on Food Security and Disaster Risk Reduction programmes and activities they are implementing.

MRCS receives technical support from in-country Partner National Societies (PNS) including Danish, Finnish and Icelandic Red Cross. Monthly coordination meetings are held with PNSs where programme updates are shared. The SARO provides technical support to MRCS on the on-going operation and in September the Acting Regional Representative was in Malawi to support the implementation of the Emergency Appeal.

Operational implementation

Overview

CHF 74,900 has been released from the DREF to start the operation while funding is being raised through the appeal to meet the needs outlined in the emergency plan of action. MRCS is reviewing staffing needs and other resource needs for the smooth implementation of the operation. The IFRC's Southern Africa Regional Office will be providing technical support and are in the process of sending Surge support to assist the MRCS in setting up the Cash Transfer system.

Food security, Nutrition and Livelihoods		
Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of 10,000 beneficiaries (2,000 households) are met over a period of six months		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000 households (10,000 beneficiaries) receive cash in order to purchase food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information for authorities – awareness sessions in district assemblies 	2%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting process, identification and registration 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey verification 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on beneficiary identification, registration, rapid assessment and field data collection and analysis 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with Ministry of Health for development of a referral system for malnourished people 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of CTP and payment process 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational training to staff and volunteers on CTP and monitoring on the utilization and adequacy of transfers to meet household food needs 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation of beneficiary lists and establishment of an accountability mechanism (including beneficiary communication and feedback systems) 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash distributions 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Malnutrition indicators 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with Ministry of Health for monitoring of referral malnutrition cases 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and capacity building in CTP among the staff and volunteers 	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of CTP preparedness plan for future operations 	0%	

Outcome 2: Livelihoods of 1,000 households are reinforced to build community resilience in targeted regions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilisers) are distributed to 1,000 farmers (5,000 people) in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment to identify most vulnerable households that have capacity to work and have available land for planting 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct specific needs assessment via Ministry of Agriculture to identify most appropriate items to be distributed depending on the market availability and period 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment to establish capacity of local traders to provide proposed seeds and fertilizers 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize procurement of seeds and fertilizers for 1,000 farmers 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of 100 lead farmers in agricultural production and nutrition 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cascading of agricultural production and nutrition training 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct distributions of seeds and fertilizers with volunteers 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation of the activities 	0%
Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors (assessments, monitoring and evaluation)		
Outcome 3: The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive assessment, monitoring and evaluation system		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial needs assessments are updated following consultation with beneficiaries and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of the implementation team 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination and engagement with key stakeholders, partners and operational agencies 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint monitoring of operations 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of the impact of assistance delivered 	0%

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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

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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**.