MALAWI

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS 2020

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
JULY 2020 – MARCH 2021
Issued in Sept 2020

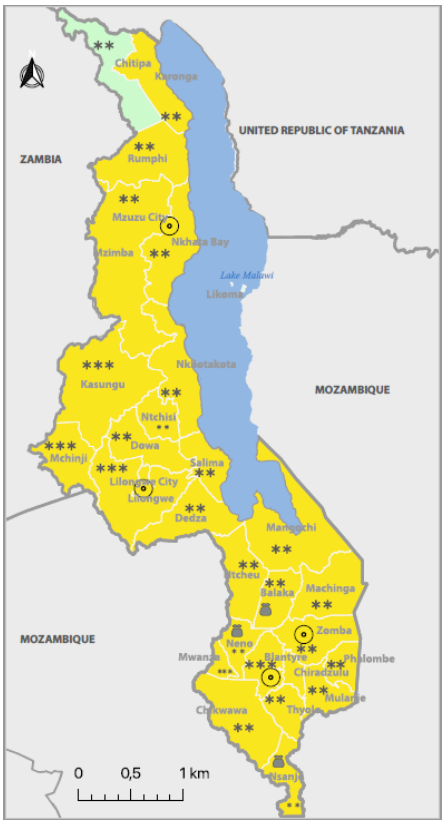
CURRENT MONTH JULY – SEPT 2020			PROJECTED OCT 2020 – MARCH 2021		
1.69 M 10 % of the population analysed People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	000 000 People in Catastrophe	2.62M 15 % of the population analysed People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	000 000 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	000 000 People in Emergency		Phase 4	000 000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	1 697 000 People in Crisis		Phase 3	2 618 000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	5 525 000 People Stressed		Phase 2	6 219 000 People in Stressed
	Phase 1	10 457 000 People in No Acute Food Insecurity		Phase 1	8 841 000 People in No Acute Food Insecurity

Overview

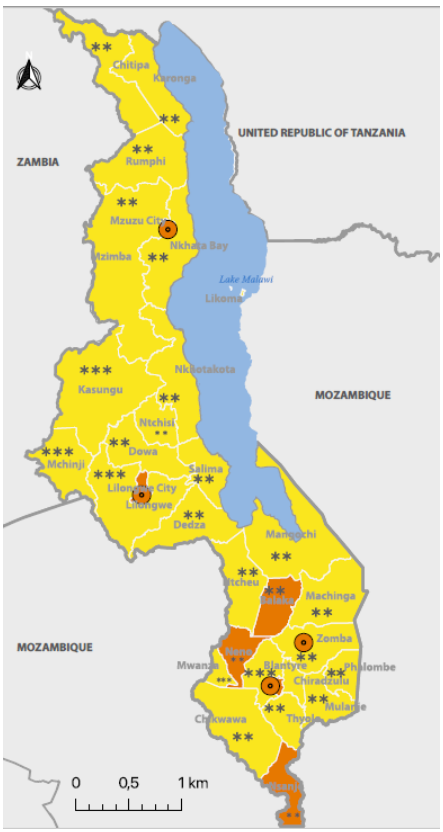
In the current period from July to September 2020, about 1.69 million people (10% of the population) are facing high food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and require urgent humanitarian action to reduce food gaps, protect and restore livelihood and prevent acute malnutrition. Out of the 32 areas analyzed, including 28 districts and four cities, 30 areas are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) while two areas (Chitipa and the Island of Likoma on Lake Malawi) are classified in IPC Phase 1 (Minimally food insecure).

From October 2020 to March 2021, around 2.62 million (15% of the population) are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). All the analyzed cities (Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba) and three rural districts of Nsanje, Neno and Balaka are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Whilst the remaining areas are likely to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Those classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) include poor urban and rural households in the deficit-producing southern region, some parts of the northern, and central districts. These areas experienced floods and later dry spells leading to production shortfalls, which exacerbated slow livelihood recovery from previous seasons and impacts of COVID-19 on remittances.

Current Acute July – Sept 2020



Projected Oct 2020 – March 2020



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

Map Symbols

- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance
(accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

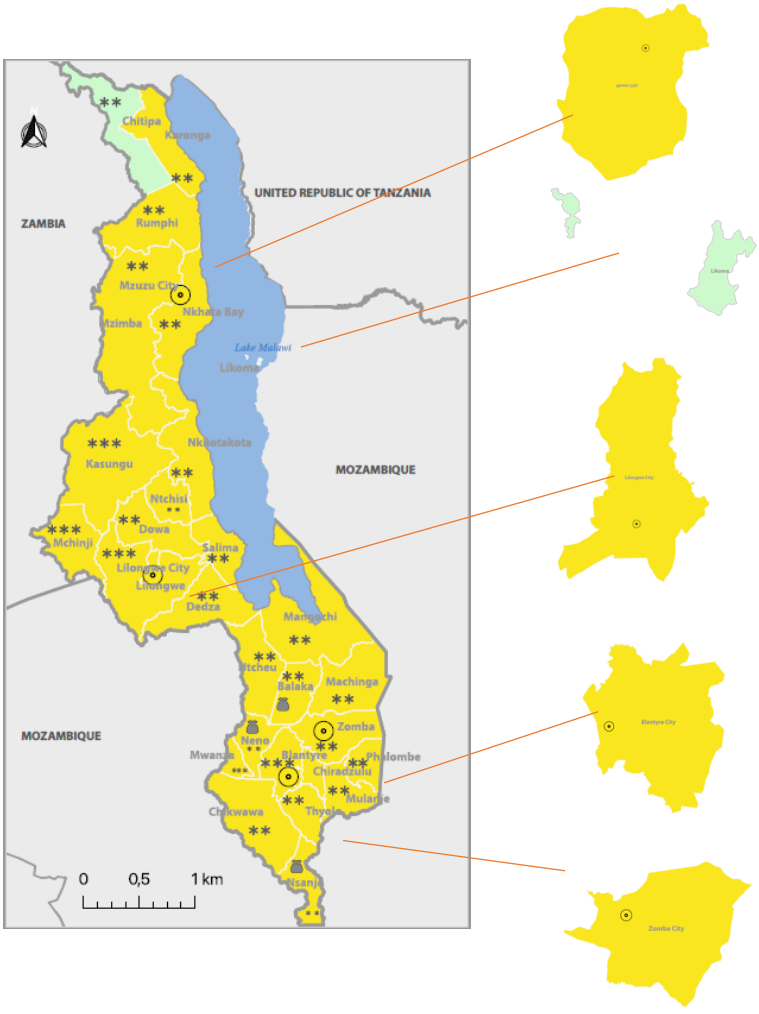
Key drivers

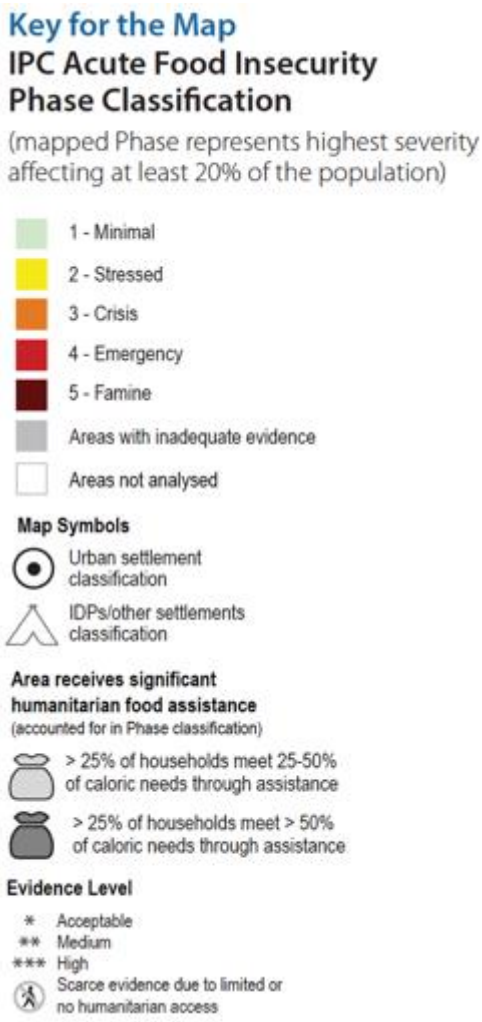
In Northern Malawi, parts of Rumphi and Karonga districts experienced flooding and waterlogging that damaged crops

Southern Malawi, Nsanje and Chikwawa districts – as well as parts of Phalombe, Balaka, Mwanza, Neno, Zomba, and Chiradzulu districts had localized dry spells and erratic rainfall which resulted below-average production

Though the restrictions were nullified in court, the country has registered job losses due to Covid-19. Remittances into the country were reduced.

CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE





POPULATION TABLE FOR THE CURRENT PERIOD: JULY 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2020

			Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Phase 3 and Higher	
District	Area Phase	Total # (pp)	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Balaka	2	389 024	175 061	45	155 610	40	58 354	15	-	-	-	-	58 354	15
Blantyre	2	451 220	225 610	50	180 488	40	45 122	10	-	-	-	-	45 122	10
Blantyre city	2	1 072 684	643 610	60	268 171	25	160 903	15	-	-	-	-	160 903	15
Chikhwawa	2	551 538	303 346	55	193 038	35	55 154	10	-	-	-	-	55 154	10
Chiradzulu	2	353 914	194 653	55	123 870	35	35 391	10	-	-	-	-	35 391	10
Chitipa	1	217 184	184 606	85	21 718	10	10 859	5	-	-	-	-	10 859	5
Dedza	2	799 584	519 730	65	199 896	25	79 958	10	-	-	-	-	79 958	10
Dowa	2	740 891	444 535	60	222 267	30	74 089	10	-	-	-	-	74 089	10
Karonga	2	303 419	212 393	70	60 684	20	30 342	10	-	-	-	-	30 342	10
Kasungu	2	726 235	508 365	70	181 559	25	36 312	5	-	-	-	-	36 312	5
Likoma	1	14 502	12 327	85	1 450	10	725	5	-	-	-	-	725	5
Lilongwe	2	1 637 583	982 550	60	491 275	30	163 758	10	-	-	-	-	163 758	10
Lilongwe city	2	1 365 724	887 721	65	341 431	25	136 572	10	-	-	-	-	136 572	10
Machinga	2	710 231	355 116	50	284 092	40	71 023	10	-	-	-	-	71 023	10
Mangochi	2	1 081 158	432 463	40	540 579	50	108 116	10	-	-	-	-	108 116	10
Mchinji	2	574 294	373 291	65	172 288	30	28 715	5	-	-	-	-	28 715	5
Mulanje	2	669 325	435 061	65	200 798	30	33 466	5	-	-	-	-	33 466	5
Mwanza	2	112 910	67 746	60	33 873	30	11 291	10	-	-	-	-	11 291	10
Mzimba	2	914 088	594 157	65	228 522	25	91 409	10	-	-	-	-	91 409	10
Mzuzu city	2	306 265	229 699	75	45 940	15	30 627	10	-	-	-	-	30 627	10
Neno	2	136 008	74 804	55	40 802	30	20 401	15	-	-	-	-	20 401	15
Nkhata bay	2	270 407	216 326	80	40 561	15	13 520	5	-	-	-	-	13 520	5
Nkhotakota	2	364 727	200 600	55	145 891	40	18 236	5	-	-	-	-	18 236	5
Nsanje	2	272 324	163 394	60	68 081	25	40 849	15	-	-	-	-	40 849	15
Ntcheu	2	638 367	414 939	65	191 510	30	31 918	5	-	-	-	-	31 918	5
Ntchisi	2	307 712	184 627	60	92 314	30	30 771	10	-	-	-	-	30 771	10
Phalombe	2	423 208	190 444	45	190 444	45	42 321	10	-	-	-	-	42 321	10
Rumphi	2	206 803	144 762	70	41 361	20	20 680	10	-	-	-	-	20 680	10
Salima	2	435 162	282 855	65	108 791	25	43 516	10	-	-	-	-	43 516	10
Thyolo	2	701 013	420 608	60	210 304	30	70 101	10	-	-	-	-	70 101	10
Zomba	2	746 724	298 690	40	373 362	50	74 672	10	-	-	-	-	74 672	10
Zomba city	2	184 724	83 126	45	73 890	40	27 709	15	-	-	-	-	27 709	15
Grand Total		17 678 952	10 457 215	59	5 524 860	31	1 696 880	10	-	-	-	-	1 696 880	10

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (July to September 2020)

The current period – July to September 2020 coincides with the post-harvest period in Malawi when most rural households are consuming food from own production. It is estimated that about 1.69 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and require urgent humanitarian action while 5.53 million people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stress) and interventions are required to build resilience and disaster risk reduction, so households can continue to sustain themselves.

The analysis for urban areas showed that there was a slightly higher proportion of households experiencing high food insecurity. In urban areas the proportion of households that are highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or higher) is 12%, compared with 10% in rural areas. The proportion of households that are stressed (IPC Phase 2) is relatively smaller in urban areas (25% compared with 33%). The above-average maize prices levels and greater market dependence have contributed to greater vulnerability in urban areas.

Though the 2019/2020 rainfall season was above average in most areas, a few districts in the southern region experienced flooding and later dry spells. In the northern region, parts of Rumphi and Karonga districts experienced flooding and waterlogging that damaged crops. In the central region, Salima district experienced early cessation of rainfall in February 2020 that impacted crop maturation, while in the southern region Nsanje and Chikwawa districts – as well as parts of Phalombe, Balaka, Mwanza, Neno, Zomba, and Chiradzulu districts – experienced localized dry

spells and erratic rainfall which resulted in below-average production. Additionally, some southern areas including Balaka and parts of Blantyre, Zomba, Machinga, and Neno registered relatively low production of cereals, pulses, and cotton.

Though prices were relatively higher than last year leading to harvesting, these have started to fall with the progression of harvesting, while remaining significantly above average throughout the country. A few districts also experienced Fall Army Worm infestation and other minor crop pests which affected crop production. The majority of poor and very poor households in urban areas remain stricken by high levels of poverty that negatively affect their ability to access food. During the current period, the impact of COVID-19 is at a minimum as the Government announced Covid-19 restrictions were challenged in court and nullified. However, initially Government closed open air markets before the court intervened for small businesses. Purchasing power reduced due to loss of incomes especially for workers at major Hotels which had no workshops nor seminars which were restricted by the government, and a marked reduction in tourist activities. Travel form South Africa by road to Malawi resulted into a rapid infection especially by returnees.

In the current period, Nsanje, Neno and Balaka districts are receiving significant humanitarian assistance with over 25% of the population receiving over 50% of their caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance.

Food Availability

Maize production is estimated at 3.9 million tonnes (11.5% above last year and 28% above the five-year average). All other food crops registered an increase in production, except for wheat and pigeon peas (which reduced by 15% and 24%) respectively.

Additionally, due to low opening stocks at Government food reserve agencies announced at the end of March 2020, the two main food purchasers[1] will likely continue maize purchases throughout the marketing season. These purchases will boost the National Strategic Grain Reserves (SGR) as well as ADMARC stocks for subsidized commercial sale throughout the consumption year. ADMARC announced that they would purchase maize at an atypically high price of MWK 200/kg. According to the last communication from the national budget statement and statements by ADMARC, the two institutions are expected to purchase about 240,000 MT of maize grain this season to ensure that the country is food self-sufficient.

Food Access

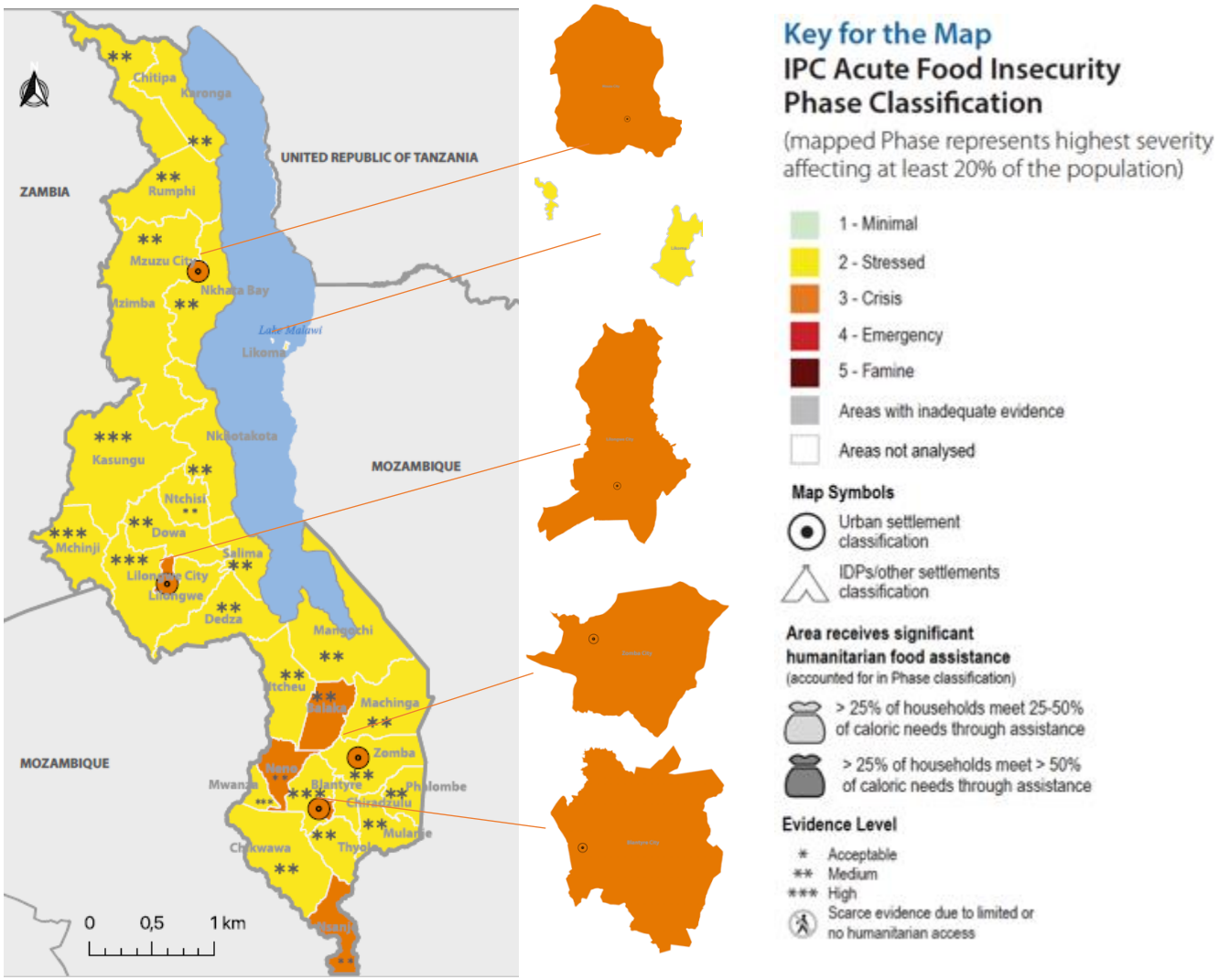
Despite above-average national production, food prices are significantly above average throughout the country. Farm gate prices for maize and other food commodities are higher than both last year and average levels, largely due to the government's decision to set higher minimum farm gate prices. For example, the minimum farm gate price for maize is currently MWK 200/kg as opposed to MWK 150/kg or lower in previous years.

[1] National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC)

Nutrition Status

There has been an overall 1.7% decrease in SAM admissions from 22,114 between January to June 2019 to 21,744 in the same period 2020. However, case identification and referral through mass screening in several districts have been affected in 2020, by COVID-19, which has resulted in a drastic decrease in the number of children screened due to the fear of COVID-19 infections among community workers, volunteers and caregivers.

PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION (OCT 2020 – MARCH 2021)



POPULATION TABLE FOR THE PROJECTED PERIOD: OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

			Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Phase 3 and Higher	
District	Area Phase	Total # (pp)	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Balaka	3	389 024	155 610	40	155 610	40	77 805	20	-	-	-	-	77 805	20
Blantyre	2	451 220	203 049	45	180 488	40	67 683	15	-	-	-	-	67 683	15
Blantyre city	3	1 072 684	589 976	55	268 171	25	214 537	20	-	-	-	-	214 537	20
Chikhwawa	2	551 538	275 769	50	193 038	35	82 731	15	-	-	-	-	82 731	15
Chiradzulu	2	353 914	159 261	45	141 566	40	53 087	15	-	-	-	-	53 087	15
Chitipa	2	217 184	162 888	75	32 578	15	21 718	10	-	-	-	-	21 718	10
Dedza	2	799 584	439 771	55	239 875	30	119 938	15	-	-	-	-	119 938	15
Dowa	2	740 891	370 446	50	259 312	35	111 134	15	-	-	-	-	111 134	15
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Kasungu	2	726 235	399 429	55	217 871	30	108 935	15	-	-	-	-	108 935	15
Likoma	2	14 502	11 602	80	2 175	15	725	5	-	-	-	-	725	5
Lilongwe	2	1 637 583	818 792	50	655 033	40	163 758	10	-	-	-	-	163 758	10
Lilongwe city	3	1 365 724	682 862	50	409 717	30	273 145	20	-	-	-	-	273 145	20
Machinga	2	710 231	319 604	45	284 092	40	106 535	15	-	-	-	-	106 535	15
Mangochi	2	1 080 158	324 047	30	594 087	55	162 024	15	-	-	-	-	162 024	15
Mchinji	2	574 294	315 862	55	201 003	35	57 429	10	-	-	-	-	57 429	10
Mulanje	2	669 325	401 595	60	200 798	30	66 933	10	-	-	-	-	66 933	10
Mwanza	2	112 910	50 810	45	45 164	40	16 937	15	-	-	-	-	16 937	15
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Mzuzu city	3	306 265	122 506	40	122 506	40	61 253	20	-	-	-	-	61 253	20
Neno	3	136 008	68 004	50	40 802	30	27 202	20	-	-	-	-	27 202	20
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Nsanje	3	272 324	149 778	55	68 081	25	54 465	20	-	-	-	-	54 465	20
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Phalombe	2	423 208	148 123	35	211 604	50	63 481	15	-	-	-	-	63 481	15
Rumphi	2	206 803	103 402	50	72 381	35	31 020	15	-	-	-	-	31 020	15
Salima	2	435 162	261 097	60	108 791	25	65 274	15	-	-	-	-	65 274	15
Thyolo	2	701 013	385 557	55	210 304	30	105 152	15	-	-	-	-	105 152	15
Zomba	2	746 724	261 353	35	373 362	50	112 009	15	-	-	-	-	112 009	15
Zomba city	3	184 724	83 126	45	64 653	35	36 945	20	-	-	-	-	36 945	20
Grand Total		17 677 952	8 840 895	50	6 219 071	35	2 617 986	15	-	-	-	-	2 617 986	15

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, therefore they may be in need of continued action.

rojected Situation Overview (October 2020-March 2021)

About 2.62 million people (15% of Malawi population) are projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity situation and will need humanitarian support between October 2020 and March 2012, which coincides with the lean season in Southern Africa. Out of the total 2.62 million facing high food insecurity, approximately 2.03 million are in the rural areas and 586,000 in the four urban cities. This population includes households from areas which experienced low levels of crop production, above average food prices and impact of COVID-19. COVID-19 is expected to largely affect urban poor households who will continue facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in the projected period.

Cereal stocks at the household level will generally be average to above average throughout the country due to above-average production. However, shortfalls will be experienced especially in southern Malawi and some parts of central and northern Malawi. These households will likely experience some food gaps especially at the peak of the lean season in January and February 2021.

Between October 2020 and March 2021, which represents the lean period, prices are expected to increase as households deplete their stocks and face the increased impact of the COVID-19 for both urban and rural households. Food prices are expected to remain stable between August and September before beginning to increase in October. Maize prices are expected to trend at levels 10-20% above five-year average prices throughout the projection period. This will likely affect the urban population more as they mostly rely on purchases throughout the consumption period. With reduced income from self-employment activities and loss of jobs and small businesses due to the impact of COVID-19 in these urban areas, above-average maize prices are expected to reduce financial access to food by these households.

ASSUMPTIONS for Projections

- **Labour Opportunities**: Labour opportunities and wages for poorer households in urban areas will likely be significantly lower than average due to impact of COVID-19. Rural households will have increased casual labour opportunities due to forecasted above normal 2020/2012 rainfall season.
- **Food Availability:** Maize grain supplies are expected to remain normal to above normal across markets in both surplus and deficit producing areas.
- **Informal Cross Border Trade**: Informal cross border inflows especially from Zambia and Mozambique are expected to be at normal levels despite Covid-19 related border restrictions.
- **Food prices:** Maize prices are expected to trend at levels 10%-20% above five-year average prices throughout the projection period.
- **Seasonal Forecast:** The Climate Prediction Centre (CPC) and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) forecasts an above average 2020/2021 rainfall season which might result in flooding in southern areas of the country.
- **Labour Migration:** Labour migration to neighboring districts of Malawi as well as to Zambia and Mozambique is expected to be normal during the scenario period, due to lack of internal movement restrictions in Malawi and given that informal border crossing points used by Malawians seeking work in Zambia and Mozambique are porous.
- **Covid-19 Impact:** Agricultural labour opportunities and rates will likely be below normal at the national level due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Remittances:** Many Malawians receive remittances from relatives working in other countries, particularly in South Africa. Remittances are expected to increase as restrictions in other countries are lifted.

Between October 2020 and March 2021, which represents the lean period, prices are expected to increase as households deplete their stocks and face increased impact of the COVID-19 for both urban and rural households. Food prices are expected to remain stable between August and September before beginning to increase in October. Maize prices are expected to trend at levels 10-20 percent above five-year average prices throughout the projection period. This will likely affect urban population more as they mostly rely on purchases throughout the consumption period. With reduced income from self-employment activities and loss of jobs or small businesses due to the impact of COVID-19 in these urban areas, above average maize prices are expected to reduce financial access to food by these households. The food security situation is likely to deteriorate in urban areas during the projection period. Although no major movement restrictions are currently in place there is a possibility of a surge in COVID-19 cases which would impact labour opportunities in urban areas. For urban households without access to own production this price increase would significantly impact food access. Across the four urban areas analysed around 20% of households are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while 30% are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

The following response priorities are proposed for the current period:

- Urgent action is required to save lives, reduce food consumption gaps and protect livelihoods for populations in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
- Reduce food consumption gaps by improving access to food, through appropriate modalities for household in urban areas.
- Strengthen prevention measures for COVID-19
- Promote resilience/climate smart agricultural production
- Ensure the nutrition situation is monitored
- Promote interventions that reduce the impact of COVID-19 on urban populations
- Mount campaigns to promote dietary diversification among communities

Situation Monitoring and Update

The key factors to monitor will include;

- Prices for staple commodities
- Informal cross border food trade
- The impact of COVID-19 on food security
- Inflation and its impact on the Malawi Kwacha
- Rainfall pattern
- New Government Policy direction
- Possible increased impact of COVID-19
- Fall Army Worm infestation on Irrigated crop
- Flooding in the southern districts

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

MVAC TWG conducts an Annual Assessment and Analysis from May to June. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a huge challenge in getting the entire Technical Working Group (TWG) to participate in the surveys because of restrictions by agencies. However, the government provided the necessary conditions to enable a small team to go to the field and conduct data collection with strict observation of Ministry of Health COVID-19 guidelines. The main surveys undertaken were: Baseline Survey for Likoma Island, HEA data collection, Rural Household food security survey and Urban food security survey. Other complementing surveys were done by FAO and WFP.

The TWG then carried out an analysis of the data collected from the surveys to prepare the indicators for the IPC analysis. Overall data analysis was done using the IPC protocols based on the Technical Manual version 3.0. The IPC AFI Analysis workshop was a hybrid including both virtual and face to face analysis.

Analysts were split into four regions: North, Central, East and South with each district being independently analyzed but compared with the neighbouring districts in the same region.

Upon completion of entries into the ISS, technical consensus process involved each region presenting their outcomes and reviewed by the facilitators, vetting of the outcome and the plenary discussion before the team concluded the analysis.

The draft report was developed by the MVAC secretariat and forwarded to the Government for approval. However, to have buy-in, a validation process is conducted with the districts to discuss the outcome of the analysis before the Humanitarian Response Committee begins to deliberate of the development of the Lean Season Integrated Response Programme.

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

SOURCES OF DATA

Data sources: Household Food Security Survey, Agricultural Crop Production Estimates (APES), Market Survey, Price Projections (FEWSNET), Price data Ministry of Agriculture (Agricultural Market Information System- AMIS), mVAM data from WFP. National Statistics Office (population), District Food Security reports.

LIMITATIONS OF THE ANALYSIS

This year's process faced several challenges, the funding for activities was minimal and lots of delays in confirming availability of funds. Secondly, the COVID-19 was a challenge in undertaking full scale

assessment in the field due to the restrictions as well as suspension of meetings/workshops. As a result, several agencies save for government participants could not participate in person at the analysis posing a challenge for proper discussions during consensus building coupled with Internet connectivity challenges for those who were joining virtually. The analysis met the highest Evidence Level.

MVAC plans to carry out the annual update in November to ascertain the food and nutrition security situation and the assumptions that have been factored in the analysis. There will also be an opportunity to review the impact of Covid-19 on food security at the household level, market functionality, transport and trade across districts/regions, if schools will not have resumed, the impact on household-level food requirements, price of staples, availability of labour opportunities etc.

Contact for further information:

GERESOMO, VICTORIA
MVAC CHAIR
vcgeresomo@yahoo.com

IPC Global Support Unit
www.ipcinfo.org

This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the MVAC (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture). It has benefited from the technical and financial support of FAO/GSU for the analysis and USAID for data collection

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC , FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners: