

MALAWI

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS NOVEMBER 2021

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS
NOVEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022

Issued December 2021

CURRENT NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021			PROJECTED JANUARY - MARCH 2022		
1.4M 7% of the population analysed People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe	1.65M 9% of the population analysed People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	0 People in Emergency		Phase 4	0 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	1,397,000 People in Crisis		Phase 3	1,653,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	4,355,000 People in Stressed		Phase 2	5,002,000 People in Stressed
	Phase 1	13,076,000 People in food security		Phase 1	12,172,000 People in food security

Overview

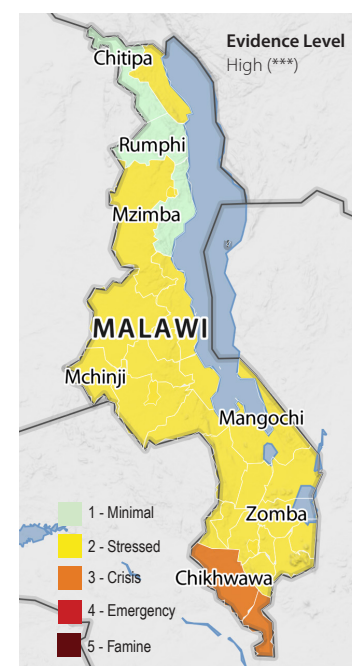
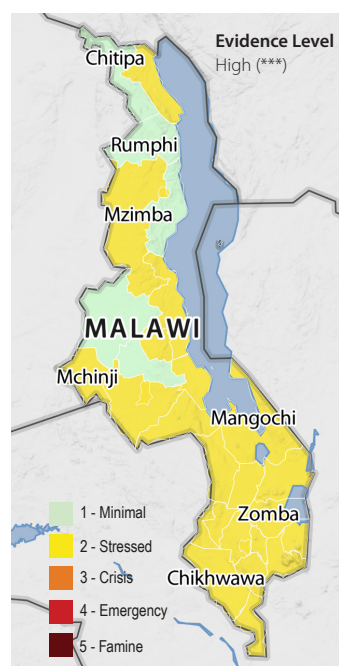
In the current period of November 2021 to December 2021, about 1.4 million people (7% of the population) are estimated to be experiencing Crisis levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and require urgent humanitarian action to reduce food gaps, protect and restore livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition. Around 4.4 million people are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) while 13.1 million people are food secure (IPC Phase 1). Out of all rural districts, district towns and cities analysed, 26 areas are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) while six are classified in IPC Phase 1 (Minimal). No areas are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Out of the 1.4 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), around 186,000 are from urban areas (Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Zomba and Blantyre cities), representing 8% of the urban population, whilst the remaining 1.2 million people are from the rural areas and the Bomas, representing 7% of the rural and Boma population.

Between January and March 2022, around 1.65 million (9% of the population) are projected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), 5 million people are projected to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) while 12.2 million people are projected to be food secure (IPC Phase 1). Nsanje and Chikwawa are the only districts projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The remaining areas are likely to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), aside from Chitipa, Likoma, Nkhatabay and Rumphi, which are projected to be in Phase 1 (Minimal). Populations classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) include poor urban/Bomas and rural households in the deficit-producing southern region, and some parts of the northern and central region districts. Despite the country realising record high maize production at 46% above the five-year average, there are still some pockets in the districts and cities that are likely to face acute food insecurity. These areas experienced dry spells and later than normal tailing off of rainfall, leading to localised production shortfalls. These shortfalls were exacerbated by slow livelihood recovery from previous seasons and the impact of COVID-19 on remittances, petty trading and self-employment activities.

When comparing the October 2021 – March 2022 projection from the August 2021 analysis with the latest November – December 2021 current from the November 2021 analysis, a decrease by around 100,000 people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) is observed. This is mainly due to the bumper harvest and decreasing food prices, trending between 9% to 30% below the five-year average across markets, that enhance financial access to food for the vast majority of the people in this period. However, looking at the projection period - which coincides with the peak of the lean season - the latest analysis shows an increase by over 150,000 people in January and March 2022, compared to the October 2021 - March 2022 projection from the August 2021 analysis. This is mainly due to the Jan-Mar 2022 projection covering specifically the peak of the lean season as opposed to the previous expanded projection Oct-Mar, as well as prolonged dry spells, and low agricultural incomes resulting from low agricultural prices for cash crops in Kasungu and Lilongwe.

November - December 2020

January - March 2021



Key Drivers



COVID-19

Covid-19 cases have been going down in the country since the release of the report in August. Despite this being the case, the economy still did not fully open up and job losses that were experienced were not recovered.



Dry spells

In Southern Malawi, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje and some parts of Thyolo, Phalombe, Balaka, Mwanza, Neno, Zomba, and Chiradzulu districts had localised dry spells and experienced an early cessation of rainfall, which resulted in localised lower production.

KEY FINDINGS

- The country experienced one of the best crop production years compared to the average of the past five years, registering a record high maize production of about 4.6 million metric tonnes and hence a surplus of 1.2 million metric tonnes.
- The food insecure population is projected to slightly increase during the lean season (January – March 2022) for both rural and urban populations, mainly due to the depletion of own stocks and lower prices for cash crops.
- Maize price projections for the peak of the lean season between December 2021 and March 2022 show that prices are expected to trend close to the five-year average in most markets, and lower than average in other markets- within the bands of less than 5-10 % of the past five years.
- With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and limited restrictions, the number of people, especially in urban areas, losing income as a result of the effects of the pandemic is still high, since those people who were laid off remain unemployed
- As we approach the lean season, more people in low-producing rural areas are expected to exhaust their food stocks and depend on markets. This will increase food insecurity in the country.
- the economy did not fully open up and job losses were not fully recovered. This resulted in reduced incomes and availability of casual labour for low-income households.

CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2021)

In the current period, the 2020/21 national production of maize - the main staple - is 46% above the five-year average production. As a result of the above average production, the country has a total maize surplus of close to 1.2 million metric tonnes of maize. Maize prices were stable between September and October 2021. In October, prices averaged MWK145 per kilogram which was almost the same average price registered in the previous month. Prices were highest in the South at an average of MWK162 per kilogram followed by the Centre at MWK143 per kilogram. Maize prices were lowest in the North at an average of MWK121 per kilogram. When compared to the average, maize prices were trending at levels between 9% and 30% below the five-year average across markets.

Overall, about 1.4 million people (7% of the population) are currently classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and in need of humanitarian assistance, a slight increase from the 1.065 million people (6% of the population) classified in IPC Phase 3 during the August 2021 analysis. An additional 4.4 million people (23% of the population) are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) compared to the 3.6 million during the August 2021 analysis. As households continue depleting their food stocks, the number of people in IPC Phase 1 (No Acute Food Insecurity) has dropped to 13 million (69% of the population) from about 14.2 million reported during the in August 2021 analysis. Four of the six districts in the Northern region are in IPC Phase 1 (Minimal), while the remaining two districts are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), compared to the August 2021 analysis when all districts in the Northern region, save for Mzuzu city, were classified in IPC Phase 1. Two of the nine districts in the Central region (Dowa and Kasungu) are in IPC Phase 1 (Minimal) while the rest are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). This is also a slight deterioration of the situation from the August 2021 analysis, when six of the nine districts were classified in IPC Phase 1 while the remaining three (Salima, Dedza and Ntcheu) were classified in IPC Phase 2. In the Southern region, all districts remain in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), as classified during the August 2021 analysis.

Urban focus: All the four urban zones analysed (Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba) remain in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), as classified in the last analysis. However, an additional 15,000 people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) are recorded in the November - December 2021 current period, compared to the October 2021 - March 2022 projection of the August 2021 analysis.

The main reasons behind the deterioration observed in the latest analysis are low agricultural prices, dry spells and the impact of COVID-19. Despite ensuring stable access to food for those who rely on purchases, the low agricultural prices resulted in income losses for farmers in the breadbasket districts, mainly in the Central region. In the Southern region, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje and some parts of Thyolo, Phalombe, Balaka, Mwanza, Neno, Zomba, and Chiradzulu districts had localised dry spells and experienced an early cessation of rainfall, which resulted in localised lower than expected production in some parts of these districts. Since the release of the August 2021 analysis report, COVID-19 cases went down significantly and things went closer to normal. Nonetheless, the economy did not fully open up and job losses were not fully recovered. This resulted in reduced incomes and availability of casual labour for low-income households.



PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (JANUARY - MARCH 2022)

About 1.65 million people (9% of Malawi's population) are projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity and will need humanitarian assistance between January and March 2022, which coincides with the lean season in Malawi. This number is slightly worse than the 1.5 million people (8% of Malawi's population) projected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) during the August 2021 analysis. This is attributed to the increase in the number of households projected to be in IPC Phase 3 in Balaka, Kasungu and Lilongwe districts from a total of 180,749 during the last analysis to a total of 337,630 during the latest analysis (i.e. from 47,738 to 71,607, 45,346 to 90,693 and 87,665 to 175,330, respectively). The increasing numbers of food insecure households are attributed to prolonged dry spells experienced in Balaka, which will result in more households running out of food stocks during the lean season. In Lilongwe and Kasungu, on the other hand, the increasing numbers are on account of loss of incomes resulting from low agricultural prices, especially cash crops such as tobacco, which fetched lower prices at the Auction Floors.

Out of the total 1.65 million people facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3), approximately 1.47 million are in the rural areas and district towns (Bomas), while 186,254 are in the four urban cities. This population includes households from areas which experienced localised low levels of crop production, and a significant loss of income due to the impact of COVID-19.

Cereal stocks at the household level will generally be above-average in high producing areas throughout the country, due to above-average national crop production. As such, maize prices are expected to trend at 5%-10% below the five-year average during the projected period. However, shortfalls will likely be experienced in parts of southern Malawi, especially Chikwawa and Nsanje. Households in these areas will likely experience some food gaps, especially at the peak of the lean season in January and February 2022.

Between January and March 2022, which represents the lean season, prices are expected to slightly increase, following seasonal trends, as households deplete their stocks and face an increased impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for both urban and rural households. Rising cereal prices, coupled with loss of employment and reduced opportunities for casual labour, are likely to continue making it difficult for many households to easily access food.

Urban focus: All the four urban zones analysed (Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba) are projected to remain in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), as projected during the August 2021 analysis. It is worth noting that during the January – March 2022 period, the number of highly food insecure households (IPC Phase 3) is also projected to remain the same as classified in the November-December 2021 period, because people living in urban areas mainly rely on purchases for food, and labour availability is expected to remain relatively stable during the projection period. In addition, with the bumper harvest, maize prices are also projected to remain stable during the projection period.

Given the above-average national opening stocks for the 2021 marketing year and the 46% above-average maize production in the 2020/21 production year, it is projected that maize prices will not likely reach the maximum projected price of K250 per kilogram. This will likely affect the rural population more, as they mostly rely on cereal sales 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 all these areas, below-average maize prices are expected to at least provide favourable financial access to food for these households.

The impact of the pandemic is expected to largely affect urban poor households, who will continue facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity in the projection period, and the situation is likely to deteriorate further. 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. Looking at the trend of confirmed COVID-19 cases between April 2020 and September 2021, there seems to be three months cycles in the surge of confirmed cases, the latest being from June to September 2021. With the recent discovery of the Omicron variant in South Africa, COVID-19 cases are expected to rise between December 2021 and February 2022 as they did between January and February 2021. This will likely lead to a slowdown in petty trading and self-employment activities, and hence reduced income levels, which will increase food insecurity among households that rely on food purchases. Furthermore, the pandemic will continue to have a negative impact on remittances from abroad, which will increase food insecurity, as projected during the August 2021 analysis. The situation will likely be mitigated by lower maize price levels expected during the same period and hence, only a small increase in the number of people experiencing consumption gaps. Out of those estimated to be highly food insecure in the projection period, 11.27% comprise those from the country's four major cities.

Key Assumptions for the projected period

COVID-19 Impact: Labour opportunities and wages for poorer households in all rural areas are likely to remain within normal ranges, while those in urban centres may slightly reduce because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food Availability: Maize grain supplies are expected to remain stable across markets in both surplus and deficit-producing areas.

Macroeconomic Environment: In the coming months, macroeconomic conditions are likely to continue deteriorating due to severe currency shortages. Depreciation of the kwacha is likely to continue as the market for Malawi's main forex earner, tobacco, is coming to an end and overall outputs were already lower this season.

Loss of Employment: Loss of employment and income resulting from COVID-19 effects, coupled with rising food costs, is likely going to continue making it difficult for many urban households to easily access food.

Informal Cross-Border Trade: Informal cross-border inflows, especially from Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique, are expected to be below-average, considering significantly above-average local production.

Food prices: Maize prices are expected to trend 5%-10% lower than the five-year average prices throughout the projection period.

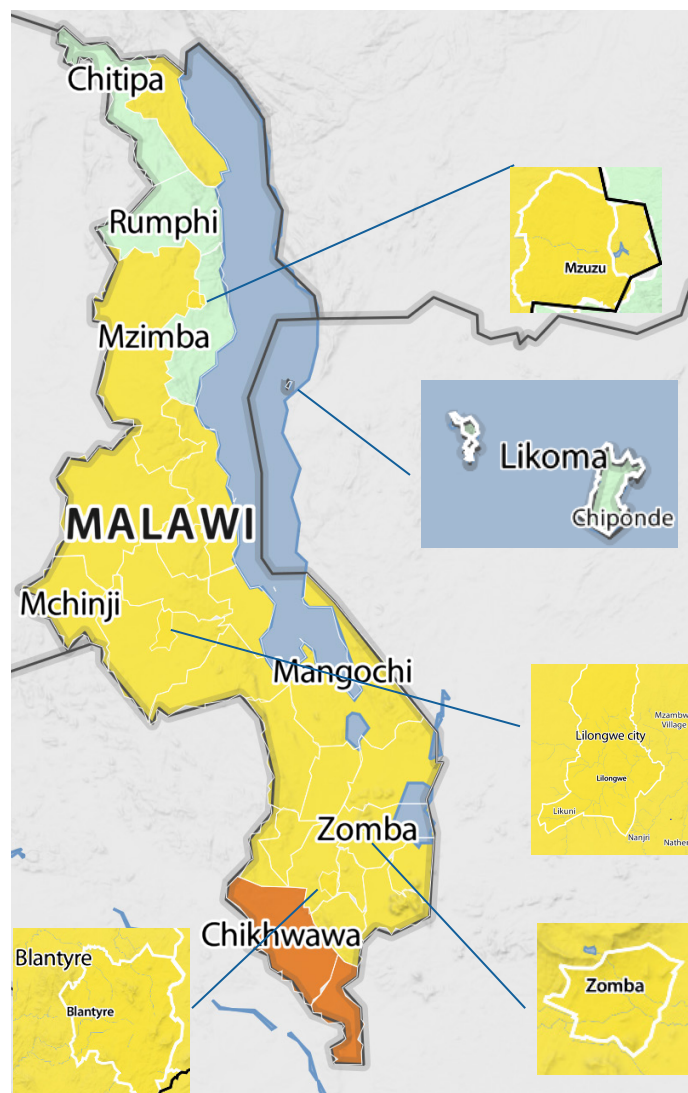
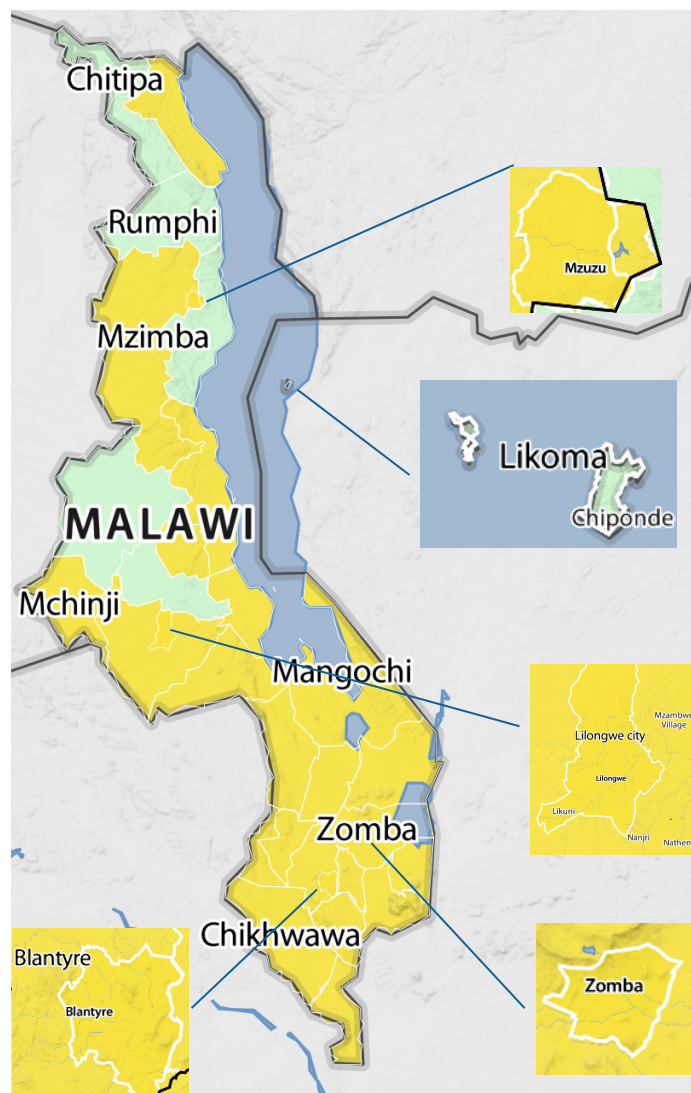
Labour Migration: Labour migration to neighbouring districts of Malawi as well as to Zambia and Mozambique is expected to be lower than normal during the projection period, if internal movement in Malawi and its neighbours Zambia and Mozambique remain restricted.

Remittances: Many Malawians receive remittances from relatives working in other countries, particularly in South Africa. Remittances are expected to decrease as restrictions in South Africa continue with respect to the new COVID variant.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED SITUATION MAPS

Current Situation: November - December 2021

Projected Situation: January – March 2022



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

Evidence Level
High (***)



CURRENT AND PROJECTED SITUATION POPULATION TABLES

Population table for the current period: November - December 2021

District	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Balaka	477,380	310,297	65	95,476	20	71,607	15	0	0	0	0	2	71,607	15
Blantyre	485,912	267,252	55	170,069	35	48,591	10	0	0	0	0	2	48,591	10
Blantyre city	844,161	422,081	50	379,872	45	42,208	5	0	0	0	0	2	42,208	5
Chikhwawa	603,037	361,822	60	150,759	25	90,456	15	0	0	0	0	2	90,456	15
Chiradzulu	377,103	263,972	70	94,276	25	18,855	5	0	0	0	0	2	18,855	5
Chitipa	247,514	210,387	85	24,751	10	12,376	5	0	0	0	0	1	12,376	5
Dedza	889,017	622,312	70	266,705	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Dowa	835,919	710,531	85	83,592	10	41,796	5	0	0	0	0	1	41,796	5
Karonga	388,780	311,024	80	58,317	15	19,439	5	0	0	0	0	2	19,439	5
Kasungu	906,926	770,887	85	90,693	10	45,346	5	0	0	0	0	1	45,346	5
Likoma	15,391	13,852	90	1,539	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lilongwe	1,753,299	1,051,979	60	525,990	30	175,330	10	0	0	0	0	2	175,330	10
Lilongwe city	1,021,699	715,189	70	204,340	20	102,170	10	0	0	0	0	2	102,170	10
Machinga	816,370	571,459	70	163,274	20	81,637	10	0	0	0	0	2	81,637	10
Mangochi	1,264,737	758,842	60	379,421	30	126,474	10	0	0	0	0	2	126,474	10
Mchinji	644,457	515,566	80	96,669	15	32,223	5	0	0	0	0	2	32,223	5
Mulanje	733,068	513,148	70	183,267	25	36,653	5	0	0	0	0	2	36,653	5
Mwanza	143,578	93,326	65	43,073	30	7,179	5	0	0	0	0	2	7,179	5
Mzimba	986,294	739,721	75	197,259	20	49,315	5	0	0	0	0	2	49,315	5
Mzuzu city	250,577	162,875	65	62,644	25	25,058	10	0	0	0	0	2	25,058	10
Neno	147,272	88,363	60	44,182	30	14,727	10	0	0	0	0	2	14,727	10
Nkhata bay	299,493	254,569	85	29,949	10	14,975	5	0	0	0	0	1	14,975	5
Nkhotakota	419,594	335,675	80	83,919	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Nsanje	316,123	173,868	55	94,837	30	47,418	15	0	0	0	0	2	47,418	15
Ntcheu	716,432	501,502	70	179,108	25	35,822	5	0	0	0	0	2	35,822	5
Ntchisi	346,154	276,923	80	69,231	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Phalombe	465,592	325,914	70	93,118	20	46,559	10	0	0	0	0	2	46,559	10
Rumphi	243,811	207,239	85	24,381	10	12,191	5	0	0	0	0	1	12,191	5
Salima	521,186	416,949	80	78,178	15	26,059	5	0	0	0	0	2	26,059	5
Thyolo	759,062	569,297	75	113,859	15	75,906	10	0	0	0	0	2	75,906	10
Zomba	795,548	477,329	60	238,664	30	79,555	10	0	0	0	0	2	79,555	10
Zomba city	112,121	61,667	55	33,636	30	16,818	15	0	0	0	0	2	16,818	15
Grand Total	18,827,607	13,075,816	69	4,355,049	23	1,396,742	7	0	0	0	0		1,396,742	7

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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.



Population table for the projection period: January - March 2022

District	Total population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Balaka	477,380	310,297	65	95,476	20	71,607	15	0	0	0	0	2	71,607	15
Blantyre	485,912	242,956	50	194,365	40	48,591	10	0	0	0	0	2	48,591	10
Blantyre city	844,161	422,081	50	379,872	45	42,208	5	0	0	0	0	2	42,208	5
Chikhwawa	603,037	301,519	50	180,911	30	120,607	20	0	0	0	0	3	120,607	20
Chiradzulu	377,103	245,117	65	94,276	25	37,710	10	0	0	0	0	2	37,710	10
Chitipa	247,514	210,387	85	24,751	10	12,376	5	0	0	0	0	1	12,376	5
Dedza	889,017	622,312	70	222,254	25	44,451	5	0	0	0	0	2	44,451	5
Dowa	835,919	585,143	70	208,980	25	41,796	5	0	0	0	0	2	41,796	5
Karonga	388,780	311,024	80	58,317	15	19,439	5	0	0	0	0	2	19,439	5
Kasungu	906,926	634,848	70	181,385	20	90,693	10	0	0	0	0	2	90,693	10
Likoma	15,391	13,082	85	1,539	10	770	5	0	0	0	0	1	770	5
Lilongwe	1,753,299	1,051,979	60	525,990	30	175,330	10	0	0	0	0	2	175,330	10
Lilongwe city	1,021,699	664,104	65	255,425	25	102,170	10	0	0	0	0	2	102,170	10
Machinga	816,370	530,641	65	204,093	25	81,637	10	0	0	0	0	2	81,637	10
Mangochi	1,264,737	695,605	55	442,658	35	126,474	10	0	0	0	0	2	126,474	10
Mchinji	644,457	483,343	75	128,891	20	32,223	5	0	0	0	0	2	32,223	5
Mulanje	733,068	439,841	60	219,920	30	73,307	10	0	0	0	0	2	73,307	10
Mwanza	143,578	93,326	65	43,073	30	7,179	5	0	0	0	0	2	7,179	5
Mzimba	986,294	739,721	75	197,259	20	49,315	5	0	0	0	0	2	49,315	5
Mzuzu city	250,577	162,875	65	62,644	25	25,058	10	0	0	0	0	2	25,058	10
Neno	147,272	66,272	45	58,909	40	22,091	15	0	0	0	0	2	22,091	15
Nkhata bay	299,493	254,569	85	29,949	10	14,975	5	0	0	0	0	1	14,975	5
Nkhotakota	419,594	293,716	70	83,919	20	41,959	10	0	0	0	0	2	41,959	10
Nsanje	316,123	158,062	50	94,837	30	63,225	20	0	0	0	0	3	63,225	20
Ntcheu	716,432	465,681	65	179,108	25	71,643	10	0	0	0	0	2	71,643	10
Ntchisi	346,154	259,616	75	69,231	20	17,308	5	0	0	0	0	2	17,308	5
Phalombe	465,592	279,355	60	139,678	30	46,559	10	0	0	0	0	2	46,559	10
Rumphi	243,811	207,239	85	24,381	10	12,191	5	0	0	0	0	1	12,191	5
Salima	521,186	364,830	70	130,297	25	26,059	5	0	0	0	0	2	26,059	5
Thyolo	759,062	569,297	75	151,812	20	37,953	5	0	0	0	0	2	37,953	5
Zomba	795,548	437,551	55	278,442	35	79,555	10	0	0	0	0	2	79,555	10
Zomba city	112,121	56,061	50	39,242	35	16,818	15	0	0	0	0	2	16,818	15
Grand Total	18,827,607	12,172,448	65	5,001,884	27	1,653,275	9	0	0	0	0		1,653,275	9

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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

- Humanitarian response should commence in January 2022 as recommended by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) to save lives, reduce food consumption gaps and protect the livelihoods of populations in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).
- Reduce food consumption gaps by improving access to food through appropriate modalities for households in urban areas.
- Ensure continued price monitoring for staples and other commodities.
- Mount campaigns to promote dietary diversification among communities and improve poor consumption patterns elicited by MVAC assessments.
- Promote resilience/climate-smart agricultural production.
- The Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) should make deliberate efforts to continue selling maize in all depots so that people continue to benefit from its set fair prices and thus avoid exploitative prices offered by private traders.
- As we are heading into the rainy season, it is important to monitor all hazards and disasters that are likely to happen due to heavy rains.

Situation Monitoring

- COVID-19: Despite the cases in Malawi going down, there is a need to monitor the situation as the weather changes going into the rainy season. The discovery of the new variant (Omicron) also causes more reason to continue to monitor the situation.
- Travel bans and their impact on the Malawian economy.
- Food and maize prices: Maize prices are still at a record low in the country compared to the past five-year average.
- Inflation rates: There is likely going to be an increase in the overall price of the food/needs basket, due to increases in electricity/water/fuel tariffs.

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The IPC Technical Working Group conducted the MVAC Update Assessment and the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis from the 22nd to the 26th of November, 2021. A total of 45 participants attended this analysis, some virtually, and most government participants in person. These included representatives from the ministries of Economic Planning, Development and Public Sector Reforms, Agriculture, HIV and Nutrition Section of Ministry of Transport, National Statistics Office, Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), WFP, FAO, FEWSNET, Trocaire, United Purpose, Concern Worldwide, Goal Malawi, CARE, Malawi, Save the Children and USAID.

The government provided the necessary conditions to enable the TWG to conduct data collection with the strict observation of Ministry of Health COVID-19 guidelines. The main surveys undertaken were: HEA data collection, Rural Household food security survey and Urban food security survey (in the four cities). Other complementing surveys were done by other MVAC partner institutions.

The TWG then carried out an analysis of the data collected from the surveys to prepare the indicators for the IPC analysis. For this year's update, the TWG carried out a fresh survey and used a new set of indicators. Overall data analysis was done using the IPC protocols based on the Technical Manual Version 3.0. The IPC 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 analysed but compared with the neighbouring districts in the same region.

Upon completion of entries into the Information Support System (ISS), the technical consensus process involved each region presenting their outcomes and having them reviewed by the facilitators, as well as vetting of the outcome and a plenary discussion before the team concluded the analysis.

The draft report was developed by the MVAC secretariat and forwarded to the Government for approval. 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 the development of the Lean Season Integrated Response Programme.

Sources

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; Population Data from the National Statistics Office; and District Food Security reports.

Limitations of the analysis

This year's process faced several challenges. The funding for activities was minimal and there were many delays in confirming availability of funds. Secondly, the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge in undertaking full-scale assessment in the field due to the restrictions. As a result, some agencies 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.

The MVAC carried out the annual update in November 2021 to ascertain the food and nutrition security situation and the assumptions that were factored into the analysis. There was also an opportunity to review the impact of COVID-19 on food security at the household level, market functionality, transport and trade across districts/regions, the impact on household-level food requirements, price of staples, availability of labour opportunities, etc.

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.

Contact for further Information

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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.

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