



Government of the
Republic of Malawi

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee(MVAC)

The number of food insecure population increases by 21% as the lean period sets in....



MALAWI
Vulnerability
Assessment Committee

October 2012 Update, Bulletin No. 8 Volume 2

2011/12 Crop Production Overview

In May 2012, The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security released official crop production estimates for the 2011/12 agricultural season indicated that the country would produce about **3.6 million metric tonnes** of maize compared to **3.89 million metric tonnes** produced last year. This projection represented an overall national maize surplus of about **800,000 metric tonnes** vis-a-viz a national domestic food consumption requirement estimated at **2.8 million metric tonnes**.

However, most districts particularly in the southern region experienced localized food deficits mainly due to late on-set of planting rains coupled with erratic rainfall pattern and prolonged dry spells.

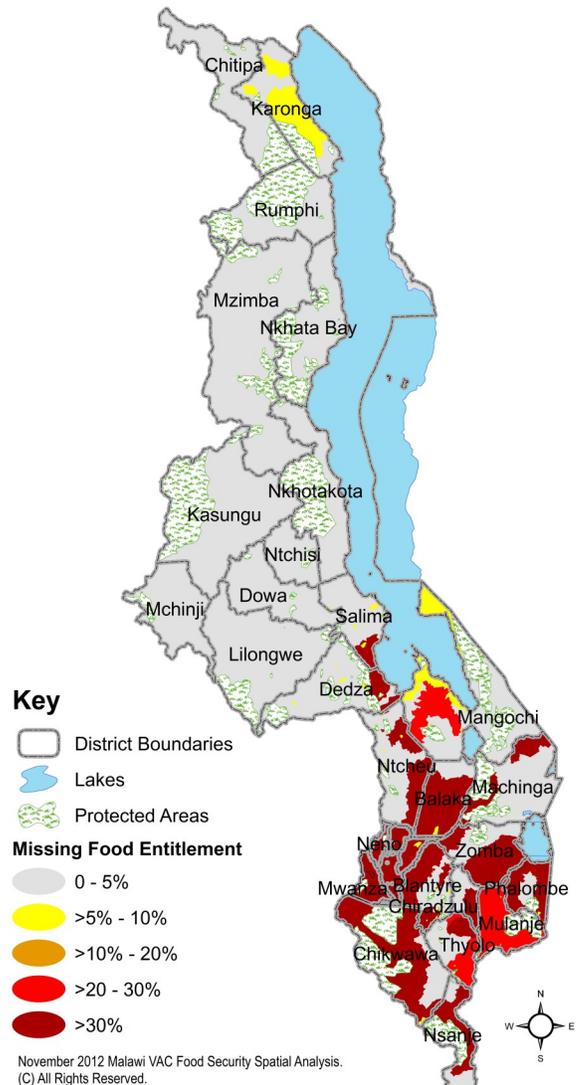
Malawi VAC October 2012 Food Security Update Analysis

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) conducted an update assessment in October 2012 as a follow up to the findings of June 2012 (*Malawi VAC June 2012 Report, Bulletin No. 8, Volume 1*). The update analysis projects that the number of vulnerable population has increased from **1,630,007** to **1,972,993** people, representing a 21% increase (**342,986 people**). The total population would now require **84,811 MT (up from 75,394MT)** of maize equivalent with a total cash value of **MK6.7bn (about US\$ 21,269,271)**.

The main factors contributing to this increase include: low crop production as a result of poor rainfall performance; low irrigation production prospects during the remaining

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Map 1. Food Insecure Areas in Malawi



October, 2012 Food Security highlights...

- The number of vulnerable population is projected to increase from **1,630,007** to **1,972,993** people, representing a **21%** increase (about **342,986 people**). The new total maize equivalent now stands at **84,811 MT (up from 75,394)**.
- Prices are higher in the southern parts of Malawi and on average they range from MK65 to MK85 per kg followed by the central region ranging from MK60 to MK80 per kg. The northern region has the lowest average price range of MK50 to 60 per kg.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security estimates **3.6 million metric tonnes** of maize production during the 2011/12 agricultural season compared to **3.89 million metric tonnes** produced last year. This projection represents an overall national maize surplus of about **800,000 metric tonnes**.
- The country experienced poor rainfall pattern during the 2011/12 agricultural season resulting lower production in both rain-fed and irrigated crop.

half of the consumption period due to inadequate residual moisture; increase in food prices and essential non-food items; larger geographical areas have been affected within the districts; low income levels due to poor cash crop production and sales; devaluation of the local currency has further weakened the purchasing of local communities; and instability in the supply of fuel products which is contributing to logistical problems of moving food commodities from food surplus areas to food deficit areas.

This update analysis will hold between October 2012 and March 2013 if the following conditions will prevail:

- That maize price will remain within the annual projected average of MK70 to MK80 price band during the third quarter and last quarter of the consumption period and that it will not surpass the maximum projected price of MK100 during the last quarter of the consumption period.
- That the humanitarian response in various forms will be up-scaled as the lean period sets in and progresses until the next harvest.
- That ADMARC and private traders will stock adequate quantities of food commodities during the remaining part of the consumption period.
- Labour opportunities will remain within the seasonal expected trends.
- That the general price trend of different commodities will not increase significantly.
- That Government will continue monitoring and regulating the flow of staple foods being exported .

Methodology and coverage of the assessment

The Malawi VAC conducts vulnerability assessment and analysis (VAA) using a livelihood based analytical framework known as Household Economy Approach (HEA). Basically, the approach looks at how people's livelihoods operate in a normal situation and how this normal way of life changes when exposed to a shock(s), and how they respond in order to survive and protect their livelihood systems. Shocks may include drought, dry spells, price changes, and loss of labour opportunities. The analysis uses both primary and secondary data to arrive at conclusions.

Districts covered during the update assessment include the following: Karonga, Mzimba and Rumphu in the north, Kasungu, Dedza, Ntcheu and Salima in the centre, Blantyre, Balaka, Chikhwawa, Mulanje, Mwanza, Mangochi, Machinga, Phalombe, Neno, Nsanje, Thyolo, and

Table 1. Updated Food Insecure Population 2012/13

No	District	Total Affected Population	Maize Equivalent (MT)	Cash Equivalent (MK)
1	Balaka	208 501	11 086	886 899 569.56
2	Blantyre	129 971	6 668	533 465 801.89
3	Chikwawa	275 653	14 613	1 169 034 716.39
4	Chiradzulu	28 711	1 044	83 524 065.34
5	Dedza	70 406	2 560	204 816 287.62
6	Machinga	20 556	1 495	119 600 354.03
7	Mangochi	14 340	391	31 287 934.95
8	Mulanje	349 389	8 121	649 703 020.36
9	Mwanza	71 916	3 034	242 702 469.94
10	Neno	110 080	5 475	437 969 862.81
11	Nsanje	105 012	5 567	445 351 319.76
12	Ntcheu	135 372	7 180	574 372 069.47
13	Phalombe	70 178	3 828	306 231 706.68
14	Salima	52 468	1 908	152 633 381.10
15	Thyolo	193 387	5 274	421 935 216.17
16	Zomba	137 053	6 567	525 369 898.40
	TOTAL	1 972 993	84 811	6 784 897 674

Zomba in the south.

Markets and marketing

The current maize nominal price trends show that price levels are within the projected trends as per the *Malawi VAC June 2012 Report (Bulletin 8, Volume 1)*. Prices are higher in the southern parts of Malawi and on average they range from MK65 to MK85 per kg followed by the central region ranging from MK60 to MK80 per kg. The northern region has the lowest average price range of MK50 to 60 per kg. However, in Karonga, maize price ranges from MK66 to MK70 per kg largely due to influence of demand from the Kayelekera Uranium mine and also cross border trading with Tanzania. This will need to be closely monitored as the prices have shown abnormal high trends.

The Malawi VAC predicts that the price trends for maize will be in the range of MK85 to MK100 per kg, if interventions in the affected areas are implemented as recommended.

AFFECTED POPULATION, MAIZE AND CASH EQUIVALENT

District	June 2012 Affected Poptn	June 2012 Maize Equivalent	June 2012 Cash Equivalent (MK'000)	October 2012 additional Affected Poptn	October 2012 Maize Equivalent	October 2012 Cash Equivalent	Total Affected Population	Total Maize Equivalent (MT)	Total Cash Equivalent (MK'000)
BALAKA	208,501	11086.24	886,900				208,501	11,086.24	886,899,570
BLANTYRE	115,550	6143.93	491,514	14,421	524	41,951,402	129,971	6,668.32	533,465,802
CHIKWAWA	275,653	14612.93	1,169,035				275,653	14,612.93	1,169,034,716
CHIRADZULU				45,369	1,044	83,524,065	28,711	1,044.05	83,524,065
DEDZA	70,406	2560.2	204,816				70,406	2,560.20	204,816,288
MACHINGA	20,556	1495	119,600				20,556	1,495.00	119,600,354
MANGOCHI	14,340	391.1	31,288				14,340	391.10	31,287,935
MULANJE	196,847	5368.56	429,485	152,542	2,753	220,218,220	349,389	8,121.29	649,703,020
MWANZA	1,404	74.65	5,972	70,152	2,959	236,730,470	71,916	3,033.78	242,702,470
NENO	76,302	4057.08	324,567	33,778	1,418	113,403,463	110,080	5,474.62	437,969,863
NSANJE	105,012	5566.89	445,351				105,012	5,566.89	445,351,320
NTCHEU	135,372	7179.65	574,372				135,372	7,179.65	574,372,069
PHALOMBE	70,178	3827.9	306,232				70,178	3,827.90	306,231,707
SALIMA	52,468	1907.92	152,633				52,468	1,907.92	152,633,381
THYOLO	167,021	4555.13	364,410	26,724	719	57,524,816	193,387	5,274.19	421,935,216
ZOMBA	137,053	6567.12	525,370				137,053	6,567.12	525,369,898
TOTAL	1,630,007	75394.3	6,031,545	342,986	9,417	753,352,437	1,972,993	84,811	6,784,897,674

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The update analysis projects that the number of vulnerable population is projected to increase from **1,630,007** to **1,972,993** people, representing a **21%** increase (342, 986 additional people between November , 2012 and March 2013) . These people would require a total **84,811 MT** of maize equivalent with a cash value of **MK6.7bn** (about **US\$ 21,269,271**) up to March, 2013.
- The main factors contributing to this increase in food insecure population include: poor rainfall performance; increase in food prices and essential non-food items; low poor cash crop production and sales; devaluation of the local currency; and instability in the supply of fuel products which is contributing to logistical problems.
- Maize prices are currently within the projected trends as per the MVAC June 2012 analysis (*Bulletin 8, Volume 1*).
- Unlike last year when only the poor wealth groups were affected due to their low coping capacity, this year's situation has also affected the middle wealth groups in some areas.
- With poor crop production and low income levels, better off households, that normally engage others in casual labour, will offer fewer casual opportunities because they have also been affected by the dry spells.

The MVAC recommends the following:

- The on- going humanitarian response resources will end around November or December, 2012, we implore government and cooperating partners to mobilise extra resources to cover the deficit for the remaining months to March, 2013.
- Government and its partners should explore a range of interventions varying from cash-based to food-based public works programmes in addressing the situation. Further more, there is need to coo
- A need to conduct a nutrition survey in the affected areas later in the year to assess nutrition status of the vulnerable groups of people.
- ADMARC and private traders to stock enough maize in the affected areas to stabilize price fluctuations.
- Government should intensify promotion of irrigation to reduce heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture.



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The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee comprises Government, inter-government, academic and non-profit member organizations that seek to provide information to inform public action. Participating MVAC members and funding institutions include:



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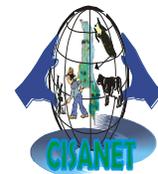
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