

Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview

Valid from: 31/08/2013
Created on: 27/08/2013

Key Outcomes for the Worst affected Area:

Food consumption: About 9.5 per cent of the total population in the above districts has food gaps ranging from 2 to 5 months in the 2013/14 consumption year. On average, between 2% and 25% of the population have poor Food Consumption Score.

Livelihood Change: So far most households have been using normal livelihood strategies. However, some poor and middle households may resort to stress coping mechanisms as the lean season approaches.

Nutritional status: Since nutritional survey was conducted soon after the harvest, the current status shows low levels of acute malnutrition with wasting levels below 5%.

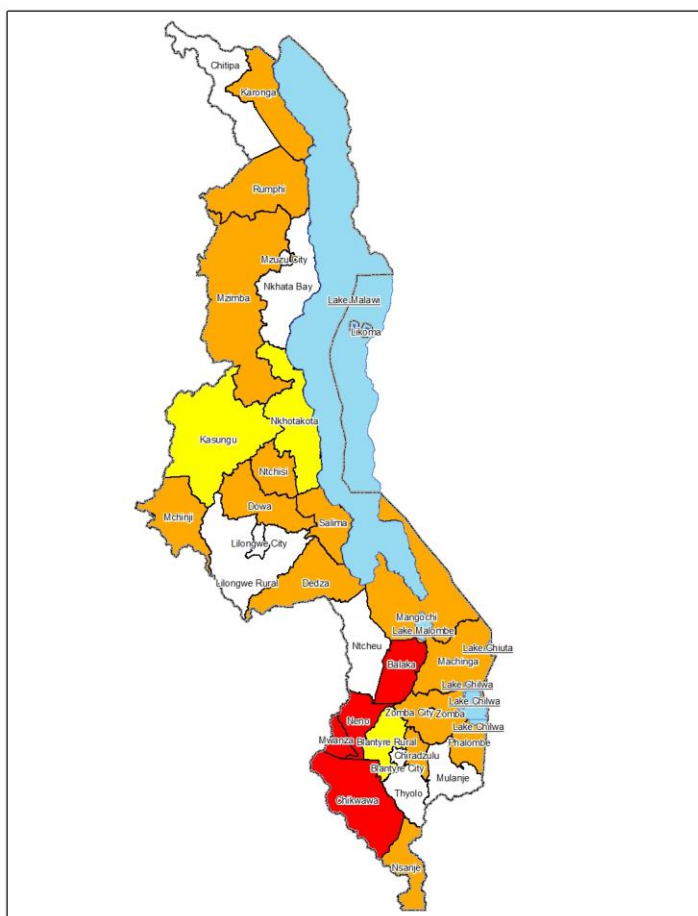
Mortality: Under 5 mortality rate is minimal (0.3/10,000 people per day).

Summary of Causes, Context, and Key Issues

According to Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) Third Round Agricultural Production Estimates Survey (APES), Malawi has registered a 0.44% increase in maize production (thus 3,639,866 MT) as compared to last year production (thus 3,623,924 MT). This translates into a surplus of 194,340 MT available for the 2013/14 consumption year. However, extremely low production especially for poor and middle wealth groups households in all key food and cash crops have been experienced in the affected districts. Significant reductions have also been registered in key cash crops such as cotton whose production has decreased drastically thus 31% due to late delivery of inputs (seeds and pesticides) and water logging conditions that affected some parts of the country.

Based on seasonality trends and low production in the affected 21 districts, with the recent macro economic conditions, maize prices will average MK125/kg during the year 2013/2014. However, it is projected that maize prices will rise to MK213.58 in quarter four of the consumption year.

Regarding nutritional status, the findings of the survey shows low levels of acute malnutrition among children under five years of age in the above affected districts indicating a normal situation and that the findings are comparable to figures reported by other national surveys. The situation may however get worse as the consumption year progresses and there is need for a follow-up survey during the lean months of the year.



Key for Map

Acute Food Insecurity Phase

- 1 Minimal
- 2 Stressed
- 3 Crisis
- 4 Emergency
- 5 Famine
- Grey box: Areas with Inadequate Evidence
- White box: Not Analyzed
- Black dot: Urban Settlement
- Exclamation mark: Area would likely be at least 1 Phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance

Key for Callout Boxes

- Up arrow: Improving
- Down arrow: Worsening
- Double arrow: Uncertain / No change
- Star: Acceptable
- Two stars: Medium
- Three stars: High
- Triangle: Area has reached Phase 3, 4, or 5 for more than 3 consecutive years
- Green box: 1 Low
- Purple box: 2 Moderate
- Red box: 3 High
- Dark red box: 4 Very High
- Situation on Validity date
- Confidence of analysis
- Chronic Food Insecurity Level (if available)

For more information, contact

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Analysis Partners & Supporting Organisations



IPC Global Partners:



Key Outcomes for the Worst affected Area

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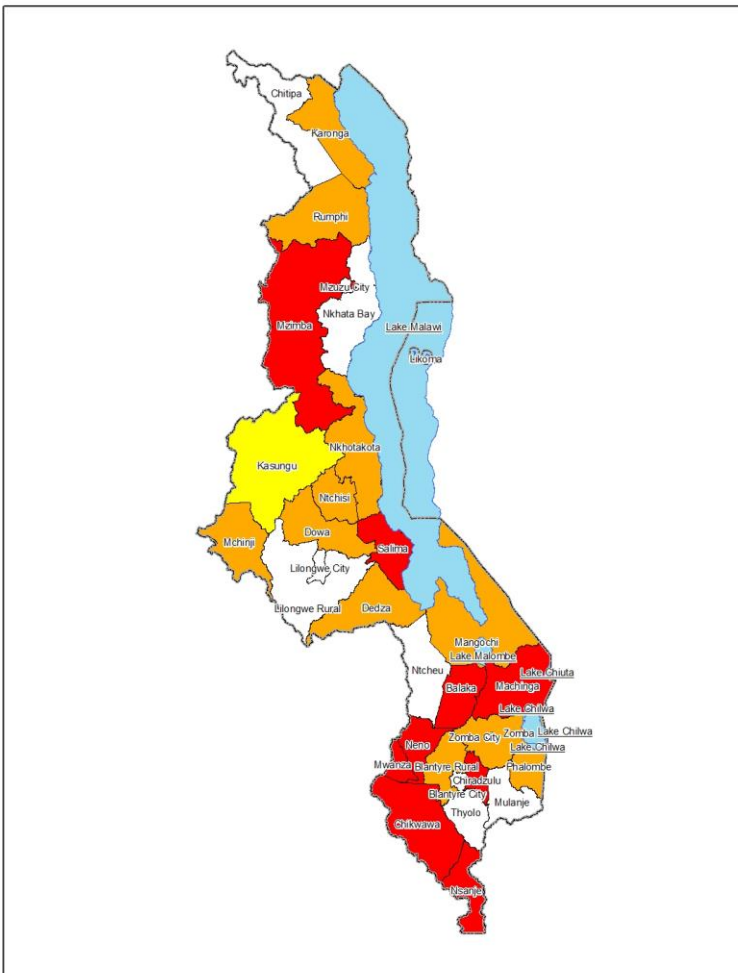
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Key for Callout Boxes

- ★ Acceptable
 - ★★ Medium
 - ★★★ High
 - ★ (with triangle): Area has reached Phase 3, 4, or 5 for more than 3 consecutive years
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Part 2: Summary of Findings, Methods, and Next Steps

Key Findings and Issues

Key outcomes for the worst affected districts: (Karonga, Mzimba, Rumphi, Balaka, Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Chikhwawa, Dedza, Dowa, Kasungu, Mchinji, Ntchisi, Nkhosakota, Machinga, Mangochi, Mwanza, Neno, Nsanje, Phalombe, Salima, and Zomba)

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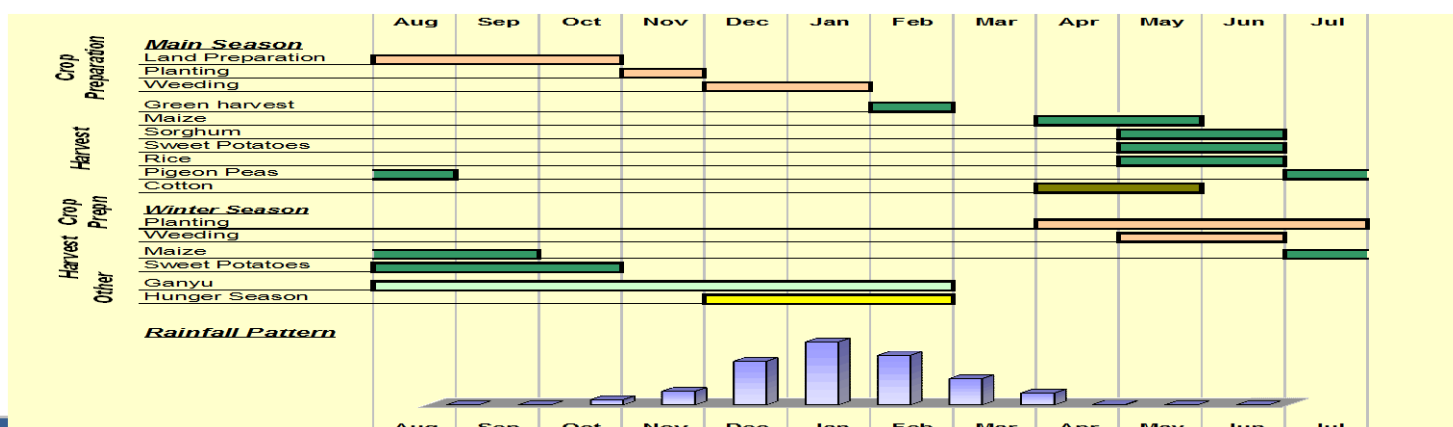
Methods, Process & Key Issues

The analysis used data from a number of sources. Key sources of most recent secondary data include MVAC annual assessment report, MoAFS Production Estimates Survey reports, MVAC field reports, FEWSNET Food Security Projection, DoDMA Humanitarian Reports, MVAC Livelihoods Baselines Reports, Integrated Household Survey from NSO, Demographic and Health Survey from NSO, NSO Population and Housing Census for 2008, Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) Malawi for 2013.

The acute IPC Food Insecurity analysis workshop was conducted between 18th to 27th August, 2013 at Club Makokola in Mangochi district and it drew participation from 21 MVAC members. The Food Security analysts (IPC Practitioners) were divided into five teams each comprising four members (4). These teams were assigned a maximum of 4 affected districts which were analyzed accordingly. However, it is worth high lightening that the analysis team had only three (3) Nutritionists who were used efficiently in a revolving role in order to satisfy the demands from all the groups.

By the end of the training and analysis workshop, the MVAC had managed to complete the Acute analysis and had reached consensus on the mapping protocols for both the acute current and projected situation. A tentative draft map was produced and a small team was assigned to complete the communication template.

Food Security Seasonal Calendar and Monitoring Implications



Recommendations for Next Steps

1. Focal point to follow-up on the final products.
2. Finalization of the communication template.
3. Validation of the product by the MVAC and some key stakeholders by October, 2013.
4. Dissemination workshops planned to be jointly conducted with MVAC report.
5. Lessons learnt
 - a. A complete database for all available data for IPC analysis is important.
 - b. There were some significant data gaps while IPC requires extensive valid, accurate and reliable information. Institutions should invest in data collection. Both GoM and donors.
 - c. Conduct an IPC analysis by June, 2014.
 - d. Data needs to be collected in advance. Data should be checked and a mini-analysis of data to be used the analysis process conducted ahead of the actual exercise
 - e. Coverage of EFSA should be countrywide not for selected districts as the report offers useful pieces of evidence
 - f. Timing of nutrition assessments is after harvests and might be giving or misleading findings on short-lived nutrition status; the timing should be looked at

Contact for Further Information
IPC Technical Working Group:
IPC Global Support Unit: www.ipcinfo.org

