



**The Food Aid Organization
of the United Nations System**



WFP and UNHCR

Joint Assessment Mission (JAM)

Review of

Assistance to Refugees in Malawi

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 1) OBJECTIVES | 1 |
| 2) METHODOLOGY | 2 |
| 3) BACKGROUND | 4 |
| 4) MAIN FINDINGS..... | 6 |
| 4.1) Population and camp profile | 6 |
| 4.2) Relations with host community | 7 |
| 4.3) Registration..... | 8 |
| 4.4) Food security and self-reliance | 9 |
| 4.4.1) Sources of food | 9 |
| 4.4.2) WFP ration | 9 |
| 4.4.2) Own production..... | 11 |
| 4.4.3) Market purchase | 13 |
| 4.4.4) Sources of income | 13 |
| 4.4.5) Asset ownership..... | 14 |
| 4.4.6) Coping mechanisms and social networks..... | 15 |
| 4.5) Health and nutritional status..... | 16 |
| 4.6) Services and assistance within the camp | 17 |
| 4.6.1) Education..... | 17 |
| 4.6.2) Water and sanitation..... | 19 |
| 4.6.3) Implementation structure | 19 |
| 4.7) Protection and security | 20 |
| 4.8) Gender | 21 |
| 4.9) Contingency plan | 21 |
| 5) CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 22 |
| 5.1) Strategic recommendations | 22 |
| 5.2) Thematic operational recommendations..... | 25 |

List of Acronyms

| | |
|--------|---|
| CHS | Community Household Surveillance |
| DoPDMA | Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs |
| FFW | Food for Work |
| FFT | Food for Training |
| GoM | Government of Malawi |
| Ha | Hectares |
| JAM | Joint Assessment Mission |
| JRS | Jesuit Relief Services |
| Mk | Malawian Kwacha (1 USD = 130 Mk) |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoH | Ministry of Health |
| MRCS | Malawi Red Cross Society |
| Mt | Metric tonnes |
| PDM | Post Distribution Monitoring |
| PRRO | Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation |
| RSD | Refugee Status Determination |
| UNHCR | UN High Commissioner for Refugees |
| VAM | WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WIDC | Women in Development Committee |
| WRM | World Relief Malawi |

Executive Summary

The refugees being hosted in Malawi have been receiving assistance from WFP since 2002 when WFP, UNHCR and the GoM signed an Emergency Operation (EMOP 10152) before being replaced by a Protracted Relief Recovery Operation (PRRO 10309) in 2004. This operation ends in June 2006 and the information from the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) will feed into programme design for both WFP and UNHCR for future assistance to refugees in Malawi. The mission focused on issues related to food security and self-reliance for refugees, as well as protection issues. In particular the mission focused on use of food aid rations, agricultural production and access to land, market analysis, income generating activities, employment opportunities and other trading opportunities for self reliance. In addition, health and nutritional aspects as well as services and assistance within the camps, e.g. education, water and sanitation were investigated.

The Joint Assessment Mission comprised two teams: 1) household survey team and 2) the main multifunctional JAM team. The household survey team mainly collected quantitative information from the refugee households while the multifunctional assessment team used qualitative techniques such as reviewing of secondary data, focus group discussions, interviews with key informants with service providers, transect walks through the camps and additional visits/meetings with different ministerial departments to collect data.

It was observed that food aid is the most important source of food for most of the refugees. Findings from the 7-day dietary recall in the household survey indicate that more than half (Dzaleka 50%, Luwani 65%) of the food consumed is from food aid. Sample households in Dzaleka acquired about 19% of their food consumed was from own production and purchase. Only 7% of the food consumed by the Luwani sample was from own production and 15% from purchase. Agricultural piece labour (*ganyu*) is available around Dzaleka but not in Luwani. Crop production as a complementary to the food ration was equally observed to have a number of challenges ranging from insufficient provision of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer and seed, lack of crop diversification resulting in crop failure in times of erratic rains and lack of government extension services to the refugees. The household survey analysis allowed for some comparisons to be made between the camps. It is fairly clear that the refugees living in Luwani are more vulnerable to food insecurity than those in Dzaleka.

On average, families eat two or less meals per day. In the Dzaleka sample, nearly 40% of the children and adolescents had eaten only one meal as compared to more than 70% of adolescents and 55% of children in Luwani camp. The data reveals that children are receiving inadequate meals. Some of the food ration, especially maize, is sold in order to buy other food items. More than 40% of the Dzaleka survey sample reported selling maize as compared to 11% in Luwani. About 16% of the Dzaleka sample reported selling pulses as compared to only 3% in Luwani. Vegetable oil sales were reported by only 9% of the sample households in each camp while sugar was hardly ever sold.

Rwandans and Burundians tend to rent land outside the camp when possible and also tend to have plots within the camp. Tomatoes are cited as a good crop to get the capital to invest further and some Rwandans have moved from tomato growing to petty trade to general stores in Lilongwe to wholesale. On the other hand, most Congolese are from urban backgrounds and prefer to set up small businesses particularly in hairdressing and cell phone centres. Similarly, Somalis are traders. A possible strategy to promote self-reliance is through micro-credit. In 2004, World Relief gave micro-loans of 5,000MK to 100 individuals in Dzaleka. According to World Relief, the money was not sufficient to start businesses, so some refugees used the money to buy food and rent agricultural land.

The team also observed that refugee quest for self-reliance is being hampered by the nine reservations the Government of Malawi entered into against the 1951 Geneva Convention. Some of these reservations do not allow the refugees to move freely, conduct trade, get employment etc. The possibilities to achieve self-reliance for refugees in the future will depend on changes in host government policies towards refugees, adequate support for necessary (non-food) inputs, and a number of other factors like location of camps, livelihoods, and environment. Further, there is no single self-reliance strategy. They vary according to factors such as the culture and traditions of the nationality concerned (e.g. Somalis are not usually farmers), education levels, skills, gender, vulnerabilities and assets. Strategies should include but not be limited to enhancement of agricultural production. If Luwani is to be a viable site for agriculture then an irrigation system must be put in place, adequate land must be made available for each family who requires it, and a foot bridge must be constructed across Lisungwe River for access to markets in the rainy season.

Based on the findings, the mission team is recommending that UNHCR, with the assistance of the DoPDMA, should continue to lobby with GoM to remove or ease the reservations to the Geneva Convention. If the 9 reservations remain intact then the issue of self-reliance remains a far-fetched dream. In an event of successful progress towards reducing GoM's reservations to the Geneva Convention while the caseload continues to stay above 5000, normal weather patterns, and if more than 50% refugee households own land and receives adequate agricultural inputs, then JAM recommends food assistance with reduced ration, except to identified vulnerable groups that would continue to receive full ration. However, in an event of the reverse of the above, then JAM recommends that food assistance with full ration to all refugees should be continued with support to UNHCR's self-reliance activities within the camps.

The total number of refugees in the country should continue to be registered in a separate protection list while the mission highlighted the importance of any future food assistance to the refugees should be based on a separate food distribution list who is based on the number of refugees physically living in the camps. These two lists should be prepared as a result of suggested verification exercises to take place in March/April 2006 in both camps.

I. Objectives

The overall objective of the mission is to assess the food security situation for refugees in order to guide programme planning and budgeting processes to determine if food assistance should be continued.

Specifically, the mission undertook the following:

- Assessment of the food security situation for refugees through market analysis, access to agricultural land, food utilization, coping strategies etc.
- Analysis of refugees' opportunities for self-reliance, including existing income generating/self-reliance activities, employment opportunities etc.
- Identification of measures necessary to ensure sustainable solutions to improve food security and self-reliance among refugees, including identify possible involvement of governmental, UN and NGO development agencies.
- Through household survey, identifying food security issues and determining levels of self-reliance among the refugee population. Based on the findings recommendations are given for future food assistance (e.g. if follow-up studies are needed to identify socio-economic groups within the refugee population that have different food security and coping strategies that would require different type of assistance).
- Analysis of the trend of refugee/asylum seekers movements, including new arrivals, repatriation, and resettlement. This exercise included assessment of the registration process of new arrivals and uncontrolled movement of refugees between camps and towns.
- Identification of current measures to update refugee statistics on a monthly basis and possibilities for monthly re-verification by sampling of households for cross-checks.
- Assessment of the effects of assistance under PRRO 10309 on the refugees' food security by reviewing the modalities of food assistance, their effects and problems encountered in implementation and make recommendations for future interventions.

II. Methodology

The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) lasted for two weeks and was comprised of two teams: 1) household survey team and 2) the main JAM team. The methodologies used for the different parts of the mission are described in the section below. The household survey team mainly collected quantitative information and the JAM team used qualitative techniques. Data were collected around the same themes by the two teams for triangulation purposes.

Household survey

The household survey was designed to provide empirical data on the food security and vulnerability status of refugees and to allow for comparison to other WFP beneficiaries outside the camps and similar groups of non-beneficiaries. In Luwani, six enumerators from Bunda College of Agriculture were selected and trained to conduct interviews using Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs). The sample was drawn to allow for some comparisons between camp populations. The strategy used to sample households in each camp was adjusted to accommodate the geographic and population data available. In Luwani camp, 20 blocks (groups of houses) were randomly chosen and 5 randomly selected households were interviewed within each block for a total of 100 interviews. In Dzaleka camp, the community is arranged in zones, which made selection of households challenging. Enumerators applied interval sampling to select households across a zone, for a total of 200 interviews. The number of interviews per zone was proportional to the estimated population within the zone. The questionnaire (annex III) was designed by WFP's VAM Unit at the Regional Bureau in Johannesburg and verified by the country office relevance.

Review of secondary data

A secondary data package, including reports and statistics from all stakeholders, was distributed to each of the mission members. Some of the data/reports included previous nutrition surveys, self-reliance studies, WFP's latest post distribution monitoring reports, UNHCR reports on protection, women and children activities, reports from implementing partners, GoM's policies and legal framework concerning refugees etc.

Focus Group discussions

The mission team was divided into groups of two persons, with one person doing the interview and the other recording the responses. Ten focus group interviews were conducted in each camp, including representatives/village head men from the surrounding communities, refugee leaders, refugee farmers, Women in Development Committee, refugees that had received micro-finance loan, religious leaders, HIV/AIDS Committee, Committee on environment/water and sanitation. The focus group interviews were based on a checklist (annex IV).

Interviews with key informants with service providers

Within the camps several key informants/organizations interviews took place using the focus group check list and additional specific questions based on issues of concern. Some of the groups interviewed were: JRS, WR and MRCS staff within the camps, MoH staff associated with the clinics, government camp administrators, government staff working on registration and security, police, district agricultural officers, refugees involved in special activities (e.g. self-reliance). The clinic and school were visited separately.

Transect walks through the camps.

The mission teams conducted transect walks through different living areas (blocks and zones) within each camp. During the walks team members had spontaneous interviews with refugees, and inspected shelters and facilities (e.g. bore holes,

toilet facilities, pits for garbage disposal). The walks also included visits to agricultural land and markets within and just outside the camps. Team members took note of any general observations made.

Additional visits/meetings

Several additional meetings were conducted with Government officials in Lilongwe, such as the Commissioner for Refugees, Immigration, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare and Community Services. The team also met with the District Commissioner/representative of the Commissioner in the two districts where the camps are situated.

III. Background

Refugees and asylum seekers

From the late 1970s to 1992, Malawi hosted 1.2 million Mozambican refugees, who formed about 10% of the population. Since that time there has been a much smaller number of refugees residing in Malawi, mainly from the Great Lakes (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda) and Somalia. There are currently about 8,500 refugees and asylum seekers in Malawi. This number has reduced from the June 2003 statistics, which had 16,305 registered persons of concern.

Many of these refugees are highly mobile, often seeking to travel to South Africa, making it difficult to accurately estimate their total numbers. About 32% of refugees/asylum seekers registered with UNHCR are adult males of whom 23% are between the age of 18-59 years.

Repatriation and new arrivals

More than half the refugees are from Rwanda and nearly all are Hutu. They have expressed continuing fears of return. There is discussion among countries of asylum and UNHCR as to whether and when a Cessation Clause should be invoked, meaning that Rwanda is assessed as being safe for return and any Rwandan wishing to remain in a country of asylum would have claims assessed individually. Prospects for return to Burundi are also looking more positive. The DRC remains problematic, in that conflict is sporadic and the security situation is quite different at different times and in different parts of the country. In 2005, facilitated return to DRC began from Tanzania. However, elections to be held in 2006 may produce a more conducive climate for return. A new phenomenon is the wave of asylum seekers from Somali and Ethiopia. They have been arriving since mid-year and are predominantly single men aged from 18-35 years. This pattern is also seen in neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe and Zambia. 190 refugees were resettled to third countries in 2005 and the planning figure for 2006 is 400.

Government policies

Malawi is a signatory to the 1951 Convention on Refugees and has made nine reservations, including the two that affect refugees' self-reliance most, namely on employment and movement. Theoretically refugees should remain in camps and find employment or agricultural opportunity within the camps/close surroundings. In practice, Malawi has interpreted these reservations generously. A limited number of refugees are permitted to live outside the camps in Lilongwe if they are students, have serious medical conditions that require treatment available only in town, protection cases and those who have valid temporary employment permits or a self-employment permit. GoM is still considering the latter, as refugees do not fall under the category of nationals for license purposes, nor are they foreign investors (who require US\$50,000 to obtain a visa) and who must have passports. There are about 200 self-employment applications under consideration. Refugee students have access to schools and universities on the same basis as Malawians, but often find them unaffordable.

There is a decreasing tolerance of refugees, in a country with limited resources of its own. A common perception in government circles is that refugees are "everywhere", moving unhindered. A spokesman of the Ministry of Trade stated that refugees should only be allowed to move within a five mile radius of the camp. Self-employment permits could not be considered while refugees were breaking the law and settling all over Malawi. Only when all returned to camp could these permits be considered.

Persons arriving in Malawi who wish to apply for refugee status are registered as asylum seekers. A Refugee Committee assesses their claims for refugee status.

Refugee status determination (RSD) can take time and currently there is a backlog of some 1,000 claims (covering 3-4,000 individuals). Measures have been put in place to establish an Eligibility Unit within the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees and five eligibility officers have recently been hired so that the RSD process can be accelerated. Both refugees and asylum seekers are eligible for camp-based assistance, including food rations.

UNHCR supports the Government of Malawi, through the Commissioner of Refugees (DoPDMA), to protect and assist refugees. Since 2002, WFP has been providing food aid. The Ministry of Health, Malawi Red Cross Society, World Relief International and Jesuit Refugee Service are all implementing partners with funding from UNHCR to deliver services to refugees.

IV. Main Findings

4.1) Population and camp profile

Dzaleka, was opened in 1994 on the site of a former high security prison which officially closed in May that year. The camp is 50km along sealed and dirt roads from Lilongwe, about 45 minutes driving time. The property was vacant for one year before being taken over by the Commissioner for Refugees. During that time, local people tried to reclaim the land. The property comprises 201 hectares, of which 100 hectares are available for agricultural production. Transport between the camp and Lilongwe is readily available. There is electricity and borehole water supply within 50 -200 meters of each household. Both school and clinic are permanent structures. Dzaleka is a closed camp with only a few new arrivals being admitted for family reunification or other humanitarian reasons. Feeding figures are usually about 4,800.

| Nationality | 0-4 | | 5-17 | | 18-59 | | Over 60 | | Total |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|---------|----|--------------|
| | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | |
| Burundi | 96 | 85 | 197 | 206 | 242 | 326 | 3 | 3 | 1,158 |
| Congo | 102 | 113 | 213 | 223 | 226 | 412 | 2 | 5 | 1,296 |
| Rwanda | 280 | 287 | 456 | 487 | 564 | 605 | 15 | 12 | 2,706 |
| Somalia | 2 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 33 | | 1 | 71 |
| Eritrea | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | 5,233 |

Dzaleka Refugee Camp, November 2005, UNHCR statistics

Luwani camp was formerly occupied by 250,000 Mozambican refugees and is located 1.5 hours drive from Blantyre, the last 18 km along a dirt road, which sometimes floods during the rainy season. The camp was re-opened in 2003 to cope with the large numbers resident in Dzaleka, and because of the available land, for those who wished to undertake agriculture. The camp is in a rain shadow, so rainfall is erratic and only 26 hectares have been cleared for agriculture. There is no electricity but there is water from borehole wells.

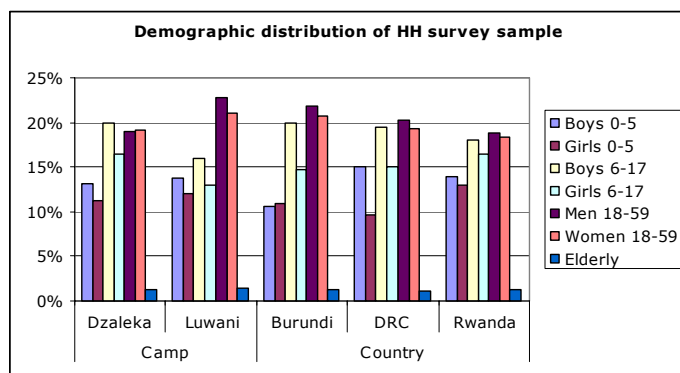
There is substantial permanent infrastructure – school and large clinic – from the Mozambican refugee time. All new arrivals are sent to Luwani. Refugees have a number of complaints about Luwani, from the fact that it is too hot, to the difficulties of farming with such irregular rainfall and the lack of trading opportunities because of the poverty, low local population density and the distance from other markets. Agencies are concerned about the logistical costs of servicing two camps. The GoM position is that if a camp is to be closed it should be Dzaleka. Luwani Camp Administrator's feeding figures, January 2006 were 2,621.

| Nationality | 0-4 | | 5-17 | | 18-59 | | Over 60 | | Total | |
|--------------------|-----|----|------|-----|-------|-----|---------|---|---------------|-------------|
| | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | | |
| Angola | | | | | | 1 | | | (1) | 1 |
| Burundi | 77 | 62 | 160 | 166 | 189 | 347 | | | (416) | 1001 |
| Congo | 61 | 50 | 134 | 165 | 183 | 273 | | 3 | (384) | 869 |
| Ethiopia | | | | 1 | 5 | 259 | | | (0) | 265 |
| Rwanda | 67 | 51 | 130 | 124 | 135 | 272 | 2 | 2 | (385) | 783 |
| Somalia | | 2 | 1 | 18 | 9 | 119 | | | (0) | 149 |
| Sudan | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | (6) | 7 |
| Uganda | | | | | | 1 | | | (1) | 1 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | (1032) | 3076 |

Luwani Refugee Camp, November 2005, UNHCR statistics, with comparison total figures for January 2005 in brackets

Around 1,200 new arrivals transferred from Karonga transit shelter to Luwani from Jan-Dec 2005 - others arrived directly (GoM statistics). Karonga transit shelter is the only official entry point for refugees and asylum seekers. An UNHCR analysis for movements from Luwani for the period October 2004, when the camp population was 874, to July 2005, when there were 1,443 new arrivals, 874 people (or over 26%) had departed spontaneously.

The chart below shows a graph of the demographic composition of the household survey sample by camp and by country of origin.



and by country of origin. The chart shows that around 23% of the population represented by the Luwani sample were men aged 18-59 years – the highest of any demographic group. However, in Dzaleka, it appears that there may be an excess of boys aged 6-17 as compared to the

other groups. Refugees from Burundi appear the most likely to be represented by boys 6-17 years and men 18-59 years as compared to the other groups. There was not enough information from the household survey on refugees of Somali origin to compare.

4.2) Relations with host community

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and is suffering from the effects of drought and major crop failure in the 2004/2005 cropping season. Naturally there is resentment towards refugees who have a guaranteed source of free food, which some believe is diverted from Malawians. At a food distribution in Dzaleka, local people were observed collecting any spillage of flour or pulses while others offered to carry rations back to the refugees' homes in exchange for flour.

Relationships are more strained in Dzaleka, where local people were not consulted before GoM took former prison land, which they had already started to reclaim. The surrounding villages have also received almost no food assistance from the DFID/GoM voucher scheme distribution during this year lean period, while FFW took place in 2004/05 lean period. Police report that there are still land disputes that prevent land being cultivated. One conflict noted was regarding a breach of local contracts over rented land from the locals. Normally the refugees rent land at a reasonable price from the local community and some are reported to take the

land and rent it to other refugees at an extremely high price, hence making a profit on the locals' land.

Community leaders expressed hostility towards refugees who they described as rude and often cheating them by offering lower than market rates (for land, livestock or piece work) when they are desperate. They further complained that the refugees look down upon the locals because they are poor. They noted that despite the warm welcome accorded to the refugees by the surrounding villages, the refugees do not return the same hospitality. They did acknowledge the benefits of the clinic and school, which are open to them as well as the refugee shops and the Tuesday market, which could not have been established without the refugees. Despite these differences no clashes have been reported between the two groups.

Refugees were grateful that they could live in a peaceful country and stated that relationships were generally good although they expressed concern that they were sometimes refused payment or services, because they were not supposed to work outside the camp. There were also complaints from refugees having their charcoal confiscated after purchase, but this is according to the environment policy in Malawi. Nonetheless, there are inter-marriages, refugees rent land from local people and they buy/sell from each other. Refugees supply groceries, while local people sell livestock, agricultural produce and thatching grass.

In Luwani, there were consultations with local people before the camp was re-opened. Local people were promised assistance in irrigation and the construction of a footbridge, which would reduce the distance to the local market in the rainy season by 10 kilometers. Local people have Food-for-Work in 2004/05 and food from voucher schemes available and 90 families per village are being assisted through the DFID/GoM voucher scheme.

Relationships are generally good. Refugees have rented land by the river. Local people appreciated the school, but thought health services available at the clinic were not satisfactory (a view shared by refugees). Another noted reason for the existing of good relationship was due to food ration that the refugees receive. With the current hunger situation in Malawi, the local community buys food, especially maize flour, from the refugees and therefore tries to maintain good relationship with the refugees.

4.3) Registration

In November 2004, the RAPID computer based registration system was established and identity cards introduced. Registration is now monitored in Dzaleka and numbers have remained fairly stable at about 5,200 with feeding numbers at 4,800. Refugees/asylum seekers are given rations on production of an identity card and ration cards. No new arrivals are accepted into Dzaleka and transfers are only considered on a humanitarian basis. Issuance of ID cards is a continuous event but the last were issued in April 2005. Refugees/asylum seekers are removed from food distribution lists if they fail to show up to collect rations for 3 consecutive months or if they inform the Camp Administrator that they are leaving the camp.

All new arrivals must pass through Karonga transit shelter where they are registered as asylum seekers. Persons failing to do so are supposed to be sent to the transit centre. New arrivals are then transferred to Luwani. Government reports that there have been 2,000 new arrivals in 2005, many of whom are transiting through Malawi.

One of the main limitations of the registration system is found in Luwani where there is no electricity to run computers or photocopiers, nor is there a camera to record new arrivals. All documents must be taken to the UNHCR Office in Mwanza for photocopying and are then sent to UNHCR in Lilongwe where temporary and permanent ration cards can be issued. Some refugees have been waiting 4 months

for this card. However, the Camp Administrator is also slow to send lists to UNHCR Mwanza, stating that it was not done in December or January because the office was unstaffed. The Camp Administrator works from a registration that is updated every 4 months and annotated by hand in the interim. He has the possibility to validate names with the UNHCR Registration List, but his working copy is sorted by date of arrival, rather than the more useful alphabetic listing. Additionally, the Camp Administrator has a list of new arrivals registered at the transit shelter, which is updated whenever a transfer occurs. The Camp Administrator also provides food against this list. Some asylum seekers have arrived directly at the Camp. For humanitarian reasons he provides them with a short-term ration to last until the next food distribution.

Staffing shortages in UNHCR, both at the Mwanza Office and in the Registration section has lessened the effectiveness of Luwani registration. There is now a backlog for registration, photo-identity and transfer. The situation is complicated by the fact that refugees believe that if they are struck off the food lists, they will no longer be considered refugees and not have access to camp services, should they need them. Thus they will go to great lengths, even if they do not need the food, to collect rations. In Luwani, 15 minibuses, each containing up to 20 people, arrived for food distribution while vehicles were also seen at Dzaleka.

4.4) Food security and self-reliance

4.4.1) Sources of food

Food aid is the most important source of food for most of the refugees. Findings from the 7-day dietary recall in the household survey indicate that more than half (Dzaleka 50%, Luwani 65%) of the food consumed is from food aid. Sample households in Dzaleka acquired about 19% of their food consumed was from own production and purchase. Only 7% of the food consumed by the Luwani sample was from own production and 15% from purchase. Comparison between the PDM of April 2005 and October 2005, show that consumption from own production is higher in April than October, highlighting seasonality differences in food sources

By country of origin, the refugees from DRC were more likely to purchase food and less likely to consume food from own production than the Burundians or Rwandese, consistent with what was reported during focus group discussions.

4.4.2) WFP ration

During the 24 months of the project¹, WFP has provided a monthly full food ration to an average of 8,500 refugees. The ration comprises maize meal, pulses, vegetable oil, salt and sugar. This ration meets the standard minimum daily requirement of 2100 Kcals (see table below). Complementary foods for vulnerable refugees were to be provided by UNHCR (WFP 2004).

| Commodity | Ration Per Person Per Day (grams) | Kilocalories | Protein | Fat |
|------------------|--|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Maize | 450 | 1620 | 40.5 | 15.8 |
| Pulses | 60 | 201 | 12 | 0 |
| Vegetable oil | 25 | 222 | 0 | 72 |
| Sugar | 15 | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Salt | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>2,103</i> | <i>52.5</i> | <i>41.5</i> |
| | | | 10% | 17.6% |

¹ The project has been extended for a further six months to end 30 June 2006 through a budget revision to accommodate refugee verification and the JAM to inform decisions on future food aid assistance.

The total ration per person per month is 16.65 kilograms. The drought-affected population, not necessarily in the immediate camp surroundings, receives a monthly household food ration of maize, pulses and oil.

On average, families eat two or less meals per day. However, it was observed that while the maize flour is adequate, it is sold for half the price of rice; hence the families get only half the quantity. The Dzaleka camp school reported a few cases where children were 'fainting in class due to hunger'. This could not be verified. The focus group discussions did however mention that in general school children go to school without eating a breakfast meal. The household survey findings indicated that more than 60% of the adults had eaten only one meal in the previous day. In the Dzaleka sample, nearly 40% of the children and adolescents had eaten only one meal as compared to more than 70% of adolescents and 55% of children in Luwani camp. The data reveals that children are receiving inadequate meals, contrary to recommended child feeding practices.

A recent PDM (October 2005) and the focus group discussions conducted among the refugees expressed dissatisfaction both with the size of the ration and the type of food items provided, especially pulses. For households that expressed dissatisfaction with the size of the ration, 75 % attributed the problem to inappropriate scooping (PDM 2005). The report concluded that about 18% of the beneficiaries receive a lot less than their entitlement. It was observed during the mission that although the distribution is done in an organized manner, scoops are leveled, especially for maize meal. The leveling could cause a lower than intended ration.

The food preferences expressed by the groups confirmed various verbal and written reports (Action Against Hunger 2004, WFP and UNHCR 2004 and PDMs 2005). The least liked food item is pigeon peas, locally known as "Nandolo". Malawians confirmed that even among themselves only a proportion of people from the South eat pigeon peas and rarely as an accompaniment to *nsima*. Beneficiaries reported that preparation time for pigeon peas is between 3-4 hrs and some informants complained about stomach pains due to pigeon peas. This could be due to eating the pigeon peas before being fully prepared, as a long preparation time is needed. The beneficiaries also indicated that the quality of maize flour is often poor, presenting at times in caked form, smelling or giving a sour/bitter taste. At the time of the mission, the maize meal label showed that the maize meal was purchased from ATLAS milling, a local producer. To counter this problem, in some instances, refugees sell part of the maize meal ration to buy maize grain locally to mix with food ration maize. The poor quality of maize flour can be linked to length and poor storage of the maize meal. Maize meal should be consumed within three months of production.

Duration of Ration

The mission found that for Dzaleka camp, the ration lasts between 14-21 days while in Luwani, on average 21 days. Other studies elsewhere show the same time period. Interestingly, this somewhat contradicts the fact that most households indicated selling the food. The result may also show that perhaps only a small amount is sold to obtain money for other non food needs.

Percent Consumed Ration by Country of Origin

| | Maize | Pulses | Vegetable Oil | Sugar | Salt |
|---------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| DRC | 32 | 83 | 63 | 99 | 100 |
| Rwanda | 39 | 59 | 76 | 97 | 99 |
| Burundi | 49 | 83 | 73 | 100 | 100 |
| Somalia | 0 | 11 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source; Self Reliance Report Dec 2004

Some of the food ration, especially maize, is sold in order to buy other food items. More than 40% of the Dzaleka survey sample reported selling maize as compared to 11% in Luwani. Only 10% of those households in Dzaleka reported selling more than half their maize ration. About 16% of the Dzaleka sample reported selling pulses as compared to only 3% in Luwani. Vegetable oil sales were reported by only 9% of the sample households in each camp while sugar was hardly ever sold.

When asked about bartering food, 23% of the Dzaleka sample and 30% of the Luwani sample had bartered maize from their latest ration. The other commodities were rarely bartered. However many of the refugees also reported sharing their maize ration – 40% of the Dzaleka sample and 17% of the Luwani sample. These figures could indicate two things: the demand for maize by Malawians and the preference not to sell but to trade for other items.

The PDMs 2005 reported that over 70% sell at least part of their food rations to substitute with preferred food items or to obtain cash for non food items. Distribution of free soap and kerosene for cooking has been irregular and some of the food is sold to buy these items. It is evident from the table above that while only 40% of the maize flour is consumed, despite the fact that pulses are not favoured, most households eat it. In focus group discussions, the beneficiaries noted that maize was not their typical food but others claimed that by now, they have become accustomed to eating *nsima*. However, the household survey results indicated that only 30% of the Dzaleka sample and 11% of the Luwani sample had sold any ration commodities recently, which contradicts the PDM. However, this may be due to the fact that the household survey was conducted during the lean season.

The household survey indicated that there were some differences in consumption patterns between camp residents. Analysis of consumption data shows that in Dzaleka, households consume on average maize and vegetables every day, vegetable oil 5 days a week, beans 4 days and sugar 3 days per week. In Luwani, consumption was more limited with maize consumed every day, beans 4 days per week and sugar 2.5 days a week. Although some households had consumed vegetable oil, more than half in the sample had not eaten it in the past week. This could be due to the fact that food rations were being given during the data collection period and some households had yet to collect their rations.

By country of origin, there were some differences – even though all households were consuming maize every day on average, the Rwandans were more likely to eat vegetables every day, supplemented with beans and oil 4 days a week and sugar 3 days a week. The others ate vegetables and oil 3-4 days per week and sugar about 2 days a week. In addition, the households from DRC only consumed beans about once a week as compared to 4 days a week by the Burundians.

Overall, through focus group discussion it seems that through their own means refugees have a reasonable mixed diet although differences can be expected between households.

4.4.3) Own production

On observation and discussion with Agricultural officer, it was noted that maize production is by far the most frequent crop cultivated by refugees. However other crops, grown in small quantities, were noted to be tomatoes, cabbage and soya beans.

Dzaleka has a total of 204 hectares of land, out of which an approximate 100 hectares is cultivable land. The rest is either living areas, forested or an escarpment. Past history show that from the time the camp opened in 1994 few refugee families were involved in crop production, because they could survive on extra ration cards circulating in the camp. However, with the close scrutiny of the ration cards following the August 2004 Verification exercise done jointly by WFP

and UNHCR, all circulating ration cards were withdrawn from the refugees, who therefore had to find other means of supplementing food. Crop production was observed to be the only reliable alternative for the refugees. From end 2004, more refugees started crop production and part of the existing idle land in the camp was quickly utilized. The once 150 – 200 refugee farming families, representing 11 – 14% of the family population, increased to over 500 farming families, representing 36% of the total registered households.

Maize cultivation constitutes almost 100% of total production for farming families in Dzaleka camp. The average household size of refugee farming families is 4-5 persons meaning, according to Malawian standards, they require 1 acres of land to be food secure/self-sufficient. The possibility of expanding agricultural land for refugees is not realistic since there is no idle land left close to the camp.

The 30 kg (basal and top dressing) fertilizer distributed by World Relief is far from sufficient, compared to agronomic recommendations, for the refugees to become self-reliant. See table below for further details. In addition, the refugees lack technical advice from extension services. Although this is partly as a result of unwillingness by the refugees to attend demonstrations annually conducted by World Relief, district agricultural extension officers should include visits to the camps as part of their services. One example of lack of technical advice was through observation of fertilizer not being covered by soil resulting in fertilizer being exposed to the sun and losing its value. Other evidence was lack of stacking of tomato seedlings, but this could also be due to lack of access to sticks.

| Agricultural Input | Luwani | | Dzaleka | | Total | |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| | Quantity | Beneficiaries | Quantity | Beneficiaries | Quantity | Beneficiaries |
| Maize Seed | 1 ton | 143 families | 3 tons | 300 families | 4 tons | 443 families |
| Hoes | 142 | 142 families | 0 | None | 142 | 0 families |
| Fertilizer (Basal) | 5 tons | 205 families (20kg/family) | 7.5 tons | 500 families (15kg/family) | 12.5 tons | 705 families |
| Fertilizer (Top dress) | 5 tons | 205 families (20kg/family) | 7.5 tons | 500 families (15kg/family) | 12.5 tons | 705 families |

Demarcation and allocation of fields to the refugees has of late been distorted. When refugees unofficially leave the camps, land is not handed over to the camp administration for redistribution to new arrivals/refugees with no land. Instead, the leaving refugee sells the land to another refugee. This makes assessment of field size per family difficult and hence difficult to arrive at crop estimates. It was noted that World Relief has not been able to provide crop estimates since 2004. As a coping mechanism to land shortages several farming households have rented plots of land outside the camps from Malawians, which adds to the challenges of estimating crop production. Some members of the local communities complained that some refugees did not pay the agreed rent for the land.

Luwani has over 20 hectares of cleared land on which the refugees have planted a diversity of food crops, mostly maize. Out of the 500 refugee families staying in the camp, more than 60% (300 families) are involved in crop production. The possibility of expanding land size for the refugees in Luwani is much higher than in Dzaleka because there is a lot of virgin land close to the camp. In addition, there appears to be cordial relationships between the chiefs of the local community and the camp administration. Of late, through discussions, the community has offered 75 hectares of land to be used in irrigation by the refugees.

In 2005, 5 Mt of maize seeds was distributed to the refugee farming families. This was noted as insufficient since some refugees had large fields demanding more seeds than what was distributed. However, erratic rainfall caused wilting of maize seedlings and a second distribution was carried out, but a similar dry spell hit the

area. Finally, a third distribution of maize seeds led to successful cultivation. During the mission it was noted that the crops were developing well, but it is too early to estimate production for 2006. In general, these findings underline the fact that Luwani is a challenging place for agriculture, especially maize production, due to erratic rainfall.

During 2005 planting season only 15 kg of basal fertilizer and another 15kg of top dressing fertilizer were distributed to each farming family. It was noted that these quantities are not enough to ensure sufficient yields, especially since some refugees have larger fields, which require more agricultural inputs.

Despite the good relationship between refugees and the surrounding communities, including the camp administration and the chiefs, negotiations for further land is being affected by local communities demanding access to food rations and to be given *chaminga*² as payment for releasing part of their land to refugees.

Findings from the household survey indicate that for 44% of the sample households in Dzaleka, food crop production was an important livelihood source. Few households in Luwani camp named this as a main source of livelihood. Rwandan refugees were most likely to name crop production as a livelihood source (46%) compared to those from Burundi (31%) or DRC (20%).

To complement rain-fed agriculture, an irrigation project has been planned for Luwani (75 hectares) to boost agriculture production. This will bring the average landholding for 300 refugee farming families to 0.33 hectares, if not shared with the local community. To date UNHCR HQ has supported its implementation by sourcing about US\$300,000 for the project from the private sector and by sending missions to the project area to conduct feasibility studies at the project site. UNHCR employed an UNV Water Engineer to monitor the implementation of the project together with one Water Engineer from GoM. The Irrigation Project is the lifeline of Luwani camp because every year the area experiences dry spells. Everyone in the camp including refugees, implementing partners and the local villagers are concerned with the slow pace at which the Irrigation Project is being implemented. At present all stages of the detailed survey and preliminary drawings are finished. An environmental impact assessment is awaited. The next step is to obtain the water right certificate from the GoM, so that construction can start.

4.4.4) Market purchase

Purchase of food from the market accounted for less than 20% in both camps, this time of the year. The most purchased commodity is salt (35%), sugar (33%) and least maize (19%) as reported in the PDM (October 2005).

According to the Post Distribution Monitoring in 2005, some refugees (45%) sell or exchange part of the ration for other food, charcoal, clothing or soap. As this is conducted on a relatively small scale, with less than 10% of food being bartered/sold, it is within tolerated levels.

4.4.5) Sources of income

Prior to the introduction of individual refugee ID cards, refugees and asylum seekers could claim multiple rations and survive by selling some of them or obtaining many rations using these cards. Anecdotally, it was reported that many people have left Dzaleka because there is no longer this possibility. JRS report that 242 children left school last year, some for resettlement, a few who stayed in camp but the majority because families had left for this reason. From the household survey analysis most refugee families rely on food aid as a main livelihood source (Dzaleka 50%, Luwani 65%). As mentioned earlier, for Dzaleka residents, 44% also rely on food crop production and 14% on skilled trade with hardly any

² Chaminga is a token of appreciation given to owner of a field for the toil he went through when breaking the furrow grounds to make the field cultivable.

reporting remittances or begging as livelihood activities. The situation is different for Luwani residents where few rely on crop production, 17% on skilled trade and 5% rely on remittances. The refugees from Rwanda are more likely to have multiple livelihood sources, namely crop production (46%) and skilled trade (16%) while those from DRC rely less on crop production (20%) but also on skilled trade (15%) and remittances (6%).

Agricultural piece labour (*ganyu*) is available around Dzaleka but not in Luwani. Many young men earn money this way and some leave school to contribute to family livelihood. In some families men leave the camp and the wife and children collect his ration as a source of livelihood.

Rwandans and Burundians tend to rent land outside the camp when possible and also tend to have plots within the camp. Tomatoes are cited as a good crop to get the capital to invest further. Rwandans have irrigation technology not known by the Malawians and rent riverside land. Some Rwandans have moved from tomato growing to petty trade to general stores in Lilongwe to wholesale. On the other hand, most Congolese are from urban backgrounds and prefer to set up small businesses particularly in hairdressing and cell phone centres. Similarly, Somalis are traders. The camps have beer brewing and selling.

UNHCR has identified 52 refugees with health qualifications. There are also a number of teachers and skilled tradesmen. Some of the teachers are working in camp. One Congolese teacher is now, with the permission of GoM, the Headmaster of a private secondary school in Lilongwe. Each person working outside the camp must have paid (or have their employer pay) a temporary employment fee of 60,000 MK (approximately US\$ 500). Health personnel must pay US\$ 200 to the Medical Review Board and undertake a 6 months internship before their qualifications are recognised. A Congolese doctor who previously worked in a district hospital in Zambia, where his qualification had been accepted, has been trying for one year to have his qualification recognised.

Household survey analysis indicated that 22% of the sample in Dzaleka and 11% in Luwani had borrowed money in the past 3 months. Nearly all borrowed from friends or relatives and mostly they borrowed to buy food – 73% in Luwani and 56% in Dzaleka. Another 16% in Dzaleka borrowed money to pay for health care. By country of origin, 23% of the Rwandans had borrowed money recently but only 86% of those from friends or relatives. The rest were borrowing from local lenders.

Micro-finance

A possible strategy to promote self-reliance is through micro-credit. In 2004, World Relief gave micro-loans of 5,000MK to 100 individuals in Dzaleka. The loans are provided on the basis of giving 25,000MK to a group of 5. They were unable to accept re-payments of these loans or issue new loans in 2005, because the refugees indicated that the funds were insufficient to run businesses and some refugees used the money to buy food and beer.

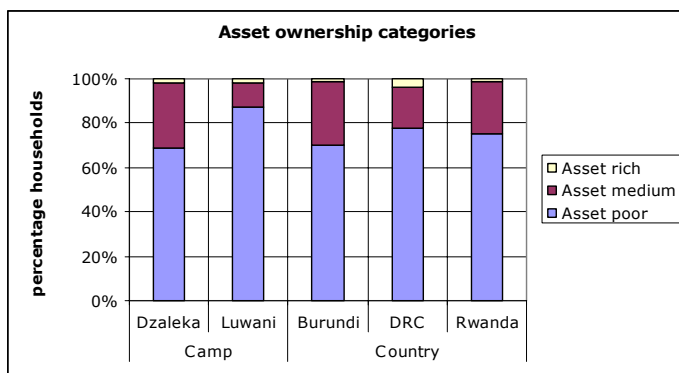
Some examples of the use of micro-loans told in a focus group discussion were a tailoring project where five persons were trained in tailoring and bought a sewing machine. They sold clothes to both refugees and local people. Another project were five women that proposed a small business selling soap, cooking oil, matches, clothes, hairclips, salt, maize and flour. The business was never established due to insufficient funds.

4.4.6) Asset ownership

The household interviews collected information on the ownership of a variety of productive and non-productive assets. The most commonly owned assets were chairs, found in more than 90% of the sample households in Dzaleka but only 40% in Luwani. Tables were owned by nearly half the sample households in Dzaleka but

only 14% in Luwani while one-quarter of the Dzaleka households had a bed as compared to less than 10% in Luwani. For productive assets, the hoe was most commonly owned, by more than 40% in Dzaleka and one-third of the Luwani households. A few households also owned items like a panga or mortar and about 10% of the sample in each camp owned a bicycle.

Using the same asset categories as the WFP Community and Household Surveillance (CHS), households were classified as being asset 'poor' (0-4 assets), asset 'medium' (5-9 assets), or asset 'rich' (10 or more assets).



The chart on the left shows the distribution of households in each asset ownership category by camp and country of origin. Nearly 90% of the households in Luwani own less than five assets as compared to about 70% in Dzaleka. There were only a few households in either camp with 10 or more assets. However, 4% of

the sample households from DRC were classified as 'asset rich' in the analysis – more than the other nationalities. Compared to the WFP's October 2005 CHS results for Malawi, only one-third of the sample households (for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) were 'asset poor'. Households who are 'asset medium' or 'rich' consumed significantly more food from purchases than those who are 'asset poor'. The result may indicate that the classification may not apply in the refugee population given that they have an assured source of food compared to Malawians who would have to sell assets to access food.

In terms of productive asset ownership, the percentage of productive assets owned was calculated as $(\# \text{ productive} / \text{total assets}) * 100$. Since most households owned few assets, this should be interpreted with care. In Dzaleka about 20% of the assets owned were productive – those that could be used to generate income or food. Nearly 40% of the assets owned by Luwani residents were productive. Only 12% of the assets owned by refugees from the DRC were productive, compared to 27% for Burundians and 33% for Rwandese.

Livestock ownership was relatively low, 22% of the sample in Dzaleka owned poultry and 8% owned pigs as compared to 17% and 2% for Luwani residents. Livestock ownership was slightly higher for Burundian refugees and lowest for those from Rwanda.

4.4.7) Coping mechanisms and social networks

When households were asked about the use of particular coping strategies during difficult times in the past 6 months, the results were quite different between the camps as illustrated in the table below.

| | Camp | | Place of origin | | |
|---|---------|--------|-----------------|-----|--------|
| | Dzaleka | Luwani | Burundi | DRC | Rwanda |
| Skip entire day without eating | 17% | 35%* | 23% | 29% | 21% |
| Limit portion size at mealtimes | 53% | 73%* | 67% | 55% | 58% |
| Reduce number of meals eaten per day | 51% | 64%+ | 61% | 50% | 54% |
| Borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives | 27% | 21% | 23% | 26% | 27% |
| Rely on less expensive or less preferred foods | 29% | 39% | 30% | 37% | 33% |

| | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Purchase/borrow food on credit | 31% | 30% | 33% | 29% | 30% |
| Gather unusual types or amounts of wild foods/hunt | 1% | 12%* | 7% | 4% | 2% |
| Harvest immature crops | 10% | 14% | 14% | 6% | 12% |
| Send HH members to eat elsewhere | 8% | 14% | 8% | 11% | 11% |
| Send HH members to beg | 7% | 9% | 6% | 11% | 6% |
| Reduce adult consumption so children can eat | 31% | 31% | 25% | 34% | 33% |
| Rely on casual labour for food | 11% | 18% | 23% | 5% | 13% |
| Mean coping strategies index | 30.5 | 46.9* | 41.4 | 33.6 | 33.8 |

* $p < 0.001$ + $p < 0.05$

However, when compared to the October 2005 CHS results, the mean coping strategies index (measure of frequency and severity of coping strategies used), the refugees are doing better than the other WFP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in Malawi. This is most likely due to the regular supply of food, health care and education on which the refugees can rely. From the table though, it's important to note that the households in Dzaleka are better off than those in Luwani in terms of coping with stress or shocks. The Burundian refugees also appear to have fewer means of dealing with external shocks.

Each camp has a number of churches and church members contribute to help widows and orphans. One church has even established an orphanage in a nearby village. The Somali community in Dzaleka is assisted by the Indian Muslim community of Lilongwe, which donates meat for during the Eid festival.

The most remarkable social support network is within the Rwandan community, where traders and farmers of all levels have savings groups. Each member contributes a certain amount each week and the total is given to each member in turn.

4.5) Health and nutritional status

Health and nutrition were assessed using secondary data sources on nutrition status, trends on hospital admissions and disease patterns. Focus group discussions were used to probe for common health problems affecting children and adults within the camp. The clinics were visited for observations on admissions.

Malnutrition rates; Host community and Refugees

| Percent | Host community Dowa July 2002 | Host community Dowa Dec 2005 | Dzaleka camp July 2004 | Mwanza host Community *(Luwani) Dec 2005 | 2004 MDHS | Country Malawi Dec 2005 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| Wasting | | | | | 5.2% | |
| GAM | 3.8% (2.3-5.3) | 2.8% (1.6-4.0) | 2.8% (+1.5) | 5.7% (4.3-7.1) | | 6.5% (6.4-6.6) |
| SAM | 1.0% (0.1-1.8) | 0.9% (0.2-1.6) | 0.6% (+0.7) | 3.1% (2.0-4.2) | | 2.9% (2.8-3.0) |
| Stunting | | | | | 47.8% | |
| < -2 haz | 59% (53.6-64.2) | 53.1% (49.5-56.7) | 19.1% (+3.6) | 43.5% (40.3-46.7) | | 42.7% (42.6-42.8) |
| < -3 haz | 30.2% (24.4-36.7) | 21.7% (18.8-24.6) | 5.6% (+2.1) | 18.6% (16.2- 21.0) | | 17.6% (17.5-17.7) |
| Measles vaccination | 72% | No data | 97% | No data | | |

Source Action Against Hunger Survey report July 2004, NNS survey Dec 2005

There was no data available for Luwani refugee camp. Compared to the host community and Malawi as a country, malnutrition rates among the refugees in Dzaleka camp are lower for both wasting and chronic malnutrition. It is however worth noting the survey was conducted during harvest time. During the visit to the

clinic only 9 children were admitted with severe malnutrition and although this year was perceived to be worse than previous years, fewer children were admitted at the time of the visit. Although Luwani is located in Mwanza District where malnutrition rates are slight lower (GAM 5 – 7%, Dec 2005) compared to other districts, comparisons/generalisation about the Luwani camp cannot be made because no nutrition data is exists.

Similar to previous reports (AAH 2004), at any one time, about 30% of both children and adults suffer from malaria, diarrhea, and upper respiratory tract infections. Ringworms were also reported especially among children. Malaria is common through out the year, but more so during the rain season. ARVs are provided through MSF- Greece who is responsible for VCT services in Dowa district.

The reported mortality rate in Dzaleka camp is below critical or alert category according to international standards. In Dzaleka camp, health care facilities and services are available within reach of all households. The medical officer at the clinic reported that about 80% of the people utilizing the clinic are Malawians. Dowa hospital is 10km away from the camp and is accessible by refugees. Drugs are provided by Ministry of Health and UNHCR. Although the facilities were deemed adequate, the focus group complained that the ambulance was always slow to come when requested defeating the purpose, that there is no privacy during consultation, poor communication due to language barrier, no opportunity given to patient to explain problem in detail, lack of services during night and weekends and, at times, insufficient drugs. People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA) were satisfied with the availability of drugs but noted that drugs increase their appetite and additional food is not always available. At times PLWA receive dried skimmed milk and a local corn soya blend, *Likuni phala*, from the government hospital

Similar to Dzaleka camp, the clinic in Luwani is run by the Ministry of Health, with funding from UNHCR. Although the Luwani camp clinic theoretically offers the complete range of appropriate health services, many improvements are needed. The clinic is dirty, and the staffs are inattentive. The most common diseases are malaria and diarrhoea. Many refugees complain of stomach pains, caused by eating pigeon peas. The medical officer could however not confirm or deny this complaint. The VCT service saw only 153 clients (43 refugees, 110 nationals) in 2005, of which 44 tested positive (9 men, 35 women: 6 refugees, 38 nationals).

Clinic staffs complain that they are intimidated by refugees, one of whom threatened to burn a staff house down if a patient, who was bitten by a snake at night, was not transferred immediately to Mwanza by ambulance. Congolese often bring patients to the clinic too late and are then violent if there is a death.

Refugees are unhappy with the level of service provided. At night, the watchman sleeps in one of the wards and it is difficult to wake him in case of an emergency. Drugs are limited or not available and there are no childhood immunisations. There is no supplementary food for the chronically ill - the clinical officer stated that they were allocated 500kg twice a year, but that none was supplied in 2005. Luwani clinic has no water supply

4.6) Services and assistance within the camp

4.6.1) Education

Each camp has only one primary school that is funded by UNHCR through the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). In Dzaleka, there were 1,180 students enrolled in January 2005, of whom 238 or 20% were Malawian. By year-end, 949 students remained of whom 171 or 18% were Malawian. 162 Malawians have applied for enrolment this year. The lower percentage of Malawians compared to Luwani, is attributable to the fact that there are a number of other schools in the area. Teachers also feel that there are cultural differences between the children as

refugee children are more assertive. At the beginning of the school year, free stationery is distributed to each pupil. Some Malawians collect these and then transfer to local schools. Additionally, because of the limited number of classrooms, the school operates on a semi-shift system with grades 3-5 operating until 15:00. This is too late for Malawian parents who want their children to do chores and agricultural work.

During 2005, 242 children dropped out of the Dzaleka School. Teachers followed-up with each of the students to find out the reasons, and kept a detailed register. Some, mainly older boys who have been schooled in a French curriculum and find themselves in classes with children much younger than them, drop-out but stay in the camp. However the majority have moved from the camp. In September, for example, 47 students left school - 8 remained in camp, 9 were resettled and the remainder moved to towns.

At Luwani School the average pupil teacher ratio stands at 1:70, being much higher in the junior and infant classes (1:105) and lower in the senior classes (1:47). JRS also funds pre-schools at both camps and a limited number of secondary school (85) and vocational scholarships for both camps and also pays all teachers' salaries. World University Service Canada provides 10 scholarships a year for single students under the age of 25 to undertake tertiary education in Canada.

In September 2005, 487 students were enrolled in primary school in Luwani. Enrolment figures remain fairly static, with 465 students enrolled in April 2005. Enrolment is accepted at any time during the year. Total enrolment in pre-school and primary school is 540, of whom 171 or 31% are Malawian, 29% are from Burundi and 20% each are from Rwanda or DRC.

This year, there are 710 applications for enrolment (433 boys and 277 girls). No breakdown of the ratio locals to refugees is available. Funding is lower than the level of last year, even though enrolments have increased. The school has attracted more students because it is starting to achieve good results, especially in comparison to local schools. Teachers come to the school, despite its remote location, because of an additional incentive to their salary and because of in-service training.

In neither camp, is the entire registered population between 5 and 18 enrolled. In Luwani, it is hard to determine the actual enrolment rate because of population mobility. Although there is gender parity in early grades, at higher grades and in secondary school there are more boys. The languages of instruction are English and Chichewa, while most of the refugees speak ki-Swahili.

In the household survey, 73% of the Dzaleka sample and 48% of the Luwani sample had school aged children. Of those, nearly all of the boys and girls in Dzaleka were reported to be enrolled and attending school. Attendance was lower in children from Luwani camp. The few differences in attendance by country of origin confirm that Luwani camp is really different from Dzaleka camp in terms of demography and enrolment. Children from Rwanda tend to be more likely to have dropped out of school.

| | Camp | | Place of origin | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|-----|--------|
| | Dzaleka | Luwani | Burundi | DRC | Rwanda |
| Have children 6-17 years | 73% | 48% | 62% | 61% | 71% |
| All boys 6-17 attending school | 97% | 91% | 95% | 98% | 95% |
| All girls 6-17 attending school | 94% | 84% | 97% | 86% | 91% |
| Had children drop out of school | 8% | 8% | 5% | 4% | 12% |

Neither school has a feeding programme, despite the number of Malawi children enrolled. It has also reported at both Dzaleka and Luwani that attendance of Malawians during hunger period is much lower due to the effects of hunger.

4.6.2) Water and sanitation

Both camps use water from boreholes for home use. There are eight boreholes at Dzaleka Camp and five at Luwani Camp. The situation is however much better than the surrounding local Malawian villages.

The MRCS, through funding from International Federation of the Red Cross have cast 450 dome slabs that are being distributed and installed in the pit latrines. So far 267 latrines have been constructed and fitted with dome slabs. Currently 183 latrines are under construction at both Dzaleka and Luwani refugee camps and the surrounding villages. The houses visited in both camps had latrines. Some informants told that they would like to get chemicals/spray for the toilets. The public toilets in Dzaleka were perceived by refugees to be dirty and a potential health hazard because no one was responsible for their cleanliness. Some refugees noted that they were not consulted on the plan to build these plans.

Through focus group discussion in Luwani the refugees raised the need to build bathrooms to avoid people taking baths at the boreholes. Further, they complained that they did not receive buckets and had to use cooking casseroles for taking shower.

There is no drainage system at either camp to direct rainwater to appropriate ditches. The situation is worse at Luwani where the land is flat and when it rains the water is stagnant, and refugees complained about water entering their houses and flooding their latrines and rubbish pits. One informant told that it is normal that scorpions are washed into their houses with the surface water and reported that several refugees had been bitten.

The MRCS has conducted training for refugees in water and sanitation subjects, in addition to administrating the establishment of water point committees.

4.6.3) Implementation structure

UNHCR has six implementing partners working in both camps namely; the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Malawi Red Cross, the Jesuit Refugee Service and World Relief Malawi, while *World Food Programme* provides food items to the refugees on a monthly basis. The food is delivered by WFP to camp warehouses manned by the government (DoPDMA), and food distributed by MRCS.

The following are the roles and responsibilities of each of the cooperating partners

The Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs is responsible for:

- Coordinating refugee affairs in general in Malawi.
- Conduct and up date registration of asylum seekers and people of concern in liaison with UNHCR.
- Provision of maximum security to the refugees to reduce/prevent incidents of violence and cases of SGBV.
- Transporting newly arriving asylum seekers from the entry points to the camp.
- Facilitate the process of eligibility.
- Assist UNHCR to lobby with government to review the refugee law in Malawi.

The Malawi Red Cross Society is responsible for:

- General food distribution to the refugees at the camp *warehouse*
- Community Services including Women in Development (WID) and looking at the welfare of people with special needs.
- Counselling and other social services.

- HIV/AIDS activities in both refugee Camps including assisting the MOH in the VCT activities.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for:

- Running the clinics in the refugee camps,
- Supplementary feeding,
- Health and sanitation and
- Administration of medically referred refugees to larger hospitals. More than 60% of the persons attending the clinic are Malawians from surrounding villages.
- Procurement of medical equipment, drugs and supplementary food to feed malnourished children and patients.

Jesuit Refugee Services are responsible for implementing education sector programs to increase refugee capacity for self-reliance.

World Relief Malawi is responsible for:

- Administering income-generating activities and supporting agricultural production
- Purchase and distribution of shelter materials and supervision of shelter construction
- Purchase and distribution of domestic items
- Administering forestry activities

UNHCR is responsible for ensuring the co-ordination and monitoring of activities. UNHCR is also responsible for developing the capacity of its partners through training and regular meetings with partners. The Office of the Representative in Malawi is also responsible for procurement of complementary food and other international procurements such as additional essential drugs, vehicles, non-food items, etc.

4.7) Protection and security

All new arrivals, or asylum seekers, must undergo refugee status determination (RSD), before they can be given refugee status. In Luwani, which hosts new arrivals, the majority of the camp population is still awaiting RSD. They complain that until they get refugee status, they are not entitled to certain rights, including the possibility of resettlement. The establishment of the RSD Unit within the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees will expedite the processing of asylum applications. The number of asylum seekers, in part because Luwani receives all new arrivals, is highest in Luwani.

GoM maintain presence of police at both camps (5 officers in Luwani, 4 officers in Dzaleka) and apart from the uniformed policemen, the GoM also deploys non-uniformed security men in both camps. The policemen interviewed at Dzaleka informed that the camp was generally peaceful. However, the refugees sometimes create a state of insecurity in order to support their case for resettlement, which they consider the most attractive durable solution.

Most Rwandan households were not keen to repatriate back to Rwanda. They argued that the peace that is being talked about is just for the world to hear but that in reality if they went back to Rwanda, they would still be persecuted because the ethnic hatred is still there. Some said they would not find any property if they went back because their land had been taken and going back would just rekindle the old hatred. Some Rwandese said they would do without food assistance so long as they were absorbed into the Malawian society and are given land to cultivate.

From the household survey, when asked why they had not returned home, nearly all cited insecurity as a problem. However, 20% of the Burundian and Rwandese

refugees also stated that they had nothing left to return to in their countries. A few from Burundi also stated that there was no land or work at home.

4.8) Gender

The caseload is predominantly male, with about 33% being adult male. These males are also more likely to be transiting. The survey found 19% of the sample households in Dzaleka were headed by women as compared to 15% of the households in Luwani with no difference by country of origin. However, 23% of the households in Luwani were hosting orphans as compared to 19% in Dzaleka. Households from DRC were the most likely to be hosting orphans (33%).

There are women in all committees and leadership structures, including food distribution. However, they are unpaid and they feel unacknowledged, especially as they have other domestic duties. Results of the household survey showed that more women in Dzaleka go to collect the food (55%) than in Luwani (38%). There were few differences by place of origin with about half the households stating that the women collected the latest ration. The same applies when asked about who decides the use of food aid. In Dzaleka, only 24% of the households indicated that only the men decide how to use the food as compared to 42% of the households in the Luwani sample. Again, there were no differences by country of origin.

A focus group discussion with the Women in Development Committee (WIDC) in Luwani revealed that a major concern is domestic violence, due to the difficult circumstances in which families live. There is frequent divorce, as men move on. Also, many girls get married early because they want to leave the camp. The WIDC provides assistance in domestic violence cases, and helps new arrivals who are widows or single mothers to settle in, sometimes keeping them in their own huts. They also help in mobilisation and awareness campaigns.

4.9) Contingency plan

It is most likely that the caseload will remain at about the same level, with new arrivals offset by numbers who are resettled, those who find an informal local integration arrangement, or those who voluntarily leave. If the situation in DRC continues to improve, then Congolese may return, as will a number of Rwandese and Burundians. In this case the total caseload may decrease, if an accurate means can be found to track transient movements.

There are two possible scenarios for an increase in numbers:

- DRC - If the situation deteriorates, there could be an increase in numbers fleeing internal conflict.
- Political and economic circumstances deteriorate in Ethiopia and Somalia, leading to an influx, not just of young men, but also families.

The other regional flashpoint is Zimbabwe, where economic and social policies may make it increasingly difficult for some, especially opposition supporters, to remain. Zimbabweans would not be considered as refugees, but treated similarly to citizens of Malawi.

In either of the two scenarios, the influx would probably be limited to a maximum of 10,000 who could be accommodated within existing camps as Luwani used to house 250,000 refugees. However, services would have to be expanded and staffing increased.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1) Strategic recommendations

The refugee caseload is composed of two distinct groups, namely:

- refugees who intend to stay in Malawi until such time as a agreeable durable solutions is available for them and for whom self-reliance should be encouraged. Some though are intent only on resettlement as a durable solution and show no interest in self-reliance
- spontaneous movers – those who are transiting through Malawi

The fact that there are so many of the spontaneous movers makes management of the caseload complex, as it is difficult even to determine exact numbers in Malawi at any one point in time.

Self-reliance

The objective of international assistance is to assist refugees to be able to meet their basic needs, taking into account what they are able to provide for themselves. Strategies for increasing the level of self-reliance of refugees are well-established, but experience with promoting self-reliance for refugees has been observed to be challenging in most refugee operations.

The mission saw many examples of refugees developing their own strategies for making a livelihood. These ranged from petty trading to farming and professional employment. However, refugees face constraints in pursuing self-reliance because of the reservations that the Government of Malawi has expressed in signing the 1951 Convention, especially on movement and employment. Although GoM has proved to have a flexible and pragmatic approach, self-reliance will remain extremely difficult if refugee activity is confined to the camps. The possibilities to achieve self-reliance for refugees in the future will depend on changes in host government policies towards refugees, adequate support for necessary (non-food) inputs, and a number of other factors like location of camps, livelihoods, and environment. Further, there is no single self-reliance strategy. They vary according to factors such as the culture and traditions of the nationality concerned (e.g. Somalis are not usually farmers), education levels, skills, gender, vulnerabilities and assets. Strategies should include but not be limited to enhancement of agricultural production.

Currently refugees reside in two camps, Dzaleka and Luwani. Dzaleka is situated close to Lilongwe and is easily accessible by reasonable roads. There is 100 hectares of agricultural land available in the camp plus electricity and water. Business/trading opportunities are possible. Luwani is situated on a former camp for Mozambican refugees in a remote region of Malawi. Refugees have complained about its location as it is hot, very dry and remote (18 kms by dirt road from the main highway). In enhancing self reliance, GoM selected this area as a way of promoting agricultural activities due to availability of vast virgin land. However, the place is in a rain shadow, rains are usually erratic and only 26 hectares have been cleared for cultivation. If Luwani is to be a viable site for agriculture then an irrigation system must be put in place, adequate land must be made available for each family who requires it, adequate agricultural inputs need to be distributed and a foot bridge must be constructed across Lisungwe river for access to markets in the rainy season. The logistics required for agencies to service two camps is costly and could only be justified if these conditions are in place.

It is recommended that WFP and donors assist UNHCR in the process of encouraging GoM to remove the reservations to the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees to increase refugees' possibilities to become more self-reliant.

Food aid

Decisions on reductions in ration levels and the eventual phasing-out of general food assistance in view of observed and/or assumed levels of self-reliance as self-reliance is difficult to measure and has many variables. Logically, the overall level of food assistance should decline as a refugee population becomes more self-reliant or less food insecure. Food rations should then be seen as complementary to any food which the refugees are able to obtain through own activities such as agricultural production, trade, labor and small businesses. However, the fact that Malawi is a chronic food insecure country should be taken into consideration when measuring levels and possibility of any meaningful self-reliance.

Scenarios for food assistance

The JAM mission has recommended a joint verification exercise to take place in the two camps in April/May 2006, to allow sufficient time for WFP to budget future assistance after 30 June, when the current operation ends. Based on the verification exercise and the global MoU between WFP and UNHCR, one of the following two directions will guide WFP's future assistance to refugees:

If the caseload is found to be over 5000 refugees living in the camps the current operation for food assistance should continue through budget revision up to 31 December 2006. This will allow time for design of new project based on the scenarios below.

If the caseload is found to be less than 5000 refugees living in the camps, and the figure of new arrivals is not likely to increase based on analysis of the political situation in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa, a gradual phase out plan should be prepared to allow time for UNHCR to budget continued support.

In order to decide on the way forward if direction 1 is the reality, a new project should be designed based on the possibilities to change the ration during the project period. New project period is suggested to be two years, 1st January 2007 – 31 December 2008, and the project should include strategies on how WFP can contribute to self-reliance in the camps, e.g. through Food for Work/Food for Training activities (not in addition to current ration, but replacing the ration). A follow-up JAM should take place in the first half of 2007 to measure the following indicators to guide future assistance:

Review current case-load and contingencies for changes in caseload due to influxes of new arrivals from Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa, or changes in repatriation pace (e.g. for the Rwandese).

Assess the following self-reliance indicators: 1) Percentage of refugee households that have access to at least 1 acres of agricultural land for own production, 2) Percentage of refugee land owners that receive adequate agricultural inputs and have access to irrigation to maximize yield, 3) weather patterns for 2006/07 farming season.

Review progress made on government policies and reservations to the Geneva Convention of 1951 in order to allow refugees more income opportunities for self-reliance.

Based on the JAM findings, the following two scenarios should guide the way forward, bearing in mind that each camp need to be assessed separately and might demand different scenarios for response.

Scenario 1: Best case

- Total caseload continues to stay above 5000 refugees living in the camps.
- Normal to good weather patterns predicting normal to good harvest.

- More than 50% of refugee households have access to at least 1 acre of agricultural land for own production, based on the standard requirement of an average household (5.5 persons) requiring 1 Mt/year of cereal to be food secure and 1 acre of land producing 1 Mt of maize with adequate inputs during normal climatic conditions.
- More than 75% of refugee land owners receives adequate agricultural inputs and have access to irrigation (Luwani).
- Progress made towards reducing GoM's reservations to the Geneva Convention, which will allow refugees more income opportunities for self-reliance. The progress could be measured by 50% of refugee households are either employed or involved in trade, labor or run small businesses.

Strategy: 1) food assistance with reduced ration, except to identified vulnerable groups (e.g. elderly headed households with orphans, child headed households, chronically ill) who will receive full ration, 2) support to UNHCR's self-reliance activities within the camps (to be elaborated in the new project document).

Scenario 2: Worst case

- Total caseload continues to stay above 5000 refugees living in the camps.
- Unfavorable weather patterns predicting poor harvest.
- Less than 50% of refugee households have access to at least 1 acres of agricultural land for own production, based on the standard requirement of an average household (5.5 persons) requiring 1 Mt/year of cereal to be food secure and 1 acres of land producing 1 Mt of maize with adequate inputs.
- Less than 75% of refugee land-owners receives adequate agricultural inputs and have access to irrigation (Luwani).
- No progress made towards reviewing reservations on the 1951 Convention to allow refugees more income opportunities for self-reliance. Less than 50% of refugee households are employed or involved in trade, labour or run small businesses.

Strategy: 1) food assistance with full ration to all refugees, 2) support to UNHCR's self-reliance activities within the camps (to be elaborated in new project document).

Both scenarios:

Two separate registration lists should be developed: 1) protection list: total number of refugees/asylum seekers in Malawi in need of protection, 2) food list: total number of refugees living in the camps or living outside the camps but still in need of food assistance for special reasons (e.g. permitted to stay in towns due to medical reasons). The food list will make the basis for who will receive food during food distribution. These two lists should be prepared as a result of the verification exercises in March/April 2006.

Registration and status determination

For GoM to have an accurate grasp of refugee numbers and adequate protection and assistance offered to them, good registration and refugee status determination (RSD) systems must be in place. The introduction of the RAPID database in 2004 has helped substantially. Most refugees and asylum seekers were provided with ID cards. In Dzaleka, the system is working well. In Luwani, which has received the new arrivals since 2004, there are still irregularities. The outline of the procedures for asylum seekers entering Malawi needs to be reinforced. There are still asylum seekers arriving directly to the camps without going through the official border posts.

As a matter of priority, a registration training and verification exercise should be facilitated by UNHCR in Luwani as soon as possible and Luwani camp should be adequately equipped to document new arrivals. A re-verification exercise should be conducted in Dzaleka and Luwani prior to May, as preparatory to the revision of WFP's PRRO that ends 30 June 2006. The new RSD Unit of the Commissioner for Refugees should be supported to perform optimally.

Funding mechanisms and coordination

Non-traditional funding mechanisms for agricultural inputs, tools and technical advice, and other self-reliance/income generating initiatives should be initiated by UNHCR and WFP, in collaboration with Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs and World Relief. Ministry of Agriculture and FAO should be involved in different crop diversification schemes for refugees.

Regular meetings need to be held between UNHCR and refugee leaders for information dissemination, transparency and to increase refugees' participation in decision-making processes. Refugee leaders should also be invited to food and non-food committee meetings to be informed of upcoming distributions, as well as having the opportunity to raise concerns around distributions.

5.2) Thematic operational recommendations

Agriculture

The findings indicate that currently there is not enough agricultural land within the Dzaleka camp for all refugees that want to cultivate crops. A new allocation plan of land inside the camp should be implemented to avoid some households having up to 5 acres of land, while some households do not have any land.

When refugees leave the camps, land allocated to them should be handed over to the camp administration for redistribution to refugees with no access to land. Refugees do not receive any technical advice on crop cultivation (e.g. use of fertilizer, pesticides etc) and the district agricultural extension officers should include the camps as part of their assignments.

Distribution of adequate agricultural inputs and tools need to be in line with the size of the plot being cultivated by each household. Agricultural crop diversification should be promoted through e.g. cassava cultivation, introduction of banana seedlings from Tanzania/northern Malawi, planting of fruit trees around refugee homesteads. The possibility of increased small-scale animal husbandry (e.g. chickens, ducks, guinea fowl, goats) should also be investigated.

Self-reliance

Different income generating activities should be encouraged, such as selling of crops and small-scale businesses, in addition to skills development (e.g. tailoring, carpentry, mechanics). Micro-finance loans should be continued, but needs to be monitored and a realistic strategy for back payment of loans need to be in place. The loans need also to increase in size in order to facilitate its purpose of establishing small businesses. It is also advisable to give the funds, or even goods to project groups, rather than individuals.

UNHCR should discuss further with Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare and Community Services to include refugee women in the Ministry's training programme for income generating activities.

Food aid

Food aid should be consistent with the food distribution list, meaning that food aid should only be distributed to refugees living inside the camps and special cases where refugees living legally outside the camps, e.g. due to health concerns. To

the extent possible a food basket consistent with food habits of the refugee population should be provided to avoid food aid being sold.

Food for Work/Food for Training opportunities, both for refugees and host community with the aim to foster harmony, mitigate competition of resources, and create assets both inside and outside the camps should be implemented. Such activities may include land rehabilitation, awareness creation on health, HIV/AIDS, hygiene, sanitation etc, skills training. These projects must be on the condition of not distributing double rations (e.g. the same household receiving rations from both general food distribution and FFW/FFT).

WFP should consider the possibility of enrolling the schools in the camps in WFP's school feeding programme. School feeding is justified since up to 1/3 of the pupils are Malawians from surrounding communities. WFP should also consider supplementary feeding to vulnerable groups inside the camps as preventive measure, such as during the lean season for vulnerable groups.

For the purpose of quality, maize meal should not be stored for more than three months from time of production to consumption. It is also recommended that a random weighing of the ration should be part of the next round of WFP's PDM exercise, as well as part of monthly onsite monitoring. The findings should be communicated to beneficiaries to allay dissatisfaction related to suspecting that rations are lower by refugees.

Household survey findings

The household survey analysis allowed for some comparisons to be made between the camps. Using key indicators from the WFP Community and Household Surveillance, it is fairly clear that the refugees living in Luwani are more vulnerable to food insecurity than those in Dzaleka. In terms of consumption, even though they are receiving a full ration, 30% of the households in the Luwani sample are not even eating just cereals and vegetables each day as compared to 16% in Dzaleka. More than half the children in the Luwani sample are eating only one meal per day as compared to 38% in Dzaleka. Although their food consumption is worse than the Dzaleka households, the Luwani households rely more on food aid for their consumption.

The *Coping Strategies Index (CSI)* measures the *frequency* and *severity* of actions taken by households in response to the presence or threat of a food shortage. The mean CSI for Luwani households was significantly higher than the sample from Dzaleka. In addition, the refugees in Luwani tend to own fewer assets – mostly because they are relatively new arrivals. The households in Dzaleka are more settled tend to own more household assets.

Based on these differences, is recommended that self reliance initiatives by all stakeholders listed above consider the inherent difficulties of each camp in planning for any assistance.

Health and nutrition

Nutritional survey of the refugee population as well as the surrounding communities should be undertaken in 2006 to guide programming decisions. Ideally such surveys should be undertaken twice a year, during lean season and harvest season, to compare level of stress for refugees and host community.

Ministry of Health should ensure adequate provision of health services (drugs, equipments, personnel etc) through UNHCR in both camps, and look into the general management especially cleanliness and service delivery of the clinic in Luwani camp. Health education campaigns should be continued in both camps.

Mosquito nets should be distributed to refugees or being sold for a symbolic price through the camp clinics. The initiative can be discussed with agencies like UNICEF.

Many of the shelters are leaking, which has serious health implications (e.g. good conditions for mosquitoes to breed). All shelters with insufficient roofing should be renovated and UNHCR should regularly distribute strong plastic sheets that cover the whole roof.

UNHCR should discuss further with Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare and Community Services to identify funding opportunities to include refugees in the gender based violence programme through district officers.

Registration and verification

A monthly re-verification exercise should be undertaken by WFP and UNHCR by selecting 20–30 households randomly to check presence of household members, ID cards, ration cards, and address.

When a refugee does not show up for three consecutive food distributions, he/she is automatically being removed from the food distribution list. This should change to either one (for single men, who are most likely to be transiting) or two consecutive months (for families).

The newly established task force (UNHCR, WFP, WR, MRCS, GoM) to identify refugee names known to be self-reliant should continue its work.

All refugees/asylum seekers need to have ID cards linked to address in camp. UNHCR should continue the process of issuing ID cards for all refugees/asylum seekers (e.g. important for verification against ration cards). ID cards should be linked to streets and house numbers.

Currently UNHCR generates refugee/asylum seeker lists against which ration cards are verified. These should be produced in a user friendly way – for example alphabetically rather than by date of arrival which is the current practice.

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Annex 1: List of people contacted

Below is the list of people we interviewed during the JAM mission. In addition, several refugees participated in different focus group discussions, as well as meetings with officials in District Commissioner's office.

People met in Lilongwe

| ORGANISATION | NAME, TITLE |
|--|--|
| Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs | Dr M.D. Nowa Phiri, Commissioner for Refugees S. Nayeja, Senior Legal Advisor |
| Immigration | Mr. Simfukwe, Regional Immigration Officer |
| Ministry of Health | Mr. A. Mangwere, Project Administrator Mr. Mpanyula, Under Secretary |
| Ministry of Trade | D.J.D Makwelerero, Deputy Director of Trade K. Nkankha, Assistant Director of Trade N. Mpita, Business Promotion Officer R. Kadewere, Business Promotion Officer T.C. Munthali, Business Promotion Officer A. Kamanga, Business Promotion Officer |
| Ministry of Gender, Child Welfare and Community Services | A. Mpunga, Programme Coordinator |

People met in Dzaleka Camp

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministry of Local Government. | Mr. Savala, District Commissioner, Dowa District. |
| Ministry of Agriculture | Mr. Kaimfa, Ministry of Agriculture, Dowa District |
| Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs | W. Nawanga, Camp Administrator |
| Malawi Red Cross Society | J. Kamwendo, F. A. Chiume |
| World Relief | D. Nawanga, F. Magombo, E. Chunda, |
| Local Leaders | Village Headman Besela Village Headman Mengwe Village Headman Lilambwe Village Headman Mtanda Village Headman Manzi |
| Refugee leaders | |

People met in Luwani Camp

| | |
|---|--|
| Ministry of Local Government | Mr. F.A. Singini, Representing District Commissioner, Neno District. |
| Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs | M. Mphudukwa, Camp Administrator |
| Ministry of Health | D. Nkhoma |
| Malawi Red Cross Society | A. Gaziyo, C. Chapola, C. Banda |
| World Relief | H. Nkhulanzie, S. Nkosi, M. Jemitale, B. Kanjapata |
| Local Leaders | Group Village Headman Ngwenyama Village Headman Mathotho Village Headman Lembani |
| Refugee leaders | |

Annex 2: Terms of Reference

1. BACKGROUND:

Since June 2002 to present, refugees have benefited from food distributions under WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP 10152.0). In July 2003, it was assessed that it was timely to facilitate the transition into a Protracted Recovery and Relief Operation (PRRO) in order to assist and encourage refugees in becoming food secure. This PRRO (10309) commenced in January 2004 and will be terminating on 30 June 2006. Information from this assessment will give input to the decision of future food assistance to refugees in Malawi.

Refugees are located in 2 different types of camps; Dzaleka camp in Central region (50 km from Lilongwe), and Luwani camp in Southern region (100 km from Blantyre). In addition there is a transit center in Karonga, Northern region. Around 8000 refugees receive food aid on a monthly basis. The majority of refugees are from Rwanda, but other nationalities are Burundi, DRC, and a few from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan.

2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the mission is to assess the food security situation for refugees in order to guide programme planning and budgeting processes to determine if food assistance should be continued.

Specifically, the mission will undertake the following:

1. Assess the food security situation for refugees through market analysis, access to agricultural land, food utilization, coping strategies etc.
2. Analyze refugees opportunities for self-reliance, including existing income generating/self-reliance activities, employment opportunities etc.
3. Identify measures necessary to ensure sustainable solutions to improve food security and self-reliance among refugees, including identify possible involvement of governmental, UN and NGO development agencies.
4. Through household survey identify food security issues and determine levels of self-reliance among the refugee population. Based on the findings recommendations should be given for future food assistance (e.g. if follow-up studies are needed to identify socio-economic groups within the refugee population that have different food security and coping strategies that would require different type of assistance).
5. Analyze the trend of refugee/asylum seekers movements, including new arrivals, repatriation, and resettlement. This exercise should include assessment of the registration process of new arrivals and uncontrolled movement of refugees between camps and towns.
6. Identify current measures to update refugee statistics on a monthly basis and identify possibilities for monthly re-verification by sampling of households for cross-checks. The mission should recommend methodology for a re-verification exercise in 2006 to update total number of refugees living in the two camps.
7. Assess the effects of assistance under PRRO 10309 on the refugees' food security by reviewing the modalities of food assistance, their effects and problems encountered in implementation and make recommendations for future interventions.

Overall, the mission should recommend where more in-depth assessments/studies are needed (e.g. nutritional survey).

3. METHODOLOGY

Below are some suggested methodologies:

- *Review of secondary data.* Information package will be prepared prior to the mission as a basis for the assessment team to further review and analyze. The package will include the following:
 - Demographic data: registration and enumeration data on refugees, including sex/age breakdowns and their occupational and educational backgrounds.
 - Camp and district information, including maps.
 - Previous assessments reports and reviews.

- Government policies concerning refugees.
 - Analysis of the security situation (including any available conflict analysis reports).
 - WFP project documents and pipeline details.
 - Food security/self-reliance information, including any recent livelihood/socio-economic studies, data on crop production and income-generation/self-reliance projects.
 - Food distribution data and monitoring reports, including individual reports from NGOs.
 - Non-food project documents and reports.
 - Data on health and nutrition status.
 - Reports on water, sanitation, shelter, the environment and energy needs assessments.
 - Data on education and other social services.
 - Data on gender and protection issues.
- *Household survey* based on systematic random sampling of households and sample size according to statistically recommended size (see JAM guidelines). Questionnaire will be based on already existing formats adapted to the objectives of the mission and the context (type of operations, socio-cultural aspects etc). Six enumerators will be needed and will be identified from volunteers/interns within WFP and UNHCR, in addition to students from University of Malawi. Training of enumerators will be carried out prior to the mission. Data entry and statistical capacity to analyze the data will be identified within WFP and UNHCR.
 - *Interviews with key informants.* Interviews/conversations with relevant government officials in the camps, including camp administrator, representatives from Ministry of Health, District Agricultural Office, and key staff from implementing partners (Malawi Red Cross Society and World Relief) in the camps working with the refugees in food and non-food programmes. Informal discussions with refugees at the site/in the household will be carried out. In addition, relevant staff from all stakeholders (government, WFP, UNHCR, IP) in the capital will be interviewed.
 - *Focus group discussions.* Some suggested groups: 1) Refugee leaders, 2) Women committees, 3) Refugees engaged in self-reliance activities, 4) Vulnerable groups, 5) refugees representing other distinct socio-economic subgroups.
 - *Observations and inspections.* Transect walks through the camps. Inspection of general conditions at the site and in households: in cooking areas, around water sources, in toilets/defecation areas, in storage areas etc. Observations in markets within the settlement and in the vicinity, and discussions with traders.
 - *Additional visits/meetings:* Meetings with personnel responsible for food, health, water, sanitation, education and other community services. Visits to warehouses and key locations in supply and logistics chain.
 - *Report writing.* Strict timetable, including responsibilities, should be developed with the aim of finishing the report within a month after mission end. This will be dependent on when the analysis of the household survey can be finalized.

Refer to page 305 – 306 in the JAM guideline for further information on methodology.

4. REQUIRED OUTPUT

- Produce mission report based on standard JAM guidelines format and objectives of the TOR: 1) Basic Facts, including partnerships, 2) Food security, 3) Self-reliance, 4) Non-food and other related concerns, 5) Refugee movements and re-verification, 6) Final recommendations, based on recommendations highlighted in each section.
- Improved communication based on a common knowledge base of the refugee situation and enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders involved in the refugee operations.

Annex 3: Household questionnaire

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Camp: 1 = Dzaleka | 2 = Luwani |
| Household number | _ _ _ |
| Date of interview | _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Day Month Year |
| Name of Enumerator _____ | _ |

Guidance for introducing yourself and the purpose of the interview:

- My name is _____ and I am a student at the University of Malawi doing some survey work for WFP.
- Your household has been selected by chance from all households in the area for this interview. The purpose of this interview is to obtain information on the effects of the WFP food aid program. It helps us understand whether we are implementing our program properly and whether our intended objectives are met.
- The survey is voluntary and the information that you give will be confidential. The information will be used to prepare reports, but neither your, nor any other names, will be mentioned in any reports. There will be no way to identify that you gave this information.
- Could you please spare some time (around 40 minutes) for the interview?

NB to enumerator: DO NOT suggest in any way that household entitlements could depend on the outcome of the interview, as this will prejudice the answers.

Respondent should be household head or spouse of household head.

| Section A: Household Demographics | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| A1 | Name of Respondent (for record only): _____ | | | |
| A2a | Sex of Head of Household | 1 = Male | 2 = Female | |
| A2b | Age of Head of Household | Age in years: __ __ | | |
| A3 | Marital status of Head of Household | 1 = Married | 4 = Living apart, not divorced | |
| | | 2 = Partner, not married | 5 = Widow or widower | |
| | | 3 = Divorced | 6 = Never married | |
| A4 | Can the Head/Spouse read a simple message in any language? | Head | | Spouse |
| | | 1 = Yes | 2 = No | 1 = Yes 2 = No |
| A5 | Total Number of People Living in the Household __ __ | Males | 0 to 5: __ | 6-17: __ 18-59: __ 60+ __ |
| | | Females | 0 to 5: __ | 6-17: __ 18-59: __ 60+ __ |
| A6 | Are all of your children aged 6-17 attending schools regularly? | Males: 1 = Yes, 2 = No | | Females: 1 = Yes, 2 = No |
| A7 | Have any of your children aged 6-17 dropped out of school? | 1 = Yes | | 2 = No |
| A8 | Are there any orphans living in your household? | 1 = Yes | | 2 = No |
| A9 | Have any of your household members been chronically ill and unable to work for the past 3 months? | | | 1 = Yes 2 = No |
| A10 | Are any of your household members physically or mentally disabled? | | | 1 = Yes 2 = No |
| A11 | How many persons in your household 6 years or older are engaged in some type of economic activity? | Children (6-17) | Number __ | |
| | | Adults (18-59) | Number __ | |
| | | Elderly (60+) | Number __ | |
| B. Household Circumstances | | | | |
| B1 | What is your country of origin? | 1 = Burundi | 2 = DRC | |
| | | 3 = Rwanda | 4 = Somalia & others | |
| B2 | What problems have prevented you from returning to your place of origin? (Circle all that apply) | 1 = Insecurity | 4 = Roads/bridges /infrastructure destroyed | |
| | | 2 = No land in place of origin | 5 = Don't have enough resources to return | |
| | | 3 = Cannot find work/earn enough money there | 6 = Nothing there to return to | |
| B3 | How many times did you change your place of living in the past 3 years?(all places) | __ __ | | |
| B4 | When did your household move to this current camp? | Year __ __ __ __ | 1 = Rainy season 2 = Dry season | |

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| B5 | What is the main source of drinking water for your household? | 1 = Piped into dwelling, yard or plot | 4 = Protected dug well |
| | | 2 = Public tap/neighborhood house | 5 = Rain water |
| | | 3 = Borehole with pump | 6 = Unprotected well |
| | | 7 = Pond, river or stream | 8 = Tanker/purchased |
| B6 | What kind of toilet facility does your household use? | 1 = Flush latrine | 2 = Traditional pit latrine |
| | | 3 = Open pit | 4 = None/bush/open space |
| B7 | What is the main source of lighting for this house? | 1 = Electricity | 2 = Oil lamp |
| | | 3 = Kerosene lamp | 4 = Candle |
| | | 5 = Generator | 6 = Firewood |
| | | 7 = None | |
| B8 | What is the main source of cooking fuel for this household? | 1 = Electricity | 2 = Wood |
| | | 3 = Charcoal | 4 = Gas |
| | | 5 = Kerosene | 6 = Dung |
| | | 7 = Other | |

| C. Household income & debt | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Please complete the table, one activity at a time, using the livelihood source codes below | | During the past year, what were your household's most important livelihood sources? (use activity code, up to 3 activities) | Using proportional piling or 'divide the pie' methods, please estimate the relative contribution to total income of each source (%) |
| C1a | Most important | _ _ | _ _ _ |
| C1b | Second | _ _ | _ _ |
| C1c | Third | _ _ | _ _ |
| Livelihood source codes: 1 = remittance 2 = Food crop production/sales 3 = Cash crop production 4 = casual labour (ganyu) 5 = begging | | 6 = livestock production/sales 7 = skilled trade/artisan 8 = small business 9 = petty trade (firewood sales, etc.) 10 = brewing | 11 = formal salary/wages 12 = fishing 13 = vegetable production/sales 14 = Food assistance 88 = Other |
| C2 | During the past 6 months, has your household received any of the following type of support from relatives / friends living <u>outside</u> of the camp? (circle all that apply) | 1 = Money | 3 = Clothing |
| | | 2 = Food | 4 = Agricultural inputs |
| C3 | For how often did your household receive this support? | Money _ | Food _ |
| Codes for C3: 1=Every month, 2=Occasionally (not regular), 3=Only when asked for, 4=Only started | | | |
| C4 | Do you expect to continue to receive this support? | Money | Food |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| | | 1 = Yes | 2 = No | 1 = Yes | 2 = No |
| C5 | During the past 3months, did you or any member of your HH borrow money? | 1 = Yes | | 2 = No <i>(skip to Section D)</i> | |
| C6 | What was the primary reason for borrowing? | 1 = to buy food | | 2 = pay for health care | |
| | | 3 = pay for funeral | | 4 = pay for social event | |
| | | 5 = buy agric inputs | | 6 = pay for education | |
| C7 | From whom did you borrow? | 1= friend/relative | | 2 = money lender | |
| | | 3 = bank/formal lending institution | | 4 = informal savings group | |

| D. Household assets and livestock | | | | | |
|--|--|----|--|----|-------------------------------|
| <i>D1</i> | How many of the following assets are owned by you or any member or your household? IF A SPECIFIC ASSET IS NOT OWNED, ENTER '0' | | | | |
| | Non-productive Assets | | Productive & Transport Assets | | |
| | 1. Chair | __ | 6. Axe | __ | 12. Hand Mill __ |
| | 2. Table | __ | 7. Sickle | __ | 13. Bicycle __ |
| | 3. Bed | __ | 8. Panga/Machete | __ | 14. Harrow __ |
| | 4. TV | __ | 9. Mortar | __ | 15. Plough __ |
| | 5. Radio | __ | 10. Hoe | __ | 16. Sewing machine __ |
| | | | 11. Ox Cart | __ | 17. Hammer Mill __ |
| <i>D2</i> | How many of the following animals do your family own? | | | | |
| | Draught cattle __ __ | | Cattle __ __ | | Donkeys/Horses __ __ |
| | Sheep/goats __ __ | | Pigs __ __ | | Poultry __ __ __ |

| E. Food Consumption | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| E1 | How many meals did the adults (18+) in this household eat yesterday ? | _ NUMBER OF MEALS |
| E2 | How many meals did the adolescents (5-17) in this household eat yesterday ? | _ NUMBER OF MEALS |
| E3 | How many meals did the children (6-59 months old) in this household eat yesterday ? <i>IF NO CHILDREN IN THE HH, WRITE 98 for N/A</i> | _ _ NUMBER OF MEALS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the last seven days, how many days did you consume the following foods? • What was the source of the food? | | |
| | Number of <i>days</i> (0 to 7) | <i>Source</i> |
| 1. Maize, maize porridge | _ | _ |
| 2. Other cereal (rice, sorghum, millet, etc) | _ | _ |
| 3. Cassava | _ | _ |
| 4. Potatoes, sweet potatoes | _ | _ |
| 5. Sugar or sugar products | _ | _ |
| 6. Beans and peas | _ | _ |
| 7. Groundnuts and cashew nuts | _ | _ |
| 8. Vegetables/ relish /leaves | _ | _ |
| 9. Bread, pasta | _ | _ |
| 10. Fruits | _ | _ |
| 11. Beef, goat, or other red meat | _ | _ |
| 12. Poultry | _ | _ |
| 13. Pork | _ | _ |
| 14. Eggs | _ | _ |
| 15. Fish | _ | _ |
| 16. Oils/fats/butter | _ | _ |
| 17. Milk/yogurt/other dairy | _ | _ |
| 18. CSB | _ | _ |
| Source codes: 1 = From own production 2 = Casual labour 3 = Borrowed 4 = Gift 5 = Purchases 6 = Food aid 7 = Barter | | |

| F. Coping strategies | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------|
| In the past 30 days, how frequently did your household resort to using one or more of the following strategies in order to have access to food? CIRCLE ONLY ONE ANSWER PER STRATEGY. | | | | | | |
| | | Never | Seldom (1-3 days/month) | Sometimes (1-2 days /week) | Often (3-6 days a week) | Daily |
| F1 | Skip entire days without eating? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F2 | Limit portion size at mealtimes? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F3 | Reduce number of meals eaten per day? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F4 | Borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F5 | Rely on less expensive or less preferred foods? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F6 | Purchase/borrow food on credit? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F7 | Gather unusual types or amounts of wild food / hunt? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F8 | Harvest immature crops (e.g. green maize)? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F9 | Send household members to eat elsewhere? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F10 | Send household members to beg? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F11 | Reduce adult consumption so children can eat? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F12 | Rely on casual labour for food? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| G. Food assistance | | | | | | |
| G1 | Did your household receive food aid at any time during the last 6 months? | 1 = Yes IF YES GO TO G3 | | 2 = No | | |
| G2 | Why have you not received any food aid? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY) | 1 = Absent during distribution 2 = Am not registered 3 = Did not need 4 = Do not know 5 = -Eligible, but biased against GO TO G11 | | | | |
| G3 | When in the past 6 months did your HH receive food ration? (<i>Ask for each individual month, circle all that apply</i>) | 1 = December 2005 2 = November 2005 3 = October 2005 | | 4 = September 2005 5 = August 2005 6 = July 2005 | | |
| G4 | What was the sex of the recipient who went and collected the last food ration? | 1 = Male | | 2 = Female | | |
| G5 | Who in your household makes decisions about how food aid is used? | 1 = Men | 2 = Women | | 3 = Both | |
| G6 | What commodities did you receive in your most recent household ration? <i>Circle all that apply</i> | 1 = Cereals | | 2 = Pulses | | |
| | | 3 = Oil | | 4 = CSB | | |
| G7 | How much of these commodities did you consume in your most recent ration? | 1 = Cereals __ | | 2 = Pulses __ | | |
| | | 3 = Oil __ | | 4 = CSB __ | | |
| Codes for G7: 1 = all 2 = More than 1/2 3 = Half 4 = Less than half 5 = None | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|----------------|
| G8 | Did you sell any food aid last month? (1 = Yes; 2 = No) | 1 = Cereals __ | 2 = Pulses __ |
| | | 3 = Oil __ | 4 = CSB __ |
| G9 | If yes, how much? | 1 = Cereals __ | 2 = Pulses __ |
| | | 3 = Oil __ | 4 = CSB __ |
| Codes for G9: 1 = all 2 = More than 1/2 3 = Half 4 = Less than half | | | |
| G10 | Did you barter any food aid last month? (1 = Yes; 2 = No) | 1 = Cereals __ | 2 = Pulses __ |
| | | 3 = Oil __ | 4 = CSB __ |
| G11 | Did you give away any food aid last month? (1 = Yes; 2 = No) | 1 = Cereals __ | 2 = Pulses __ |
| | | 3 = Oil __ | 4 = CSB __ |
| G12 | How many days did your most recent ration of CEREALS last? | __ NUMBER OF DAYS | |
| G13 | If not finished yet, how long it will last? | __ NUMBER OF DAYS | |

Annex 5: Focus Group Checklist

Food security

How many meals did you eat yesterday?

In the past month, did you have enough food every day? If not, what did you do to cope?

WFP always gives enough ration, so that some can be exchanged for commodities that are not given in the ration (eg meat, fresh vegetables, soap, toothpaste, clothes). Did you sell or exchange food during the last month? What for?

WFP can only ever give cereals, oil, pulses sugar and salt. It cannot organise fresh meat, fruit or vegetables. Are you happy with the food ration? How would you like to change it?

With the food ration, do you have any problems preparing/cooking it?

Agriculture/environment

Do you have access to land? How much? Do you pay rent or part of the crop for the land? If it is part of land allocated to refugees, did you get it directly or get it from another refugee who had previously farmed it? Did you grow anything last year? What did you grow? Have you planted this year? What? Did you have seeds/fertiliser? How much land are you cultivating this year? Do you have any animals?

What is your main source of drinking water?

What cooking fuel do you use in the household?

Self Reliance

It is difficult being a refugee and being dependent on assistance from others. We know that you would all like to lead normal lives, like you did in your own country. What could you do to be self-reliant? What are the obstacles to prevent you achieving this dream? Is there anything that could be done to help you become self-reliant? Would this include training and if so what sort of training?

Can you borrow money? Who do you borrow from? What for? Have you tried to establish a small business? What?

Employment opportunities

Livelihood sources/income during the last year (eg. Remittances, casual labour, formal; employment, food production, petty trade). Do you have any access to employment opportunities – either casual or salaried?

What do you spend most of your money on? Provide list of items

Wealth ranking

In every refugee situation, there are people who are rich, medium and very poor. Can you tell us how you differentiate these groups – what do they own, what do they eat and how often?

Social networks/support

If you have a problem, who helps you? Family? Community group? Church? Agencies? Government? Are there any refugees who do not seem to get any help or support? Who are they?

Health

Are you healthy or do you (or your family) have health problems? Where do you go for treatment? Are you satisfied with that treatment? What are the common health problems for children and for adults?

Education

Do you have school age children? Are your children attending school now? Have they been before? If they are not in school now, why not?

Protection

What is your current status – asylum seeker or refugee? If asylum seeker – for how long? If refugee, how long did it take to get refugee status? Have you previously stayed in another country as a refugee?

Do you feel safe in Malawi? If not, what do you fear? What can be done to make you feel more safe? Is there any special group among the refugees (children, young women, old people) who face more risk/danger? What sort of danger?

We know that many refugees are moving through Malawi to other destinations. Who are they (everybody? Young men? Etc) and why do you think they are moving? How long do you think they stay in Malawi? Where do they go to?

Relations with host population

Explore the relationship between refugees and the host population. How do you think the people of the surrounding community view refugees? How do you get along with local people? Is there anything that you argue about?

Gender

What are the existing social structures in the camps? What is the proportion of women in these groups? Are women undertaking any key roles? If not, why not?