



## Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: MALAWI

Updated – July 2013

<b>Highlights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official third round crop estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) have projected a national maize surplus production of 194,000 MTs. However, reduced irrigated harvests look likely and could result in a lower surplus, if any. Household food security in localized areas in the southern, central, and northern region will likely begin to deteriorate from July to September as a result of low crop yields due to dry spells.</li> <li>In July 2013, the average maize price is MK 96.3 per kg. This is almost double the price of July 2012, when the price was MK 54.1 per kg.</li> <li>As a follow up to the 2013 MVAC report, MVAC in collaboration with OXFAM and WFP conducted a market assessment in 17 districts in July 2013. The report is expected to be finalized in August.</li> </ul>
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Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official third round crop estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) have projected a national maize production estimate of 3.64 million MTs. Based on the above projections a maize surplus production of 194,000 MTs is expected.</li> <li>However, reduced irrigated harvests look likely and could result in a lower surplus, if any. Household food security in localized areas in the southern, central, and northern region will likely begin to deteriorate from July to September as a result of low crop yields due to dry spells (FEWSNET).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently maize is available in the country. There are pockets of food insecure areas in most districts affecting a total of 1.46 million people who will require food assistance from October 2013 to March 2014 (MVAC, July 2013).</li> <li>In <i>Nsanje</i>, 8 percent of farm families did not have food of their own in July 2013, compared to 13 percent same time last year. Harvesting of crops such as maize, millet sorghum and rice has been done, and the harvest in this district has been good this year.</li> <li>In <i>Chikwawa</i>, 3 percent of farm families were food insecure in July 2013, which is similar to the situation in July 2012. The percent of farm families without food is expected to decrease slightly due to the promising outlook of the upcoming irrigated crop harvest.</li> <li>Across the country, ADMARC has very low quantities of maize in stock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In July 2013, the average maize price is MK 96.3 per kg. This is almost double the price of July 2012, when the price was MK 54.1 per kg.</li> <li>The highest average maize price this month was found in <i>Rumphi</i> – MK 154 per kg.</li> <li>Inflation rate by the end of June was at 27.9 percent, down 3.1 percentage points from the month before.</li> <li>In July, there was no maize in the ADMARC markets in <i>Chikwawa</i>, but in the local produce markets. The price of maize is currently MK 60 per kg in the ADMARC markets while at a local produce markets prices range from MK130 to MK 150 per kg. Prices at the local produce markets are higher this year compared to last year because there is a lower supply of maize to the markets from the neighboring EPAs and districts as many traders currently are keeping their stock in the expectation of higher prices in the coming months (lean season). Similar trends are observed in other markets across the country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the MVAC assessment, WFP is planning to expand treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (SFP) to all affected districts in collaboration with Ministry of Health. 12,000 children and 6,000 pregnant and lactating mothers will be targeted from October 2013 to December 2014.</li> <li>The Prevention of stunting project – a CIFF (Children’s Investment Fond Foundation) funded initiative in <i>Ntchisi</i> district - is in the pre-implementation phase. Currently, a behavior change strategy, aligning to the national SUN framework, is being developed prior to food supplements to address micro-nutrient deficiencies. The pilot project will start in <i>Ntchici</i> district, and will cover all children under 2 years in the district and pregnant and lactating women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a follow up to the 2013 MVAC report, MVAC in collaboration with OXFAM and WFP conducted a market assessment in 17 districts in July 2013. The objective of the assessment was to study market functionality and maize availability, to be able to recommend the right interventions (In-kind or cash) for the upcoming emergency response. The report is expected to be finalized in August.</li> </ul>