

MALAWI

Poor crop yields continue to erode food security



KEY MESSAGES:



Negative coping levels are rising across Malawi. They are especially high in parts of the southern and central regions. Households led by women and poorer households continue to resort more to negative coping strategies.



Food prices are still increasing despite the ongoing harvest; they are 60 to 160 percent higher than last year. Maize and pulses are most expensive in the south.



WFP/ Gregory Barrow

PRODUCTION FORECAST

According to the second round of the Agriculture Production Estimates survey, maize production is set to be 2,776,277 mt, which is 12.4 percent below previous estimates. The government has officially declared that a minimum of 6.5 million people will need food assistance this year. Total humanitarian food assistance required is estimated at 493,000 mt of maize.

Source: [MVAC press release](#)

METHODOLOGY - mVAM REMOTE DATA COLLECTION

Details on methodology are available online at the mVAM monitoring site:

http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/malawi.html



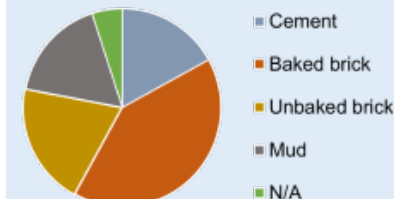
2,000 Interviewed households



Average age of respondents

29
years

Housing wall type



Head of household
Female: 64%
Male: 36%





NEGATIVE COPING LEVELS ARE HIGHER IN THE CENTRE AND THE SOUTH

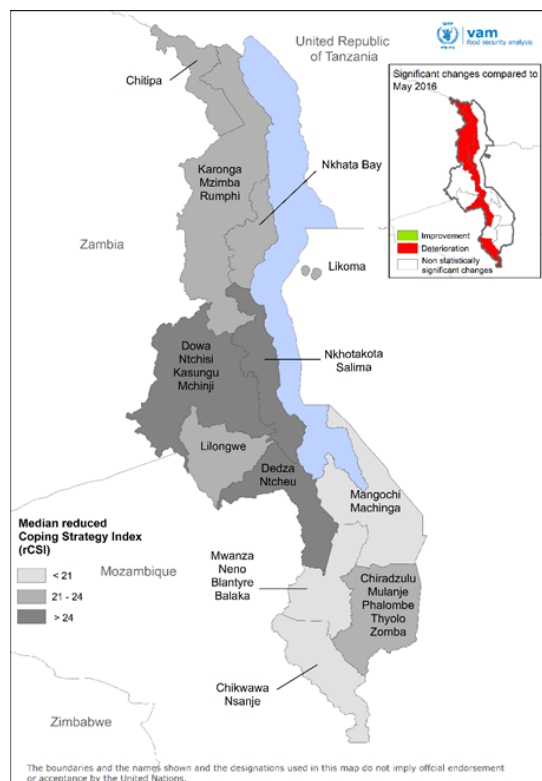
The national reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) rose from 21 in May to 23 in June. Even though it is harvest season, the population seems to be more and more affected by the below-average crop production, caused by dryness during the growing season.

rCSI has deteriorated in all districts in the north, as well as in many parts of southern and central regions (**Map 1**). It was higher in the aggregated districts of Chiradzulu-Mulanje-Thyolo-Zomba-Phalombe, Dedza-Ntcheu and Nkhotakota-Salima. Despite being the most drought-affected districts, Chikwawa and Nsanje had lower rCSI scores thanks to the availability of ADMARC (Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation).

This round, we have 64 percent of the responses from the households led by women. Households led by women are still resorting to more negative coping strategies than those led by men. Even so, households led by men have seen their rCSI rise because of the poor harvest (**Figure 1**).

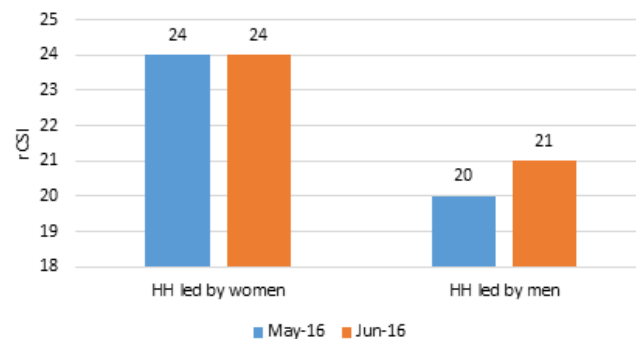
Wall types are used as a proxy indicator to determine a household's socio-economic status (**Figure 2**). Households who are worse off (those with mud or unbaked brick walls) continue to resort to more negative coping strategies than those who are better off (with cement or baked brick walls).

Map 1: median rCSI map by aggregated district



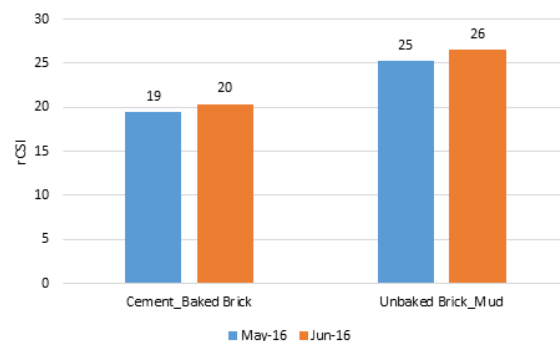
Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016

Figure 1: median rCSI by head of household



Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016

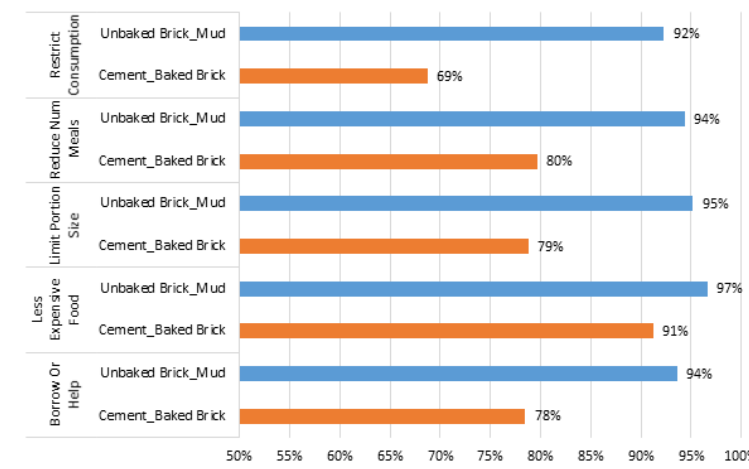
Figure 2: median rCSI by wall type



Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016

In June 92 percent of the worse off households restricted adult food consumption in order for small children to eat: this is the most severe negative coping strategy in the rCSI. By comparison, 69 percent of better off households resorted to this strategy (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3: Prevalence of negative coping strategies between wealth groups



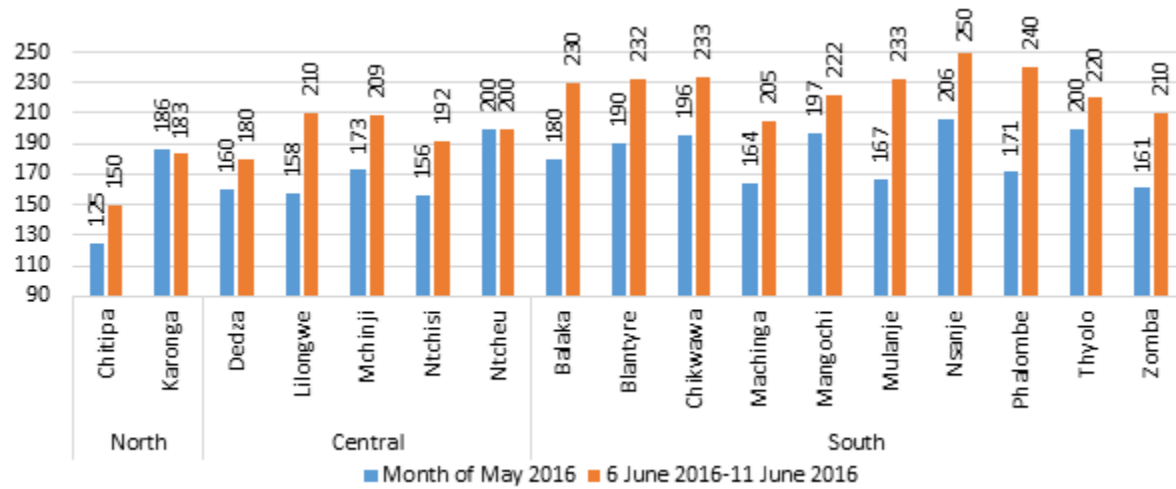
Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016



MAIZE PRICES INCREASE IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL REGIONS

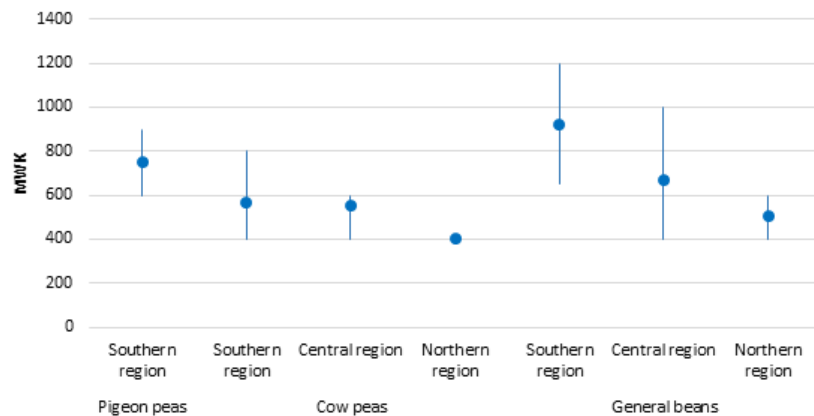
Maize prices continued to increase in almost all districts in June compared to May: in the south, prices rose by 40 percent in Phalombe, 39 percent in Mulanje and 10 percent in Thyolo (Figure 4). In the central region, prices rose by 33 percent in Lilongwe and 23 percent in Ntchisi; prices were stable in Ntcheu district over the reference period. Maize prices fell slightly in Karonga, while in Chitipa they went up by 20 percent. Maize prices are between 30 and 120 percent higher than last year, and 60 to 160 percent higher than the three-year average. The large increase in prices is unusual for this time of the year – a reflection of lower market supplies caused by reduced domestic production. Beans also remain expensive in the southern region (Figure 5).

Figure 4: Maize prices (per kilo) across districts, 6 June to 11 June 2016



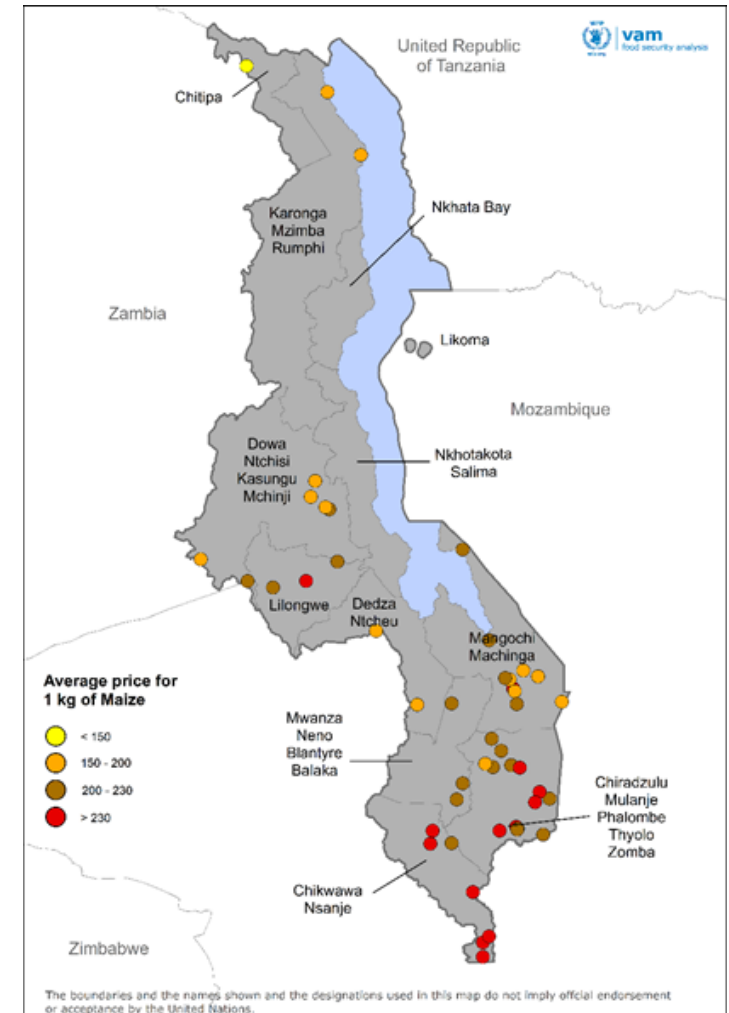
Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016

Figure 5: Price of pulses by region, 6 June to 11 June 2016



Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016

Map 2: Maize prices (per kilo) in markets, 6 June to 11 June 2016



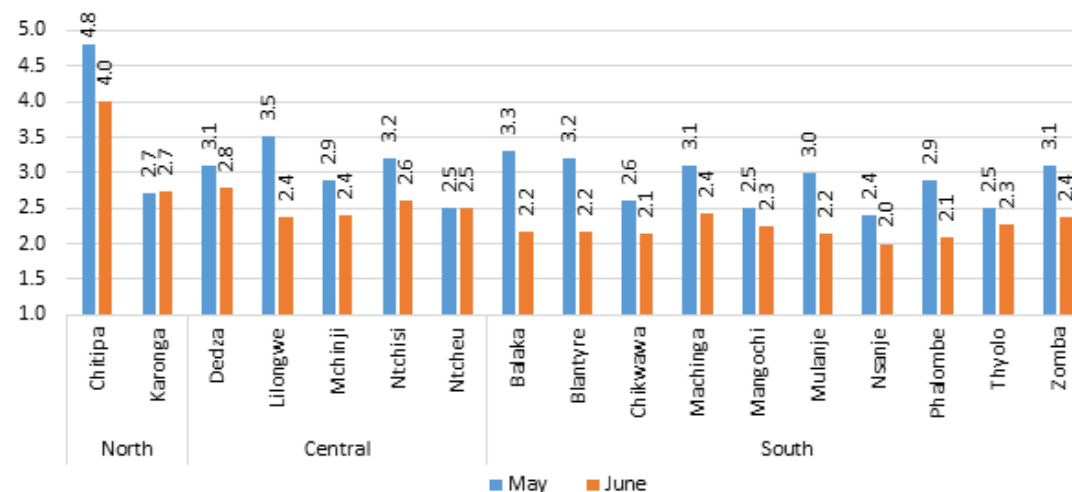
Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016



PURCHASING POWER IS LOWEST IN THE SOUTH

Purchasing power is still worst in the southern region. In June, the lowest purchasing power of 2.0 kg of maize per day's labour was observed in Nsanje, while in Phalombe and Chikwawa it was 2.1 kg. A higher daily wage rate of MWK600 coupled with cheaper maize gave Chitipa the best purchasing power of 4.0 kg of maize. Nonetheless, this is still lower than the last round (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Purchasing power by district (kg of maize per day's labour)



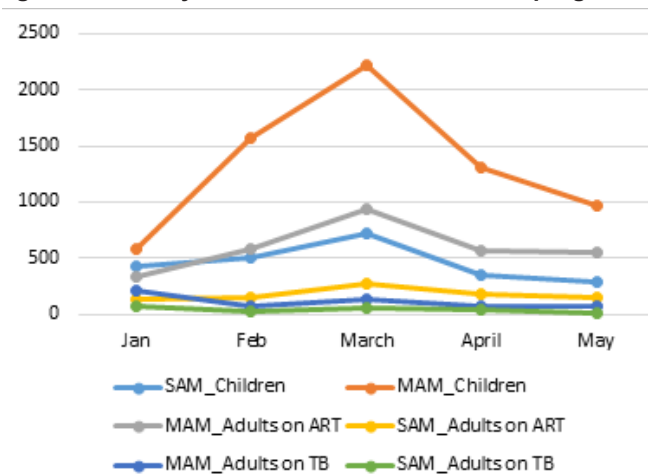
Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016



HEALTH AND NUTRITION MONITORING

There was a continuous decline in total monthly new admissions for all programmes from March to May 2016. Between April and May 2016, new admissions for SAM children fell by 19 percent and for MAM children by 25 percent. There were 4 percent fewer MAM ART adults and 14 percent fewer SAM ART adults. MAM TB cases dropped by 4 percent, while SAM TB cases fell by 72 percent. Despite the declining trend, the number of MAM and SAM admissions is still higher than between March and May 2015. The fall in admissions across all programmes can be attributed to the availability of own food from the harvest and the provision of humanitarian assistance. Moreover, most cases may have been identified through the mass screening implemented in 25 emergency districts for 5 months (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Monthly admissions to WFP nutrition programmes



SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition.
 MAM: Moderate Acute Malnutrition.
 ART: Antiretroviral therapy.
 TB: Tuberculosis

Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016



GROWING CONCERN OVER FOOD PRICES

The vocabulary used by respondents in the survey tells a similar story to the last round, albeit more intensely. Around 10 percent more respondents said that food is expensive compared to last month, reflecting the increase in food prices despite the harvest. 40 percent fewer respondents said the food situation was “good”, and 50 percent fewer described food as being “available” (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Word cloud



Source: WFP mVAM, June 2016

In the words of the respondents

“Currently people have food from their few harvests they had but in a few months to come there will be hunger. Only very few households have enough”

– Female respondent from Blantyre

“Currently there are a lot of people begging for food or asking to work in exchange of food”

– Female respondent in Lilongwe

“30 percent of the community live without food while another 30 percent get food through piecework and the remaining 40 have their own food”

– Male respondent in Mangochi

“Shortage of maize, surviving on Irish potatoes”

–Male respondent in Ntcheu



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mVAM resources:

Website http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
 Blog mVAM.org
 Toolkit <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



vam
food security analysis