Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: MALAWI
Updated – September 2013

**Highlights**
- According to FEWSNET, maize supplies are currently still available in all districts across the country, but supplies are much lower than normal.
- The inflation rate in the country has further decreased by 1.9 percent points compared to the month before and is currently standing at 23.3 percent.
- In September 2013, the national average maize price was 114.47 MK per kg compared to 56.18 MK per kg same time last year, showing an increase of 104 percent.
- The Market Assessment Report, conducted by MVAC in collaboration with WFP and OXFAM has been released.

**Agriculture Situation**
- According to FEWSNET, maize supplies are currently still available in all districts across the country, but supplies are much lower than normal.
- Maize availability is expected to be constrained as the lean season begins earlier than normal in October.
- Winter harvest preparations are currently ongoing.

**Food Availability**
- By the end of September 2013, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) reported to have around 61,000 MT of maize in 7 depots across the country.
- In the southern region in Nsanje district, 14 percent of the households did not have enough food, compared to 22 percent last season. The farm families without food of their own were able to survive by engaging themselves in income generating activities, such as sale of charcoal/firewood/livestock/handicraft and other casual labour, in order to generate enough funds for purchasing of food.

**Food Access/Prices**
- The inflation rate in the country has further decreased by 1.9 percent points compared to the month before and is currently standing at 23.3 percent.
- In September 2013, the national average maize price was 114.47 MK per kg compared to 56.18 MK per kg same time last year, showing an increase of 104 percent.
- In the recently released Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) Report, MVAC projects that maize prices will average MK125/kg during the consumption period (April to June 2013), picking up to a maximum of MK200/kg during the peak lean period (December 2013 to January 2014).
- According to FEWSNET, households have faced atypically high staple food prices since the start of the 2013/14 consumption season in April.
- Food prices are unlikely to decrease given current indications of lower than estimated production levels in the central and northern region.

**Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization**
- NTR.

**Comments**
- The Market Assessment Report, conducted by MVAC in collaboration with WFP and OXFAM has been released.
- Most of the humanitarian interventions in the upcoming emergency will be in kind, but a total of 15 TAs have been selected for cash intervention.
- Distribution is planned to start in October 2013 for the worst affected districts.
- The funding levels for WFP Malawi by the end of September remain at 30 percent.
- According to an ILO report, Labour markets Transition of Young Women and Men in Malawi, only 50 percent of Malawian youth attend secondary education.