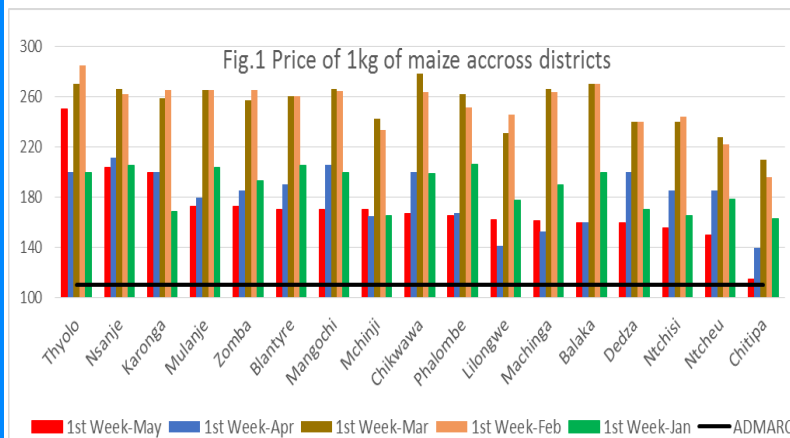


Maize Price Update (mVAM)

mVAM is a monitoring system that collects real-time food security data through mobile phone surveys via SMS or live calls that target respondents. The real-time data available through this system contributes to improved humanitarian response.

mVAM#19: 10 May, 2016

Maize prices continue to remain relatively stable in most parts of the 17 monitored districts as observed during the first week of May, 2016. However, the nominal maize prices are still higher than normal compared to previous trends. As shown in fig 1, the highest district average prices per 1kg of maize were observed in Thyolo (MK250) and Nsanje (MK203), while the lowest prices were recorded in Chitipa (MK115) which is 5 % higher than the official ADMARC prices, and 26% higher than the three year national average prices.



Out of 50 surveyed markets for the 19th week of price monitoring, prices ranged between MK115 to MK250 per kilogram (fig. 2 & table 1). Highest prices were recorded at MK 250/ kg at Bvumbwe in Thyolo, while the lowest prices were observed at Chitipa Boma market (MK115/kg). Due to this year's low cereal production estimates, maize prices are likely to pick up earlier than normal during the 2016/17 consumption season.

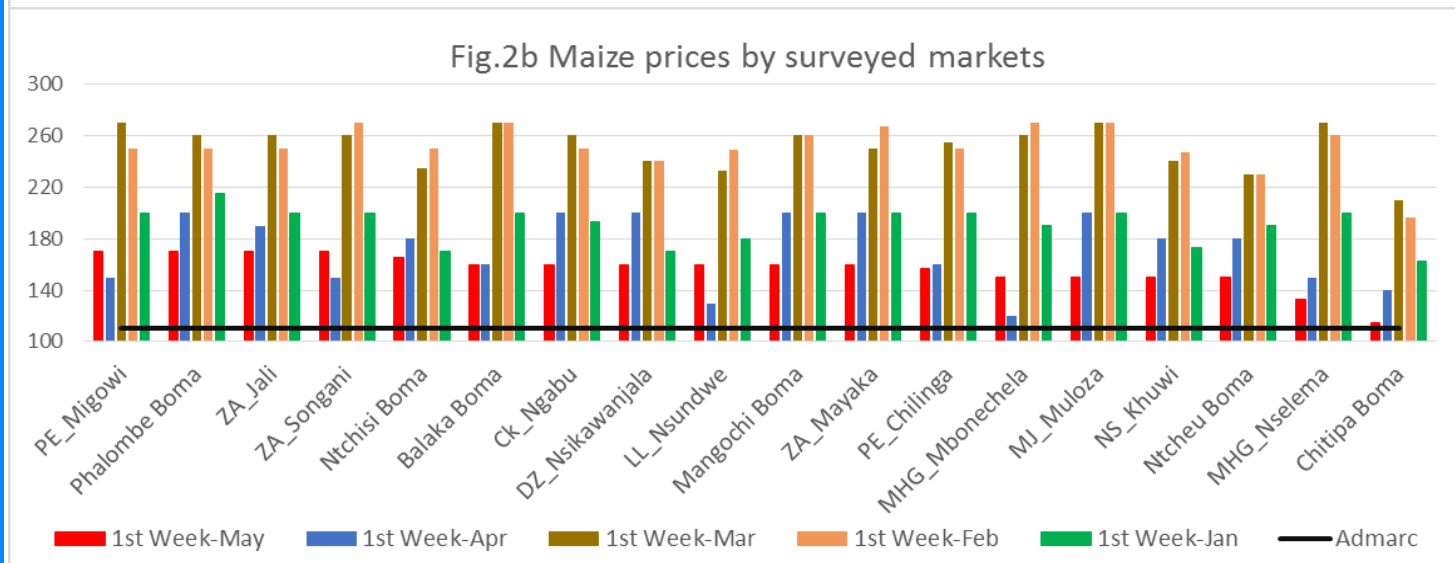
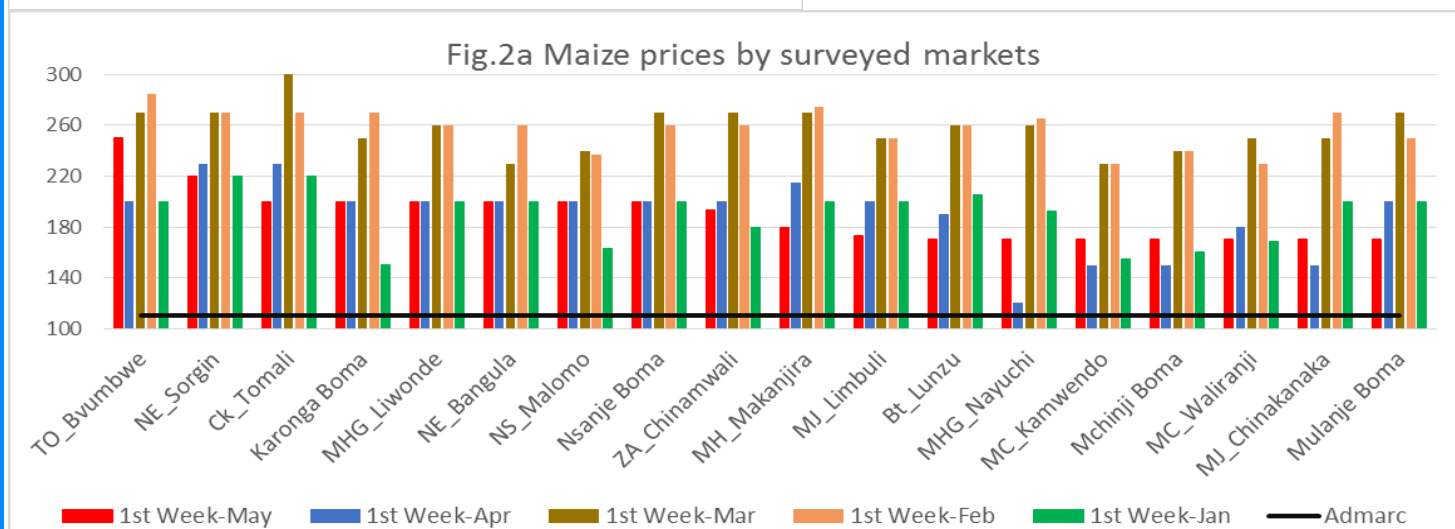


Table 1. Maize prices across surveyed markets

Market Name	Current Price	Percentage Change (%)			Market Name	Current Price	Percentage Change (%)		
		1st Wk-Apr	1st Wk-Mar	1st Wk-Feb			1st Wk-Apr	1st Wk-Mar	1 st Wk-Feb
TO_Bvumbwe	250	25	-7	-12	ZA_Songani	170	13	-35	-37
NE_Sorgin	220	-4	-19	-19	ZA_Thondwe	170	-6	-37	-37
NE_Bangula	200	0	-13	-23	MC_Waliranji	170	-6	-32	-26
MJ_Chitakale	200	18	-31	-26	Ntchisi Boma	165	-8	-30	-34
Karonga Boma	200	0	-20	-26	Balaka Boma	160	0	-41	-41
MHG_Liwonde	200	0	-23	-23	Ck_Dyelatu	160	-20	-43	-40
NS_Malomo	200	0	-17	-15	Mangochi Boma	160	-20	-38	-38
NE_Ntowe	200	-9	-29	-23	ZA_Mayaka	160	-20	-36	-40
Nsanje Boma	200	0	-26	-23	MHG_Mpita	160	0	-47	-43
Ck_Tomali	200	-13	-33	-26	Ck_Ngabu	160	-20	-38	-36
KA_Uliwa	200	0	-25	-23	Ck_Nkhate	160	-6	-38	-38
ZA_Chinamwali	193	-3	-28	-26	DZ_Nsikawanjala	160	-20	-33	-33
MH_Makanjira	180	-16	-33	-35	LL_Nsundwe	160	23	-31	-36
MHG_Nsanama	175	-13	-30	-34	LL_Nsungwi	160	-20	-30	-33
MJ_Limbuli	173	-13	-31	-31	PE_Chilinga	157	-2	-39	-37
LL_Area 23	170	6	-24	-29	NS_Kamsonga	150	-25	-39	-40
MJ_Chinakanaka	170	13	-32	-37	NS_Khuwi	150	-17	-38	-39
ZA_Jali	170	-11	-35	-32	MHG_Mangamba	150	-17	-42	-44
MC_Kamwendo	170	13	-26	-26	MJ_Muloza	150	-25	-44	-44
Bt_Lunzu	170	-11	-35	-35	Ntcheu Boma	150	-17	-35	-35
Mchinji Boma	170	13	-29	-29	MHG_Mbonechela	150	25	-42	-44
PE_Migowi	170	13	-37	-32	MHG_Nselema	133	-11	-51	-49
Mulanje Boma	170	-15	-37	-32	Chitipa Boma	115	-18	-45	-41
MHG_Nayuchi	170	42	-35	-36	PE_Mulomba	160	0	-33	-37
Phalombe Boma	170	-15	-35	-32					

Methodology: Live Call Surveys

This report marks the 19th weekly maize price data collection. The methodology has been informed by WFPs [mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping \(mVAM\)](#) initiative, which involves using mobile phone surveys for food security monitoring. The survey was conducted using live calls from 2nd to 6th May on a sample of 140 traders across 50 key markets in 17 Districts. The survey response rate was 87%, and 13% were unavailable due to network or other related technical issues. It is acknowledged that phone surveys contain inherent response biases, as such the bulletin provides patterns and trends rather than precise estimates. The country faces challenges in network connectivity in some areas and power which affects the coverage and response rate. WFP is taking measures to increase coverage and participation.

MVAM is also operational in Somalia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Niger, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Yemen and Iraq. Planned to roll out in Zambia and Zimbabwe