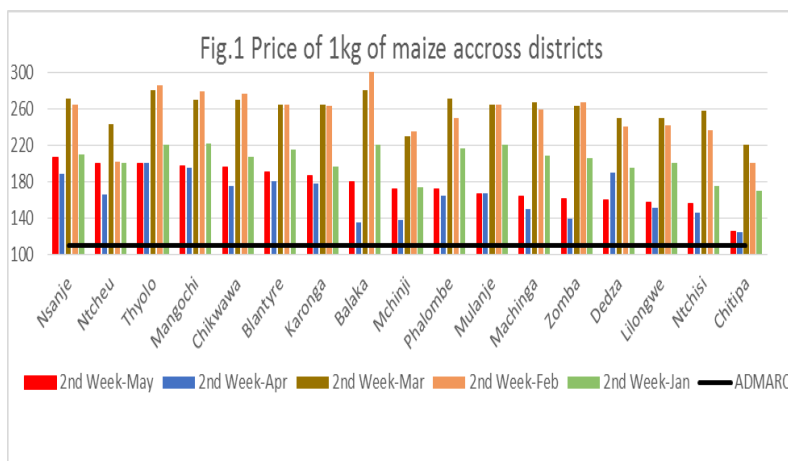


Maize Price Update (mVAM)

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#20: 17 May, 2016

As the country is entering the peak phase of the main harvest period, Maize prices continue to remain relatively stable across the 17 monitored districts. However, the current prices in most districts remain higher than long term three year national average prices. As shown in fig 1, the highest district average prices per 1kg of maize were observed in Nsanje (MK206), while the lowest prices were recorded in Chitipa (MK125) which is 14 % higher than the official ADMARC prices, and 6% higher than the three year national average prices.



Out of 50 surveyed markets for the 20th week of price monitoring, maize prices ranged between MK125 to MK220 per kilogram (fig. 2 & table 1). Highest prices were recorded at MK 220/kg at Tomali in Chikwawa, Makanjira in Mangochi, and Sorgin in Nsanje, while the lowest prices were observed at Chitipa Boma market (MK125/kg). Despite the current stable maize prices, they still remain higher than usual and are expected to pick up earlier than normal in the coming consumption season.

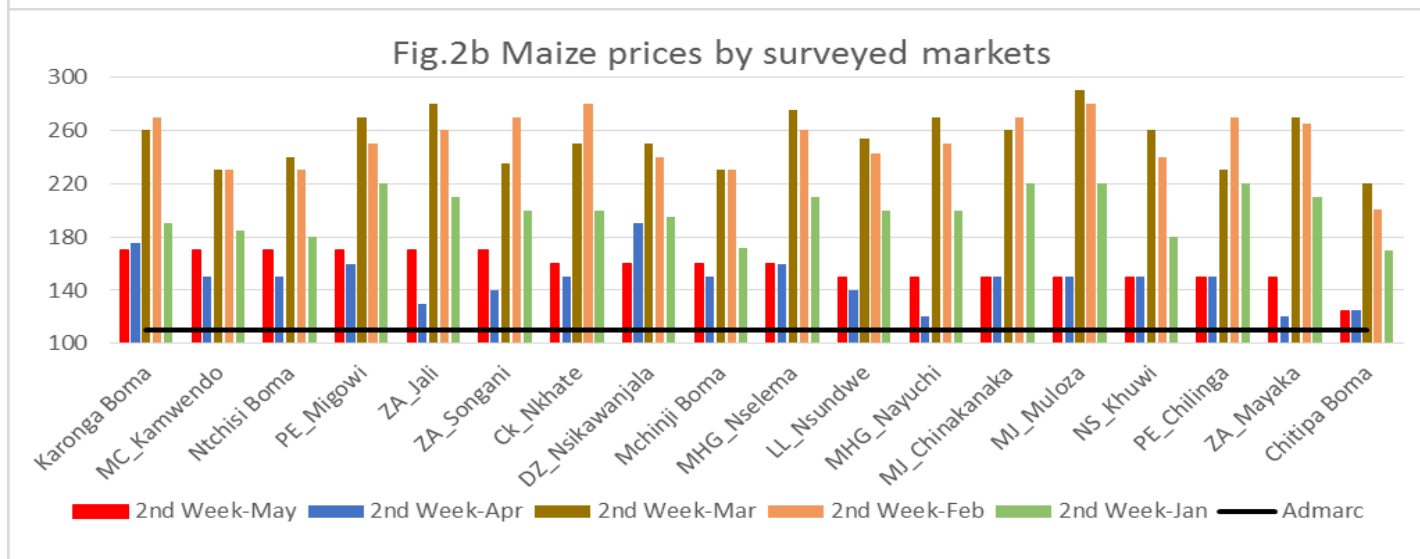
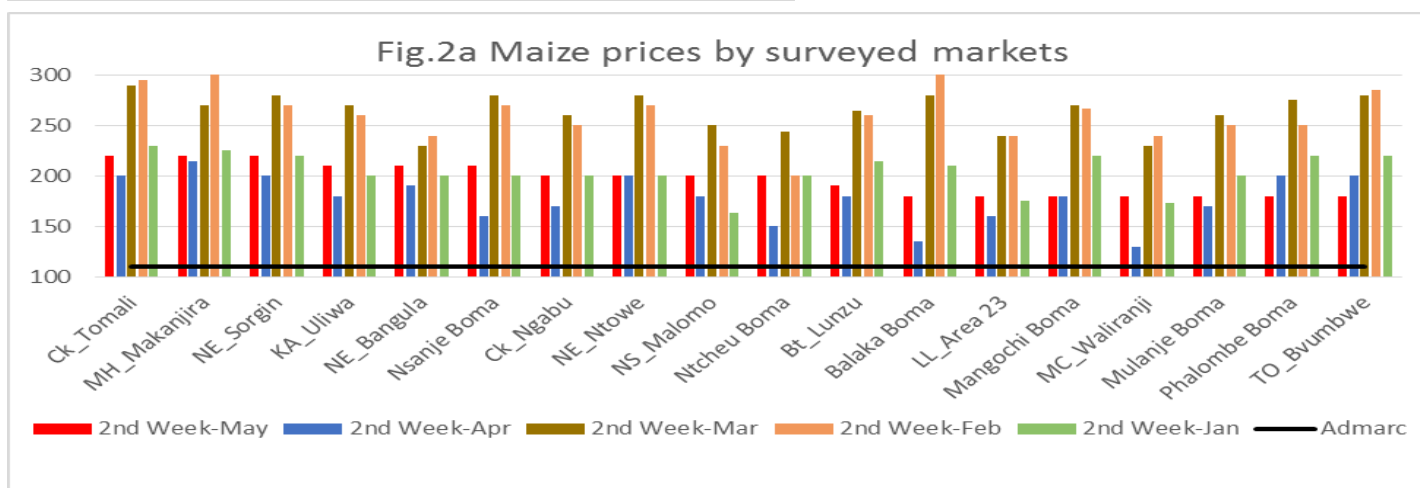


Table 1. Maize prices across surveyed markets

Market Name	Current Price	Percentage Change (%)			Market Name	Current Price	Percentage Change (%)		
		2nd Wk-Apr	2nd Wk-Mar	2nd Wk-Feb			2nd Wk-Apr	2nd Wk-Mar	2nd Wk-Feb
MH_Makanjira	220	2	-19	-27	MC_Kamwendo	170	13	-26	-26
NE_Sorgin	220	10	-21	-19	ZA_Jali	170	31	-39	-35
Ck_Tomali	220	10	-24	-25	Karonga Boma	170	-3	-35	-37
NE_Bangula	210	11	-9	-13	MJ_Limbuli	170	-15	-37	-32
Nsanje Boma	210	31	-25	-22	PE_Migowi	170	6	-37	-32
KA_Uliwa	210	17	-22	-19	MHG_Mpita	170	6	-39	-37
MJ_Chitakale	200	33	-29	-29	Ntchisi Boma	170	13	-29	-26
Ck_Dyelatu	200	-9	-27	-25	ZA_Songani	170	21	-28	-37
MHG_Liwonde	200	0	-25	-23	Mchinji Boma	160	7	-30	-30
NS_Malomo	200	11	-20	-13	Ck_Nkhate	160	7	-36	-43
NE_Ntowe	200	0	-29	-26	MHG_Nselema	160	0	-42	-38
Ck_Ngabu	200	18	-23	-20	DZ_Nsikawanjala	160	-16	-36	-33
Ntcheu Boma	200	33	-18	0	ZA_Thondwe	160	2	-39	-41
Bt_Lunzu	190	6	-28	-27	PE_Chilinga	150	0	-35	-44
LL_Area 23	180	13	-25	-25	MJ_Chinakanaka	150	0	-42	-44
Balaka Boma	180	33	-36	-40	NS_Khuwi	150	0	-42	-38
TO_Bvumbwe	180	-10	-36	-37	ZA_Mayaka	150	25	-44	-43
Mangochi Boma	180	0	-33	-33	MJ_Muloza	150	0	-48	-46
Mulanje Boma	180	6	-31	-28	MHG_Nayuchi	150	25	-44	-40
MHG_Nsanama	180	0	-31	-31	MHG_Mbonechela	150	0	-42	-42
Phalombe Boma	180	-10	-35	-28	LL_Nsundwe	150	7	-41	-38
MC_Waliranji	180	38	-22	-25	NS_Kamsonga	150	15	-46	-40
PE_Mulomba	180	20	-31	-28	Chitipa Boma	125	0	-43	-38

Methodology: Live Call Surveys

This report marks the 20th 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 9th to 13th May on a sample of 140 traders across 50 key markets in 17 Districts. The survey response rate was 85%, and 15% 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.