

MALAWI

Despite the harvest, food insecurity persists

KEY MESSAGES:



Households led by women are using more negative coping strategies. Negative coping is also on the rise in parts of drought-affected central and southern regions.



Food prices are increasing as the poor harvest has failed to deliver sufficient supplies: maize prices are 70 to 130 percent higher than the three-year average.



WFP/ Ammar Bamatraf

SEASONAL FORECAST

Severe dryness during most of the growing season severely damaged crop development and has affected crop yields. This is the second year in a row of poor crop production: this year, production is set to be 12 percent lower than last year, when production was already 25 percent below the five-year average (from 2010 to 2014). This cumulative impact will bring the lean period forward and increase the food prices earlier and faster, as observed in this round of data collection. Source: [WFP Seasonal Monitor](#)

METHODOLOGY - mVAM REMOTE DATA COLLECTION

Details on methodology are available [online](#).



2,000 Interviewed Households



Average age of respondents

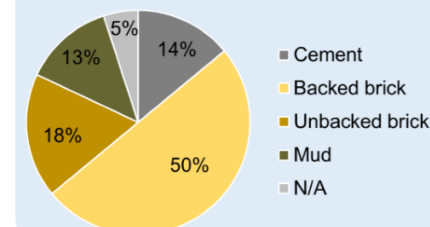


Heads of households

Female: 34%

Male: 66%

Housing wall type

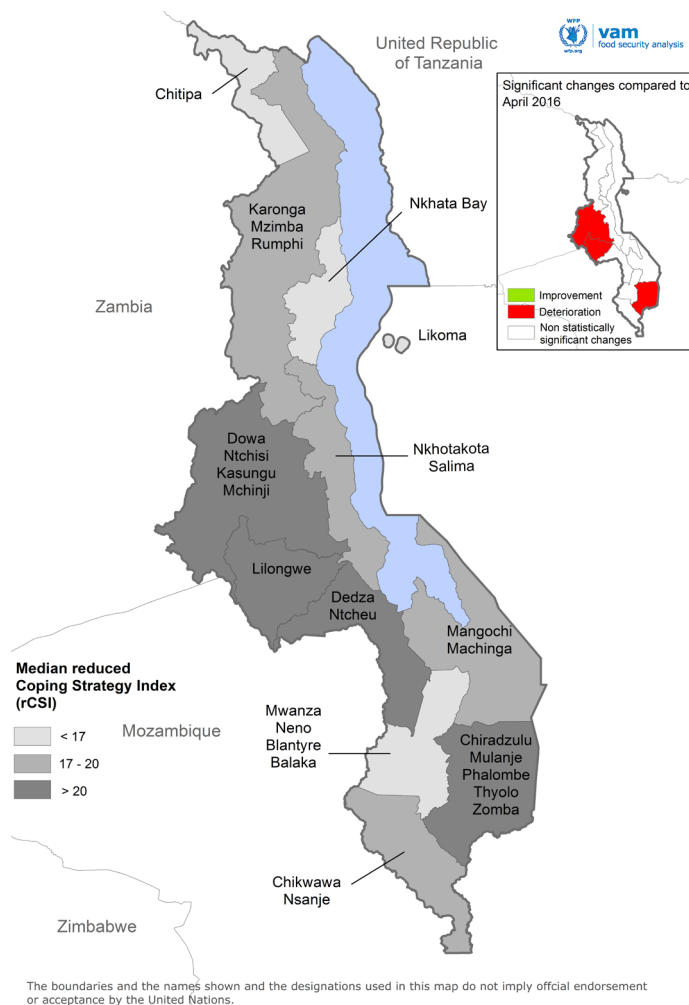




NEGATIVE COPING LEVELS INCREASE IN PARTS OF SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL REGION

Negative coping levels increased in the central and southern regions in May (**Map 1**). The aggregated districts of Dowa-Ntchisi-Kasungu-Mchinji saw a 16 percent increase in rCSI from 25 in April to 29 in May. The rCSI for Lilongwe and the aggregated districts of Chiradzulu-Mulanje-Thyolo-Zomba-Phalombe also rose by 16 percent, from 19 to 22.

Map 1: median rCSI map by aggregated district



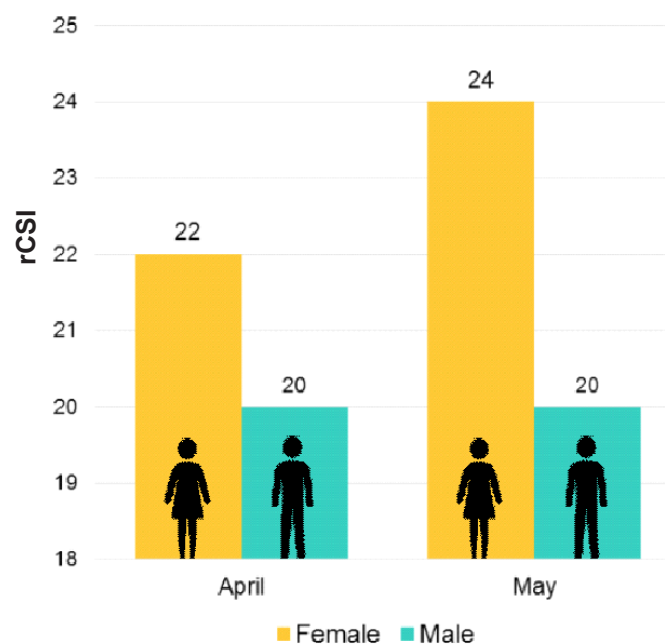
The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

Households led by women resorted to more negative coping mechanisms than those led by men (**Figure 1**). Households led by women were 23 percent more likely to restrict adult food consumption to feed the children.

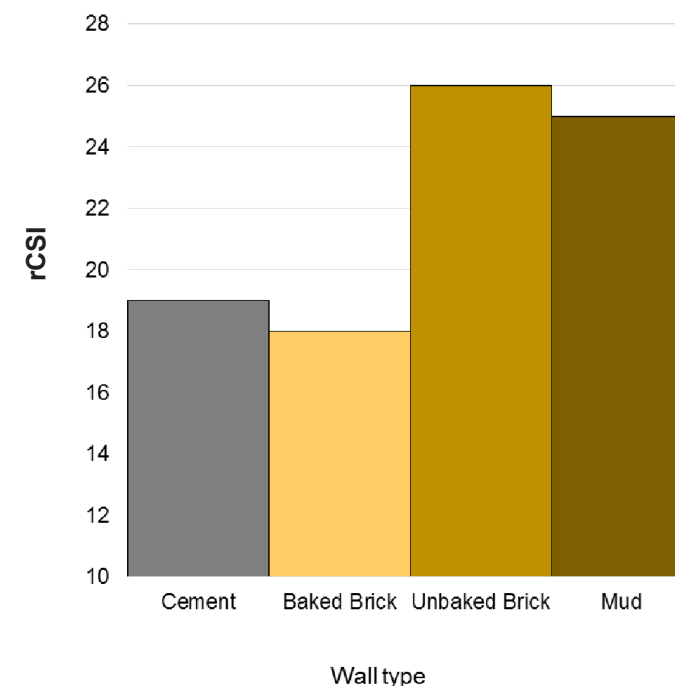
As a proxy indicator of household wealth, the survey collected data on the construction materials used for respondents' houses. In May, households who were relatively better off — those living within cement or baked brick walls — used fewer negative coping mechanisms compared to poorer households (**Figure 2**).

Figure 1: median rCSI by head of household



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

Figure 2: median rCSI by wall type



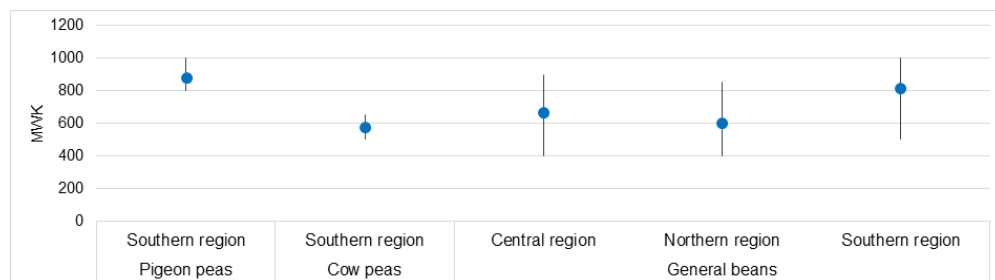
Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



MAIZE PRICES INCREASE IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL REGION

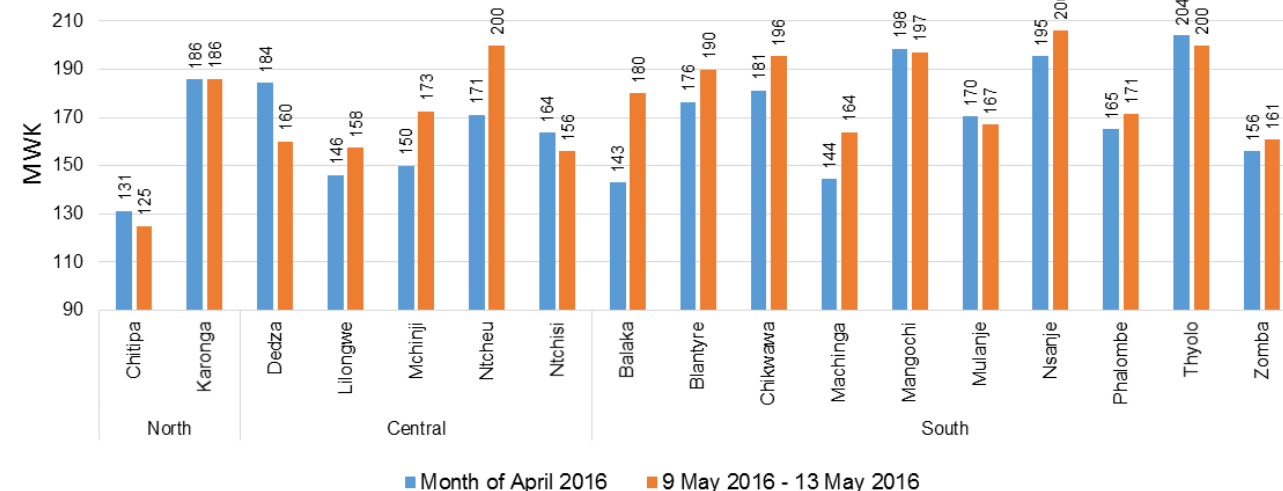
In the southern region, maize became more expensive in many districts in May compared to April: prices increased by 26 percent in Balaka, by 13 percent in Machinga and by 8 percent in Blantyre and Chikwawa (Figure 4). In the central region, prices rose by 17 percent in Ntcheu and by 15 percent in Mchinji. By contrast, maize prices in the northern region were relatively stable. Because of low crop production, the buying season is shorter than normal, and the buying competition among traders seem to be driving the prices up. Maize prices are 50 to 100 percent higher than last year's average, and 70 to 130 percent higher than the three-year average. Beans were also more expensive in the southern region (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Pulses prices by region, 9 May 2016 – 13 May 2016



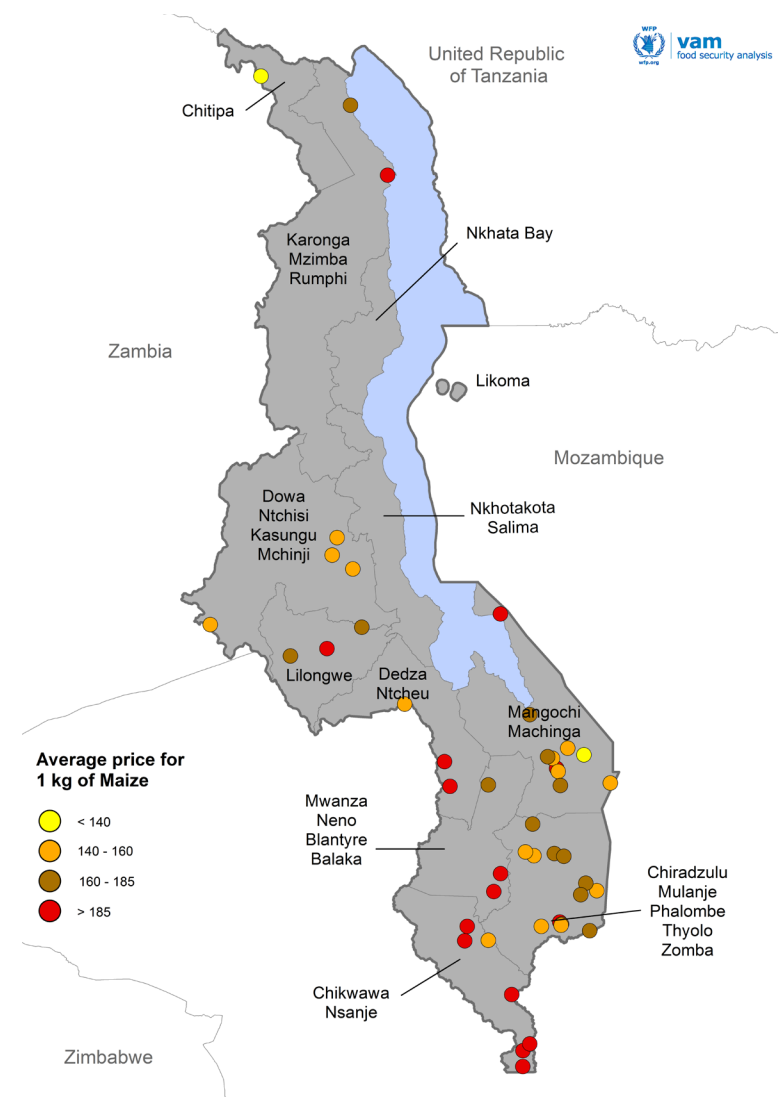
Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

Figure 4: Price of 1kg of maize across districts, 9 May 2016 – 13 May 2016



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

Map 2: Average 1kg of maize price in markets, 9 May 2016 – 13 May 2016



The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

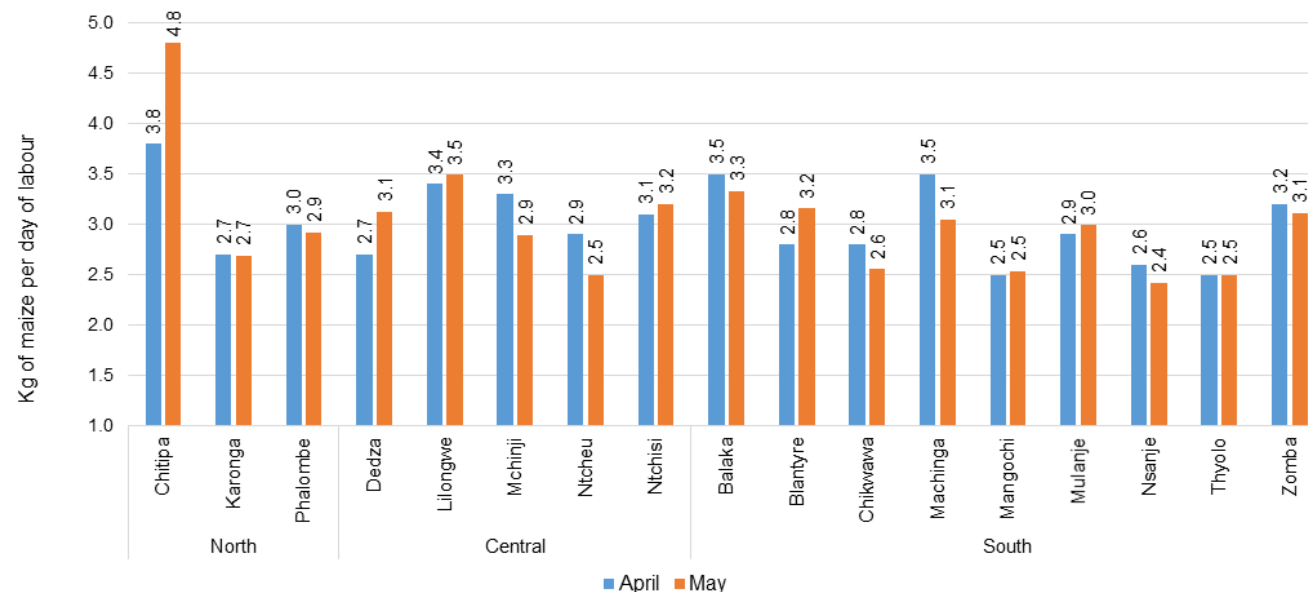
Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



PURCHASING POWER IS LOWEST IN THE SOUTH

Purchasing power remains the lowest in the southern region. In May, the worst purchasing power — 2.4kg of maize per day's labour — was in Nsanje, where maize was the most expensive. Mangochi, which had the lowest purchasing power last round, was still faring badly with a purchasing power of 2.5kg. Cheaper maize and the higher wage rate of MWK 600 meant that Chitipa had the highest purchasing power of 4.8kg of maize (**Figure 5**).

Figure 5: Purchasing power by district (kg of maize per day's labour)



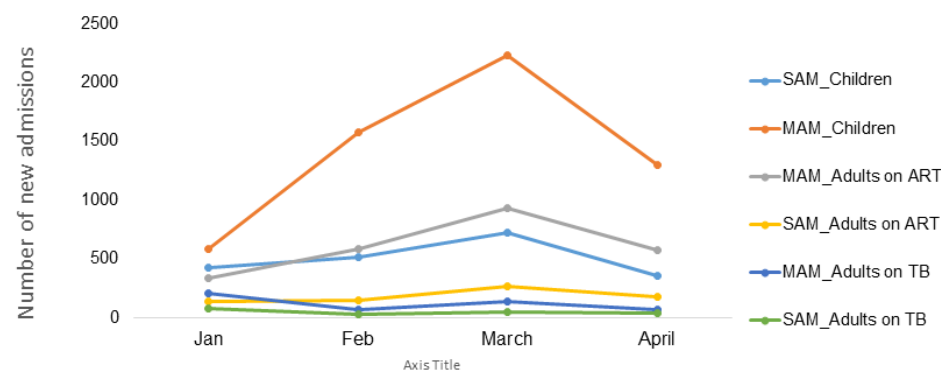
Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



NUTRITION MONITORING

Admissions for nutrition programmes dropped in April, attributable to the extensive mass screening carried out over the previous three months (**Figure 6**). According to Ministry of Health data summaries, 62,335 adolescents and adults were assessed in seven reporting districts between September 2015 and April 2016: of those assessed, 7 percent were moderately malnourished and 2 percent were severely malnourished. This illustrates the need to manage undernutrition in adults and adolescents, especially those on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Figure 6: Monthly admissions for nutrition programmes



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

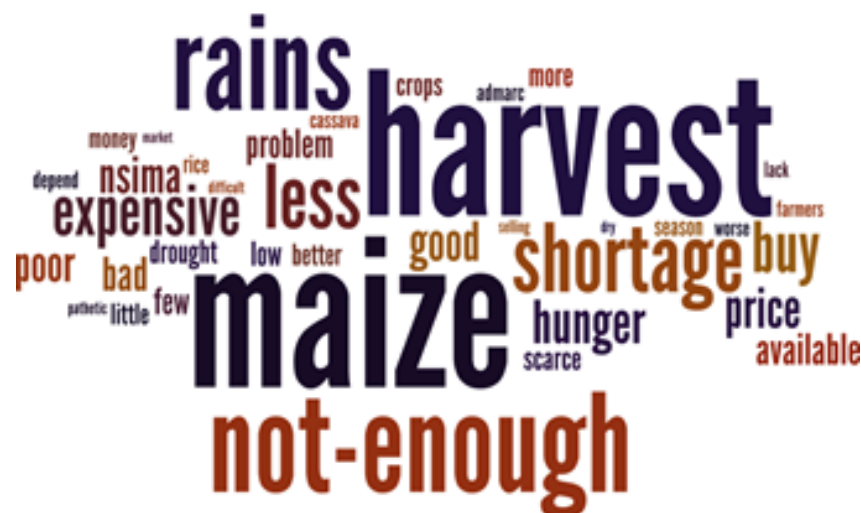
SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition.
MAM: Moderate Acute Malnutrition.
ART: Antiretroviral therapy.
TB: Tuberculosis



WORLD CLOUD

The vocabulary used by respondents in this survey was similar to that observed in the previous round. Despite the harvest, insufficient rain has led to poor maize production, making it expensive to buy maize in the market (**Figure 7**). Responses related to the word 'maize' indicate that other foods are also scarce, including cassava and rice (**Figure 8**).

Figure 7: Wordcloud of general responses



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

Figure 8: Wordcloud of responses about maize



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

In the words of the respondents

"People harvested in April but still there is hunger since a lot sold the maize to buy other needs and farming is the thing most people do." – Female respondent from Thyolo

"In our area there is a shortage of food. Most people have no food, they rely on buying on the market at expensive price." – Male respondent from Lilongwe

"Here the price of maize is still going up day by day, because people did not harvest enough maize due to early stop of rains." – Female respondent from Dedza

"Many families have already ran out of food as of now. This is because of inadequate rains and insufficient farm inputs" – Male respondent from Blantyre



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mVAM resources:

Website http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
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food security analysis