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# Emergency appeal operation update

## Malawi: Food Security

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**Emergency appeal n° MDRMW008**  
**GLIDE n° OT-2012-000156-MWI**  
**31 October 2012**

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**Period covered by this Ops Update: 15 October to 31 October 2012**

**Appeal target (current):** This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 1,025,310 in cash, kind or services to support the Malawi Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 3,500 households (17,500 beneficiaries) for 9 months, and will be completed by the end of June 2013.

**Appeal coverage:** 0%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

#### Appeal history:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 15 October, 2012.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** No DREF allocation has so far been received, although CHF 100,000 was requested and has been approved.
- An in country Household Economic Security (HES) workshop is currently ongoing (29 October – 2 November). The findings of the assessment and outcomes of the workshop will be covered in the next operations update.

**Summary:** The June 2012 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) report highlights that 1.63 million people (of whom 277,000 are children) are at risk of food insecurity across Malawi for a period ranging between three to eight months.

Administratively, most of the areas at risk are in the central and southern parts of the country including Balaka, Blantyre, Chikhwawa, Dedza, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje, Mwanza, Neno, Nsanje, Ntcheu, Phalombe, Salima, Thyolo, and Zomba. This operation will focus on immediate assistance to worst affected households in Nsanje and Chikhwawa, and may expand into Machina, Zomba and Phalombe, based on the findings of ongoing assessment

MRCS is currently hosting a Household Economic Security (HES) specialist, supported by British Red Cross. The specialist is in the country for one week, facilitating a workshop with MRCS staff aimed at building capacity through robust analysis of existing food security information and identifying areas that need further specific food security assessment. The objective is to complement existing data focusing on areas where the national society can add value in reaching the most vulnerable. The workshop also aims to engage MRCS in addressing chronic food security challenges and strengthening the linkages between longer term programming including responses planned under the current emergency appeal (linking relief, recovery and development).

To date, no funds have yet been received for this appeal.

Donors are strongly urged to provide necessary support, as needs are critical and persistent. In particular, the window for preparing fields and planting new crops is short and needs to be capitalised on immediately to ensure food availability for families.

## The situation

The situation remains the same as at the [Emergency Appeal](#) launch.

The ongoing HES workshop report will provide detailed information on the situation on the ground to be finalised after the end of the workshop on 2 November 2012.

The findings of this assessment workshop will assist the national society to scale up its intervention appropriately. In addition, there will also be training for the national society staff and volunteers, to build their in carrying out effective assessments, planning and implementation of food security interventions.

## Coordination and partnerships

There has been no change in coordination and partnerships since the Emergency Appeal was launched, apart from the support of the Household Economic Security (HES) specialist, provided by the British Red Cross.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

There have been no contributions received for appeal activities to date.

### Progress towards outcomes

#### Relief distributions (food and non food items)

<b>Outcome:</b> 1,800 worst affected households in Nsanje and Chikhwawa are provided with emergency food assistance for a period of six months until harvest time, with on-going evaluation to determine if further assistance is required.	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
1,800 households (9,000 people) have their nutritional needs provided through the distribution of appropriate food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct detailed emergency needs and capacity assessments in Nsanje, Chikhwawa, Machinga, Zomba, Phalombe and start up relief operation in Nsanje and Chikhwawa.</li> <li>• SPHERE training conducted (relevant to the operational strategy).</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Support food distribution (13.5kg maize meal, 1.8kg pulses, 0.9 gms vegetable oil, 0.45 gms salt per person per month) for six months in Nsanje and Chikhwawa for 1,800 targeted households.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions and assess the need for further relief assistance.</li> </ul>

#### Emergency health and care

<b>Outcome:</b> The risk of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases is reduced among affected communities through the provision of preventive measures at community-level and curative services to 3,500 households (17,500 beneficiaries) in Nsanje and Chikhwawa districts.	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Increased knowledge of common disease and epidemic preventive measures in affected target communities through community health education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed needs assessment of the current needs in affected areas.</li> <li>• Division Volunteer teams deployed to support District Health Office operations and multi-sector assessments.</li> <li>• Refresher training of 100 volunteers and 10 government staff using the CBHFA and Epidemic Control Vector (EVC) curriculum for 5 days.</li> <li>• Mobilize and recruit 100 volunteers at community level for the prevention of common diseases and epidemic.</li> </ul>
Health status of affected communities is improved through health and hygiene promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the existing coverage and quality of an adequate water supply</li> <li>• Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries, hygiene promotion and the safe use of Water Treatment Products (e.g. chlorination tablets).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide chlorination tablets for 3,500 families for three months.</li> <li>• Provide jerry cans for 3,500 families.</li> <li>• Purchase of 15 first aid kits.</li> <li>• Provide general community-based first aid and refer to the health facilities.</li> <li>• Conduct 45 health promotion campaigns, and education and sensitization activities to 3,500 households.</li> <li>• Carry out CBHFA activities in the targeted communities, according to the priorities of the communities.</li> <li>• Conduct social mobilization for routine vaccination and ways of preventing malaria.</li> <li>• Printing and distribution of IEC materials on hygiene promotion, sanitation and disease prevention.</li> </ul>
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### Food Security, nutrition and livelihoods

**Outcome:** 1,800 households (9,000 beneficiaries) able to reinforce their livelihoods and restore their food security in the target areas.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
1,800 affected households receive target support to extend and diversify their livelihoods and build their food security for future seasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct detailed needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Train volunteers and beneficiaries in irrigation and farming techniques for sustainable crop diversification.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies including seeds (maize, beans, drought tolerant root crops such as cassava and sweet potatoes) and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Distribute fertilizers and tools</li> <li>• Procure and install irrigation system – treadle and solar and wind technologies.</li> <li>• Establish and train water user groups to maintain irrigation systems</li> <li>• Training of trainers on food processing, nutrition and preservation.</li> <li>• Facilitate the development/adaptation or reproduction of IEC materials on nutrition promotion.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

### Disaster Risk Reduction and capacity building

**Outcome:** Increased household resilience to cyclical shocks.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Food insecure communities are better prepared to predict, respond to and recover from drought and flood induced emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct capacity building trainings for 2 districts volunteers in community based disaster risk reduction.</li> <li>• Staff, volunteers and government counterparts are trained in Household Economic Survey techniques.</li> <li>• Train 20 members of the Civil Protection committee staff and 20 volunteers on use of Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) guidelines and tools.</li> <li>• Development of contingency plans and community based early warning systems particularly around early warning alerts for food security.</li> <li>• Determine priority areas for prepositioned stocks</li> <li>• Train staff and local leaders on climate change adaptation techniques.</li> </ul>

## Logistics

**Outcome:** Relief operation is supported and delivers a range of relief items in line with the operational priorities in a cost effective and timely manner.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>The operation has coordinated mobilization of relief items and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFRC will provide logistical support through a delegate for three months to establish warehouse and build capacity of MRCS logistics unit.</li> <li>• IFRC logistics delegate to support the tendering and selection process for seeds and food purchases along with national society counterpart.</li> <li>• Establish the best sourcing strategy for relief materials so cost efficient and timely delivery of relief is ensured.</li> <li>• Support and ensure appropriate procurement procedures and standards are in place.</li> <li>• Control efficient supply movements to the end user.</li> <li>• Preposition stocks in strategic areas as appropriate and viable.</li> </ul>

### Progress and Challenges:

As the operation has only recently been initiated, to date, only assessment and planning activities have been undertaken.

A draft plan of action (PoA) has been prepared and is being shared internally for feedback and will be ready for publishing soon.

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## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Malawi:** Ethel Kaimila Secretary General; Phone: +265 999949 084; email: [ethelkaimila@malawiredcross.org](mailto:ethelkaimila@malawiredcross.org)
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Alexander Matheou, Regional Representative for Southern Africa; Gabarone; phone: +267 3712700, mob: +267 71395340, fax: +267 3950090; email: [alexander.matheou@ifrc.org](mailto:alexander.matheou@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Stanley Ndhlovu, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator; phone: +27834400564; email: [stanley.ndhlovu@ifrc.org](mailto:stanley.ndhlovu@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: [daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org](mailto:daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Ari Mantyaara Logistics Coordinator, Dubai; phone +971 50 4584872, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: [ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org](mailto:ari.mantyaara@ifrc.org)

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for Africa; Addis Ababa; phone: +251-93-003 4013; fax: +251-11-557 0799; email: [loic.debastier@ifrc.org](mailto:loic.debastier@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: [robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.