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# Emergency appeal operation update

## Malawi: Food Security

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRMW008

GLIDE n° OT-2012-000156-MW1

**Operation update n°2**

27 November 2012

**Period covered by this Ops Update: 1  
November to 27 November 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 end of June 2013.

**Appeal coverage: 16%** [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details;](#)



Sweet potatoes grown along Shire River bank using residual moisture/MRCS

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 17 October, 2012.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 100,000 was requested and approved for this operation to support the national society to respond.

**Summary:** An in-country Household Economic Security (HES) workshop was conducted from 29 October – 2 November. The assessment workshop was facilitated by a HES Specialist supported by the British Red Cross. The food and livelihood security assessment orientation for MRCS staff and volunteers aimed at consolidating and deepening the existing analysis of food security and livelihoods issues for the two districts in the Lower Shire Livelihood Zone. The detailed assessment conducted also looked into strengthening analysis and planning for the imminent 9-month appeal implementation.

The methodology used during the assessment included collection of primary and secondary information, field visits and observation. Tools included direct interviews with key informants (local authorities, lead gardeners and care facilitators) and communities (focus groups of males and females). Food sources, income sources and expenditure of each wealth group (poor, middle and better off) were explored and the impacts of each hazard on the food and income sources across the wealth groups documented.

The IFRC Regional Representative for Southern Africa visited the proposed impact area and talked to some of the food insecure individuals during his visit in Malawi within the reporting period.

To date, funds have been received from the Swedish Red Cross. Additional support from donors is encouraged in order 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 capitalized on immediately to ensure food availability for families.

## **The situation**

Malawi is facing a critical food deficit affecting an estimated 1.9 million people, according to the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) report on National Food Security Forecast conducted in October 2012, as a result of below normal food production in some districts and the increasing economic crisis that is raising the cost of food. The current maize national domestic consumption requirement is pegged at 2.8 million metric tons for a projected population of 14,844,822, translating to a national overall maize surplus of 800,000 metric tons. Despite this surplus, a number of districts experienced unfavourable weather conditions that affected crop development and localized low production. Most of the districts in the southern region of Malawi experienced low agricultural yields as a result of these unfavourable weather conditions. These include Chikhwawa and Nsanje among others.

In normal years Malawi's severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates among children do not exceed 1.4% with an expected turnover of 2 bringing the total expected caseload for the period April 2012 to March 2013 to 69,533 out of a total of 2.5 million under- five children. However, as a result of this food deficit the total caseload for severe and moderately malnourished children in 2012/13 consumption year is likely to increase significantly. For the period October 2012 to March 2013, more than 36,000 under-five year old children are expected to have severe acute (according to UNICEF, Malawi).

The MVAC assessment findings showed that out of 1,972,993 people projected to face food deficit, 275,653 come from Chikhwawa and 105,012 come from Nsanje, representing about 56% of the total population in the 2 districts. The figures of food insecure individuals in Chikhwawa and Nsanje are 19% of the total food insecure in the country.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

Malawi Red Cross Society, as a volunteer member organization, has 28 Divisions (Branches) and a network of more than 30,000 members. It is present in all the 28 districts in Malawi.

Malawi Red Cross is working hand in hand with World Vision in Chikhwawa and Goal Malawi and Action-Aid in Nsanje through World Food Program, Department of Disaster Management Affairs and district councils in trying to identify impact areas for the implementation of the Emergency Appeal in

the two districts such that duplication of efforts is minimized. The Division Executive Committee in the two districts is sensitizing the communities through its volunteers in order to get ready for the implementation of the Appeal.

**National Society Capacity Building:** Malawi Red Cross Society as part of the International Red Cross Movement has continued to get support from several partner Red Cross societies including the Danish, Finnish, Netherlands, Belgium, Swedish and Icelandic Societies in implementing the integrated community based disaster risk reduction and complimentary programmes. This has equipped Malawi Red Cross Society to respond to community health, food security and disaster vulnerabilities.

MRCS is using experience in implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR), health programmes, food security activities and disaster response in other districts to plan and implement this livelihood program in Chikhwawa and Nsanje, through a network of volunteers and program staff. The volunteers in the two districts will assist in community mobilization, conducting vulnerability assessments, monitoring activities and data capturing for onward submission to MRCS Disaster Management Manager for reporting to partners and stakeholders.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

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

## Progress towards outcomes

In addition to the food and livelihood security assessment workshop, a plan of action for implementing the appeal has been developed with clear strategies and objectives in order to monitor progress. The plan focuses on four sectors namely; Food, Nutrition and Livelihoods, Health and Care, WASH and capacity development.

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

<b>Outcome:</b> 1,800 worst affected households in Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts are provided with emergency assistance for a period of six months with on-going evaluation to determine if further assistance is required.	
<b>1. Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>2. Activities planned</b>
1,800 households (9,000 people) are provided with appropriate food items distribution.	<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, 0.9g vegetable oil, and 0.45g salt per person per month) for six</li> </ul>

	<p>months in Nsanje and Chikhwawa for 1,800 targeted households.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>
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### Emergency health and care

**Outcome:** The risk of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases 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.

3. Outputs (expected results)	4. Activities planned
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>• Mobilize and recruit 100 volunteers at community level for the prevention of common diseases and epidemic.</li> <li>• Refresher training of 100 volunteers and 10 government staff using the CBHFA and Epidemic Control Vector (EVC) curriculum for 5 days.</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> <li>• Provide chlorination tablets for 3,500 families for three months.</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 disease prevention.</li> </ul>

### Food Security, nutrition and livelihoods

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

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</li> </ul>

	<p>control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
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### Disaster Risk Reduction and capacity building

<b>Outcome:</b> Increased household resilience to cyclical shocks.	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
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.</li> <li>• Train staff and local leaders on climate change adaptation techniques.</li> </ul>

### Logistics

<b>Outcome:</b> Relief operation is supported and delivers a range of relief items in line with the operational priorities in a cost effective and timely manner.	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The operation has coordinated mobilization of relief items and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.	<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 the MRCS logistical staff</li> <li>• Prepositioning of stocks in strategic areas.</li> <li>• Establish the best sourcing strategy for relief materials so cost efficient and timely delivery of relief is ensured.</li> <li>• Control efficient supply movements to end user.</li> </ul>

### Progress and challenges:

As the operation has only recently been initiated, to date, only assessment, workshops and planning activities have taken place. A draft plan of action (PoA) has been prepared and will be ready for publishing soon.

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## Contact information

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

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## 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 (NGO's) 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.
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