Government of the Republic of Malawi

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee(MVAC)

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MALAWI Vulnerability Assessment Committee

THE NTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC) IN MALAWI: FINDINGS OF THE 2017 ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

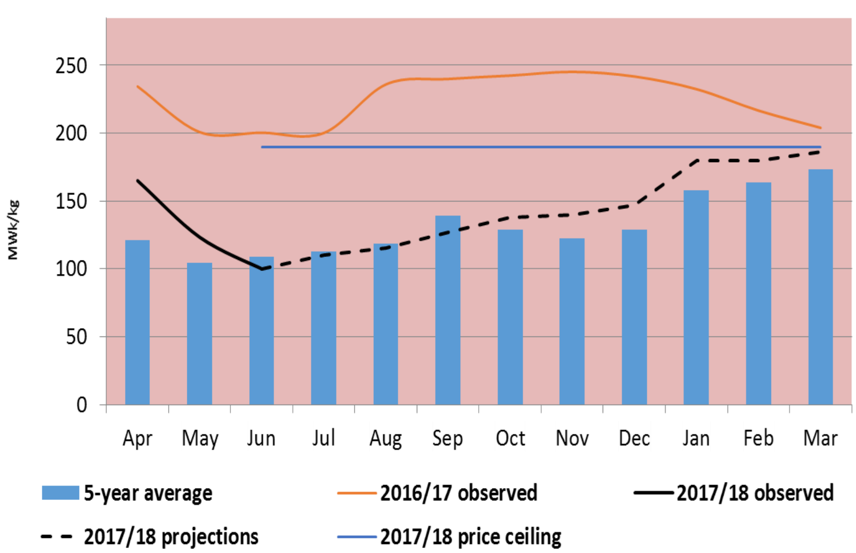
- **Food Security situation has improved significantly compared to 2015/16 cropping year**
- **Onset of rains was normal and well distributed in central and southern areas. A few districts in the south experienced dry spell in the month of February.**
- **Fall army worms attacked maize in all regions with varying intensity and the impact on production was not significant**
- **Tobacco production has continued to decline due to low prices being offered by buyers.**
- **Farm gate prices for major food commodities are generally below the 5 year average and are likely to remain so with marginal increases early 2018**
- **Nutrition status has remained stable with GAM rates of <5%.**
- **Food Consumption is stable for the majority of households. Vey poor and poor households may experience food gaps during the lean period.**

As at end of July 2017, the general food security situation for Malawi can be concluded to be good with most of the districts in the northern and central regions being in IPC Phase 1 (none or minimal) the remaining districts especially in the south were in Phase 2 (stressed). These households in the northern and central districts were characterized by good production from 2016/2017 growing season. Nationally, staple maize production increased by 46% over last year and by 6% over five year average.

Produce farm gate prices are typically low affecting farmers income from crop sales (due to high production). For the current season, staple food prices are generally lower than the 5 year average price. For the projected period (October, 2017 to March, 2018), the prices are likely to increase but marginally - slightly above or below 5 year average on par with 5 year average. Whatever price increases will be due to seasonal changes.

The market supply situation are likely to remain stable this year owing to good domestic supply. There may not be any need for formal for maize imports. As government policy, small holders will not be allowed to export maize, but only commercial farmers will be able to sell their surplus externally. ADMARC has carry-over stocks from the previous imports and are buying more maize from farmers. This will contribute to the availability of maize on the markets.

Nominal Maize Price Trends for 2017/2018 Consumption Year



Maize price and trends

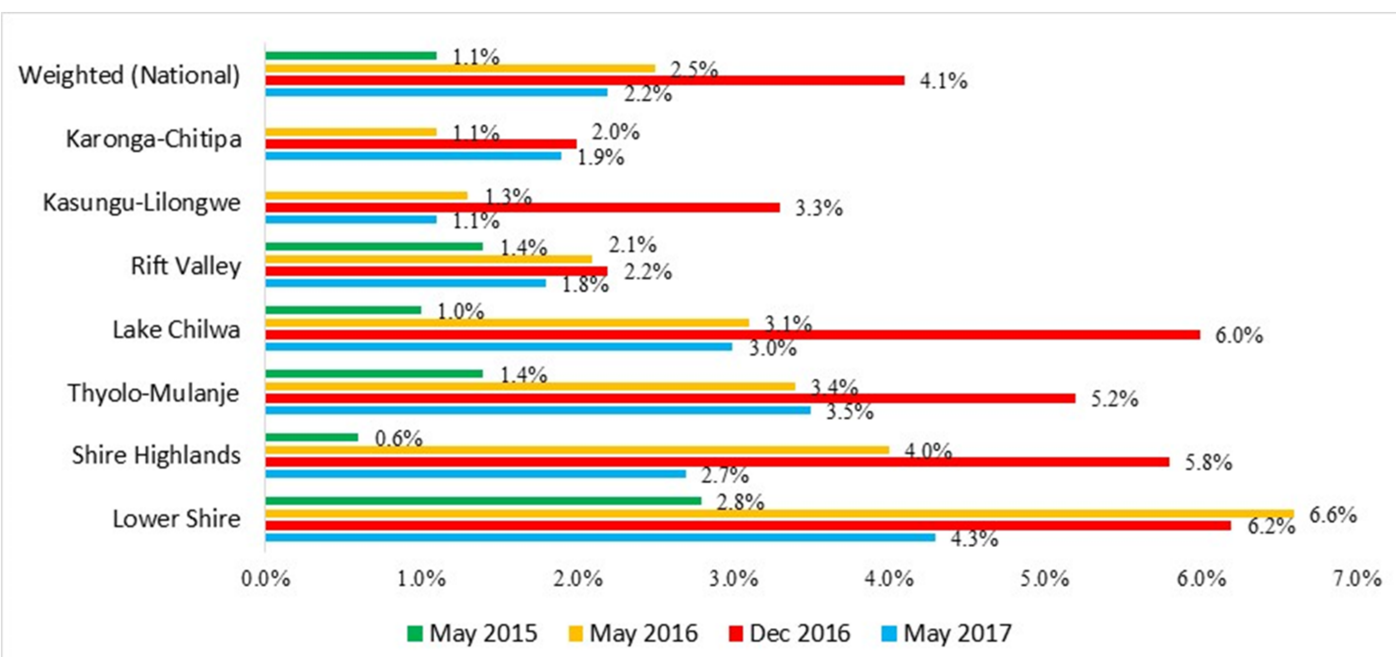
- Nominal maize grain prices have been falling since early 2017 and continue to remain below 2016 levels as well as below the three year average prices. In the second week of August, maize prices averaged MK 94 per kilogram, which is 37 percent lower than the three year average price and 61 percent lower than last year.
- Looking ahead, maize prices are likely to remain low compared to season trends resulting in improvements in purchasing power of market dependent households due to ample food supplies with maize production estimated at 3.5 million metric tons against national maize requirement of 3.2 million metric tons.
- The existing ban on maize and related products adds to further increase in domestic supplies.

  -informal maize inflows and outflows are likely to be minimal due to record high production levels in neighboring Zambia and near average production in Mozambique while informal outflows to Tanzania are likely to be minimal due to strict border controls.
- ADMARC is expected to play its role of price stabilization with its carry-over stock from last year and current purchases on the market.

- Maize prices are projected to range from MK 160 to MK 175 per kilogram during the lean season, November 2017 to March 2018.

Nutrition Situation Trends

- Overall, the nutrition situation during the post-harvest season was significantly better compared to the coming lean season (see Figure 2). However, compared to the same time in 2016, the prevalence for GAM has slightly improved from 2.5% (2.0-3.3) in May 2016 to 2.2% (1.7-2.8) in May 2017. At the livelihood zone level, a similar trend was observed where the May 2017 GAM prevalence was slightly lower than the May 2016, except in Karonga-Chipita Zone where a deterioration has been observed.
- Despite the improvement recorded in 2017 *post-harvest season* compared with the same season in 2016; the GAM results were still worse in the five zones where the SMART Surveys were conducted



IPC CLASSIFICATION PHASES

PHASE 1 **Minimal**	•HHs are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income.
PHASE 2 **Stressed**	•HHs have minimally adequate food consumption but is unable to afford some essential nonfood expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies
PHASE 3 **Crisis**	Even with any humanitarian assistance: · HH group has food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition; OR · HH group are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.
PHASE 4 **Emergency**	Even with any humanitarian assistance: · HH group has large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; OR · HH group have extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to large food consumption gaps in the short term.
PHASE 5 **Catastrophe**	Even with any humanitarian assistance: · HH groups have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, and destitution are evident.

IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis for the projected period -October 2017 to March 2018

District	Total rural Population	Pop in Phase 1	% Pop Phase 1	Pop in Phase 2	% Pop Phase 2	Population in Phase 3 or worse	% Population in Phase 3 or worse
Balaka	378,164	181,518	48	113,449	30	83,294	22
Blantyre	406,157	255,878	63	81,231	20	69,046	17
Chikhwawa	557,543	301,024	54	139,363	25	117,065	21
Chiradzulu	327,150	206,104	63	81,787	25	39,258	12
Chitipa	207,929	149,708	72	37,427	18	0	0
Dedza	745,228	521,659	70	223,568	30	0	0
Dowa	805,018	563,512	70	241,505	30	0	0
Karonga	297,055	255,467	86	26,734	9	14,852	5
Kasungu	831,171	581,819	70	207,792	25	41,558	5
Lilongwe	1,510,579	1,057,405	70	453,173	30	0	0
Machinga	612,759	398,293	65	122,551	20	91,913	15
Mangochi	1,017,790	783,698	77	183,202	18	50,889	5
Mchinji	609,956	426,969	70	182,986	30	0	0
Mulanje	569,294	370,041	65	96,779	17	102,472	18
Mwanza	88,444	44,222	50	22,111	25	22,111	25
Mzimba	921,621	764,945	83	119,810	13	36,864	4
Neno	163,175	114,222	70	31,003	19	17,949	11
Nkhata bay	270,325	221,666	82	35,142	13	13,516	5
Nkhotakota	369,246	306,474	83	51,694	14	11,077	3
Nsanje	268,809	147,844	55	53,761	20	67,202	25
Ntcheu	581,924	436,443	75	116,384	20	29,096	5
Ntchisi	284,996	213,747	75	71,249	25	0	0
Phalombe	386,293	270,405	70	57,943	15	57,943	15
Rumphi	194,853	169,522	87	17,536	9	7,794	4
Salima	407,329	285,130	70	122,198	30	0	0
Thyolo	641,778	449,244	70	102,684	16	89,849	14
Zomba	655,534	458,873	70	117,996	18	78,664	12
Total	14,110,120	9,936,000	70	3,112,000	22	1,043,000	7
Grand Total	14,110,120	9,936,000	70	3,112,000	22	1,043,000	7

Population Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

District	Total Rural Population	Population in Phase 3 or worse	% Population in Phase 3 or worse	Duration of Assistance (Months)
Balaka	378,164	83,294	22%	4
Blantyre	406,157	69,046	17%	2
Chikhwawa	557,543	117,065	21%	3
Chiradzulu	327,150	39,258	12%	2
Machinga	612,759	91,913	15%	2
Mulanje	569,294	102,472	18%	2
Mwanza	88,444	22,111	25%	2
Neno	163,175	17,949	11%	2
Nsanje	268,809	67,202	25%	4
Phalombe	386,293	57,943	15%	3
Thyolo	641,778	89,849	14%	3
Zomba	655,534	78,664	12%	2
Grand Total		836,766		

Key Issues to Monitor

- Fall Army Worm (FAW) attack on irrigated crop as well as the next rain-fed crop
- Price of maize for the remaining part of the 2017/2018 consumption season
- Informal cross-border trade of maze and other food crops
- GAM rates in areas where the situation is worsening

Recommendations

- The major humanitarian assistance programmes should focus interventions in districts where there are significant populations (over 10%) in Phase 3.
- In districts that have “small” populations in Phase 3- these populations should be included in the on -going social protection programmes.
- Populations in Phase 2 should be targeted by recovery and resilience building interventions (seeds, livestock, tools, public works programmes).
- There is need to intensify monitoring of nutrition indicators to ensure nutrition interventions are bearing fruit at household level.
- ADMARC should be given resources to buy maize in order to regulate prices and make the staple grain available to farmers at a reasonable price during the lean season.
- Nutrition interventions to all children, pregnant and lactating women affected by acute malnutrition should continue.

OVERALL DISTRICT PHASE CLASSIFICATION FOR THE PERIOD: OCTOBER 2017 TO MARCH 2018