

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Malawi

September 2011 - February 2012

Key Messages

- Since the end of 2011, monthly prices of maize have risen aggravating food insecurity conditions particularly in southern deficit regions.
- According to the latest Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) some 201,854 people were classified as food insecure. Agencies agree the prevalence of hunger is high.
- Since December, heavy rains, particularly in Southern Malawi affected people as well as infrastructure.
- Exports of maize were temporarily suspended, while food distributions began in the southern districts.

Background

The total population is 14.9 million, with 3% of annual growth rate. The population living with less than 1\$ PPP per day is estimated at 73% while 27% is reported as undernourished. Although the rural population accounts for 80% of the total, the value added by agriculture to GDP is 35%. The prevalence of HIV is around 11%.

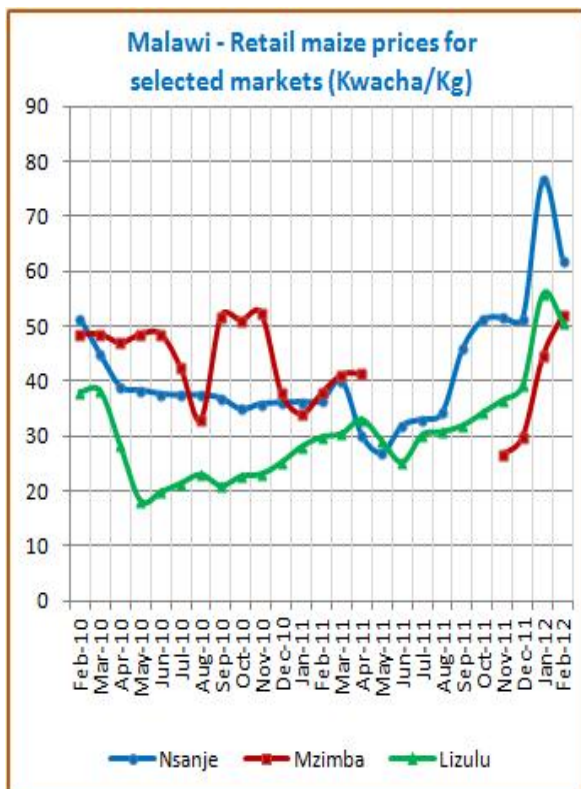
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2010 (WB)	14.900
Population growth rate - 2010 (WB)	3%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2010 (WB)	850
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2004 (MDGI)	73%
Rural population - 2010 (WB)	80%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	35%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2006/2008(FAO)	27%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	59%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption	n.a.

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	56%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2009 (WHO)	47
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	80%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	11.0%

Prices

During the last quarter of 2011, maize prices have increased rapidly, particularly in the deficit producing southern areas. In Liwonde, Lizulu and Nsanje markets, maize retail prices went up by 72, 59 and 35% respectively between September and January. In Lilongwe maize was sold at 70 MWK/kg in January, 52% above November's prices. However, in February 2012 slight declines in prices were observed in most markets, though they still remain well above last year's prices. Rice prices in Lilongwe increased by 59% between September and January to 300 MWK/kg, and then slightly dropped in February. Yet, rice prices are 230% higher than prices of Rice Thai A1 Super in February 2012.



Source: [GIEWS Country Briefs](#)

Food Security Situation Assessment

Production shortfalls in southern districts and the increasing prices have exacerbated food insecurity conditions particularly in Chikhwawa district. Maize flows generally coming from central Malawi are being exported through Mozambique and Tanzania, causing lower than usual maize supplies. According to FEWSNET, poor households in the south are classified as Stressed level (IPC Phase 2) with households in Chikhwawa district currently in Crisis level (IPC Phase 3). The 2011 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) report identified 273,000 food insecure people. GIEWS reports severe localized food insecurity; FAO and IFPRI estimates high and serious levels of hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

			FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2011
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	

Rapid increases to maize prices and a late harvest in southern Malawi have increased the number of people in need of food assistance by 150,000 and will require an extension of the ongoing food assistance program for two months, until April. ... [more](#) [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

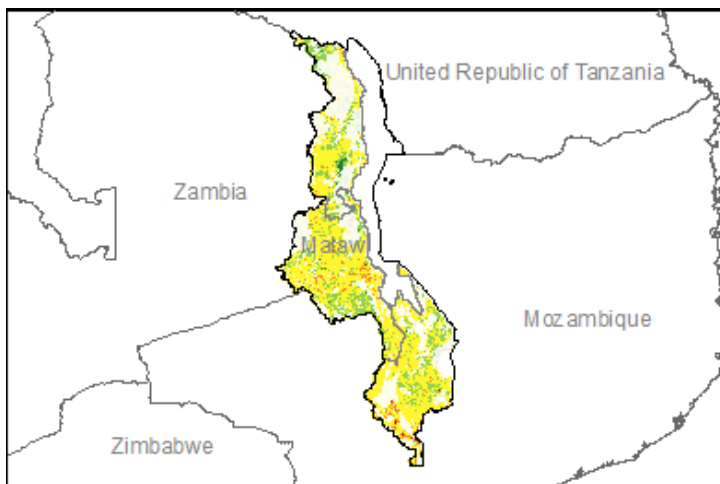
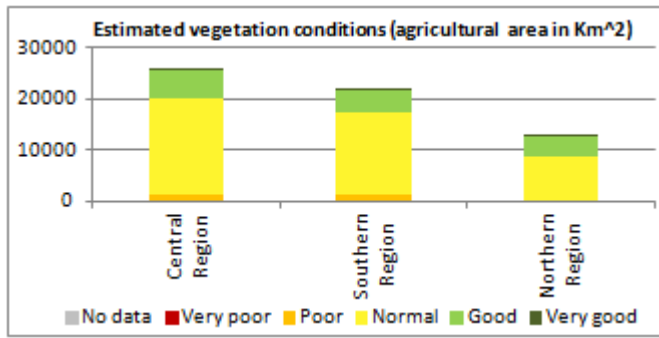
					FAO Hunger Map
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	

FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

					IFPRI/2011 GHI
Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	

Vegetation Condition

Normal to good conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the absolute difference between the NDVI for February 2012 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the SADC (CSIR, South-Africa) dataset.



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Maize - Rice - Sorghum - Wheat
Growing	Maize - Rice - Sorghum
Harvesting	No crops are harvested during the reference period

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Storms carrying heavy rain have hit Malawi in late December 2011, which led to flash floods and destruction of infrastructure including houses, school blocks and others. In mid-January 2012, a total of 5,270 households were affected, according to the government's Department of Disaster Management Affairs.

Refugees and IDPs	2008	2009	2010
Total in the country	10716	10045	15102
Total outside the country	8316	176	239

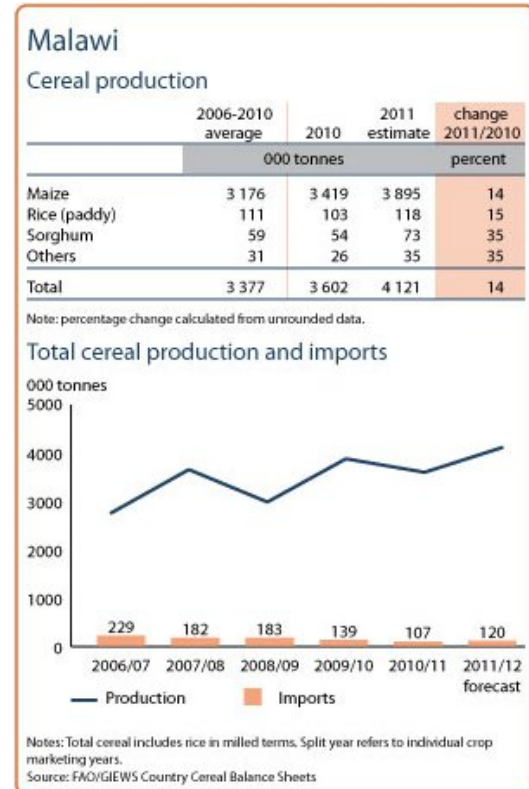
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/03/2012.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2009-12-19	Northern Province	2/3
Earthquake	2009-12-08	Northern Province	2/3
Earthquake	2009-12-06	Northern Province	2/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

Good maize supplies have helped to stabilize national food security conditions. Aggregate 2011 cereal production was at 4 mln tones, representing an increase of 14% from last year's output and 22% from five year average. Imports for 2011/12 marketing year are put at 120,000 tones, some 12% above imports of 2010/11, but 29% below the five year average imports.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The Government parastatal ADMARC has raised its maize selling price by 50% to 60 MWK/kg and suspended maize exports at the end of 2011 to ensure adequate supplies, particularly in the southern markets. In November 2011, the Government and humanitarian agencies agreed to distribute around 5,000 tons of maize to 201,854 food insecure persons.

Consumer and market oriented measures	Maize procurement
Producer oriented measures	Farm gate price set; FISP (maize); Cotton input subsidy
Trade policy measures	Export prohibition
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food distribution

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

- [Ethiopia: Tropical Legumes II: Profiles of Progress](#)
- [Zimbabwe: Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin Number 152 E...](#)
- [World: The impact of cash transfers on nutrition in em...](#)
- [Mozambique: Tropical cyclones/depressions in the I...](#)
- [World: Water: World meets target on safe drinking supp...](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the [GIEWS Workstation](#)

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