Highlights

Malawi Vulnerability Update Assessment Report of October 2015 projects the food insecure population in 25 out of 28 districts to remain at 2,833,212. Various clusters are responding to the needs of the food insecure populations in line with the Food Insecurity Response Plan that was released in September 2015 and concurrently undertaking recovery activities in areas that were affected by floods early in the year.

UNICEF supported restocking of therapeutic supplies in early November to restore the supply chain after observing that ready-to-use foods (RUTF) stock outs in Nsanje district were resulting in low admissions. UNICEF also provided technical support in maintenance of the Community Management for Acute Malnutrition databases in the districts of Machinga, Nsanje, Mulanje, Nkhatabay and Mzimba.

During the reporting period, with UNICEF support, a total of 6,169 children were vaccinated against measles of whom 5,842 children completed the recommended antigens in Nsanje, Phalombe, Zomba, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Mangochi and Thyolo.

As part of preparedness planning for the 2015/16 rainy season, a draft contingency plan has been prepared with leadership from the Department of Disaster Management particularly taking into consideration the El Niño event which is currently underway and is likely to continue through early 2016.

Prepositioning of supplies to 18 cholera prone districts is under way in consultation with partners as one of the ways to ensure readiness for response to possible flooding.

UNICEF’s Response with partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>Cumulative results (#)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Children 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in OTP and NRU programmes</td>
<td>26,400</td>
<td>21,058 (10,198 Males, 10,860 Females)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Number of disaster-affected women of child-bearing age who receive key health education</td>
<td>320,000</td>
<td>287,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Number of disaster-affected people and host community members provided with safe water</td>
<td>235,000</td>
<td>226,314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment committee released the National Food Security update for the period of October 2015 to March 2016. The update assessment results indicate that all assumptions made in the June 2015 assessment still hold and therefore the food insecure population in 25 out of 28 districts remains at 2,833,212. Various clusters are responding to the needs of the food insecure populations in line with the Food Insecurity Response Plan that was released in September 2015 and concurrently undertaking recovery activities in areas that were affected by floods early in the year. Efforts also continue to mobilise resources to meet funding gaps that still exist in order to meet the needs of the food insecure population.

Meanwhile the country is also undertaking preparedness planning for the 2015/16 season which has been reported to be a strong El Nino. According to the Meteorological Services Malawi is likely to receive normal above normal rains for parts of the Northern Region and normal to below normal rains for the Central and Southern Region. The Department of Disaster Management is leading preparedness planning based on hazard scenarios for Floods, Food Insecurity, and Earthquake and Disease Outbreak.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF continues to actively participate in the Humanitarian Country Team and the Inter Cluster meetings, which lead strategic and cross-sectoral coordination of humanitarian programmes in the country. UNICEF also co-leads the WASH, Nutrition, Education and Protection clusters.

From 16-20 November UNICEF participated in a contingency planning meeting organized by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. The meeting brought together various government ministries and departments, UN Agencies and NGOs to consolidate the 2015/16 contingency plans in preparation for the 2015/16 response season. The plan is based upon multi-hazard scenario forecasts for 2015-2016, particularly taking into consideration the El Niño event which is currently underway and is likely to continue through early 2016.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

Nutrition: Since the last report, additional 1,914 new SAM cases have been admitted in Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTPs) and Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) bringing the cumulative total number of admissions in the year 2015 to 21,058 (10,198 Males, 10,860 Females). In the month of October, all the outcome indicators in CMAM were consistent with SPHERE standards with 93.3 % and 82.2% of children discharged from OTP and NRU compared to the recommended SPHERE standard of >75% recovery rate and 7.3% death rate recorded compared to the recommended SPHERE standard of <10% mortality rate.

UNICEF continues to support strengthening of the quality of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) service delivery and effectiveness. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical support in maintenance of the CMAM databases in the districts of Machinga, Nsanje, Mulanje, Nkhatabay and Mzimba. In addition, CMAM Job aids and monitoring tools were printed and delivered to all 29 districts of the country and newly printed CMAM registers and monthly reporting forms will be delivered together with RUTF in December 2015. UNICEF also supported restocking of therapeutic supplies in early November to restore the supply chain after discovering that low admissions observed in Nsanje district in October 2015 were as a result of RUTF stock out. In addition, a field visit was undertaken to NRU and OTP sites in Salima to explore linkages between nutrition and education.

Child Protection: In Nsanje district, one of the districts that was most affected by floods, Action Aid has successfully established Community Child Care Centre Management Committees, Children Corner Committees and Psychosocial Committees in collaboration with local government structures and community members, and carried out training on psychosocial support, child care and protection, through its partnership with UNICEF. Adolescent children have been trained on child rights, communication, and mobilization and facilitation skills. Additionally, during the last month construction of two flood resistant centres for community based child care and children’s corners have reached an advanced stage. In total 235 adolescent children and 322 children aged 6 to 8 (210 girls and 112 boys) from the district have been enrolled in psychosocial activities through the programme. Overall, with UNICEF support a cumulative total of 56,490 children and caregivers in disaster affected districts benefited from psychosocial support in the year 2015.
In 8 of the 25 food insecure districts, UNICEF is integrating humanitarian elements in development programmes through several partnerships (Save the Children, Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, and the Malawi Police Service).

**WASH:** During the reporting period, UNICEF drilled 12 and rehabilitated 5 boreholes in drought affected Chitipa district enabling 4,250 people to access to safe water. The cumulative number of people provided with access to safe water by UNICEF and NGO Implementing Partners in 2015 in camps, schools, CBCCs and communities is now at 216,314. In addition, UNICEF through NGO partners has in 2015 reached 991,841 disaster affected people with sanitation and hygiene promotion messages and provided 280,243 people with safe sanitation facilities.

**Health and HIV:** A total of 6,169 children were vaccinated against measles of whom 5,842 children completed the recommended antigens in Nsanje, Phalombe, Zomba, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Mangochi and Thyolo during the reporting period with UNICEF support. UNICEF also continued supporting village clinics in disaster affected districts by providing lifesaving commodities including amoxicillin, ORS, zinc tablets, antimalarial drugs and monitoring supplies through c-Stock. Additionally, a total of 18,715 children under five years of age received treatment for pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and eye infections in the village clinics. Key messages on prevention and treatment of common childhood illness were provided to 18,715 caregivers who brought the sick children to the village clinics. The messages focused on diarrhoea prevention and treatment, malaria prevention and early care seeking practice, proper hygiene and sanitation, water treatment, hand washing with soap in critical times, immunization, nutrition and HIV prevention.

Furthermore, prepositioning of supplies to 18 cholera prone districts is under way in consultation with partners as one of the way to ensure readiness for response to flooding that may occur during the current rainy season which started in November.

UNICEF supported a post-disaster qualitative assessment among adolescents in 3 affected districts. Preliminary findings indicate that although adolescents received some support during the flooding (for example, food, access to schooling, counselling), coverage was inadequate. Girls were driven by poverty to engage in transactional sex and both boys and girls were forced to discontinue schooling in order to contribute to the household economy. A draft report will be available by the end of December 2015.

**Education:** With support from UNICEF the Ministry of Youth, Labour and Manpower/Sports and Culture held a drought response and learning meeting in Blantyre on 24th and 26th November. Participating Youth and Sports Officers shared effective and innovative resilience methods that will be scaled up in Chikwawa, Dedza, Salima and Mangochi. Other districts participating were Chikhwawa, Chitipa, Nkhatabya, Nkhotakhota and Machinga. Successful resilience programs such as fish farming among out of school adolescents (initiated in 2015) were also show-cased. In addition, consultations have been made with various stakeholders on the training of 176 volunteer teachers to be deployed in four districts drought affected districts of Dedza, Salima, Mangochi and Chikwawa.

**Funding:** Against the revised funding requirement of US$14,427,441, UNICEF has received US$ 5,978,948 to date leaving a 58% funding gap.
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Social Protection</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>360,000</th>
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<th>360,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication, Coordination and Logistics</td>
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<td>799,000</td>
<td>248,820</td>
<td>550,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>10,510,441</td>
<td>14,247,441</td>
<td>5,978,948</td>
<td>8,268,493</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>Carry-forward</td>
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<td>Total funding available</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,978,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>10,510,441</td>
<td>14,247,441</td>
<td>5,978,948</td>
<td>8,268,493</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Humanitarian Window Funds for Child Protection, Health and Nutrition received in regular ORR Grant (SC130153).

**Next SitRep:** 6th January 2016

**Who to contact for further information:**

Mahimbo Mdoe  
Representative, Malawi  
Telephone: 265 999 964 130  
Facsimile: 265 1 773 162  
Email:mmdoe@unicef.org

Roisin De Burca  
Deputy Representative, Malawi  
Telephone: 265 993 961 100  
Facsimile: 265 1 773 162  
E-mail: rdeburca@unicef.org

Angela Travis  
Communications, Malawi  
Tel: +265 1 771 632  
Fax: +: 265 1 773 162  
Email: atravis@unicef.org