Highlights

- Malawi is facing the worst drought and subsequent food crisis in almost a decade, with UNICEF raising concerns over the potential increase of SAM, especially among children under 5, in the coming months. The State President released an emergency response plan on Monday 21st September, and urged all donors and development partners to do what they can to alleviate the situation.

- In addition to the ongoing response to food insecurity, flood recovery efforts that affected over 1 million people are still under way, with about 10 displacement sites still hosting IDPs who are waiting to be relocated to new areas.

- UNICEF conducted a joint comprehensive assessment with the Ministry of Health/OPC Nutrition Department in September to assess the needs of the 101 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU’s in the country. The aim of the assessment is to mitigate high case fatality rates in the future. The assessment results will be released in October.

- UNICEF, through Water Missions International, has installed eight safe water supply systems in Chikhwawa and Nsanje districts reaching 28,539 people who were previously in displacement sites and have returned to their communities. This brings the cumulative number of people reached with safe water in camps, schools, CBCCs and communities to 207,064.

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>17,163 (8,272 Males, 8,891 Females)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Number of children and women who access essential health services including immunizations</td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>66,760</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>219,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Number of disaster-affected school children benefitting from school temporary structures and supplies (school-in-a-box and recreation kits)</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>193,923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Malawi is facing the worst drought and subsequent food crisis in almost a decade, with UNICEF raising concerns of the potential increase in SAM, especially among children under 5, in the coming months. The State President released an emergency response plan on Monday 21st September, and urged all donors and development partners to do what they can to alleviate the situation.

In January, 2015, Malawi experienced the worst floods in its history, followed by prolonged dry spells both in the disaster-prone south, but also in the central and northern regions, which are the traditional bread basket of the country. For the first time in nine years the country has experienced a 30% maize deficit, rendering 2.8 million people (15% of the population) at risk of hunger across 25 districts of the country. Maize is the staple food, and mainstay of the Malawian diet. This figure is projected to increase as the country moves into the ‘lean season’ from November 2015 to March 2016. Worse still, the current forecasts are pessimistic for the early stages of the 2015-16 growing season in view of the El Nino event which has been active since February 2015, and will almost certainly last throughout 2015, possibly extending into early 2016, raising concerns of the possibility of two consecutive poor cropping season.

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) is currently in the field collecting data on the food security situation in the country. Data collection began on 4 October and will be completed on the 10th of October. An analysis of the data will take place between 12 and 17 October, with the final results expected shortly after.

- In a country where almost half of the children are already undernourished, UNICEF is concerned for the health and survival of the nation’s youngest citizens.

In addition to the ongoing response to food insecurity, flood recovery efforts that affected over 1 million people are still under way, with about 10 displacement sites still hosting IDPs who are waiting to be relocated to new areas.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The WASH Cluster had a meeting on 3rd September, 2015 where members reviewed the 2015/16 WASH National Contingency Plan covering areas on emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

The Nutrition Cluster has reviewed/revised the cluster response and implementation plans to ensure that partner programmes are reaching the populations most in need.

The Department of Disaster Management Affairs is coordinating the development of a National Disaster Risk Management Programme which will be used by the government, development partners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to build the nation’s resilience to disasters. The programme is being developed as part of the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy which was adopted in February, 2015. The programme will outline strategies to be implemented as a way of building resilience for those exposed to and affected by disasters in the country.

The protection cluster has prioritized the following programmes and activities; rehabilitation and reconstruction of CBCCC’s and CC’s, community mobilization, training on psychosocial support and procurement and the distribution of child protection supplies, for recovery in the most affected districts of Nsanje, Blantyre, Zomba, Phalombe, Mulanje and Chikwawa.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

WASH

UNICEF, through Water Missions International, has installed eight safe water supply systems in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts reaching 28,539 people that were previously in displacement sites and have returned to their communities. The cumulative number of people in 2015, in camps, schools, CBCCCs and communities provided with safe water through UNICEF and NGO partners is now at 207,064.

In addition, a total of 18,691 people in schools and communities in Chikhwawa, Phalombe, Chitipa, Mzimba and
Chiradzulu districts have been reached with messages on hand washing by UNICEF partners during this reporting period. This brings the total number of people reached with hygiene promotion messages from the onset of the emergency to a cumulative total of 961,661.

**Nutrition**

To date, a cumulative total of 17,163 (8,272 Males, 8,891 Females) under-five children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) have been admitted in OTP and NRUs supported by UNICEF. Over 93% and 83% of children discharged from Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) and Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRUs) have recovered. In August 2015, the NRU death rate was 8.1%, however, the January to August 2015 average of 12% was higher than the SPHERE cut off point (of <10% mortality rate).

UNICEF provided Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) technical support, supplies monitoring and on-job mentorship support to health workers running NRU in both Government and Mission facilities in the 7 districts of Blantyre, Zomba, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Mangochi, Chiradzulu and Lilongwe.

UNICEF conducted a joint comprehensive assessment with the Ministry of Health/OPC Nutrition Department in September to assess the needs of the 101 Nutrition Rehabilitation Units (NRU’s in the country. The aim of the assessment is to mitigate high case fatality rates in the future. The assessment results will be released in October.

**Health and HIV**

With support from UNICEF, the District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) continued providing routine immunization services for children under 2 years, through static and outreach service delivery using Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) and volunteers in villages in districts that were affected by floods. Support being provided includes: vaccine supply, capacity building of vaccinators and supervisors and the provision of fuel for transportation. District micro planning for routine immunization is being implemented as TOTs (Trainer of Trainers) have been trained and a training manual has been developed and distributed. Training for cold chain technicians is also under way to improve provision of quality vaccine, including in the most affected districts. In the month of August, a total of 6,292 children were vaccinated against measles whilst 6,206 children were fully vaccinated in flood affected districts.

Provision of basic health service for children under five years of age also continues with Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) providing case management service. Included in the services are treatment for diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria and eye infections, as well as screening for malnutrition using MUAC tape. A total of 33,885 children under five years of age received treatment from HSAs in village clinics. In addition, counselling for caregivers was provided in August 2015. Children who are found to be sick or living with serious conditions are being referred to the nearest health facilities for treatment and follow up.

In addition, 33,885 mothers/caregivers who attended village clinics gained access to health information on diarrhea 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.

**Child Protection**

With support from UNICEF, Action Aid trained members of child protection committees and facilitators of Children Corners on psychosocial support in relocation sites in two Traditional Authorities in Nsanje district, which was highly affected by floods during the month of September. In addition, the building of two flood resistant Community Based Child Care Center (CBCC’s) and Children Corners (CC’s) structures is ongoing in the district. Action Aid has also mobilized local communities to construct temporary CBCC’s and CC’s using local material, which will be used until the larger buildings are completed. Currently, up to 200 children are attending temporary CBCC’s and 230 children are attending temporary CC’s.

UNICEF is planning to support Child Protection Rapid Assessment in flood recovery and food insecurity affected districts.
Education

With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Manpower Development in September hosted a training for 11 district Youth Development Officers and District Planning Officers on drought recovery programmes. The participating came from the districts of: Chikhwawa, Mangochi, Likoma, Machinga, Phalombe, Mulanje, Thyolo, Zomba rural, Nsanje and Chiradzulu. In total 186,313 learners (92,469 girls and 93,844 boys) will benefit indirectly from this training.

Communication for Development

UNICEF is conducting a review of communication materials distributed and used during the flood emergency led by Ministry of Information. A community based review is being conducted during the week of 5-9 October in Blantyre, Chikwawa and Phalombe. A review working session will be conducted with affected districts and NGO partners during the period of 19-23 October.

Funding

In August 2015, UNICEF Malawi increased its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) funding requirements from its original HAC appeal from US$10,510,441 to US$14,427,441. The increased funding requirement of US$3.92 million is critical for addressing the needs of the food insecure population in Malawi, which is estimated to be approximately 2.8 million people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Original 2015 HAC Requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Revised 2015 HAC Requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received Against 2015 HAC (US$)</th>
<th>Funding Gap (US$ / %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>2,216,553</td>
<td>2,441,553</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
<td>1,041,553</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,870,000</td>
<td>2,090,000</td>
<td>529,082</td>
<td>1,560,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health*</td>
<td>2,468,750</td>
<td>2,593,750</td>
<td>407,590</td>
<td>2,186,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition*</td>
<td>2,145,138</td>
<td>4,312,638</td>
<td>1,123,307</td>
<td>3,189,331</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection*</td>
<td>891,000</td>
<td>1,253,500</td>
<td>530,008</td>
<td>723,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>577,000</td>
<td>19,440</td>
<td>557,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication,</td>
<td>799,000</td>
<td>799,000</td>
<td>248,820</td>
<td>550,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Logistics</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>10,510,441</td>
<td>14,247,441</td>
<td>4,258,247</td>
<td>9,989,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry-forward</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funding available</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,258,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>10,510,441</td>
<td>14,247,441</td>
<td>4,258,247</td>
<td>9,989,194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Next SitRep: 4th November 2015

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1 The June 2015 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) report projected 2,833,212 people (17% of population) would require food assistance for 3 to 6 months (October to March). A further assessment will take place in October, when these numbers are expected to rise.