I. Highlights

- There are indications that as a result of low crop yields due to dry spells, some poor households in Malawi will experience food shortages and will need humanitarian assistance in the 2013/14 consumption year. A report by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee expected in the month of July is going to be useful in indicating the likely food security outcomes and will inform humanitarian programming.

- A recent assessment of the nutrition situation conducted in 15 districts (7 of which were food insecure in 2012/13) shows that prevalences of wasting were within acceptable limit of <5% in all the districts except Nsanje (5.4%). There is however need for continuous monitoring.

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health in efforts to prevent dry season cholera in the lake Chilwa area mainly focusing mobilisation activities in the three districts of Phalombe, Machinga and Zomba.

II. Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

**Food security**

The food security situation, at the national level, in the month of June is favourable due to ongoing crop harvests, resulting in increased household food stocks at household level. Sale of cash crops during the May-July period is also expected to allow rural households to meet their livelihood protection and food needs. However, household food security in localized areas especially in the central and northern Malawi will likely begin to deteriorate again from July to September as a result of low crop yields due to dry spells. (FEWSNET, Malawi Food Security Outlook Update, June 2013).

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) is currently processing data from assessments that will be used in producing the 2013 National Food Security Forecast, and for humanitarian programming. There are however indications that the food security situation for some poor households will deteriorate slightly earlier than the start of the traditional lean period especially in central and northern Malawi. A report is expected in the month of July and is going to be useful in indicating the likely food security outcomes and the exact start of the lean period.

Meanwhile, WFP in June 2013 wrapped up 2012/13 food distributions clearing backlog from March food distributions in a few districts which were caused by a pipeline breakdown in the strategic grain reserves. By the end of the food response, WFP reported to have successfully reached almost 100% of the WFP targeted beneficiaries with food assistance (1,829,865) and reached all beneficiaries targeted with cash transfers (125,054). The rest of the 1,972,993 food insecure households benefited from a cash transfer program implemented by Save the Children and an OXFAM led consortium.

Additionally, WFP in collaboration with Government of Malawi also continued to provide food assistance to about 6,700 households that were affected by floods in April 2013 in Phalombe, Mangochi, and Nsanje districts.
Nutrition

New admissions of Severe Acute Malnourished children with complications in NRUs in the period of January to April 2013 were higher in 4 of the 15 food insecure districts (Nsanje, Mwanza, Mulanje and Dedza) as compared to the same period in 2012. Likewise, OTP admissions were higher in 8 districts (Zomba, Thyolo, Phalombe, Nsanje, Neno, Mwanza Mulanje and Chikwawa), in the period of January to April 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012 (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: NRU and OTP admissions in selected food insecure districts 2012 and 2013**

However, a recent assessment of the nutrition situation conducted in 15 districts (7 of which were food insecure in 2012/13) shows that the situation is not very bad. An Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment was conducted in May 2013 to assess the food security and nutrition situation at the beginning of the new consumption year (April 2013-March 2014) in 15 districts that were reported to have experienced dry spells in the 2012/13 growing season. Results of the assessment showed that prevalences of wasting were within acceptable limit of <5% in all the districts except Nsanje (5.4%) (Figure 2). However it should be noted that the assessment was conducted during the harvest period when most households had adequate food and that the situation may deteriorate as the country moves into lean season. There is therefore need for continuous monitoring of the situation.
Epidemics

Cholera

Malawi has still not registered any cholera cases in the current cholera season which started on 1st November 2012 and will end on 31st October 2013. The Ministry of Health is however continuing with surveillance and control measures in the Lake Chilwa area which is still at risk of dry season cholera due to activities on the lake which are associated with high risk hygiene practices.

III. UNICEF supported programmes - Food Insecurity

Nutrition

UNICEF continued to support treatment of severely malnourished children through the Community Management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programme. Cumulatively, between August 2012 and April 2013, a total of 16,003 children have been newly admitted to the NRUs and OTP.

Table 6: Nutrition cumulative results*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated #/% coverage</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Sector / Cluster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Target</td>
<td>% of Target Achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of exits from therapeutic feeding programme of children 6-59 months who have died (should be less than 10%)</td>
<td>&lt;10%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of exits from therapeutic feeding programme of children 6-59 months who have defaulted (should be less than 15%)</td>
<td>&lt;15%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of exits from therapeutic feeding programme of children 6-59 months who have recovered (should be more than 75%)</td>
<td>&gt;75%</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># and/or % children 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in OTP and NRU programmes</td>
<td>16,627</td>
<td>16,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of NRUs and OTPs in affected districts stocked with RUTF, F100 and F75 adequate for the next month</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The cumulative results are for August 2012 to April 2013

UNICEF is also supporting training of health workers on CMAM guidelines and protocols in 8 of the 16 food insecure districts. Similar training was already completed in 8 districts in which 1,777 Health Surveillance assistants were trained. The 8 districts that were already trained further trained volunteer/local leaders at the local level.

In addition, as part of rolling out rapid SMS UNICEF supported training of trainers at national level & district champions in 7 districts targeting 130 district champions. This is expected to strengthen nutrition screening and surveillance as the Rapid SMS will provide timely information for early detection of deteriorating situation and malnutrition for referral to life saving treatment of SAM children.

Child protection

UNICEF has supported orientation and deployment of over 300 psychosocial care providers, early childhood caregivers, and community policing volunteers and human rights monitors in the 16 food insecure districts. These have been responsible for provision of psychosocial support, protection issues and monitoring of human rights violations in the food insecure districts.
In addition Community Based Child Care Centre (CBCC) kits were distributed to 170 CBCCs supporting enabling provision of psychosocial support to over 216,000 children aged three to five years and 6,500 aged 6-18 years in the 16 districts.

IV. UNICEF supported programmes – Floods

Education
Recent monitoring of utilization of humanitarian assistance to the affected floods district of Karonga, noted that the tents that were supplied during the floods eased congestion that was there during the flooding. The school in a box kits that were distributed to pupils were also helpful and useful tool for effecting learning. There is however need for more support to rehabilitated structures that were destroyed. Cumulatively, UNICEF provided learning materials for 15,200 primary school children in the flood affected schools in Phalombe, Mangochi Chikwawa and Karonga were by providing learning materials.

V. UNICEF supported programmes – Prevention of waterborne disease outbreaks

In support of dry season cholera prevention efforts by Ministry of Health in the Lake Chilwa area, UNICEF in the month of June 2013 provided 300 bottles of water guard to each of the three districts at risk (Phalombe, Machinga and Zomba). In addition, UNICEF provided 300 bottles of water guard to Dowa districts which has been experiencing a typhoid outbreak. In total the 1,200 bottles of water guard provided to the 4 districts are expected to be adequate for 3,000 households (15000 people) for a period of one month.

In addition, UNICEF is supporting social mobilisation activities in the three Lake Chilwa area districts. So far, more activities have taken place on the Zomba side of the Lake including:

- Promotion of community social dialogue sessions through Letter to Community, with community members and fishermen on 10 harbours around Lake Chilwa on the Zomba side, reaching out to around 500 fishermen;
- Community filming showing Cholera and Hygiene and Sanitation films in rural communities reaching out to around 3,000 community members;
- Orientation of 5 community drama groups that have performed to over 4,000 community members; orientation of 130 Village Health Committee members; 180 Faith Based Organization members; 140 teachers;
- Conducting school awareness and sensitization in schools surrounding Cholera hot spots, reaching out to over 5,000 pupils in Zomba and Phalombe districts.
These activities continue, with Phalombe ready to start roll out of similar interventions from mid-July for a span of three months.

Due to the high demand for print materials to support education in communities, health centres and in schools, UNICEF is also supporting printing of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in the following categories:

- 400 flip charts for Health Surveillance Assistants, teachers and other extension workers;
- 1,000 comic books for school pupils;
- 20,000 posters (with key messages on Child Protection in Emergencies, hand washing with soap, Cholera, HIV in emergencies, Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies, Malaria in emergencies, Measles and Nutrition in emergencies);
- 33,000 leaflets (with key messages on Child Protection in Emergencies, hand washing with soap, Cholera, HIV in emergencies, Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies, Malaria in emergencies, Measles and Nutrition in emergencies).

VI. **Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

The Humanitarian Country Team continues to meet on a monthly basis to share information on the humanitarian situation and response by various organisations. The team last met on 3rd May 2013.

VII. **Funding situation:**

UNICEF had received a total of US$ 6,457,773 in contributions from various donors to implement all emergency response activities in 2013. A summary of donor contributions for 2013 is presented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Funding requirements (USD)</th>
<th>Funding secured</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3,437,209</td>
<td>5,941,085</td>
<td>(2,503,876)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>56,463</td>
<td>37,800</td>
<td>18,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>2,388,892</td>
<td>74,382</td>
<td>2,314,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>139,100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>139,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>595,348</td>
<td>404,506</td>
<td>190,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>117,988</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>117,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,735,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,457,773</strong></td>
<td><strong>277,227</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information, please contact:

- Mahimbo Mdoe, Representative
  - Country Office Malawi
  - Telephone: 265 999 964 130
  - Facsimile: 265 1 773 162
  - E-mail: mmdoe@unicef.org
- Jane Muita, Deputy Representative
  - Country Office Malawi
  - Telephone: 265 992 961 100
  - Facsimile: 265 1 773 162
  - E-mail: jmuita@unicef.org
- Estere Tsoka, Emergency Specialist
  - Country Office Malawi
  - Telephone: 265 999 964 205
  - Facsimile: 265 1 773 162
  - E-mail: etsoka@unicef.org