

Appeal

Malawi

Food Insecurity in Malawi – MWI151

Appeal Target: US\$ 47,553.57

Balance Requested: US\$24,797.57

Geneva, 22 October 2015

Dear Colleagues,

This appeal follows an alert that was issued on 28 August 2015. The issuing of the appeal was delayed due to lack of funding. Now based on interest from ACT funding members and following advice from the ACT secretariat, the ACT forum in Malawi decided to revise the appeal in order to include only 1 ACT Requesting Member and to reduce significantly the appeal target.

Malawi experienced a number of weather related hazards during the 2014/15 agricultural production season. The rain season delayed by 30 to 40 days due to late onset of rains; this delayed planting of all major crops across the country so much so that by the time of the cessation of the rains, most crops had not yet reached maturity. Heavy rains followed in the month of January 2015 resulting in widespread floods and wash-aways. Apart from damage or loss of lives and other infrastructure, the floods severely destroyed field crops, caused wash-away of soil nutrients and affected farming activities such as planting, weeding, and ridging as well as fertilizer application. The country also experienced dry spells in most districts for a period of 4 to 6 weeks, between February and March 2015, which resulted in crops drying up prematurely as rains tailed -off early. The result was low production of most crops and subsequent increase in food insecurity. National Vulnerability Assessment shows that 2,833,212 people (representing 17% of national total population), in 25 of the 28 districts of Malawi will face food shortage and hunger ranging from 3 to 8 months , requiring about 124,183 MT of maize equivalent. Among the districts most affected include: Balaka, Chikwawa, Kasungu, Nkhota-kota, Dedza, Dowa, Karonga, Mchinji, Mulanje, Nsanje, Phalombe, Thyolo and Zomba, where Malawi ACT forum members are also implementing long term development projects.

Currently, both from the Malawi Government side and NGOs, specific activities to assist the communities on how the affected households will recover from the tragedy is not coming out so clearly although government and the World Food Programme are planning to procure food which again will not be enough to meet the current demand. It is against this background that ELDS is submitting this proposal on behalf of the ACT Forum in Malawi, to assist the affected households in the district of Dowa.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**TITLE:** Food Insecurity in Malawi**ACT APPEAL NUMBER:** MWI 151**APPEAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (US\$):** 24,800**DATE OF ISSUANCE:** 21 October 2015**NAMES OF ACT FORUM AND REQUESTING MEMBERS:**

ACT FORUM	MALAWI ACT FORUM
ACT REQUESTING MEMBER	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (ELDS)

PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

KEY PARAMETERS:	ACT Member(ELDS)
Project Start/Completion Dates	1 November 2015 – 30 April 2016
Geographic areas of response	Dowa
Sectors of response & projected target population per sector	Food security (500 hh) Early recovery & livelihood restoration (500 hh)

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF APPEAL REQUIREMENTS BY ACT MEMBER:

Appeal Requirements	ACT Member (ELDS)	Total Requirements
Total requirements US\$	47,553.57 USD	47,553.57 USD
Less: pledges/contributions US\$	22,756.00 USD	22,756.00 USD
Balance of requirements US\$	24,798.57 USD	24,797.57 USD

TABLE 2: REPORTING SCHEDULE

Type of Report	ACT Member(ELDS)
Situation reports	Bi-monthly
Final narrative and financial report	30 June 2015
Audit report and management letter	Together with the institutional audit

Please kindly send your contributions to either of the following ACT bank accounts:

US dollar

Account Number - 240-432629.60A

IBAN No: CH46 0024 0240 4326 2960A

Euro

Euro Bank Account Number - 240-432629.50Z

IBAN No: CH84 0024 0240 4326 2950Z

Account Name: ACT Alliance

UBS AG

8, rue du Rhône

P.O. Box 2600

1211 Geneva 4, SWITZERLAND

Swift address: UBSWCHZH80A

For earmarking of pledges/contributions, please refer to the spread sheet accessible through this link <http://reports.actalliance.org/ReportServer/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?%2fAct%2fAppeals&rs:Command=Render>. The ACT spread sheet provides an overview of existing pledges/contributions and associated earmarking for the appeal.

Please inform the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) with a copy to the Regional Programme Officer, Ambundo Arnold, Arnold.Ambundo@actalliance.org, of all pledges/contributions and transfers, including funds sent direct to the requesting members.

We would appreciate being informed of any intent to submit applications for EU, USAID and/or other back donor funding and the subsequent results. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

For further information please contact:

ACT Regional Programme Officer, Ambundo Arnold Arnold.Ambundo@actalliance.org

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>



Sarah Kambarami
Head of Programmes
ACT Alliance Secretariat

II. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

1. The Crisis

Malawi experienced a number of weather related hazards during the 2014/15 agricultural production season. The rain season delayed by 30 to 40 days due to late onset of rains; this delayed planting of all major crops across the country so much so that by the time of the cessation of the rains, most crops had not yet reached maturity. Heavy rains followed in the month of January 2015 resulting in widespread floods and wash-aways. Apart from damage or loss of lives and other infrastructure, the floods severely destroyed field crops, caused wash-away of soil nutrients and affected farming activities such as planting, weeding, and ridging as well as fertilizer application. The country also experienced dry spells in most districts for a period of 4 to 6 weeks, between February and March 2015, which resulted in early tail-off of the rains. The result was low production of most crops and subsequent increase in food insecurity. National Vulnerability Assessment shows that **2,833,212 people** (representing 17% of national total population), in 25 of the 28 districts of Malawi will face food shortage and hunger ranging from 3 to 8 months , requiring about 124,183 MT of maize equivalent. Among the districts affected include: Balaka, Chikwawa, Kasungu, Nkhota-kota, Dedza, Dowa, Karonga, Mchinji, Mulanje, Nsanje, Phalombe, Thyolo and Zomba, where Malawi ACT forum members are also implementing long term development projects.

Currently, both from the Malawi Government side and NGOs, specific activities to assist the communities on how the affected households will recover from the tragedy is not coming out so clearly although government and the World Food Programme are planning to procure food which again will not be enough to meet the current demand. It is against this background that ELDS is submitting this proposal to assist the affected households in the district of Dowa.

2. Actions to date

Government, Agencies and ACT Malawi forum support

Currently Malawi Government with support from donor agencies have started procuring maize expected to reach 50,000 MT by end of October 2015. This will be distributed through the UN World Food Programme coordinated by Malawi Government Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA). This will leave a food deficit gap of about 74,183 MT which government is calling for support from other local and international agencies. ACT Malawi forum has not responded to the current disaster hence the proposal. At the moment no response to the emergency by government or any other actor has started in the proposed district although according to the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC, 2015) recommendations, response was supposed to start by August 2015. The situation is becoming critical day by day as food prices continue to rise amid steady depreciation of the country's currency. It is expected that if no response is urgently executed the number of affected people will go beyond 2,833,212 due to continued depreciation of food reserves. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee further recommended strongly on resilience building of the affected communities through recovery activities.

The Malawi ACT forum members, through the field staff and representation at various technical working groups in the affected districts, continue to monitor the situation in the hunger affected areas and share information collected within the forum and externally with other partners.

III. PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. TARGET POPULATIONS, AREAS AND SECTORS OF RESPONSE:

1,000 households (5,500 people).

ACT member	Sector of response	Geographic area of response	Targeted population		
			18-65 Age		Totals
			M	F	
ELDS	Food Security	Dowa	250	250	500
	Early recovery & livelihood restoration		200	300	500
Totals (in households):					1,000

2. OVERALL GOAL:

Restored dignity and saving of lives for 1,000 households (5,500 people) affected by food insecurity in Dowa District.

2.1 OBJECTIVE(S)/OUTCOME OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

1. Increased food self-sufficiency for the affected households
2. Increased income levels for the affected households

3. PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1 Narrative summary of planned intervention

Before the onset of the whole project, there will be sensitization meetings at various levels at district (District Executive Committee), Traditional Authority or areas level (Area Development/Civil Protection Committee) and community or village level (Village Development/Civil Protection Committee). The project will make use of focus group discussions with women, men, youths and the minority groups in order to identify eligible beneficiaries. During the same time, more explanation will be made on aims, criteria and expected outcomes from the various interventions.

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES

The following activities will be conducted before the implementation of the various activities/interventions:

- Conducting sensitization meetings at various levels starting off with the District Executive Committee (DEC), the Area Development Committee/Area Civil Protection Committees (ADC/ACPCs) and then the communities. The project will make use of focus group discussions with women, men, youths and the minority groups in order to identify eligible beneficiaries. During the same time, more explanation will be made on aims, criteria and expected outcomes from the various interventions. During same session, there will be discussion and agreement on setting up PME Committee and its membership.
- Conducting potential beneficiary enlisting
- Conduct beneficiary verification and registration
- Establishment of the complaints handling mechanism
- Mapping of the other actors working in the target areas, and the services they provide. This will be essential not only to ensure that there is no duplication of services, but also to facilitate synergies and collaboration with ELDS.

To achieve above stated objectives, the project will implement the following activities:

1. Increased food self-sufficiency for the affected households

Under this objective, the following activities will be implemented:

- Provision of food assistance: As a life saving measure, the project will provide food assistance in form of maize flour and beans for vulnerable targeted households. To do this ELDS will conduct beneficiary enlisting and then screening of most vulnerable households. Verification and registration will then follow and this will be done with the district and area civil protection committees. ELDS will also conduct a selection exercise of distribution points that will include a distribution plan. Food distribution will be accompanied by onsite and post-distribution monitoring. This will be targeted food distribution.
- Introduction of early maturing and drought tolerant crop varieties: As part of boosting food crop production under rain-fed agriculture, the project will introduce and distribute early maturing and drought tolerant crop varieties to the affected households, so that period of less food energy reserves is significantly reduced. The project will use the following criteria: households with access to land and those greatly affected by food insecurity. This intervention will be done in collaboration with the Government department responsible for agriculture for guidance and sustainability purposes on types of early maturing crop varieties. This has been done recognising that communities still have the knowledge and skills on rain-fed agriculture with little support such as provision of improved seed; they can therefore produce adequate food on their own. Crops will include sweet potato and cassava.
- Promote small scale livestock production: As one way of enhancing resilience livestock diversification will be promoted. This will include promotion of small scale livestock such as goats. The project will apply LEGS (Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards) for proper processes in determining when, where and for whom the intervention will be implemented.

2. Increased income levels for the affected households

Under this objective, the following activities will be implemented:

- Promote Village Savings and Loans and business management:
The project will implement Village Savings and Loan Activities for financial stability in the absence of project funds. Under this main activity, the following sub-activities will be done:
 - o Establishment and strengthening of functional Village Savings and Loans groups.
 - o Training of Village Agents in village savings and loans concepts.
 - o Orientation of Village Savings and Loan groups in savings and loans.
 - o Build capacity of Village Savings and Loans groups in small scale business record keeping, marketing and entrepreneurship.

3.2 Log frame:

PROJECT STRUCTURE	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Goal Restored dignity and saving of lives for 1,000 households (5,500 people) affected by food insecurity in Dowa District.		Baseline reports End of project evaluation report	
Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased food self-sufficiency • Increased income levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy food reserves in critical months (crisis, December to March) • % of households 	Baseline reports End of project evaluation report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducive political and climatic environments • Community and local structures' willingness to

	with improved income levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of households with knowledge and skills in psychosocial and disaster risk management 		accept and participate in the project fully
Outputs			
Output 1: Enhanced capacity to produce and utilize food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meals per day • Yield of food crop per household (maize equivalent) • % reduction in malnutrition for under-five children 	Project progress reports Situation reports Project monitoring reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducive political and climatic environments • Community and local structures' willingness to accept and participate in the project fully
Output 2: Increased capacity to meet economic household needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % households meeting economic needs 	Project progress reports Situation reports Project monitoring reports	
Activities			
1. Project sensitization meetings	# of sensitization meetings conducted		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of funds to support the activities • Efficient and proper logistics
2. Beneficiary enlisting, verification and registration	# of beneficiaries enlisted, verified and registered		
3. Establishment of complaint mechanism	Complaint mechanism established		
4. Food distribution	# of distributions done		
5. Food onsite and post-distribution monitoring	# of monitoring exercises conducted		
6. Introduction of early maturing and drought tolerant crop varieties	# and types of crops distributed		
7. Promotion of small scale livestock production	# and types of livestock distributed		
8. Promotion of village savings and loans	# of groups established Total membership		

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY

3.3.1 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ELDS will implement this response in areas where they are already running programmes to take advantage of existing structures and systems and to ensure effective complementarity between the appeal and other long term development initiatives. Community MoU's stipulating the roles of each of the project partners and beneficiaries and other committees in the implementation process of the project activities will be developed and signed.

3.3.2 PARTNERSHIPS WITH TARGET POPULATIONS

All aspects of the project have been designed with a partnership approach in mind. Before any activities begin, a series of group discussions will be held with the different sectors of the community: men, women, male and female youth, elderly. Representatives of marginalised groups, especially those with disabilities, will be included in the groups. In these discussions, the purpose and nature of each of the activities to be implemented will be described, and the target population. Once the criteria for each aspect of the programme have been explained, participants will put forward names of appropriate people for each aspect of the programme. During these preliminary discussions with community members, the foundations will also be laid for their involvement in monitoring and evaluation, and the development of appropriate systems of communication between community members and the implementing organisations, including complaints mechanisms.

In terms of the planned activities, a partnership approach has been taken throughout. For example:

- ELDS will provide agricultural inputs mainly seed materials but the community members will do all agriculture husbandries for production.
- ELDS will only facilitate skills and knowledge in community based psychosocial and disaster risk management while the community members will be responsible for all the psychosocial and disaster risk management activities.
- ELDS will work with existing village committees and with schools to conduct community awareness campaigns, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the project.
- ELDS will ensure that all village committees include women, and representatives of the youth (male and female).

3.3.3 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

ELDS will mainstream community based psychosocial, disaster risk management and HIV and AIDS in the course of implementation of the project. The project will conduct awareness campaigns on the above issues. On psychosocial ELDS will facilitate detailed community based psychosocial needs assessment which will result to formulation of activity plans at community level and institute a community based monitoring and evaluation system of psychosocial activities. The psychosocial component will have two fold preventive and curative impacts. It will help individuals and communities to prevent them from the risk of developing mental health problems while curative measures will help to overcome and deal with psychosocial problems that may have arisen from the shock and effects of crisis.

The disaster risk management component will capacitate individuals and communities to better prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from shocks and crises. ELDS will facilitate community based floods and drought hazard preparedness and response activities at community level. A lot of trainings have been done but implementation on preparedness and response has been lacking among the communities in Malawi. This activity will also involve all the community members apart from targeted households. Networking with other communities, civil protection committees and the district council will be emphasized. The project will also, during meetings, include issues of HIV and AIDS, gender and human rights so that communities are aware of these.

3.3.4 COORDINATION

Coordination will be essential not only to ensure that there is no duplication of services, but also to facilitate effective referrals of individuals who need more specialist services than ELDS is able to provide. The proposed project involves linking with government departments and ELDS throughout, and with Department of Agriculture and Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) on issues related to agriculture and disaster risk management respectively. A collaborative approach is essential to ensure not only effectiveness but also sustainability of the recovery activities to be implemented. Being a member of ACT Alliance, ELDS will share information about this project within the ACT Malawi Forum.

3.3.5 COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

Clear channels of information will be key element to the success of the project, both from the organisation to the community and from the communities to the organisation vice versa. The preliminary group discussions will be important to this, since they establish early on that the implementing organisation intend to share information with the affected communities, and listen to their feedback.

One outcome of these initial discussions will be the establishment of communication systems to enable the implementing organisation to hear and respond to community concerns through establishment of the complaints handling mechanism. Existing committees are likely to play a key role in this system, with community members reporting problems or concerns to the committee, who then either respond themselves or, where the concern is beyond their capacity, pass it on to ELDS. The same mechanism could be used to keep the affected population informed as to what facilities and services they can expect. ELDS will promote visibility of both ACT Alliance/ACT Malawi forum and ELDS through co-branding, IEC materials, media and stakeholder meetings.

3.3.6 ADVOCACY

Where issues are important to the success of the project and/ or the wellbeing of the population, but are outside the mandate of ELDS, the organisation will advocate with the relevant service providers through lobbying meetings on DEC or bilaterally. ELDS will advocate with other organisations working in the target areas to establish an effective coordination system.

3.3.7 SUSTAINABILITY AND LINKAGE TO RECOVERY - PRIORITIZATION

All project activities involve other actors (e.g. government departments), and prioritise the affected communities taking responsibility for decision-making and aspects of implementation. They will be encouraged to take a long-term approach by connecting them with VSLs and providing capacity building to strengthen their ability to run a small business. These approaches enhance the sustainability of the project activities. In addition, strengthening affected communities' sense of control over their lives will play an important role in recovery and enhancing resilience. This will be done through the capacity building activities that have been planned in the appeal.

3.3.8 ACCOUNTABILITY –COMPLAINTS HANDLING:

Being member of ACT Alliance, ELDS is a signatory to the ACT Alliance Code of Conduct that outlines the key responsibilities of all ACT staff in relation to respect for the welfare and rights of the people the project intends to assist. Apart from being member of ACT Alliance, ELDS subscribes to the International Code of Conduct for the Red Cross and Red Crescent that provides minimum standards in humanitarian response. ELDS commits itself to the implementation of HAP/CHS. The following principles will be especially critical to the implementation of the concept: sharing information, participation and handling complaints.

A complaints handling mechanism will be established in the areas/district of operation. In order to ensure that it is appropriate, initial discussions about how communities would prefer to give feedback or make complaints will be conducted before the project commences. Participatory decisions (with project beneficiaries) will be made at that stage about the most appropriate system to use in the project implementation.

These are likely to include both formal and informal systems. Sensitive and non-sensitive complaints will be handled using different channels based on the agreed criteria and system with the beneficiaries. ELDS will make sure that all complaints are given feedback and that these are recorded. All responses will also be recorded at both field and national level.

3.4 HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS:

ELDS will be expected to receive appeal funds directly into their established accounts. ELDS is responsible of producing narrative and financial reports and send them to ACT secretariat in due time. ELDS will share with members of the ACT forum periodic reports of the execution of the appeal through the Coordination desk and the Coordinating Committee at its scheduled forum meetings. ELDS will employ staff namely emergency officers who will directly work on this appeal. These will be based in Dowa district.

3.5 PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:

The planned duration for the activities is for 6 months starting from 1st November 2015 to 30th April 2016. Food assistance will run for 2 months in the critical months of December 2015 to January 2016.

3.6 MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION:

ELDS holds responsibility for continuous monitoring of the appeal on the ground in the impact area. Additionally, an M&E budget line will be put in the appeal for the ACT Malawi forum coordination desk to help in monitoring the appeal implementation on the ground, at least three times in the course of the implementation. ELDS is expected to monitor progress of the appeal on the ground throughout the appeal implementation. Field Emergency Officers are expected to provide regular updates to the main office, who in turn will feed the forum with information on the progress of the appeal.

ELDS M&E Officer is expected to work collaboratively with the forum to provide feedback on the appeal progress. The forum also will take advantage of the humanitarian expertise in place within the forum to monitor and evaluate progress of the appeal for generating lessons for future interventions.

IV. Appendix 1.

Budget for ELDS

				Appeal Budget MKw	Appeal Budget USD
<u>INCOME</u>					
INCOME- FIRM PLEDGES (made both through ACT Secretariat and directly)					
08/10/2015	ELM				22,756.00
TOTAL INCOME					22,756.00
EXPENDITURE					
DIRECT COST (LIST EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR)					
	<u>Food security</u>				
	Maize Flour	20 kg bags	1,000	6,000	6,000,000
	Beans	5 kg bags	1,000	3,500	3,500,000
	Production of ration cards	card	1,000	90	90,000
	Sub Total				9,590,000
	<u>Early recovery & livelihood restoration</u>				
	Community mobilization and sensitization	meetings	1	150,000	150,000
	Procurement and distribution of cassava cuttings	2 bundles/hh	1,000	1,300	1,300,000
	Procurement and distribution of sweet potato vines	3 bundles/hh	1,500	1,300	1,950,000
	Procurement and distribution of local goats	heads	172	23,000	3,956,000
	Village Savings and Loans	groups	20	10,000	200,000
	Psychosocial/Cross-cutting issues	lumpsu m	1	300,000	300,000
	Disaster Risk Management	lumpsu m	1	200,000	200,000
	Sub Total				8,056,000
	<u>Other Sector Related Direct Costs (List expenditure by sector)</u>				
	Salaries & benefits for				

direct staff

Project Officer 30% Emergency Officers 100%	monthly	6	80,000	480,000	888.89
Driver 50%	monthly lumpsum	6	40,000	240,000	444.44
Beneficiary Selection Conducting Project Inception meetings at the DEC	Meeting s	1	150,000	150,000	277.78
Conducting sensitization meetings at the ADC	Meeting s	2	50,000	100,000	185.19
Sub Total				2,660,000	4,925.93
Communication/visibility cost	lumpsum	1	400,000	400,000	740.74
TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE				20,306,000	38,344

**TRANSPORT,
WAREHOUSING
& HANDLING****Transport (of relief
materials)**

Fuel/Hire/ Rental of Vehicles	monthly	3	350,000	1,050,000	1,944.44
Food distribution logistics	lump sum	3	100,000	300,000	555.56
<u>Handling</u>			40,000.		
Rental of warehouse	monthly	3	0	50,000	92.59
Salaries for Logistician and Procurement Officer					
Salaries / wages for labourers	monthly	3	70,000. 0	210,000	388.89
Wages for Security/ Guards	monthly	3	30,000. 00	90,000	166.67
TOTAL TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING				1,610,000	3,148

TOTAL DIRECT COST				21,916,000	41,493
--------------------------	--	--	--	-------------------	---------------

**INDIRECT
COSTS:
PERSONNEL,
ADMINISTRATION
& SUPPORT****Staff salaries**

Contribution Executive Director- 15 %	Months	6	60,000	360,000	666.67
Contribution Programme Coordinator- 25 %	Months	6	80,000	480,000	888.89
Contribution Finance Officer- 25%	Months	6	70,000	420,000	777.78
<u>Office Operations</u>					
Office stationery	Months	6	15,000	90,000	166.67

	<u>Communications</u>					
	<u>Other</u>					
	Vehicle maintenance and services	lump sum	1.00	350,000.00	350,000	648.15
	Contribution					
	TOTAL INDIRECT COST: PERSONNEL, ADMIN. & SUPPORT				1,700,000	3,148
AUDIT, MONITORING & EVALUATION						
	Monitoring & Evaluation	Estimate	6	100,000	600,000	1,111.11
	Forum Monitoring	Estimate	3	75,000	225,000	416.67
	TOTAL AUDIT, MONITORING & EVALUATION				825,000	1,528
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE exclusive International Coordination Fee				24,441,000	46,169
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION FEE (ICF) - 3%					733,230.00	1,385.06
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE inclusive International Coordination Fee				25,174,230	47,553.57
BALANCE REQUESTED (minus available income)					25,174,230	24,797.57
EXCHANGE RATE: local currency to 1 USD						
	Budget rate			540.00		