



## Malawi

Nairobi , 8 February 2018

**SITUATION**

Malawi is experiencing the most severe prolonged dry spells and fall army worm infestation which have threatened agricultural production of 3.8 million people (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development Report 2018). With little or no rain still not falling in some parts of the country and fall army worms still destroying crop fields the outlook is alarming which will result in hunger to over 3.8 million people up to next growing season (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development Report 2018). Even before the prolonged dry spells, Malawi Government had declared drought a national disaster in December 2017 because of fall army worms.

Twenty out 28 districts that include Phalombe, Mulanje, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mangochi, Chiradzulu, Balaka, Neno, Salima, Dowa, Lilongwe with approximately 270,000 hectares under crops were affected by fall army worms and 215,000 hectares affected by dry spells. In addition, low lying areas of southern and central areas of Malawi, cereal crops like maize (Malawi's staple food) have dried up permanently affecting 850,000 households. According to estimates of survey done in 2017/18, this situation is likely to compromise crop production and household food security this 2017/18 growing season if no greater efforts to mitigate and recover are taken.

**NEEDS**

ACT Alliance Malawi forum understands that the affected populations will not be able to meet all their food/dietary needs even with the use of other coping strategies. Saving lives and building long-term resilience will thus be critical in this situation.

An ACT Alliance response will therefore be needed to assist those who have been affected by prolonged dry spells and army worms including vulnerable groups like women and under-five children, to access the essential basic food needs and support for early recovery. The ACT Alliance response will also be needed to safeguard on-going development projects by ACT forum members to prevent the plunging of the affected populations deep into poverty. Sectors of response will include food security, nutrition and Livelihoods.

The dire situation is further compounded for the drought affected people with vulnerabilities. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	World Food Programme(WFP)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	ACT Alliance Malawi forum

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Department of Disaster and Management Affairs. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum are taking part in meetings with all relevant sector and clusters and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

<b>ACT Alliance</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance has been working in Malawi since 2002, now helping/planning to help people affected by the drought
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the drought, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in food insecurity and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide Food assistance, Agricultural inputs and Capacity building to ensure that the drought affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to food security, nutrition and Livelihoods.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing Food assistance, Agricultural inputs and Capacity building to 10,000 affected households in the coming months.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the drought are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

For further information please contact:

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