



MALAWI: El Niño Situation Report, 1st May 2024

On account of/Contributors: This document was prepared jointly by Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Self Help Africa, Trocaire, Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Services, Oxfam, Plan International Malawi, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), Save the Children, and Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO)

1. BACKGROUND AND SITUATION OVERVIEW

The 2024 El Niño season, starting in November 2023, is causing dry conditions and below average rainfall across much of southern Africa, including Malawi¹. This year's El Niño is accompanied by a strong Indian Ocean Dipole, a phenomenon known to enhance the effects of El Niño. From November 2023 until March 2024, Malawi experienced a delay in the onset of its customary rainy season, typically spanning from mid-October to April, bringing about prolonged dry spells.

According to El Niño trends established by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), El Niño will likely reduce farm production, disrupt food value chains and decrease the country's national income. Research and modelling by IFPRI, based on historical district crop data and El Niño events since

the 1980s, indicates that two out of every three events coincided with a reduction in yield by 22.5% on average. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) determined that 4.4 million people constituting 22% of the nation's population, faced high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between June 2023 and March 2024 requiring urgent interventions. Moreover, during the height of the lean season in February and March 2024, approximately 2,460,000 individuals in the Southern Region—equivalent to 29% of its populace—are anticipated to require humanitarian aid. El Niño disproportionately impacts the southern region of Malawi most, where maize yield losses during past El Niño years exceeded 30% on average. The compounded effects of El Niño and high poverty rates in areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy (e.g., Chikwawa, Phalombe, Blantyre, Machinga, Ntcheu, Nsanje, Mangochi, Mulanje, Lilongwe) coupled with Malawi's current economic

¹ ACAPS Anticipatory Report, Feb 2024

downturn and the recent significant devaluation (44%) of the Malawi Kwacha against US dollar, will significantly increase food insecurity levels in these districts beyond March 2024. According to IFPRI,² cyclone-affected households exhibited lower levels of food security (Ana in 2022 and Freddy in 2023) not only immediately following the cyclones but also in the period leading up to them, indicating that these households typically experience chronic vulnerability compared to unaffected ones.

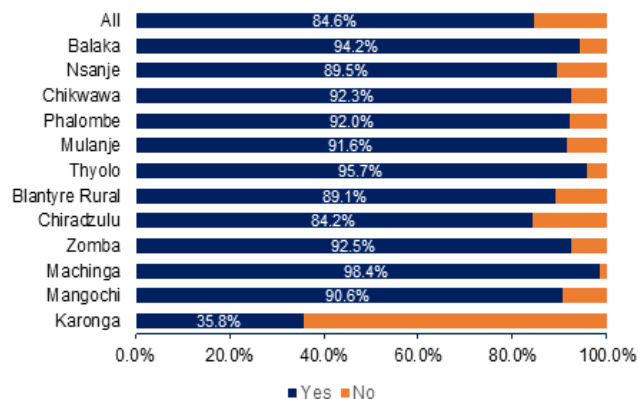
The compounded successive stresses of low production and high prices have since further eroded resilience of these households. According to the CRS Rapid Feedback Monitoring System³, the majority (84.6%) of surveyed households reported being negatively affected by the dry spell, with the southern region experiencing the most significant impact.

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This represents the highest number of households in the last three years based on the longitudinal data. In Karonga district, which is in the northern region, approximately 35% of respondents reported being exposed to drought conditions. This highlights the geographically uneven distribution of the impact resulting from the El Niño induced drought due to variations in rainfall patterns across the different regions.

Refer to the chart.

Figure 1: Has your household been impacted by the recent dry spell/drought? (n=5,827)



A study implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 10 districts including Nsanje, Chikwawa, and Phalombe shows that agriculture production (including crops and livestock), was reportedly highly affected due to the prolonged dry spells induced by El Nino (especially in the month of January and February)⁴. El Niño-induced drought and accompanying high temperature has also resulted in the scarcity of water in many districts in the south. For example, between October and December 2023 communities in Mangochi and other areas experienced dry boreholes, wells, and streams. This has affected important activities like irrigation and home gardens.

The number of pupils attending school has reduced, with some schools registering absenteeism rates as high as 50%. The Malawi Education Cluster, 2023/24 Lean Season Response Plan observes that households have reduced economic capacity to support education as adverse climatic conditions including El Niño have affected rural livelihoods. Families must choose between feeding or sending children to school and are likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms, compelling boys, and girls to accompany guardians in search of food and manual labour to supplement household income to buy food. In other schools, volunteer teachers have stopped reporting for duties,

² <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/items/d99dba83-7f77-4bda-a63c-976f66b1f075>

³ Campbel James, Ngosi Chisomo, Pangapanga-Phiri Innocent, and Gondwe Anderson. 2024. *From Harvest Decline to Food Crisis: The Looming Threat of the El Niño-Induced Drought on Food Security*

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⁴ Rapid El Nino Agriculture and Food Security, FAO

further deteriorating the quality of education in the districts.

The critical situation – which has led to the declaration of disaster by the President of Malawi on 23 March 2023 – calls for immediate and medium-term humanitarian and anticipatory action to assist vulnerable communities facing a high risk of food insecurity in districts that are already grappling with successive shocks on top of the effects of the lean season.

2. HOW EL NIÑO HAS AFFECTED MALAWI – SECTORAL ANALYSIS

a. Food Security and Livelihoods

A Rural Investment and Policy Analysis (RIAPA) scenario model output shows a reduction in maize production by 8.3% using the scenario of the average impact over 11 El Niño years, and a 20% in the scenario based on 6 and 7 El Niño years, on account of the forecasted El Niño conditions.⁵ IFPRI's February 2024



An average 22.5% decline in total maize production is expected and would reduce Malawi's GDP by 4.4% in 2024.

Policy Note⁶ presents indications of a very stressed food security situation in 2023, even ahead of the lean season, in the six southern districts of Balaka, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Mangochi, Phalombe, and Zomba.

Their evidence also shows a trend of increased reliance on the market for consumption of maize over the three previous years and an unprecedented and sustained increase in maize prices over the past two seasons. Such high prices, combined with a trend of increased reliance on the market for maize consumption, make for an increasingly precarious food security situation. Household Economy Analyses (HEA) conducted by Save the Children in parts of Zomba and Neno Districts predict that 65% of the population in the analysed parts of the districts are expected to face large food and income gaps throughout most of the year due to El Niño and rising food prices. Most poor and very poor households will not be able to meet their nutritional needs. The typical lean season will begin earlier and will be more severe than normal⁷. 10 districts in the southern and central

regions are in phase 3 above in the household hunger scale. Nsanje is the worst hit district with over 64% of households in the phase 3+ category⁸.

Among urban residents, household poverty rates are expected to increase by 5.1% to 13.1%, while among rural households, household poverty increase is between 0.6% to 1%. This result indicates that urban households are likely to experience the brunt of increased poverty induced by the forecasted El Niño conditions⁹. Should the current El Niño climatic event persist and bring about prolonged dry spells, particularly in the southern regions of Malawi as observed in previous occurrences, maize production is anticipated to decline further (Stige et al.

⁵ Effects of El Nino condition on Malawi's economy Malawi 2026 Policy Brief November 2023

⁶ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/items/d99dba83-7f77-4bda-a63c-976f66b1f075>

⁷ Save the Children Malawi (February 2024), Results of Household Economy Analysis.

⁸ Rapid El Nino Agriculture and Food Security, Department of Economic Planning and Development

⁹ Effects of El Nino condition on Malawi's economy Malawi 2026 Policy Brief November 2023

2006, Anderson et al. 2023). Like in previous years, the distribution of subsidised agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers was delayed in the 2023/24 growing season (Times 2023), which will limit its effect on maize production.

According to IFPRI, an average 22.5% decline in total maize production is expected and would reduce Malawi's GDP by 4.4% in 2024. The consequences of such a production shock would be far reaching considering the centrality of maize to Malawian diets

districts¹⁰. A study conducted by the department of Economic Planning and Development indicates that 76% of surveyed households expect their crop performance to be significantly lower this year than last year¹¹. Crop failures resulting from El Niño-induced droughts often trigger a surge in food prices. Food commodities market prices, especially for grain commodities such as maize, are generally higher compared to same time last year, and are expected to increase even more as the lean season approaches, as reported by FAO. According to FEWSNET's monitoring



El Niño-induced dry weather created conditions for the proliferation of pests and increased the prevalence of diseases.

and economy with maize production expected to recover not until 2025 unless adverse weather conditions, such as El Niño or cyclones, persist. The dry weather created conditions for the proliferation of pests such as African Army Worms, stalk borers and aphids and increased the prevalence of diseases like blight and mosaic virus in leafy plants. According to FAO, pest infestation remained a major threat in relation to the previous year, resulting in a drastically reduced expected production across 10 assessed

of 12 markets nationwide, all have experienced a rise in maize prices from December 2023 to January 2024. By January 31st, 2024, maize prices in Mangochi had reached an average of MK1,000/kg, while Nsanje stands at MK900/kg. These prices notably surpass the projected average range of MK486 to MK870 per kilogram outlined in the Malawi Food Security Outlook report from June 2023 to January 2024¹². The current economic challenges in the country and the devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha have also had a

¹⁰ Rapid El Nino Agriculture and Food Security Impact Assessment, FAO

¹¹ Rapid El Nino Agriculture and Food Security, Department of Economic Planning and Development

¹² ReliefWeb

significant impact on small enterprises in the country. A survey conducted by Self Help Africa in four districts across all three regions has recorded an average increase of costs of inputs and raw materials of 100% for small enterprises, with Chitipa recording an increase of 135.9%. This surge in costs has forced an average selling price hike of 101%, leading to a sharp decline in product and service demand by 35%, exacerbating the economic strain on rural residents who heavily rely on these enterprises for livelihoods. Moreover, the agribusiness sector faces an even steeper increase in input costs at 131%, translating to a price hike of 128.2%, further squeezing the already

limited purchasing power of rural households in Malawi.¹³ This has driven most households to resort to alternative coping mechanisms to manage the crisis, with FAO reporting that adoption of negative coping mechanism among affected population is significantly high. Around 51% of surveyed households in 10 districts reported that they relied on casual employment (commonly known as *ganyu*) as the main income source in the past 3 months¹⁴. Harvesting immature crops is the most common crisis coping strategy. Additionally, more than 20% of the population in 10 districts is in phase 3 above in the Reduced Copying Strategy Index (rCSI)¹⁵.

Table 1: MVAC forecasts for Oct 2023 - Mar 2024

District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Balaka	504,000	177,000	35	151,000	30	151,000	30	25,000	5	0	0	3	176,000	35
Blantyre	509,000	204,000	40	153,000	30	127,000	25	25,000	5	0	0	3	152,000	30
Blantyre city	872,000	349,000	40	305,000	35	218,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	218,000	25
Chikhwawa	628,000	252,000	40	157,000	25	188,000	30	31,000	5	0	0	3	219,000	35
Chiradzulu	390,000	156,000	40	137,000	35	97,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	97,000	25
Chitipa	256,000	192,000	75	38,000	15	26,000	10	0	0	0	0	2	26,000	10
Dedza	928,000	417,000	45	325,000	35	186,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	186,000	20
Dowa	879,000	352,000	40	395,000	45	132,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	132,000	15
Karonga	406,000	142,000	35	183,000	45	81,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	81,000	20
Kasungu	950,000	427,000	45	380,000	40	143,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	143,000	15
Likoma	16,000	11,000	70	3,000	20	2,000	10	0	0	0	0	2	2,000	13
Lilongwe	1,831,000	824,000	45	641,000	35	366,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	366,000	20
Lilongwe city	1,163,000	815,000	70	174,000	15	174,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	174,000	15
Machinga	874,000	393,000	45	262,000	30	219,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	219,000	25
Mangochi	1,347,000	539,000	40	472,000	35	269,000	20	67,000	5	0	0	3	336,000	25
Mchinji	673,000	337,000	50	235,000	35	101,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	101,000	15
Mulanje	766,000	345,000	45	192,000	25	191,000	25	38,000	5	0	0	3	229,000	30
Mwanza	152,000	68,000	45	46,000	30	38,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	38,000	25
Mzimba	1,018,000	611,000	60	254,000	25	153,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	153,000	15
Mzuzu city	273,000	136,000	50	82,000	30	55,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	55,000	20
Neno	153,000	76,000	50	46,000	30	31,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	31,000	20
Nkhata bay	310,000	186,000	60	78,000	25	46,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	46,000	15
Nkhatakota	437,000	241,000	55	109,000	25	87,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	87,000	20
Nsanje	327,000	98,000	30	98,000	30	115,000	35	16,000	5	0	0	3	130,000	40
Ntcheu	756,000	378,000	50	227,000	30	151,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	151,000	20
Ntchisi	366,000	183,000	50	128,000	35	55,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	55,000	15
Phalombe	490,000	147,000	30	171,000	35	147,000	30	25,000	5	0	0	3	172,000	35
Rumphi	254,000	204,000	80	25,000	10	25,000	10	0	0	0	0	2	25,000	10
Salima	551,000	248,000	45	138,000	25	165,000	30	0	0	0	0	3	165,000	30
Thyolo	782,000	235,000	30	313,000	40	195,000	25	39,000	5	0	0	3	235,000	30
Zomba	714,000	321,000	45	214,000	30	179,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	179,000	25
Zomba city	117,000	59,000	50	35,000	30	23,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	23,000	20
Grand Total	19,692,000	9,123,000	47	6,167,000	31	4,136,000	21	266,000	1	0	0		4,402,000	22

Note: a population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because receipt of assistance, therefore, they may need continued action. Marginal inconsistencies may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

¹³ Self Help Africa Devaluation Assessment in four districts in Malawi (February 2024)

¹⁴ Rapid El Nino Agriculture and Food Security, Department of Economic Planning and Development

¹⁵ rCSI is an experience-based indicator measuring the behaviour of households over the past seven days when they did not have enough food or money to buy food.

b. Crop Losses

Table 2: Crop losses¹⁶

District	ha affected	ha permanently wilted	# households affected
Chikwawa	85,781		114,100
Nsanje	18,098		69,389
Machinga	59,109	24,749	183,852
Phalombe	61,895	2,345	78,937
Blantyre			
Lilongwe	133,610		100,208
Mangochi	115,382	13,446	157,951
Mulanje	50,729	15,988	215,292
Thyolo	57,427	4,130	273,725

c. Nutrition

Owing to the critical bearing crop production has on household livelihoods, analysis has revealed that the 2023/24 El Niño conditions will erode household consumption capacities by 3.4% using the scenario of the average impact over 11 El Niño years, and 6.7% in the scenario based on 6 and 7 El Niño years. In both scenarios, urban residents will experience higher loss in their consumption capacities than rural areas - 5.3% - 12.2%, while rural residents will experience a 2% - 2.6% reduction in their consumption capacities¹⁷. There is a rising gap in the affordability of nutritious diets (from MK22,000 to MK105,000 per month between April 2021 to July 2023). Moreover, dietary diversification remains limited, and almost 60% of households in all districts surveyed by FAO are relying on less than 5 food groups. Furthermore, from 2021 to 2023, Malawi experienced a 3.5-fold increase in the cost of energy-only diet and a 2.4-fold increase in the cost of nutritious diet¹⁸. This situation will be further compounded by the impacts of El Niño leaving most

poor and very poor households unable to meet their nutritional needs. Furthermore, over 50% of the population in 10 districts are in Phase 3+ of the Dietary Diversity Score¹⁹ and Food Consumption Score²⁰, according to a Rapid El Niño Agriculture and Food Security Impact Assessment carried out by the Department of Economic Planning and Development.

According to the Nutrition Cluster, by March 2024 an overall 15% increase in admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was registered in 2024 as compared to the same period in 2023. Some districts registered over 30% increase in SAM admissions. The latest SMART survey²¹, conducted in March 2024, has unveiled preliminary findings. Notably, the districts in the southern region of Malawi exhibit the highest malnutrition rates. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in these districts ranges from 3.1% to 6.1%. Four out of the seven targeted districts report severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence exceeding 1%, raising significant concerns. Chikwawa emerges as the district with the

¹⁶ Level of data available varied.

¹⁷ Effects of El Niño condition on Malawi's economy Malawi 2026 Policy Brief November 2023

¹⁸ Save the Children Malawi (Feb. 2024), Cost of Diet Results based on a) National Food Prices: WFP MEB monitoring, monthly food prices for 29 foods collected from 77 markets in 26 districts and b) National Income: Integrated Household Survey/Malawi Poverty Report HIS (2020) income data adjusted for inflation.

¹⁹ The Dietary Diversity Score is the measure of household dietary diversity based on 12 food groups consumed in the past 24 hrs.

²⁰ The Food Consumption Score is a composite score based on households' dietary diversity, food consumption frequency, and relative nutritional value of different food groups over a 7-day period.

²¹ LUANAR (Mar 2024): Round 8 Nutrition SMART Survey, Preliminary Anthropometric Results.

highest rates of both GAM and SAM, at 6.1% and 1.3% respectively.

Table 3: Comparison of nutrition indicators 2020-2024

Indicator	2024	2020
GAM	3.3%	1.9%
SAM	0.6%	0.1%
cGAM	4.4%	2.2%
cSAM	0.9%	0.3%

The decline in nutrition indicators is occurring amidst persistently high rates of stunting, reaching an alarming 38.7% nationwide. Notably, districts affected by El Niño exhibit the most severe rates of stunting, surpassing 40%. Similar figures were last observed in November-December 2016, coinciding with the onset of the lean season following the intense El Niño episode of 2015-2016.

usually commencing in October, may begin as early as July this year.

Consequently, the population in these affected districts faces challenges in recovering from the series of recurring shocks experienced since 2020. It is anticipated that malnutrition rates will continue to escalate under these compounded pressures.

3. PROPOSED RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS

Package 1: Targeting vulnerable households particularly children under 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and adolescent girls (rural and urban).

- ✓ Multi-purpose cash transfers to vulnerable



There is a possibility of a La Niña event developing between June and August 2024, raising the threat of flooding in regions already impacted by El Niño. This concurrent occurrence heightens concerns about food insecurity, particularly as the regular lean season,

households in the most impacted districts, combined with maternal and young child nutrition counselling and services to ensure children under 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and adolescent girls are

prioritised to meet their nutritional needs. These would help close the predicted food and income gaps and help meet the household's, mother's and child's nutritional needs. Cash transfers needed from May through the next harvest period in April 2025. Cash transfer amounts based on the minimum food basket estimates from the Cash Working Group which is in process of being updated following the Malawi kwacha devaluation in November 2023.

Package 2: Targeting households with access to Winter Cropping to redress current food shortages (particularly Chikwawa and Nsanje districts with residual moisture, and households with access to irrigated land in other impacted districts).

- ✓ Conduct trainings on water resource management practices, and repair and maintenance of equipment.
- ✓ Training and support to local technicians (Pump Area Mechanics) to repair and maintain water systems.

Package 4: General communications package targeting all impacted districts for the subsequent rain-fed season (Oct 2024 - April 2025).

- ✓ Communication packages supporting and reinforcing messaging by MoA, DoDMA etc.
- ✓ Capacity building of districts and subdistrict structures on early warning and anticipatory actions where there are gaps. Extension systems



A farmer in Mangochi district stands in the middle of his maize field which was damaged by El Niño.

- ✓ Distribution of agricultural inputs (climate-resilient and early maturing varieties seeds) in areas with residual moisture (Chikwawa/Nsanje) or access to irrigation for winter cropping (other El Niño impacted districts)

Package 3: Address water resource access and management.

- ✓ Support the rehabilitation of boreholes, irrigation, water harvesting and storage systems.

should be capacitated with localized forecasts and mechanisms to relay information to farmers in a timely and consistent manner. Support district and community early warning pest systems.

- ✓ Promotion of drought tolerant and early maturing seed and plant varieties.
- ✓ Promotion of the production and use of organic fertiliser.
- ✓ Improved post-harvest processing and storage.

4. EXISTING PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Trocaire has been supporting work in Malawi since 1976. Informed by our global strategy, our current country programme works in three main areas: saving lives and protecting human dignity in disasters and emergencies; supporting women and girls' protection, voice, and leadership; and climate and environmental justice. Across our programme, we work with our partners to promote women's empowerment and



advocacy as core strategies in executing our work, with women and girls a primary target group

across all programme and outcome areas. Currently, we work in partnership with 15 local organisations in Balaka, Chikwawa, Dedza, Machinga, and Phalombe Districts. Our aim is to reduce need and suffering and ensure human dignity is protected through locally led responses to humanitarian crises, such as droughts, cyclones, and other natural disasters. Trocaire is currently providing cash transfers to support 880 households (3,960 people) in Phalombe District to withstand the food security and livelihood impacts of El Niño-induced drought.

Self-Help Africa has a combined 60 years working in Malawi following the merger between SHA and United



Purpose in 2021. We remain committed to our ambition to move 'Beyond Aid' in line with The Government of Malawi's efforts to

progress towards a self-reliant Malawi. Our mission is to alleviate hunger, poverty, social inequality and the impact of climate change through community-led, market-based and enterprise-focused approaches, so that people have access to nutritious food, clean water, decent employment and incomes, while sustaining natural resources. SHA works in 14 districts with a team of over 150 staff members and a broad network of partners that include local NGOs, CBOs,

academia, private sector and Government. SHA has extensive experience implementing some of the largest, most innovative, and successful resilience programmes in Malawi, in partnership with EU, WFP, UNICEF, FOA, and other development partners. We have had a long-term presence in Mulanje under EU social protection and resilience programming, EU BETTER programme and more recently WFP response and recovery following Cyclone Freddy. Funded by GIZ, SHA is supporting the 2023/24 Lean Season in Dedza district.

Concern Worldwide has been active in Malawi since 2002. Concern focuses on humanitarian preparedness and response, climate resilient livelihoods, social protection, gender equality, GBV, and health and nutrition. Our direct interventions are in 4 districts:

Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mchinji and Lilongwe with previous programmes in Neno, Mwanza, Mulanje and



Mangochi. Our predominantly field-based teams bring diverse experience and technical skills to emergency and development projects. We maintain a long-standing partnership with the Malawi government, especially the District Council in Nsanje, with whom we co-design and implement projects. Our general interventions encompass both disaster response and post-disaster recovery efforts, including the distribution of essential supplies, seeds, tools, WASH messaging, and multi-purpose cash transfers. We are implementing the Zurich Climate Resilience programme in Nsanje, Chikwawa and Lilongwe in 90 of the most hazard prone communities.

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) has been actively engaged in Malawi since 2012, operating across five districts: Mangochi, Dedza, Dowa,



Karonga, and Chitipa. Our interventions span various sectors, including agriculture and environment, digital

innovations for agriculture, integrated nutrition programs, civil society empowerment, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), technical and vocational education and training (TVET), social accountability advocacy, and emergency support delivery. Collaborating with 10 local partner organizations, we implement holistic approaches to address community needs. Our program in Mangochi encompasses agroecology, advocacy for the Right to Adequate Food, and the establishment of nutrition-smart communities, aiming for comprehensive improvements in nutrition and food security at the community level.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was founded in 1943 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and disadvantaged overseas. CRS is one of the world's largest private voluntary organisations, supporting international relief and development work in more than 100 countries and territories around the world, with offices in more than 60 countries. Upon

the invitation of the Catholic Church, CRS opened an office in Malawi in 1997. In Malawi, CRS focuses on supporting families and communities to recover and thrive through integrated and layered interventions in food security, agriculture,

livelihoods, health system strengthening, early childhood development, positive youth development services for orphans and vulnerable children, natural resource management, land restoration, disaster risk reduction and access to essential services, with youth, women, orphans, and vulnerable children at the core. Working across the 3 regions of Malawi in more than 18 districts with 17 local partners, we effectively implement our programs through strong collaborative relationships across civil society and the public and private sectors to ensure lasting and positive solutions while strengthening local systems.



Save the Children (SCI) is the world's leading independent organisation for children whose vision is “a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation” and mission being “to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives”. SCI has been operating in Malawi for 40 years and is currently present in 17 of the 28 districts in the country. To address issues of child poverty and vulnerability, the SC Malawi 2022-24 country strategy aims to increase the resilience of children, households and communities to climate vulnerability and other shocks through child sensitive and shock responsive social protection, food security, livelihoods, and climate change adaptation programming. Save the Children has over four decades of experience working in Malawi, including substantial experience in food assistance, vulnerability assessments, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and cash transfer programming in both humanitarian and development contexts. SC continues to grow its experience in child-and nutrition sensitive anticipatory action in response to recurrent droughts and floods in Malawi and is member of the National Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group. SC has a particular focus on localisation of humanitarian action, working in partnership with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy to empower national CSOs and District Councils to be able to use weather and climate information and plan and act in anticipation of disasters as well as improve their capacity as frontline responders.



OXFAM was registered in Malawi in 1996 and has operated under the Oxfam Southern Africa cluster since 2021. Oxfam works with its partners, allies, and citizens to fight inequality, poverty, and injustice and collectively realise a just and sustainable

future for all people in Malawi. Oxfam focuses on three pillars: humanitarian action, gender justice, and



just economies. The pillars are interlinked to ensure high-quality programming for maximum benefit to the target population. Oxfam Humanitarian Pillar works with communities before, during, and after crises to save lives, build resilience, and address the root causes of disasters and conflict. The humanitarian work focuses on emergency food security and economic inclusion, gender and protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Oxfam invests in local humanitarian leadership, anticipatory action systems, and forecast-based financing to empower local actors to work collectively with communities to better anticipate disasters, prepare for and improve their ability to cope, influence policy, and build back better. Oxfam programming puts gender mainstreaming and transformative approaches at the core of both humanitarian and long-term development work; as such, all interventions implemented are informed by a gender and power analysis. Currently, Oxfam is implementing humanitarian projects in four districts: Zomba, Phalombe, Nsanje, and Chikwawa, including supporting El Niño gender analysis and strengthening disaster risk management and protection structures.

Plan International Malawi: since 1994, Plan International Malawi (PIM) has been collaborating with children, young people and partners to pursue a vision of a fair and equitable world, addressing the underlying causes of the challenges faced by girls and vulnerable children. These include root causes of



discrimination, exclusion, and vulnerability. Our focus areas encompass: (1) promoting

inclusive, quality education and leading collective action to influence policy implementation, (2) enhancing economic well-being and resilience to climate change and shocks through the provision of decent work opportunities, with a special emphasis on economic opportunities and climate change justice, and (3) empowering children, adolescents, and youth across all settings to embrace their sexuality within supportive, protective, and gender-transformative communities. Leveraging our extensive reach,

experience, and profound understanding of the challenges faced by children and youth, we drive transformative changes in both practice and policy at local and national levels. Our endeavours extend to not only preparing communities for and responding to crises but also facilitating the safe and successful transition of children from birth to adulthood. Over the forthcoming five years, Plan Malawi will prioritise three key areas to empower children, adolescents, and young people, with a particular focus on girls, enabling them to make informed decisions about their lives within a supportive environment. Plan International is actively engaged in operations across 14 districts and 103 Traditional Authorities (Tas) in Malawi, further amplifying our commitment to creating lasting and meaningful change in the lives of children and young people.

Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) is a national Non-Governmental Organization established in 1997 and envisions a self-reliant, inclusive, empowered and resilient society that respects democratic values and principles. YONECO is committed to empowering youth, women and children; promoting good health, human rights and democratic culture; mitigating and adapting the impact of climate change; conducting research for evidence-based programming and advocacy. Currently

YONECO operates in Blantyre; Chikwawa; Chitipa; Ntcheu; Lilongwe; Mangochi; Chiradzulu; Rumphu; Nsanje; Machinga; Nkhata Bay;

Mwanza; and Zomba. YONECO has flagship pioneering initiatives on the Tithandizane National Helpline Services and the community of interest radio station, YONECO FM. The humanitarian profile for YONECO includes the promotion of accountability to affected populations through the management of complaints and feedback mechanisms; deployment of the Helpline Caravan for provision of psychosocial support and case management of reported cases of child abuse



and Gender Based Violence including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; support capacity building of district and community coordination structure on Protection Mainstreaming; distribution of food and non-food relief items.

Synod of Livingstonia Development Department (SOLDEV) has been active in Malawi since 1993. SOLDEV focuses on Food and nutrition Security; Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); Humanitarian Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); Economic empowerment including Climate change adaptation and ecosystems and biodiversity



conservation while mainstreaming issues of Gender, Child Protection and Development, and HIV/AIDS. The organization has interventions in Karonga through its Mpata Drought Mitigation, Lupembe Food Security, and Environmental

and Economic Sustainability (EES) projects. The organization's 28 years' experience is premised on longstanding partnership with donor partners including districts in designing, joint planning, monitoring and backstopping services for community structures and the projects under implementation. SOLDEV administrative, technical and financial experience include skills to carry out humanitarian and development projects. SOLDEV is implementing the Social Support Resilience (SOSURE), Lupembe Food Security, and EES projects with support from Christian Aid, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and Tearfund. These projects rate highly on interventions relating to soil and water technologies including promoting conservation agriculture practices; support with winter cropping and early maturing crops; small scale irrigation; livestock pass on programmes; conservation agriculture; promotion and production of local manure making; economic empowerment through livelihood diversification and self-help groups; pre and post-harvest handling; and improvement of community capacity in environmental management.

The organization recently distributed maize to 360 heavily affected people in areas of Uliwa, Mlare, Lupembe, Karonga boma, and Ngerenge.

Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) is a church membership organization that was registered on 6 May 1997 with NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA) and in 2003 with Council for Non-Governmental Organization (CONGOMA). CARD is a member of the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, a worldwide consortium that works under a shared family name to promote the visibility of development works, humanitarian assistance and advocacy initiatives.



CARD is a founding member of ACT Malawi forum which was founded in 2022 by a group of Concerned Christian Organizations to coordinate the approach for disaster and emergency response in Malawi. In addition to providing relief and emergency services, CARD implements development programmes in the areas of food security, economic empowerment, environmental management and climate change, good governance, health and water and sanitation. CARD operates in 12 districts: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Phalombe, Zomba, Machinga, Balaka, Neno, Mchinji, Dowa, Lilongwe, and Salima. CARD seeks to empower the most vulnerable communities in Southern Africa through capacity strengthening and enhancement of community led solutions for improved wellbeing and resilience. CARD envisions an inclusive, resilient and economically self-sufficient community, living in a well- managed environment.

NGO Humanitarian Committee

The NGO Humanitarian committee was set up at the start of the COVID 19 pandemic by 9 international NGOs, that same year the committee worked together to support the COVID response and the rollout of the COVAX campaign, funded by ECHO. What started as a sub structure of the INGO Forum evolved to incorporate the strengths, experience and presence of local organisations working in the humanitarian space. It is now a committee of 10 International NGOs and 7 local NGOs (chaired by Self Help Africa and YONECO) with an active humanitarian presence in order to strengthen outreach, information sharing, and coordination in humanitarian action, and better represent LNGOs and INGOs (broadly) in Malawi in humanitarian coordination forums.



Save the Children

