



Emergency Agriculture and Food Security Surveillance System (EmA-FSS) Bulletin

ISSUE 5: 22ND JUNE – 28TH JUNE [WK9] & 29TH – 05TH JUNE [WK10]

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ Nearly half of the sampled households in the Southern Region are relying on purchase as the main source of food, and this is a significant increment when compared with the first week of May 2020 when the same was estimated as 27 percent.
- ◆ The proportion of households classified in Phase 1 of food security based on the reduced Coping Strategy Index has been on a downward, decreasing from 70 percent in mid-May to the current estimate of 63 percent; while those in Phase 2 (alert phase) increased from 17 percent to 23 percent in the same period.
- ◆ Households have slowly been adopting some negative coping mechanisms especially households in the Southern Region. Nearly, 30 percent of households in Phalombe, Chikwawa, and Mulanje districts and Nkhotakota district in the central region are classified in Phase 3 of Reduced Coping Strategy - a clear indication of worsening food security at household level.
- ◆ Access to livestock veterinary services continue to be a challenge with only about 15 percent of interviewed households owning livestock reported having access to the services; and there is need for the Department of Livestock and partners to develop a strategy to improve access to livestock veterinary services.
- ◆ The average price of maize in the week ending, 05 July 2020 was estimated at MK166.07 per kilogram (kg). Comparing with the first week of June, a two percent increase was observed in the average price of maize from MK162.89/kg to MK166.07/kg. Districts in the Southern Region continue to record higher prices while districts in the Central Region continue to record lower prices.

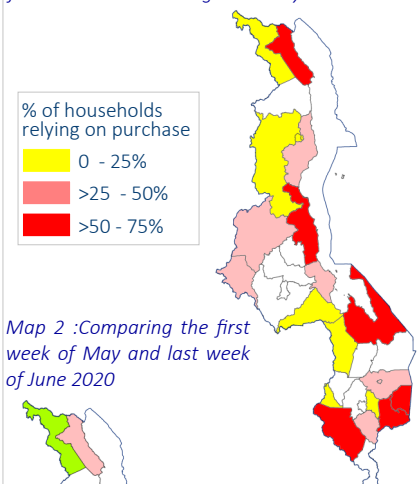
1. MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD

In the week ending 05 July 2020, the main source of food was own production reported by 57 percent of the sampled households. This was a 3 percent drop as compared to the week ending on 28 June 2020 when the proportion of households relying on own production was estimated at 60 percent. Over the previous 10 weeks, there has been a steady decline in the proportion of households relying on own production as the main source of food. This has declined from a high figure of 74 percent in the week ending on 14 May 2020 to the current estimated figure of 57 percent in the week ending 05 July 2020. In the same period, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of households relying on the market (purchasing) as the main source of food, increasing from a low figure of 22 percent in the week ending on 14 May 2020 to the current estimated figure of 41 percent in the week ending on 05 July 2020.

At district level, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Phalombe and Mangochi districts from southern region, Nkhotakota district (in the centre) and Karonga district in the North have over 50 percent of the sampled households relying on purchases as the main source of food in the week ending on 05 July 2020 (Map 1). While Karonga, Nkhotakota, Phalombe and Mulanje are not generally maize growing districts; it's worth to note that there has been some significant increase in proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food in the maize growing districts of Kasungu, Ntcheu, Mchinji and Mzimba as presented in Map 2 (Comparing the first week of May and last week of June 2020).

Overall, the Southern Region record the highest shift in proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food, increasing from 27 percent in the first week of May to nearly 50 percent in the last week of June. In the same period, the proportion of households relying on purchase as main source of food in the Northern Region has remained nearly the same increasing from 27 percent to 29 percent. In the Central Region, this has increased from 20 percent to 35 percent in the period under review.

Map 1 :Percent of the sampled households relying on purchases as the main source of food in the week ending on 05 July 2020



Map 2 :Comparing the first week of May and last week of June 2020

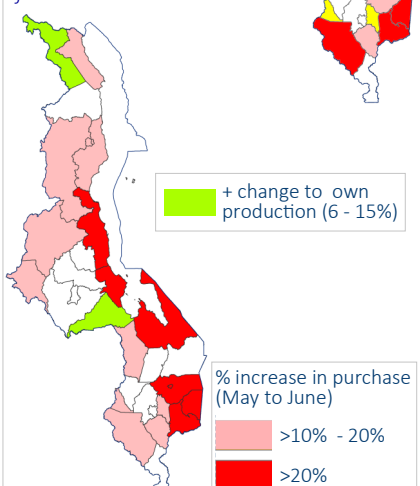
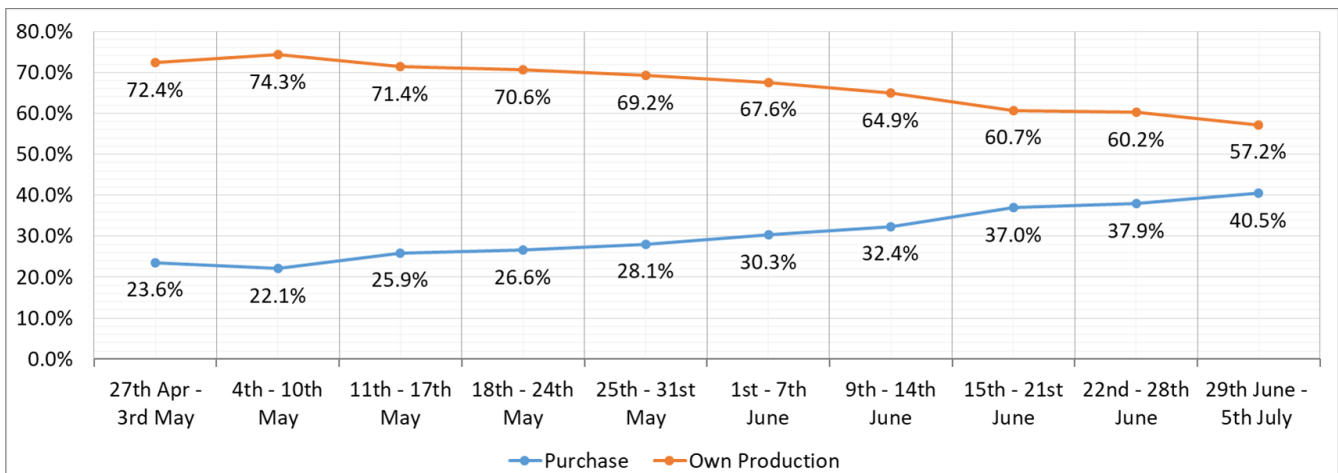


FIGURE 1: MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD WITHIN THE 7 DAYS RECALL PERIOD



2. COPING STRATEGY INDEX

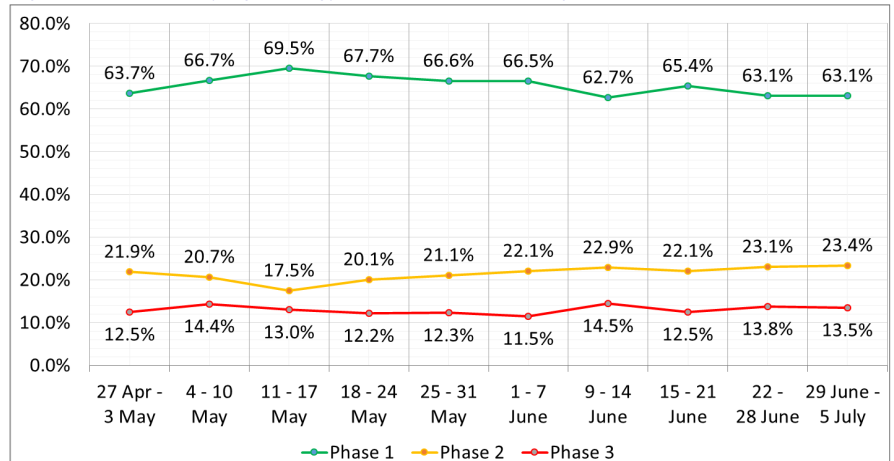
Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is being used to assess the use of the five food consumption-based coping strategies¹ during the seven days preceding the assessment. The rCSI score has been categorized based on the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) thresholds², with Phase 3 being of greater concern as it indicates the proportion of households adopting extremely negative coping mechanism.

In the week ending on 05 July 2020, the mean rCSI was estimated at 16.7 while the median rCSI was estimated at 15. Over the week, there has been no major variation in both estimates, with the mean rCSI ranging between 15 and 17 and median rCSI ranging between 14 and 15 indicative of a relative stable food security situation at household level.

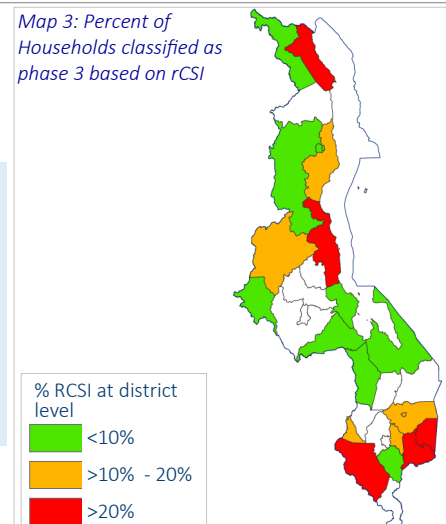
Categorization of the rCSI has been done according to/ following the IPC Classification. The results indicate that nearly 14 percent of the households are classified in Phase 3 and hence considered to be in food security crisis. Additionally, 23 percent of the households are classified in Phase 2 and thus considered to be in the alert phase.

Over the weeks, there has been a steady decline in the proportion of households classified in Phase 1 from a high figure of 70 percent in the week ending on 17 May 2020 to the current estimated figure of 63 percent. In the same period, the proportion of households in the alert phase has increased from 18 percent to 23 percent. This is an indication that some households which were initially considered food secure are slowly rolling into the alert phase.

Figure 2: Reduced Coping Strategy based on the IPC Classification



Map 3: Percent of Households classified as phase 3 based on rCSI



Significant variations in the rCSI across the districts have been noted (map 3), Nkhosha district has the highest proportion of households classified in Phase 3 estimated at 33 percent followed by

- ◆ Phalombe - 31%
- ◆ Chikwawa - 27%
- ◆ Mulanje - 26% (26 percent)
- ◆ Karonga - 23 % district (23 percent)
- ◆ Zomba - 15% (15 percent)

¹ Food consumption-based coping strategies: i) Reliance on less preferred food; ii) Borrowed food;

iii) Reduced # of meals/day; iv) Reduced portions; v) Reduced quantity for household members.

² Phase 1: 0 – 3; Phase 2: 4 – 18 and Phase 3: >=19

3. LIVESTOCK DISEASES

From the households that own any type of livestock, 18 percent reported cases of livestock diseases in the week ending on 05 July 2020, which is a 4 percent drop from 23 percent reported in the week ending on 28 June 2020. Phalombe, Chitipa and Nkhata Bay districts recorded the highest proportion of households, with reported cases of livestock diseases estimated at 40 percent, 32 percent and 28 percent respectively.

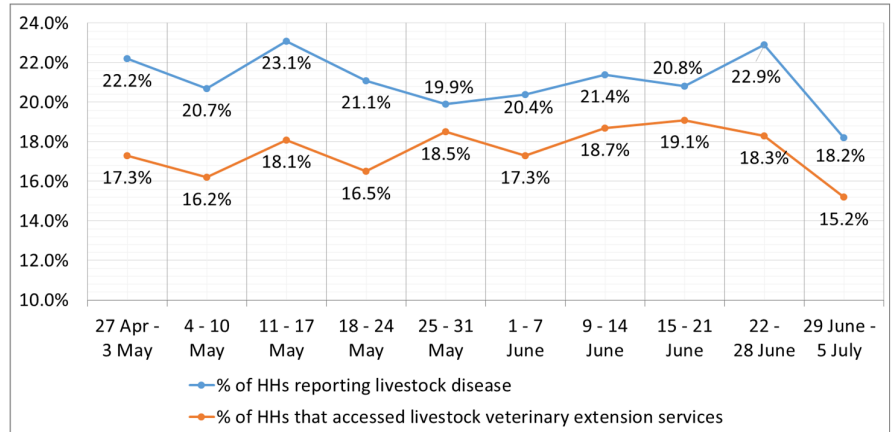
Access to livestock veterinary extension services continue to remain particularly low with only 15 percent of the sampled households having reported access to the services in the week ending on 05 July 2020; with no significant variation from the first week of May 2020. Comparing with the week ending on 28 June 2020, access to livestock veterinary services has dropped by 3 points from 18 percent to 15 percent. . Mulanje, Chikwawa and Nkhotakota districts reported the highest proportion of households accessing livestock veterinary services estimated at 32 percent, 26 percent and 25 percent respectively.

4. MARKET ANALYSIS

In the week ending on 05 July 2020, 99 percent of the markets were functional and operational, and this has slightly increased from 98 percent in the week ending on 28 June 2020. Nevertheless, nearly all sampled markets have remained functional and operational over the period with no differences recorded across the weeks. In the same period, trend analysis observes increased availability of various farm produce including maize, groundnuts and vegetables over the weeks; however, there is a slight decline in the availability of fruits in the markets in the past 4 weeks (Figure 4).

The week ending on 05 July 2020 saw the average price of maize per kg trading at MK166.07. Comparing with the week before, there was a negligible increment. However, there was a 3 percent drop in the price of maize in the week ending on 28 June compared to the week before. At the district level, there is a significant variation in the average price of maize per kg with Nkhotakota recording the highest price at MK214.72 /kg. Other districts recording more than MK180/kg include Karonga (MK189.22/kg), Chikwawa (MK189.00 /kg), Mangochi (MK181.45 /kg), and Phalombe (MK180.71 /kg).

Figure 3: Livestock diseases and access to livestock veterinary extension



On the other hand, access to veterinary services was lowest in Salima, Mwanza, Chiradzulu and Kasungu districts all recording less than 5 percent.

Over the period, the disease frequently reported Newcastle disease which has significantly increased from 29.5 percent in the week of 25 – 31 May to 37 percent in the week ending on 05 July 2020.

In the same period, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of households reporting Mange Disease, increasing from 5 percent in the week ending on 31 May 2020 to the current estimate of 15 percent in the week ending on 05 July 2020.

Figure 4: Availability of various items in the market (Some Availability)

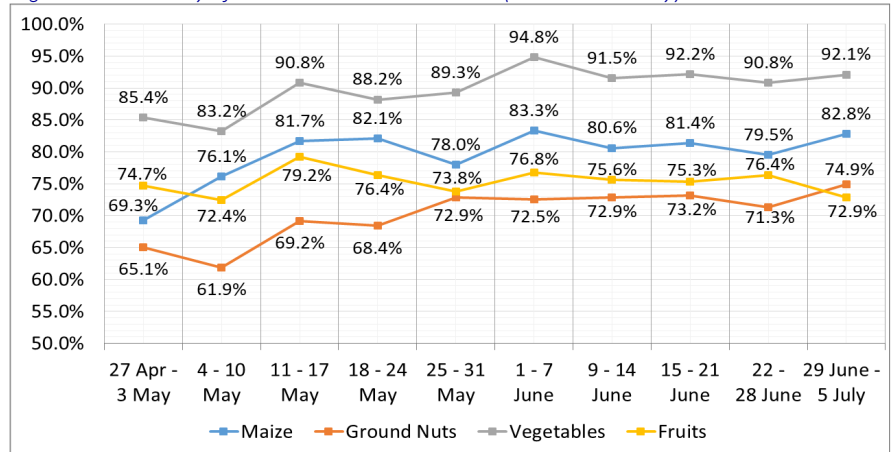
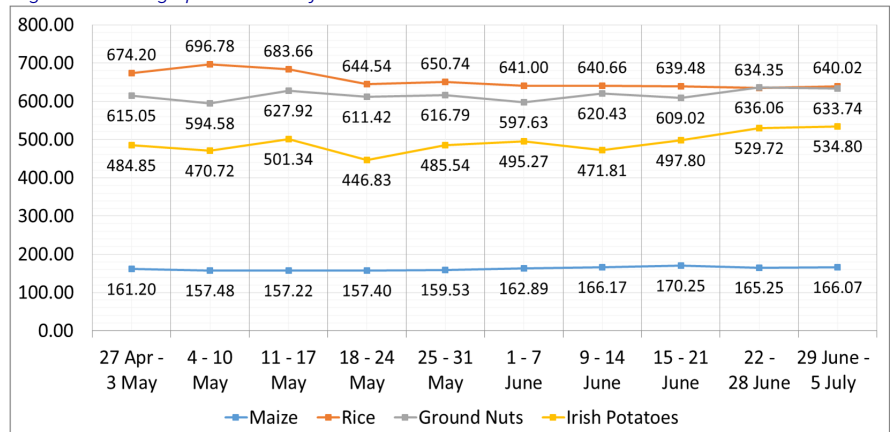


Figure 5: Average price in MK of various commodities at the market



RESULTS

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On the other end, Kasungu, Mchinji, Ntcheu and Salima districts recorded the lowest average price of maize per kg (Table 1). Overall, districts in the Southern Region recorded higher prices of maize while districts in Central Region recorded lowest prices.

Further on market analysis, the average price of Irish Potatoes has been on an upward trend since the week ending on 24 May 2020 with the current average price per kg estimated at MK534.80. Comparing the current price with the price as at end May 2020, there has been a 20 percent increment. On the other hand, there has been a steady decline in the average price of Rice, while the price of ground nuts has been relatively stable over the weeks (Figure 5).

TABLE 1: AVERAGE PRICE OF MAIZE AT THE MARKET PER KILOGRAM BY DISTRICT

District	1st - 7th June 2020	29th June - 5th July 2020	% Change	Change Sign
Chikwawa	189.22	189.00	-0.1%	↓
Chiradzulu	170.00	170.00	0.0%	↔
Chitipa	171.92	154.64	-10.1%	↓
Dedza	147.14	153.33	4.2%	↑
Karonga	185.20	189.22	2.2%	↑
Kasungu	122.73	123.33	0.5%	↑
Mangochi	171.50	181.45	5.8%	↑
Mchinji	126.70	133.89	5.7%	↑
Mulanje	182.50	185.00	1.4%	↑
Mwanza	157.14	160.00	1.8%	↑
Mzimba	143.22	156.50	9.3%	↑
Nkhata Bay	194.50	175.00	-10.0%	↓
Nkhotakota	197.14	214.72	8.9%	↑
Ntcheu	137.14	142.00	3.5%	↑
Phalombe	178.57	180.71	1.2%	↑
Salima	144.17	140.00	-2.9%	↓
Thyolo	200.00	193.33	-3.3%	↓
Zomba	163.00	167.86	3.0%	↑
Average	162.89	166.07	2.0%	↑

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Emergency Agriculture and Food Security Surveillance System (EmA-FSS) Protocol

INTRODUCTION

With the exponential increase in COVID-19 cases globally in the first quarter of 2020, nearly all countries have implemented various containment measures to curb its spread. The Government of Malawi declared a State of Disaster on 20 March 2020 and various preventive measures were put in place including: closure of all learning institutions, restricting public gatherings, suspension of international travel, restrictions on various market activities including limiting the timing. Given the restrictions and measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, it has been projected that the situation might have a significant impact on agriculture and food supply chains.

To monitor the situation during this period, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) through the Department of Agriculture Planning Services (DAPS) with technical and financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union set up an Emergency Agriculture and Food Security National Surveillance System (EmA-FSS) in the last week of April 2020. The EmA-FSS complements other existing national systems by MoAFS and focuses on real time information generation of rapid indicators on weekly basis to help track the evolving dynamics in the country.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of EmA-FSS is to provide weekly data on key agriculture and food security information for monitoring, planning and evidence based decision-making. The following are the specific objectives:

- ⇒ to monitor trends of market functionality and availability of various food items in the markets;
- ⇒ to monitor post-harvest loss both at the household and produce market levels ;
- ⇒ to monitor the main source of food and income/livelihood at the household level;
- ⇒ to monitor suspected livestock diseases at the household level, and;
- ⇒ to monitor access to veterinary extension services.

To monitor the above, few indicators at the market and household levels are being tracked on weekly basis and they include:

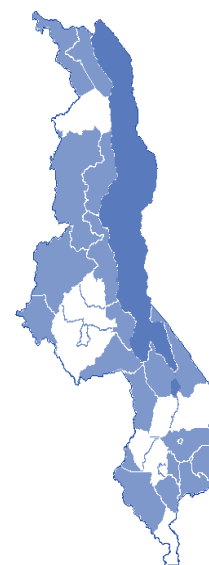
- * Percentage of households reporting any form of post-harvest losses
- * Percentage of households whose main source of food is from own production
- * Percentage of households whose main source of food is purchase
- * Percentage of households reporting suspected livestock diseases
- * Percentage of households reporting access to livestock veterinary services
- * Reduced coping strategy index
- * Percentage of markets functional

METHODOLOGY

Data is being collected from 18 districts which have been selected taking into consideration various factors such as livelihood zones. The selected districts include Chitipa, Karonga, Dedza, Kasungu, Thyolo, Chiradzulu, Mchinji, Ntcheu, Chikwawa, Mzimba, Salima, Nkhata Bay, Mangochi, Zomba, Nkhotakota, Mulanje, Phalombe and Mwanza.

In each of the 18 districts, nine sections have been sampled where three villages and at most three markets are being monitored in each section. Thus, in each district 27 villages and markets are being monitored. At the village level, ten households are being selected randomly on a weekly basis. The villages and markets were sampled in late April and will be tracked for the next four months.

Data collection is being implemented by Agricultural Extension Development Officers (AEDOs), electronically and uploaded almost in real time, using Kobo Collect Application. All COVID-19 preventive measures are being observed during the data collection including social distancing when administering interviews, use of face masks and hand-sanitizers by the AEDOs, among others.



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