Malawi Methodology Note

Household survey:
WFP Malawi started conducting monthly remote household food security monitoring in December 2015 using text messaging (SMS) with 2,000 respondents. Participants are randomly selected from a national database of mobile subscribers. Respondents opt in to the SMS survey and are asked questions on socio-demographics, coping behavior, a proxy for wealth, and manual labour wages as well as an open-ended question on food security. To increase completion rates, an airtime credit incentive of US$0.50 (360MWK) is provided to respondents who successfully complete the survey. In February 2017, WFP Malawi also started conducting CATI surveys to collect additional information on food consumption, main food sources and receipt of food assistance. SMS and CATI surveys were conducted simultaneously from February to April 2017, after which SMS surveys were discontinued. Starting in May 2017, all data was collected solely through CATI surveys. The bulletins for February-April 2017 report findings on coping strategies from SMS surveys whereas the food consumption findings were from the CATI surveys. With the subsiding of the El Nino emergency, the frequency of the mVAM bulletins has been reduced to quarterly – the May 2017 bulletin was the last of the monthly bulletins.

Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI):
The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) measures the frequency and severity of the behaviours households engage in when faced with shortages of food or financial resources to buy food. It assesses whether there has been a change in the consumption patterns of a given household. The rCSI is calculated using standard food consumption-based strategies and severity weighting. A higher score indicates that households are employing more frequent and/or extreme negative coping strategies. For the purpose of this bulletin, mVAM calculates the mean rCSI of households. For more details on the types of coping strategies considered and their respective severity weighting, please see the Coping Strategies Index Field Methods Manual.

Food Consumption Score (FCS):
The food consumption score (FCS) is a proxy indicator for food security that measures the diversity of household diets and how frequently food is consumed. The FCS is calculated using the frequency of consumption of eight food groups by a household during the 7 days before the survey, using standardized weights for each of the food groups reflecting its respective nutrient density. Households are then classified as having ‘poor,’ ‘borderline,’ or ‘acceptable’ food consumption based on standard thresholds of FCS. For more details on the food group composition, weighted values, and FCS thresholds, please see the Food Consumption Analysis Technical Guidance Sheet.

Purchasing Power:
Purchasing power is measured in kilograms of maize that can be purchased with wages from a day of labour.

Nutrition Survey:
In January 2016, WFP Malawi started conducting nutrition monitoring in 70 sentinel sites in areas affected by the El Nino-induced food insecurity using an in-house call centre. The aim is to collect information on new admission rates for malnourished children and adults.

Trader Surveys:
Data on the prices of maize, cowpeas, pigeon peas, and beans has been collected on a weekly basis since late-December 2015 through WFP’s in-house call centre. The call centre interviews key informants (traders) in 74 major and rural markets across the country. The other information included stock levels and physical access to source markets.

Contacts:
Malawi Country Office: WFP.Lilongwe@wfp.org
mVAM Questionnaire

Household Questionnaire — CATI

1. Geographic and demographic information
1) Is the head of your household a man or a woman?
2) In what year were you born?
3) Which district of Malawi are you currently living in? (Not their hometown)
4) Do you live in a boma or a city or a village?

2. Food security indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Consumption Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5) Consider only meals consumed at home or public kitchen but not in private restaurants or street food. DO NOT count food consumed in very small amount: i.e. less than a tablespoon per person or consumed by only one member of household.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat the following food groups?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Frequency between 0 and 7]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read out the foods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Cereals, grains, roots and tubers including rice, pasta, bread, sorghum, maize, potato, white sweet potato, cassava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Pulses, nuts and/or seeds including sugar beans, dried peas, groundnuts, lentils, nut, soy and / or other nuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Vegetables including onion, tomatoes, carrots, beans, pumpkin, orange sweet potatoes, pumpkin leaves, cassava leaves, bean leaves, okra, mushrooms and / or other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Fruits including banana, apple, lemon, mango, papaya, apricot, peach guavas, avocado, oranges, and / or other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Meat, eggs, and fish including goat, beef, chicken, pork, bush mice, bush meat, kidney, heart, other organ meats, eggs, fish including canned tuna (meat and fish consumed in large quantities and not as a condiment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Milk and other dairy products: fresh milk / sour, yogurt, , other dairy products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Exclude margarine / butter or small amounts of milk for tea / coffee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Oil and fats including (vegetable oil, margarine, other fats / oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Sugar and sweets including (Sugar, honey, jam, cakes, candy, cookies, sugary drinks, other)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Consumption-based coping strategies
6) How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat foods you enjoy less, because it is cheaper?
7) How many days in the past 7 days did your household get food or money to buy food from family or friends?
8) How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat fewer meals in a day?
9) How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat smaller meals?
10) How many days in the past 7 days did adults in your household eat less so children can also eat?
4. Other

11) In the past 30 days, what was the main source of cereals (give examples like nsima, cassava, sorghum or rice)?
   a. Own production
   b. Purchases
   c. Gifts
   d. Food assistance
   e. Other

12) Did your household receive food assistance in the past 30 days?

13) What is the typical day’s wages for unskilled casual manual labour (Ganyu)?

14) What kind of wall does your house have?
   a. Cement
   b. Mud
   c. Baked bricks
   d. Unbaked bricks

15) How many active/functional mobile phones (working SIMs) does your household use?

16) What is the main problem your household or community faces with accessing food?

Household Questionnaire — SMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q #</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Reply 1 to take a short survey to earn topup credit and share your voice! Responses are confidential. No cost to reply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>In what year were you born? [Reply with a four-digit number like 1980]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>In which district you are currently residing? [Reply with the name of the district or the nearest city to you]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Is the head of your household a man or a woman? Reply 1 if Man; reply 2 if Woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>What kind of wall materials does your dwelling unit have? Reply 1-Baked brick; 2-Cement; 3-Mud; 4-unbaked brick;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>In the past 7 days, how many days did your household rely on less preferred or less expensive food due to lack of food/money? [Reply number of days 0-7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>In the past 7 days, how many days did your household borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative due to lack of food/money? Reply number of days 0-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>In the past 7 days, how many days did your household reduce the number of meals eaten in a day due to lack of food/money? [Reply number of days 0-7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>In the past 7 days, how many days did your household limit portion sizes at mealtime due to lack of food/money? [Reply number of days 0-7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>In the past 7 days, how many days did your household restrict consumption by adults so children could eat due to lack of food/money? [Reply number of days 0-7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Currently, how much are people paid per day for manual labor in your community? [Reply with the amount paid per day for manual labor in Malawian Kwacha]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tell us about the food situation in your community. Type a short message (160 characters or less). If you do not want to respond, reply 2 to end the survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Survey complete, thank you. You will receive #TOPUP# airtime credit within 2 days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trader Questionnaire — Live Calls

1. Information to be filled out by operators before calling
   - Name of the operator
   - Respondent ID (phone number)
   - Date and time of the call

2. Market questions
   1) Record the gender of the key informant
   2) In what year were you born? (Report with a four-digit number like 1980)
   3) Which district are you are currently living in?
   4) Which Traditional Authority do you live in
   5) At which market do you sell your commodities? (Report the name of the market)
   6) Is the market a daily, weekly or monthly operated market? 1)Daily 2)Weekly 3)Monthly
   7) Currently, how much does 1 bucket of white maize grains cost in your community?
   8) Currently, how much does 1 kg of pigeon peas cost in your community?
   9) Currently, how much does 1 kg of country cowpeas cost in your community?
  10) Currently, how much does 1 kg of country general beans cost in your community?
   11) How many maize traders are there in your market?
   12) Are there challenges in accessing the market
   13) Are there any staple food shortages in the shops and markets where you are located now
   14) Have there been recent cash or food distributions received by households in your location

Nutrition Survey — Live calls

1) How many new admissions of under five children did you have in Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) during the last two weeks?
2) How many new admissions of under five children did you have in Supplementary feeding programme (SFP) during the last two weeks?
3) How many new admissions did you have for moderately malnourished adolescents and adults under ART during the last two weeks?
4) How many new admissions did you have for severely malnourished adolescents and adults under ART during the last two weeks?
5) How many new admissions did you have for moderately malnourished adolescents and adults under TB treatment during the last two weeks?
6) How many new admissions did you have for severely malnourished adolescents and adults under TB treatment during the last two weeks?
7) How many new admissions did you have for moderately malnourished adolescents and adults with chronic illnesses during the last two weeks?
8) How many new admissions did you have for moderately malnourished adolescents and adults with chronic illnesses during the last two weeks?