

# GENERAL OVERVIEW OF DISASTERS IN MALAWI

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# Presentation Overview

- Background
- Major disasters and trends
- Floods
- Drought
- Gaps/ Needs

# Background

- ✓ Malawi is a land locked country in the Sub-Sahara region, Africa
- ✓ It has a population size of at least 14 million people, of which, 80% live below poverty line and heavily depend on rain fed agriculture
- ✓ Like many other countries in Africa, Malawi is being increasingly affected by climate change-related events



## Background cont'd

- ✓ On average Malawi loses US\$9 million or 0.7 percent of GDP each year due to floods in the Shire Basin.
- ✓ Droughts & dry spells in Malawi cause on average about 1 percent (US\$13 million) annual GDP loss.
- ✓ Since the 1990s, the incidence of disasters has become more frequent and the magnitude far reaching on Malawi's population, economy and environment.

# Common Disasters and Trends

- ✓ Floods;
  - ✓ Drought;
  - ✓ Accidents;
  - ✓ Earthquakes;
  - ✓ Stormy rains;
  - ✓ Disease epidemics
- ✓ 2004/05 drought – 5.1 million people affected
  - ✓ 2009/2010 earthquake – 24,000 households affected, 5 deaths, 10,792 houses damaged
  - ✓ 2010/2011 floods – at least 5600 households
  - ✓ 2011/2012 floods – households affected
  - ✓ 2011/2012 drought – at least 1.6 million people

# Why such a trend.

⇒ **Population pressure**

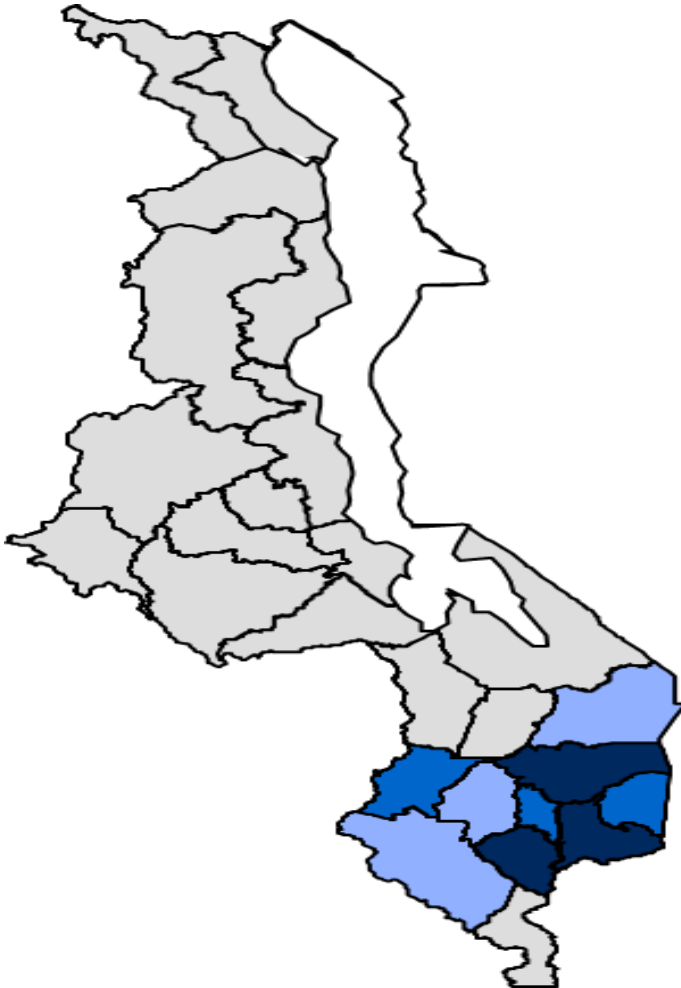
⇒ **Environmental degradation**

⇒ **Climate Change**

- ✓ Of all the major disasters, floods and drought are most frequent and devastating

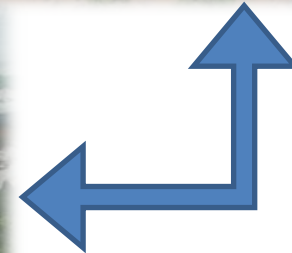
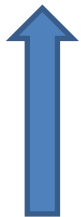
# Floods

- ✓ Mostly occur in low lying areas along the lake shore and Shire valley



- ✓ In 2010/2011, 900 households in one district were affected through temporary displacement, destruction of houses, crops and household property
- ✓ No deaths and injuries
- ✓ In 2011/2012 at least 4808 households in 6 districts were affected through temporary displacement, destruction of crops, houses and household property
- ✓ Nsanje district in the south was worst affected

# Floods cont'd





# PDNA Assessment

- ✓ A mini-Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was undertaken with support from the World Bank;
- ✓ The objectives of the assessment were to:
  - Estimate the overall impact of the 2012 floods on the socio-economic development of the affected area;
  - To formulate a recovery and reconstruction framework; and
  - To provide an opportunity for government officers who were trained in PDNA to put into practice the theory learnt during the training.

# PDNA findings – impact of disaster

## Damage

**385.3 Million Kwacha**

**1.4 million US\$**

This included:

- Damage to housing;
- Damage to water systems, agriculture infrastructure, inputs and equipment

## Loss

**424.8 Million Kwacha**

**1.5 million US\$**

They included:

- Production losses in agriculture; and
- Higher costs of production of goods and services

# Drought Assessment

- ✓ Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC), a government section is mandated to carry out vulnerability assessment as regards to food security
- ✓ It is a multi-stakeholder committee that comprise government institutions and civil society organisations including UN agencies.
- ✓ After MVAC report is out, National Humanitarian Response Committee provides guidance as to the type of assistance to be provided

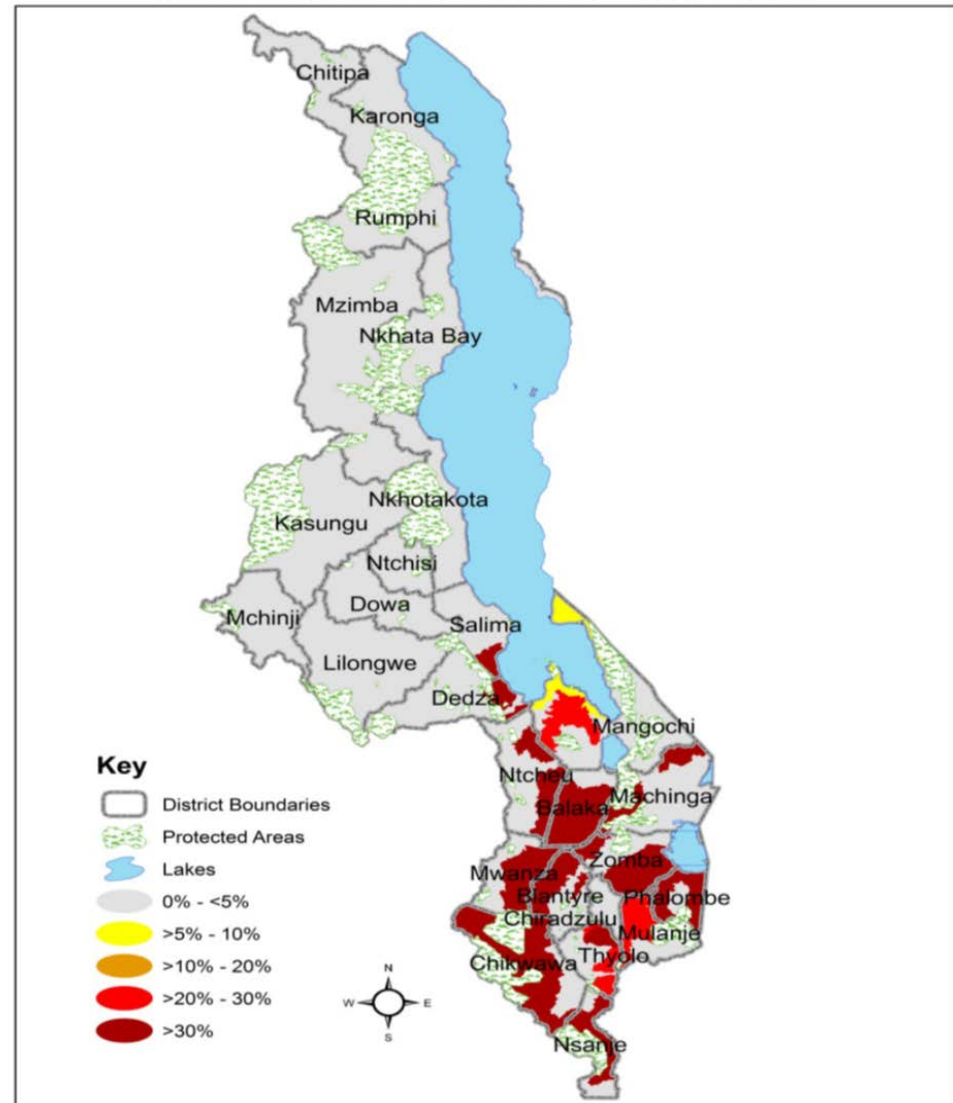
# 2010/2011 drought

- ✓ 201,000 people were affected by food shortages in 10 districts of the country;
- ✓ 4,972 mt of maize was required to distribute to the affected people - Govt. provided the maize;
- ✓ Food assistance was provided from December 2011 to March 2012

# Current food situation

Affected Areas in Malawi

- ✓ MVAC reported that 1.6 million people have missing food entitlements in 15 districts
- ✓ Response budgets developed at cluster levels:
- ✓ Agric. & Food Security Cluster - US \$89,362,071.61



# MVAC Response Plan

- ✓ The US \$**89,362,071.61** response plan is targeting 1.63 million people with missing food entitlements between August 2012 and March 2013 in 15 districts with food and cash interventions;
- ✓ Assistance in the form of both food and cash transfers
- ✓ **Food basket:**
  - ✓ **Maize:** 50kg per household per month
  - ✓ **Pulses:** 10kg per household per month
  - ✓ **Corn Soya Blend:** 5kg per household per month

# Humanitarian Response

## Resourcing Update

- ✓ 36.9 % or US\$18 million of MVAC response requirement (US\$48.8 million) has been received.
- ✓ Contributions to date have come from the Government (25,000mt) estimated at US\$5.5 million, USAID/FFP (US\$7.8 million) and UKAID-DFID (US\$4.7 million

## Needs/Gaps

- ✓ Capacity building
  - need to train officers on drought risk and disaster risk assessment
- ✓ satellite imagery
  - need to use satellite data to support decision making processes before, during and after disasters