# Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

# រំតែំាំាំ 1.65M people

were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in January-March 2022

1.65M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to decrease substantially relative to 2021 but concerns remain in southern districts.

# **9%** of the population analysed was forecast to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)



No populations were expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during this period.

**5.0M people** were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covers **100%** of the country's total population of **18.9 million** people.

Source: IPC, August 2021.

#### MAP 3.41

### IPC acute food insecurity situation, January–March 2022

Nsanje and Chikwawa were the only districts projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). All the four urban zones analysed (Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba) were projected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: Malawi IPC Technical Working Group, August 2021. Poor rains at the start of the 2021/22 agricultural season and the impact of tropical storm Ana are expected to result in a below-average 2022 harvest. Food prices are expected to increase during the lean season.

## **Call Weather extremes**

By the end of January 2022, torrential rainfall from tropical storm Ana had affected southern and parts of central Malawi leading to widespread flooding. A state of disaster was declared in 15 districts, with Chikwawa the worst affected (ECHO Flash; OCHA, January 2022). The flooding critically compromised the food security of affected populations, destroying nearly all food reserves and a significant share of their agricultural fields and livelihood assets. Over 71 700 hectares were severely affected, while over 36 800 livestock were killed or injured (OCHA, February 2022).

Coupled with well below-average rainfall at the start of the 2021/22 cropping season, such weather extremes are anticipated to result in an average to below-average cereal harvest in 2022 (FEWS NET, December 2021).

Beyond the January–March 2022 period, there are indications food security could begin to deteriorate in mid and late-2022 – outside of the current projection period – as the projected reduced harvest affects poor households' food and income sources (FEWS NET, December 2021).

# Economic shocks, including COVID-19

During the January–March 2022 lean season, prices are expected to slightly increase, following seasonal trends, as households deplete their stocks. Additionally, agricultural incomes will be adversely affected by low prices for cash crops in Kasungu and Lilongwe (IPC, December 2021), further weighing on households' ability to access food markets.

The effects of preceding COVID-19 lockdowns and slow rebound in the global economy are likely to cap Malawi's economic recovery and keep incomes from petty trading and self-employment activities at below-average levels (IPC, December 2021).