



E
Government of Malawi



**Min. of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water
Development**

LILONGWE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

DRY SPELL REPORT



Picture of dry maize field in Manjawira EPA, Manjawira West Section in Ntcheu District

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The ADD covers four districts and these are Lilongwe East, Lilongwe West, Dedza and Ntcheu. Planning and implementation of some activities in Lilongwe East and Lilongwe West are sometimes done as a single district because they are under one district council hence some information and data may be presented as a single district.

The ADD has a total of 36 extension planning areas (EPAs) which are further subdivided into 596 sections. The total area for the ADD is estimated at 1, 194,949 hectares with Lilongwe West occupying 375,629ha; Lilongwe East 211,317ha; Dedza, 357,863ha; and Ntcheu, 250,140ha. The total cultivatable land area for the ADD is estimated at 679,394 hectares (Lilongwe West, 200,041; Lilongwe East 132,620; Dedza 188,945; and Ntcheu, 157,788 hectares).

2.0 WEATHER SITUATION

2.1 General Weather Description

The agricultural farming season was generally cold to warm from July to early September. The weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy becoming warm to hot during the day and very cold at night. From mid September to date, it has been generally warm during the morning hours and becoming warm to hot during the afternoon hours and at night with light and variable Winds.

2.2 Rainfall

The ADD experienced erratic rainfall from mid-November, 2015 in all districts but distribution and intensity was generally not good as compared to last season. In general, the ADD has received less rainfall and less rainy days this season than same time last year. The ADD was characterised by a period of dry spell for the first two weeks of February, 2016. It started raining since the third week of the month of February to the first week of March, 2016. So far the ADD has registered a mean rainfall of **429.0 mm** in **23 rain days** compared to same time last year when it registered **668.5 mm** in **33 rain days**. Refer to Figure 1 for a summary of the mean rainfall for the ADD.

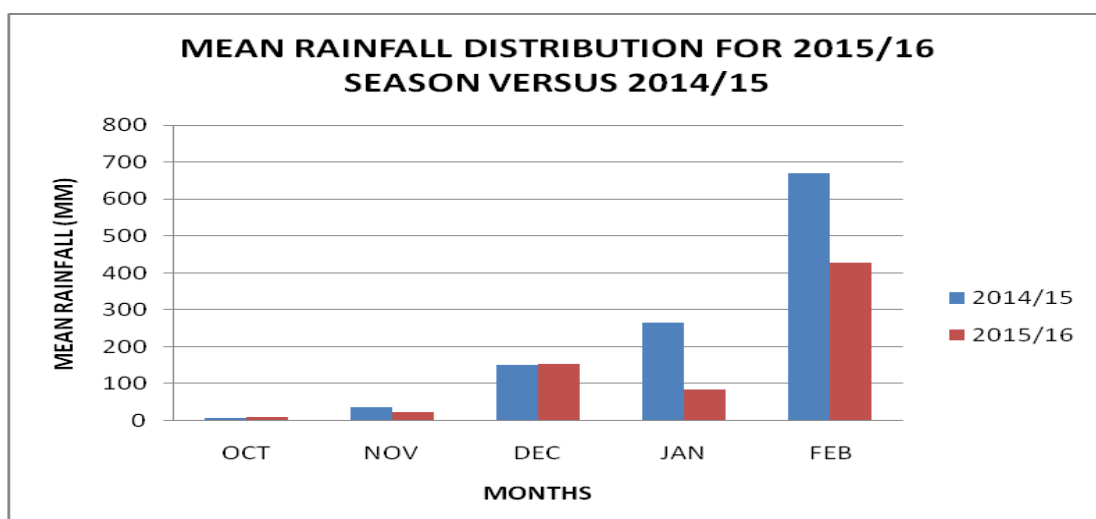


Figure 1: Mean rainfall from October to February, 2015/2016 compared to 2014/15

2.3 Dry Spell

The ADD experienced dry spells from last week of December to mid January, 2016 and first week to last week of February, 2016. A total of **150,327ha** under different crops has been affected by the dry spell involving **373,685** households as the total affected. However, a total of **26,239ha** is available for irrigation in the ADD that can be utilised. Refer to Table 1 a summary of the dry spell as regards each district.

Table 1: Summary of ADD dry spell

District	Area Affected (Ha)	No. of Households Affected	Area Available for Irrigation (Ha)
Dedza	22,023	60,495	3,354
Ntcheu	46,988	52,305	2,885
Lilongwe West	38,924	156,354	8,000
Lilongwe East	42,392	104,531	12,000
ADD Totals	150,327	373,685	26,239

For more details on the dry spell for each district encompassing area, crop type and number of households affected refer to Annexes attached.

2.3.1 Effects of Weather on Crop and Livestock Development

- Farmers replanted as early crop got scorched.
- Delayed transplanting of tobacco.
- Wilting of some crops since most parts of the districts were currently not receiving rains.

- Poor grain filling in maize
- Flower abortion in legumes and poor podding
- Poor germination
- Delayed fertilizer application
- Scarcity of drinking water to livestock
- Poor grazing fields and pasture development
- Low levels of water in fish pods
- Poor grain filling.

With the prolonged dry spells that has affected many crops in the ADD. The alternative is to use cassava cuttings and sweet potato vines which are drought tolerant crops. However, there is inadequate availability of planting materials. As a way forward the ADD is promote irrigation activities encompassing winter crops. Need inputs for cassava and sweet potato, maize other inputs such as fertilisers.

3.0 FOOD SITUATION

3.1 Current food situation

The ADD has a total of **848,603** farm families, out of which 309,269 farming households representing 36% are without food of their own compared to 139,287 (16%) farming households same time last year. Refer to Table 8 below for details on food situation.

Table 1: Food Situation as at 29th February, 2016

DISTRICT	2015/16 SEASON			2014/15SEASON		
	Total F/H	Total F/H without food	%	Total F/H	Total F/H without food	%
Lilongwe West	269554	113,130	42	269554	55,340	21
Lilongwe East	178216	65,556	35	178216	34,017	19
Dedza	242519	74,334	31	242519	24,603	10
Ntcheu	158314	56,249	36	158314	25,327	16
ADD TOTAL	848603	309,269	36	848603	139,287	16

3.2 Coping Mechanisms

The following coping mechanisms were used by the farm families without food of their own production:

- Casual labour in exchange of food or cash;
- Livestock sales;
- Beer brewing and selling;

- Gifts, food transfers or remittances from relatives and friends;
- Migrating to urban areas in search of piece work;
- Small businesses such as selling of fresh dimba crops, vegetables, fruits, firewood and charcoal; mats, bamboo baskets and pottery in Golomoti, Mtakataka
- Doing piece works for food;
- Exchange pots and baskets with maize; and

4.0 ANNEEX: ADD DETAILS OF THE DRY SPELLS PER DISTRICT

(1) NCTHEU DISTRICT

Table 1a: Ntcheu District Dry Spell Details

EPA	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED	MAIZE (ha)	TOBACCO (ha)	COTTON (ha)	G/NUTS (ha)	SOYA (ha)	TOTAL AREA (ha)
Nsipe	11923	8030	286	1	274	1326	9117
Bilila	1526	467	118	31	120	124	860
Manjawira	11390	10,003	1169	153	1469	1183	13,975
Sharpevale	19411	6762.8	1560	1329.2	746.3	771.6	11169.9
Kandeu	8055	4682	988	0	2435	3032	11137
TOTAL	52, 305	29, 944.8	4, 119	1,514.2	5,739.3	5,670.6	46,987.9

Table 1b: Ntcheu District -Army worm attack

EPA	SECTION	VILLAGE	FARMING HOUSHOLDS	AREA	CROP	REMARKS
Sharp vale	Agabu	Agabu	300	60	Maize	They were sprayed on time and were controlled. 28 hectares of bush was also attacked
		Zalengera	350	65	Maize	
	Kulanga	Kapheko	302	62	Maize	
		Masese	780	156	Maize	
		Harry	508	121	Maize	
	Bwanje	Chingamba	5	2	Maize	
		Phanga	Phanga	90	18	
	Total			2245	484	

(2) DEDZA DISTRICT

Table 2a: Dedza District Dry Spell Details

EPA	Maize		Soya		Beans		G/nuts		Burley Tobacco		Cow Pease	
	HH	(HA)	HH	(HA)	HH	(HA)	HH	(HA)	HH	(HA)	HH	(HA)
Lobi	2284	689	1711	486	2225	561	1915	328	0	0	0	0
Kabwazi	3042	837	1556	420	1823	280	1767	377	560	152	0	0
Golomoti	2008	767	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaphuka	3950	358	1360	141	0	0	223	37	155	31	0	0
Mtakataka	574	146	0	0	0	0	351	87	0	0	191	46

Linthipe	20168	7107	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mayani	7316	6146	1219	1024	2439	2049	3658	3073	0	0	0	0
District Total	39,342	16050	5846	2071	6487	2890	7914	3902	715	183	191	46

Table 2b: Dedza District -Army worm attack

EPA AFFECTED	SECTIONS AFFECTED	NO OF HH AFFECTED	CROPS AFFECTED	AREA (HA)	AREA SPRAYED
GOLOMOTI	Mchilika, Gosheni, Ndindi and Malambalala	1042	Maize	3497	272.2
MTAKATAKA	Matowe North, Matowe South, Mtakataka East, Mtandamula, Mtakataka Center, Nkosini, Nakaingwa and Chinkhumbe	1596	Maize	367	273
District Total	12	2638		3864	545.2

Table 2c: Dedza Potential Area for Irrigation and Area Under Dry Spell

E PA	potential area (ha) under irrigation	Area affected by dry spell(ha)	Remarks
Lobi	156	1503	Crops under dry spell is Maize,gnuts and soya
Kabwazi	167	1634	Crops under dry spell is Maize,gnuts and soya
Linthipe	80	7107	Crops under dry spell is Maize,gnuts and soya
Golomoti	432	767	
Kaphuka	111	536	
Mtakataka	1635	233	800ha is for bwanje irrigation scheme
Mayani	268.5	10243	Crops under dry spell is Maize,gnuts and soya
Bembeke	84	0	Crops under dry spell is Maize,gnuts and soya
Kanyama	355.5	0	Crops under dry spell is Maize,gnuts and soya
chafumbwa	65	0	Crops under dry spell is Maize,gnuts and soya
	3,354	22,023	

(3) LILONGWE WEST AGRICULTURE OFFICE

Table 3: Lilongwe West Dry Spell details

EPA	SECTION	CROPS AFFECTED	HA. AFFECTED	NO. OF HH AFFECTED			SUGGESTED INTERVENTION
				Male	Female	Total	
Mngwangwa		Maize	4811	10701	8575	19276	Smallscale irrigation
							Planting early maturing maize varieties
		Ground Nuts	1937	8571	10701	19272	Smallscale irrigation
							Planting of crops like S/Potatoes and I/Potatoes
		Burley Tobacco	1301	6505	3128	9633	Smallscale Irrigation
							Fish Farming
Nthondo		Maize and Beans	195	1061	624	1685	Smallscale Irrigation
Malingunde	Makungubwi	Maize	669	602	337	939	Small scale irrigation (Nalisonya, Lisungwi, Makungubwi, Kawala, Kasikizi and Nukungubwi sites)
		Beans	26	45	81	126	
		Ground nuts	21	20	46	66	
	Mawelo	Maize	405.5	421	390	811	Irrigation - Natchinga site
		Beans	19.6	50	48	98	
		Ground nuts	73	79	165	244	
	Mphumphi	Maize	308	487	133	620	Irrigation - Liungu, Mphangwe I, Mphangwe II,
		Beans	33	65	101	166	Likuni sites
	Chimvano	Maize	302	524	231	755	Irrigation - Makungubwi and Mgawa sites
		Beans	24	30	42	72	
	Kangamkhaka	Maize	632	365	155	520	Irrigation - Kasadzu, Kangamkhaka I,
		Beans	8	24	42	66	Kangamkhaka II
	Chikulungunde	Maize	75	98	52	150	Irrigation - Mbweza I, Mbweza II, Mbweza III and
		Beans	4	26	102	128	Liwombwe sites
	Mswera	Maize	50	87	38	125	Irrigation - Mswera and Nadzulumi sites
		Beans	5	17	19	36	
	Msauka	Maize	136	201	150	351	Irrigation - Lisungwi
		Beans	2	28	37	65	
	Mphangwe	Maize	52	91	45	136	Irrigation - Naminyanga

	Namsulu	Maize	112	345	15 4	499	Irrigation - Ulondwe, Likuni, Namsulu, Chikongwe
		Beans	17	54	98	152	Mphangwe
	Nachikom pha	Maize	52	187	12	199	Irrigation - Ulondwe, Naminyanga, Chikongwe
		Beans	8	185	16	201	
	Tiyese	Maize	77	136	56	192	Irrigation - Chanika site
		Beans	7	24	88	112	
	EPA TOTAL	Maize	2870.5	3544	17 53	529 7	Irrigation
		Beans	153.6	548	67 4	122 2	
		Ground nuts	94	99	21 1	310	
Mpingu	13 sections	Maize	228				Irrigation
		Soya					
		Beans					
		Ground nuts					
		Tobacco					
Mlomba	13 Sections	Maize	72	102	72	174	Irrigation
		Ground nuts	70	56	21	77	Planting of root and tuber crops
		Soya	36	29	15	44	
		Tobacco	22	29	0	29	
	EPA TOTAL		200	216	10 8	324	
Mitundu	All Sections	Maize	1964	4797	50 23	982 0	Irrigation in 52 identified sites
		Beans	429	1217	16 43	286 0	
Thawale	Kanthing ulu	Maize	44	453	17 2	625	Small scale irrigation
		Groundnuts	28	82	13 4	216	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
	Nadzumi	Maize	56	587	12 6	713	Small scale irrigation
		Groundnuts	31	214	15 4	368	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
	Kamvabin gu	Maize	53	402	17 6	578	Small scale irrigation
		Groundnuts	22	158	12 8	286	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
	Mthilira	Maize	48	304	19 2	496	Small scale irrigation
		Groundnuts	18	84	11 0	194	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
	Kanolo	Maize	55	692	25 6	948	Small scale irrigation

		Groundnuts	21	106	23 1	337	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
	Niche	Maize	68	659	19 1	850	Small scale irrigation
		Groundnuts	34	261	15 5	416	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
	Diamphwi	Maize	52	562	22 2	784	Small scale irrigation
		Groundnuts	35	201	11 7	318	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
	Kamlekeagwire	Maize	46	623	87	710	Small scale irrigation
		Groundnuts	27	98	18 4	282	Planting of sweet potatoes and cassava
EPA TOTAL		Maize	422	4282	14 22	570 4	
		Groundnuts	216	1204	12 13	241 7	
Demera	All Sections	Maize	1706	2985	12 82	426 7	Maize production under irrigation
		Ground nuts	1048	1201	14 21	262 2	Growing of cassava and sweet potatoes
		Soya	961	1538	86 4	240 2	
		Tobacco	400	954	47	100 1	
		Beans	268	284	38 6	670	
Ukwe	Kalimpesha	Maize	13	69	29	98	Irrigation
		Beans	4	28	13	41	
		Tobacco	8	56	23	79	
	Rutu/Chakwawa	Maize	380	1456	60 6	206 2	Irrigation
		Tobacco	149	107	77	184	
		Pegion Peas	78	201	67	268	
		Soya	49	104	71	175	
		Ground nuts	34	201	85	286	
	Masekese	Maize	8	52	37	89	Irrigation
		Beans	2	7	3	10	
		Soya	3	8	4	12	
		Tobacco	4	13	4	17	
	Kapheratsoka	Maize	170	504	10 5	609	Irrigation
		Tobacco	73	286	53	339	
		Ground nuts	30	188	44	232	
	Kanong'ona	Maize	85	78	23	101	Irrigation
		Beans	7	20	9	29	
		Tobacco	45	45	17	62	

	Njanje	Maize	15	216	67	283	
		Soya	6	41	11	52	
		Tobacco	12	98	16	114	
	Mkumbaleza	Maize	30.5	224	14 5	369	Irrigation
		Tobacco	14.9	159	13	172	
		Beans	42	205	13 4	339	
	Milombwa	Maize	21	151	93	244	Irrigation
		Ground nuts	7.3	133	11 1	244	
		Beans	3	71	24	95	
	Kaufa	Maize	26.1	245	14 5	390	Irrigation
		Ground nuts	3.9	105	90	195	
		Soya	3.2	102	59	161	
	Chinyama	Maize	26.9	235	11 2	347	
		Beans	3.7	200	11 0	310	
		Ground nuts	4.1	116	78	194	
		Tobacco	27.2	236	97	333	
	Katsumwa	Maize	46	186	97	283	Irrigation
		Ground nuts	19	62	19	81	
		Tobacco	24	58	9	67	
		Soya	13	9	34	43	
	EPA TOTAL	Maize	821.5	3416	14 59	487 5	
		Tobacco	357.1	1058	30 9	136 7	
		Pegion Peas	78	201	67	268	
		Soya	74.2	264	17 9	443	
		Ground nuts	98.3	805	42 7	123 2	
		Beans	61.7	531	29 3	824	
Chileka	All Sections	Maize	1250.4	2014	11 12	312 6	Irrigation
		Ground nuts	1406	5421	16 08	702 9	Sweet potato production in wet lands
		Beans	540	2104	14 11	351 5	
Ming'ongo	All sections	Maize	7691	1442 6	48 01	192 27	Irrigation farming
		Ground nuts	3848	4999	29 84	798 3	
		Tobacco	336	1164	21	118 5	

Chilaza	All Sections	Maize	1773.5	6458	24 09	886 7	Irrigation- Khanda, Mpingo, Kutakungwa, Mtambe,
		Ground nuts	854	2568	17 03	427 1	Sisinja, msampha, Mdzoole, Mndewere, Chidya,
		Beans	76.6	145	23 8	383	Kango, Kaso, Kalichero, Mnjeza, Chilikhanda,
		Soya	196.6	649	33 4	983	Katsumwa, Kachiwuwa, Phuramazira, Chibungo,
		Pegion Peas	61.8	108	20 1	309	Kanyama, Mbirira, Vubwi, Nsalu, Phombolo, Kalolo,
							Chilaza, Chinthowa, Kasawa, Lumwira, Kadeka,
							Makuta, Malunje, Mtoivi, Fulaili, Kamtengo,
							Madzidzi, Thumba, Salima, msulira, Mzungu,
							Kambuzi, Amon, Balamanja, Chimate, Kapudzama,
							Bowa and Matakwe sites
DISTRICT TOTAL		Maize	23804.9	53786	28532	82318	
		Tobacco	2416.1	9710	3505	13215	
		Pegion Peas	139.8	309	268	577	
		Soya	1267.8	2480	1392	3872	
		Ground nuts	9571.3	24924	20289	45213	
		Beans	1723.9	5890	5269	11159	
DISTRICT TOTAL			38923.8	97099	59255	156354	

(4) LILONGWE EAST AGRICULTURE OFFICE

Table 4: Lilongwe East Dry Spell Details

NO	EPA	TA	CROP	H/HOLD AFFECTED	HA AFFECTED	REMARKS
1	CHIGOTHI	Chitukula	Maize	7946	6356.8	
		M'bang'ombe	maize	9481	7584.8	SEVERE
			Groundnuts	7226	4335.6	
			Burley	2452	735.6	
	SUB TOTAL			27105	19012.8	

2	CHITSIME	Kalumba	Maize	7345	4172.5	SEVERE		
			Groundnuts	4231	1692			
			Burley	972	194			
		Chiseka	Maize	4220	2111			
			Groundnuts	2110	844			
			Burley	651	130.2			
		Chadza	Maize	5383	2691.5			
			Groundnuts	2860	1144			
			Burley	881	176.2			
		Tsabango	Maize	2144	957.6			
			Groundnuts	1050	420			
			Burley	340	108			
		Malili	Maize	1960	484			
			Groundnuts	644	71.04			
			Burley	354	70.8			
		Masumbankhunda	Maize	368	147,2			
			Groundnuts	257	62.8			
			Burley	296	59.2			
			SUB TOTAL			16537	6245.14	
		3	CHITEKWERE	Chitekwere	Maize	5667	2162	
Groundnuts	2606				521	SEVERE		
Burley	352				88			
Soya beans	4905				981			
paplika	340				68			
mazengera	maize			10583	4233			
	Groundnuts			2582	422			
	Burley			490	98			
	soya			2160	432			
						29685	9005	
4	MKWINDA	masula	Maize	408	35			
		chiseka	Maize	1620	147			

		chadza	Maize	3299	176	
	SUBTOTAL			5327	358	
5	NYANJA	Kalumbu	Maize	3695	1478	
			groundnuts	1195	278	
		mazengera	Maize	233	70	
			groundnuts	55	11	
	SUBTOTAL			5178	1837	
6	MPENU	mazengera	Maize	5071	1498	SEVERE
			soya	2236	753	
			Beans	2140	593	
			G/nuts	2155	1255	
	SUBTOTAL			11602	4099	
7	CHIWAMBA	Chimutu	maize	7340	1468	
			G/nuts	1039	207.8	
			soya	403	120.9	
			Beans	315	37.8	
				9097	1834.5	
	DISTRICT TOTAL				104,531	

