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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>20 September 2016</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Property Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>RMcG/LP/108/16</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Rona McGhee</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712113</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Oxfam Scotland and Malawi Food Crisis – Request by Councillor McCabe</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Policy & Resources Committee to consider a request from Councillor McCabe.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

2.1 Councillor McCabe has requested that the Committee consider publicising Oxfam's emergency appeal for the food crisis in Malawi. A copy of Oxfam's document outlining the current situation and an overview of their response to it is attached (APPENDIX).

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 That the Committee consider the request from Councillor McCabe.

**Gerard Malone**  
**Head of Legal & Property Services**

## Oxfam's response

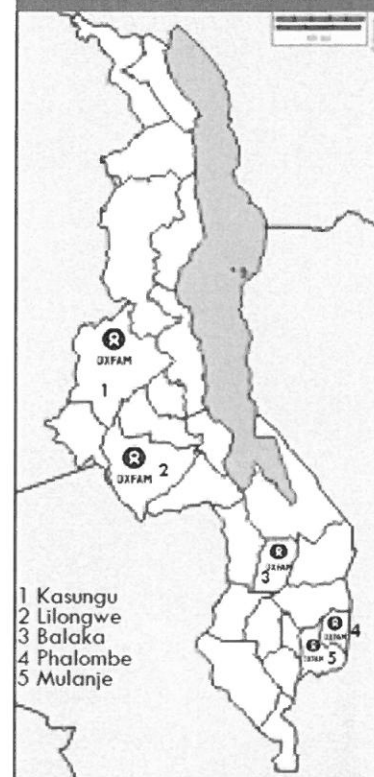
Oxfam plans to reach 650,000 of the most vulnerable men, women and children in five districts with life-saving emergency food assistance, protection of livelihoods, and prevention of irreversible negative coping strategies so that people build their resilience to cope in future.

Oxfam is active in the overall national humanitarian response coordinated in line with the Government of Malawi and UN agencies.

Priority activities in Oxfam's response are:

- **Alleviating hunger and reducing the risk of malnutrition** through emergency cash grants, direct food aid, community outreach and public health messaging to support good nutritional practices.
- **Ensuring access to safe water** by rehabilitating water points both for drinking and for their harvest, as well as public health promotion activities to reduce the risk of outbreaks of life threatening diseases such as cholera.
- **Avoiding dangerous and irreversible use of negative coping strategies** through the provision of farming inputs such as drought-resilient seeds, tools and fertilisers as well as agricultural training.

Oxfam is working in five districts across Malawi



  
£35

can buy seeds and fertilisers so that families can grow vegetables

  
£65

can help provide families with clean, safe water to drink

  
£100

can help provide families with cash so that they can buy life-saving essentials like food and soap



Oxfam has already assisted over 29,000 people in Balaka district with sweet potato vines, maize and vegetable seeds and fertilisers.

Photo: Oxfam

Thank you for Supporting oxfam's Malawi food crisis appeal  
Give now, save lives

## Malawi food crisis August 2016

**A devastating drought has left 6.5 million people - nearly 40% of the population - in Malawi facing severe food insecurity**

**Oxfam IS CALLING for urgent assistance to prevent hunger and disease**

In 2015, prolonged dry spells, high temperatures, and severe flooding in some areas of Malawi affected the maize harvest, leaving 2.8 million people in need of food assistance to survive.

The El Niño weather phenomenon has exacerbated the effects of this unpredictable weather and in June 2016, the Government of Malawi announced a state of emergency, estimating that 6.5 million people would face food shortages due to the drought.

Families are turning to negative coping strategies such as selling their livestock, early marriage of daughters, withdrawing children from school and transactional sex (a key driver of HIV). These coping mechanisms erode vital household assets, increase risks to women and girls and force families into acute insecurity, with devastating effects.



**Stezia Ziyangoyango says she only grew about a third of her normal maize harvest, and now worries about how she will feed her family.**

Photo: Kenny Rae/Oxfam

## KEY FACTS

- Southern Africa is facing its worst drought in 35 years
- This year Malawi has had 60% less rainfall compared with the average
- Maize and rice production is 42% lower than in the 2013/14 season
- The price of maize is currently 137% higher than the five year average
  - Over 6.5 million people are facing severe food shortages
  - Over 950,000 of whom are children under the age of two
  - 4.7 million people are in need of direct food assistance
    - 1.7 million people are in need of financial aid
- Cholera cases reached 1,172 in late March 2016 with 30 reported deaths

(Oxfam Monthly Monitoring Report, April 2016)