

## MALAWI INFORMATION FOR FY2009 TITLE II MYAP PROPOSALS

**1. Background:** The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has funds available for Multi-Year Assistance Programs (MYAPs) in Malawi in FY 2009. This document supplements the FFP guidelines with information on USAID/Malawi and FFP's food security programming priorities.

**2. Food Security Situation and Geographic Priorities:** With widespread poverty, Malawi is among the poorest countries in the world. Despite some gains in recent years, many Malawians remain food insecure and highly vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks (e.g., floods or drought and price increases for farm inputs and household food provisions). Given the predominance of agriculture in the economy, such shocks can have devastating effects on poor households' food supplies and access. Almost half of Malawian children under five are stunted due to food access and utilization problems.

The degree of food insecurity in Malawi varies geographically depending on agro-ecological differences, levels of poverty and malnutrition, and the prevalence of illnesses such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. MYAP proposals should ensure activities are targeted to the more food insecure regions, districts and communities. Recent data suggests the Southern Region, where almost half of Malawi's poor live, is the most food insecure area in terms of poverty, vulnerability, and access to food. Prevalence of chronic malnutrition is also extremely high.

**3. USAID/Malawi and FFP Programming Priorities:** In 2007, USAID/Malawi developed its *Malawi Food Security Programming Strategy*. This strategy can be obtained from the Mission. MYAPs should explore mechanisms for collaboration and joint programming with Mission-funded activities. In particular, the Mission and FFP encourage proposals that demonstrate how MYAPs would utilize Title II resources to: (1) improve child nutrition through a preventative approach and 2) support Pillar III of NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) to increase resilience by decreasing food insecurity and linking vulnerable people into opportunities for agricultural growth. In addition, proposals should indicate how activities would support Government of Malawi strategies and programs, including the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, the Food Security Policy, and the Nutrition Policy and the Agricultural Development Program.

Mission and FFP priority objectives and activities for Title II MYAPs are summarized below:

- A. Improve Maternal and Child Nutrition, especially in children under two years of age
  - *Improving nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women*
  - *Improving infant and young child feeding practices*
  - *Reducing prevalence of childhood illness*
  - *Improving hygiene and sanitation practices*
- B. Increase Agricultural Productivity and Rural Household Incomes.
  - *Increasing and improving farmer-market linkages*
  - *Transferring improved agricultural practices and technologies*
  - *Increasing access to water and improving water management*
  - *Promoting increased village-level savings and investment*
  - *Ensuring participation of the most vulnerable, including PLWHA*
- C. Increase Effectiveness of Support to the Malawi Social Protection Program.
  - *Focusing food-for-work activities on the development of community assets*
  - *Targeting food rations to the most food insecure, including PLWHA*
  - *Preparing for possible emergency response needs*

In addition, funding under the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) may become available to leverage those activities funded by the Title II program. Separate guidance will be provided by USAID/Malawi regarding eligibility criteria for PEPFAR should such funding become available.