

**COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE MODALITY (CASH  
AND FOOD AID): A CASE STUDY OF LUNDU TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY,  
CHIKWAWA DISTRICT, MALAWI**

**BY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study assesses community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and food aid) on development: a case study of Traditional Authority Lundu in Chikwawa district, Malawi. This is based on the top down approach which is mostly common in humanitarian aid, where practitioners perceive this to be the right mode of aid delivery to affected communities. This research has used mixed methods of research designs. Participants were purposively and randomly sampled and 193 household heads, 2 focus group discussions and 10 key informants were interviewed. The results revealed that food aid is the best response modality in the area. Humanitarian aid enhances community development as it eliminates negative coping mechanisms. Food aid helps to stabilize commodity prices, improve health status of affected people and promote continuation of development intervention in the area. The study recommends that a thorough assessment is required to derive at a response option and resilient interventions that should be included in humanitarian response.*

**KEY TERMS:**

Cash Based Response (Cash Transfer), Food Aid, Response Modality, Development, Humanitarian Aid, Resilience, Emergency Response Choice, Entitlement Theory, Pull Failure, Response Failure and Dependency Syndrome

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| CADECOM | Catholic Development Commission           |
| CRS     | Catholic Relief Service                   |
| DADO    | District Agriculture Development Officer  |
| EAM     | Evangelical Association of Malawi         |
| EPA     | Extension Planning Area                   |
| FDG     | Focus Group Discussion                    |
| GDP     | Gross Domestic Product                    |
| GVH     | Group Village Headman                     |
| HH      | Household                                 |
| KII     | Key Informant Interview                   |
| MT      | Metric Tone                               |
| MVAC    | Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee |
| NFI     | Non Food Items                            |
| NGO     | Non-Governmental Organisation             |
| SPSS    | Statistical Package for Social Sciences   |
| STA     | Sub-Traditional Authority                 |
| T/A     | Traditional Authority                     |
| UN      | United Nations                            |
| UNDP    | United Nations Development Programme      |
| UNICEF  | United Nations Children's Fund            |
| USA     | United States of America                  |
| WFP     | World Food Programme                      |
| WV      | World Vision                              |

## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The study focused on the response modalities that are used during emergencies by different organisations and assessed whether there is enough community engagement in deciding on the response option. The study was conducted in Traditional Authority Lundu in Chikwawa. This area has received different types of response modalities due to emergency situations that emerged in the area.

This Chapter discusses the background of the research study highlighting the situation that led the researcher to pursue the topic. It also discusses the importance of the study; objectives of the study, methodologies used and outline the chapters in the research.

### **1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

It appears that most humanitarian aid is driven by top down approach, which donors and designers perceive it to be the right mode of delivering assistance to the community members affected by disaster. However the questions that rise are that does this approach help to eliminate people's poverty or it just exacerbate their vulnerability? Does such assistance help to promote human transformation after the response period finishes or does it create the spirit of hand out and receiving without improving their ways of surviving and resilience?

The fact that most donors are quick to provide resources to help disaster affected communities than the way they respond to normal development, could be encouraging humanitarian practitioners to tailor their response in a way that it promotes human transformation development. It is therefore imperative to find out the right mode of emergency response in the eyes of the community members themselves that can promote development even after the emergency response period is over. This means that, humanitarian practitioners should also wear development lens in the way they deliver their aid, of which without these lens, emergency response will only promote division among the community members in terms of poverty levels. It is also imperative to note that although emergency

response is quick and rapid but it also has an opportunity for modification within the response period in order to meet some of the needs of the community members.

It is from this background that this study sought to assess the community perceptions on humanitarian aid in Malawi, especially in Chikwawa district which is a chronically prone to disaster. The community perceptions may provide grounds on which humanitarian aid workers can modify their response operations in order to inclusively include development lens, so that community members adopt resilience approaches that does not exacerbate their vulnerability.

### **1.3 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM**

Malawi is experiencing different types of disasters that affect development. Some of these disasters are natural and human-made disasters which include droughts, floods, strong winds, earthquakes, pest infections, diseases outbreaks, and fire to mention a few, and these affect development of the country (Government of Malawi 2015). Disasters disrupt people's livelihoods, endanger human life and food security, damages infrastructure and hinder socio-economic growth and development. The Government of Malawi's Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2015) highlighted increase in poverty of the rural and urban households and loss of the ability of the national economy to invest in poverty reduction mechanism as major losses due to disasters (Government of Malawi 2015). From 1979 to 2008, natural disasters have affected cumulatively nearly 21.7 million people and killed 2,596 people in Malawi (Government of Malawi 2015).

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) pointed out that in 2013/14, Malawi responded to 1.4 Million people across the country through food and cash transfers depending on the market functionality of the area due to drought that affected 24 out of 28 districts in the country (Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee 2013). The MVAC report (2013) indicated that 1.4 million people experienced food shortages from 3 to 6 months which required 57,346 metric tonnes of maize with a cash equivalent of MK7.2 billion if food was to be sourced locally.

In 2014/15, MVAC (2015) reported that 640,009 people required food aid for a period of 2 to 4 months due to the drought that affected 19 districts and majority of them were also affected the previous year. While the country was responding to the

drought, severe floods devastated 15 districts in the country, destroying almost all the economic gains that the country amassed in years. MVAC (2015) reported that 630,000 people also required food aid (due to floods) bringing the total to 1.2 million people. The MVAC report in 2015/16 harvesting season reported that 2.8 million people required food assistance for a period of 3 to 6 months from 25 districts out of the 28 districts of the country. It is evident that significant resources for national development have been channelled to emergency response in Malawi for three consecutive years (2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16).

These disasters invited a huge humanitarian response which attracted more donors to contribute their resources in order to ensure that lives are not lost and that the affected communities are able to recover in all aspects of life. Though this was the case, many communities remain vulnerable and victims year in, year out. Some of the questions that arise include, what could be the source of such challenges? Is it the response mode that affects communities not to be able to bounce back soon after the response period? What does the community perceive to be the cause of this problem? Is there a way that humanitarian response can be implemented such that communities are resilient after the response and graduate from perennial food shortages?

The response choices are driven by capacity and organizational ethos of the implementing agency, personal experience of programme staff, donor resources and policy, government policy, media and political influence (Maxwell, Stobaugh, Parker, & McGlinchy 2013). Humanitarian workers advocate for a response modality depending on the circumstances but do they give opportunity to beneficiaries to say what they want? To a certain extent this may imply that the beneficiaries and communities do not have much say on the type of response modality they should receive that would enhance their resilience and contribute to their personal development. As a result they take emergency response aid just as a hand out which whether properly or not properly put into use it does not make any difference, as such it cannot reduce their vulnerability. This research intends to explore community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and food aid) on development, focusing at Traditional Authority Lundu in Chikwawa district which is one of the areas that has been benefiting from humanitarian aid program for years in Malawi.

## **1.4 STUDY OBJECTIVES**

### **1.4.1 Main objective**

The main objective of the study was to explore community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and food aid) on development.

### **1.4.2 Specific objectives**

- To investigate community perceptions on cash transfer, food aid and food or cash for asset as emergency response modalities to a disaster.
- To assess level of satisfaction of the communities on the response mode.
- To assess the impact of the response modalities used so far in the area.
- To explore desirable ways of providing humanitarian aid to disaster affected communities.
- To make suggestions for improving emergency response modality.

## **1.5 IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study was important as it provided the platform for the communities to freely express their opinions on how emergency responses are implemented. It also provided an independent and objective platform where communities expressed themselves without fearing that they would be victimized in one way or the other. The study was conducted following other studies conducted by implementing Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that report positive outcomes of the response modality they implement. One might think that research participants in such studies by NGOs were forced or coerced to provide positive response to such survey or questions in order to satisfy the agency's needs.

The study will help the Non-Governmental Organisations implementing emergency response in Malawi to understand the perceptions of the beneficiaries and what they perceive to be a better way of delivering aid to them that would not compromise their potentials and abilities to bounce back after the disasters. It will also give the platform to the communities to contribute to the process of emergency responses in future. In addition, the study will also help the Government of Malawi to easily choose what is in the best interest of its people in terms of emergency response.

## **1.6 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative methods to ensure that all objectives were met.

Quantitative research method was used to collect numerical data from households through administering a questionnaire specifically designed for this study. The researcher collected people's perceptions on the impact of emergency response modality on development. The researcher collected data from 193 households through random selection technique in the study area. The quantitative data was entered and analysed using SPSS computer package to generate percentages, charts, frequencies and tables to explain the descriptive statistics.

Qualitative research methods were also used in order to get the research participants' in depth opinion on the subject matter. The qualitative method targeted specific individuals in order to have an understanding of their perceptions on response modality. The study included focus group discussions, key informant interviews of community leaders and government officers and identified a case study within the study area to get an in-depth understanding of a household that has ever benefited from aid. Details of the methodology used are in Chapter 4.

## **1.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The researcher ensured that research participants participated on voluntary basis, without being coerced in completing the questionnaire and in the discussions. Their involvement was a function of their informed consent, where the data collectors requested the participant's consent to participate in the study after being briefed of the aims and purpose of the study. The research participants were assured of total confidentiality of their participation and that the information gathered was to be used solely for the purpose of the study and nothing else. The research participants were informed of the significance of the study and how the study was going to help inform future emergency response programming for sustainable development within their area. There was no segregation or favouritism of any research participant in the study; all participants were treated with dignity and integrity regardless of sex or tribe.

In essence, the study employed all the four ethical principles as highlighted by Blanche et al (2009:67) which are autonomy and respect for dignity of persons, non-maleficence, beneficence and justice.

## **1.9 CHAPTER LAYOUT**

The following is a format of the chapters as presented in this study;

### **Chapter One: Introduction**

This chapter presents the background of the problem that has prompted the study. It also provides an overview of sections to be discussed thoroughly in proceeding chapters; it also includes the objectives of the study, and the research methodology.

### **Chapter Two: Historical Background of the Study**

This chapter provides information regarding historical concepts of humanitarian emergency response in Malawi as a country and narrowing down to Chikwawa as a chosen district of study.

### **Chapter Three: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

The chapter analyses the emergency response modalities and what drives the emergency aid agencies to choose a particular modality. It discusses the two major response modalities, cash transfer and food aid, commonly used by humanitarian organisation across the globe. The chapter also looks at the emergency response in Malawi and narrowing down to Chikwawa district especially Traditional Authority (T/A) Lundu. Finally, the chapter discusses development and also looks at the linkages between emergency aid and development.

### **Chapter Four: Research Design and Methodology**

This chapter discusses how the study was conducted by looking at specific research methodologies that the study followed, the research instruments used, sampling methods, data collection and data analysis.

**Chapter Five: Results Presentation and Discussion**

The chapter presents the research findings and its discussion. The chapter outlines all the results of the study from the analysed data and presents its report. The results discussion follows immediately after the results are presented.

**Chapter Six: Conclusion and Recommendation**

Chapter six provides conclusions based on the findings of the study. The chapter also provides necessary recommendations.

## **CHAPTER 2: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF EMERGENCY RELIEF**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides information regarding historical concepts of humanitarian emergency response in Malawi. The chapter looks at the emergency responses that were delivered in Malawi and also those that were specifically happened in the study area, Chikwawa district.

### **2.2 EMERGENCY RESPONSES IN MALAWI**

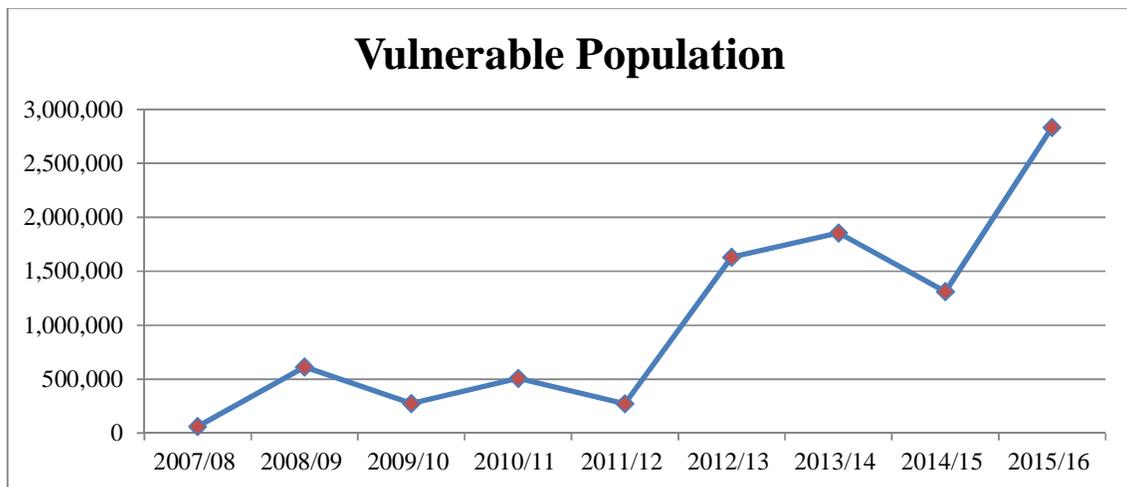
Malawi as a country faces a number of disasters which include floods, droughts, stormy rains, strong winds, hailstorms, earthquakes, pest infections, disease outbreaks, fire and accidents; a combination of natural and human-made disasters (Government of Malawi 2015:3).

UNDP (2013) cited the impact of climate related hazards that Malawi has faced over three to four decades, some of which included disruption of food production, community displacement, loss of life and assets which reduced community resilience. Notable examples are the 1992/93 landslides in Phalombe and Mulanje districts which killed over 500 people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure. UNDP also cited that from 1979 to 2008, natural disasters in Malawi affected nearly 21.7 million people and killed 2,596 people. Between 2011-2012 drought affected 15 districts across the country and affected about 2 million people (UNDP 2013 and Government of Malawi 2015). This shows how Malawi is prone to disasters and a lot of its resources are lost through these disasters. Table 1 shows the food production and consumption trends for Malawi from 2008 to 2016 (Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee 2015b). The table depicts the rise in people that required food assistance and the monetary equivalent of the maize required to feed the affected households. In addition the table shows that for the past nine years Malawi has been responding to food insecurity which was induced by different disasters affecting the country.

**Table 1: Production and Consumption Trends: 2008 – 2015**

| Consumption Year | Maize Production (million MT) | Maize Surplus (million MT) | Vulnerable Population | Maize Equivalent (million MT) | Cash Equivalent (MK000') |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2007/08          | 3.2                           | 1.2                        | 63,234                | 610                           | 81,000                   |
| 2008/09          | 2.9                           | 0.5                        | 613,291               | 16,806                        | 942,000                  |
| 2009/10          | 3.6                           | 1.2                        | 275,168               | 10,984                        | 573,000                  |
| 2010/11          | 3.2                           | 0.53                       | 508,089               | 28,602                        | 1,138,000                |
| 2011/12          | 3.9                           | 1.2                        | 272,500               | 6,756                         | 405,000                  |
| 2012/13          | 3.6                           | 0.5                        | 1,630,007             | 75,394                        | 6,031,500                |
| 2013/14          | 3.6                           | 0.19                       | 1,855,183             | 68,071                        | 8,510,000                |
| 2014/15          | 3.98                          | 0.98                       | 1,312,376             | 112,141                       | 14,017,625               |
| 2015/16          | 2.78                          | -0.223                     | 2,833,212             | 124,183                       | 18,627,362               |

Source: Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (2015b)



**Fig 1: Graph showing vulnerable population from 2008 to 2016**

The fig 1 indicates the increase in the vulnerable population in the country; the conditions were stable from 2007-2012, where less than five hundred thousand people were affected, followed by a substantial increase in the subsequent years. This has been due to increased climatic changes which have affected crop production trends of the country.

Malawi has been putting significant part of its resources to save lives and repair the damaged infrastructures. This has partly contributed to its failure to make strides on national development agenda. In these disasters, a number of interventions are carried out by the government and various humanitarian organizations in the country. Some of the questions that may be asked are: How are these interventions designed? Do they have a community involvement? There is a high probability that most agencies would respond positively, and this can concur with what Maxwell et al (2013) cited in their study where most agencies claim positive impact on their emergency response.

Recently, Malawi was devastated with floods which affected a number of districts in the country and prompted the Government of Malawi to declare a state of disaster. One of the NGO's (World Vision Malawi) situation report as quoted from World vision report explained the magnitude of the disaster:

“In January 2015 Malawi faced a huge disaster caused by heavy cyclone rainfall and wind storms. Flood prone areas in the Southern Region especially the Lower Shire Valley (Nsanje and Chikwawa in the South), in Karonga (North) and Salima (Central) were the worst hit. In total 15 districts were affected. On 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, the State President declared a state of disaster in the affected districts of Nsanje, **Chikwawa**, Phalombe, Karonga, Mulanje, Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Ntcheu, Mangochi, Mzimba, Balaka, Rumphu, Dowa, Machinga, Neno and Lilongwe. As of February 2015, an estimated 210,699 households (1,158,847 people) were affected and 336,000 people were displaced and they were either living in camps or were kept by relatives. About 104 people reported dead with **172** missing, **49,500** hectares of farming fields were affected” (World Vision Malawi 2015).

Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (2015:1) reported that the Malawi national macro-economic performance and forecast showed that the GDP growth rate was to decrease in 2015 by 0.6 percent from an estimated 6 percent in 2014. The report attributed this reduction partially due to reduced performance in the agriculture sector as the sector registered lower growth which was a result of disasters affecting the country. Such disasters include adverse weather conditions in the form of late onset of rains, floods, prolonged dry spells and a shortened growing

season due to early cessation of rains. Malawi's economy is considered to be agro-based and any disturbance to the agricultural sector has a significant impact on the performance of the economy.

According to Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (2015:1) the country has experienced a number of weather related hazards during the 2014/15 agricultural production season. One of the challenge that was encountered, was delayed of starting of rains by 30 to 40 days. The delayed onset of rains was followed by heavy rains that were experienced in January 2015 resulting in widespread floods and wash-away. As a result of the floods, property, houses, crops, animals and lives were lost. The heavy rains also caused wash-away of soil nutrients and affected farming activities such as planting, weeding, and ridging as well as fertilizer application. The country also experienced dry spells in most districts for a period of about 4 to 6 weeks between February and March 2015, which eventually occurred to be the end of the rainy season as the rains tailed off early. This early tail-off affected crop development resulting in low yields/production of most crops.

Because of this problem the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security estimated that Malawi would produce 2,776,277 metric tonnes of Maize in 2014/15 agriculture season down from 3,978,123 metric tonnes during the previous agriculture season, which represents a 30 percent drop in the produce. Following this the MVAC report estimated that 25 districts out of 28 districts would face food deficit ranging from 3 to 6 months and 2,833,212 people would be food insecure in those districts (Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee, 2015:2)

Due to these disasters Malawi has implemented both food aid and cash transfer modalities. While food aid has been historically used as the most common aid modality, cash transfers have been introduced over more recent years. The first national response that used cash transfer as a response modality was on pilot basis in 2012/13 and repeated in the subsequent years (Kita 2014). Cash transfer in Malawi has been implemented in two major ways, thus through the bank and through mobile money.

Cash transfers are generally cheaper to administer than food aid as there is reduced handling and storage costs, provides an opportunity for individual choice and boosts

purchasing power of the households (Kita 2014). However, cash transfer is also known to have increased inflation and commodity holding by traders once people receive the cash. Some local chiefs prefer food aid to cash transfer as they claim to register a lot of family fights due to cash transfer than food aid (World Vision Malawi, 2015) .

In a nutshell, Malawi has experienced both response modalities (food aid and cash transfer) under discussion and people are now able to determine which response modality is ideal for them.

### **2.2.1 Performance of response modality in Malawi**

As already alluded to, Malawi has implemented several response modalities. The most regular response modalities are cash transfer and food distribution. Cash transfer is more recent than traditional food distribution; however, each modality has its own successes and failures. Cash transfers faced significant challenges in the first years of its introduction especially when donors demanded that their cash be transferred to the beneficiaries through mobile phones. Kita (2014) reported that in 2011/12 most food insecure families failed to redeem the cash instead they could either purchase airtime unknowingly or deleted the message that could help them to redeem the cash from the cash agent. Some cash agents could deliberately cheat the vulnerable people so that they could get the cash in their place. Other agents demanded commission from the vulnerable households even though the service was supposed to be free. Some local leaders demanded their subjects to give them a portion of the money for being registered in the program (Kita, 2014:28). These came out as the major drawbacks of this response modality. However, this has improved significantly with minimal challenges in the years.

The challenges faced by food distribution was mainly pipeline breaks, poor road networks and political interference (Kita, 2014: 29). However, food distribution has remained favourable to most communities as traditionally people have been used to it than cash transfers.

### **2.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSES IN LUNDU, CHIKWAWA DISTRICT**

Chikwawa is a district in the Southern Region of Malawi. It shares boundaries with Mozambique to the West and with other Malawi districts as follows; Blantyre to the North East, Mwanza to the North, Thyolo to the East and Nsanje to the South

(Government of Malawi 2006), refer to the map of Malawi in fig 2. Chikwawa has a flat topography along Shire River which is part of the Great Rift Valley and Thyolo-Chikwawa Escarpment. The district has a population of 438,895 (Government of Malawi, 2006; National Statistical Office 2008)

According to the District Coordination Team (2013), Chikwawa district has 9 Traditional Authorities (T/A) and 2 Sub-traditional authorities (STA). The traditional authorities are: Lundu, Chapananga, Ngabu, Ngowe, Mililima, Katunga, Maseya, Kasisi, Makhwira and the sub traditional authorities are Masache and Ndakwera.

The district is dominated by the Mang'anja and Sena tribes, while Chichewa, Chinyanja and Chisena are the main languages spoken in the district. Christianity, with its various denominations dominates other religions in the district (Development Initiative Network, n.d.). According to Malawi Government (2011) major problems that face the district are food insecurity, low accessibility to safe water and sanitation, high morbidity and mortality, high illiteracy rate, poor communication infrastructure, environmental degradation, poor urban planning, high prevalence of HIV and AIDs and vulnerability, poor livestock management, unsustainable technologies and projects, declining fish stocks, wild life and human conflict over resources.

District Coordination Team (2013) pointed out that the majority of the people (63.1 percent) practice subsistence farming while 10.7 percent are engaged in wage employment. It further highlighted that about 54.5 percent of households have low income equivalent to US\$0.30 per person per day.

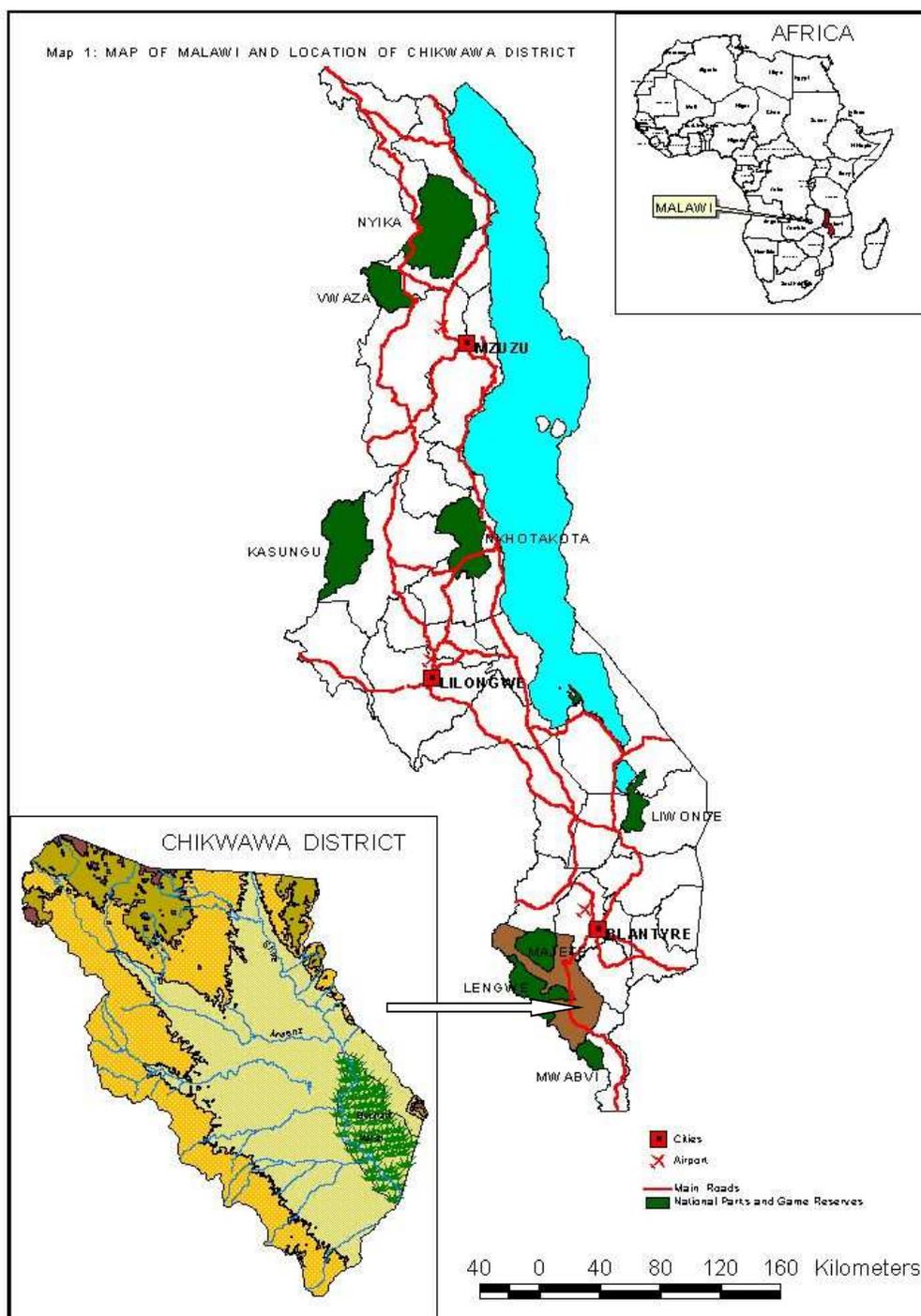
Government of Malawi (2006) stated that Chikwawa district experiences tropical climate which has two distinct seasons, thus wet and dry season. The district experiences unreliable and variable rainfall from about 170 mm to 967.6 mm annually and this may be attributed to the fact that the district lies in the Shire Highland leeward side (District Coordination Team 2013). The district experiences generally higher temperatures of about 37.6 °C in October as compared to other parts of the country. Due to these conditions the district is prone to drought and flood disasters subjecting its people to food shortages year in year out.

Traditional Authority Lundu in Chikwawa district is the paramount chief of all Chewas in Malawi. It has a total of 32 villages and 2 village development committees

recognized by the district council (District Coordination Team, 2013). T/A Lundu has a population of about 47,549 (National Statistical Office, 2008). The area has a major trading centre at Nchalo which is semi-urban because of the Illovo sugar fields and factory in the area.

A number of emergency responses have been implemented in the district for the past decade. However, the most outstanding emergency response is food aid. This has been implemented in the district almost every year due to the nature of the district. According to Kita (2014) Chikwawa district received cash transfer as a mode of response modality during 2011/12 and 2013/2014 drought response. These cash transfers were implemented in T/A Lundu only in the district. This means that T/A Lundu of all the traditional authorities in the district have had a fair experience of both cash transfers and food aid as compared to other traditional authorities.

Cash transfer faced a lot of resistance in Lundu due to its poor performance during the first year in 2011/12. The modality created an opportunity for bank tellers who robbed majority of the poor illiterate beneficiaries. Secondly, the chief registered increased gender based violence in homes due to poor management of the cash by spouses. This resulted in Paramount Lundu refusing to accept cash transfer modality in 2013/14 in his area but he was convinced of the improvements made to the modality and he later on accepted it (Kita, 2014 p. 28).



**Fig 2: Map of Chikwawa District**

Source: District Coordination Team (2013)

## **2.4 CONCLUSION**

Malawi for the past two decades has experienced varied disasters of different magnitudes that have affected the country's development and growth. At the same time the country has also experienced different humanitarian emergency response modalities as it strives to respond to the disasters. Chikwawa is one of the districts that have experienced disasters almost every year due to its geographical position. It is evident that it has experienced all forms of response transfer modalities offered in the country like cash transfer and food distributions.

## **CHAPTER 3: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The chapter discusses the emergency response modalities and what drives emergency aid agencies to choose a particular modality. It largely discusses the two major response modalities which are cash transfers and food aid commonly used by humanitarian organization across the globe. Finally, the chapter discusses development and also looks at the linkages between emergency aid and development.

### **3.2 EMERGENCY RESPONSE MODALITY**

Emergency response modality is the way that aid is provided in order to address a certain humanitarian disaster (Maxwell, Stobaugh, Parker, and McGlinchy 2013:3). The common examples of response modalities are in-kind, food aid and cash or vouchers. Aid agencies choose to provide emergency help to people who are caught in a disaster that calls for such help in order to meet their needs like material support through use of cash transfers, vouchers or in-kind aid (such as food rations and shelter materials) Gore and Patel (2006). Maxwell et al (2013) further explain that response modality is mostly determined by the experience of the organization staff members who know the context and has some institution memory of past responses. One could question if indeed the affected communities are consulted by the implementing agencies on the response modality or what the community think about the type of response modality they get from different donors.

Recently in Nepal, an earthquake devastated the country. United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos called for disaster respondents to listen to the affected people in Nepal (Gabriella 2015). She was quoted as saying “communities have their own coping mechanisms for dealing with disasters and it is important that support given by international organizations does not duplicate what people are already doing”. This statement shows the importance of consulting the affected people when deciding which emergency modality to use as preferred by the community.

Maxwell et al (2013:12) observed the following response from implementing agencies staff members when they were asked about the type of response they were doing;

“Food aid agencies invariably noted that feedback from their recipient consultation exercises showed that food aid was the preferred response; agencies that had pioneered approaches to vouchers reported that their recipient communities revealed a preference for vouchers; and agencies that have been working with cash transfers reported that community consultations in their areas revealed a strong preference for cash.”

This reveals the loopholes in the implementing agencies as they tailor their surveys to suit their plans, it might be that communities respond in that way in order to satisfy the donor (agency) needs but not that they were sincere. One may also think that these people were only exposed to one modality hence they had no opportunity to compare with other modalities and provide an independent opinion.

Maxwell et al (2013) tried to explore from different organization and staff members who were involved in humanitarian response in order to ascertain the response analysis and response choice in food security crises. Response analysis is defined as an analytical process by which the objective and modality of programme response options in an emergency are determined and potentially harmful impacts are minimized (Maxwell et al., 2013). Section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 discusses each mode of response namely; cash transfer, food aid and Voucher. These are used in different contexts and depending on market functionality, donor demand and implementing agency experiences.

### **3.2.1 Cash based responses/cash transfer**

Adeso (2012:11) defined cash based responses as mechanism to provide resources to a population in the form of cash or cash –equivalent (vouchers). Cash transfer can be provided as a complementary to in-kind such as food aid or non-food items that the affected populations can use in order to meet their basic requirements. Cash transfers are provided if certain conditions are fulfilled. Such conditions include the functionality of the local markets. Thus in an emergency situation, the market functions to the extent that they can

manage to meet the needs and requirements of the affected population without causing inflations in the targeted areas.

Adeso (2012:18) emphasizes the need to develop a cash response program that include the needs, experiences, concerns and priorities of the affected population but still leave the liberty to the implementing agency to follow their recommendations. Adeso (2012) did not precisely or categorically emphasize that all cash based responses should take the opinion of the beneficiaries before they are implemented. This leaves us with a gap as to whether communities are consulted and if their opinions are taken into consideration.

Bailey, Savage, and O'Callaghan (2009) viewed cash based response and cash transfers as encompassing a range of interventions across a variety of sectors, and are tools that use resource transfers to increase access to basic services. He further argued that cash has been seen as an alternative or complementary to food aid and it has also proven to be an alternative or complementary to any in-kind provision of assistance like non-food items (NFIs). Humphreys, (2008) provided three types of cash based response which are cash grant (conditional or unconditional), cash for work and voucher (cash value or commodity). According to Bailey et al (2009) the types of cash based responses that are implemented in a given context in order to respond to the needs of the community and also the functionality of the local market are as follows:

- a. Cash grants or unconditional cash transfer refers to the situation where cash/money is disbursed to beneficiaries without any condition provided they meet the set criteria and the cash is meant to help to meet basic needs or to protect or recover livelihoods.
- b. Condition cash transfers involve giving out cash on condition that beneficiaries will do something to get the money such as attend school, plant trees or demobilize. Beneficiaries are involved in a form of work where deliverables are agreed in order to ensure that the set targets are achieved. This is also used in order to build community assets as well as households' assets.

- c. Voucher is a printed piece of paper; document that recipient can exchange for a set quantity or value of goods. They can range from being restricted such as ration cards (offering no choice in goods received or in the provider), to being flexible, such as money (exchangeable for any goods with any vendor). As such cash and vouchers can be provided conditionally or unconditionally.

Proponents of cash transfers in Adeso (2012:14) cites four factors that support the use of cash transfers of which some are as follows: firstly Flexibility, empowerment and dignity of beneficiaries; Adeso (2012) argued that cash enables beneficiaries to choose what is appropriate for their households as compared to food aid. It also empowers the beneficiaries to identify, prioritize and meet their own needs. It is also easily stored, not bulky to carry and protects peoples' dignity. This implies that beneficiaries will not be easily noticed in the community that they are coming from receiving humanitarian aid.

Secondly, reduction of implementation cost; delivery of cash does not require large shipping, storage, transport and handling costs like in case of food aid. Beneficiaries may not be forced to sell at large discounts in order to meet a wider range of needs. Apart from that, in some contexts food aid beneficiaries are required to provide some sort of labour in order to ensure that the commodities are safe until they are distributed.

Thirdly, multiplier effect on the local economy: cash transfer injects money in the local markets, with multiplier effects that can stimulate the local economy and help the community to recover. Lastly, gender and intra-household issues: It reduces tension between men and women in the household as most agencies attempt to target women to support food security. Women are believed to use the cash received for the household needs than men.

However there are some concerns about cash transfers and some of the concerns proposed by Bailey et al. (2009): The first concerns deals with security: cash could present more security risks for staff and beneficiaries than food aid. Then, anti-social use: cash is more flexible to use than food aid, hence maybe used in ways that cannot serve the household's welfare. Which is followed by, gender: women have less control over cash in most societies than

over food. Bailey et al (2009) also considered, inflation: it may cause local inflation, which erode the values of cash transfer and also disadvantages non-recipients. Finally, targeting: cash may be more attractive to people than food aid and this poses challenges in targeting the recipients than food aid.

Everyone in the community may want to be registered in the program in order to receive cash as compared to food aid.

It is evident that cash transfer poses both positive and negative impacts and hence it cannot be wholly taken as the best response mode in every situation. It therefore calls for need to carefully opt for a response choice that would effectively assist the affected populations. However the question remains; do disaster respondents need to contact the beneficiaries to determine their response choice? What are the beneficiaries' perceptions?

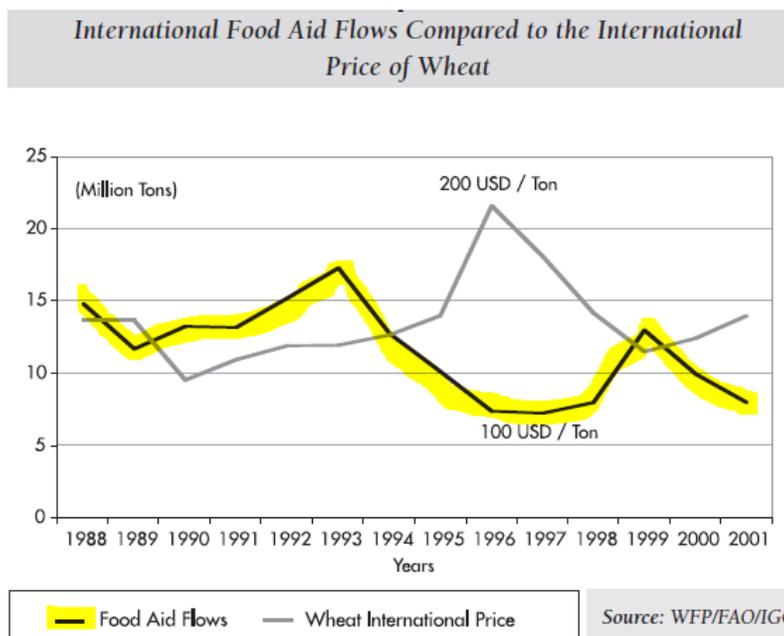
### **3.2.2 Food aid**

Shah (2007) defined food aid as a provision of food and related assistance to tackle hunger in emergency situations or alleviate longer term hunger in order to achieve food security. This is to ensure that every person has food regardless of the situation they are living in.

Mousseau (2005:3) pointed out that food aid interventions started in 1950s and were initiated by United States of America (USA) and Canada. Over years a number of donors have emerged to follow suit, like donors from European countries. Food aid globally is championed by United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) which became a major player around 1960s and relatively small scale relief Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like CARE, World Vision (WV), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) were also visible in those early days of food aid (Shah 2007).

Initially, USA used food aid as an instrument to support their farmers in order to dispose of the surplus of cereals as it reduced the storage costs and created overseas markets. It also became an instrument of foreign policy during the cold war (Mousseau, 2005). Clay (2012:4) concurs with Mousseau, that food aid was a vent to dispose surplus food in Europe and also a form of export competition. He further stated that food aid is tied to procurement of the food

within the donor country. This indicates that food aid was not introduced with a sincere objective to help the end user but rather to help farmers in developed countries by making sure that they do have readily available markets for their produce. Therefore food aid significantly affect development of disaster affected communities as it dictate the economy of the community such as inflation trends of prices. This is demonstrated in fig 3, adapted from Mousseau (2005 :5). It shows the relationship between food aid flow and wheat international price. The fig 3 demonstrates that when food aid increased the price of wheat was lower and when food aid decreased the wheat price increased.



**Fig 3: Wheat price against food aid**

*Source: WFP/FAO/IGC in Mousseau (2005 :5)*

Food aid has several advantages as pointed out by several agencies. Apart from saving lives in crisis situations, it also prevents the use of damaging coping mechanisms such as selling of productive assets like livestock, consumption of seeds and in some instances migration to cities or deforestation (Mousseau 2005). Such coping mechanisms require immediate and comprehensive response assistance but does it remove the need to consult the affected people on what could be the best way of supporting them?

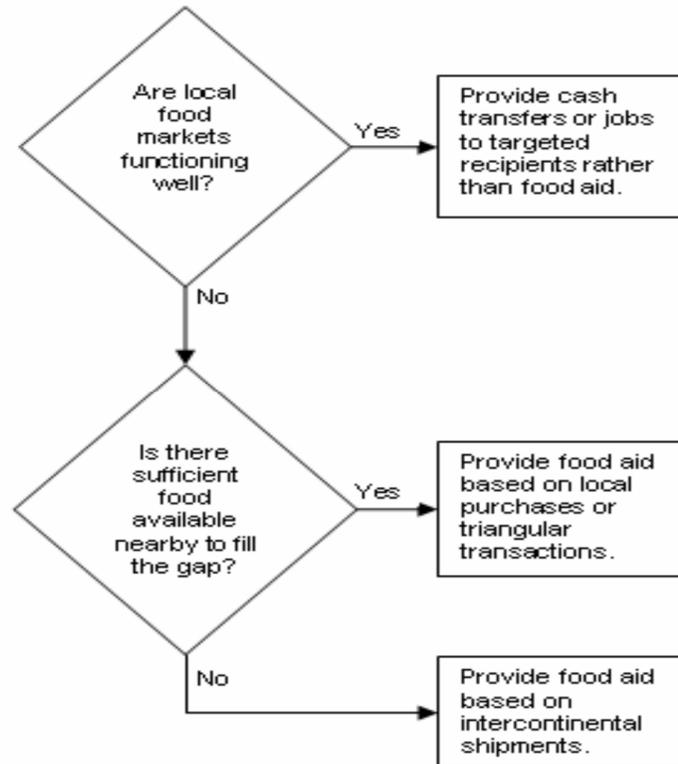
### 3.3 WHAT DETERMINES CHOICE OF AID MODALITIES?

Gore and Patel (2006: 3) cited that response modality is based on **entitlement theory**, which focuses on the process of famine rather than the outcome. The theory states that famines occur when people lose their means to acquire food not due to lack of food in a region Khogalo and Thakar in Gore and Patel (2006: 4). They further argued that people can experience entitlement failure in two ways:

- a. **'Pull' failure** which means lack of income to procure food. This means that there is food in the market but people cannot manage to access it due to lack of buying power.
- b. **"Response' failure** which means inability of the market to supply food to people. This means that people have the needed income but cannot access food in the market.

In case of this study, the response modality will aim at addressing the type of entitlement failure, whether to supply food or to provide cash to the affected population. However, to determine this situation on the ground is not easy because some people may deliberately manipulate the markets for their personal gains.

Gore and Patel (2006; 5) provided a decision tree for usage and procurement of food aid in fig 4;

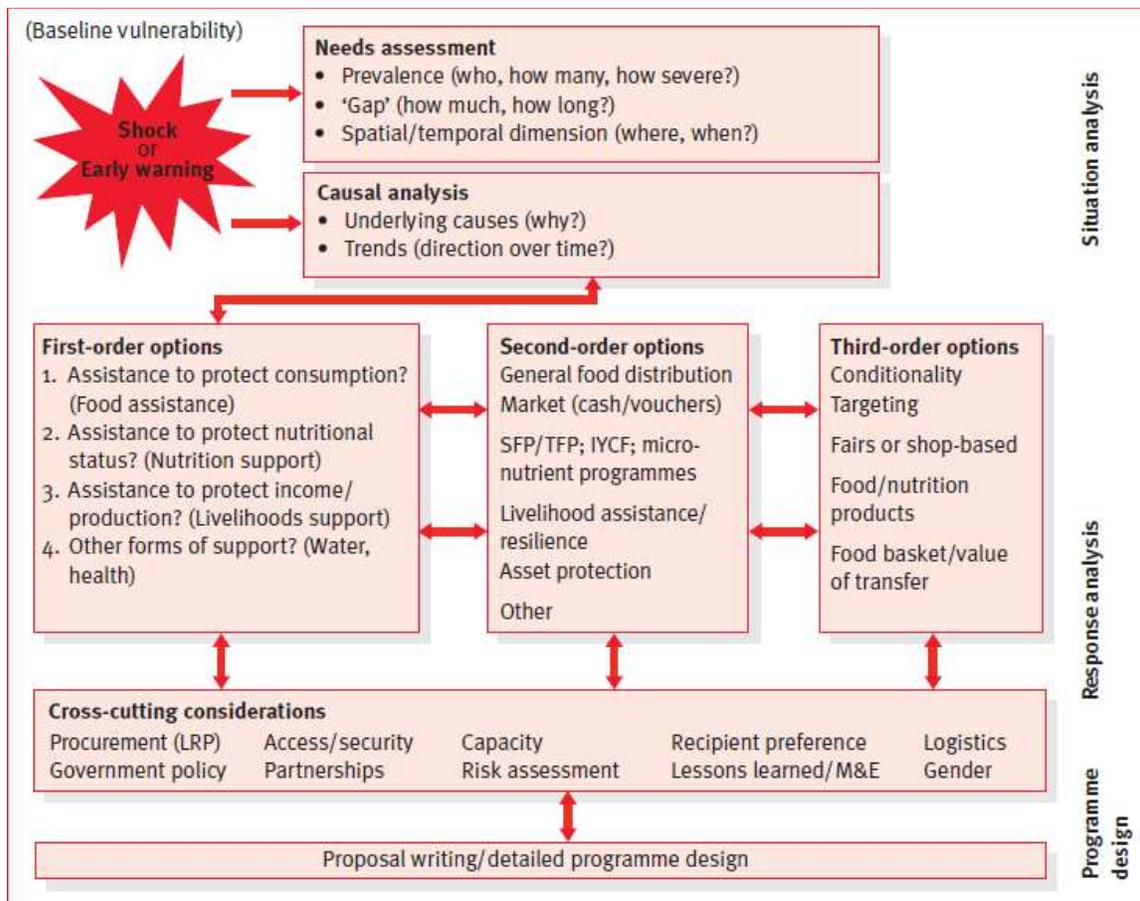


**Fig 4: Decision tree for usage and procurement of food aid**

*Source: Barrett and Maxwell 2004 in Gore and Patel (2006; 5)*

The decision tree helps agencies to ask appropriate questions in order to come up with a right response modality that will not exacerbate people's poverty by turning them into aid dependants.

Maxwell et al. (2013) commissioned by the Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI proposed a framework that guides program designers through the process of linking assessment and situational analysis to program design in fig 5:



**Fig 5: Framework for linking assessment and situational analysis to program design**

**Source:** Based on Daniel Maxwell, John Parker and Heather Stobaugh (2013:4) ‘

The framework states the steps that are needed in order to follow when a shock or warning occurs to proposal writing stage. In principle one writes a proposal after deciding which response modality to follow.

Maxwell et al (2013) framework and Gore and Patel's (2006) decision tree have one thing in common; the need to thoroughly analyse the causes of disaster so that the right response modality is followed which will promote human development. This is very interesting and theoretically viable if humanitarian agencies and donors follow this in order to address the suffering of the people and help relieve their poverty.

However, Mousseau (2005:6) argued that food aid is used as a foreign policy by some developed countries. For example, the USA used food aid as an instrument of agricultural and trade policy. In this case one can see that sometimes there could be

a hidden agenda behind humanitarian aid that comes from developed countries. It is therefore questionable if such aid could result in developing the disaster affected communities. Another questions that still needs to be answered could be; “what are the perceptions of the community on response modality in the context of development?”

### **3.4 DEVELOPMENT**

Cavaye (2001:3) defined development as creation of wealth which involves ongoing economic, social and environmental improvements, sustaining a desirable environment, having vital social system that fosters collaboration, equity and freedom, and vital economy that is diverse, competitive and accessible. Thus, according to Bokho (2013:14) development ensures that there is a wide range of choices for the people, sustains positive attitudes, improves function of institutions and enhances quality of life.

Robinson (2004:3) concurs with Cavaye when he defined development as synonymous with growth and that development means improving, but not challenging continued economic growth. Chauya (2015:15) described development as a transition from unpleasant state of being to another better off state. It occurs when there is improvement in the well-being of an individual or community physically, socially, economically, psychologically and politically.

Myres (2006) defined poverty through several perspectives by analysing several scholars who viewed poverty from different angles, majority view poverty as deficit. The poor lack things including basic essentials for their well-being and most development practitioners respond by providing those needs like food, shelter, infrastructures and they think in so doing poverty will be eradicated. In fact, this is what most emergency responses would critically look at by providing the immediate needs of the disaster affected population. When the response finishes, people return to their initial status and any disaster that strike, they easily stride back and require assistance. In other words, people are not equipped so that they should not be vulnerable in case the disaster recurs or that after such a disastrous period they could point out that despite the adverse situation encounter, still they have made a stride in development.

It is evident that development talks about positive growth of people, where people would be able to live a good and enjoyable life, where they would be able to meet most of their basic requirements such as food, shelter, schools, functional markets and hospitals to mention a few.

### **3.5 EMERGENCY AID AND DEVELOPMENT**

Tarp and Hjertholm (2000:2) provided three justifications for providing aid as follows: Altruism, which concerned with the extent and degree of poverty and inequality in the world; Political ideology, foreign policy and commercial interest, then economic development; used as a realization of other development goals which include poverty alleviation, spread of democracy, gender issues, social development and expansion of markets. The role of foreign aid in 1950s was to provide the needed capital resource transfer to allow developing countries to accumulate enough savings that would propel them into self-sustained growth (Tarp and Hjertholm, 2000).

Ross, Maxwell, and Buchanan-Smith (1995:1) explained that emergencies are costly as they disrupt development gains; they demand a long period of rehabilitation. They further argued that development policy and administration are often insensitive to the risk of drought and the need to protect vulnerable households against this risk, therefore relief and development should be linked to overcome these deficiencies. They further argued that “better ‘development’ can reduce the need for emergency relief; better ‘relief’ can contribute to development; and better ‘rehabilitation’ can ease any remaining transition between the two” (Ross et al 1995). This discussion clearly allude that development is linked to emergency response. A development worker who tries to pursue development interventions without considering humanitarian emergencies affairs turn to loss of the gains at a given disaster. Buchanan-Smith and Maxwell (1994; 2) pointed out that emergencies can make subsequent development more difficult, by diverting funds that could be used in development. They further urged that linking relief and development offers positive benefits, the ‘silver lining in the cloudless sky’, if relief and development interventions are implemented harmoniously to provide poor people with secure livelihoods and efficient safety nets, mitigating the frequency and impact of shocks and easing rehabilitation. This indicates a clear linkage between the two. However, it should be

pointed out that their linkage is supporting the other in order to reduce the impact of disasters. If development interventions are implemented with disaster risk reduction strategies, resilience can be enhanced to the affected people and followed by emergency response which focuses on rebuilding developmental gains.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (2013) outlined the steps that they follow when disaster strike an area. Firstly, they conduct search and rescue for the survivor then emergency relief is followed by early recovery. After that they get into medium to long term recovery and finally they get back to community development. This shows that there is a connection between emergency response and development. In many cases emergency response is followed by recovery interventions which later is followed by development programs. What emergency response does is to ensure human survival and preserve the developmental gains that remain after emergencies or crisis so that the well-being of people should not continue to deteriorate as a result of some negative coping mechanisms. During disasters, whether human or natural, developmental interventions are halted and the only intervention that rejuvenates development is emergency response through aid and other interventions.

Some quarters argue that emergency relief promotes dependency syndrome, which is “an attitude and belief that a group cannot solve its own problems without outside help” (Harvey and Lind 2005:9). They further identify four main ways in which the term relief is used: (a) Relief risks creating a dependency mentality as people expect continued assistance. This undermines initiative, at individual and community level. (b) Relief undermines local economies, creating a continuing need for relief assistance and trapping people into ongoing dependency on outside assistance. (c) Dependence on external assistance as one of the features of extreme poverty, and associated with a sense of shame or defeat. (d) Dependency of governments at local or national levels, warring parties or aid agencies on relief resources.

This looks at emergency relief as negatively contributing to the development initiatives of the people, however Barrett (2006:6) pointed out that emergency relief aims to save lives, protect assets and sustainably improve beneficiaries lives through enabling investment. He further argues that dependency on aid is a negative

unintended outcome. Criticizing emergency relief based on the fear of negative outcome could end up with several negative consequences like severe malnutrition, negative coping strategies and even loss of lives.

Peppiatt, Mitchell, and Holzmann (2001:11) reported that emergency response halt or reverse migration to urban or neighbouring areas that are food secure. It also reunites families as bread winners remain within the areas instead of going out to look for means of getting food for the household. They further argued that cash transfers attract food sellers and link food-deficit areas with food –surplus ones, since traders tend to shift food from low-to high-price area. Cash transfer can activate local markets and encourage trading to more remote hunger stricken areas, thereby controlling the price inflation of food stuffs in the long run.

It is therefore evident that there is a strong link between emergency response and development. Implementing one and leaving out the other could have severe consequences in terms of consolidating the gains.

### **3.6 CONCLUSION**

Based on the information provided in this section, it is very clear that emergency aid plays a critical role in the lives of affected people and has the potential to translate their lives in either way of the direction whether good or bad. There is very thin line that demarcates development and disaster response because both ensure that people should still lead better lives. The most critical question still remains; what are the community perceptions on the response modality that they get?

## **CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses how the study was conducted by looking at specific research methodologies the study followed, the research instruments, sample size, sampling methods and data collection techniques. The chapter includes the location where the study was conducted and discusses the three qualitative data collection methods used namely focus group discussion, key informant interviews and a case study. Furthermore it discusses the household head interviews which followed a quantitative method.

### **4.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The research design is discussed by focusing on both qualitative and quantitative research. It provides the overview of the sampling methods, population, sample size and data collection techniques used during the study. It also describes how data was managed and analysed.

Polit and Beck (2003:15) defined research methods as techniques used by researchers to structure a study, to gather and analyse information relevant to research question. In order to properly structure the study the researcher identified descriptive research design which he followed in conducting the study. Blanche, Durrheim, and Painter (2009:34) defined research design as a strategic framework for action that serves as a bridge between research questions and the execution or implementation. The researcher used descriptive design employing both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods to determine perceptions of community members on humanitarian aid response modality in Chikwawa district. According to World Health Organisation (2001:16), descriptive design is the study that is not structured formally as an analytical or experimental study. It does not aim at testing a hypothesis but belongs to the observational category of study.

#### **4.2.1 Quantitative research**

Quantitative research is broadly used by researchers because it uses the positivist paradigm, and also they believe that there are many facts in the world to be collected by means of quantitative measure (Blanche et al 2009:132). Quantitative research

enables researchers to precisely describe indicators in measurable terms (Blanche et al 2009:132).

Quantitative data was collected through administering a household questionnaire targeting beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of humanitarian aid in the Traditional Authority Lundu.

#### **4.2.2 Qualitative research**

According to Blanche et al (2009:271), qualitative research is applied in situations where it is impossible to describe the variables. In this case, the research aimed at engaging in an open-ended, inductive exploration. Qualitative methods “allow researchers to study selected issues in depth, openly and in detail as they identify and attempt to understand the categories of information that emerge from the data” (Blanche et al 2009:47).

The qualitative method targeted specific individuals in order to have understanding of their perceptions on response modality. The study conducted focus group discussions, key informant interviews to community leaders and government officers. A case study within the study area was identified, as an example, so that the researcher could have an in-depth understanding of a household that has ever benefited from the response modality.

#### **4.3 RESEARCH TECHNIQUES**

The research used cross sections of designs employing a quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods. According to Polit and Beck (2010), cross-section studies are suitable for describing relationship among phenomena at a fixed point in time. The study used the following data collection tools: household questionnaire, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and a single case study.

#### **4.4 SETTING OF THE STUDY**

This study was conducted in Traditional Authority Lundu of Chikwawa District. This area was chosen because for many years it has been targeted for and benefited from both food aid and cash transfer response modalities.

#### **4.5 TARGET POPULATION AND SAMPLE**

Blanche et al (2009:562) defined population as a large pool of cases from which a sample is drawn, and to which findings are generated. The study population included all households within the area that benefited or not benefited from any emergency response of which according to National Statistical Office (2008:29) the total population was 47,549. The household heads were purposefully selected because they are key decision makers in the households and can ably know what is best for their households. The total number of household heads in T/A Lundu is estimated at 8,645 as an average household size in Malawi is estimated to be 5.5 people (National Statistical Office 2008).

#### **4.6 SAMPLING AND SAMPLE SIZE**

The quantitative samples for the study were drawn using a random selection. Random selection gives an equal and independent chances for each elements in sample frame of being selected (Blanche et al 2009:134). Polit and Beck (2003:50) stated that research studies rely on sample of subjects, a subset of the total population. This is done because it is practical and less costly to collect data from a sample than from an entire population. The two methods of sampling used were probability (random sample) and non-probability where no one has an equal chance of being selected (Polit and Beck 2003:50). The qualitative samples were drawn purposively since the study was looking at a certain group of people who could give a fair balance of their perceptions on the topic under study.

Traditional Authority Lundu has 4 Group Village Headmen (GVH) who oversee 30 villages making a total of 34 villages (Malawi Government 2011:35). A sample frame was generated where names of all 34 villages under Traditional Authority Lundu were registered and allocated numbers. The selected villages were the villages that participated in the study. In each village a selected number of households were chosen randomly by spinning a bottle and choosing the first house then the third house in the direction of the spin bottle. In event where the first house there was no respondent then the data collectors went to the next house until they find a respondent, then they follow the sequence of skipping one house. This process helps to reduce biasness on the part of data collectors and enhance the

representation of the community members as they participate in the study on a chance basis.

Table 2 provides total villages under T/A Lundu from Chikwawa District Council.

**Table 2: List of villages in T/A Lundu**

| <b>GROUP<br/>VILLAGE<br/>HEADMAN</b> | <b>MANGULENJE</b> | <b>MAFALE</b> | <b>CHIPAKUZA</b> | <b>MALEMIA</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Village<br/>Headmen</b>           | Tomali            | Dzilonzo      | Thomu            | Bestala        |
|                                      | Ingadzi           | Nyamphota     | Daison Chapepa   | Tizola         |
|                                      | Nkhabeka          | Pangilesi     | Chipakuza II     | Matelequera    |
|                                      | Mphamba           | Sekeni I      | Kutulo I         | Chabuka        |
|                                      | Billiati          | Sekeni II     | Kutulo II        | Malemia II     |
|                                      | Fote I            |               |                  | Mafale II      |
|                                      | Fote II           |               |                  |                |
|                                      | Biasi             |               |                  |                |
|                                      | Mwakulamwaona     |               |                  |                |
|                                      | Nyamphota         |               |                  |                |
|                                      | Thomu             |               |                  |                |
|                                      | Kanseche          |               |                  |                |
|                                      | Kadinga           |               |                  |                |
|                                      | Namatchuwa        |               |                  |                |

Source: Chikwawa District Council Data (unpublished)

#### **4.6.1 Sample size for quantitative study**

Polit and Beck (2003:50) indicated that research studies rely on samples. The minimum sample size agreed by many people is that of thirty cases if the researcher is to use some form of statistical analysis (Cohen, Manion and Morrison 2003:93). Cohen et al (2003) provided a table that presented a range of sample sizes depending on the population. For instance, using sampling error of 5 percent with confidence level of 95 percent, the sample size for a population of T/A Lundu which is 47, 549 should be **381**. Using this sample size would require significant financial

resources and time in order to process all the required data, which would be very costly to the researcher. Audience Dialogue (2006:3) cited in Madziakapita (2009:93) indicates that the rule of the thumb is that a sample size of between 100 and 200 is recommended when one has no previous experience of surveys and no available survey data on the same. Looking at all these cases, the researcher decided that the sample size for this study should be 193 HH. This is a meaningful sample which one can manage to draw conclusion from but also meet the financial resource requirement to conduct the study.

With the use of judgment sampling methodology, group village headmen (GVHs) Mangulenge (15 villages), Mafale (6 villages) and Chipakuza (6 villages) were selected for the household survey. Using the number of their villages as a ratio, then at least 107 HH from Mangulenge 43 HH from Mafale and 43 HH Chipakuza were interviewed.

#### **4.6.2 Qualitative Data Collection Methods**

As pointed out earlier, this study employed three qualitative data collection methods which were focus group discussion, case study and key informant interviews and these are further discussed in the following section. .

##### ***4.6.2.1 Focus Group Discussion***

Focus group discussions (FGDs) are a form of group interview, where it relies on the interaction within the group who discuss a topic supplied by the researcher (Cohen et al 2003:288). Polit and Beck (2003:342) pointed out that in focus group interview a group of four to eight people are assembled for a discussion. Focus group discussion accord the researcher an opportunity of accessing rich information in an efficient manner.

In this study, the research conducted two focus group discussions. One group targeted women while the other group targeted men. This was done in order to avoid male dominance during the discussion. The selection of the group was done using purposive sampling with an aim of having a wide range of representation within the area under study. In this case, the focus group discussions were conducted in Group Village Headman (GVH) Malemia. This area was selected because the villages under this GVH did not participate in

the household survey, hence the results were used to triangulate with what the people from other GVHs provided.

Using purposive sampling, the researcher selected eight women from Bestala village of which four had received both food and cash while the other four either have received one or none. The men's group with a similar composition as that of women was selected from Chabuka Village. This was done in order to avoid conferring on the subject under discussion; hence each group had independent opinion on the subject matter.

#### **64.6.2.3 Key Informant Interview**

Key informant is a person well-versed in the phenomenon of research interest and who is willing to share information and insight with the researcher (Polit and Beck, 2003:722). Key informants help to provide information about a group's needs as they hold key position to know those needs. In this study, the researcher interviewed community leaders (group village head men), government and NGO workers that included the agricultural extension officer at Mbewe EPA.

Key informants for interview were picked based on their role in the area, so that they were able to provide adequate information on the research understudy using purposive sampling. In order to ensure this, the researcher interviewed four group village headmen, agriculture extension officer at Mbewe EPA, the Crops officer in the office of District Agriculture Development Officer (DADO), Program Coordinator for Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) and Food Security Coordinator for Catholic Development Commission (CADECOM) representing the 2 NGO heads within the district that are involved in humanitarian emergency, and 2 traders/agribusiness men at Nchalo which is the major market in the area.

#### **4.7 Case Study**

Polit and Beck (2003:259) defined case studies as in-depth investigations of a single entity or a small numbers of entities. The entities may be an individual, family, group, institution, community or other social unit. In case study, a researcher obtains a wealth of descriptive information.

Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2003:181) defined case study as a specific instance that is frequently designed to illustrate a more general principle. It is a study of an instance in action. They further argued that case studies provide opportunities to the researcher of having an intimate knowledge of a person's condition, thoughts and environment. Case study strives to portray what it is like to be in a particular situation.

In this study, the researcher tried to understand a situation of a household selected within T/A Lundu that has ever benefited from either food aid or cash transfer and see what impact it brought to that household. The researcher interviewed a specific household with a unique story showing how the emergency response affected them negatively or positively.

#### **4.8 DATA COLLECTION**

The researcher used a structured closed-ended questionnaire for the household survey which contained optional responses from which the respondents had to tick an appropriate response. The questionnaire was administered by trained research assistants through face to face interviews in order to collect data. The questionnaires for the household survey were translated into local language during the training of the data collectors so that everyone had a common understanding of the questions. Then enumerators were filling in the English questionnaire as the translated one was only there to help them to clarify certain questions to the respondent.

The Data collecting instrument were pre tested in Blantyre under Traditional Authority Chigalu, where 10 households' heads were asked to respond to the questionnaire. Pre-testing was done to check the feasibility of the study in terms of resources, time, availability of subjects for the study (Polit and Beck 2003). This also provided an opportunity to revise or amend the questionnaire where need arose in order to get the best results for the study. The area for testing was chosen because it also received emergency response aid in 2013/2014, which made the community ideal for pretesting as it had similarities with the targeted area in Chikwawa as the community was capable to give a good picture of what the researcher was going to get in Chikwawa during the actual data collection.

#### **4.9 VALIDITY**

Validity is very important in any research. It is useless to pursue a research which will turn out to be invalid because of not fulfilling certain requirements of the study or because of overlooking some critical steps in the study. Validity essentially demonstrates that a particular instrument measures what it is supposed to measure (Cohen, Manion, and Morrison 2000). Cohen et al (2000: 105) further pointed out that in qualitative data validity might be addressed through the honesty, depth, richness and scope of the data to mention a few while in quantitative data validity may be improved through careful sampling, appropriate instruments and appropriate treatment of the data. The study used appropriate sampling and instruments in order to collect high quality data and the collected data was appropriately treated so that errors were significantly reduced. The instruments were pre-tested on 10 households in order to ensure that an accurate and appropriate instrument was used when collecting data in the field.

#### **4.10 RELIABILITY**

Cohen et al (2000:117) explained that reliability is a synonym for consistency and replicability over time and they argue that for the research to be reliable it must demonstrate that if it were to be carried out on a similar group of respondents in similar context then similar results would be found. In order to ensure that the instruments used in this study were reliable, the researcher himself conducted pre-testing of the instruments in order to identify errors to be corrected so as to achieve similar results in any similar context that the instruments could be used.

#### **4.11 DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS**

Data analysis involves organising, accounting for and explaining data in making sense of the data in terms of participants' definitions of the situation (Cohen et al 2000). In order to make sense of the participant's definition in this study, the researcher used Statistical Product and Service (SPSS) 16.0 to analyse data from completed household questionnaires.

During data collection the research ensured completeness and accuracy of every data collected on daily basis. This helped to reduce the number of nullified questionnaires during data analysis. The data was analysed using descriptive

statistics where the results were presented as means, frequencies and percentages in tables and figures.

Qualitative data management and analysis was used in order to reduce the data. The data was reduced and transformed in order to make it more accessible, understandable and to draw out various themes and patterns. Data reduction is applied in order to make sense of the large amount of data that is collected using this method (Polit and Beck 2003:586)

#### **4.12 CONCLUSION**

In summary, the study took place in Chikwawa district, Traditional Authority Lundu where qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies were used. The study basically used four different ways of collecting data which are household interviews, case study, key informant interviews and focus group discussion.

The next chapter discusses the research findings from the collected and analysed data.

## CHAPTER 5: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the research findings and discussions. The chapter outlines all the results of the study from the analysed data and present a discussion based on the findings of all the four tools described in this study namely; key informant interviews, focus group discussion, household survey and case study. The research data from the household survey was analysed using SPSS and the results have been presented in the form of graphs, tables, while the results from the focus group, key informants and case study have been presented using quotations and statements provided by the interviewed people during data collection (please refer to appendices 4 to7).

The first part of the findings presents the demographic data which includes: gender, age, marital status and education level of the respondents. The actual research findings have been presented based on the research questions and objectives with thorough discussion.

### 5.2 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

#### 5.2.1 Gender representation of the research participants

**Table 3: Sex of respondent**

|        | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Male   | 74        | 38.3    | 38.3          | 38.3               |
| Female | 119       | 61.7    | 61.7          | 100.0              |
| Total  | 193       | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

Table 3, shows that there were more female participants (61.7 percent, n=119) who participated in the survey than there were male participants with only 38.3 percent (n=74) of the total sample of the study. The study findings show that there were more female participants in the study. This is in agreement with the Malawi population ratios which indicates that there are more females (52 percent) than males in the country (National Statistical Office, 2008). This can also be explained based on the fact that women are generally expected to take care of the household and are likely

to be found at home than men. It is also to the advantage of the study because women are more affected in terms of ensuring the availability of food at household level hence their influence in the study could help to streamline the discussion to the actual and proper use of the humanitarian aid.

### 5.2.2 Age of the respondents

Results in table 4 shows that 32.6 percent (n=63) of the respondents were within the age bracket of 26 to 35 years which was followed by age brackets 56 and above (22.3 percent, n=43), 36 to 45 years (21.2 percent, n=41) and 46 to 55 years (20.2 percent, n=39). The youthful age bracket of 15 to 25 years represented 3.6 percent (n=7).

**Table 4: Age group of respondent**

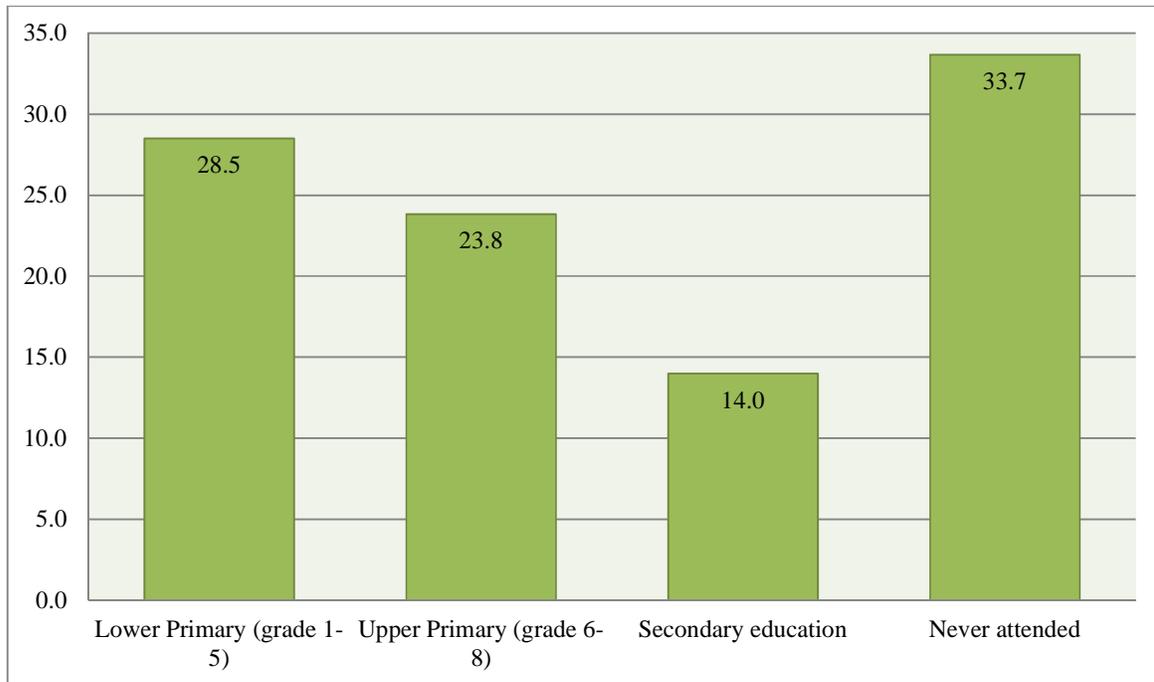
|                | Frequency  | Percent      | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 15 to 25 years | 7          | 3.6          | 3.6           | 3.6                |
| 26 to 35 years | 63         | 32.6         | 32.6          | 36.3               |
| 36 to 45 years | 41         | 21.2         | 21.2          | 57.5               |
| 46 to 55 years | 39         | 20.2         | 20.2          | 77.7               |
| 56 and above   | 43         | 22.3         | 22.3          | 100.0              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>193</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b>  |                    |

On the age of the participants the study showed an even distribution of participants' age, especially age ranges 26 to 25 years, 36 to 45 years, 46 to 55 years and 56 years and above were represented by 32.6 percent, 21.2 percent, 20.2 percent, and 22.3 percent respectively. The youthful aged bracket 15 to 26 years was represented by 3.6 percent.

The results shows that very few youth participated in the study which could be acceptable because the study focused on household decision makers not dependents in order to get the actual understanding of community perceptions on response modality. The difference in the other age categories are very minimal to influence the results of the study to a particular age bracket hence the results can be attributed to be a representative of the different age groups within the study area.

The difference in the other age categories are very minimal to influence the results of the study to a particular age bracket hence the results can be claimed to be a representative of the different age groups within the study area.

### 5.2.3 Respondents' education qualification



**Fig 6: Level of education for participants in the household interview**

The Fig 6 shows that 33.7 percent (n=65) of the respondents had never attended school, 28.5 percent (n=55) attended lower primary school, while 23.8 percent (n=46) attended up to upper primary school. Fourteen percent (14 percent, n=27) at least attended secondary school level. No participant attended tertiary education. This can be interpreted that most respondents (66.3 percent on aggregate) could either read or write in their local language as they attended a formal level of education. This finding is consistent with the national literacy levels in the country which is above 65 percent.

The study shows that 66.3 percent had ever attended school, this can be interpreted that a significant proportion of the respondents could read or write in their local language.

## 5.2.4 Marital status of the respondents

**Table 5: Marital status of respondent**

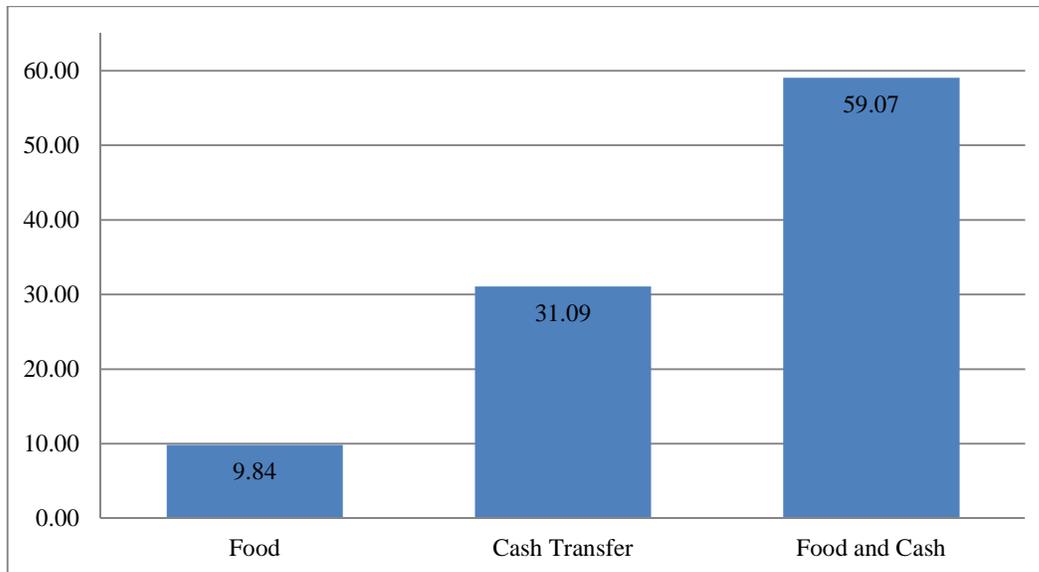
|                    | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Valid Percent</b> | <b>Cumulative Percent</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Married            | 134              | 69.4           | 69.4                 | 69.4                      |
| Single             | 6                | 3.1            | 3.1                  | 72.5                      |
| Divorced/Separated | 14               | 7.3            | 7.3                  | 79.8                      |
| Widow/Widower      | 39               | 20.2           | 20.2                 | 100.0                     |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>193</b>       | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>100.0</b>         |                           |

The majority, 69.4 percent (n=134) of the respondents were married followed by widowed at 20.2 percent (n=39), divorced/separated at 7.3 percent (n=14) and singles at 3.1 percent (n=6) according to table 5. This agrees with the results on the age of the respondents where majority were adults hence they were able to competently respond to the survey questions as they were very conversant with the subject under discussion.

## 5.3 RESEARCH ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

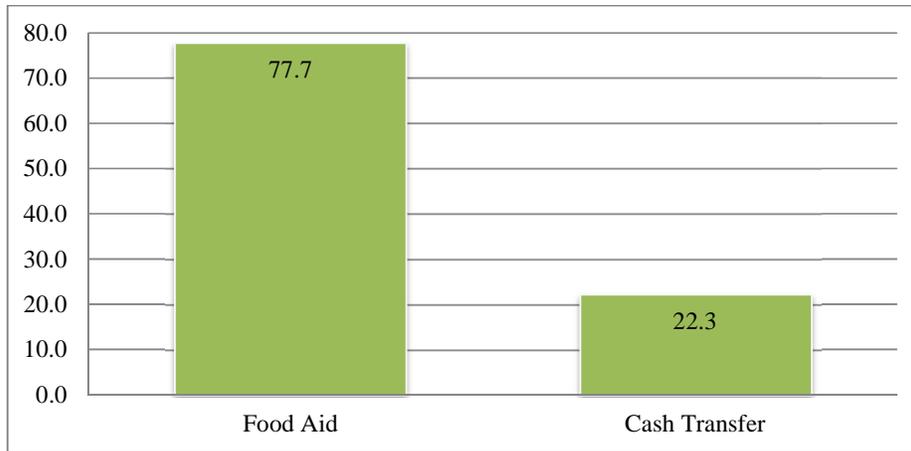
In this section, the findings of the research have been presented, analysed and discussed in relation to the research objective. This study focuses on the community's understanding of humanitarian aid, their perceptions on response modality, level of satisfaction and the impact of humanitarian aid on development.

### 5.3.1 Community understanding of aid help in achieving development



**Fig 7: Ways through which humanitarian aid has been provided in T/A Lundu**

Fig 7 shows that 59.07 percent (n=114) of the respondents indicated that this area experienced food and cash transfers, 31.1 percent (n=60) experienced cash transfer and only 9.8 percent (n=19) experienced food aid. The findings of the study suggest that 100 percent of the participants had ever received humanitarian aid either through cash transfer 31.09 percent or, food aid 9.84 percent or both 59.07 percent. This means that they were able to express their perceptions of the response modality because they had at least received humanitarian aid. This gives a better understanding of what the study was trying to find out which is better than if the findings could show that the majority had never received humanitarian aid. This therefore means that their responses were based on practical understanding of humanitarian response modality.



**Fig 8: Best way of providing humanitarian aid**

The results in fig 8 show that 77.7 percent (n=150) of the respondent viewed food aid as the best response modality in their area, while 22.3 percent (n=43) opted for cash aid. Key informant interviews results show that 70 percent of the interviewee opted for food aid as preferred response modality than cash transfer. Focus group discussant opted for cash transfer as the best modality. They indicated that additional handling labour that food aid attracts as a drawback as compared to cash transfers where beneficiary do not need to provide extra labour before receiving the money. One person in the men's group said "*Chakudya timayamba kukatsitsa kenaka timakalondera podikira tsiku lolandira zomwe sizifunika polandira ndalama*" (With food aid, we are required to off load food from truck then we are required to guard the commodities before distribution day, which does not happen with cash transfer).

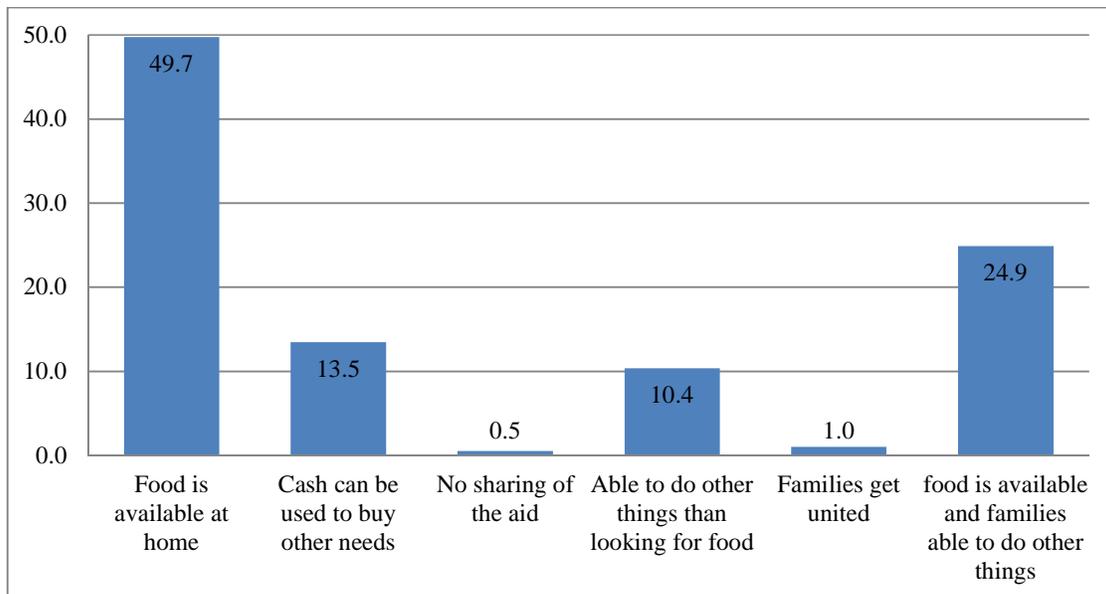
**Table 6: Proportion of participants prefer food aid over cash transfer**

|                   | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Valid<br/>Percent</b> | <b>Cumulative<br/>Percent</b> |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Strongly agree    | 143              | 74.1           | 74.1                     | 74.1                          |
| Agree             | 14               | 7.3            | 7.3                      | 81.3                          |
| Somehow agree     | 8                | 4.1            | 4.1                      | 85.5                          |
| Disagree          | 21               | 10.9           | 10.9                     | 96.4                          |
| Strongly disagree | 7                | 3.6            | 3.6                      | 100.0                         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>193</b>       | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>100.0</b>             |                               |

Table 6 shows that 74.1 percent (n=143) agreed that food aid is better than cash transfer and 10.9 percent (n=21) disagreed. The business women reported that cash beneficiaries do not buy food and instead used the cash for other family needs (see appendix 6).

The study findings suggest that food aid is the preferred response modality in the area as 77 percent of respondents of household survey opted for it. Similarly 70 percent of the key informants also opted for food aid as the best response modality. The present findings are different from what Adeso (2012) in chapter 3, section 3.2.1 and also what Kita (2014) in Chapter 2, section 2.2 which said that cash transfer is better than food aid. This could be attributed to the serious drought that the area had experienced where food commodity prices were higher than any other period in history. This was confirmed during the focus group discussions where both men's and women's groups lamented the increased prices of commodities on the market and said that most cash transfer recipients found it difficult to procure an equivalent food basket with the money they received.

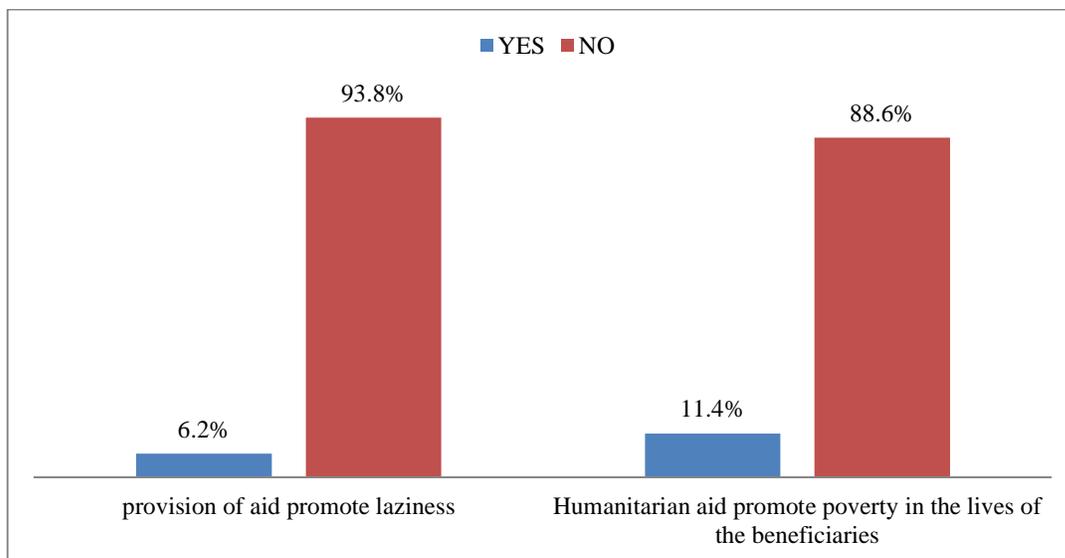
The findings agrees with World Vision Malawi (2015) in chapter 2, section 2.2 which indicated that cash transfers increases inflation rate. However, this can be counter argued as the transfer value was calculated based on the market assessments that were conducted on monthly basis. Due to this reason the results of the study may imply that cash beneficiaries were dissatisfied with the modality and view it as not very helpful to them.



**Fig 9: Reason for choosing food aid as the best method**

Fig 9 shows that 49.7 percent (n=96) indicated that food was available at home throughout the lean months due to food assistance while 24.9 percent (n=48) indicated that in addition to food availability in homes, families were able to do other things in their households. Others urged that food aid encouraged family unity as household heads did not leave their families to fetch for food in towns or other areas. Humanitarian response helped to ensure that vulnerable households had food throughout the lean period.

Focus group discussant opted for cash transfer as the best modality which was different from the other two data collection methods. The study findings suggest that those who opted for cash transfer had reasons that were not necessarily similar to the humanitarian aid goal which is to save lives. They mentioned that cash distribution is faster, does not experience pipeline breaks and it is not labour intensive as compared to food aid. This suggests that cash transfer is a new modality in T/A Lundu and majority of the people are not aware of how to effectively use cash received.



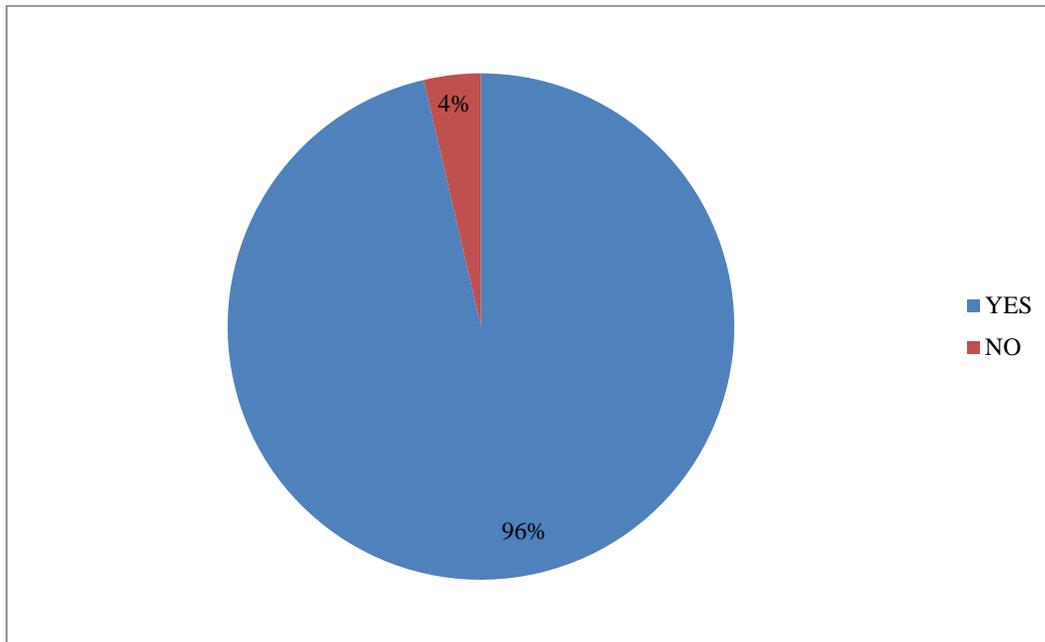
**Fig 20: Proportion of respondents who believe humanitarian aid promotes poverty and laziness in the lives of beneficiaries**

Fig 10 shows that 93.8 percent (n=181) did not agree with the assumption that humanitarian aid promotes laziness, while 88.6 percent (n=171) did not agree that it promotes poverty in the lives of beneficiaries through dependency on aid. People were well aware of the situation that they were in and the importance of aid.

The results of the study indicate that humanitarian aid does not promote laziness on their part. This finding suggests that people take humanitarian assistance seriously that it helps to save lives. This means that people are well aware of the situation they are in and the importance of aid. Focus group discussant indicated that humanitarian aid had helped them so much that stopping it could be disastrous because of the impact of El-Niño and other disasters the area had experienced over the past two years (2014 to 2016).

The Crops Officer, Program Coordinator for Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) and Food Security Coordinator for Catholic Development Commission (CADECOM) reported that humanitarian aid accord people opportunities to participate in other development activities within their communities. This agrees with what the local leaders and business people who were interviewed as key informants responded. The same results were also obtained through the case study that was conducted; Mr Jonas (not his real name) acknowledged that humanitarian aid had

significantly helped his family to concentrate on his field as opposed to years where he was supposed to go and do casual labour in order to fend for his household and when the farming season ended they had nothing in their fields. This replicates the hunger cycle in his family but with the humanitarian aid he is able to harvest a little. However the main challenge is the climate change otherwise he could be able to produce enough for his family.



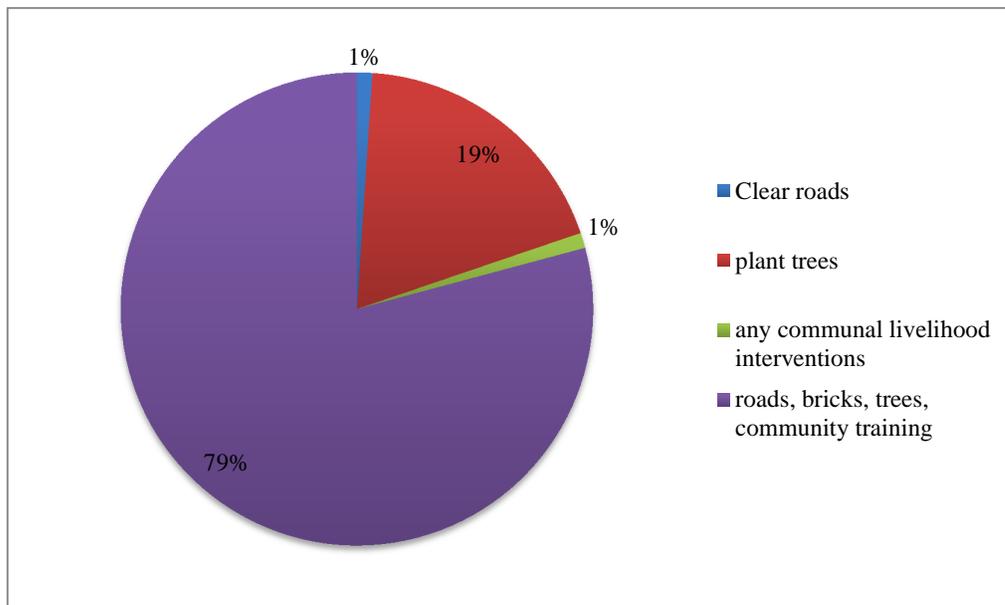
**Fig 3: Proportion of participants who believe aid beneficiaries should do some community intervention before getting aid**

Fig 11 indicates that 96 percent (n=186) agreed that it is necessary that aid recipients should participate in some community interventions such as food or cash for asset in their community before getting aid. This observation was consistent in focus group discussion and KII results. This implies that people do not want general food hand-outs even in case of disaster but rather they should participate in certain activities and they get the aid while other community assets are being created. The preferred assets to be created include roads, bridges, irrigations schemes, afforestation to mention a few, and these can help in the long run to increase community resilience to disaster and thereby reduce their vulnerability.

The study further revealed that 96 percent of the participants would like to be involved in some community interventions in the form of food or cash for asset within their community before getting aid. This implies that people do not want general food

distribution even in case of disaster but rather that they should participate in certain activities before getting aid in turn creating community assets. The preferred assets to be created are roads, bridges, irrigations schemes, afforestation to mention a few. These can help in the long run to increase community resilience to disaster and thereby reduce their vulnerability. This finding is consistent with Buchanan-Smith and Maxwell (1994;2) in section 3.5 who indicated that linking relief and development offers positive benefits, if relief and development interventions are implemented harmoniously to provide poor people with secure livelihoods and efficient safety nets, mitigating the frequency and impact of shocks and easing rehabilitation.

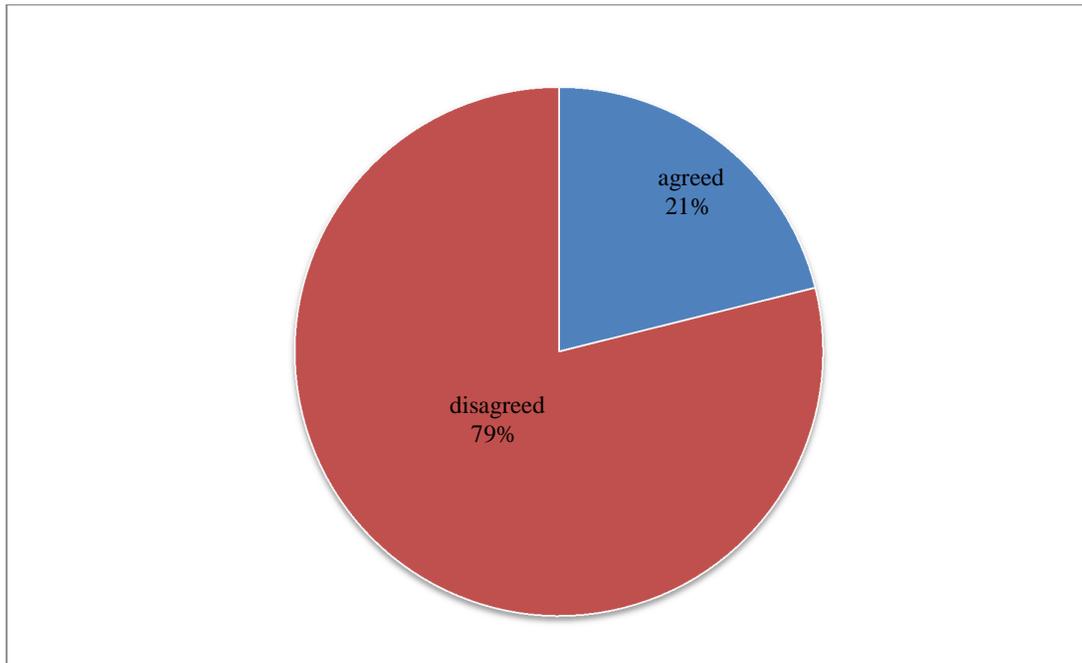
Fig 12 shows that 79 percent (n=152) preferred that aid beneficiaries should be involved in road maintenance, moulding bricks for community structures, planting trees for soil conversation and vegetation covers or participate in developmental trainings that will ensure that the participants gain knowledge and skills of improving their lives.



**Fig 42: Preferred types of community intervention to be done**

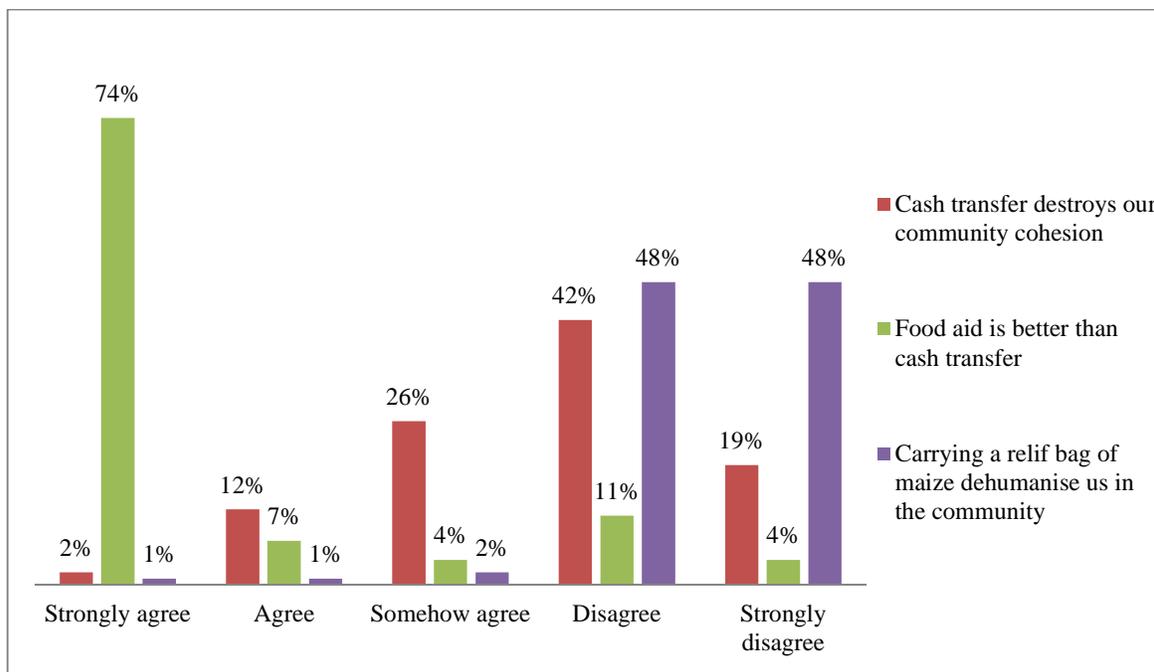
Focus group discussant reported that humanitarian aid should be accompanied by provision of farm inputs, treadle pumps and water engine pumps for irrigation farming. They indicated that these would help them to cultivate their own produce during winter season that would enable them to wean out of the relief program.

### 5.3.2 Community perceptions on response modality to a disaster



**Fig 53: Humanitarian aid creates dependency syndrome**

Fig 13 shows that 79 percent (n=152) disagreed that humanitarian aid creates dependency, while an aggregate of 21 percent (n=41) agreed that it creates dependency. Focus group discussant and key informant interviews were in agreement with the findings and they indicated that humanitarian aid provided opportunity for the beneficiaries to concentrate on other things than hunting for food. It also reduced negative coping mechanisms like selling household assets in order to buy food or seeking casual labour while neglecting their fields in order to have food in their homes. This observation also agrees with the case study where the interviewed households acknowledged that humanitarian aid has helped their households to concentrate on their fields than spending time looking for casual labour. This is consistent with the literature review chapter 3, section 3.2 by Maxwell et al (2013). Community members are able to see the benefits of humanitarian aid.



**Fig 64: Community perception of humanitarian aid**

Fig 14 reveals 42 percent (n=81) of the respondents disagreed with the statement that cash transfer destroys community cohesion. However, 26 percent (n=50) somehow agreed. This may imply that community members in Lundu are skeptical about cash transfer as compared to their perceptions on food aid where 74 percent (n=143) agreed that food aid is better than cash transfer and almost everyone disagreed with the statement that carrying a bag of maize dehumanized them in the community. The results are contrary to what Adeso (2012) in chapter 3, section 3.2.1, reported that food aid dehumanize beneficiaries as compared to cash transfer which gives dignity to beneficiaries as they are not easily marked that they are coming from receiving relief resources.

### 5.3.3 Level of satisfaction of the communities on the response modality

The study has shown that community members themselves should be involved in selecting the response modality; this was reported from all key informants and all the two focus group discussions that were conducted. During one of the focus group discussions one person was quoted saying “*ife timangoona anthu akubwera kudzatiuza kuti mudzilandira chakuti, tidakakonda akadamatifunsa kaye kuti adziwe zimene ife kuno tikufuna*” (“we just see people coming and tell us that we will be

receiving this type of aid, we would appreciate it if they could have involved us in determining the type of response modality in our area”). Focus group discussant reported that it is the government that chooses the type of response modality and sometimes it does not necessarily address their actual needs.

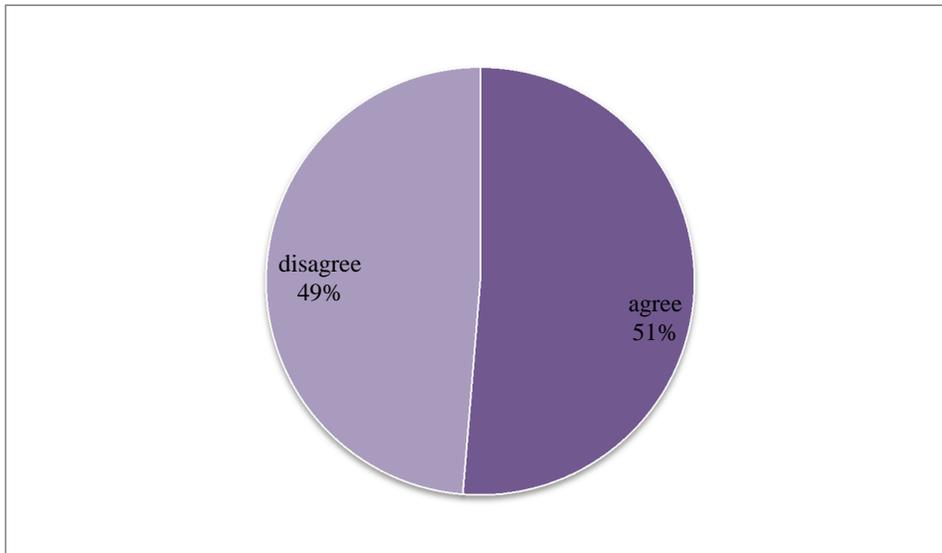
The findings of the study indicate that community members are dissatisfied that they are not involved in selecting the response modality; this was reported from all key informants and all the two focus group discussions that were conducted. The current findings agree with Maxwell et al (2013) in chapter 3, section 3.2 who explains that response modality is mostly determined by the experience of the organization staff members who know the context and has had some institution memory of past responses. The top down approach suggest that vulnerable people do not know what is good for themselves, as a result some quarters within the society perceive that humanitarian aid is abused because it does not address the actual needs of the vulnerable people. It can also argued that top down approach address some gaps of vulnerable people are left out other areas that could help them to build up their resilience abilities.

**Table 7: Cash transfer is more effective in disaster response**

|          | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Valid Percent</b> | <b>Cumulative Percent</b> |
|----------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| agree    | 60               | 31.1           | 31.1                 | 31.1                      |
| disagree | 133              | 68.9           | 68.9                 | 100                       |
| Total    | 193              | 100.0          | 100.0                |                           |

Results show that 68.9 percent (n=133) disagree that cash transfer is more effective in disaster response, while 31.1 percent (n=60) agree as shown in table 7. These results are also consistent with results that were obtained in KII, in which the majority (70 percent) of the key informants recommended the use of food aid as a method of emergency response in the area as opposed to cash transfer. Local traders and local chiefs argued that food aid helps to stabilize food commodity price on the market, thereby helping even those that are not beneficiaries of emergency response because of reduced food price inflation on the market. People, who opted for cash transfer especially focus group discussants, cited that cash transfer gives them a

wider choice than food aid, this is not the intended purpose for cash transfer. Hence, this can mean influential household heads especially men easily divert the cash to other things than for food hence their preference of it.



**Fig 75: People spend money on useless things than intended purpose**

The results also reveal that almost an equal number of the respondents agree and disagree that cash is spent on useless things than intended. Fig 15 indicates that an aggregate of 51.3 percent (n=99) agrees while 48.7 percent (n=94) disagrees.

The study findings reveal that 51 percent of the respondents agree that cash is spent on items other than intended. There was a close tie with those who disagreed at 49 percent; this may imply that the use of cash in emergency is not properly understood as a consensus was difficult to be reached. Some key informants (local traders) claimed that cash beneficiaries do not buy food from them and they wonder where they were spending their cash while cash beneficiaries claimed that they delayed to buy from traders because traders increased prices when they knew that people had received cash. Delaying to procure food could result in using the cash on other means as it is difficult to keep liquid cash in most communities. The present finding agrees with Adeso, (2012) in chapter 3, section 3.2.1 where inflation was one of the concerns of the cash transfers.

### 5.3.4 Impact of the humanitarian aid

Results from key informant interviews showed that humanitarian aid helps to stabilize commodity prices especially food aid, which helps non beneficiaries to access food from the markets at a reasonable prices. It also helps to improve the health status of people especially children during lean months.

The households interview results indicated that 100 percent (n=193) in table 8 reported that food and cash aid had positive impact on their families such that they had more food to eat, families were able to eat more variety of food during lean period thereby improving household nutrition status, children were able to eat before going to school.

The study findings suggest that humanitarian aid, especially food aid, helps to stabilize commodity prices, which in turn help non beneficiaries to access food from the markets at reasonable prices. It helps to improve the health status of people especially children, for instance during lean months children are able to go to school other than being engaged in child labour in order to get food for the household. Humanitarian aid promotes continuation of development interventions in the communities as people concentrate on different intervention activities other than looking for food.

**Table 8: Positive impact of food and cash aid on your family**

|  | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Valid Percent</b> | <b>Cumulative Percent</b> |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Positive impact of food and Cash (combination of two or more except 8) | 193              | 100.0          | 100.0                | 100.0                     |

*Note: combination of two or more from Household questionnaire number F01 and F03, (see appendix 1)*

**Table 9: Negative impact of Food aid and Cash Transfers on Family**

| <b>Negative impact of food aid on your family</b>      |           |         |               |                    |
|--|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Not Applicable   | 193       | 100.0   | 100.0         | 100.0              |
| <b>Negative impact of cash transfer on your family</b> |           |         |               |                    |
|  | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Drunkenness  | 22        | 11.4    | 11.4          | 11.4               |
| family conflict  | 23        | 11.9    | 11.9          | 23.3               |
| Not Applicable   | 148       | 76.7    | 76.7          | 100.0              |

The results in Table 9 show that 100 percent (n=193) reported that food aid had no negative impact while 11.4 percent (n=22) and 11.9 percent (n=23) indicated drunkenness and family conflicts as the negative impact of cash transfers.

The findings indicate that cash transfer has some elements of negative impact such as drunkenness and family conflicts. This finding also agrees with what Bailey et al. (2009) chapter 3, in section 3.2.1 where it is reported that women have more control over food resource than cash in their households, hence cash might provoke more household conflicts regarding expenditure priorities than food aid.

#### **5.4 CONCLUSION**

This chapter has presented the results and discussions of the study by looking at the demographic information, community understanding of food and cash aid in achieving development, community perceptions on response modality to a disaster, level of satisfaction of the community on response modality and the impact of the humanitarian aid. The next chapter presents the study conclusion and recommendation.

## **CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

The study examined the community perceptions on humanitarian response modality (food aid and cash transfer) in Traditional Authority Lundu of Chikwawa District. The study objectives were to explore desirable ways of providing humanitarian aid to disaster affected communities in order to achieve sustainable development; to investigate community perception on cash transfer, food aid and food or cash for asset as emergency response modalities to a disaster; to assess level of satisfaction of the communities on the response mode and any need for change and to assess the impact of the response modality used so far in the area. This chapter presents recommendations and conclusion.

### **6.2 CONCLUSION**

The main goal of the current study was to determine community perceptions of humanitarian response modality (cash transfer and food aid). The study has argued that humanitarian aid remains paramount in helping disaster affected community; however it is evident that there is need for a wide consultation and inclusiveness of the affected communities on the response modality. It was interesting to find that communities would like relief to be strongly linked with development so that there could be an easy transition from recovery phase to development. There is need for wide consultation when deciding on a response modality, so that the modality should be widely accepted by all stakeholders if humanitarian aid is to be meaningful.

The study also revealed that community perceive food aid as the best options for a response modality because it ensures that the households have adequate food for the month. Humanitarian aid helped families to concentrate on their field as opposed to years where they was supposed to go and do casual labour in order to fend for household needs leaving their farm land unattended. Community perceived that humanitarian aid reduced negative coping mechanisms like selling household assets in order to buy food or seeking casual labor while neglecting their fields in order to have food in their homes.

The study revealed that humanitarian aid helps to stabilize commodity prices, which helps non beneficiaries to access food from the markets at a reasonable prices. It also helps to improve the health status of people especially children during lean

months. Food aid promotes continuation of development interventions in the communities as people concentrate on different intervention activities than looking for food.

### **6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following these findings, possible recommendations are made to humanitarian organizations, Government workers in department of disaster management affairs and district councils and recommendations to guide further research as follows;

#### **6.3.1 Recommendations to humanitarian organisations, government and district councils**

1. Humanitarian agencies need to do a thorough assessment before coming up with the response modality. There is need for wide community engagement so that their interests should be taken on board.
2. Humanitarian assistance should be accompanied with some form of community or households interventions which will help the community to build their resilience. Aid beneficiaries are always aware of their situations and knows better how they can get out of that situation hence blending humanitarian assistance with some resilience intervention will easily see graduation of certain households from aid dependence.
3. Community members should be well sensitized through awareness campaigns when cash transfer has been chosen as a response modality. This helps beneficiaries to minimize misuse of the cash and use it as intended for the household food requirements.
4. Humanitarian assistance donors should deliberately finance resilience interventions alongside disaster response. This helps communities to be independent once the response projects phases out.
5. Humanitarian practitioners should wear sustainable development lens in the way they deliver their aid, without that, emergency response will only promote the division among the community members in terms of poverty levels. It is imperative to note that emergency response is quick and rapid but it has opportunity for modification within the response period in order to meet some of the needs of the community members.

### **6.3.2 Recommendations for further study research**

The study further provides an opportunity for further research in following areas.

1. The study was done in traditional Authority Lundu in Chikwawa District; hence results cannot be generalized however they provide an insight of what some community members perceive on humanitarian response modality in Malawi. For this reason, it may be necessary to conduct a similar research in the central and northern parts of Malawi.
2. Further ways of helping disaster affected people so that they can be able to produce their own using alternative methods.
3. Further solutions to food insecurity in the area caused by different disasters.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: HOUSEHOLD SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is.....I come from .....I am here to conduct a study on community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and food aid) on development in T/A Lundu, in fulfilment of my Master's Degree in Development Studies. Your household has been randomly picked from the village to participate in the study.

The survey is voluntary and confidential hence whatever information that you give will not be shared to anyone except for me who is collecting data. May I therefore request your consent to respond to the questions I have for about 40 minutes.

#### A. Basic Information

|   |               |                   |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>1. Date of Interview</b><br>MM/DD/YY | <b>2. GVH</b> | <b>3. Village</b> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|

#### B. Demographic Data

10. Are you, 1) Male  or 2) Female

11. What is your marital status?

1) Married

2) Single

3) Divorced/Separated

4) Widow/Widower

5. Other (Specify).....

**12. Which age group are you?**

- 1) 15 to 25years
- 2) 26 to 35 years
- 3) 36 to 45 years
- 4) 46 to 55 years
- 5) 56 year and above

**13. What is your education level?**

- 1) Lower Primary (grade 1 to 5).....
- 2) Upper Primary (grade 6 to 8).....
- 3) Secondary education.....
- 4) Tertiary education (Specify).....
- 5) Never attended.....
- 6) Other (Specify).....

**14. Are you the household head of this family?**

- 1) Yes .....
- 2) No.....

**C. Community understanding of aid help in achieving development**

| No. | Interview Question  | Response  |
|-----|---|---|
| C01 | Select all ways through which humanitarian aid has been provided in your area | 1= Food Aid<br>2= Cash transfer<br>3= Voucher<br>4= in Kind |

|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| C02 | In 1 above what is the best way of providing humanitarian aid in your opinion   | 1= Food Aid<br>2= Cash transfer<br>3= Voucher<br>4= in Kind<br>5= None  |
| C03 | If 1-4, why is the method best  | 1= Food is available at home<br>2 = Cash can be used to buy other needs for the household<br>3 = There is no sharing of the aid<br>4 = We are able to do other things than looking for food<br>5 = Families get united<br>6 = Others Specify----- |
| C04 | Provision of humanitarian aid promote laziness                                  | 1= Yes<br>2= No   |
| C05 | If yes in 04, what happen for beneficiaries to be lazy                          | 1= Do not work at their field to depend on government aid<br>2= some deliberately abandon their fields so that they should receive aid<br>3= Some sale the aid received for person gains<br>4 = Other, Specify _____                              |
| C06 | Humanitarian aid promote poverty in the lives of the beneficiaries              | 1= Yes<br>2= No   |
| C07 | If yes in 06, how does it promote poverty<br><br><i>(choose one that apply)</i> | 1= create dependency<br>2= aid is not always enough to cater for household needs<br>3= few people receive aid<br>4= Aid responses can be used for other developments<br>5= aid workers benefit much than intended beneficiaries                   |

|     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
|     |  | 6= promotes corruption among community leaders   |
| C08 | Beneficiaries should do some community intervention before getting aid                                 | 1= Yes<br>2= No  |
| C09 | If yes in 08, what type of community intervention they should do?<br><br><i>(Tick all the applies)</i> | 1= Clear roads<br>2= mould bricks<br>3= plant trees<br>4= participate in community trainings<br>5= any communal livelihood interventions |

|     | <b>Composition</b>  | <b>Strongly Agree (1)</b> | <b>Agree (2)</b> | <b>Somehow Agree (3)</b> | <b>Disagree (4)</b> | <b>Strongly Disagree (5)</b> |
|-----|---|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| C10 | Humanitarian aid can be meaningful if beneficiaries are involved in selecting response modality |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| C11 | Humanitarian aid assist to achieve development  |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| C12 | Humanitarian aid helps to unite family during crisis  |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| C13 | Humanitarian aid breaks community cohesion  |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| C14 | Local leaders benefit a lot during humanitarian aid intervention                                |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| C15 | Women are abused in order to get humanitarian aid   |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |

|     |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| C16 | We are involved in decision making on beneficiary selection |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|

**D. Community perceptions on response modality to a disaster.**

|     | <b>Composition</b>  | <b>Strongly Agree (1)</b> | <b>Agree (2)</b> | <b>Somehow Agree (3)</b> | <b>Disagree (4)</b> | <b>Strongly Disagree (5)</b> |
|-----|---|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| D01 | Humanitarian aid creates dependency syndrome                      |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| D02 | Cash transfer is better than food aid                             |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| D03 | Cash transfers enable us to save money for other household assets |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| D04 | Cash transfer destroys our community cohesion                     |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| D05 | Food aid is better than cash transfer                             |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| D06 | Food aid helps the household to have enough food                  |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |
| D07 | Carrying a relief bag of maize dehumanise us in the community     |                           |                  |                          |                     |                              |

|     |   |                   |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| D08 | Are you satisfied with the registration process | 1 = Yes<br>2 = No |
|-----|---|-------------------|

|     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| D09 | If not, why?<br><i>(One that apply)</i>   | 1 = favouritism<br>2 = Political interference<br>3 = Un-deserved are registered<br>4 = other, Specify-----<br>6 = not Applicable   |
| D10 | Do you know anyone, including yourself who was asked for favours to be registered for cash or food aid                                  | 1 = Yes<br>2 = No  |
| D11 | If yes (to D09), what favours were given?<br><i>(One that apply)</i>  | 1 = Money<br>2 = Sex<br>3 = Casual labour<br>4 = other, specify _____<br>5 = Not applicable  |
| D12 | Of the food you received last time, did you sell any?   | 1 = Yes<br>2 = No  |
| D13 | If some of the food aid was sold what was the main reason?<br><i>(Circle only one)</i>  | 1 = Don't have any other source of money<br>2 = Food was excess / household also had other food resources<br>3 = Sold to buy local food which was more appropriate<br>4 = Too expensive to transport all the food home<br>5 = other, Specify _____<br>6 = Not applicable |
| D14 | If food aid was sold to buy other goods/services, what were the main/important goods/services bought?<br><i>(Choose all that apply)</i> | 1 = Health services<br>2 = Education services for children<br>3 = Fuel for cooking and lighting<br>4 = Clothes<br>5 = other, specify<br>6 = Not Applicable   |

**E. Level of satisfaction of the communities on the response mode**

|     | <b>Composition</b>                                    | <b>Strongly Agree (1)</b> | <b>Agree (2)</b> | <b>Somehow Agree (3)</b> | <b>Disagree (4)</b> |
|-----|---|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| E01 | Cash transfer is more effective in disaster response  |                           |                  |                          |                     |
| E02 | People spend cash on useless things than intended     |                           |                  |                          |                     |
| E03 | Food aid is the most effective disaster response mode |                           |                  |                          |                     |
| E04 | Food aid is bulky and difficult to carry              |                           |                  |                          |                     |

**F. Impact of the response modalities.**

|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| F01 | <p>What positive impact has food aid had on your family?</p> <p><i>(Tick all the apply)</i></p> | <p>1 = More food to eat</p> <p>2 = Chronically ill gained weight (looked healthier)</p> <p>3 = Family ate more types of food (more variety)</p> <p>4 = Children ate more often than before</p> <p>5 = Adults ate more often than before</p> <p>6 = Household nutrition improved</p> <p>7 = Family reunion (improved relationships)</p> <p>8 = Response modality had no significant impact on the family</p> |
| F02 | <p>What negative impact has food aid had on your family</p>                                     | <p>1 = Drunkenness</p> <p>2= Prostitution/Extra marital relationships</p> <p>3 = Family conflict</p> <p>4 = Theft in the household</p> <p>5 = Promoted dependence on aid</p> <p>6 = Others Specify.....</p>   |
| F03 | <p>What positive impact has cash transfer had on your family?</p>                               | <p>1 = More food to eat</p> <p>2 = Chronically ill gained weight (looked healthier)</p> <p>3 = Family ate more types of food (more variety)</p>   |

|     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
|     | <i>(Tick all the apply)</i>                               | 4 = Children ate more often than before<br>5 = Adults ate more often than before<br>6 = Household nutrition improved<br>7 = Family reunion (improved relationships)<br>8 = Response modality had no significant impact on the family |
| F04 | What negative impact has cash transfer had on your family | 1 = Drunkenness<br>2= Prostitution/Extra marital relationships<br>3 = Family conflict<br>4 = Theft in the household<br>5 = Promote dependence on aid<br>6 = Others Specify.....  |

*Note: Some of the questions were adopted from the World Vision Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Tool*

**End of the interview. Ask the participant for any Question or comment.**

**Thank the participant for his/her time.**

**APPENDIX 2: FGD GUIDE FOR MEN AND WOMEN.**

Date of Discussions (MM/DD/YY)...../...../.....

My name is..... And my friend here is  
..... We are coming from  
..... We are here to assist a student who is  
doing a study on community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and  
food aid) on development in this area, in fulfilment of his Master’s Degree in  
Development Studies. Your group has been randomly picked from all the villages in  
T/A Lundu to represent the other villages to respond to the questions which will be  
posed to you shortly.

The survey is voluntary and confidential hence the name of each member present  
here and whatever the member will say in this discussion will not be shared to anyone  
except to us talking to you now.

May we therefore request for your consent to respond to the questions that we have.  
The discussions will take about 40 minutes.

1. What kind of aid has been given in your area?  
.....
2. Has the aid helped to address your needs?  
.....
3. Was there any other way the aid could have been given?  
.....
4. What were the challenges with the aid provided?  
.....
5. Were you involved in selecting the type of aid you were receiving
  - a. If yes, how?  
.....
  - b. If no, who select the modality?  
.....
6. What is your opinion on the food distribution and cash transfer?

.....

a. Which one is the most preferred response mode (by whom?) and why?

.....

7. What would you prefer: receiving food aid or cash? Explain why?

.....

8. What were the distribution methods for the cash you have experience in your area?

.....

a. Which one do you prefer and why?

.....

b. Did you experience challenges in receiving the cash or in using the distribution method?

.....

9 In your opinion which response modality assisted the community members better?

.....

a. Why that modality assisted the community members better than the other?

.....

b. If given a chance which modality could you advise the donors to implement in your area?

.....

10 Does the way aid is provided in your area help to improve the development in your area?

.....

a. If yes, how?

.....

b. If no, why and what can be done so that this can help to improve the development in the area

.....

11 Do you see your area stopping receiving such aid?

.....

12 Is there anything that can be done in order to improve your area through humanitarian aid?

.....

13 How can you advise the donor to ensure that the aid provided helps the people in this community?

.....

14 What can happen to people in your community if humanitarian aid was stopped today?

.....

**End of discussion. Ask participants for any questions and comments.**

**Thank the participant for their time.**

**APPENDIX 3: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS**

Date of Discussions (MM/DD/YY)...../...../.....

My name is.....I am coming from .....I am here conducting a study on community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and food aid) on development in this area in fulfilment of a Masters Degree in development Studies. You have been randomly picked among the other partners doing development work in this area and your responses will represent all other development workers in the area. The survey is voluntary and confidential hence your name will not appear in any of the survey documents and whatever information you will give during this interview will not be shared to anyone except me as the one gathering the information.

May I therefore request for your consent to respond to the questions that we have. The interview will take about 40 minutes.

1. Which organization and department do you work for and what is your position?  
.....
2. How should aid be provided to the affected people?  
.....
3. Who should decide the type of assistance to be given to the affected community?  
.....
4. In your opinion how do people perceive cash transfer in the district?  
.....
5. In your opinion how do people perceive food aid in the district?  
.....
6. In your opinion, do you think food aid is necessary in the area? Why?  
.....
7. In your opinion, do you think cash aid is necessary in the area? Why?

.....  
8. If cash aid can be stopped, what do you think can happen to the community?

.....

9. If food aid can be stopped, what do you think can happen to the community?

.....

10. Which response modality would you recommend in Chikwawa and why?

.....

11. In your opinion what do people like most in this district, cash or food aid?

.....

12. In your opinion, does humanitarian aid brings development? Why?

.....

a. If not, what can be done in order to ensure that it should bring development in the area?

.....

13. What is the impact of humanitarian aid in the district?

.....

14. How can you advise the donor to ensure that the aid provided helps the people in the district?

.....

.

**End of interview. Ask the participant for any question or comment.**

**Thank the participant for his/her time.**

#### APPENDIX 4: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION RESPONSES

| QUESTION  | Men Group   | Women Group  | SUMMARY   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1. What aid has been received in your area?               | -Food aid<br>-Cash transfer   | -cash Transfer<br>-food aid  | - cash Transfer<br>-food aid  |
| 2. Has the aid helped to address your needs?              | -Yes<br>-   | Yes  | -Yes  |
| 3. Was there any other way the aid could have been given? | -Provision of water pumps for irrigation for winter cropping in addition to food aid  | -No  | -Provision of water pumps for irrigation for winter cropping in addition to food aid  |
| 4. What were the challenges with the aid provided?        | -Reduced # of beneficiaries promoted sharing.<br>-Cash transfers promoted price increases<br>-Pipeline breaks forced people to borrow things in anticipation to pay back after getting their entitlement<br>-Use of banks affect the service delivery | -The # of beneficiaries is small compared to need<br>-The ATM system is not user friendly<br>-The involvement of the bank has brought many problems<br>-Delay cash disbursement (pipeline break) induced borrowing | -Reduced # of beneficiaries promoted sharing.<br>-Cash transfers promoted price increases<br>-Pipeline breaks forced people to borrow things in anticipation to pay back after getting their entitlement<br>-Use of banks affect the service delivery |

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 5. Were you involved in selecting the type of aid you were receiving  | -No  | -No   | -No   |
| a. If yes, how  |  |   |   |
| b. If no, who selected the modality                                   | Government   | -Government   | -Government   |
| 6. What is your opinion on the food distribution and cash transfer?   | Cash transfer is the best  | Cash transfer   | Cash transfer   |
| 6a. Which one is the most preferred response mode (by whom?) and why? | Cash transfer because it does not require extra handling labour by the community and it is fast in terms of distribution | Cash transfer, because it gives wider options for the household needs | Cash transfer, because it gives wider options for the household needs |
| 7. What would you prefer: receiving food aid or cash? Explain why?    | -Cash Transfer-Cash allows us to buy what we want, it provide a lot of choices for the household                         | -Cash transfer, because of wider choices it offers                    | Cash transfer, because of wider choices it offers                     |
| 8. What were the distribution methods for the cash you                | -Use of Security Company eg G4S, thus cash in transit  | -Use of Security Company eg G4S, thus cash in transit                 | Use of Security Company eg G4S, thus cash in transit                  |

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| have experience in your area?  | -The use of banks- people go to the bank to withdraw cash  | -The use of banks- people go to the bank to withdraw cash  | -The use of banks- people go to the bank to withdraw cash   |
| 8a. Which one do you prefer and why?   | --Security Company like G4S. There are no bank charges and it is also fast. They come into our communities   | -G4S –because they are fast, reliable and do not deduct fees   | -Security Company like G4S. There are no bank charges and it is also fast. They come into our communities |
| 8b. Did you experience challenges in receiving the cash or in using the distribution method? | -The Bank had challenges with their network hence delayed the distribution process as they were waiting for the network                                    | -The Bank system was very slow, at times it could take two to three days to complete a distribution                                    | The Bank system was very slow, at times it could take two to three days to complete a distribution        |
| 9. In your opinion which response modality assisted the community members better?            | Cash Transfer  | Cash Transfer  | Cash Transfer   |
| c. Why that modality assisted the community members better than the other?                   | -it was fast and people were not taking long time at the distribution site.<br><br>-It did not have delays like partial deliveries as compared to food aid | -Food is associated with pipeline breaks and<br><br>-Requires associated handling costs eg guarding, scooping, bulky carrying to homes |   |

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| d. If given a chance which modality could you advise the donors to implement in your area?      | -Cash Transfer<br>Because we are not required to do other activities like food aid.                     | --Cash Transfer<br>Because it is very fast and we do not take a long time at distribution centre | -Cash Transfer<br>Because people are not required to provide additional work before distribution and also it is fast as compared to food aid |
| 10. Does the way aid is provided in your area help to improve the development in your area?     | -Yes. It helps to provide opportunity for us to go and concentrate in our fields than looking for ganyu | -Yes. It helps to provide opportunity to be doing other things at home than looking for food     | -Yes-It helps to provide opportunity for household to concentrate on other developmental activities that looking for survival means          |
| a. If yes, how?   | -People are able to participate in their development intervention than concentrate on food hunting.     | -People are able to participate in their development   | -People are able to participate in their development intervention than concentrate on food hunting.  |
| b. If no, why and what can be done so that this can help to improve the development in the area |   |  |  |
| 11. Do you see your area stopping receiving such aid?   | -No-unless if we can receive enough rains   | -No-because of the dry spell in the areas  | -No-because of the dry spell in the areas  |

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| <p>12. Is there anything that can be done in order to improve your area through humanitarian aid?</p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Supply of water pumps that can be used for irrigation farming.</li> <li>_Supply of farm inputs alongside food/cash aid.</li> </ul>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--Provision of treadle pumps, engine water pumps for irrigation farming, farm inputs</li> </ul>   | <p>Supply of water pumps that can be used for irrigation farming.</p> <p>_Supply of farm inputs alongside food/cash aid.</p>   |
| <p>13. How can you advise the donor to ensure that the aid provided helps the people in this community?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-They should consult us first before coming up with the intervention.</li> <li>-They should also target adequate number of people who are affected</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cash disbursement through the bank is not helping, it promote suffering</li> <li>-Amount of cash transfer should tarry with the food basket prices</li> <li>-Community should be consulted before engaging a response modality</li> <li>-Food basket should be based on family size not average number of people in the family.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cash disbursement through the bank is not helping, it promote suffering</li> <li>-Amount of cash transfer should tarry with the food basket prices</li> <li>-Community should be consulted before engaging a response modality</li> <li>-Food basket should be based on family size not average number of people in the family.</li> </ul> |
| <p>14. What can happen to people in your community if humanitarian aid was stopped today?</p>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--People can die due to malnutrition</li> <li>-Aid should continue with livelihood interventions for sustainability of the program</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-People will die with hunger</li> <li>-There will be generalized malnutrition to everyone</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-People will die with hunger</li> <li>-There will be generalized malnutrition to everyone</li> </ul>  |

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|  |  | <p>People will not participate in development activities in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Children will not be able to go to school.</li> <li>-There will be increased prostitution and forced early marriages for girls</li> </ul> | <p>People will not participate in development activities in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Children will not be able to go to school.</li> <li>-There will be increased prostitution and forced early marriages for girls</li> </ul> |
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**APPENDIX 5: KII RESULTS FOR GOVERNMENT AND NGO REPRESENTATIVE**

| <b>QUESTION</b>  | <b>Crops Officer</b>   | <b>Program Coordinator</b>                                 | <b>Assistant Agriculture Extension Development Coordinator</b> | <b>Food Security Coordinator</b>                             | <b>SUMMARY</b>   |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>1. Which organization and department do you work for and what is your position?</b>     | Ministry of Agriculture-<br>Chikwawa ADD                           | Evangelical Association of Malawi -<br>Chikwawa            | Ministry of Agriculture-<br>Mbewe EPA                          | -Catholic Development Commission (CADECOM)-<br>Chikwawa      |  |
| <b>2. How should aid be provided to the affected people?</b>                               | -Food Assistance<br><br>-Cash Transfer<br><br>-Food/Cash for Asset | -Through situational analysis<br><br>-by provision of NFIs | -Food assistance   | -It should come in two ways food aid and inputs for recovery | -Food assistance<br><br>-Cash Transfer<br><br>-Cash/Food for assets<br><br>-Should include farm inputs |
| <b>3. Who should decide what type of assistance to be given to the affected community?</b> | -Community themselves<br><br>-People know what they want           | -community themselves                                      | -Community themselves  | -Community should be consulted                               | -Community themselves  |

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| <p><b>4. In your opinion how do people perceive cash transfer in the district?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Not good</li> <li>-people spend money on other things than food</li> <li>-Encourage men to remarry and drink beer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Has challenges</li> <li>-Biasness and corruption are increased</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-it is well because it give several options to the hh</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Not good</li> <li>-Beneficiaries are failing to get commodities on the market</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Not good</li> <li>-people spend money on other things than food</li> <li>-beneficiaries are failing to get commodities on the market</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>5. In your opinion how do people perceive food aid in the district?</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Very important</li> <li>-A coping mechanism</li> <li>-Household have food</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has challenges</li> <li>-Biasness and corruption are increased</li> <li>-High inclusion error</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-it is highly recommended</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Very important</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Very important</li> <li>-Highly recommended</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>6. In your opinion, do you think food aid is necessary in the area? Why?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Very necessary</li> <li>-Food is available at household</li> <li>-None resale the food</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Yes</li> <li>-Because of the perennial challenges in the district</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Yes,</li> <li>-The area hit by floods, dry spells, and swam of birds</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Yes</li> <li>-The area has been severe affected by drought</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Yes</li> <li>--The area hit by floods, dry spells, and swam of birds</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>7. In your opinion, do you think cash aid is</b></p>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Yes</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Necessary</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Yes</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Yes,</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>necessary in the area? Why?</b>   | -Promote dependency syndrome  | -Because of the perennial challenges in the district          | -provide a wider choice for decision making at hh                           | -Provide wider choice for the hh                                  | -Provide a wider choice for decision making at household  |
| <b>8. If cash aid can be stopped, what do you think can happen to the community?</b> | -it is donor dictated hence promote dependency.<br><br>-people will find other coping mechanism | -The community can lose the asset created as coping mechanism | -people can die<br><br>-Due to severe El-Niño conditions faced by the area  | -Calamity   | - -The community can lose the asset created as coping mechanism<br><br>-People can die due to hunger<br><br>-it is donor dictated hence promote dependency. |
| <b>9. If food aid can be stopped, what do you think can happen to the community?</b> | -Make people to think ways of survival.   | -The community can lose the asset created as coping mechanism | - people can die<br><br>-Due to severe El-Niño conditions faced by the area | -Calamity<br><br>-people will not harvest anything from the field | -The community can lose the asset created as coping mechanism<br><br>-People can die due to hunger<br><br>-Make people to think ways of survival.           |
| <b>10. Which response modality would you recommend in Chikwawa and why?</b>          | -Food Aid<br><br>-helps to stabilize the  | -Food aid   | -Food aid   | -Food aid<br><br>-Families will have food                         | -Food aid<br><br>-Helps to stabilize food commodity prices  |

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|   | commodity prices.  |  |  |   | -Families will have enough food  |
| <b>11. In your opinion what do people like most in this district, cash or food aid?</b>               | -Food aid  | -Cash transfer<br>-provides several option for the hh                    | -Cash transfer-wide number of choices  | -Food aid<br>-cash transfer is facing problems due to market functionality                    | -Cash Transfer and Food Aid  |
| <b>12. In your opinion, does humanitarian aid brings development? Why?</b>                            | -Yes<br>-Assisted people do other activities at HH than looking for food | -Yes<br>-Enable community to participate in other development activities | -No<br>It promotes people to depend on hand outs than concentrate on developing themselves                     | -Yes<br>-People are able to concentrate on other development activities than looking for food | Yes<br>- People are able to concentrate on other development activities than looking for food                  |
| <b>12a. If not, what can be done in order to ensure that it should bring development in the area?</b> | N/A  | N/A  | -Create dependency syndrome.<br>-People wait for government to bring aid and do nothing about their situation. | -N/A  | -Create dependency syndrome.<br>-People wait for government to bring aid and do nothing about their situation. |

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| <p><b>13. What is the impact of humanitarian aid in the district?</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-helps to stabilize commodity prices</li> <li>-Improves health status of children</li> <li>-promote development as people participate in other development activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Promote other development intervention in the community</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Children are able to go to school</li> <li>-People are able to do household chores.</li> <li>-Family cohesion</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reduced malnutrition and deaths in the community</li> <li>-People take part in development interventions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-helps to stabilize commodity prices</li> <li>-Improves health status of children</li> <li>-promote development as people participate in other development activities</li> <li>-Children are able to go to school</li> <li>-Family cohesion</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>14. How can you advise the donor to ensure that the aid provided helps the people in the district?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Follow up what is being provided to the beneficiaries</li> <li>-Engage community on response modality</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provide assistance that is need by the people</li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Donor should evaluate their program and ensure that real beneficiaries are targeted.</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Two ways</li> <li>-Food aid and recovery programmes for easily transitions</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Donor should evaluate their program and ensure that real beneficiaries are targeted.</li> <li>-Engage community on response modality</li> <li>-Provide assistance that is need by the people</li> </ul>  |

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|  |  |  |  |  | -Food aid and recovery programmes for easily transitions |
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**APPENDIX 6: KII FOR LOCAL LEADERS AND BUSINESS MEN RESULTS**

| <b>QUESTION</b>  | <b>GVH Tomali</b>         | <b>GVH Forte</b>   | <b>GVH Malemia</b>            | <b>GVH Mafale</b>              | <b>Business Woman: selling maize</b>   | <b>Business man: selling maize</b>   | <b>SUMMARY</b>             |
|--|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| <b>1. Which organization and department do you work for and what is your position?</b> | -Local Chief              | Local Chief  | Local Chief                   | Local Chief                    | Produce Trader   | Produce Trader   |                            |
| <b>2. How should aid be provided to the affected people?</b>                           | -Cash transfer            | -Cash transfer is good but due lack of markets it is better food | -Food aid                     | -Cash transfer                 | -Food aid<br>People do not sell the food and most of it used for the household | -Food aid<br>Because of the food is used for the household. Cash they do not buy from us | Food aid and Cash transfer |
| <b>3. Who should decide what type of assistance to be given to the</b>                 | -Community in conjunction | -Community should be consulted                                   | -Community should be involved | - Community should be involved | -Community themselves  | -Community themselves  | -Community themselves      |

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| <b>affected community?</b>  | with key stakeholders   |  |  |   |   |   |  |
| <b>4. In your opinion how do people perceive cash transfer in the district?</b> | -it is very good  | -create a lot of problems in the hh if the man receives    | -people like cash transfer             | People like cash transfer   | -Like it and happy                            | -Like it because they use the money on what they want | -Very good<br>-create a lot of problems in the hh if the man receives  |
| <b>5. In your opinion how do people perceive food aid in the district?</b>      | -not very good<br><br>-others needs cash in order to process the food | -it works very well  | -people also like food aid             | -people like it but has additional responsibilities like guarding and offloading the commodities (handling) | -It is used properly for the intended purpose | -It is used properly for the intended purpose         | -They like it and It is used properly for the intended purpose<br><br>--people like it but has additional responsibilities like guarding and offloading the commodities (handling) |
| <b>6. In your opinion, do you think food aid is necessary in the area? Why?</b> | -Yes<br><br>-Because of the dry spell hit the area                    | -Yes<br><br>Because of severity of the drought in the area | -Yes<br><br>-helps the hh to have food | -Yes,<br><br>-food is available in homes  | -yes<br><br>-Helps the hh to have food        | -yes<br><br>-Helps the hh to have food                | -Yes<br><br>- Because of severity of the drought in the area   |

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| <p><b>7. In your opinion, do you think cash aid is necessary in the area? Why?</b></p>      | <p>-Yes<br/>-Because of the dry spell hit the area</p>                       | <p>-No<br/>-it should not given out in the area</p>                                 | <p>-Yes<br/>-people buy what they want at the hh</p>                | <p>-Yes<br/>-few handling procedures than food</p>             | <p>-No<br/>-Do not buy food and use it for other personal gains especially men</p> | <p>-Yes<br/>-But people do not buy food and use it for other personal gains especially men</p> | <p>-Yes<br/>- people buy what they want at the hh<br/><br/>-But people do not buy food and use it for other personal gains especially men</p> |
| <p><b>8. If cash aid can be stopped, what do you think can happen to the community?</b></p> | <p>-There will be suffering in the area</p>                                  | <p>-people can die<br/><br/>-because of the disaster that has affected the area</p> | <p>-people can die-due to severity of the dry spell in the area</p> | <p>-people can suffer because of the dry spell in the area</p> | <p>-Poverty can be exacerbated</p>   | <p>-People can suffer because they do not have anything</p>                                    | <p>--There will be suffering in the area<br/><br/>- -Poverty can be exacerbated</p>   |
| <p><b>9. If food aid can be stopped, what do you think can happen to the community?</b></p> | <p>-There will be suffering in the area<br/><br/>-increased malnutrition</p> | <p>-people can die<br/><br/>-because of the disaster that has affected the area</p> | <p>-people can die-due to severity of the dry spell in the area</p> | <p>-people can suffer because of the dry spell in the area</p> | <p>--Poverty can be exacerbated</p>  | <p>-People can suffer because they do not have anything</p>                                    | <p>-There will be suffering in the area<br/><br/>-increased malnutrition</p>  |

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| <b>10. Which response modality would you recommend in Chikwawa and why?</b>             | -Cash transfer<br>-Provide flexibility on what to do with the aid | -Food aid<br>-cash transfer creates a lot of problems as others engages in credit before cash distributions | -Cash transfer<br>-it provide wide range of opportunities to the people | -Cash transfers<br>-provide wider choices for the hh                                    | -Food aid<br>-it benefit the hh than cash                          | -Food aid<br>-it benefit the hh even though our business can suffer   | -Cash transfer for local leaders and Food aid for traders<br>-Cash -Provide flexibility on what to do with the aid.<br>-cash transfer creates a lot of problems as others engages in credit before cash distributions |
| <b>11. In your opinion what do people like most in this district, cash or food aid?</b> | -Cash transfer  | -Food aid   | -Cash transfer  | -Cash transfer  | -Food aid  | -Food aid   | -Cash Transfer for local leaders<br>-Food aid for traders   |
| <b>12. In your opinion, does humanitarian aid brings development? Why?</b>              | -Yes<br>-people are able to participate in other development work | -Yes<br>People are doing complimentary activities   | -Yes<br>-people are able to do other development work                   | -Yes<br>-people can invest in other development activities<br>-participate in community | -Yes<br>People are able to participate in development intervention | -Yes<br>People are able to find time to do their work in their fields | -Yes<br>- people can invest in other development activities<br>-participate in community development activities   |

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|   |   |   |  | development activities                                  |   |  |   |
| <b>12a. If not, what can be done in order to ensure that it should bring development in the area?</b> | N/A   | -N/A  | N/A  | -N/A  | -N/A  | -N/A   | N/A   |
| <b>13. What is the impact of humanitarian aid in the district?</b>                                    | -it comes with resilience interventions<br>-it save lives<br>-reduce people's suffering | -Saving lives<br>-Children are able to go to school | -People are able to concentrate on the development activities                      | -people are able to other development work for their hh | -It saves lives<br>-help to reduce hh poverty | -It saves lives                                  | -it comes with resilience interventions<br>-it save lives<br>-reduce people's suffering<br>-Children are able to go to school |
| <b>14. How can you advise the donor to ensure that the aid provided helps the</b>                     | -They should continue to support people due to the suffering                            | -Should continue with food aid                      | Increase the number of people to be targeted with response which should correspond | Involve the affected community in decision making       | -They should continue giving out food         | -Donor should use coupons than cash distribution | -Increase the number of people to be targeted with response which should correspond with the situation on the ground.         |

|                                |  |  |                                   |  |  |  |   |
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| <b>people in the district?</b> |  |  | with the situation on the ground. |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Involve the affected community in decision making</li><li>- Donor should use coupons than cash distribution</li></ul> |
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## **APPENDIX 7: CASE STUDY**

### **Food assistance helps to save lives in Chikwawa**

If the World Food Programme had not provided food assistance in Chikwawa, the survival of Mr. Jonas (*not real name*) and his family would have been at stake because of poverty. No one knew how he was going to live with his wife and six children because he had literally no means of getting food and money.

Jonas has been chronically ill since 1977 at July Village some 2 kilometers from Tomali in Chikwawa. A part from asthma, he has also been suffering from other health disorders including hypertension disease. Because of the illness he was dismissed from work at Illovo Sugar Company due to his inability to work and since then, his life has been faced with a lot of hardships and problems including lack of food, clothes and a better house.

Jonas who is now 57 years old has been unable to work or cultivate in his field with his wife who is also in some health problems. She has been on and off with a rheumatism problem for many years. Like her husband she often gets admitted in hospitals some times for six or eight weeks and this has led the family to be unproductive. In May this year both of them were admitted at Chikwawa district hospital where they were receiving treatment for over two weeks. This left the children without food and they survived on begging.

These problems were compounded by the floods which hit the district in January this year. Like thousands of other people Jonas lost almost everything including food, blankets, and clothes and cooking utensils.

Fortunately, he is among the people who are receiving relief aid through the emergency response programme which started in January this year. Since then World Vision has been distributing food and other relief items to some 25,636 food insecure households including the flood victims in the district with support from WFP, the Malawi Government, USAID, UKaid and other donors. This has helped to save thousands of lives.

In addition, the organization has been providing fertilizers, maize and vegetable seed to improve food security among the affected households.

Jonas is very grateful for the food aid which he said has helped to reduce hunger in his family. He said without the assistance the life of his family would have been in danger.

"It is my hope that the donors will continue to support us with more food aid up to the next harvesting period next year," he said. He said thousands of people who have been affected are heavily depending on relief aid for survival and will face starvation if there will be no assistance.

According to the recent report by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee, over 2.8 million people have no food because of the floods and a dry spell that hit many parts of the country between January and March this year.

Meanwhile the effects of hunger are biting hard in many areas and some people are surviving on maize bran and wild fruits. As part of a coping mechanism, those who have little access to food are eating one meal a day.

## **APPENDIX 8: CONSENT FORM ENGLISH VERSION**

**Title of Study: Community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and food aid) on development: a case study of traditional authority Lundu in Chikwawa district, Malawi**

### **Investigator: Elisha Harrison Bickson Kapalamula**

I am a student pursuing a Master of Arts in development studies with University of South Africa (UNISA). As part of the academic requirements, I am conducting this study to find out the community perceptions of emergency response modality (cash and food aid) on development: a case study of traditional authority Lundu in Chikwawa district. I will ask questions to household heads, key informants, women and men in the sampled traditional authority's villages.

### **What you need to do for this study**

If you decide to participate in the study, you will be required to give your personal data and answer questions on a questionnaire.

### **How will your privacy be maintained?**

The information will be accessed by me and people who are directly involved in the study. Records will be kept safe in a lockable drawer. Codes will be used instead of names. After the study, your records will be burnt.

### **Voluntary participation and your right to refuse**

You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time if you wish to do so and you will not be penalized.

### **Are there any risks involved in this study?**

There are no known risks associated with taking this study.

### **Whom to contact if any question, concern or complaints on this study**

If you have additional questions, concerns or complaints pertaining to your participation in the study about this study please do not hesitate to contact

Elisha Harrison Bickson Kapalamula,  
World Vision Malawi,  
Post Office Box 692,  
Lilongwe.

**Cell: 0888373537**

**Who has given permission for me to go ahead with the study?**

University of South Africa, Chikwawa district assembly and Traditional Authority, if you have any worries or queries, contact the district assembly office.

Thank you for taking the time to read or listen to the information sheet

**Please read and sign this form if you are taking part in this study**

I have read the attached information sheet for this study and have understood the purpose of the study. I agree to voluntarily participate in the study, to be questioned and provide answers to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I am free to withdraw any time without giving reasons. I understand that my information will be kept in confidential and will only be accessed by the researcher or those people directly concerned with this study.

I.....voluntarily agree to participate in this research.

|                   |           |       |
|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| .....             | .....     | ..... |
| Participants name | Signature | Date  |
| .....             | .....     | ..... |
| Researchers Name  | Signature | Date  |

Thank you for participating in this study.