Prices of maize grain levelled off in most markets in the second week of October, partly due to government maize distribution and the trickling in of irrigated (winter) maize grain on the local markets in lower shire and some surrounding areas. However, this supply is likely to be limited due to rainfall deficits that resulted in relatively less residual moisture and water availability, necessary preconditions for winter crop production.

At the current level, MK 128 per kilogram as of second week of October, grain prices are 32 percent above their levels in the corresponding period last year and almost the same level as the five-year average.

Across the 79 monitored markets, maize prices ranged from MK75 to MK160 per kilogram. Highest price was observed at Mwanza Boma market at MK160/kg while the lowest price was observed at Kameme market in Chitipa at MK 75/kg (Map 1).

During the week under review, beans, cowpeas and pigeon peas were trading at MK 663/kg, MK 295/kg and MK 195/kg, respectively.

Methodology
This report marks the 138th weekly price data collection. The methodology has been informed by WFPs mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) initiative. The survey was conducted using live calls from 1st to 5th October on a sample of 140 key informants across 25 districts.
Map 1. Average 1kg of maize price in local markets, 8 Oct-12 Oct 2018

*mVAM is operational in 29 countries around the world*