



## **Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) Stands in Solidarity with Malawi's Call for Urgent Action in Response to State of Disaster**

### **For Immediate Release**

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In solidarity with the recent declaration of a State of Disaster by the President of the Republic of Malawi, CISANET appeals to the international community for immediate support and collaborative efforts to address the critical situation faced by Malawians due to the devastating impact of climate change on the agricultural sector.

The President's call for urgent action resonates with the stark reality witnessed across Malawi, where a significant number of citizens are grappling with food insecurity exacerbated by recurring climate-related disasters. It is estimated that over 266,000 people are in emergency and over 4 million others are in crisis.

Despite significant investments in various agricultural projects, including the Trade project, SAP Project, Farmse project, Fertiliser subsidy, Agcom 1, Agcom 2, and the Greenbelt Authority, among other initiatives, the question remains: why does Malawi continue to suffer from food insecurity?

CISANET acknowledges the government's efforts in implementing these projects; however, there is a critical need to assess their effectiveness and address systemic challenges hindering their impact. Despite the allocation of substantial financial resources, the persistence of hunger underscores the urgency for comprehensive reforms and accountability in agricultural development initiatives.

It is imperative for both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to reassess existing strategies and ensure transparency and accountability in resource allocation and utilization. CISANET emphasizes the importance of aligning investments with climate-smart practices, enhancing smallholder farmers' access to resources, and strengthening local institutions for effective implementation.

### **In response to the President's appeal, CISANET calls upon:**

- The International Community: To respond swiftly to the call for support by providing financial assistance, technical expertise, and essential resources to address immediate humanitarian needs and long-term resilience-building initiatives.

- Government and INGOs: To collaborate closely in redefining strategies for agricultural development, incorporating climate-smart practices, and ensuring transparency and accountability in resource management.
- Coordination: Need for coordinated efforts led by government in the implementation of the National Resilience Strategy (NRS), Making sure investments in disaster management go towards resilience building and preparedness more than just response.
- Accountability Measures: To establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the impact of agricultural projects, mitigate risks of corruption, and uphold accountability to beneficiaries and donors alike.
- Sustainable Development: To prioritize sustainable agricultural practices such as rainwater harvesting, diversification of livelihoods, and investments in research and technology to mitigate the impact of climate change and foster inclusive growth in rural communities.
- Winter Cropping: We must take advantage of the late-season surge in precipitation in some parts that have received good rains, and these should act as production hotspots for winter cropping.
- Effective Food Transfer: Facilitate effective food transfer corridors through fair market structures that will promote transfers from where there is surplus.

CISANET reaffirms its commitment to supporting Malawi's agricultural sector through advocacy, capacity building, and partnership initiatives aimed at advancing food security, resilience, and sustainable development. In closing, CISANET stands in solidarity with the people of Malawi during this challenging period and calls for concerted global action to address the urgent needs and pave the way for a resilient and prosperous future.

Signed by

Herbert Chagona

Chairperson

**CISANET**