



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Privacy Assurance Statement
for the Feed the Future FEEDBACK Zones of Influence Interim Survey
Public Use Dataset: Malawi 2015

Under the terms of the Executive Order *Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information* and the Administration's *Open Data Policy*, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Bureau for Food Security is making data from Feed the Future FEEDBACK (FTF FEEDBACK) performance monitoring surveys available as open and machine-readable public use datasets after publication of the country reports.

An essential step in the preparation of FTF FEEDBACK datasets for public use is ensuring respondent privacy and confidentiality. Respondent privacy and confidentiality are ensured and protected by removing identifying information from the datasets, including *direct identifiers* (information such as names, addresses, Global Positioning System coordinates, or any other personally identifying number or characteristic) and *indirect identifiers* (data that do not specifically identify a person or location, but that can be used to do so, one variable at a time or in combination, by uniquely describing a person or household).

Please note that the Malawi 2015 ZOI Interim Survey datasets also contain harmonized data for two ZOI districts from the 2015 coordinated Food for Peace (FFP) baseline survey in Malawi, the *Baseline Study of FY 2014 Food for Peace (FFP) Development Food Assistance Projects in Malawi*.

FTF FEEDBACK datasets are freely available to the public without restriction. However, all personal identification information that was present in the original data was removed. In addition, variables that could potentially be used indirectly (in combination with other variables or with other data sources) to identify any particular household or respondent were recoded to prevent that disclosure.

Households with large numbers of members can potentially be identified if large households are unique or rare in the survey districts. To effectively avoid revealing the identity of any large household that may be the only one or among a very few of its size in its district, a number of household members were removed from several households. The number of households affected and the number of household members removed through this procedure will not be disclosed. The members who were removed were not eligible for interview elsewhere in the questionnaire.

Because of these modifications, it may not be possible for analysts to exactly reproduce all of the results in published country reports and indicators.

FTF FEEDBACK interviewers administered the following informed consent statement at the beginning of the Malawi 2015 ZOI Interim Survey (translated, as appropriate):

“Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. We are a research team from the National Statistical Office. We are conducting a survey to learn about agriculture, food security, food consumption, nutrition and wellbeing of households in this area. Your household has been selected to participate in an

interview that includes questions on topics such as your family background, dwelling characteristics, household expenditures and assets, food consumption and nutrition of women and children. The survey includes questions about the household generally, and questions about individuals within your household, if applicable. The questions about the household and its characteristics will take about 30 minutes to complete. If additional questions are relevant for members of your household, the interview in total will take approximately 2-3 hours to complete. Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can choose to stop at any time or skip any questions you do not want to answer. Your answers will be completely confidential; we will not share information that identifies you with anyone. After entering the questionnaire into a data base, we will destroy all information such as your name that could link these responses to you.

Do you have any questions about the survey or what I have said? If in the future you have any questions regarding the survey or the interview, or concerns or complaints we welcome you to contact the National Statistical Office, by calling +265884331492. We will leave a copy of this statement and our organization's complete contact information with you so that you may contact us at any time."

This statement is included in Module B of the USAID-approved questionnaire for the Malawi 2015 ZOI Interim Survey. At the beginning of each subsequent module of the USAID-approved questionnaire, the trained interviewer was prompted to obtain informed consent from each additional eligible respondent prior to interviewing him/her. Informed consent obtained at the start of each subsequent module was obtained electronically.

As noted above, data from two districts from the coordinated 2015 FFP baseline survey were harmonized and included in these public use datasets for the Malawi 2015 ZOI Interim Survey. The following informed consent statement was administered as part of the *Baseline Study of FY 2014 Food for Peace (FFP) Development Food Assistance Projects in Malawi*:

"Hello. My name is _____. I am working with (ICF). We are conducting a survey to learn about food security, food consumption, nutrition, and well-being of households in Malawi. Your household was selected for the survey. I would like to ask you some questions about your household. The questions usually take about 2 hours. We can return tomorrow if you don't have time to finish all the questions today. All of the answers you give will be confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than members of our survey team. You don't have to be in the survey, but we hope you will agree to answer the questions since your views are important. If I ask you any question you don't want to answer, just let me know and I will go on to the next question, or you can stop the interview at any time. Do you have any questions about the study or about your participation? You or other respondents can ask any questions you maybe have about the study at any time. Do you agree to participate in the survey?"

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