Malawi: Floods
Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)
United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator
Situation Report No. 1
(as of 16 March 2019)

This report is produced jointly by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) of Malawi and the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator in Malawi, in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from March to 10-16 March 2019. The next report will be issued on or around 23 March 2019.

Highlights

- On 8 March, the government declared a State of National Disaster, following heavy rains and floods in the southern parts of the country.

- At least 15 districts and 2 cities have been impacted, with approximately 840,000 people affected by the floods. Close to 94,000 are displaced and sheltering in IDP sites.

- An inter-agency assessment team, including national and international partners, deployed to Nsanje and Phalombe to conduct verifications of areas reporting internally displaced persons. Verifications will be conducted for other districts with high numbers of people (Zomba, Machinga and Mangochi) week beginning 18th March.

- Nsanje and Phalombe show that close to 183,000 people were affected with 26,000 displaced in 32 IDP sites throughout the two districts.

- The Humanitarian Country Team met on 15 March to maximize coordination with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and the various humanitarian partners. It was considered essential that an early recovery approach be mainstreamed through the clusters at the initial stages of the response. This would ensure that resilience building programming and emergency response are implemented concurrently.

<table>
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<th>15</th>
<th>840,330</th>
<th>181,494</th>
<th>23,000</th>
<th>577</th>
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<td>Affected districts</td>
<td>Affected throughout the country</td>
<td>Affected in Nsanje and Phalombe</td>
<td>People displaced in IDP camps in Nsanje and Phalombe</td>
<td>Injuries</td>
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Situation Overview

On 8 March, the Government of Malawi declared a State of Disaster following a Tropical Cyclone which formed in the Mozambique Channel and drifted to Malawi on 5th March causing heavy rains accompanied by strong winds. The heavy and persistent rain led to severe flooding across some districts in southern Malawi. Districts are reporting that more than 800,000 people have been affected, including close to 94,000 displaced, with 56 deaths and 577 injuries recorded according to the Government. Fifteen districts and two cities have been impacted so far. The figures for other districts (Machinga – 146,505), Mangochi (74,635) and Zomba (149,460) will be verified through an inter-agency assessment to be conducted in the coming week. The assessment conducted for Chikwawa in February will be updated to include the newly affected numbers. These findings will help to determine the actual numbers of people affected and displaced.

The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) deployed a national level interagency assessment team to Phalombe and Nsanje districts to verify the extent of damage, identify realistic options for humanitarian response and provide clear recommendations to government, international community and humanitarian decision-makers on appropriate response interventions. The assessment mission was conducted from 11th March to 15th March 2019 in collaboration with officers from Phalombe and Nsanje, NGO partners and UN agencies. Of the estimated total of 800,000, Nsanje and Phalombe reported a total of 181,494 people affected. Nsanje reported a total of 18,000 affected households (81,000 people), and 17,400 displaced while Phalombe reported 22,848 households (102,816 people) affected and 5,526 people displaced. In 2015, Malawi was also affected by floods which close to 147,000 people were in IDP centres with an estimated 26,000 IDPs located outside centres/in hard to reach areas. The same districts, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba were the most affected.

In both Nsanje and Phalombe, displacement sites are located in schools. In some areas, in Miolo (NSanje district), some people had returned to their homes and although re-building had commenced, most households were living and sleeping in the open as houses had been completely destroyed.

The heavy rains and floods impacted agricultural activities in both Phalombe and Nsanje, as fields are inundated and recently planted crops have been destroyed. Post-flood assessments will indicate the impact on people’s livelihoods. However, as agricultural production accounted for one-third of Malawi’s GDP in 2017 and about 80% of its export revenue, it is likely that the potential loss of harvest, will impact their livelihoods in the medium and long-term.

In Nsanje, floods affected 12,759 Ha of crops belonging to 37,817 Farm Families (FFs) in all five Extension Planning Areas (EPAs). A total of 4,611 Ha of maize, 1,391 Ha of rice, 3,094 Ha of Millet and 1,781 Ha of Sorghum were damaged. The damage ranged from moderate to severe with some crops were submerged completely causing total crop loss. Livestock such as poultry, ducks, goats drowned or were washed away by the floods. A total of 2,721 goats, 84 pigs, 11,497 chickens, 1,816 ducks and 55 guinea fowls were washed away or died due to floods. Floods also affected infrastructure including livestock kraals and irrigation schemes. In Phalombe, transportation of agricultural produce to markets has been challenged due to damage to road infrastructure which will negatively impact the local economy.

Resource Mobilization

- Government plans to support 130,000 household and received US$1.7 million for initial response against a total request of US$11.86 million. Response is currently ongoing with provision of food, NFIs and water treatment chemicals in affected communities.
- USAID: Initiated a US$200,000 for shelter, WASH and early agriculture recovery. In addition, 46,000 mosquito nets will be distributed in the most affected areas
- DFID: US$400,000 was provided to NGO partners and requests additional disaggregated data as well as priority districts.
- ECHO activated its crisis modification through the Red Cross to fund assessment, logistics and NFIs.
• World Bank: In 2016 the WB launched the Malawi Drought, Recovery and Resilience Project. Within this project is a contingent emergency response component funding that can be used for emergency response. WB requested Ministry of Finance to develop a budget and emergency action plan.

• Airtel: Donated approx. US$71,000

• Red Cross: is mobilizing some funding through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

• UN agencies (WFP, FAO, UNICEF) had already mobilized emergency funding to support prompt responses on food, wash and agriculture.

• UNOCHA deployed two officers to support IM and coordination.

• South Africa deployed a specialist team (medical, search and rescue) (ideal to know how many people for how long)

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform DoDMA by e-mailing: fmwafongo@gmail.com

Humanitarian Response (Based on findings from the assessments conducted in Nsanje and Phalombe)

Shelter & Camp Management Cluster Lead: Ministry of Lands and Housing Co-Lead: Malawi Red Cross

Needs:

With close to 26,000 people in displacement centres including people who have erected temporary shelter in their original locations to restore their lives, there is need to provide temporary shelter for those households whose homes have been completely destroyed. Most affected households lost all their belongings. There is an urgent need to provide mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, buckets, lighting materials and blankets. In addition, there is need to support in the repair or reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures, taking into account building guidelines and standards for resilience and future shocks.

Response:

World Vision Supporting 80,000 people in 9 districts with shelter and NFIs. The “build back better approach” is most advised in the Malawi context as most houses collapsed due to persistent rains for 5-7 days.

Gaps & Constraints:

Most sites remain without shelter and people are accommodated in classrooms which is disrupting learning and compromising sanitation.

Food Security Cluster Lead: DoDMA Co-Lead: WFP

Needs:

Immediate food needs need to be urgently addressed to prevent rapid deterioration in nutritional status, health and well-being of the worst-affected people with precipitating factors such as a possible increase in water-borne disease and limited access to safe water. Early restoration of food security should include support to livelihoods and agricultural production, by re-planting fields for those communities that can use this window of opportunity and/or residual moisture.

Response:

DoDMA and Malawi Red Cross Society are distributing food (Maize flour, Salt, soya pieces, rice). In Nsanje, the Malawi Defence Force is delivering supplies by air to affected areas in T/A Mlolo which remains inaccessible except by boat and helicopter. In Phalombe, government, Malawi Red Cross Society and Indian Community in Malawi have delivered food and NFIs to selected camps.

5,905 Households displaced in need of immediate shelter in Nsanje and Phalombe

27,000 affected people in Nsanje and Phalombe in need of immediate food assistance
• WFP activated that internal emergency reserve of US$1.5 million for the distribution of 2,000 MT of maize and 500MT beans and will liaise with government to better understand the gaps.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Response has generally been slow and supplies so far distributed are inadequate. Although markets are functioning, although markets are functioning and food stocks are available, commodity prices increased significantly by close to 100%.

Agriculture  
Cluster Lead: Ministry of Agriculture  
Co-Lead: FAO

Needs:
• With 80% per cent of sampled communities reporting farming as the primary source of income, the most urgent needs are to distribute seeds. There still is a window for re-planting using residual moisture and additionally, seeds and implements will be required for the winter planting season.

Response:
• FAO has US$500,000 for agriculture/early recovery

Transport & Logistics  
Cluster Lead: Ministry of Transport and Public Infrastructure  
Co-Lead: WFP

Needs:
• The need for transportation of goods and personnel continues to be a challenge especially in T/A Mlolo, Nsanje district which remains inaccessible.

Response:
• A helipad positioned in Bangula is being used by the Malawi Defence Force for delivery of relief items. Additionally, UNICEF and WFP partners provided boats for movement to locations on the eastern side of Shire River.
• WFP has two helicopters (UNHAS) on stand-by stationed in Entebbe, funding is required to deploy them to Malawi

Gaps & Constraints:
• In both Nsanje (Mololo) and Phalombe, extensive damage was caused on most of the roads with some areas not easily inaccessible as at the time of the assessment. As a result, affected communities had difficulties accessing some essential services. Reaching the affected population with essential lifesaving support was also made difficult by the poor road conditions.

Health & HIV  
Cluster Lead: Ministry of Health  
Co-Lead: WHO

Needs:
• Health facilities remain generally unaffected in Nsanje and Phalombe. The poor sanitation conditions in the IDP sites and the presence of these stagnant pools of water provide a conducive environment of mosquito breeding that might increase incidences of malaria and also lead to other waterborne diseases such as cholera or diarrhoea. Some affected pregnant women and under-five children living in IDP camps in Phalomber are not able to access growth monitoring and antenatal care services because some of them cannot manage to risk their lives by using private canoe. Additionally, some under-five children and women of child bearing age are missing out on vaccination dates because of inaccessibility.
Response:
- The Ministry of Health through the National Malaria Control Programme plans to distribute 22,000 mosquito nets. USAID will support with 46,000 mosquito nets which will be distributed in the most affected areas.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Mobile clinics required especially for people of Mlolo and parts of Phalombe who are completely cut off as a result of impassable roads and flooded rivers.

Protection
Cluster Lead: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:
- Protection concerns remain a priority across all sectors for all districts. Although no serious cases of abuse have been reported among the affected populations, there still remains a significant risk of the same for women and children mainly due to poor lighting in the temporary shelters.

Response:
- UNFPA is proposing to redirect reproductive health and GBV to include flood affected communities in the same areas. Reproductive health kits will arrive in the coming week, procured using CERF funding. UNWOMEN to support with the Coordination Cluster with the Age, Gender and diversity tool as well as messaging on GBV.

Gaps & Constraints:
- There is limited capacity to identify vulnerable children and refer them to access basic social services. Getting disaggregated data remains a challenge.

Water & Sanitation
Cluster Lead: Ministry of Water Development and Irrigation
Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:
- Close to 26,000 displaced people in Nsanje and Phalombe and camped in the schools are not able to return home. This has put pressure on WASH facilities as these are shared between the IDPs and pupils. There is a significant gap of water and sanitation facilities as well as water treatment chemicals for the potentially contaminated water sources.

Response:
- With support from UNICEF, a cumulative population of 200,000 in 9 districts people will be reached with sanitation services including soap, buckets, and temporary latrines which will be installed in the schools, churches and health centers where displaced families are being sheltered.
- Goal Malawi and Iris Africa are supporting with water treatment chemicals in Nsanje and Phalombe.
- Agricane is providing clean water to ADMARC camp in Nsanje district three times a day.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Need for continued and enhanced collaboration amongst the WASH partners to minimise the risk of diarrheal outbreaks
- WASH facilities are inadequate.

Nutrition
Cluster Lead: Department of Nutrition
Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:
- Under-five children, children with malnutrition and pregnant and lactating mothers need nutrition supplies.
Response:

**Education**

*Cluster Lead: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology  Co-Lead: UNICEF*

**Needs:**
- Some schools particularly in Nsanje were affected by floods. In other schools, especially in T/A Mlolo, no learning is ongoing as rooms were inundated. In these schools, displaced communities are making use of the school infrastructure including shelter (use of classrooms, water and sanitation) to accommodate IDPs. In other locations, learning is progressing normally as IDPs were removed from the schools and encouraged to return to their homes to begin rebuilding. Other schools are only accommodating people at night.

**Response:**
- The Education Cluster is working to get a better understanding of schools that were affected either by the flooding and heavy rains or in which people are currently sheltering. Real time monitoring is ongoing to indicate gaps in schools i.e. tents, teaching and learning materials, school furniture and toilets.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- The use of some schools as camps continues to cause classroom shortages in most districts where IDPs are still camped causing a strain the available resources including water and sanitation.

**General Coordination**

The Government of Malawi is leading the response, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), with support from humanitarian partners, including NGOs, the UN System and donors. An inter-agency assessment was conducted from 11-15 March. The objective of the assessment was to validate and determine the scope of the crisis and to identify the main and immediate needs of the affected population. The cluster system was activated and continues to function while inter-cluster meetings will be held weekly to ensure proper operational cross-sector coordination. The Ministry of Homeland Security through DoDMA, is convening meetings of the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee to share progress reports on the floods response. District Commissioners continue to be responsible at the district level. The Malawi Defence Force (MDF) and MPS are also providing operational and logistical support at district level in order to improve coordination of the response. The HCT met on 15 March under the chair of the DoDMA Principal Secretary and the UN Resident Coordinator with the participation of main humanitarian partners. For information management, 4W and funding tracking Matrices and cluster leads contacts have been developed and shared with DoDMA for circulation.

For further information, please contact:

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More information on: [http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/malawi](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/malawi)