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 and development partners. It covers the period 28th April – 20 May 2019.

**Highlights**

As at 20 May, 731,879 people have been reached with food assistance in all 15 affected districts. Safe water was provided for 91,101 people through water trucking and rehabilitation of boreholes. Over 42,874 people have access to improved sanitation facilities in camps and the surrounding areas.

According to the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), only 6 displacement sites out of the 173 sites reported at the beginning of the flood’s crisis remain active. 4 of the sites are in Chikwawa district and 2 in Nsanje district.

The Emergency Response Appeal launched on 28 March is currently funded at 81% with contributions and pledges amounting US$ $38.3 million out of the needed US$45.2 million. The current funding gap stands at US$6.9 million.

The 2019 Floods Post Disaster Needs Assesment(PDNA), estimated that the total effects of heavy rains and floods amounted to US$220.2 million and the Government of Malawi will require about US$370million to help affected people and communities to recover and reconstruct. Emerging from the PDNA, UNDP conducted a comprehensive consultation, following which a Recovery Plan is underdevelopment. Partners are now completing the Recovery Action Plan template which will inform the transition to recovery. The report is expected to be launched in mid-June.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Affected districts</th>
<th>Affected throughout the country</th>
<th>People in need</th>
<th>People displaced in IDP camps</th>
<th>HHs reached with relief assistance</th>
<th>Partners providing relief assistance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>868,895</td>
<td>731,879</td>
<td>86,976</td>
<td>142,660</td>
<td>90</td>
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**Situation Overview**

The humanitarian response has succeeded in reaching at least 731,879 people with food distribution in all 15 districts affected by the floods. In-kind distribution and cash transfers is being rolled out in 9 of the 15 districts. Food packages are not standardized with some households receiving cash while others receiving food in form of maize or rice. Partners are encouraged to contribute towards the return home package proposed by DODMA. Water trucking and repair of boreholes in camps successfully ensured 91,101 people had safe and potable water. Priority was given to improved sanitation amenities for 42,874 people in the camps and surrounding communities affected by the floods. Despite the significant achievements made in reaching the most vulnerable slightly above 12,856 people remain displaced in camps in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts.
DoDMA and partners are verifying the number of people that have returned to their places of origin and to accurately count those remaining in displacement sites to inform programming. In the last week of April, IOM in collaboration with DoDMA conducted the third round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) IOM, DoDMA and the Malawi Red Cross are currently reviewing the data from the recent DTM exercise to accurately inform on the remaining numbers of displaced populations.

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) estimated that the total effects of heavy rains and floods amounted to US$220.2 million and the Government of Malawi will require about US$ 370 million to help affected people and communities to recover. Cost of rebuilding homes for those affected is estimated at US$105.9 million, agriculture reinvestment at US$41.1 million. UNDP engaged an Early Recover Advisor to support drafting the Early Recovery plan. Finalization of the plan is expected in by end of June.

Affected households are being supported to plant in time for the winter planting season. According to FESWENT projections, districts affected by the flooding are in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) while some households are facing Crisis (IPC3) having lost their crops and livestock and extensive damage to land. Partners have begun early recovery activities through supporting households with seeds and agricultural inputs to meet the winter planting season.

Of the 27 reported cases of cholera there is 1 reported death. Five districts have been affected by cholera namely Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Mwanza and Machinga. There has been no case from displaced people in the camp and preventative measures including the engagement of Environmental Health Officers.

Resource Mobilization

Over US$39.5.3 million has been mobilized for the flood response, leaving a gap of US$5.7 million.

The Government has released MK4 Billion (approx. US$5.5 million) of which MK1 Billion has been allocated to Ministry of Agriculture to support early recovery interventions while DoDMA has received an allocation of MK3 Billion for coordination, logistical expenses and NFIs.

World Bank, through the Malawi Drought Recovery and Resilient project, has approved US$10 million from Treasury to support various sectoral recovery interventions.

Through the ECHO ALERT instrument, DG-ECHO provided an additional 1 million Euro. The Government of Canada has released a total of US$1,667,000 which will be channeled to the various organizations to support with NFIs, Shelter and WASH; and food security. The UN through the Central Emergency Response Fund has provided US$3.3 million to support food security, nutrition, protection and WASH activities. The African Development Bank‘s (ADB) Climate Fund will also release US$150,000.00 to Malawi to enable authorities to assist communities and internally displaced persons impacted by the Cyclone. The Bank has already availed US$250,0000 to Malawi, from its Emergency Relief Fund, for the purchase of emergency food items to avert hunger following the loss of crops damaged by the severe floods.

All humanitarian and development partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform DoDMA of the details for pledges and commitments by e-mailing: fmwafongo@gmail.com

Humanitarian Response
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. The cluster continues to prioritize support to flood-affected farming households with seeds/inputs distributed from the end of April 2019, in areas that have potential for winter farming activities. Farmers have been targeted to receive a minimum package to support winter crop production on an average land area of 0.1 ha with residual moisture and/or irrigation farming.

Response

- Most input deliveries started during the first week of May and will continue until the end of May 2019. Particularly for the seeds delivered by the Ministry of Agriculture, lack of funding to facilitate transportation to Extension Planning Areas (EPA) is delaying distributions in some districts.
- Preliminary information gathered so far indicates that around 30,000 households have received some support in the Southern Region, mostly with maize and legumes seeds as well as Orange Flesched Sweet Potato (OSFP) vines.
- The District Agriculture Offices have been working closely with DoDMA, particularly in Phalombe and Chikwawa to align plans to facilitate return of IDPs from the camps to their sites or to new settlements. Some of the inputs delivered by the agriculture cluster members have been used as part of the return package.
- Cluster members that are currently supporting implementation of the Agricultural Flood Response and Recovery include Goal Malawi, CARE, Concern World Wide, CRS, WFP and FAO. These partners are receiving financial support from various donors including USAID, DFID, EU and others.
- In summary, the agricultural response is aimed at provision of inputs for use under residual moisture and irrigation crop production (seeds and fertilizer); rehabilitation of irrigation structures that have been damaged by floods i.e. reconstruction of canals, water intakes, shallow wells; support to livestock interventions i.e. ring vaccinations, provision of drug kits, de/restocking through livestock fares; and enhanced information, coordination and analysis.

Gaps and Constraints

- Lack of standardization of agriculture inputs from partners due to differences in funding has resulted in variations in distributions for beneficiaries amongst partners.
- Information sharing amongst partners remains a challenge as the 4Ws is still largely absent despite partners implementing the flood response. Without accurate data it is difficult to present an accurate reflection of the agriculture cluster reach and impact.
- Out of a total requirement of US$10,000,000, US$3,157,955.79 has been mobilized and US$1,250,000.00 has been pledged, leaving a gap of US$5,592,044.21.

Education

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

Needs:

- School sessions have resumed in some schools while few in Zomba, Chikwawa and Nsanje districts remain occupied by displaced populations. In some schools, students are learning outside in order to accommodate the IDPs in the school premises. While most school blocks did not collapse, one school, Nantchengwa primary in Zomba had a collapsed wall.

Response:
Of the 77,134 targeted beneficiaries the education cluster has reached 46% of the beneficiaries. A total of 35,672 learners (18,621 girls, 17,051 boys) were provided with teaching and learning materials (143 school in a box, 227 kits of extra materials and 193 recreation kits)

Through the provision of 50 tents, temporary learning spaces were constructed. School meals, counselling and psychosocial support were delivered in 145 schools in five districts namely Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, Mulanje and Zomba Districts.

7,140 Early Child Development (ECD) children (3,785 girls, 3,355 boys) were supported with 7 tents, 80 ECD kits and CSB in 20 camps in Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, Mulanje, Zomba and Machinga

59 cluster volunteer teachers have engaged in real time monitoring across the districts.

District cluster meetings being conducted in Phalombe, Chikwawa, Zomba, Nsanje and Mulanje.

Gaps & Constraints:

The cluster requires US$2,400,000 and so far US$860,000 has been received leaving a gap of US$1,540,000.

Food Security  Cluster Lead: DoDMA  Co-Lead: WFP

Needs:

Extreme weather patterns in March, coinciding with the lean season impacted negatively the food security of a predominantly agricultural economy. The entire food production chain has been disrupted by the resulting displacement. The immediate life-saving needs of the affected people have to be addressed with mixed programming of both in-kind (food package) and cash assistance.

Uncoordinated distributions by philanthropists and organizations mainly in Southern Malawi is leading to duplication in some areas while denying assistance to other areas. These efforts need to be coordinated and directed to districts and locations with the most pressing needs.

The cluster is developing an early recovery strategy to guide its response as efforts swiftly move from emergency to early recovery and resilience.

Response:

Since the onset of the response, a total of 642,000 have been reached with both one-time and continuous monthly food and cash assistance. This is an increase from the 409,000 (91,000 households) reported in the last bulletin. *Please note that the data is continuously reviewed.

A mixed programming of cash transfers and in-kind assistance is ongoing in the mostly affected districts. Benefiting households receive either the in-kind or the cash assistance on a monthly basis. A standard food basket of 50kgs of cereals, 10kgs of pulses and 2 litres of cooking oil per household has been agreed by the cluster. On the same note, a transfer value of MK18,000 (approx.$25) per household has as well been standardised for the month of May. The transfer values for cash-based transfers are standardised on monthly basis based on food basket prevailing market prices.

A total of approximately USD2.0Million has been transferred to benefiting households since the beginning of the response. This amount is a sum of cash assistance provided by WFP and its implementing partners. More data is being sought from other food security cluster members.

Gaps and Constraints:

Under reporting of both activities and funding status is impacting planning and response.

Out of the cluster requirement of USD17.3M, WFP alone has received approximately of 10.0M, funding data from other partners is still being reviewed.
Health

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Health    Co-Lead: WHO

Needs:

- With integrated outreach clinics to the camps, districts face limited medicine, supplies and transport. The total estimated cost for medicines and supplies to run integrated outreach clinics for one month in the 15 affected districts is US$2.6 million. So far partners have donated medicine and supplies amounting to US$1.2 million, leaving a gap of US$1.4 million. The urgent health needs are therefore medicine, supplies and medical equipment to run integrated outreach clinics and support health facilities to manage increased cases after the IDPs have returned to their respective homes.

Response:

- Ongoing monitoring and support through integrated outreach clinics and mobile medical team visits to the camps.
- Through the District Health Officers (DHOs), UNICEF continued supporting and operating 20 mobile clinics 9 districts. Over 144,000 people have been reached through the clinics.
- Data from WHO supported outreach clinics in six districts (Phalombe, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Machinga, Balaka and Mangochi) shows that a total of 32,913 people have accessed different health care services through these mobile clinics including Outpatient Department (OPD) services (10,763 people), continuum of care- ART and NCDs (1,151 people), Family planning and ANC (8,584 people) and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and Growth monitoring services (11,804 children).
- A total of 600 health workers have been trained on disease surveillance and response to enhance early detection and investigation of disease outbreaks. So far, no disease outbreak has been reported in the camps.
- Coordination of health response by different partners have been strengthened with technical support from WHO and UNICEF.
- PDA Health Cluster data collection and analysis is on-going.
- In total there has been 27 reported cases of cholera and 1 confirmed death. Cholera cases have been identified in 5 districts (Nsanjje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Mwanza and Machinga). No cases reported in the camps.
- The established outreach clinics in camps continue to provide SRH, HIV and family planning services with a boost from the RH Kits distributed in nine districts. Data collection on all health interventions including SRH, HIV and family planning continue in all the districts.
- WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF are mobilizing resources for more medical equipment, medicines and supplies to support integrated outreach clinics.
- Weekly district and fortnightly partner coordination meetings are on-going at district and regional (Blantyre) levels.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Inadequate and slow data sharing from the districts to the national level for ongoing planning and decision making.
- With integrated outreach clinics, districts are overstretched on medicines, supplies and transport. This is in addition to limited resources for supportive supervision and communication.
- Inadequate and unavailability of district based SRH data related to women and children and youth is affecting response and management of actual SRH interventions. UNFPA SRH Coordinator is working to fill such information gaps.
- Weak cross border surveillance on cholera and diarrhea.
- The cluster requires US$1,851,981 and so far, US$ 322,069 has been received and US$450,000 has been pledged leaving a gap of US$1,079,912.
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Cluster Lead: Department of Nutrition  Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:

- Increase service integration across the sector, including integrated community outreach services, together with MCHN services, IYCF and other essential package of care services.
- Service gaps and limited number of nutrition partners in nutrition programming; there is a need to continuously advocate for more nutrition partners and resources.

Response:

- Mass screening (in the camps) and active case finding across all prioritized districts namely Balaka, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje, Nsanje, Phalombe, and Zomba continued.
- The total number of under 5s children screened across the flood affected districts in April is: 51,081 children (23,009 boys 28,072 girls). Out of this, 1,811 children (942 boys and 869 girls) were admitted for SAM treatment (121 under 5s SAM children specifically from Camps). Overall, 12,230 children nationwide from a target of 58,421 (Cluster targets) have been reached in 2019.
- Correspondingly, within the same reporting month, a total of 5,630 MAM cases were admitted (from flood affected districts), compared to 5670 in February and 4710 in January 2019.
- 2,111 MAM Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) were admitted in March 2019 compared to 1,996 admitted in February and 1,902 in January 2019.
- In total, 53,572 children received Vitamin A Supplement compared to 20,943 in February and 17,335 in January 2019.
- A SMART Survey is planned from 27th May - 15th June for all districts.
- Increased emphasis to integrate resilience activities into the emergency response- this includes, using government structures (HSAs) for screening, DNCC (coordination) and looking at strengthening IYCF-E with other services. Nutrition partners have started working on a recovery plan which will be finalized and reported in the next situation report.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Limited number of partners currently working in nutrition programmes remains a constraint in meeting the needs. Partners engaged in nutrition include; Save the Children, Goal, CRS, ONSE, Story workshop, WVI, WFP and UNICEF.
- Preventive ration to Children and PLW is not being provided due to a funding gap.
- Resources for Treatment of MAM and SAM in NCST activities available until end June.
- The cluster has revised its requirements from US$2,467,463 to US$5,000,000 and so far, US$2.4million has been mobilized, leaving a gap of US$2,560,000.

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare  Co-Lead: UNHCR

Needs:

- From 18 to 19 May, some 40 camps were decommissioned in the southern-most district of Nsanje with just two camps remaining, and a further 33 camps have been decommissioned in Chikwawa with four remaining. Returnees did not receive return packages, and there is therefore an ongoing need to ensure that their basic needs are met in return locations.
- A Protection Monitoring Exercise undertaken by UNHCR, in collaboration with Plan International Malawi, was completed on 15 May. The Protection Monitoring Exercise identified food as an ongoing priority need. In some instances, food shortages have led to sex-for-food, an issue which has been raised at the regional Flood Response and Recovery Coordination meeting to ensure appropriate measures are implemented. Issues of child neglect, family separation as key protection issues.
• Child abuse and exploitation is also particularly prevalent and IDP children are unable to attend school, due to a lack of adequate clothing and missing school materials.

• Many displaced persons had their documentation lost or destroyed during the floods, and there is a need to support affected persons in obtaining replacements.

• GBV risks remain for both those in the camps as well as amongst the population who have returned home.

• Mainstreaming and integration of GBV interventions as per IASC Guidelines into prioritized sectors/clusters such as Health, Protection, Shelter/NFI, Food Security and WASH has been identified as a priority need.

• Building the capacity of front line non-GBV specialists in preventing and mitigation of GBV risks in different phases of emergency response, including early recovery is a key focus.

Response:

• UNHCR to mainstream findings from the Protection Monitoring Exercise and present for further actions by Protection Cluster members and across other clusters.

• Based on the outcome of the Protection Monitoring Exercise, UNHCR to explore options to support the return of Mozambicans.

• In collaboration with other humanitarian actors, UNHCR will support the Government of Malawi in delivering a holistic return package, by providing core-relief items. This builds on distributions of core-relief items benefiting 10,000 individuals, that was undertaken in April in the districts of Nsanje, Phalombe and Chikwawa.

• The protection cluster established two task forces to focus on Child Protection (CP) and GBV issues specifically due to the high need. For the CP task force the main objective is to document CP concerns more systematically and develop best practices, as well as, the key priorities for the early recovery phase is also included. With the GBV task force will focus on re-activation of the PSEA network in Malawi.

• Trainings on GBV prevention and reporting, MISP, PSEA and GBV monitoring and reporting are underway. Building the capacity of the front-line workers in GBV and child protection across the 10 districts with initial trainings taking place in Chikwawa, Nsanje and Blantyre.

• GBV SC with support of the Protection Cluster is aiming to mainstream and integrate GBV IASC interventions across target clusters that include Protection, Health, Shelter/NFI, WASH and Food.

• The GBV SC under the overall auspices of Protection Cluster and MOGCDUSW is aiming to achieve 100% compliance with online training attendance and certification for the cluster partners. The same was agreed at the inter-sector meeting held in the WFP Office in Limbe.

• YONECO created safe spaces for children and adults at Nainunje camp in Machinga. YONECO also promote the use of the toll-free number established to report any abuses observed or experienced. The toll-free number is 116 and is accessible in all districts and from all mobile companies.

• Protection Cluster and Sub-cluster meetings are held at national and district level.

Gaps and Constraints:

• Regarding the decommissioning of the camps, coordination to ensure protection principles are upheld and that a package is provided to returnees needs to be strengthened.

• The protection committees in the camps need to be trained on MISP and how to address GBV issues.

• Community outreach engagement interventions need to be strengthened.

• The cluster requires US$2,237,275 and so far US$1,023,000 has been pledged, leaving a gap of US$1,214,275.
Shelter & Camp Management  
Cluster Lead: Ministry of Lands and Housing  
Co-Lead: Malawi Red Cross

Needs:
- Most of the over 86,000 are no longer in displacement sites and have either moved back to their original homes or relocated in other areas. Some IDPs have erected temporary shelters in their original locations to restore their livelihoods. Most affected households lost all their belongings. There is need to provide temporary shelter for those households whose homes have been completely destroyed, as well as mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, buckets, lighting materials and blankets. In addition, supporting the repair or reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures should also be addressed taking into account building guidelines and standards for resilience and future shocks.

Response:
- The Shelter & Camp Management cluster supported the government in developing a minimum return home package
- MRCS continues to construct 170 transitional shelters in Chikwawa (100), Nsanje (50) and Phalombe (20) with financial support from DFID.
- IOM will support 2,200 households with return shelter kits
- More Shelter support commitments into the recovery phase has been indicated by other actors such as Malawi Red Cross, CARE Malawi, Habitat for Humanities, UNHCR, World Relief, WHH and CRS

Gaps and Constraints:
- Lack of clear up to date data on numbers of people who have so far voluntarily returned and those remaining in displacement sites. Unwillingness of some IDPs to return despite receiving return packages
- Lack of standardized package of NFIs among partners.
- Partial distribution of return package by other organizations.
- Lack of land for IDPs voluntarily willing to relocate

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

Needs:
All areas are now accessible, albeit some isolated pockets remain hard to reach. DoDMA estimates that these areas host approximately 5 per cent of the affected population, who are yet to receive assistance. Such areas include Chingale in Zomba district. The Food Security and Logistics Clusters are working together with DoDMA to reach these areas. As some roads are still damaged, people have to use longer alternative roads. Traditional Authority Mlolo which was cut off has become accessible through Chikwawa-Thabwa road. The Logistics Cluster is appealing with all clusters and humanitarian partners to share their pipeline plans to enable their planning.

Response:
- Ongoing support provided to 34 organizations (NGOs 53%, Government 24% & UN23%) in relation to coordination, information management, access to transport, and access to storage.
- Over 1,200 mt of relief cargo which included medical supplies, farm inputs, shelter material and food commodities, has been transported on behalf of 12 organizations since the beginning of the operation to six districts; Chikwawa 36%, Blantyre 36%, Lilongwe 2%, Nsanje 20%, Mulanje 3% and Phalombe 3%.
• River transport services have been accessed by 90 passengers on behalf of 12 organizations to Nsanje district since the beginning of the operation. One extra boat with bigger capacity (10 people) has been deployed to Bangula.
• The Logistics Sector facilitated storage for over 1,800 MT of relief on behalf of 6 organizations since the beginning of the operation in Chikwawa and Blantyre districts.
• A dedicated Logistics Sector webpage has been published online. The Logistics Sector Concept of Operations, the logistics sector strategy and services available including information management products such as mapping are available on the webpage.
• The Logistics Sector meetings are held every Friday at 11H00 at WFP, Blantyre.

Gaps and Constraints:
• Sharing of pipeline information is critical to review and inform continuation of logistics common services. Services will continue but may scale down after May subject to availability of resources and needs.
• Limited road access to some of the affected areas in southern Malawi.
• Limited transport capacity, particularly 4x4 trucks, boats and air assets.
• Need to strengthen logistics information sharing and coordination efforts to optimise operational efficiency.
• Clusters urged to share information on their respective core pipelines with the Logistics cluster.

Water & Sanitation

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

Needs:
• Based on the number of people affected, about 3,691 water points will be needed to provide safe water to the affected population and surrounding communities. This could be new boreholes or rehabilitation, water trucking, and provision of water treatment chemicals, and regular water quality monitoring and testing.
• Water points in the affected areas have been submerged in flood affected areas and this has facilitated contamination.
• About 600c.50 kgs drums of chlorine will be needed for water treatment.
• Provision of safe water in the IDP camps is of importance to prevent water borne diseases and cholera outbreaks.
• About 40,000 set of latrines and bathroom shelters and hand washing facilities will be required in IDP camps to avoid open defecation and prevent sanitary related diseases including cholera outbreak.

Response:
• Over 91,101 beneficiaries have been reached with safe water through water trucking and borehole repairs. An additional 42,874 people have been supplied with improved sanitation access.
• Construction of 8 solar powered reticulated water systems (near completion) to benefit IDP’s and surrounding communities and institutions (school, health facility and orphan care center) as part of recovery efforts and resilient building (4 in Nsanje District: Malaka, Bittlelyu, Mankhokwe and Mguda & 4 in Chikwawa:Chabuka, Malemia, Bereu Health Centre and Kalima school. In addition, five more similar schemes for Phalombe District.
• Boreholes around the camp locations have been targeted for rehabilitation works as they experienced higher volume of use. Majority of districts have been covered with Malanje, Balaka, Blantyre. Focus will now shift to all boreholes at risk of flooding for water quality check and chlorination. 2348 boreholes are at risk that need to be checked.
• Distribution of WASH related NFI: Water treatment chemicals, water buckets with lid and tap, soap. Hygiene pads, rolls of plastic sheets to returnees (recovery just started)
• Over 600,000 people have been reached hygiene messages on prevention of cholera and other WASH related diseases; directly to people in camps and affected communities as well as through community radios in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts.
• WASH Cluster Coordination meetings are held every Friday @ 08H30 in WFP, Blantyre.

Gaps and Constraints:
• Most partners are concentrated in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts leaving a gap in the other equally affected districts.
• Water treatment chemicals for IDPs and communities needed.
• Attendance and coordination at district levels vary impacting on the information management and response planning.
• The cluster requires US$4,700,000 and so far, US$4,500,000 has been mobilized, leaving a gap of US$ 200,000* subject to revision base on recovery needs assessments

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. The cluster system was activated and continues to function while cluster meetings are being held bi-weekly and inter-cluster meetings are being held bi-weekly to ensure proper operational cross-sector coordination. However, a big gap remains in the cluster system at district level thereby hindering effective coordination of the response operations. Emergency Operations Centre’s at national level in Lilongwe and regional level in Blantyre are operational in the Ministry of Homeland Security and Mount Soche Hotel respectively. A gap on coordination and information management at district level remains a challenge. The government, through Treasury, has provided DoDMA with MK3 billion which will most likely boost coordination, logistics and Information Management at district level.

The UN Resident Coordinator in collaboration with DoDMA is convening bi-weekly Humanitarian Country Team meetings and government is holding regular coordination meetings to ensure coordinated response operation. Situation reports are being produced on bi-weekly or needs basis. The District Commissioners in the 15 affected Districts, with support from the Director of Planning and Development and the District Civil Protection Committee are leading the response efforts at district level. For information management, 4Ws and funding tracking matrices and cluster leads and co-leads contacts have been developed and shared with clusters.

As the Humanitarian Response Plan nears completion (28th June), the Government of Malawi with the support of the World Bank, UNDP, EU and AfDB and key stakeholders conducted the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to clarify the extent of the flooding disasters effects and impact across all sectors. Findings from the PDNA were used to inform the Recovery planning. UNDP has supported the deployment of an Early Recovery Advisor (E.R.A) who is based in the Office of the Resident Coordinator to ensure adequate mainstreaming of the early recovery approach in the response. All implementing partners and stakeholders are encouraged to utilize the expertise of the ERA to ensure that the design and prioritization of their interventions integrate the early recovery approach. Part of the responsibilities of the Early Recovery Advisor is the collation and drafting of the Recovery Plan which is expected to be endorsed by all stakeholders by the end of May 2019.