

Alert

Malawi

Flooding in Southern Malawi (*Chikhwawa and Phalombe*)

Geneva, 25 February 2013

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Persistent heavy rains between 9 and 12 February 2013 have caused heavy flooding in Chikhwawa and Phalombe districts in southern Malawi affecting and displacing more than 25,885 people (22,135 in Chikhwawa and 3,750 in Phalombe). The people heavily affected are in traditional authorities of Ngabu, Ngowe and Masache in Chikhwawa, and Chiwalo in Phalombe. The flooding destroyed buildings including houses, household belongings, and crops in the gardens, water points and road infrastructure. The affected population are now living in schools and church buildings and a football stadium in case of Chikhwawa. They have no food, shelter, extra clothing, kitchen utensils and sanitary facilities. Six deaths have been reported in Chikhwawa. Persistent rains are still being experienced in these two districts. ACT member Evangelical Lutheran Church Development Service (ELDS) together with the ACT forum will continue to monitor the situation.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

An ACT response is needed immediately. Lives of more than 25,885 people are in danger. Six people have already been reported dead. The affected people have no food, shelter, extra clothing, kitchen utensils and other necessities critical for their survival.

3. National and international response

Currently the Department of Disaster Management Affairs through the district councils have distributed some relief items in form of maize. Only 1,006 bags (50 kg) and 2 bags (50kg) of beans has been distributed to the affected in Chikhwawa. There has been no response in Phalombe.

4. ACT Alliance response

ACT Alliance members have not yet provided material support to the affected population in both districts, but are monitoring the situation and are preparing for an immediate rapid response. ELDS plans to make an application to the ACT rapid response fund.

5. Planned activities

Following the rapid initial assessment, ELDS through the ACT Malawi forum is planning to respond to the affected population in four traditional authorities of Chikhwawa and Phalombe. ACT is planning the following interventions: provision of food, temporary shelter, blankets, chlorine/bio-filters and kitchen utensils.

6. Constraints

Apart from financial constraints there is no other constraint that hinders an effective response to the situation.

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