

# Malawi: Floods

Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)

United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator

## Situation Report No. 9

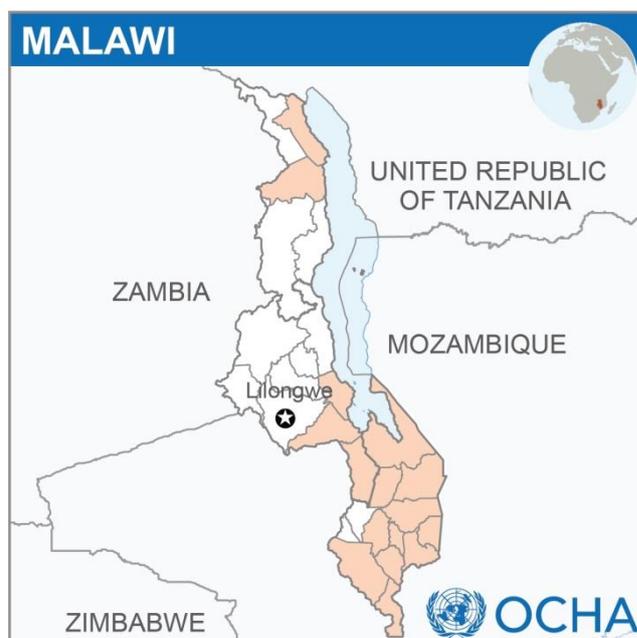
(as of 17 February 2015)



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 12 January to 17 February 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 21 February 2015.

## Highlights

- As of 17 February 2015, 20 cases of cholera have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health, with one death, all of them in the District of Nsanje.
- A damage assessment exercise by the Shelter Cluster, in collaboration with WASH and Agriculture cluster is underway, to determine the possibility of people returning and priority needs.
- A Post Disaster Needs Assessment will be conducted from 20 February to 6 March. The exercise will inform recovery programming.
- The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee starts on 18 February a Rapid Food Security Assessment and Monitoring exercise in 27 districts of the country, including those affected by floods.
- As of 14 February, 40% of the funding requirements presented in the Preliminary Response Plan had been met, so US\$ 32.1 million according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and local sources.



Map Sources: UNCS, Humanitarian Partners  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

15

Affected districts

230,000

Displaced people in temporary sites

104

Deaths

645

Injured people

172

Missing people

63,976

Hectares of land flooded

## Situation Overview

According to the Meteorological Services the country will continue getting heavy rains over the next five days due to moist and unstable Congo air mass over the northern parts of Malawi and the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone active over southern and central areas. This is likely to result in rising of water levels in the Shire River which is the only outlet of Lake Malawi and subsequent flooding along the Lower Shire areas.

Data from UNDAC assessments in the 15 affected districts presented on 04 February 2015 shows the number of people displaced to temporary shelters is about 230,000. The most affected districts are Nsanje, Zomba, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Blantyre Rural and Mulanje. As per Government data, 104 deaths have been recorded due to the floods in Malawi, with 645 people injured and 172 people still missing. Figures are still being consolidated and cross-referenced.

As of 17 February 2015, 20 cases of cholera have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health, with one death, all of them in the District of Nsanje. All cases have been identified outside displacement sites. Four cases are linked to the Jambawe area in Mutalala district (a gold mine in Mozambique 10 km from the Malawian border, where many Malawians work), where there is an extended cholera outbreak. The first confirmed case of cholera was on 13th February 2015. There have been reports from Nsanje since 11 February of suspected cholera cases. The Health

Cluster informed about the preparedness measures in place such as the pre-positioning of response kits for 1,500 people (500 per district: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe) and enhancing ongoing hygiene promotion. A Cholera Preparedness Meeting took place on 17 February to look at the current implementation of the cholera preparedness plan and propose new measure to content the cases in the affected area.

During the HCT meeting, held on 13 February, partners agreed on the review of the 2015 Malawi Floods Response Plan through a common prioritization process, based on a geographical focus (the 6 most hit districts: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Blantyre Rural, Mulanje); keeping the same period of time (3 months, until the end of April 2015); targeting displaced people in displacement sites and other vulnerable groups; and focusing on immediate humanitarian response. The process will start with an update of cluster strategies, key priorities and requirements.

Early recovery and resilience building are being discussed by Government and partners, and will be also included in the review of the Response Plan to present the linkages with the humanitarian response to draw attention to the need to support recovery. In this regard, a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) will be conducted in the 15 flood-affected districts from 20 February 2015 to provide technical assistance to develop and carry out a Recovery and Reconstruction Framework and Disaster Risk Financing Strategy. The assessment exercise will involve all the clusters.

On 17 February, an inter-cluster coordination meeting, convened by the Shelter Cluster, took place at national level to discuss on the humanitarian support to people returning to their original areas from displacement locations. Partners agreed on establishing standard return kits for people coming back from displacement sites, as well as analyzing other kind of support for vulnerable groups severely affected by the floods, i.e. people staying in host families or people not displaced but with humanitarian needs. A vulnerability approach should be considered to meet humanitarian needs in return areas. Different modalities of support would be considered, i.e. material assistance, cash and basic services, including psychosocial support. A damage assessment exercise by the Shelter Cluster, in collaboration with WASH and Agriculture cluster will give more light in determining the possibility of people returning to their origin areas and priority needs. Also, the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment committee is undertaking the 2015 rapid food security assessment and Monitoring exercise in 27 districts of the country. Due to the current flood situation, the exercise will concurrently be done with a Food Security assessment in the flood affected areas. The two activities will be conducted from 22nd February to 6th March.

## UPDATES FROM THE DISTRICTS

### Nsanje

Coordination meetings continue to be held at district level. On 13<sup>th</sup> February, the inter-cluster coordination meeting was held where it was agreed that the situation in many parts of Nsanje is beginning to stabilize and that the East Bank still remains issue mainly due to access problems. For instance, Makhanga camp is fully cut-off. The District Preparedness Plan has been also discussed in the Council Meeting, which will allow to undertaken preventive measure in the event of similar disaster in the future.

WASH services including shower and latrine facilities and dignity kits remain a challenge in the displacement sites, especially in the East Bank. DoDMA and UNDAC team conducted a field assessment mission in Mchere site on 17 February to look at needs and management. Shelter, latrines, food and first aid kits were reported as key needs. A fatal accident took place on 14 February in Mota Engil site where a woman died after falling into a 5m deep pit latrine. Authorities and partners are already looking at improving maintenance of sanitation facilities.

### Chikwawa

The coordination of the response is improving. The EOC is staffed with a DoDMA representative and District Council Office personnel. The information flow is now regular between the District Commissioner (DC), the agencies in the field and DoDMA. Sectoral coordination is ongoing, with meetings in key clusters, i.e. Education, Shelter and CCCM, WASH and Food Security. However, the Health Cluster is not active in Chikwawa yet, and its activities are shared mainly by UNICEF and partly GOAL MW. The decision on the relocation of some sites has been postponed, due to the fact of increasing return to displaced people to their origin areas.

During the coordination meeting on 13 February, the future relocation of people to areas which are not flood-prone was raised. The local Government is concerned on allowing people to go back without proper surveying on future flooding risk. A survey of the district is required to investigate who owns what and where in order to make proper mapping.

On Saturday night, 14 February, displaced population living at the Savala site was confronted by the people from surrounding villages. No injuries were reported. Police left Savala on the day before. Partners recommended performing the distribution of relief items in Savala in presence of the police and traveling there with police escort. Same situation with distribution was reported from Bonza. Probable solution could be to move people from these sites to other areas.

### Phalombe

Several cluster meetings are now taking place namely: WASH, Food Security and Agriculture, Health and Nutrition, Shelter, and Protection. 4W is being populated. Coordination team agreed to reduce the number of displacement sites by assembling some sites in one area, which will facilitate site management and gap identification. A plan of action is being developed. Inter-cluster field assessment missions will be conducted this week to double-check data on IDP's and household's figures and to confirm gaps by sectors, starting in Chiwalo and Kaduya sites.

### Zomba

Coordination is improving. DC, DoDMA and UNDAC established the EOC at the District Council Chamber which is now operational. The 4W tool is now getting used, and gap analysis has started. Data analysis in support to clusters is being developed. On 17 February, an inter-cluster coordination meeting was conducted to identify the existing gaps in the response. All clusters are active by now. Food Security and Agriculture could still use support on coordination.

The inter-agency verification exercise, led by DoDMA, confirmed that 8,022 households (about 40,110 people) are indeed displaced in Zomba. Out of these, 4,225 households (23,250 people) are in displacement sites while the rest are in their villages staying with relatives. During the visit to the displacement sites, the team indicates that in some sites people have already left or are preparing for going back home. For instance, in one of the islands in the Lake Chilwa, the two reported sites were both emptied; all households went back to their places.

## Funding

According to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and local sources, as of 17 February, 40% of the funding requirements presented in the Preliminary Response Plan had been met, so US\$ 32.1 million, out of US\$ 81 million of the initial requirements. DoDMA is keeping an updated tracking of in-kind and cash donations. The information is shared regularly with partners in country.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform DoDMA and the OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org)

## 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 has been activated, and inter-cluster meetings have been happening twice a week to ensure proper operational cross-sector coordination. Clusters / sectors have held meetings in the most affected districts (Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba). The Office of the Vice President, through DoDMA, is convening meetings of the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee to share progress report on the floods response. The Government has established Emergency Operations Centers in Lilongwe, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Zomba with the support of the UNDAC Team in coordinating the response. In addition to the EOCs, Government has opened a toll-free hotline 115 on which people may call to report issues related to disasters.

The Malawi Defense Force (MDF) and Malawi Police Service (MPS) have seconded senior officers to the National Emergency Operations Centre to support DoDMA in the coordination and operations of the response. These structures are not intended to bypass already existing local structures, with District Commissioners continuing to be responsible at the district level. The MDF and MPS are also providing operational and logistical support at district level in order to improve coordination of the response. Government is also ramping up preparedness efforts in the North of the country where more rains are expected.

In addition, the humanitarian community is supporting the Government in terms of coordination and response. The Humanitarian Country Team is supported through the cluster system sectoral relief operations. The OCHA Regional Office for Southern Africa has deployed a surge team, which is working in close collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the HCT's members and DoDMA. Also, the UN Disaster Assessment and

Coordination (UNDAC) Team, deployed on 16 January 2015 is supporting field coordination, information management and ICT issues (Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Zomba), as well as national level, in support to DoDMA and the National Emergency Operations Centre in Lilongwe.

In their role of co-lead of the Government cluster, the UN agencies and Red Cross Movement have increased their capacity in country and continue to scale up their support to enhance coordination activities. The education cluster is recruiting a cluster coordinator. As co-lead of the logistics cluster, deployed-WFP experts are providing logistics augmentation to cover access gaps for the humanitarian community. WHO has deployed 2 technical officers to support the national and district health teams in response. UN Women has enhanced the support to partners and clusters with a Gender officer, aiming at improving the mainstreaming of gender issues in humanitarian planning and response activities. UNFPA hired a national GBV coordinator in its support role as co-lead of the GBV sub-cluster. The Shelter Cluster has also scaled up, with a team leader and information manager in Lilongwe, and an advisor in Blantyre. UNICEF increased WASH capacity also with an international cluster coordinator. IOM is getting CCCM cluster support for district level, and DTM reporting officer for Lilongwe for the overall coordination of reports, including IM issues.

**For further information, please contact:**

<b>Mr. James Chiusiwa</b>	Director of DoDMA	<a href="mailto:chiusiwaj@yahoo.com">chiusiwaj@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Ms. Mia Seppo</b>	UN Resident Coordinator in Malawi	<a href="mailto:mia.seppo@one.un.org">mia.seppo@one.un.org</a>
<b>More information on:</b>	<a href="http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/malawi">http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/malawi</a>	