

Malawi: Floods

Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)

United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator

Situation Report No. 7

(as of 06 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 03 January to 06 February 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 09 February 2015.

Highlights

- Rains in Southern Malawi are expected to continue through 07 February.
- The Government of Malawi and UNDAC are finalizing the consolidation of data coming from the assessments conducted across the country.
- The preliminary number of people displaced to temporary sites in all of the 15 districts included in the Declaration of State of Disaster increased to 230,000, due to new information, mainly for the districts of Zomba, Blantyre Rural and Mulanje. An inter-agency verification of displaced people will be conducted next week in Zomba.
- A briefing to United Nations Member States in New York took place on 04 February 2015 as part of the comprehensive resource mobilization strategy of the Government of Malawi and the Humanitarian Country Team.
- The UNDAC team continues to support Government and partners in the most affected districts: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba.



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 Malawi Meteorological Services, heavy rains are expected to continue affecting the country through 07 February with high risk of flooding in several districts raising concerns for populations already affected or displaced by floods.

Preliminary data from UNDAC-conducted assessments in the 15 affected districts was presented on 04 February 2015. The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and humanitarian partners through the clusters are still working on estimating what percentage of the affected people. Based on preliminary data from the UNDAC assessment in the remaining 12 districts included in the Declaration of State of Disaster, the number of people displaced to temporary shelters increased to about 230,000, due to new information, mainly for the districts of in Zomba, Blantyre Rural and Mulanje. An inter-agency assessment, led by DoDMA, is planned for Zomba in the coming days to verify the number of displaced people. 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.

The relocation of displaced people out of schools into adjacent displacement sites is facing many challenges related to insufficient shelter, no access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene issues, and protection concerns for the students.

According to DoDMA, approximately 415 schools have been affected i.e. damaged, flooded or being used by displaced communities as shelter and approximately 350,000 learners are affected. Out of the 415 schools, 181 are currently being used as relocation sites for internally displaced persons who have lost their homes and out of the other 234 affected schools 40 are currently inaccessible. The most affected is Phalombe where 37 schools have been damaged.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) will coordinate closely with the Shelter Cluster to ensure there is adequate accommodation for the affected people in the camps while minimizing disruption to student learning. While the MoE stands by its decision to reopen schools ensuring children rights to learning, communities too should not be evicted. The MoE will find amicable co-existence in which learning can continue until mid-day. Thereafter, communities can reoccupy the classrooms for purposes of night shelter, until there are alternative arrangements. In addition, during the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee (NDPRC) meeting, held on 5 February 2015, it was requested by the attendants to enhance the coordination between Shelter, Education, Protection and WASH Clusters to facilitate the humanitarian response to people displaced in school sites. The technical working group on Guidance for Common Standards for Shelter and Households NFIs within the Shelter Cluster has already adopted the Household Shelter and NFI Common Standard Guidance for Flood Response 2015, including the Red Cross Shelter Tool Kit and Tarpaulin, as common standard. The aim of this strategic guidance is ensuring a minimum of quality in shelter and NFI interventions. IOM is also designing a program on Displacement Tracking Monitoring (DTM), to help the identification and the movements of displaced people.

Government and humanitarian partners are working on scaling up the response, mainly in life-saving activities, as well as enhancing inter-cluster coordination to ensure a timely and efficient response to the actual needs of the most vulnerable groups within the affected population. Government and partners will also speed up damage assessments, which will be linked to the displacement monitoring system in order to refocus humanitarian assistance and early recovery interventions in the original locations of the displaced population. Furthermore, they have increased their capacities to ensure disaggregated data and that protection issues inform humanitarian action, particularly in the prevention of gender-based violence and associated protection concerns.

The UNDAC team continues to support coordination and information management, in close collaboration with the District Commissioners and DoDMA in the most affected districts: Nsanje, Chikwawa and Phalombe. UNDAC will extend its support this weekend to the district of Zomba, in order to facilitate the coordination and support verification process in coordination with the Government and partners.

UPDATES FROM THE DISTRICTS

Nsanje

Food and shelter remain the key priority areas across the district, while access is also a big concern for the east bank. Road conditions are still bad, with almost all the areas in the east bank inaccessible by road making distribution of food and other essential supplies difficult. Rains have now prevented air landing in Chikali (east bank) as the terrain is too soft. Water levels on the east bank have rose on 04 February due to heavy rains in the previous 48 hours.

Food aid remains a major issue. Some camps are facing food shortages as they rely on daily distributions. Transportation of assistance is faced with logistical difficulties. Some sites such as Mlonda, Mchere, Khulubvi, Mpatsa, Kachere were reported to have run out of food on 04 February. A distribution plan is to be developed by today to ensure food from warehouse is distributed to those sites. The provision of assistance that is non commodity related (psycho social support, wash assessments, among others) is a big gap in the hard-to-reach areas of the east bank, because of the limitation of passenger movement by helicopter due to the prioritization of air-lifted emergency assistance.

The number of IDPs is being updated. Some sites have been sub divided into satellite locations to reflect the geography of sites. Malawian Red Cross Society has registered displaced people in all camps in the east bank (TA Mlolo and part of TA Tengani) and will distribute shelter kits and tarpaulins to all registered households beginning 09 February.

The education cluster plans to begin registering school going children in all sites, to send them back to school beginning 09 February. Regarding WASH issues, an analysis was conducted in all sites on the west bank, which indicate that there is access to clean water. Areas in the east bank still need to be assessed. The current sanitation ratio is 1 drop hole to 150 people. It is reported that IDPs are starting to leave collective centres to try to build any type of makeshift structure.

Clusters are on-going with sectorial leads and co-leads established in most cases. The council meeting is becoming an inter-cluster coordination meeting. However, there is need to strengthen coordination between clusters, especially on reporting to facilitate the mapping of their activities (4Ws). DoDMA presence at district level has been reinforced with a second officer.

Chikwawa

WFP will distribute food rations to 14,555 households for the month of February. Mary Meals has food ration for 154 households which will be allocated to sites. UNICEF indicated that in Mchenga site a number of people are not receiving relief food because at the time of registration they had gone to do some piece work. In addition, there are reports that ineligible beneficiaries are receiving relief food in some camps. There were reports that at Khungubwe camp, IDP had run out of food rations.

Reports indicate that many people are coming from villages to register in camps, even if their houses have not been destroyed. Therefore it has been suggested that permanent structures, such as new boreholes, should be drilled in existing villages and more temporary solutions found for the camp (water bladders, tanks, etc.). There is a growing concern of the potential of disease outbreaks in all locations due to the lack of decent sanitation facilities and unsafe drinking water/storage facilities. The entire district is vulnerable to a Cholera outbreak.

Funding

Regarding the contributions against the Preliminary Response Plan, launched in Geneva on 21 January 2015 by the Government, out of US\$81 million required to provide for people's needs, US\$21.1 million have been contributed so far. DoDMA is keeping an updated tracking of in-kind and cash donations, which is disseminated regularly among in-country partners, including donors.

A briefing to United Nations Member States in New York took place on 04 February 2015 as part of the comprehensive resource mobilization strategy of the Government of Malawi and the UN Country Team. Donors welcomed the complete information provided on the current humanitarian response and indicated a special attention to recovery activities enhancing the resilience of affected communities. In addition, a meeting of the Humanitarian Window Advisory Board (One UN Fund) took place on 05 February 2015. The advisory board agreed allocations of US\$ 600,000 to protection, US\$ 450,000 to nutrition and US\$ 200,000 to coordination. A proposal for health was also reviewed and will be decided upon early next week. This was made possible through donations from DFID, FICA and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Malawi.

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

Humanitarian Response



Shelter & Camp Management

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Lands and Housing

Co-Lead: Malawi Red Cross

Needs:

- According to the Shelter Cluster, 31,636 households are in need of emergency shelter. Needs for family tents, shelter kits, materials and tarps; as well as camp management actors to support site identification and management have been identified.
- A total of 2,700 households need to be relocated from displacement sites as they are overcrowded. For instance, in Mbwazi School (Nsanje), tents should be provided to the 400 households to be relocated, but also to the remaining 300 households temporarily sheltered in their relatives land or other areas.
- In Chikwawa, UNDAC reported that no adequate shelter facilities are established in the identified sites, with the exception of Medrum. Many IDPs are still sleeping outside. Other sites are extremely overcrowded and are not sufficient. NFIs such as cooking utensils, buckets, and mosquito nets are almost inexistent.
- Damage assessment at household level is urgently needed to find the number of houses partially damaged and totally destroyed.

2,700

Displaced households to be relocated

Response:

- A Technical Working Group on Guidance for Common Standards for Shelter and Households NFIs has been established. Partners adopted the Household Shelter and NFI Common Standard Guidance for Flood Response 2015, including the Red Cross Shelter Tool Kit and Tarpaulin, as common standard. The aim of this strategic guidance is ensuring a minimum of quality in shelter and NFI interventions.

- The Shelter Cluster is also collecting 4W information from implementing partners.
- IOM is developing standards for camp management in the affected area and will provide training to the Government, starting from next week.
- An air-transport of goods (tarps, kitchen sets) from Red Cross has arrived and will be distributed next week. These will focus on Eastern bank, targeting 4500 households. In Chikhwawa 1500 families on the east bank will be targeted. In Phalombe 1000 households will be targeted. A training is ongoing on how to set up temporary shelters with tarpaulins. The Red Cross has proposed to distribute 60 tents in Blantyre. Care also has ongoing distributions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is an urgent need for further distribution of HH NFIs and Shelter NFIs.
- There is an urgent need to establish damage data - assessment planning. A joint assessment between agriculture cluster and shelter cluster is planned.



Food Security

Cluster Lead: DoDMA

Co-Lead: WFP

Needs:

- Using initial estimates, the total estimated requirement is 26,000 MT at an estimated cost of US\$ 17.9 million, including the associated logistics costs.

1,700 MT
Of food assistance dispatched to flood-affected people

Response:

- Since starting its food assistance on 16 January, WFP has dispatched 1,700 MT of maize, beans, fortified vegetable oil and Super Cereal, to meet the needs of the most heavily affected districts.
- Some 28 MT of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) have been transported by WFP helicopter to meet the needs of 6,200 vulnerable households that are cut off from access to food in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts. HEBs have been prioritised for women and children who are more likely to reduce their food consumption in favour of other household members in times of emergency.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Government of Malawi has agreed to contribute 14,000 MT of maize from its Strategic Grain Reserves (SGR). WFP requires urgent twinning funds in order to draw-down, transport and distribute the government's in-kind tonnage.
- Early recovery and resilience activities need to accompany and complement the flood response at the earliest possible stage to restore livelihoods and expedite the transition out of the emergency response. WFP will focus on complementary, community-driven activities to minimize the duration of relief, fast track recovery and realign rapidly activities with the seasonal calendar of the communities.



Agriculture

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Agriculture

Co-Lead: FAO

Needs:

- According to the Government, 116,000 households lost crops and livestock (or part of), affecting a total of 63,936 hectares.

116,000
Farmers affected

Response:

- Provision of assistance to undertake replanting of sweet potato vines and cassava is planned to commence in the coming two weeks.
- Concern Universal is procuring sweet potato vines and early maturing maize seed for 5,773 households affected by floods, with funding from Irish Aid.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) approved a project proposal of the Agriculture Cluster of US\$ 1 million for emergency assistance to support food insecure rural communities whose food production cycle has been severely disrupted by floods during the current cropping season in Nsanje, Phalombe and Chikwawa Districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Given that the planting window for maize closed during the third week of January 2015, farmers have to opt to planting other crops such as cassava.



Transport & Logistics

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Transport and Public Infrastructure

Co-Lead: WFP

Needs:

- Road access to Chiwalo in Phalombe and east bank in Nsanje and Chikwawa has been hampered due to flooding.

35 MT

Of relief cargo delivered to hard-to-reach areas

Response:

- The WFP helicopter that arrived on 23 January has enabled WFP to transport 35 MT of relief cargo to four areas that were previously cut off. Additional helicopters have been contracted from the South African National Disaster Management Centre to support the logistics Special Operation.
- WFP is offering storage and transport as part of its regular logistics service provision activities. Agreements are under way to transport vital relief items such as water, tents and mosquito nets on behalf of the humanitarian community.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The flooding has damaged a significant number of roads and bridges, which makes a priority the support to logistics operations.
- Due to continued rainfall, road transport is still a challenge and some areas remain inaccessible.
- Repairing damaged road access stands to be of top priority to ensure continued supply of relief items to inaccessible affected areas.



Education

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:

- There is a need for 800 tents to house temporary classrooms.
- School-in-a-box kits are needed to resume learning as soon as possible in temporary classrooms.
- School feeding and kitchen kits are needed to support resumption of education activities.
- Psycho-social support is needed, including play and recreation facilities.

350,000

Learners affected

Response:

- In Phalombe district tents have already been installed by UNICEF partner World Vision in order to secure continuity of learning, jointly with the provision of school-in-a-box kits and lamps. The total number of beneficiaries reached in the district is now 15,139, of which 7,494 boys and 7,645 girls. Most roads to these schools are impassable. In TA Jenala and Kaduya where most of these schools are located is still raining and bridges washed away. Diversions to take the most possible paths to reach the destinations are also delaying the process. Phalombe District Education Manager has assisted World Vision to ferry the UNICEF items to all the schools.
- For psychosocial support UNICEF has signed an agreement with development aid from people to people (DAPP). DAPP has already finalized volunteer teachers deployment plans and 13 pairs of teachers have reported for service to 13 different school camps in Nsanje, Phalombe and Chikwawa.
- Action Aid are handling a total of 22 schools in Nsanje, 3 of these schools are currently being relocated in coordination with the Ministry of Education. DAPP will provide psychosocial support for a total of 151 schools in the districts of Nsanje, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mulanje, Zomba and Chiradzulu. With a total of 90,000 enrolled students. School Feeding is being provided by WFP and Mary's Meals, targeting a total of 138 schools in the districts of Nsanje, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Mangochi, Thyolo, Zomba, Chiradzulu and Blantyre. To achieve this WFP had already prepositioned 370 metric tons of Super Cereal at selected schools, and are planning to distribute another 400 metric tons. The Red Cross has already set up tents a total number of 12 tents in 2 school camps in Phalombe district.
- The education cluster has finalized a detailed mapping and monitoring tool at school level to focus on monitoring of ongoing response.
- In Chikwawa district 4 school camps have set up temporary learning spaces. Volunteer teachers for the pre-schoolers have been identified. However, no structured learning has been initiated so far. Most primary school going pupils have joined the nearby schools with reported overcrowding.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Two verification teams deployed in the field reported potential hazard for children related to escalation of poor hygiene due to open defecation in the displacement sites.
- In Chikwawa, children in Chabuka and Savala displacement sites are currently not attending school. There is an issue with teachers, since the new places where affected people moved to, do not necessarily have teachers. Support to teachers would be recommended.

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

- There is a significant risk of disease outbreaks such as measles, dysentery, cholera and malaria, so it is urgent to strengthen early warning and reporting of disease outbreaks. For instance, in Nsanje, MSF carried out malaria tests on 28 January for children under age 5 and slightly older children with 80 per cent turning positive.
- In Chikwawa, outbreaks of scabies, malaria and bilharzia were reported. Bed bugs and ticks are also a major problem.
- Establishment of temporary consultation, treatment and maternity delivery shelters within the displacement sites, as well to provide essential drugs for treatment of acute and chronic diseases and injuries including infectious diseases.
- Sustain immunization and growth monitoring of children under age 5.
- Need for birthing and safe space tents to facilitate provision of RH services and safe deliveries within the camps in the hard-to-reach areas most of which are far from health facilities.

US\$ 3.8 million

still need to cover health requirements

Response:

- In Phalombe 52% (9 of 17) Health Centres in the district are providing support to the camps through mobile clinics while in Zomba 13 health facilities are providing support through mobile clinics. However 3 and 7 (Christian Hospitals association of Malawi (CHAM) facilities in Phalombe and Zomba respectively asking fees for consultations. UNICEF is lobbying with the District Health Office to enter into service agreements or provide health supplies to the CHAM facilities.
- A final version of the integrated Health Response Plan (60 days) from Zomba DHO office has been developed.
- UNICEF followed up with Likangala Health Centre which reported cases of diarrhoea and dysentery in camps. Health Surveillance assistants (HSAs) also followed up on the diarrhea cases and observed they were treated with only treated with Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) due to unavailability of Zinc is out of stock. UNICEF is discussing with District health management team to solicit zinc from DHO.
- UNICEF has continued working with the District Health Office to ensure running of basic health services to all camps including the hard to reach areas in East Bank. This includes sending of HSAs, nurses and clinicians on scheduled times. However, mobile clinics are not being conducted routinely due to inadequate fuel at the DHO's Office.
- In Nsanje and Chikwawa camps, YONECO is continuing to organize games and discussion sessions with children and adolescents, while PSI is sharing information on health, hygiene and HIV.
- Condoms have been made available at most sites.
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) HIV Department conducted emergency deliveries for commodities in the flood-affected districts. Commodities consisted primarily of condoms as the health facilities already had adequate stocks of ARVs to cover Quarter 1 (January-March). MoH will begin deliveries for Quarter2 2015 in the week beginning 9 January 2015 and will finalize by first week of March 2015.
- UNICEF has drafted a cholera preparedness plan to be communicated at cluster level to include partners in the finalization.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a critical gap in malaria prevention and response, despite the high number of cases and prevalence of risk factors. As mosquito nets are hard to use in tents, there is need for spraying and other measures in addition to nets given sites conditions.
- There are increasing reports of diarrheal cases, eye infections and scabies. Poor sanitation in the displacement sites including reports of open defecation pose serious health threats such as cholera.
- Nsanje and Chikwawa Districts are facing challenges due to a shortage of ITNs, blankets and food especially relish and Likuni phala for children in the camps.



Protection

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:

- It is estimated that 28,007 children and 63,109 women have been affected. These together with other vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, the elderly and those living with HIV/AIDS will need special attention.
- In Chikwawa, UNDAC reported inadequate lightning in sites and insufficient latrines.
- Police officers have been located at some of the sites but presence is not consistent.
- So far an estimated 108,000 young people have been reported out of the 638,000 displaced people. The disruption of the schools and normal family life creates an opportunity for the young people indulge in risky behaviors that could lead to new STI and HIV infections among the young people.

28,007

children affected by floods

Response:

- Deployment of Social Welfare Officers to the affected areas with UNICEF support comes to an end on Friday 6 February. 19 Social Welfare Officers were deployed in 4 of the 15 affected districts (Phalombe, Mulanje, Chikwawa and Nsanje).
- With UNICEF support Blantyre Synod is conducting a rapid assessment to establish the needs in Blantyre District where Community Based Child Care Centers (CBCC) and Children Corner activities are not being conducted in some camps. The contextualization of tracing and registration forms for separated children for use by partners has been completed.
- Malawi Police are following up on all reported cases of violence from field teams with few reports on violence being received pointing to the effectiveness on community protection structures. Case of rape, defilement, early marriage and food being exchanged for sex are being investigated by the Police.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are reports of increased vulnerability of women and girls to GBVs with cases of transactional sex.
- A number of challenges exist at the displacement sites including limited sanitary facilities, no separation of men and women in some sites.
- STIs and HIV are serious issues in emergencies. Both male and female condoms have been distributed and are part of the RH kits (i.e. kit 2 and 3) distributed by UNFPA and the MoH.
- Tents and beds for safe spaces for women and adolescent girls required together with additional provisional of dignity kits and lightening at night.



Water & Sanitation

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Water Development and Irrigation

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:

- Provide basic water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and equipment, which include chlorine/water purification tablets, plastic sheeting, and soap water testing kits (to the estimated 14,000 households/ 70,000 people), including kits for immediate repair of water installations (piped water supply systems, hand pumps and springs) at institutional and community level.

14,000

Households in need of WASH requirements

Response:

- A total of 38,721 people have so far been reached with sanitation services and 27,674 have been provided with safe drinking water in the hard hit affected areas. Work on provision of these services is continuing to reach more people.
- UNICEF has mobilized WASH cluster at district level to hold coordination meetings. Cluster coordination meetings in Phalombe and Zomba districts are up and running with the latest meeting held on 2nd February 2015 with an agreement to be meeting regularly.
- Goal Malawi has completed 93 additional latrines in the last 4 -5 days reaching a cumulative total of 228 latrines in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts.
- Concern Universal has completed 4 additional latrines to make a total of 14 at Mileme School in Phalombe serving a total population of 933 displaced people; and construction works for latrines in 10 other camps in TA Jenala is underway in Phalombe.
- Concern Universal has also installed a 1,000 litre water tank at Mileme School Camp in Phalombe to supplement the existing water supply from one bore hole fixed by MFS to cater for 933 displaced people and 2000 school children reaching a total of 2,933 people.

- Population Services International (PSI) is continuing to support Goal and District teams on hygiene promotion activities in the Camps in Nsanje and Chikwawa
- GOAL Malawi has organized toilet cleaning in the camps by engaging 14 women at Motor Engel camp to maintain hygiene and considering doing the same in other camps.
- Furthermore, GOAL Malawi continues to conduct hygiene promotion activities in the camps they are working in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts.
- Catholic Relief service (CRS) has distributed water treatment supplies (Chlorine and Water Guard) to 800 people for drinking water chlorination in Phalombe and the work continues.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The sanitation facilities within the current sites are inadequate to accommodate the number of displaced people. Number of persons per latrines exceeds recommended numbers. There are reports of open defecation around the displacement sites posing health threats.
- WASH Cluster is facing gaps based on data coming from later assessments, with higher needs than initially expected. A revision of the WASH cluster requirement needs will be undertaken.



Nutrition

Cluster Lead: Department of Nutrition

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Needs:

- Nutritional and therapeutic supplements for children at risk of malnutrition
- Feeding of young children, expectant and lactating mothers, the elderly, people with disabilities, orphans and the chronically ill.

225

Children admitted to nutrition rehabilitation units and OPT

Response:

- UNICEF continues to support active case identification of acute malnourished under-five children through nutrition screening in the camps in collaboration with Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) and four NGOs. The four NGOs engaged by UNICEF are all on the ground strengthening nutrition screening with active case identification, referral, monitoring of admitted children and enforcing Infant and Young child feeding practices in camps to prevent nutrition status deterioration. A total of 32 have been admitted in Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU) and Out Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) in 2 districts (Nsanje and Chikwawa) during the reporting period bringing the total number of children admitted to 284.
- In 4 camps in Nsanje, a total of 90 under-five children were screened and admitted 12 children in Out Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) and 40 moderate acute malnourished children in Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). In addition, 18 pregnant and lactating women have been admitted in SFP.
- In 10 camps of Chikwawa, a total of 953 under-five children were screened and admitted 2 severely acute malnourished children in Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU), 18 severely acute malnourished children in Out Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) and 45 moderate acute malnourished children in Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). A total of 121 over five children were screened and none identified acute malnourished. In addition, 105 pregnant and lactating women were screened and 4 have been admitted in SFP.
- In Chikwawa and Nsanje Camps, food distribution ration has improved with different variety including fish, soya pieces, cooking oil and iodised salt.
- The District Health Office in Phalombe has managed to deliver 30 cartons of Ready-to-use therapeutic food provided by UNICEF to Nambazo Health centre which was inaccessible since the flooding started.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Inadequate food supply for children under five is resulting increasing number of moderately and acutely malnourished children in the displacement sites.

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. The Office of the Vice President, through DoDMA, is convening meetings of the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee twice a week to share progress report on the floods response. The Government has established Emergency Operations Centers in Lilongwe, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe 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 IFRC sent a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) to Malawi for a period of 3 months to support the Malawi Red Cross in the response. The Humanitarian Country Team is supported through the cluster system sectoral relief operations. Some agencies have already deployed specialized experts to the field. 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, has now been replaced with a new team, focused in field coordination and information management (Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe), 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.

Clusters / sectors have held meetings in the most affected districts (Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe).

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More information on: <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/malawi>