



This report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA ROSA. It covers the period from 28 to 29 January 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 31 January 2013.

Highlights

- At least 48 people have died in severe floods in southern Mozambique. Some 250,000 people have been affected, of which 146,000 people are still being housed in temporary shelters.
- Tropical Cyclone “Felleng” is heading towards the eastern coast of Madagascar. While not expected to make landfall, significant rainfall may still occur; partners are requested to remain on alert.
- Seychelles, hit floods and landslides, has declared a state of emergency. Although only three districts have been affected, with 106 people displaced to temporary shelters and 50 houses destroyed, response capacity is very limited.

Situation Overview

As the region enters the critical period of the rainfall season, which stretches to May, a number of countries are responding to significant flooding. River levels are also high across the region, indicating that more flooding can be expected. Tropical Cyclone Felleng is heading towards the eastern coast of Madagascar, and while not expected to make landfall, it may still cause flooding. More information on the regional flood situation is expected shortly.



Source: OCHA ROSA
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Mozambique

Floods ravage southern Mozambique

- At least 48 people have died in severe floods that have devastated southern Mozambique. Some 250,000 people have been affected, of which 146,000 people are still being housed in temporary shelters. Access to some areas continues to be an issue, with many roads and bridges washed away.
- The rains have ceased for the time being, and the floodwaters are slowly subsiding. Still, many have lost everything in the floods and will thus require continued humanitarian assistance.
- The Government of Mozambique, supported by the UN and partners, are responding; and while much support is being provided, more is needed. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is drafting response plans, which should be launched within the next few days. It is hoped that these will be adequately supported, in order to save lives and livelihoods.
- Of concern is a new storm system in the Mozambique Channel, which could cause additional flooding over northern Mozambique within the next few days. Mozambique, in dealing with the floods in the south, is already stretched to capacity, therefore additional flooding in the north could have serious humanitarian implications.
- A briefing will be taking place on 28 January 2013, at 2.30 p.m. local time (GMT+2) at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Maputo, which will cover all aspects of the situation and response to date.

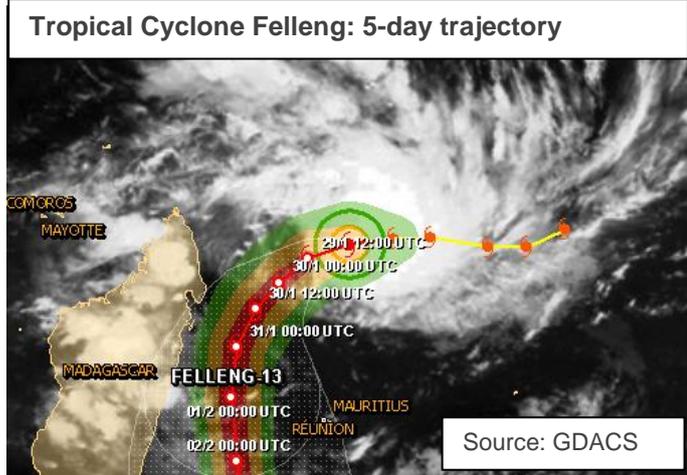
250,000
people affected by
floods in Mozambique



Madagascar

Tropical Cyclone Felleng threatening the east coast

- Latest projections show Tropical Cyclone Felleng still heading towards the eastern coast of Madagascar. However, as Felleng strengthens to a Category 3 Intense Tropical Cyclone, it is projected to start moving south, almost parallel with the eastern coast, coming within 200 km of the island. Significant rainfall could still be expected, and partners are requested to remain on alert.
- A different storm system in the Mozambique Channel is forecasted to bring heavy rains to northern Madagascar over the next week. This is the same system affecting northern Mozambique.
- Reports have also been received of increased river levels in the capital Antananarivo, which could be reach alert levels with additional rainfall.



Seychelles

Mahe on Red Alert

- Seychelles, hit by a series of rare floods and landslides, declared a state of emergency on 28 January 2013 and appealed for international aid through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.
- Although only three districts on the main island of Mahe have been affected, with 106 people displaced to temporarily shelters and 50 houses destroyed, response capacity is very limited. It should also be remembered that the population size of Mahe is only about 80,000.
- Even with continued heavy rains hampering rescue efforts, the Red Cross has been assisting the Department of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM) in evacuating people to designated shelters and providing food.

106
People in Seychelles displaced to temporary shelters due to floods.



Malawi

Floods affect tens of thousands in southern and central Malawi

- Following floods earlier in January which affected 30,785 people, no new cases of flooding have been reported over the past week.
- Those affected by floods have been assisted by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) with food, blankets and plastic sheeting. Water, sanitation and health (WASH) concerns are also being addressed.
- Various UN agencies are finalizing proposals to provide support in the sectors of agriculture, WASH, nutrition, education and reproductive health.

30,785
People affected by floods in Malawi d January alone



Botswana

Flooding in northern Botswana

- Flooding due to extremely heavy rains has been reported in the North-East and Central districts of Botswana.
- It is still unclear how many people have been affected. However, in Dukwi Refugee Camp around 120 shelters housing 325 refugees have been damaged by high waters. Sewage systems in the camp are also affected. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), together with Botswana Red Cross Society (BCRS), has responded to address the immediate needs of the affected people. The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, is supporting the Government of Botswana to assist displaced refugees and has provided food and other basic materials.
- The prepositioned relief supplies of both NDMO and BCRS has now been completely exhausted, which could affect their ability to respond to any further flooding that may occur. A full situation report is expected shortly.



Zimbabwe

Heavy rains affect thousands

- According to the latest [OCHA Zimbabwe Flood Update](#), dated 25 January 2013, heavy rainfall across the country during mid-January 2013 affected an estimated 8,490 people, of which 4,615 people require humanitarian assistance in the form of emergency shelter and non-food items.
- The rains destroyed road networks, houses and schools; in the worst instances floods have claimed lives through collapsing building, drowning and vehicles being swept away. Police say at least 86 people have drowned since the onset of the rainy season in September last year.
- Flood waters are subsiding, but substantial damage to infrastructure is being reported.
- There are mounting concerns that the aftermath of the heavy rains may have health, water, sanitation and hygiene impacts as conditions deteriorate.
- Humanitarian partners are supporting the Government in response.

4,615

flood-affected people
require humanitarian
assistance in
Zimbabwe



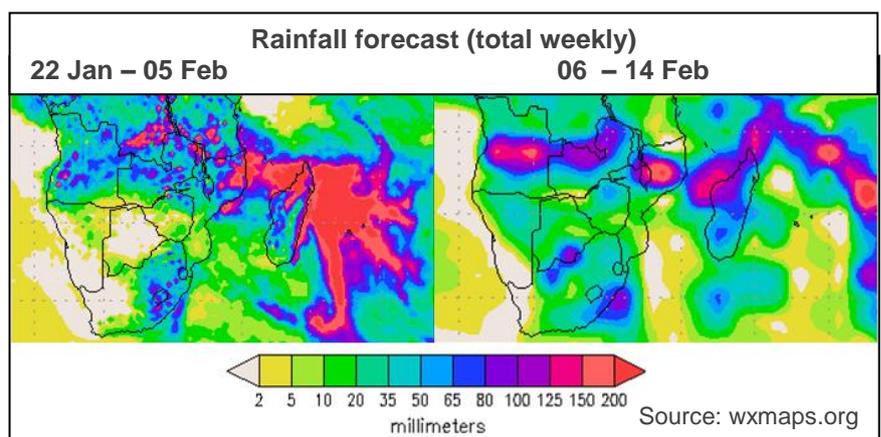
Namibia

Water levels in Upper Zambezi River high and climbing fast

- While no significant flooding have been reported in northern Namibia, the upper Zambezi River is very high for this early in the year. According to the Namibia Hydrological Services, the Zambezi River at Katima Mulilo stands at 4.44 m (as at 28 January 2013), up from 3.93 m just one day earlier.
- While not currently of concern, the quick rise is something to monitor. A water level of 3.5 m to 4 m is an annual occurrence and communities living in these areas are used to this pattern and usually move to higher ground that is often isolated once this level is reached. Flooding of the higher ground can only occur when the levels exceed 6 m to 7 m, which could potentially lead to a humanitarian situation.
- According to the Zambezi Rater Authority, as a result of increased rainfall activities on and around Lake Kariba and over the Zambezi catchment upstream, inflows into the lake have also increased significantly. During the previous week, the level rose by 0.22 m to 484.19 m by 20 January 2013 (64 per cent full). This level is however still lower than what was recorded last year on the same date, when it was 66 per cent full. All spillway gates at Kariba remain closed.

Forecast

According to the latest regional rainfall forecast, a storm system has developed in the Mozambique Channel and is expected to bring heavy rains over northern Mozambique and northern Madagascar (this is a different system from Tropical Cyclone Felleng). Parts of north-east Zambia and northern Malawi are also expected to receive heavy rains over the next few days. Between 06 and 14 February, the system over northern Mozambique and northern Madagascar is expected to continue, and also bring additional heavy rains to Malawi. Central Angola is also expected to receive significant rainfall.



For further information, please contact:

Ignacio Leon-Garcia, Head of Office, OCHA ROSA, leoni@un.org, Tel. (+27) 82 908 1338
Hein Zeelie, Reports Officer, OCHA ROSA, zeelie@un.org, Tel. (+27) 82 908 1441

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