HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 1.82 million people were affected by floods or storms and at least 539 people lost their lives during the 2014/2015 Southern Africa rainfall season.
- Extremely heavy rains over Malawi and Mozambique displaced 230,000 and 68,000 people respectively.
- In Madagascar, Tropical Storm Chedza alone affected 123,225 people.

FIGURES*

| # of countries | 15 |
| Population     | 277 m |
| Ave. life exp. | 55.1 yrs |
| # of countries with adult HIV prev. >10% | 9 |

| Stunting rates** | 21 – 50% |
| Asylum seekers   | 278,000 |
| Refugees         | 136,000 |

FUNDING

65.5 million
Committed/contributed to humanitarian action in region in 2015 (US$)*

*Excludes DRC, which is part of SADC but not covered by OCHA ROSA
**Excludes Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles

Sources: UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, World Bank

The 2014/2015 Southern Africa Flood Season

Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar bear brunt

The 2014/2015 Southern African rainfall season¹ saw massive floods in the east of the region, and poor rains almost everywhere else. Malawi, northern and central Mozambique and Madagascar were hit by multiple floods between December 2014 and April 2015; while the rest of the region experienced rains that were both late to arrive and irregular thereafter.

Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar accounted for over 97 per cent of all flood-affected people. However, even with only three countries experiencing significant floods, these were of such a magnitude as to make the 2014/2015 flood season exceptionally destructive. About 1.82 million people across the region were affected and 539 people lost their lives, making it worst flood season in at least a decade, possibly since the great floods of 2000.

Over 9,500 cases of cholera reported in Malawi and Mozambique

In addition, significant cholera outbreaks were recorded in the Malawi and Mozambique, as well as smaller outbreaks in Zimbabwe and Tanzania. As of 18 May, Mozambique had registered 8,835 cholera cases with 65 deaths; and as of 24 May, Malawi had registered 675 cases and 11 deaths. Both countries are experiencing a decrease in the number of new cases being reported.

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¹ Tanzania has two rainfall seasons: the Masika rains which fall from March to end of June; and the Msimu rains which fall from mid-February to the end of May. The western coast of Southern Africa is unique in receiving winter rainfall. In comparison, the rest of the region receives summer rainfall (October to May).
In Malawi, an estimated 230,000 people were displaced by the floods, with 64,000 ha of land submerged.

Looking ahead, with poor rainfall received by most countries in the region, concerns are growing about food insecurity from July 2015 onwards.

**2014/2015 Southern African Flood Season**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of people affected by floods/storms</th>
<th>No. of deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>408,711</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>265,129</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>20,430</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>11,655</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>8,605</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,822,030</strong></td>
<td><strong>539</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OCHA, UNRCO, IFRC, media, respective governments. Data partial and incomplete. Includes incidents not noted in narrative.

Recent Southern Africa Flood Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of people affected</th>
<th>No. of deaths</th>
<th>No. of countries affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/8</td>
<td>1,049,516</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/9</td>
<td>1,369,463</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>368,581</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>708,000</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>553,773</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>519,000</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>453,256</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>1,822,030</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OCHA Situation Reports & Updates. Data partial and incomplete.

**Malawi hit by worst floods in memory**

During late December 2014 and early January 2015, heavy rains fell over large parts of the region, leading to high river levels and soil saturation. The situation severely worsened when extremely heavy rains fell over southern Malawi and northern and central Mozambique during the second week of January 2015 - more than 300 mm of rain fell over parts of the Malawi-Mozambique border.

The floods caused extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure across Malawi. Access to affected communities remained a major issue throughout the response, with many areas
**In total, 675 cholera cases and 11 deaths have been confirmed in Malawi.**

only reachable by air during the critical first weeks. Tens of thousands of people were cut off, many of whom found themselves stranded on islands. Continued rains added to the difficulties in reaching those affected.

**106 Malawians killed in the floods**

The floods killed 106 people in Malawi, with 176 still missing. An estimated 1.1 million people were affected and 230,000 displaced, with 63,976 ha of land submerged. The southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba were the most affected. In response, the President of the Republic of Malawi declared a State of Disaster in the 15 affected districts (out of a total of 28 districts) on 13 January 2015.

**Under difficult conditions, the international community rallied to assist Malawians**

On 21 January, a Preliminary Response Plan was presented to the Office of the Vice President, which sought $81 million to address the immediate needs of 638,000 flood-affected people identified as requiring humanitarian assistance. A UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team deployed to support a Government-led assessment of affected areas.

In the face of extensive logistical challenges, the international community reacted quickly with large scale support. Hundreds of thousands of displaced people were provided with food, water and sanitation, healthcare and shelter. In February 2015, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated $6.9 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the provision of life-saving assistance.

**Food security now a major concern in Malawi**

The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee conducted food security monitoring in February 2015. Preliminary findings indicate that 615,837 flood-affected people will need assistance for 2 to 5 months from March onwards. As of mid-May, WFP required US $5.4 million to continue providing food and cash assistance to flood-affected households facing hunger in Malawi.

**Malawi records 675 cholera cases**

On 13 February, the first confirmed case of cholera was registered in Malawi’s Nsanje district, which is adjacent to the Mozambican Province of Tete, which at that time was experiencing a significant cholera outbreak; all initial cases in Malawi were linked to that outbreak. However, the outbreak
Since October 2014, the heavy rains and floods in central and north of Mozambique have affected 408,711 people and temporarily displaced at least 68,000 people.

moved further inland. As of 24 May, Malawi had registered 675 cases and 11 deaths, and although cases continue to be reported, there is a decrease in the number of new cases being registered.

Mozambique hit by two separate flood events

Mozambique experienced two significant floods events this rainfall season. Extremely heavy rains in early January over northern and central Mozambique led to a Red Alert declaration by authorities on 12 January, which enabled the National Civil Protection Unit (UNAPROC) to commence with search and rescue operations, the provision of humanitarian assistance by the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), resource mobilization, and continuous monitoring of hydro-meteorological information by Government authorities.

In early March the country was again severely affected by heavy rains in the central and northern regions due to a tropical depression, which formed in the Mozambique Channel near the coastlines of Nampula and Zambézia provinces.

Around 408,900 Mozambicans affected

In total, since October 2014 rains and floods over especially central and northern of Mozambique have affected at least 408,711 people and temporarily displaced at least 68,000 people, who were hosted initially in 84 accommodation centers opened in Zambézia, Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa provinces. With all accommodation centers closed, 52,714 people are now living in 45 resettlement centers, primarily in the most affected province of Zambezia. Nationally the death toll due to floods, collapsed houses and lightning stands at 163.

Transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, railways), electricity, water services and public or private infrastructure (schools, houses) where severely affected. In Zambézia Province, 70 bridges were destroyed, 2,479 km of road affected and about 70 per cent of the province was unreachable by land until end of January 2015, leading to logistical constraints in assisting those affected. The national road linking northern and southern Mozambique was destroyed in five sections of 10 m to 15 m each, leaving it unpassable and effectively isolating the northern region from the rest of the country for approximately 30 days. Damages to power plants and electricity towers left the north region (Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado provinces) without electricity for almost 30 days. In Nampula province, at least 34 bridges were destroyed and 24 roads damaged.

Agricultural damage impacts over 112,000 Mozambican families

The impact of the rains, floods and pests on the agriculture sector led to the losses of at least 103,807 ha, affecting about 112,123 households, with 103,215 ha affected by floods (60,051 ha in Zambézia) and 592 ha by pests. The information regarding the impact the

2 Please see Mozambique UNRCO Floods Situation Report No. 06, 24 April 2015
Madagascar was hit by two tropical storms Chedza and Fundi, as well as by bouts of heavy rains. Tropical Storm Chedza made landfall over Madagascar on 16 January and weakened into a tropical depression as it crossed the island from west to east. It followed weeks of heavy rainfall, causing rivers to increase and flood widespread areas of crop fields. Chedza alone killed 80 people and affected 123,225.

On 07 February, Tropical Storm Fundi brushed the coastline of south-west Madagascar before moving into open waters. While not making landfall, Fundi brought heavy rains, with 108 mm measured in just 24 h in Tulear. In early March, torrential rains and floods affected the Madagascar Highlands, in particular the regions of Analamanga, which contains the capital Antananarivo, as well as Alaotra Mangoro and Vakinankaratra, leading to significant displacement.

In total 265,129 persons were affected, of which 62,544 were temporarily displaced. An estimated 115 persons were killed.

Floods also affected Tanzania and Angola

The combined impacts of floods and hail storms killed 59 people and displaced 6,000 in Tanzania this rainfall season, affecting the areas in Kilimanjaro, Simiyu, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Kahama and Shinyanga. The floods in Dar es Salaam alone caused US$4.6 million of damage to infrastructure.

In early March, Luanda, the capital of Angola, was struck by floods, displacing at least 800 households and damaging infrastructure. A few days later, 74 people died in floods in Benguela Province, where about 119 houses collapsed, leaving many people homeless. Later in March, floods affected 2,160 people in Sumbe and Porto Amboim, Cuanza Sul Province, killing 1 person and leaving 483 homeless.

IFRC provides emergency funding to support flood-affected in Zimbabwe

Thunderstorms and flooding killed 31 people and affected 2,331 households (11,655 people) in Zimbabwe this rainfall season, with about a third of those affected residing in urban areas, mainly Harare. In addition, 158 homesteads were destroyed and 8 schools and a clinic were damaged. Damage to road infrastructure alone is estimated at US$26 million, and damage to water supply systems estimated at $2 million.

A number of partners responded. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released CHF 192,292 ($201,000) from its Disaster Relief and Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Zimbabwe Red Cross response to immediate

Mozambique records 8,835 cholera cases

Since the first cholera case confirmed in Mozambique in late December 2014, 8,835 cases and 65 deaths have been recorded in six provinces (as of 18 May 2015). Due to a comprehensive response, supported by $4 million from CERF, by mid-May there has been a marked decrease in the number of new cases reported.

**Tropical Cyclone Chedza alone affected 123,225 people in Madagascar.**

The mighty Zambezi

The Zambezi River, which is the largest river in the region and responsible for most riverine flooding, reached the lowest maximum at Katima Mulilo gauging station in Namibia since OCHA started collecting data in 2006: 3.16 m, compared to the ten-year average of 6.16 m. Similarly, flows upstream at Chavuma on the Zambia-Angola border is 65 per cent less than last year’s flow, and about equal to 1995/96.

Source: Namibia Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry, Zambezi River Authority

![The mighty Zambezi](image-url)
needs of 2500 people identified as in urgent need of assistance. As of 20 March 2015, it is estimated that 95 per cent of the activities have been completed.

**More than 20,000 affected by floods and storms in Mauritius**

Heavy localized rainfall events and rough seas affected Mauritius between December 2014 and March 2015, displacing 1,589 people and affecting approximately 20,430, as well as impacting on socio-economic activities. While not having made landfall, Tropical Cyclone Bansi led to high swells around the island in mid-January 2015.

**Concerns grow about food security**

Early warning signs provide alarming indications of looming significant food supply shortages that are likely to impact on the next marketing season starting from July 2015. The rains experienced in late March and early April provided some relief to livestock farmers, but arrived too late for both staple foods and cash crops. These adverse weather conditions are likely to reduce crop production in southern Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar and South Africa. The negative impact of flooding will also affect food security in Malawi, Madagascar and Mozambique.

South Africa, the largest producer in the region accounting for more than 40 per cent of regional maize output, has estimated a maize production fall of 33 per cent on account of reduced yields. This is raising serious concerns about the potential negative impact on food access through downstream dependent markets of the region in the upcoming 2015/16 consumption year.

**Food security in Zimbabwe and Madagascar of particular concern**

In Madagascar, an in-depth assessment by the Food Security Cluster indicates that 579,000 people are food insecure, of which an estimated 144,000 are in urgent need of assistance. This need is being addressed in part through funding provided by the CERF, as well as by Government’s response and the ongoing response activities by UN and NGO partners. However, a funding gap of $5.3 million remains to address the urgent needs of the people of Madagascar. In view of the expected poor harvest in May/June 2015, humanitarian partners are monitoring the food security and malnutrition situation closely.

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3 Information from the Southern Africa Food & Nutrition Security Working Group (FNSWG)
Also of particular concern is Zimbabwe, which is facing a looming huge food deficit due to imminent widespread crop failure. According to the latest report from the Ministry of Agriculture, maize production is expected to decrease by 49 per cent compared to last year, and for all cereals (maize, sorghum, pearl and finger millet) a 649,859 ton deficit is predicted (requirements: 1,458,688 tons; available food production: 808,829 tons).
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Number of People Affected

- 1,822,030 Affected
- 8,605 Affected people
- 539 Deaths
- 6,000 Affected people
- 1,100,000 Affected people
- 408,711 Affected people
- 11,655 Affected people
- 265,129 Affected people
- 20,430 Affected people
- 1,500 Affected people
- 1,100,000 Affected people

Sources: OCHA, UNCS, GAUL, Humanitarian Partners.

Feedback: ocharosa@un.org       www.unocha.org/rosa       http://rosa.humanitarianresponse.info   www.reliefweb.int