

# Alert

## Malawi

# Floods and heavy stormy rains in Nsanje, Phalombe and Chikwawa Districts in Malawi

Geneva, 26 March 2015

**This is not a new emergency, but an Alert to ACT Alliance members of an Appeal following an RRF Disbursement.**

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Flooding and heavy rainstorms affected 17 districts in the country in January 2015. The ACT Malawi Forum responded, through the ACT Rapid Response Fund, in the three districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa and Mulanje through provision of food distributions amongst the affected populations. The ACT forum responded through Churches Action in Relief and Development who responded in Mulanje and Nsanje districts and Evangelical Lutheran Development Service who responded in Chikwawa district. Karonga District, though planned for under the rapid response, was found via follow up assessments to be in a better situation than the other districts.

From 16th to 21st February 2015, the ACT Malawi Forum conducted a comprehensive assessment in the three districts of Phalombe, Nsanje, and Chikwawa. The assessment team observed that amongst the 17 districts that were heavily affected by the floods, the same three districts still have high numbers of people affected needing assistance. In these districts it was further observed that crops, food items, household assets, livestock, road networks, houses, boreholes and toilets have been heavily damaged. In some instances, people displaced by floods were still living in provisory evacuation centres such as primary schools and tents provided by various humanitarian organizations including ACT. The Comprehensive Assessment Team of the ACT forum also observed that while items such as kitchen utensils, buckets, blankets and mosquito nets have been provided, in some areas the assistance is still not reaching all the total affected populations.

While the ACT Rapid Response Fund (RRF 02-2015) assisted many people on immediate needs such as food items, there is still a great need of assistance so that the affected people stand on their own. The ACT forum will therefore follow-up the rapid response activities with a recovery project. The table below shows the summary of the areas, people affected and people who were injured or/and lost their lives and total crop land damaged.

District	TAs affected	# of people affected	# of people injured	Crop area washed away (Ha)
Phalombe	Nkhulambe, Kaduya, Jenala, Nazombe and Chiwalo	20,993	2	Assessment showed 8,555 hectares of crop land damaged.
Nsanje	Mlolo, Mbenje and Nyachikadza	10,738	31 dead, 153 people missing	Assessment showed that 1,500 hectares of crops destroyed.
Chikwawa	Katunga, Ngabu, Chapananga, Maseya, Mlima and Lundu	12,131	2 people dead	7,000 hectares of land under crop was damaged.

## **2. Why is an ACT response needed?**

The primary ambition for this appeal is for recovery programming focused on restoring livelihoods and food security for the affected population. It is hoped that this program will enable the displaced to return to their areas of origin ensuring basic necessities of food, shelter, water and sanitary facilities are present.

The project will also seek to assist individual farming communities to access tools and inputs in order to revive their agricultural activities, including reviving irrigation schemes damaged by the flooding.

## **3. National and international response**

The Malawi government has responded to some segments of the population, with a budget of over K400 million (over \$800,000) to-date. However, it remains insufficient to cover the affected population. UN agencies, FAO and other international organizations have come in with various forms of assistance, mostly concentrating on immediate flood response.

## **4. ACT Alliance response**

From January to March 2015, CARD and ELDS have been responding to the emergency through the support from the ACT Alliance under the Rapid Response Fund mechanism. Other support has been accessed through ACT members such as Dan Church Aid, Norwegian Church Aid and Christian Aid. This support included the distribution of non-food items such as plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, water buckets, water purification chemicals, drugs, tents and food items such as maize flour and beans.

## **5. Planned activities**

The ACT Malawi Forum will propose to the ACT Alliance a recovery appeal that will concentrate on agriculture and food security activities; nutrition for children under-five; as well as water and sanitation. Under agriculture and food security sectors, the appeal will assist people through provision of farm inputs, promotion of irrigated crops under residual moisture and use of treadle pumps. Under nutrition, the appeal will provide nutritional supplements children under-five. Under water and sanitation, the appeal will assist people to rehabilitate water points and build sanitary facilities such as toilets.

In the appeal, three ACT members, CARD, ELDS, and BSHDC, will implement similar activities in the three districts targeted. These three members will be the requesting members in the recovery appeal.

## **6. Constraints**

The 2015 floods in Malawi were quite significant, resulting in wide-spread damage. Many people were affected, and access to assistance is difficult. However with the recovery appeal, members of the Alliance in Malawi will facilitate the recovery process to enable people and communities affected to rebuild their own lives.

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**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)).**

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