

ALERT**FLOODS****actalliance****Malawi**

Nairobi, 21 March 2019

SITUATION

On the morning of Friday the 15 March 2019, storm IDAI made a landfall near Beira and brought strong winds and caused severe flooding in Malawi and three neighbouring Southern African countries. The Southern and Central region of Malawi have been affected by consecutive days of torrential, continuous rains and severe flooding. In the following days, Malawi continued to be affected by heavy rains in some southern districts from the return of Cyclone IDAI. As of 16 March, the United Nations in Malawi reported that official data indicate that more than 922,000 people have been affected in 15 districts. There have been at least 56 deaths, 577 people injured and over 16,000 households displaced (<https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawi-floods-situation-report-no-1-16-march-2019> and <http://mw.one.un.org/un-supports-humanitarian-response-to-floods-in-malawi-and-joins-government-in-warning-of-additional-flood-risks/>). Crops, houses and livestock have been destroyed. Southern Region Districts are the most affected with thousands of people living in temporary shelters or in the open and facing food insecurity and health risks such as water-borne diseases.

NEEDS

The floods have put the Southern region in a state of crisis. The flood-affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to food, non-food items, safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene.

The dire situation is further compounded for the flood affected people with vulnerabilities, most specifically for woman and girls, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

X	National government	On Friday 8 March 2019, the President of Malawi, Arthur Peter Mutharika, declared a State of Disaster in areas affected by the heavy rains and flooding. After this declaration, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) began to coordinate and mobilize emergency relief services for victims and directed the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) to assist those trapped and displaced by the event. DODMA deployed search and rescue teams in collaboration with MDF, Malawi Police Service and Malawi Red Cross Society (as well as district councils). DODMA deployed 23 trucks with the following items for distribution: tents, plastic sheets, food, kitchen utensils, and blankets. The Government of Malawi plans to provide 130,000 households with food, non-food items (NFIs) and water treatment chemicals in affected communities. The Malawi Defense Force is also supporting relief efforts including delivering supplies by air to T/A Mlolo in Nsanje which remains accessible only by boat or helicopter.
X	UN Agencies	UN agencies (WFP, FAO, UNICEF) have begun providing prompt responses on food, wash and agriculture, and OCHA deployed two officers to support coordination and information management. WFP has deployed two boats to accompany an assessment and response that is to be undertaken by an Inter-Agency Assessment Committee that was due to be deployed on 10 March in Nsanje and

		Phalombe. UNICEF is providing drones. FAO/WFP is supporting mapping.
X	INGOs	ECHO, DFID and the World Bank are responding to the crisis with various forms of assistance. USAID is providing \$200,000 for shelter, WASH and early agriculture recovery and 46,000 mosquito nets.
X	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Malawi Red Cross Society is working in collaboration with DODMA, Malawi Defence Force (MDF) and Malawi Police Service on the search and rescue efforts.
X	Military presence	See above. Malawi Defence Force is involved in search and rescue operations. (The South African Government has also sent one rescue team.)
X	National NGOs	Present
X	Civil society groups	Present
X	Faith based groups	Present
X	Philanthropy groups	Present
X	Host communities	Present
X	Affected communities	District councils in affected districts are supporting search and rescue teams. Most affected communities are not yet able to respond. In the district of Nsanje, which is the most affected, not even the district council is yet able to respond.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Department of Disaster Management Affairs. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, Malawi ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (such as District Civil Protection Committees) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback. An inter-agency assessment was conducted from 11-15 March with the objective of validating and determining the scope of the crisis and to identify the main and immediate needs of the affected population.

ACT Alliance

X	ACT Malawi Forum has been working in affected areas of Nsanje and Mulanje through Churches Action in Relief and Development and in Phalombe and Chikwawa through Evangelical Lutheran Development Service in implementing long term interventions since the year 2000. Norwegian Church Aid, a member of ACT Alliance is planning to support the displaced families with already prepositioned family tents to support families affected by flooding.
X	ACT Malawi Forum members work in areas affected by the floods and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities.
X	ACT Malawi Forum are currently monitoring the situation. Churches Action in Relief and Development are working with Evangelical Lutheran Development Service and Norwegian Church Aid to prepare a rapid needs assessment in four districts to develop an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
X	ACT Malawi forum members are monitoring the situation and emergency teams are responding according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
X	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Malawi forum has identified gaps in shelter, food security, nutrition, psycho social support and WASH and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

X	The ACT Malawi is planning to submit a joint regional appeal together with neighbouring countries Zimbabwe and Mozambique also affected by storm IDAI. Malawi Forum plans to provide food, non-food items, psycho social support, nutrition and support needs in water and hygiene to ensure that the flood affected persons' basic needs are met.
X	ACT Malawi Forum are ready to respond, providing necessary supplies to 3,000 affected households in the coming days.
X	Furthermore, ACT Malawi Forum will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the floods are amplified.

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

For further information please contact:

Malawi Forum Coordinator- Matthews Msiska (matthewsmsiska@gmail.com)

ACR Regional Representative -África, Elizabeth Kisiigha Zimba (Elizabeth.Zimba@actalliance.org)

ACT Regional Programme Officer- Caroline Njogu (Caroline.njogu@actalliance.org)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>