

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

Nairobi, 12 March 2019

**SITUATION**

On the morning of Wednesday, the 6 March 2019, the district of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mulanje, and Phalombe in Malawi, were affected by severe flooding. 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). Already over 74,500 people are affected and 9 deaths have been reported. Crops, houses, and livestock have been destroyed according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Relief Web (<https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawi-floods-flash-update-no-1-9-March-2019>). Southern Region Districts are the most affected and experiencing heavy, persistent, continuous rains for 5 days. The situation is likely to worsen because persistent rain is again forecasted in the coming weeks.

**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) and shelter.

The dire situation is further compounded for the flood-affected people with vulnerabilities, most especially 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	Malawi government's Department of Disaster Management Affairs ODMA deployed 23 trucks with the following items for distribution: tents, plastic sheets, food, kitchen utensils, and blankets.
X	UN Agencies	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 to map the severely affected areas as some areas are not accessible. FAO/WFP is supporting mapping. OCHA is deploying a staff member to support assessments and response.
X	INGOs	Several INGOs are present and providing initial support
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	Malawi Defence Force is involved in search and rescue operations. (The South African Government has also sent one rescue team.)
X	National NGOs	National NGOs form part of search teams and provide rescue operations
X	Civil society groups	Are part of the search teams and will help in future assessments
X	Faith-based groups	Some faith-based organization are mobilizing resources to assist the persons affected by floods.
X	Philanthropy groups	Several groups are providing services according to their ability.

X	Host communities	Host communities are providing shelter and other basic needs to displaced persons.
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 the 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.

**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 members are assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities.
X	ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation. Churches Action in Relief and Development will work with Evangelical Lutheran Development Service and Norwegian Church Aid to prepare a rapid needs assessment in the four districts, beginning Tuesday 19 March to have an in-depth context analysis and have a better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
X	ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
X	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in 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 forum is planning to apply for Rapid Response funds to provide food, non-food items, psycho social support, nutrition and support needs in water and hygiene. to ensure that the floods affected persons' basic needs are met.
X	ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing necessary supplies to 2,000 affected households in the coming days.
X	Furthermore, ACT Alliance 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](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

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