

## Alert note

*Malawi, Storm Ana, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.*

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**Forum:** Malawi  
**EPRP Link:** <http://www.actalliancehm.org/consolidated-forum>

**Type of emergency:** Cyclone Ana (Floods and Strong winds)  
**Date of emergency:** 25-26 January 2022

### 1. The nature of the emergency

On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, most parts of Southern Malawi were severely hit by heavy persistent rains and strong winds due to the influence of Tropical Storm Ana. The tropical storm, that originated in the Indian Ocean, North-East of Madagascar, made a landfall in Malawi on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, through the Southern Region in Malawi. The storm has now affected a total of 49,214 households (270,677 people) and left 11 people dead and 107 with injuries. The scale of devastation is so unprecedented that on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the President declared state of disaster over the affected districts.

Tropical ANA-induced disaster caused widespread floods and displacing hundred thousand of people, damaged road network rendering them impassable and other communication infrastructure, forced country's hydropower stations to shut down causing country-wide electricity black-outs, disrupted schools, destroying homes, washed away crops, and contamination of water sources like boreholes, wells, and other WASH facilities.

In many of the affected areas, most water points have also been affected. There is, thus, risk of water contamination with fecal matter in most places. Several WASH facilities have also been damaged. These raise fears of waterborne disease outbreaks such as cholera.

The floods have also washed away roads and bridges and damaged electric poles, making most of these areas inaccessible and without electricity connectivity.

There are unconfirmed warnings that another storm coming may not be as dangerous as cyclone Ana as indicated in the meteorological reports.

### 2. The impact and scale of the emergency

The stormy rains have largely affected many districts in the Southern Region, with Mulanje, Phalombe, Thyolo, Blantyre City, Zomba, Neno, Machinga, Mangochi, Balaka, Chikwawa and Nsanje and Mwanza among the worst hit.

The affected households are summarized in the table below (Malawi government consolidated department of disaster preparedness and management):

District	MHH	FHH	Total
Zomba	4,355	3,209	7,564
Nsanje	9,311	5,761	15,144
Neno	2,011	2,179	4,190
Blantyre city	322	442	764
Mulanje	4,590	6,340	10,930
Phalombe	2,709	3,181	5,890
Chikwawa	5,283	4,876	10,159
Balaka	2,492	3,171	5,663

Machinga	1,260	1,604	2,864
Mangochi	2,057	2,056	4,113
Thyolo	976	1,405	2,381
Mwanza	1,066	1,251	2317

Thousands of households in these districts have been displaced and are now living in camps where some agencies have assisted them with tents. The affected people include women and children. Apart from destroying homes, the floods have also destroyed food, non-food items, crops (particularly maize, beans and sweet potatoes), livestock and other essential social infrastructures such as irrigation schemes, schools, markets, and health facilities.

Thousands of households in these districts are staying in the camps and others are staying with relatives and currently they are depending on handouts from Government and other humanitarian agencies whose resources are not enough to meet the needs of the affected people. Camp committees have been instituted try to put up measure related to protection. As ACT members they train the committees to the committees to strengthen protection issues within in Esanje has 18 camps.

### 3. Local and national capacity

Currently affected households are in dire need of basic needs and since their households are submerged/ destroyed, they are now living in displacement camps located in schools and churches while others with are hosted by relatives.

The local structures and resources at community level have helped to save lives of the affected people. The local structures like the Area Civil Protection Committee members are helping to advice communities about keeping safe during flooding. In some communities, there are canoes which were provided by the other humanitarian organizations that helped in rescuing and evacuating people during the flooding.

Some of the district councils and communities have contingency plans and some early warning systems. These systems helped some of the communities to get the warnings from the Department of Climate change and Meteorological Services and moved to some higher grounds before the storm. When the flooding occurred, the local councils instituted teams to do the preliminary assessments to the affected areas. In some districts, the local councils deployed boats for rescue operations. They also provided construction materials for erection of shelters in the displacement camps. On its part, the central government immediately released some food items to help the affected people in some of the camps.

The plan and work of national organisations has not yet been established as many of these organisations are mobilising resources, however, some organisations have assisted the affected households with cash transfer in very few camps and others have already provided sanitary structures like toilets in the camps.

These clusters have not yet started meeting, once most of the assistance starts trickling down, these meetings will be activated to make sure that assistance is evenly districted to the affected areas. Last Friday there was a first cluster meeting and plans are underway to have more soon.

### 4. Key needs and gaps

The affected communities are facing numerous needs:

Immediate needs- for food, clothing, shelter (tents, tarpaulins, blankets), non-food items (utensils) and protection measures. There is also a need to support victims with mobile clinics, safe water, and sanitation facilities like soap, hand washing facilities, aqua tabs, chlorine, temporary latrines, and provision of portable safe water in camps and dignity kits among others).

Medium- and longer-term needs- for restoration of power supply and other infrastructure like schools, hospitals, and access roads. Affected persons not able to access land and surrounded by water will require to be relocated by air/boats to dry land.

There is also a need for transportation of relief items to hard-to-reach areas, supply of teaching and learning materials, and various trainings like sexual and reproduction health and protection measures need to be put in place.

The district information lacks segregated information and there is a concern how pregnant women, children, people living with disability, the elderly and chronically ill are coping with the floods and intense winds.

ACT members and district councils have insufficient food and non-food items, inadequate human and financial resources to support the affected communities due to the overwhelming magnitude of the disaster. The government is working to provide some resources for the supporting assessments and interventions.

ACT Malawi forum is considering applying for Rapid Response Funds.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Budget Size
ELDS	Phalombe and Chikwawa	Food Security and Nutrition, Early Recovery/Livelihood Restoration, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Protection/Psychosocial Support, Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Risk Management	Financial Resources	USD 150,000 (RRF)
CARD	Nsanje and Mulanje	Food Security and Nutrition, Early Recovery/Livelihood Restoration, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Protection/Psychosocial Support, Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Risk Management	Financial Resources	USD150,000

### 5. Potential responses

As ACT Malawi Forum, the intention is to respond to the following districts: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje and Phalombe. The ACT Malawi Forum Members operating in these districts are Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) and Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS). These forum members have wide and experience in emergency response even skills in cash transfers, livelihoods, shelter, and WASH activities.

The plan and options are that ACT Malawi Forum will respond in Nsanje, Chikwawa, and Mulanje and Phalombe districts, CARD will respond in Nsanje and Mulanje districts while ELDS will response in Chikwawa and Phalombe districts. And these two Act Malawi Forum members will implement activities aims at food distributions and Non-food items for WASH. The budget requested is \$300,000

The support will be used to buy food items and non-food items which others will cover WASH activities.