

**Alert note***Malawi Floods, 23.03.2026*

**Completed by:** Felix Minjale

**Date completed:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

**Forum:** ACT Malawi Forum

**Type of emergency:** Malawi Floods Emergency

**Date of emergency (Rapid onset):** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

<b>1. The nature of the emergency</b>
<p>Malawi Floods Emergency due to heavy rains in several parts of the country that started on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to the current date, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026, and several areas are still experiencing heavy downpours that have caused floods in many districts of Malawi. The anticipated rainfall may lead to localized flash flooding and landslides, particularly in low-lying and flood-prone areas, as well as in locations where soils are already saturated. (<a href="#">Government of Malawi</a>).</p>
<b>2. The impact and scale of the emergency</b>
<p>The impact and scale of the emergency is medium scale according to the figures of the people affected as per the report from the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) <a href="#">IFRC</a>. According to the DODMA report, fourteen districts in Malawi have been affected out of twenty-eight districts. So far, five districts of Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Machinga, and Mangochi have been severely affected. This is according to the preliminary quantitative data of the displaced households as reported by the Government of Malawi. The country is still experiencing heavy rains currently, and the figures of the affected households are going to increase as these figures are coming from preliminary assessments.</p> <p>A total of 9,598 households have been affected, with 128 households displaced. Thirteen deaths and thirty-five injuries have so far been recorded. Most of the deaths were caused by collapsing houses or floods (<a href="#">Reuters</a>).</p> <p>To date, twelve evacuation camps have been established by the Malawi Government in various parts of the affected districts (More information on segregated data to be provided later after interagency assessments by government officials and the different agencies). Currently in-depth assessment is underway by DoDMA to establish the extent of the damage that has been caused by the flooding waters due to heavy rains.</p> <p>People have been displaced from their houses, and crops, stored food items have been washed away. Their source of livelihoods has been affected, such as livestock, crops, and small-scale businesses. Most of the water points for drinking water have also been washed away.</p> <p>Food insecurity for the affected households is a concern as their stored food items and crops have been washed away. Malnutrition among children under five, the elderly, lactating, and pregnant mothers is another concern. Continued poverty as most of the affected households have no livelihood alternatives.</p>
<b>3. Local and national capacity</b>
<p>Relief food items are currently being distributed by the Government through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA); however, the Government is overwhelmed with the magnitude of the households affected and is appealing for support. The Government is providing relief food like maize flour to the affected communities, but due to the large-scale population affected, food distribution is not reaching out to everyone, and the Government is overwhelmed, hence the call for support.</p>

The country has a national emergency response plan, which guides the implementation of the response, and it is being followed. All the affected districts have Emergency Contingency plans, and all have been activated in the affected regions. Gaps include supporting government initiatives to support the government's efforts in the provision of relief food items and cash transfers.

#### 4. Key needs and gaps

The major gaps are the need for relief food items, WASH, Cash Transfers, and seeds for early recovery. Capacity gaps in data collection by the Area Disaster Risk Management Committees and Village Disaster Risk Management Committees

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an <b>X</b> below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium-scale emergencies</i> )	X
Appeal ( <i>intended for large-scale emergencies</i> )	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

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

ACT member	Geographical Focus	Sectors of Response and Experience
Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission (BSHDC).	Chikwawa District (is operational)	Cash transfer, Relief Food Items
Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD).	Machinga District (is operational)	Cash transfer, Relief Food Items
Evangelical Lutheran Development Services (ELDS) (to lead)	Zomba District. Have their field office in operation there	Cash transfer, Relief Food Items
World Renew, NCA-DCA	World Renew -Phalombe district. NCA-DCA- Nsanje district. These international ACT members are not part of this request.	Relief Food Items

#### 5. Potential response

- The three forum members need financial support of at least of \$150,000. But if funds permit, this can be exceeded. This will be equally distributed among them.
- Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), Evangelical Lutheran Development Services (ELDS), and Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission (BSHDC) all operate in the affected areas of Zomba, Chikwawa, and Machinga.
- All three national members have previous experience of emergency response, and the three have the initial plans to conduct Food distribution, Cash transfers, and livelihoods programmes.
- The other forum members will support the three implementing members.