



1. FOCUS ON FLOODS

As of 28 January 2008, the DoDMA estimates that 12,199 households are affected. Last week we reported that an assessment was ongoing on the flooding in T/A Mlolo's area in Nsanje. It has been reported that 86 villages have been affected and an area of 1,618 hectares of maize, rice and cotton has been damaged. An additional total of 5,393 households have been affected. Out of these, 228 have had their houses damaged. Some of these are living in tents while others have sheltered at a school. Assessment in other areas where accessibility has been difficult is still going on.

In addition to this, the District Commissioner for Nsanje District has reported that 454 households from Mozambique have entered the district to run away from floods in Mozambique. Nsanje District is currently the worst affected by floods with accessibility to some areas only by boat.

Deterioration of health and nutritional status of the affected population is increasing and risk of further epidemics of water borne diseases, including cholera, is high. A recent joint assessment mission carried out by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WHO reports cumulatively 586 cholera cases and 7 deaths (14-20 January 2008).

2. METEOROLOGICAL UPDATE

The Department of Meteorological Services has shared a special 5 day forecast (24-29th January). The forecast confirms that the two main rain bearing air masses, namely Congo Air and Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) will be well established over Malawi. Therefore more rain is expected over many parts of the country. The implication of continuous rains is likely to cause floods particularly over low lying areas. Floods may also have adverse impacts on other sectors of the economy. For more information please see www.metmalawi.com.

CURRENT SITUATION (cumulative)¹

District	No. of households affected	Type of Disaster
Balaka	288	Floods
Blantyre	1076	Heavy storm
Chikwawa	1478	Floods
Chitipa	94	Hailstorm
Karonga	9	Floods
Lilongwe	197	Hailstorm
Machinga	104	Floods
Mchinji	19	Heavy rains
Mzimba	955	Heavy rains
Nkhatabay	308	Cyclone
Nsanje	6804	Floods
Ntcheu	575	Floods
Phalombe	321	Rainstorm
TOTAL	Households affected	12,199
	Households damaged	4,089
	Hectares affected	2,798

3. RESPONSES

GOVERNMENT

The Government through the DoDMA and Ministry of Health continues to carry out a number of impacts and needs assessments in collaboration with development partners. This week the Commissioner of the DoDMA will be joining assessment missions in Blantyre and Nsanje. DoDMA has continued to provide relief assistance to those households whose houses have been damaged. There is, however, need for assistance in terms of seeds for those households whose crops have been damaged as they have not received any assistance as of now.

¹ The figures in the table above represent households that have either lost crops, houses, or property.



OTHER RESPONSES

National

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) is concentrating on providing shelter. Volunteers on the ground are working with District Commissioners. 3 tents have been pitched in Chikwawa in Chapananga area and 2 in Nsanje. Plastic sheets have also been distributed in T/A Chowe's area in Mangochi. The MRCS is also conducting shelter kits training for their volunteers and the displaced flood affected households in Chikwawa district (28th – 29th January, 2008)

Regional

Last week, on 24th January 2008, the Executive Secretary of SADC saw first hand, flood affected areas in Malawi. He visited Chikwawa district. As part of a visit to flood affected areas in the region. Dr Tomaz Salomao called for an improved early warning system among countries who share river basins, in order to mitigate the impact of flooding.

Salomao, who is a former Mozambican transport minister, stressed that when SADC countries plan their development, they must always bear in mind mechanisms for mitigating the effects of natural disasters. He added that the SADC Council of Ministers will shortly draw up a directive on this matter to be submitted to the next heads of state summit.

International

The Government of Malawi has confirmed that it will be participating in a sub-regional Preparedness and Response Plan for Southern Africa 2008, organised through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNOCHA/ROSA). This sub-regional process brings together immediate needs from Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The objective of the sub-regional request is to request funds for response in Mozambique and for preparedness in the 3 other countries. For more information on the sub-regional process, please

contact Odile Bulten at (UNOCHA/ROSA) (Bulten@un.org).

The objective of the proposal from Malawi is to provide support to the GoM in the following identified priority areas. These areas are:

- Food Security
- Health & Nutrition
- Water & Sanitation
- Education
- HIV/AIDS
- Coordination
- Emergency
- Telecommunications
- Logistics support

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an appeal for a number of countries affected by heavy rains and floods in Southern Africa. The request is for USD 7.3m for support to Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe National Societies to assist 30,000 households for 6 months. The DoDMA, UNHCR and UN Habitat are working on ensuring that inputs to the sub-regional Preparedness and Response Plan for Southern Africa 2008 are complimentary to other efforts.

4. MEETINGS

There will be a meeting of the Humanitarian Response Committee on Thursday, 31st January, 2008 in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Conference room at 14.00hrs. Amongst other issues, the purpose of the meeting is to present Malawi's Inter-Agency Flood Contingency Plan and the Malawi component of the sub-regional Preparedness and Response Plan for Floods in Southern Africa 2008.



5. CONTACTS

Ministries, Departments, UN Agencies, the Red Cross and other partners are invited to submit information to or request further clarification from:

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