Malawi

Since the beginning of January 2015, Malawi has been experiencing floods due to heavy rains. An estimated 121,000 people have been displaced since the floods hit the southern region of the country, with many families taking shelter in camps established in schools. Over half of those affected are children, and one fifth are under the age of five. The floods have caused extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure including schools and health facilities. The southern districts of Nsanje, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Machinga and Zomba are so far the most affected. Parts of flood affected districts are currently inaccessible to assessment teams and the number of people in need of support, both displaced populations and host communities, is expected to increase. To prevent and respond to disease outbreaks, priority will be given to providing high levels of immunization, increasing insecticide treated nets (ITN) use, and provision of rapid case management for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea, especially among children affected by the floods. There are growing concerns of protection risks and disruptions in children’s learning. With most of the affected districts already vulnerable to food insecurity, cholera and malaria, children and women in the affected areas require urgent life-saving assistance and families will require continued support to recover from the effects of the floods. Every year Malawi faces a combination of late onset and early cessation of rains as well as prolonged dry spells that result in reduced crop production. Of the 19 high-risk districts, 17 were food insecure in 2014 with families having access to only one meal a day for a four-month period. Over 640,000 people are food insecure. Furthermore, about two-thirds of the 28 districts in Malawi are prone to cholera and there is an ongoing need to strengthen control efforts, particularly given the seasonal flooding.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF and its partners, including UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations, are working closely with the Government of Malawi to prepare for and respond effectively to disasters in Malawi. In response to the flood emergency in January 2015, national coordination structures have been activated including emergency sector working groups. UNICEF is co-leading with the Government in Education, WASH and Nutrition. The Government has established a coordination structure with field hubs in affected areas of Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba, and UNICEF has deployed 30 staff to these areas to support the response. Immediate priorities are to better determine needs and provide immediate, life-saving assistance to displaced and affected population working through Government as well as a network of partners with whom UNICEF has standing agreements. Throughout 2015, UNICEF support will focus on responding to the food insecure population and on efforts to prevent disease outbreaks, including cholera. UNICEF will continue to provide support to preparedness for flooding in the rainy season. UNICEF will increase the number of standby agreements with non-governmental organisations operating in the highly disaster-prone areas to address the flood and other risks. UNICEF support will be determined by the Government’s capacity to respond to emergencies, and that could be a limited without donor support.

Results from 2014

In 2014, UNICEF Malawi had appealed for US$5,243,500 to meet the humanitarian needs of children and women. As of mid-November, US$3,334,240 (62 per cent) was available against the total appeal of which US$175,816 (3 per cent) represents carry-forward funding from 2013. In 2014, UNICEF Malawi concentrated on response to floods that affected over 40,000 people during the rainy season which ended in April 2014. Targets were revised to reflect the
actual number of people impacted. From October 2013 to March 2014 support was provided to 1,894,782 people that were food insecure in the period of October 2013 to March 2014. An estimated 28,978 children with severe acute malnutrition were enrolled and treated in Outpatient Therapeutic (OTP) and Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU) Programmes thus reaching more than 100 per cent of the target for the response period of October 2013 to September 2014. UNICEF also facilitated provision of psychosocial support services (PSS) in the food-insecure districts enabling 19,648 children (79 per cent of the target) to benefit from the services through community-based child care centres and children’s corners. In addition, 12,500 of the 40,000 flood-affected people gained access to safe water through the construction of 50 new water points and another 24,285 people gained access to safe water through household water treatment, bringing the total number flood-affected people supported with access to safe water to 36,785. In education, 667 children benefited from school supplies.

### 2014 PROGRAMME TARGETS AND RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNICEF 2014 Target</th>
<th>UNICEF Total Results (Jan – Nov 2014)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUTRITION</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children ages 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in OTP and NRU programmes</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>28,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood-affected people supported with access to safe water through household water treatment or rehabilitation and repair of water points</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>36,785</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children affected by emergencies provided with psychosocial support through community-based child care centres and children’s corners</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>19,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood-affected school children benefit from school supplies (school-in-a-box and recreation kits)</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Funding requirements

UNICEF Malawi’s total humanitarian requirements for 2015 is US$10,510,441 of which US$9,291,292 is needed to support the response to the January floods for an initial three months. Through discussion with donors in-country, a total of US$4,399,819 has been reallocated from existing resources. A funding gap of US$4,891,473 remains to support the flood response. Without immediate funding, UNICEF will be unable to effectively provide life-saving support to children affected by flooding, leaving populations vulnerable to disease outbreak and children out of school, traumatized and subject to higher risks of exploitation.

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1. The midyear target was based on estimated number of affected people and was revised at end of year to reflect the actual number of people affected by floods.
2. There was an error in the initial estimation of the target which has been corrected to avoid double counting.
3. The target was revised to reflect the actual number of affected people.
4. UNICEF responded according to requests received from the Government. As the number of people affected by floods was lower than anticipated, only a small percentage of the needs required support from UNICEF.

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