Highlights

- As of 17 February 2015, 20 cases of cholera have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health, with one death, all of them in the district of Nsanje. The first confirmed case of cholera was on 13th February 2015.
- UNICEF is working closely with other implementing partners to contain the cholera situation. While several medical supplies were prepositioned to health facilities with support from UNICEF, protective equipment have been sent to the affected district after receiving reports that there were limited or no stocks. In addition, UNICEF supplied 30 cholera beds, 15 isolation tents, 1450 bottles of choline to the affected district.
- A damage assessment exercise by the Shelter Cluster, in collaboration with the WASH and Agriculture cluster is underway, to determine the possibility of people returning to their communities and priority needs.
- A Post Disaster Needs Assessment, which is being participated by UNICEF, will be conducted from 20 February to 6 March. The exercise will inform recovery programming.
- The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee will undertake a Rapid Food Security Assessment and Monitoring exercise in 27 districts of the country, including those affected by floods from 18th February.
- UNICEF has a critical funding gap of USD 3,413,908 out of a total requirement of US$9,300,000 in order to respond to the immediate needs for a three month period.

UNICEF Response with Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>Cumulative results (#)</th>
<th>Cluster Target</th>
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<td>Protection</td>
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Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- According to the Meteorological Services the country will continue to experience heavy rains over the next few days due to moist and unstable Congo air mass over the northern parts of Malawi and the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone active over southern and central areas. This is likely to result in rising of water levels in the Shire River which is the only outlet of Lake Malawi and subsequent flooding along the Lower Shire areas.

- As of 17 February 2015, 20 cases of cholera have been confirmed by the Ministry of Health, with one death, all of them in the District of Nsanje. All cases have been identified outside displacement sites. Four cases are linked to the Jambawe area in Mutalala district (a gold mine in Mozambique 10 km from the Malawian border, where many Malawians work), where there is an extended cholera outbreak. The first confirmed case of cholera was on 13th February 2015. There have been reports from Nsanje since 11 February of suspected cholera cases.

- UNICEF has sent 30 cholera beds to Nsanje. Chlorine and other water purification means have been distributed in sites. Additional 50 kg tins of chlorine are now stored in the Assembly Warehouse for distribution in the eventuality of a cholera outbreak. All the relevant authorities have been informed and all partners are watching the situation closely. The DHO has committed to provide 15 isolation tents (12m x 12m). UNICEF and WHO have organized two mobile medical teams serving from Monday 16th February 2015 onwards at the different sites; the teams will look into WASH, Health and Nutrition issues. They will screen on cholera, and give out medication.

- In addition to focusing efforts to control the spread of cholera and diarrhea cases recently reported, in general, the priority needs in the camp are currently food assistance, shelter material, water and sanitation and medical supplies particularly malaria drugs, mosquito nets, particularly for pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups. Affected people also require seeds to ensure a long-term livelihood.

- Early recovery and resilience building are being discussed by Government and partners, and will be also included in the review of the Response Plan to present the linkages with the humanitarian response to draw attention to the need to support recovery. In this regard, a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) will be conducted in the 15 flood-affected districts from 20 February 2015 to provide technical assistance to develop and carry out a Recovery and Reconstruction Framework and Disaster Risk Financing Strategy. The assessment exercise will involve all the clusters.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- On 17 February, an inter-cluster coordination meeting, convened by the Shelter Cluster, took place at national level to discuss on the humanitarian support to people returning to their original areas from displacement locations. Partners agreed on establishing standard return kits for people coming back from displacement sites, as well as analyzing other kind of support for vulnerable groups severely affected by the floods, i.e. people staying in host families or people not displaced but with humanitarian needs. Different modalities of support would be considered, i.e. material assistance, cash and basic services, including psychosocial support. A damage assessment exercise by the Shelter Cluster, in collaboration with WASH and Agriculture cluster will give more light in determining the possibility of people returning to their origin areas and priority needs. Also, the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment committee is undertaking the 2015 rapid food security assessment and Monitoring exercise in 27 districts of the country. Due to the current flood situation, the exercise will concurrently be done with a Food Security assessment in the flood affected areas. The two activities will be conducted from 22nd February to 6th March.

- The WASH Cluster held its 10th meeting on Monday 16th February 2015. The next meeting will take place on Monday 23th February 2015, to be chaired by the Principle Secretary responsible for Water Development.

- UNICEF is also leading the effort to map all partners working on social mobilization in cholera affected areas, to ensure coverage and fill gaps.

Summary Analysis of Programme response
WASH

- A total of 68,487 people have so far been reached with sanitation services and 79,053 have been provided with safe drinking water in the hard hit affected areas. Work on provision of these services is continuing to reach more people.
- The cluster coordination meetings in Phalombe and Zomba districts are up and running with the last meeting held on 2nd February 2015 with an agreement to be meeting regularly.
- Goal Malawi with funding from UNICEF, has completed 57 additional latrines in the last 5-6 days reaching a cumulative total of 357 latrines in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts with a cumulative total of 68,487 people reached with latrines.
- Concern Universal with funding from UNICEF, has completed 12 additional latrines in two school reaching at least 1200 school children in Phalombe.
- Population Services International (PSI) Malawi, also with funding from UNICEF, has also completed a total of 16 hygiene sessions in camps in Nsanje and Chikwawa to date.
- Furthermore, GOAL Malawi continues to conduct hygiene promotion activities in 273 camps in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts reaching 46,898.
- PSI have continued similar hygiene related activities in Phalombe and Zomba.
- Department of Water with support from UNICEF has carried out water trucking to total 55,250 people in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts.
- The cluster coordination meetings in the four districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba districts are being held at least once a week.

Nutrition

- UNICEF continues to support affected districts to conduct active case identification of acute malnutrition among under-five children in IDP camps in collaboration with Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) and four NGO partners. Consequently, 354 children and 87 pregnant and lactating women were screened from the districts of Zomba and Nsanje. So far 4,669 have been screened in the worst affected districts.
- With support from UNICEF, treatment of SAM according to national guidelines is on-going. Cumulatively, 938 children with SAM have been admitted to the program in 10 districts affected by the floods.
- Nutrition screening of children with MUAC has been successfully integrated in ongoing mobile clinics in organized by the health cluster in 4 districts to strengthen further case identification.
- The 15 affected districts have all been supported with lifesaving nutrition supplies including RUTF, F75, F100 and ReSoMal and all facilities reported having adequate stock by end of last week.
- Using the national IYCF guidelines and job aids, 60 community volunteers have been trained by UNICEF partners in Nsanje district to provide IYCF support to mothers and care givers. These trained volunteers will also be involved in monitoring of the international code of marketing of breast milk substitutes.
- The Nutrition cluster continues to meet weekly and last met on 16th February 2014 where the nutrition recovery plan was revised based on, response performance and increased number of affected population.
- Although the nutrition cluster is participating in the on-going post disaster need assessment, there is need for an independent nutrition assessment costing about USD150, 000 to inform a comprehensive recovery plan.

Health and HIV

- UNICEF is working closely with other implementing partners to contain the cholera situation. While several medical supplies were prepositioned to health facilities UNICEF has sent protective equipment to Nsanje after receiving reports that there were limited or no stocks. Today, (Wednesday) UNICEF will participate at a meeting of a task force to compile district cholera supply requirements and cholera preparedness status.
- On outreach services, mobile clinics have been started in all the worst affected districts of Phalombe, Zomba, Nsanje and Chikwawa with support from UNICEF and other implementing partners (Save the Children, MSF). These are offering integrated services including childhood immunizations, Antenatal clinics and clinical services to internally displaced people in the camps. Efforts are being made to compile data and document coverage of these services.
Protection

- With UNICEF support, Community Based Care Centres (early childhood care) and Children’s corners (adolescent response) have been established reaching 559 and 1477 children respectively.
- 3 tents supplied by UNICEF have been mounted in Zomba district in the past week benefiting 129 children; one has been mounted at Chisomo CBCC, T/A Magoli which will benefit 59 children (28 males and 31 females) who were learning in the open space. Two other tents were mounted at Mwai CBCC, TA Mwambo to benefit 70 children (30 males and 40 females).
- Through the partnership with Save the Children in Chikwawa community child registration centres are being established and volunteers are being identified to assist in child care and protection in camps. They are also procuring playing material for children in camps.
- Community policing has been revamped and is now addressing violence reports.
- UNICEF will continue to support the scaling up of case management; support revamping of community policing structures to have linkages with CVSUs for ease of referrals; follow up with caregivers for continuation of ECD services in temporary spaces where structures not available and; support Social Welfare to complete assessment of areas that have not been reached.

Education

- At least 90% of the schools that were being used as camps, have fully re-opened
- UNICEF has provided support to the education cluster to undertake a series of activities including cluster assessment and data validation, regional and district meetings on response and recovery, support to distribution of supplies and monitoring its use.
- A PCA with World Vision is being concluded to support construction of at least four toilets in 37 schools which have the most needs. This is being done in conjunction with colleagues from WASH.
- The Education cluster is exploring real time monitoring solutions to improve on data collection challenges.

Communications for Development (C4D)

- Pakachere, a local NGO, with support from UNICEF deployed three teams to Phalombe last week Friday and are implementing community viewing sessions; peer education and social dialogue for young people; as well as theatre for development. Key messages covered include hygiene and HIV prevention, plus specific cholera messages.
- In Nsanje and Chikwawa, Goal Malawi and PSI are continuing hygiene promotion sessions, with special focus on cholera information. Coverage of camps is high, with well-planned coverage, all camps will be reached by the end of this week. Interviews and small group discussions in Mota Engil camp revealed camp residents are aware and understand the hygiene messages.
- Additional partners are being engaged to strengthen community mobilization and BCC in response to a large scale cholera outbreak. Proposals awaited from Chancellor College, Thyolo College of Health Sciences and Malawi Polytechnic.
- The C4D team attended the district inter-cluster coordination meeting for Zomba where a strong recommendation was made to track health education and hygiene promotion as key indicators in the Health and WASH clusters. These indicators were omitted in the overall tracking matrix for these key sectors.
- Pakachere will be deploying another team in Zomba to complete their deployment after Phalombe which was implemented last week Friday.
- 12,000 IEC materials have now been distributed through districts of Zomba and Phalombe.
- Media partners including community radios are now sending in their monitoring reports. So far a total of 33 programmes already broadcast (both radio jingles and programmes). The focus of the message is currently on immunization, EBF for newborns, and cholera prevention as well as HIV and AIDS awareness.
- A panel discussion on national radio is planned for Sunday on newborn feeding by MBC, with UNICEF’s nutrition officer as a panelist.
Supply and Logistics

- Health Supplies amounting to $27,000 were distributed to the affected districts.
- Child Protection supplies are being assembled at World Vision and will be sent to the affected areas.
- LLIN provided by PSI are being sent to Blantyre for distribution to affected areas.
- Supplies from JICA were distributed to the affected areas.
- 5 Tents and 30 Cholera beds were delivered to MSF on 14 February and are being sent to Nsanje on 19 February 2015.
- 75 Pairs of Gumboots, 40 Boxes of Aplastic Disposable Aprons and 30 Pairs Heavy Duty Gloves were sent to Chikwawa on 18 February 2015.
- 3643 cartons of RUTF delivered to various districts including the affected areas.

Funding

- To respond to recent floods, UNICEF Malawi is appealing for US$ 9,291,292 to support the response to the January floods for an initial three months. Through discussion with donors in country, a total of US$ 5,128,238 has been reallocated from existing resources. A funding gap of US$ 3,413,908 still remains to support the flood response as of 18 February 2015.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF Requirements</th>
<th>Cluster Requirements*</th>
<th>Funds received against UNICEF appeal</th>
<th>UNICEF Funds reallocated</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

* UNICEF requirements under WASH have been funded, however, the need within the WASH Cluster as a whole remains. The cluster requirements are USD 3,615,413.

Next SitRep: 25/February/2015

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