MalawiFlooding Situation Report

Flood Situation Report: No. 2

Highlights

- From 05-08 March 2019, heavy rains caused by tropical cyclone Idai led to severe flooding in the southern region of Malawi in one of the worst tropical storms in the region on record.

- An estimated 868,895 people, including 443,136 children, have been affected by the flooding, with over 85,000 people displaced. Many of the displaced are sheltered in schools, and lessons for children have been severely disrupted. UNICEF is deploying 48 tents to shelter the displaced population.

- With UNICEF support over 4,500 flood-affected people have been given access to sanitation facilities after portable toilets were installed at Bangula and Namicheni displacement camps.

- Due to the devastation, UNICEF requires US$8.26 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs.

Summary of UNICEF’s Response with partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>450,000 emergency-affected people provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>77,500 emergency-affected children (including adolescents) accessing quality education (including temporary structures).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>131, 695 children under 5 years old immunised for measles 193, 661 women and children in emergency situations provided with access to health care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1,040 children under 5 years old with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>10,000 children given access to safe community spaces 30 identified survivors of sexual violence provided with a comprehensive care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22 March 2019

443,136
Children under the age of 18 affected out of
868,895
People affected by cyclone Idai

Over 85,000
People displaced

Over 219,195 children
Targeted by UNICEF

UNICEF Appeal for 2019 Flood Response*
US$8,265,000
Situation Overview

From 05-08 March 2019, heavy rains caused by tropical cyclone Idai led to severe flooding in the southern region of Malawi. On 8 March the Government of Malawi declared a State of Disaster due to the severe flooding in across 15 districts in southern Malawi. At least 868,895 people are reported to have been affected in 15 districts and some 86,976 people have been displaced. At least 56 people have reportedly died in the floods and another 672 have been injured \(^1\). Displaced people have taken refuge in 173 camps, mostly located in schools. The worst-affected districts include Nsanje, where 81,000 have been affected with 17,402 of them displaced. Phalombe has recorded 102,816 affected people with 5,526 displaced, while Chikwawa has seen 61,209 people affected and 35,888 people displaced.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Malawi is leading the humanitarian response, through the department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), with support from humanitarian partners, including NGOs, the UN and donor agencies. UNICEF actively participates in the Humanitarian Country Team and the inter-cluster coordination fora, which leads cross-sectoral coordination of humanitarian programmes in the country. UNICEF is the co-lead agency for the Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) clusters, but also plays a key role in the Health cluster.

Interagency assessment missions to the worst affected districts are currently being undertaken. These assessments aim at verifying the extent of the damage, identifying realistic options for the humanitarian response and providing clear recommendations to the Government and humanitarian agencies on appropriate response interventions. To date, assessments have been completed in Nsanje and Phalombe districts.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF’s response includes interventions from sectors including WASH, Health/HIV AIDS, Education, Child Protection, Nutrition and Social Protection, and this is supported by communication and community engagement activities. UNICEF is part of DoDMA led assessments in the affected districts and is engaged in information-gathering that will better inform the humanitarian response.

The government led inter-cluster coordination group is reviewing the various cluster response plans. In anticipation of further flooding during the coming rainy season, and associated disease outbreaks such as cholera, UNICEF has contingency stocks in UNICEF warehouses in Lilongwe and Blantyre. These supplies are being used to provide immediate assistance to flood-victims, based on requests from the government and other partners.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

WASH

UNICEF has provided WASH supplies to nine affected districts through a partnership with the NGO United Purpose. The supplies include portable plastic toilets, soap and water treatment chemicals. Information on cholera prevention has also been distributed. As part of the efforts to provide safe water, UNICEF has assisted with the expansion of existing reticulated waterpoints reaching more than 4,000 people in Nsanje (Nyachilenda camp). More people are being reached with chlorination products at the household level.

\(^1\) According to Government figures.
In Chikwawa (Bangula and Namicheni camps), 4,500 people have been given access to portable toilets provided by UNICEF. Hygiene promotion and awareness in the nine districts is also underway, including the distribution of posters and flyers and collaboration with district level field workers.

As the WASH Cluster co-lead agency, UNICEF has facilitated the establishment of a sub-cluster forum in Blantyre district, which is close to the flooded affected areas. The first meeting was held on the 21 March.

Representatives from more than 20 local and international NGOs, as well as government departments attended. UNICEF is working to strengthen coordination among WASH and health responders.

**Education**

UNICEF is working with the Education Cluster, orientating 65 volunteer teachers, who will be deployed to Nsanje, Chikwawa, Zomba, Phalombe and Mulanje. They will provide logistical support to schools and camps to ensure that classes resume as soon as possible. They will also provide counselling, psychosocial support and care for flood-affected students.

UNICEF is deploying 48 tents to affected districts to shelter displaced people, who are largely congregating in school buildings. The tents will free up classrooms, allowing students to return to their lessons. Furthermore, 143 schools in a box kits, 80 recreational kits and 130 blackboards are being distributed in five districts that have experienced heavy flooding. Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits are being provided for children under five years in the displacement camps.

More supplies will be needed as the rains continue and more people take refuge in schools, disrupting classes. UNICEF has prioritized its response to districts that have large numbers of displaced people. However, other districts have also been affected and need support. The Education Cluster, which UNICEF co-leads, has been activated and school health and nutrition coordinators are collecting information to help verify numbers and support the response.

**Health**

Disease outbreaks are expected in the displacement camps, which are overcrowded with people in makeshift shelters. At these sites there is inadequate access to safe drinking water, sanitation and health care. Of concern, Nsanje district, which is affected, reported six cholera cases in early February. Five cases have also been recorded across the border in Mozambique. Suspected cases were reported in Mulanje, Thyolo, Machinga and Chikwawa. The current flooding has disrupted normal operations, including immunization drives, antenatal and postnatal care, and clinics for sick children. Some adults and children being treated for HIV and tuberculosis have not been able to access medication.

Mobile outreach clinical services are urgently required to reach people in need. People need preventive services including immunization; risk communication and community engagement for disease prevention and control; procurement and prepositioning of cholera kits and other essential medicines; medical supplies for malaria management; capacity strengthening for outbreak preparedness and coordination support.

UNICEF plans to reach the camps with mobile outreach clinics. Two mobile clinics per district are planned. A team of five people (nurse, midwife, health surveillance assistant (HAS), clinical officer and pharmacy technician) will carry out consultations, vaccinations, malnutrition response, and HIV and reproductive health services in these locations. Each of the camps will be visited once a week by the teams. The teams will also conduct consultations with patients with tuberculosis and HIV, providing testing, follow up and prescription refills. Supplies for treatment of common infectious diseases
including cholera, malaria and lung illnesses are being delivered to the worst affected eight districts and HSAs have started regularly visiting the camps.

**Nutrition**

UNICEF plans to scale-up Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), across the 11 most affected districts, with daily mass screenings in the camps and monthly active case findings in all affected communities. UNICEF will provide lifesaving nutrition support to at least 4,832 flood affected people. This support includes, 1,040 children under five years with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), 3,792 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 857 pregnant and lactating women in the 11 most affected districts for a three-month period.

UNICEF together with partners will actively engage in community mobilization and orientation of health workers, using the human resources, such as field monitors and health surveillance assistance, currently on the ground. Nutrition key messaging and interventions will be scaled up to ensure that mothers and caregivers can effectively access integrated nutrition services such as screening and other Maternal Neonatal and Child Health services, including outreach clinics.

UNICEF will procure and distribute CMAM supplies, including 3500 cartons of RUTF, 1000 cartons of F75 and F100 therapeutic diet. Additional essential medications such as Amoxicillin (about 30,000 bottles of powder/oral suspension) will be procured.

UNICEF will work with nutrition partners and the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS to support national and district Nutrition Cluster coordination efforts to ensure that the response is well coordinated, resources prioritized, and results achieved.

**Child protection**

Damage to infrastructure has impacted the wellbeing and welfare of children and their families. The precarious nature of evacuation sites (including cramped conditions and lack of lighting), has increased the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, especially for girls. Stress and trauma amongst guardians, including a lack of food, heightens tensions and the risk of violence. Loss or destruction of legal documents also puts vulnerable groups at risk. While no official reports of separated or unaccompanied minors have been recorded, there is a high demand for psychosocial support. UNICEF is currently developing a partnership with an NGO to provide safe spaces and emergency psychosocial support for affected children and vulnerable groups.

The national Protection Cluster lead, the Ministry of Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, is currently finalising the cluster response plan. With UNICEF as co-lead, mapping of actors on the ground is ongoing. District level Protection Cluster meetings have also been activated and district level Protection Cluster plans are being prepared.

Protection committees at the site level, with the assistance of the District Social Welfare Office, have been established. Community Based Child Care Centres, for children under-five years, and “Children’s Corners” for older children, have been established in 21 sites. Recreation kits have been distributed in 34 sites, but space for children to play is limited. Approximately 600 child protection case management booklets have been distributed to social welfare staff for identification, assessment, planning and referral.

**Communications for Development (C4D)**
Printed materials including flip books, banners, leaflets, posters and comic books, covering topics such as malaria, cholera, safe water, and hand washing with soap, are being distributed to affected populations. UNICEF’s partner, United Purpose, is helping distribute the materials in Nsanje, Mulanje, Phalombe and Zomba.

Some 90 teachers have been oriented on interpersonal communication skills in emergencies. The first group of teachers have been deployed to deliver messages on education and child protection.

Story Workshop drama groups, which are partners with UNICEF, have been activated to start public information events. There are 10 groups in each district.

UNICEF is working with health promotion officers to ensure that health surveillance assistants are conducting health talks in the camps. UNICEF is also promoting “Mpondagiya” – the locally made handwashing station in camps where there are not enough buckets.

Supply and Logistics

As part of its emergency preparedness plan, UNICEF had pre-positioned supplies in flood-affected areas including cholera kits and other medical kits. Contingency stocks in UNICEF warehouses in Lilongwe and Blantyre have also been distributed despite difficulties in accessing some of the affected areas. Supplies consist of WASH products such as buckets, soap, latrines and water purification products. Some 50 tents were distributed from the Lilongwe warehouse to set up temporary health facilities and learning spaces.

UNICEF has also initiated procurement of supplies required for the long term. Contacts with the partners in the Logistics Cluster have been established to ensure coordination in the relief efforts.

Social Protection

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, WFP and other international partners to assess the impact the floods have had on the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) in Nsanje, Phalombe and Chikwawa. The assessment is aimed at collecting data to understand how SCTP beneficiaries have been affected and the extent to which SCTP operations have been disrupted.

The assessment will provide information on how much additional support should be provided to affected SCTP households in flooded districts. UNICEF is coordinating with other stakeholders to design a response that will fit the current context.

Media and External Communication

Two flood related press statements have been released. The first highlighted the fact that UNICEF is operating in flooded areas. The second focused on the supplies that are being distributed to the flood victims. A human-interest story was also published to help communicate how desperate the situation is for those affected by the floods.

The cyclone and floods in Malawi have generated a lot of media interest. Sky News, Irish TV and VOA have run stories on the floods and UNICEF response activities. While, social media messages, photos and stories have been shared with the US, UK and German National Committees, which are fundraising for the Malawi flood response.
UNICEF deployed a drone team to be part of the inter-agency floods assessment group in Nsanje district on the 11 and 16 March. The team used the drones to capture high resolution imagery to help teams on the ground better understand the extent of the flood waters and the damage to households and structures. The drones have provided information for the risk profile of the areas in Nsanje district. The drone team were able to map an area of eight square kilometres in five days.

UNICEF’s data collection team has been collecting information on displacement camps in the Chikwawa and Nsanje districts. Apart from location information, they are collecting data on the number of people displaced, their current situation and r needs. The teams are also taking photographs, which illustrate the living conditions and WASH facilities in the camps. Data collection will continue in the coming days.

Funding

UNICEF has received a total of US$1,439,491 for the flood response. Additional funding is required to for UNICEF to adequately respond to the needs of women and children affected by the crisis. UNICEF is requesting US$8,265 million to meet the urgent humanitarian needs in the country. Without this funding, UNICEF will be unable to adequately respond to the emergency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>1,117,422</td>
<td>682,578</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,570,000</td>
<td>322,069</td>
<td>1,247,931</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>245,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>245,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program support</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,265,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,439,491</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,825,509</strong></td>
<td><strong>83%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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