



Resuming Health services after floods Precious Mlongoti (L), Medical Assistant in Charge of Bereu Health Centre attending to a patient, © UNICEF 2022/UN0583685

Malawi Floods - Humanitarian Situation report – 22 February 2022

Highlights

During the period 15 to 22 February, intense rainfall activities continued across Malawi causing flooding in areas that were already affected by floods due to tropical storm Ana. The recent flooding events caused more damage to houses, roads, bridges, power supply equipment and schools, and caused further disruption to social services.

In Salima district in central Malawi 3,669 households (16,144 people) have been affected by the recent floods. Among those affected are 4,878 children. Over 2,600 houses have been partially damaged while 1,020 completely collapsed with about 100 households seeking temporary shelter in displacement sites. Salima is not among the districts that were initially affected by tropical storm Ana. Bridges and roads are either completely cut off or seriously damaged.

The United Nations will imminently launch a joint US \$30 million appeal, targeting 550,000 people that have been hardest hit by the impact of the floods. Of this, UNICEF is requesting US \$8 million to respond to the needs of children and women in the affected areas.

Situation Overview

During the period 14 to 21 February, Malawi experienced intense rainfall activities across the country which resulted in further flooding in parts of the country including those affected by the earlier floods due to tropical storm Ana. The recent flooding caused more damage in the already affected areas. In Chikwawa district the main road that connects Nsanje and Chikwawa districts to Blantyre and the rest of the country was cut off once again in two sections (Sekeneni and Bereu) while in Chapananga area, two bridges were damaged. Furthermore, four power transmission structures near Kapichira power plant were damaged leaving Chikwawa and Nsanje with no electricity. Three health facilities were flooded once again (Makhwira Ndakwera and Bereu) disrupting access to much-needed health services. A full picture of the additional damage caused by the new flooding will be known once the affected districts complete the reassessment exercises.

In addition, preliminary reports indicate that in Salima district in central Malawi, 3,669 households (16,144 people) have been affected by the recent floods. Among those affected are 4,878 children. Over 2,500 houses have been partially damaged while 1,020 completely collapsed with about 100 households seeking temporary shelter in displacement sites. Salima is not among the districts that were initially affected. Bridges and roads have also been either completely cut off or seriously damaged. Learning has been disrupted with initial reports indicating that children in six schools (Chimweta, Kalonga, Msalura, Chigombe, Tungutungu, Ntchenche) will stay out of school for several days because their schools have been flooded and will not be functional. Meanwhile, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services continues to issue warnings of activities on the Indian Ocean that have a bearing on the rainfall pattern in Malawi.

MALAWI FLOODS Situation Report

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Floods – Humanitarian Situation in numbers as of 22 February 2022

Approximately 225,000 households (more than **1 million** people) affected by floods and storms since the onset of the current rain season

Over **33,000** households (**close to 200,000** people) displaced

49 deaths

18 missing

206 injuries

Source: MALAWI moderate tropical storm ANA snapshot-2, Department of Disaster Management Affairs, 10 February 2022 and Salima floods preliminary report

With the inclusion of Salima, there are currently over 220,000 households (more than 1 million people) that have been affected by floods since the onset of the rain season with over 33,000 households displaced. The people displaced, mostly in southern Malawi, continue to be accommodated in sites established in schools, churches, mosques, health facilities, police units and open spaces.

The floods are occurring while the country is still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2021, Malawi experienced its fourth wave of COVID-19, brought on by the Omicron variant. The fourth wave was officially announced by the government on 29 December 2021. As of 21 February, Malawi conducted 542,990 tests out of which 85,228 tested positive for COVID -19. Since the pandemic started, 2,606 fatalities have been registered. To date, Malawi has registered the highest Case Fatality Rate of 3.06 per cent globally. UNICEF is concerned that with access to health care services compromised, localised outbreaks of COVID-19 in affected areas can increase and spread across the country.

Further complicating the situation is the first reported case of wild polio in Malawi in 30 years. The country's compromised immunisation coverage and weak surveillance may have contributed to the emergence of the virus and its possible spreading. Access to routine immunisation for children continues to be compromised by COVID-19. Access to healthcare facilities is nearly impossible in some areas due to floodwaters, roads that are either in bad condition or in some cases completely cut off with some bridges washed away. Community health concerns over accessing health facilities, and vaccine hesitancy complicate vaccination efforts. Together with the risk of flood-related outbreaks of waterborne diseases, including cholera and the further spread of polio, the current situation in Malawi poses a triple threat to child survival and development, with the most vulnerable children from the poorer southern districts at extreme risk of preventable childhood diseases.

There is a need for an immediate response to prevent the current triple emergency of COVID-19, floods, and Polio from having a devastating impact on the wellbeing and survival of children.

Programme response by UNICEF and partners

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF is providing immediate lifesaving support and assistance to populations affected while also investing in resilience-building interventions. This support focuses on people in displacement sites in the four worst-affected districts (Chikwawa, Mulanje, Nsanje and Phalombe). UNICEF is delivering services through multi-sectoral responses in child protection, education, health, nutrition, social protection, and WASH, supported by community engagement activities in the four targeted districts. UNICEF also rescue and supply distribution logistical support in the Nsanje district. A boat is available for the delivery of supplies to areas that cannot be reached by other means of transport. UNICEF is delivering the interventions through Government partners as well as Civil Society partners.

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 forum, which leads to cross-sectoral coordination of humanitarian programmes in the country. UNICEF is the co-lead agency for the Child Protection, Education, Nutrition, and WASH clusters, while also playing a key role in the Health cluster.

The Government of Malawi has developed a four-month response plan, and a US \$30 million appeal, targeting 550,000 people hardest-hit by the impact of the floods and in urgent need of life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection in both urban and rural communities. The Flash Appeal complements the ongoing and planned interventions by the Government and other actors to respond to the humanitarian situation

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

Various WASH non-food items (NFIs) including water treatment chemicals, water storage facilities, personal hygiene materials, emergency latrines and water quality kits have been distributed. As a result of this, approximately 100,000 people gained access to safe and treated water including almost 50,000 in the six highly affected districts (Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, Balaka, Mangochi and Mulanje). An application to Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has been approved to avail additional resources to scale up the response in both displacement sites and host communities.

Education

UNICEF has reached over 105,000 children in 70 primary schools, in five districts (Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, Mulanje and Mangochi) with learning materials, recreation and early childhood development materials. UNICEF has also provided 80 tents in schools that are hosting displaced people to release the occupied classrooms and make them available for learning.

Child protection

UNICEF is reaching out to vulnerable populations with psychological first aid through social welfare officers that were trained in mental health and psychosocial support and psychological first aid. Child protection workers have been deployed in the displacement centres in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Mulanje. UNICEF has provided 60 recreational kits to five of the affected districts (Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Phalombe and Mangochi) to be used by an estimated 4,200 children in children's corners. UNICEF is also strengthening coordination of protection actors in five districts through orientation of protection cluster members in Blantyre, Mwanza, Machinga, Nkhatabay and Mzimba. UNICEF is supporting the provision of case management services to children in need of care and protection in these districts.

Nutrition

UNICEF continues to support nutrition screening in flood-affected communities and displacement sites in Chikwawa, Mangochi, Mulanje, Phalombe and Nsanje. During the reporting period, over 7,400 more children were screened bringing the total number of under-five children screened in the five targeted flood districts to 17,609. Of the 7,409 children screened during the reporting period, 565 showed signs of wasting and they were referred into treatment programmes. UNICEF is engaging partners including the Hunger Project, University of Malawi (UNIMA) and SWET (The Story Workshop Educational Trust) to support the scaling up of nutrition response activities in Nsanje, Phalombe, Mulanje and Chikwawa and expansion of screening activities in Chiradzulu in addition to the five.

Health

Through Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), UNICEF is supporting the affected districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Mulanje with the community and facility-based surveillance for real-time detection of any event or disease outbreak; risk communication and community engagement and improvement of infection prevention and control in seven health facilities of Bereu, Maperera, Nsanje, Mbenje, Ndamela, Makhanga and Makhwira.

UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Health to repair 34 motorcycles in all 34 health facilities across the districts of Nsanje and Chikwawa to revitalize static outreach immunisation activities that were disrupted by the floods.

In Nsanje district, UNICEF has planned integrated HIV/SRH outreach clinics in displaced camps; health promotion interventions through health education, talks, drama, and video shows and tracking all HIV services being offered in the emergency response, particularly for adolescents, children, and pregnant/breastfeeding women. The main aim of these interventions is to prevent further HIV transmission, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies and improve anti-retroviral therapy adherence among of the displaced population. UNICEF has initiated a direct cash transfer of USD 23,000 for these interventions.

Community engagement for behaviour and social change

In this reporting week, UNICEF facilitated a dialogue on child rights at Chikuse Camp in Chikwawa. Reaching approximately 1,600 guardians, local leaders, camp leaders, youth, and children, who discussed gender-based violence, creating a child-friendly environment, psychosocial support, and ensuring the security of women and children. The dialogues established that there are limited spaces of interaction mostly for children who are in camps which are negatively affecting their participation in defining their priority needs.

To enhance Accountability to Affected People (AAP), local partners took part in a verification exercise of the number of people registered at displacement sites in traditional authorities Lundu and Maseya in Chikwawa district. The exercise revealed that some of the displaced people that had gone back to their original homesteads to start rebuilding their lives were still recorded as residents to continue benefiting from the response interventions because relief assistance is mostly targeting people that are in these sites. Stakeholders that participated in the verification exercise recommended to the district level duty bearers who are handling disaster response activities to consider providing relief items to affected people that were being hosted by other community members or had gone back to their homesteads. However, due to

further flooding that occurred towards the end of the reporting period, people that moved back to their homesteads were forced to return to the displacement sites.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF produced a [video](#) to highlight the impact and appeal for funds to assist affected women and children. This was published on UNICEF's YouTube channel and shared on Facebook and Twitter.

A story on the impact of floods on health services in Chikwawa district and how UNICEF is supporting was published in [Nation newspaper](#).

UNICEF also published stories highlighting the impact of the floods and UNICEF's response.

- [Storm horror leaves thousands at risk of disease](#)
- [Resuming health services after Tropical Storm Ana](#)
- [In an emergency, we need locally available, skilled people to help out and help out fast](#)
- [Using drones to speed up response efforts to Cyclone Ana](#)

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF is currently working with partners and UN agencies in the preparation of a joint appeal that will be launched in the coming days. To respond quickly, UNICEF is requesting US\$8 million to meet the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women throughout the affected areas for the coming three months. Early funding is needed to save more lives, reduce suffering, and restore access to services by the affected people, especially children.

Next SitRep: 1 March 2022

Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Sector	Population in need	Cluster Target	Cluster results	UNICEF target	UNICEF results
Health						
	Children 0-59 months are reached during vaccination campaigns conducted to reduce risk of epidemic-prone outbreaks.	170,227			153,000	0
	Women, adolescent girls and newborns safely and equitably access quality life-saving and high-impact maternal and neonatal health services"	106,250			57,000	0
WASH						
	# of people in camps and affected communities accessing safe water supply of acceptable quality and quantity	731,996	300,000	100,000	250,000	100,000
	# of people in camps and affected communities that have access to safe sanitation facilities	650,000	270,000	500	135,000	500
	# of people reached with hygiene promotion messages	731,996	731,996	0	350,000	0
Community engagement for behavior and social change						
	# of people affected and at risk reached with behavior change or health saving messages	731,996			730,000	1,600
	# of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioral change	500,000			500,000	0

	# of vulnerable people actively providing suggestions, complaints, and feedback	300,000			300,000	0
Nutrition						
	# of children 6-59 months screened for acute malnutrition	170,227	142,805	17,609	105,000	17,609
	# of children 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment	3500	3,500	0	3,500	0
	# of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving IYCF counselling	43188	41,112	0	41,000	0
Child Protection						
	# people reached through CP/GBV community awareness activities to promote access to services to respond to incidents of CP/GBV	993,149	700,000		300,000	10,300
	# women, girls, and boys accessing CP/GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions	699,808	40,000		20,000	92
	# UNICEF-targeted (i) girls and boys; and (ii) parents and primary caregivers in humanitarian situations provided with community-based mental health and psychosocial support, including access to child friendly spaces with intersectoral programming interventions	699,808	50,000		20,000	4,600
Education						
	# children receiving individual learning materials	398,908	255,494		199,000	105,649
	# teachers, members of parent teacher-association and school management committee trained on emergencies in education	578	578		210	0
Social Protection						
	# people benefit from continuity of essential services and humanitarian assistance	598,851			598,000	0
	# households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures to respond to the floods with UNICEF support	310,000			310,000	0
	# households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures to respond to the floods have access to Grievance & Redress Mechanisms with UNICEF support	221,127			220,000	0
	# households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures to respond to the floods have access to Grievance & Redress Mechanisms with UNICEF support	221,127			220,000	0

ANNEX B: Malawi humanitarian funding status by sector 22 February 2022

Appeal Sector	Funding Requirements	Funds received against the appeal	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health	\$3,500,000	\$ -	\$3,500,000	100%
WASH	\$1,250,000	\$ -	\$1,250,000	100%
Community engagement for behaviour and social change	\$160,000	\$ -	\$160,000	100%
Education	\$700,000	\$ -	\$700,000	100%
Social Protection	\$300,000	\$ -	\$300,000	100%
Nutrition	\$1,300,000	\$ -	\$1,300,000	100%
Child Protection	\$700,000	\$ -	\$700,000	100%
Coordination (information management)	\$90,000	\$ -	\$90,000	100%
	\$8,000,000	\$ -	\$8,000,000	100%

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