

Malawi: Tropical Storm Ana Response

Flash Update No. 2 | 11th February 2022



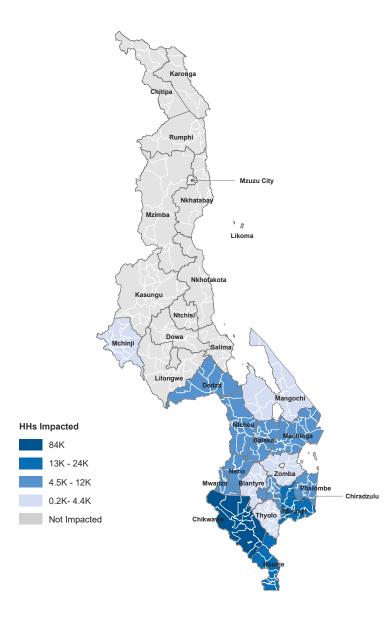


Displaced Individuals



19

Impacted Districts



HIGHLIGHTS

- Tropical Storm ANA has caused floods, destruction, and fatalities in Malawi
- Malawi President declared a State of National Disaster on 26th January 2022
- 221,127 households (995,072 people) are affected across 19 districts
- 46 people died, 206 people were injured while 18 people still reported missing
- 32,935 households (152,786 people) displaced
- 178 displacement camps across affected districts
- Food and non-food items being delivered to affected populations across the districts
- UN and partners are supporting the life-saving emergency flood response.
- Main Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was set up in Blantyre on 25th January. It will be based in Lilongwe from Monday 14th February and 2 sub EOCs opening up in Chikwawa and Nsanje

SITUATION

- Tropical Storm Ana caused heavy flooding in a number of districts in Malawi, especially in the Southern Region due to a lot of heavy rainfall and strong winds.
- According to the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, while the 2019 Cyclone Idai was a tropical cyclone, Ana is not a cyclone. Rather, it is a moderate tropical storm, yet Idai had rainfall amounts of 150 mm within 24 hrs while Ana had 250 mm and above rainfall recorded within 24 hrs.
- Displaced persons are seeking shelter in evacuation centres, schools, churches, hospitals, shelters, and made-up camp sites. Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Mulanje and are the most affected districts.
- While road repairs are underway, many areas are still cut-off, making it difficult to fully assess the damages.
- The damage includes:
 - > Blown-off house roofs; loss of livestock; collapsed houses, toilets, and brick fences; damaged road network, bridges, culverts, and other road structures; loss of household items; and damaged public and private infrastructure, including schools, health facilities and churches.
 - > Destroyed teaching and learning materials; crops washed away, logging of crops from the strong winds, damage on power plant causing power supply disruptions; and contamination of water sources.

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SECTORIAL RESPONSE AND NEEDS



- On 26 Jan, Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera declared a state of disaster in all flood-affected districts.
- Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) is coordinating the flood response in collaboration with the United Nations and partners.
- The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) set up by DoDMA in Blantyre is coordinating the response efforts.
- UN agencies, in collaboration with Government of Malawi, national and international agencies, are supporting provision of life-saving assistance to the flood-affected people.
- The Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) has allocated \$3 million for an urgent humanitarian response needs to the impact caused by Tropical Storm Ana in Malawi.
- Provision of assistance to flood-affected persons is underway in areas of food, medicine, protection services and other non-food-items such as water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies, as well as setting up temporary learning spaces to support children.
- OCHA deployed technical support to help in humanitarian coordination and information management.
- IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, WFP and UN Women are some of the UN agencies providing support.
- A Flood Response Plan and Flash Appeal are being finalised by Malawi Government in collaboration with humanitarian actors.
- Main Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was set up in Blantyre on 25th January. It will be based in Lilongwe from Monday 14th February and 2 sub EOCs opening up in Chikwawa and Nsanje

- UN and partners are assisting Government to rapidly assess immediate needs to inform the humanitarian response. A rapid interagency assessment is on the ground ascertaining the extent of damage and needs.
 - The emergency evacuation centres constructed with UN (UNDP) support have saved many lives, and are providing critical shelter.
 - DoDMA and Malawi Red Cross Society developed and disseminated warning messages about the storm. The messages were aired on different radios stations including community radios. The same messages were shared with District Councils and were disseminated through public address system in communities.
 - WFP is preparing its concept of operations to guide a 3-phased response (immediate response, response, recovery).
 - United Purpose has activated the crisis modifier under the EU-funded SoSuRe programme for recovery activities aligned to Mulanje assessment plan.

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- A total of 190,429 have been displaced in 15 affected districts and are being accommodated in camps established in schools, churches, mosques, health facilities, police units and some are camped on open spaces.
- There is urgent need for temporary shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs), and support of Camp Management and Camp Coordination for the IDPs.

Current Response

- DoDMA dispatched 48 tents for shelter in seven districts.
- Malawi Red Cross Society has provided 46 tents in six districts, 5,000 sleeping mats and 4,000 blankets.
- Gift of the Giver has provided tents in Nsanje and Chikwawa
- IOM trained National Trainer of Trainers (ToT) on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) before the floods.
- IOM conducted a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) baseline assessment in Phalombe, Mulanje, Chikwawa and Nsanje
- CRS Malawi, through support from BHA USAID and internal funding, is distributing 300 emergency shelter kits in Chikwawa and Phalombe. First distribution round was planned for Chikwawa on 4 and 5 February.





Situation and Need Analysis

- An estimated 131,144 children under-five; 39,083 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) have been affected.
- A total 3,348 under-five children and about 1,000 PLWs have been displaced from their homes and are living in camps. In addition, the camps are also hosting people with chronic diseases including AIDS and high blood pressure; as such, adverse conditions may worsen the already existing nutrition gaps amongst the people considering the prevailing poor food and dietary deficiency.
- There is an urgent need for nutritious food for the vulnerable groups in order avoid incidences of malnutrition.
- Nutrition assessments for children under 5, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and chronically ill persons.
- Supplementary feeding programs, and Therapeutic food (like Likuni Phala and Chiponde)
- Priority need to provide access to quality curative nutrition services through the most appropriate modalities, ensuring systematic identification, referral, and treatment of acutely malnourished cases in collaboration with the Health Sector.
- With cases of diarrhoea reported in the evacuation facilities and the impact of temporary displacement on food and nutrition security, there is an immediate need to establish a referral system for severe/critical cases of malnutrition.
- Procurement and distribution of RUTF, F100, F75 and antibiotics needed for treatment of children with SAM in all the affected districts
- Strengthen the quality and scale of preventative nutrition services for most vulnerable groups through the promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, micro-nutrient supplementation and optimal maternal nutrition.

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TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS



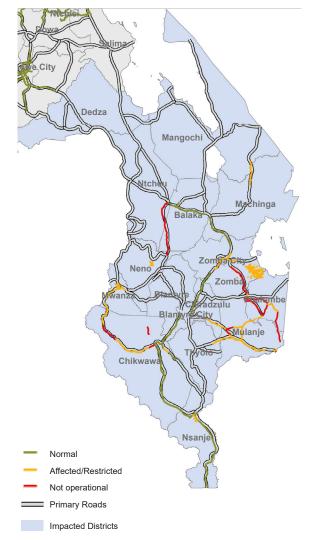


Situation and Need Analysis

- Key roads, bridges and culverts across the affected districts are hardly accessible or at risk of further damage if rains persist. Sections on 7 main tarmac roads, 10 secondary roads and numerous tertiary and district roads got washed away, making most of the affected areas, including evacuation camps, inaccessible by road.
- Power transmission lines (132KV and 66KV), distribution infrastructure (poles, broken jumpers and conductors), and generation stations were damaged, leading to reduced power generation from 385.8 MW to 194 MW.
- As a result, there is poor road access is negatively impacting the movement of supplies into the affected areas. Transport capacities need to be increased to sustain the humanitarian supply chain.
- Most parts of the country, including those affected by the tropical storm, had no power supply, disrupting the delivery of socio-economic

Current Response

- DoDMA activated and deployed the search and rescue team to Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mulanje and Phalombe districts where boats were dispatched to conduct search and rescue operations in the areas that were cut-off.
- The boats were provided by the Malawi Defence Force (MDF), Malawi Police Service and the Marine and Marine Department in the Ministry of Transport and Public Infrastructure.
- DoDMA engaged MDF to provide air services to support search and rescue services with aerial surveillance.
- The MDF helicopter which was used for search and rescue developed technical problem and was not in use during part of the search and rescue phase of the response
- African Parks were engaged to use their helicopter to transport humanitarian workers conducting disaster impact and needs assessment in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts. The helicopter from African Parks cannot be used for airlifting of relief supplies because it is small and can only carry utmost four people.
- WFP is providing transport support to DoDMA, the Marine Department and other partners to deliver food and relief items to affected populations. To date, over 100 MT of food and nonfood items have been transported for partners including Feed the Children and the Gift of Givers Foundation.
- Damaged roads, including affected sections of the main M1 highway, have been temporarily rehabilitated, increasing access to cut-off areas, and facilitating the delivery of relief items.
- WFP is mapping physical access constraints throughout the country in collaboration with the Roads Authority and the Government's Emergency Operations Centre Secretariat, Data is being updated regularly using the logistics information exchange tool (log:ie).
- Malawi Red Cross Boat in Chikwawa is supporting transporting ESCOM poles for restoration of powerlines.



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- Due to the impact of Tropical Storm ANA availability of food at household level was critically compromised as most of the affected population lost nearly all their food reserves.
- The commodities lost include maize grain, flour, different types of pulses and small fish. Additionally, the affected families lost a great share of their fields and natural assets both at community and household levels elements which are critical to sustain livelihoods among rural people.
- This also applies to the IDPs, including affected population from Mozambique. A total of 215,572 households were affected translating to 982,162 people with 29,975 households (134,88 people) displaced. The situation is critical for people that are living in camps as they lost almost all their items more especially food.
- Furthermore, the households who are hosting their displaced relatives are under high pressure to provide the essential items more especially food. Owing to this situation, there is need to urgently support the affected people with food assistance mainly cereals, pulses, oil and corn soy blend for under-five children, pregnant and lactating women for the prevention of malnutrition.

Current Response

- DoDMA has provided 125MT of maize flour, 988.4 MT of maize, 1,190MT of beans and 600MT of salt.
- WFP has begun distribution of fortified corn-soya blend in the four most-affected districts as part of its initial response to affected populations. Affected households in Chikwawa and Phalombe districts are receiving 12.5 kg of fortified corn-soya blend. Dispatches to the remaining worst-affected districts is ongoing and this immediate support is targeting some 21,000 households (around 95,000 persons).
- Partners in Health have provided 55,300 units of food and non-food items, such as maize flour, sugar, salt, soya pieces, beans, and cooking oil.
- With support from Kadale Consultants, United Purpose has procured 120 packets (5kg) of nutritious porridge to be distributed to 120 malnourished under-five children in camps in Mulanje from 5th February.
- United Purpose is collaborating with Welthungerhilfe (WHH) to support their distribution of 500 fuel efficient cooking stoves in camps in Chikwawa.



- Malawi Red Cross Society has supported with free phone calls to the HH to connect with their families suspected to be missing
- Malawi Red Cross Society has helped to reunify children with their parents who missed each other through a tracing request that they made.

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- Approximately 71,716 hectares (ha) of cropped area belonging to 91,016 households have been severely affected.
- These farming households have lost their crops (maize, ground nuts, soybeans, tobacco, Sesame, rice, cotton) through either complete wash away or submersion.
- On livestock 36,803 combined livestock species owned by 12,655 livestock keepers were either killed or injured by the floods.
- There is need to support affected households with farm inputs and livestock to improve the households' food security and sustain their livelihoods.
- Initial estimates show significant damage to crops. Nsanje and Chikwawa have been hardest hit, with rough estimates pointing towards one-third of all crops being lost.
- With 80 per cent of sampled communities reporting farming as the primary source of income, the most urgent needs are to distribute farm inputs, including maize seeds, fertilizers, potato vines, cassava cuttings.
- The immediate support for maize production should be done within two weeks, not later than 15 February 2022. The maize seed varieties should be those of early maturing that take 60 to 75 days to reach physiological maturity.
- Farmers need to be targeted to receive a minimum package to support winter crop production on an average land area of 0.1 ha with residual moisture and/or irrigation farming.
- Restocking of 620 cattle, 3,604 goats, 30 sheep, 1,448 pigs, 30,456 chickens and 117 rabbits.
- There is need for distribution of drugs, vaccines, acaricides and some veterinary equipment that should be used in case of disease outbreaks.
- Assessment needs to be conducted to determine specific damages on irrigation schemes.
- Seeds like maize, sweet potato vines, cassava cutting for replanting, and fertilizer ahead of the winter harvest or to take advantage of residual water.

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Population

Situation and Need Analysis

- A total of 945,728 people have been affected including 39,073 under-fives; 21,046 pregnant and lactating women (PLW); 10,165 people living with disabilities; and 2,619 elderlies.
- Access to protection, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and other essential services (social, legal, and security) has been disrupted.
- In addition, there is stress among protection workforce due to increased workload. As such, there is need for referral pathways and complaints and feedback mechanisms for reporting cases of violence. In addition, there is need for improved coordination among service providers and orientation of protection structures in provision of protection services, as well as provision of psychosocial and recreational materials.
- Development Communications Trust (DCT) through the Community Bwalo Social Accountability Committees in Chikwawa district are carrying out Communication for Development and community engagement activities targeting children and the youths in camps.
- These meetings have exposed some gaps relating to performance accountability of some structure members such as Village Civil Protection Committee (VCPC) and Area Civil Protection Committee (ACP) in handling donated items to the affected people in camps.

Current Response

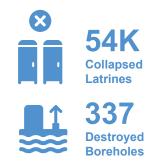
- Malawi Red Cross Society has distributed 460 dignity kits for women and girls.
- UNFPA prepositioned 6,600 dignity kits, and 700 have already been distributed in Nsanje camps. The rest are being transported to Mulanje, Nsanje and Chikwawa. This is being done in partnership with the district protection clusters at the district and other local CSOs such as FOCESE in Nsanje.
- UNFPA has dispatched services of a Reproductive Health officer to be based at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for continuous input into the DODMA plans.
- UNFPA has facilitated the reactivation of the GBV sub-cluster and a reporting template shared with partners for weekly progress on GBV response.
- CRS Malawi, through support from BHA USAID and internal funding, is providing awareness and access to protection and safeguarding mechanisms in the camps in Chikwawa and Phalombe.

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- A total of 53,962 latrines have collapsed, while 337 boreholes, 206 water taps, and 8 gravity-fed water schemes have been damaged.
- As a result, there is low sanitation coverage, limited access to safe water and poor hygienic practices. Some sites and communities reported of open defecation, while the few available water sources are contaminated.
- The impact of inadequate supply of water is worse for women and girls, particularly female headed households.
- In addition to the increased risk of cholera and other communicable diseases, it exposes women and girls to the risk of rape and sexual assault in search for water.
- As such, safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene services are immediately needed to address water, sanitation and hygiene issues. Furthermore, there is need for rehabilitation of toilets to avoid infectious and waterborne diseases.

Current Response

- UNICEF partner, the Malawi Red Cross, is on the ground supporting the distribution of WASH-related non-food items (NFIs) that were delivered to the Nsanje and Chikwawa districts, including water treatment chemicals and supplies for sanitation and hygiene adequate to reach 15,000 people.
- Save the Children has distributed WASH items like plates, buckets, water treatment chlorine, and soap.
- Malawi Red Cross Society has distributed several WASH items such as buckets (2,080 HH and 312 camp based and soap (11000 tablets of bath soap).
- Malawi Red Cross has distributed 5,850 boxes of face masks
- United Purpose has distributed 1,800 buckets (20L) to 17 camps in Mulanje districts, using UNICEF funding.
- CRS Malawi, through support from BHA USAID and internal funding, is distributing 1,400 WASH kits and 700 NFI kits in Chikwawa and Phalombe, and is promoting hygiene in the camps in the two districts.
- Concern Worldwide has distributed 15,000 bars of soap to 2,000 displaced households in Nsanje, Mwanza and Neno.

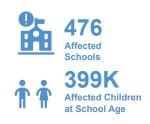
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Situation and Needs Analysis

- A total of 476 schools in 22 education districts were affected, disrupting access to education for 398,908 learners (201,135 boys; 197,773 girls). Classroom blocks, teachers' houses, latrines, administration blocks, libraries, dormitories, kitchens, feeding shelters and boreholes are some of the infrastructure damaged. The TLM damaged include textbooks, exercise books, chalk, dusters and teacher reference materials.
- Influx of IDPs in schools has further disrupted teaching and learning processes. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in schools is another area that has been affected and is compromised because of damaged water points. The presence of IDPs in schools has also put pressure on already inadequate latrines in school premises.
- There is immediate need to replace TLMs and provide for temporary learning spaces to sustain teaching and learning in affected schools. In addition, learners need recreational facilities to keep them active and to stimulate critical thinking; hence recreation kits are needed in all affected schools. Volunteer teachers will also be required on short-term to assist with provision of remedial classes to make up for the lost school days.
- The volunteer teachers will also assist in provision of psychosocial support to learners as well as reinforcing adherence to WASH minimum standards and provision of child protection services. On a medium to long-term basis, a detailed assessment is needed to establish effects and impacts as well as quantify and cost needs for building back better and smarter.

Current Response

- UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education and the education cluster to get initial indications of the impact on schools to determine the initial support to be provided to affected schools.
- UNICEF has in stock 400 extra materials for school in a box education kits, 100 recreation kits, 100 early childhood development kits and 30 (72msq) tents, located in a warehouse in the southern region.
- Additional supplies are available in Lilongwe including 600 blackboards for setting up temporary learning spaces, 378 extra materials for school in a box education kits, 47 recreation kits, 98 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits and 6 tents (72msq). UNICEF has also procured 700 boxes of surgical masks to be distributed in schools, given that the current emergency has occurred in the context of COVID-19.

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- In the southern region, 47 health facilities have been affected in the form of infrastructural damage, power cuts, loss of drugs, damage of medical equipment, fridges, vaccines, and other supplies.
- An estimated 126,000 people are expected to be affected by cholera and other disease outbreaks such as measles, eye infections, typhoid, skin conditions and Malaria.
- Poor sanitation conditions in the sites and the presence of stagnant pools of water provide conducive environment for mosquito breeding that might increase incidences of malaria and also lead to other waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea.
- In addition, there is congestion in some camps that may facilitate transmission of infectious diseases which may culminate into disease outbreaks, including Covid-19.
- There are 21,865 pregnant women who are internally displaced and residing in camps who will require delivery kits. Therefore, these will need essential health care medicines and supplies.
- Other reproductive health services for women of childbearing age will include family planning, dignity kits, and post abortion care. In addition, 1,071,000 under five children will require integrated child health services; while 93,500 severely acute malnourished under-five children will require medical services in nutrition rehabilitation units. There is need to ensure internally displaced persons have access to TB, HIV/ART, NCD services.

Current Response

- UNFPA has supported repairs to 2-generators in Nsanje DHO, which were not functional. This has enabled the hospital to have electricity available for the continuity of maternal and neonatal health (MNH) services.
- Malawi Govt has provided 16,000 units of non-food items such as basins, pails, plates, cups and clothes.
- UNICEF, through partner United Purpose is sending 2,000 plastic buckets to Mulanje to reach about 1,000 households for collection and storage of drinking water. UNICEF is further working on dispatching additional supplies to Mulanje, Phalombe, Mangochi and Balaka.
- Save the Children has distributed about 2,245 units of items like mosquito nets, blankets, and dignity kits.
- Malawi Red Cross Society has distributed about 372,000 units of non-food items, such as mosquito nets, dignity kits, life jackets, and COVID-19 PPEs.
- Concern Worldwide distributed Non-Food Items (including mosquito nets, blankets, plastic sheeting, dinner plates and cups) to 500 displaced households and plastic sheets to a further 2,000 displaced households in Nsanje, Mwanza and Neno.

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