Malawi: Responding to Humanitarian needs and Strengthening Resilience to Restore Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods

Highlights

- After heavy rains that blanketed the southern third of Malawi with 400% higher rainfall than average in early January, the President of Malawi on 13 January declared a state of national disaster across 15 districts.

- Since last week, WFP has dispatched 550 MT of food to reach more than 70,000 displaced people (14,000 households) and aims to scale-up to reach some 150,000 people (27,000 households) by the end of the week.

- WFP has also airlifted High Energy Biscuits into the country from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Dubai for immediate distribution to the affected population in areas that remain largely cut-off.

Situation Update

- Parts of the southern region continue to receive light to moderate rainfall. As soils are already saturated, additional flooding remains a concern. Moderate to heavy rains are expected in the northern half of Malawi.

- Loss of household food supply, reduced access to food, displacement and disruption of other food interventions are pushing the affected population into food insecurity.

- WFP is working closely with the government and UN humanitarian country team to expedite and scale-up an urgent food response to the flood.

WFP Response

- WFP participated in an interagency assessment in the worst affected districts (Nsanje and Chikwawa), which found 174,000 people (31,600 households) affected by floods. WFP is working with UNDAC and the government on further analyses and estimates at the national level as the situation evolves.

- As part of a government-led education assessment team, WFP assessed the flood impact on schools. More than 200 affected schools were identified that are critically in need of school meals and/or infrastructure support.

Food Assistance

- Under overall coordination of the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, WFP is coordinating food assistance for the floods response in all 15 affected districts with its partners.

In numbers

- **638,000** people affected
- **15** districts affected
- **264,000** people displaced
- **370,000** people in need of food assistance

Funding Update (shortfalls):

- **PRRO 200692**: US$ 17 million (January 2015 - July 2015)
- **IR-EMOP 200810**: US$ 982,000 (January 2015)
WFP has already started moving to flood affected areas stocks of food. Starting from last week, WFP moved stocks of maize, beans, fortified vegetable oil and Super Cereal to Chikwawa, Phalombe and Mulanje districts to reach some 70,000 displaced people. Distributions are ongoing.

- WFP airlifted some 77 MT of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Dubai into Malawi. These fortified ready-to-eat biscuits are being prioritised for immediate distribution to 77,000 vulnerable displaced people who have no access to markets or cooking facilities in the hardest hit districts, Nsanje and Chikwawa, especially those who are entirely cut off.

- Typically during flood emergencies due to increased disease burden, acute malnutrition rises. The biscuits are fortified with vitamins and minerals and the ration of 200g/day provides 100 percent of the micronutrient requirements, helping to contribute to malnutrition prevention among the flood-affected population – especially children.

- Under the government-led food security cluster, WFP is quickly scaling up assistance to reach some 370,000 flood-affected people, of which some 264,000 are estimated to be displaced.

**Logistics**

- WFP is deploying boats and a helicopter to ensure delivery of biscuits and other humanitarian cargo to flood-affected areas that remain entirely cut off.

- WFP has logistics experts in the country to support assessments and operations, as well as to assess the need for logistics augmentation to support the overall delivery of food and non-food relief assistance for the floods response.

**Clusters**

- Local coordination of the response is through a government-led and UN co-led cluster system (i.e. working groups), through which WFP co-leads clusters on food security and logistics, and actively participates in the agriculture, education and nutrition clusters. Cluster response plans are feeding into the national response plan.

- As result of the government cluster system, the UN’s Interagency Standing Committee clusters have not been activated.

**Partnerships**

- To facilitate beneficiary sensitisation, targeting and registration and distribution of the food assistance, WFP is working with the same NGO partners selected for the lean season relief response, which was planned for December to March in all but two of the flood-affected districts (Mangochi and Chiradzulu). WFP has identified additional partners to work with in these two districts as well as in districts where cash-based lean season food assistance was planned (Salima and Nsanje).

**Resourcing Update**

- Using initial estimates, the total estimated requirement is 26,000 MT at an estimated cost of US$ 17 million. Needs may increase as the situation continues to evolve. To date, WFP has received no donor contribution.

- The Government of Malawi has agreed to contribute 14,000 MT of maize from its Strategic Grain Reserves. Associate costs are urgently needed to draw-down, transport and distribute the government’s in-kind contribution.

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## WFP Operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Duration</th>
<th>Planned number of people</th>
<th>Total requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Total received (in US$)</th>
<th>6 month Shortfall (%)</th>
<th>People Assisted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5 months</td>
<td>104,616</td>
<td>3,030,926</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>104,616 *</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.5 months</td>
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<td>263,566 *</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* These figures are still being reconciled