



**WFP MALAWI**  
**SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200685**

Country:	Malawi
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Aviation Services, Logistics Augmentation and Cluster Coordination in Response to Floods in Malawi
Total cost (US\$):	1,146,847
Duration:	2 months (29 January – 30 March 2015)

### **Executive Summary**

In the first two weeks of January, 2015, heavy seasonal rain caused extensive flash floods and widespread displacement in Malawi. The Government of Malawi declared a State of National Disaster on January 13<sup>th</sup>, designating 15 of the country's 28 districts as disaster zones. According to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC), as of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the number of displaced people stood at an estimated 264,000 whereas the total caseload of affected people is assessed at 638,000 people, of whom 370,000 are in immediate need of food assistance.

Appeals have been made for tents, food, non-food items, and support in search and rescue activities. In many of the hardest hit areas, roads and bridges have been washed away, hampering access to people in need and posing significant challenges to conducting assessments.

Torrential rains have wiped out thousands of hectares of crops and washed away livestock, which could have disastrous consequences on the country's agrarian and subsistence economy.

The Government of Malawi, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, has appealed to the international community for support on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015. International relief efforts are ongoing, including the deployment of a UNDAC, with a seconded WFP Logistics Officer since the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Several "National Clusters" including Transport, Logistics, and Communications were activated by the Government of Malawi comprising relevant Government Ministries and departments, UN Agencies, cooperating partners and Non-Governmental Organizations. The clusters will be responsible for identification of needs within the cluster and ensuring that the needs are addressed.

Reporting and coordination is being strengthened as emergency operations are being established, and a multi-sectoral response is being developed. Through this Special Operation, WFP, as lead agency for the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications clusters, will support the relief efforts of the Government of Malawi and the international humanitarian community. The operation provides for the

assets, equipment, staff, systems, and facilities necessary to ensure logistics coordination and augmentation in terms of:

- Air transport services;
- Logistics Cluster information management and coordination;
- Provision of common services including support from the Logistics Cluster (cargo consolidation, handling storage, road, etc);
- Civil Military Coordination, as and if required; and
- An Emergency Telecommunications Cluster assessment of current IT network capacities, and provision of IT connectivity and data services to the humanitarian community as and if required.

## **Project Background**

1. 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 (Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Mulanje, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Ntcheu, Salima, Rumphu and Karonga ) out of the 28 in the country.
2. The most affected districts are Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe. Floodwaters up to 3 meters high have made access to some areas possible only by helicopter. Vast swathes of Nsanje and East Bank districts are completely submerged, and tens of thousands of people in the southern tip of Malawi have been cut off without access to food, clean water, healthcare, electricity or ways to prevent possible disease outbreaks.
3. To date, it is estimated that 638,000 people have been affected, of whom 370,000 are in immediate need of food assistance. Affected vulnerable, poor groups are at greater risk of future food and livelihood insecurity.
4. Shelter, Food, Health, WASH, Camp Management, and Logistics support remain operational priorities
5. Given the scale of the disaster, the state of infrastructure, and limited resources available, the Government has requested the activation of inter-sectoral coordination groups. As lead agency of the Logistics Cluster and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), WFP will be coordinating and streamlining assets and resources available on ground.
6. The availability of reliable and independent data and voice communications services and their ability to support humanitarian relief operations still needs to be assessed.

## **Project Justification**

7. Given the scale of the emergency and identified humanitarian needs, WFP seeks to augment its logistical and air transport capacity to ensure that sufficient common logistics services, staff, and equipment are in place to support the relief operations of the humanitarian community and the Government of Malawi. This will complement air transport capacity for WFP food already provided under IR-EMOP 200810.
8. Lack of access to affected regions due to inundation, blocked roads, and damaged infrastructure is a significant constraint on the ability of responding organizations to meet the needs of the affected population. Additionally, the geographic area affected by inundation is extensive and ongoing flooding is increasing the potential for logistics obstacles on operations. This is further exacerbated by the difficulties in collecting information on the condition of transport infrastructure, and communications problems are limiting the ability to assess the needs required to support the humanitarian response. Thus, an effective and efficient air transport service is needed to reach beneficiaries trapped in areas accessible only by helicopter.
9. The main logistics needs identified include air and transport services to reach affected areas, as well as limited interagency storage. Additionally, logistics coordination and information services are required; provision has been for an assessment of emergency telecommunications needs should it turns out that it is required.
10. To avoid possible bottlenecks in the delivery of relief assistance, WFP will support the relief efforts of the Government of Malawi by offering the Government and the humanitarian community logistics, coordination, and information management support in its role as lead agency of the logistics cluster. Provisions for Civil Military Coordination will be made as and if needed.
11. Additionally, primary assessments are needed to see whether national telecommunications system and services in country were destroyed in the affected area and if there is MOSS compliant communication infrastructure in place with services meeting the operational requirements for an effective response.

## **Project Objective(s)**

The main objectives of this operation are to:

- Facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected population by augmenting the logistics and air capacity of WFP and the rest of the humanitarian community through the;
  - a. Deployment of sufficient air services to provide access to affected areas, deliver lifesaving cargo and facilitate aerial damage assessments;
  - b. Deployment of emergency interagency road transport services, as and if needed;

- c. Set up of temporary storage facilities and office space, as well as cargo consolidation points as and if needed;
  - d. Assessment of ETC networks; and
  - e. Deployment of aviation and logistics personnel.
- If and when needed, to provide a coordinated, predictable, timely and efficient ETC response in the provision of standard data and security communications services;
  - f. To ensure comprehensive and reliable emergency telecommunications and data connectivity networks and services for the humanitarian community;
  - g. To improve the capability of the humanitarian community to coordinate the response, and operate throughout the flood-affected area.
- Facilitate efficient logistics coordination and information management in support of the humanitarian community under the Cluster approach.

The objectives of this Special Operation are linked to WFP's Strategic Objective 1 "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies".

### **Project Implementation**

12. As the lead agency for Logistic Cluster, WFP will set up a coordination team, which will work closely with the government to identify gaps and bottlenecks in the humanitarian response.
13. This Special Operation accommodates the essential logistics and air transport requirements to ensure the delivery of key relief items to the affected population and the necessary logistics information management and coordination support to the Malawi Government and the humanitarian community to respond to the crisis.
14. Given the rapidly evolving situation on the ground, the below implementation plan will be revised as and when needed. Initially, activities will include:
  - a. Air services:  
One light/medium helicopter will be chartered for a period of one month in order to facilitate aerial damage assessments, move humanitarian personnel and provide lifesaving cargo. Suitably qualified WFP Aviation staff will be deployed to manage the air transport component of the Special Operation.
  - b. Road transport:  
Road transport is planned in form of shunting activities by road from storage hubs to distribution points and helicopter lifting points as required. The establishment of a dedicated commercial fleet to secure humanitarian capacity is envisaged and catered for.
  - c. Temporary Storage Facilities and Operational Hubs in the affected regions:



The Special Operation caters for the set-up of fully equipped operation centers that may include cargo consolidation and temporary storage facilities as well as office facilities and the associated telecommunications infrastructure required, as and if needed. The operation also provides for the necessary operations support equipment, including generators, pallets, tarpaulins etc.

- d. Logistics Cluster Coordination and Information Management:  
Logistics Cluster Cells will be established in Bangula and Blantyre as needed, with possible representation in Lilongwe. A Logistics Cluster Coordinator, Logistics Officer, and Information Management Officer will be deployed to support the response effort. The Logistics Cluster will coordinate the logistics operation based on priorities set by the humanitarian community and the Malawi Government via standard channels of the Logistics Cluster.
- e. Cargo Tracking:  
The Logistics Cluster's Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) may be deployed to monitor the transportation of relief cargo on behalf of the humanitarian community. A dedicated cargo tracking officer may be deployed to support the implementation of RITA.
- h. Civil Military Coordination: WFP and the Logistics Cluster will liaise with the National and international military entities to coordinate on all civil military issues as needed. WFP and the Logistics Cluster will focus primarily on logistics operational and strategic coordination for the use of military assets in relief activities.
- i. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)  
The ETC will conduct an assessment to gauge the status of preexisting telecommunications systems in country. If needed, provisions for an emergency telecommunications intervention will be made through a budget revision.

## **Project Management**

15. The Country Director will be the fund manager for this Special Operation. The Logistics Coordinator will be project manager and will be leading the different logistics services. The Chief Air Transport Officer will manage the air operations component. The ETC assessment will be conducted by FITTEST. The Country Director will be the Funds Manager and the Head of Finance will be the Allotment Manager.

## **Project Cost and Benefits**

16. This Special Operation has a total cost of US\$ 1,146,847.

## **Monitoring & Evaluation**

The key performance indicators are:

- Number of aerial assessments carried out against number of requests;

- Tonnage of cargo transported against requested quantities by air;
- Number of air passengers transported against number requested; Tonnage of cargo transported against requested quantities by road;
- Number of logistics hubs established;
- Number of agencies and organizations using storage facilities;
- Number of agencies and organizations using logistics coordination services;
- Number of bulletins, maps, and other logistics information being produced and shared;
- The number of humanitarian organizations utilizing the service and number of locations served; and
- Number of ETC assessments conducted – Target: 1.

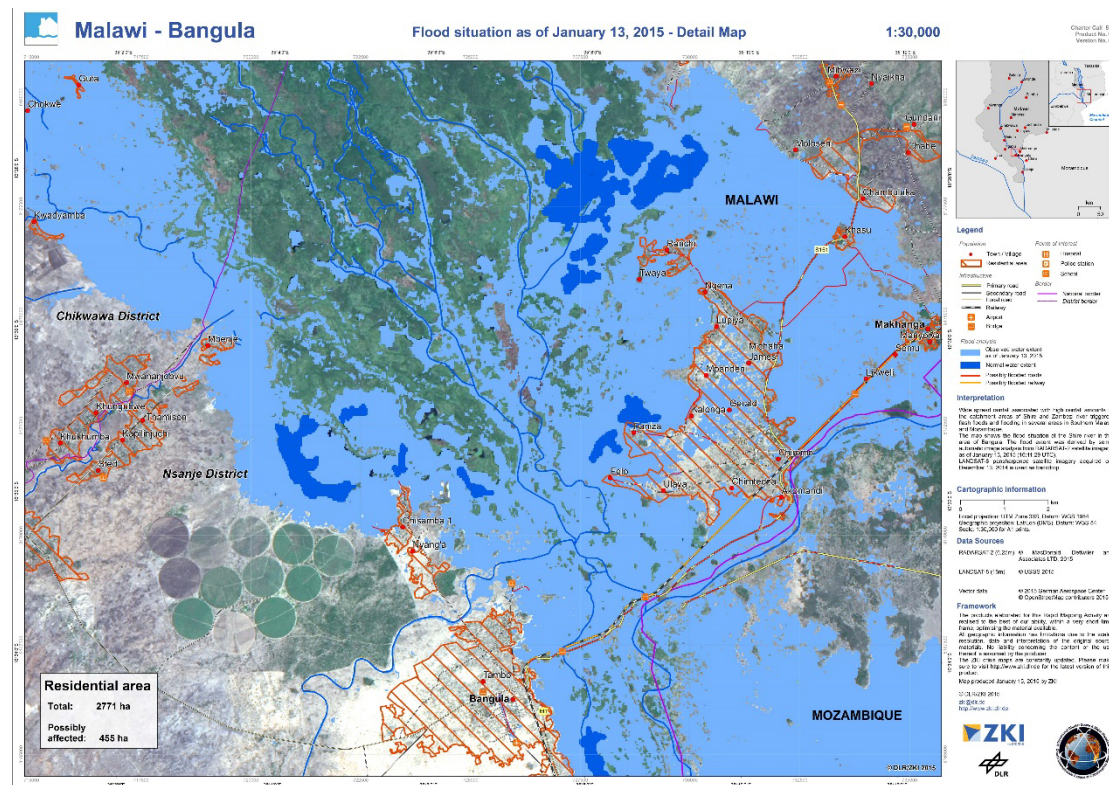
## **RECOMMENDATION**

This Special Operation covering the period from 29 January to 30 March 2015 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 1,146,847, is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, under the Executive Director's delegated authority, with the budget provided.

## **APPROVAL**

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 Ertharin Cousin  
 Executive Director

## Annex 1



## Annex 2

