



Malawi Cyclone Ana Situation report – 28 January 2021

Davison Marko and his grandfather Thom Chikopa on return to the rubble of what used to be their home for the past five years © UNICEF Malawi/2022/HD Plus

Highlights

On 26 January 2022, the state President issued a declaration of disaster in all the districts of Malawi that have been affected by the Cyclone Ana induced floods and storms.

As of 27 January 2022, more than 90,000 people are reported to have been affected with over 17,000 displaced and seeking temporary shelter in about 200,000 displacement sites across the affected areas.

Schools in Southern Malawi resumed on 26 January after a temporary closure on 25 January when the rainfall activities were most intense.

An interagency rapid assessment is on the ground ascertaining the extent of damage and immediate needs. UNICEF is participating in the assessment mainly supporting WASH, education, protection, and nutrition clusters.

Chikwawa and Nsanje districts remain inaccessible following complete cut-off of sections of the main road that connect Blantyre and the lower shire districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje.

UNICEF partner, Malawi Red Cross, is on the ground supporting the distribution of the WASH non-food items (NFIs) that were delivered to Nsanje and Chikwawa districts. These supplies include water treatment chemical and supplies for sanitation and hygiene adequate to reach 15,000 people. Additional supplies that UNICEF prepositioned flood highly prone districts ahead of the rain season are also available for use in the initial response period while UNICEF is planning to dispatch additional items

Situation Overview

On 21 January 2022, a tropical depression that formed to the north east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean travelled into the Mozambique channel where it intensified developing into a moderate tropical storm ANA on Sunday 23 January 2022. The moderate tropical storm ANA made a landfall on the Mozambique coast around midday on Monday 24 January 2022 and later headed for southern Malawi.

MALAWI COVID-19 Situation Report



Cyclone Ana Situation in numbers as of 28 January 2022

91,742 people affected by Cyclone Ana induced floods and storms

17,490 displaced

20 deaths

430 injuries

17 missing

430 injuries

The cyclone has caused serious damage and loss of lives in the southern and central regions. As of 27 January 2022, more than 90,000 people are reported to have been affected by the Cyclone Ana induced floods and storms with over 17,000 displaced and seeking temporary shelter in about 200,000 displacement sites. Lives of 20 people are reported to have been lost, while two people are reported missing, and 1,130 people have sustained injuries of various degrees.

Nineteen (19) health facilities in the districts of Mangochi (2), Thyolo (2), Nsanje (4), Chikwawa (5) and Neno (6) were either flooded or had their roof blown off. This has affected the delivery of service at those facilities and destroyed medicines including the cold chain equipment (yet to ascertain the number after the assessments are complete). Houses have been destroyed leading to displacement of people from their homes and establishment of displacement sites to provide shelter to those affected. Water and sanitation facilities have either been destroyed or submerged, potentially polluting many sources; with the likelihood of water and sanitation related disease outbreaks.

There has also been serious damage on a power plant leading to disruption of power supply across the country. Roads (both main roads and feeder roads) have been seriously damaged with Chikwawa and Nsanje still inaccessible following complete cut-off of sections of the main road that connects Blantyre and Chikwawa. Schools in southern Malawi resumed on 26 January after a temporary closure on 25 January when the rainfall activities were most intense.

Under leadership of the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, an interagency rapid assessment is on the ground ascertaining the extent of damage and immediate needs. Access to the affected areas is however a challenge given the bad condition of the roads. UNICEF is participating in the assessment mainly supporting WASH, education, protection, and nutrition clusters.

Programme response by UNICEF and partners

UNICEF is providing immediate lifesaving and sustaining assistance to populations affected, while also investing in resilience-building interventions. This support focuses on people that are in displacement sites in the worst affected districts. UNICEF is delivering services through multi-sectoral responses in child protection, education, health, nutrition, social protection, and WASH, supported by community engagement activities. UNICEF is also supporting the rescue mission using a boat which is operating mostly in Nsanje district.

Humanitarian Strategy

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 lead 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, while also playing a key role in the Health cluster.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

UNICEF partner Malawi Red Cross is on the ground is supporting the distribution of the WASH nonfood items (NFIs) that were delivered to Nsanje and Chikwawa districts in the previous week. These supplies include water treatment chemical and supplies for sanitation and hygiene which are adequate to reach 15,000 people. In addition, UNICEF through partner United Purpose is sending 2,000 plastic buckets to Mulanje that will reach about 1,000 households for collection and storage of drinking water. UNICEF is further working on dispatching, in the week beginning 31 January, additional supplies to Mulanje, Phalombe, Mangochi and Balaka.

Although there are no figures yet of the destroyed WASH infrastructure, indications are that the situation is not good and that people desperately need safe water for drinking and other household use; they need sanitation and hygiene facilities and they need WASH NFI's for the prevention of water related disease outbreaks such as cholera.

Education

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of education and the education cluster get initial indications of the impact on schools to determine the initial support to be provided to affected schools while the interagency assessment is establishing the detailed picture for the education sectors. From the preliminary information, needs for the education sector include provision of temporary learning shelter for schools that are damaged or hosting IDP, temporary latrines in school hosting displaced people, dignity kits, teaching and learning materials and rehabilitation of damaged school infrastructure.

UNICEF has, in stock in a southern region located warehouse, 400 extra materials for school in a box education kits, 100 recreation kits, 100 early childhood development kits and 30 (72msq) tents. 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 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 occurs in the context of COVID-19.

Child protection

Urgent needs for the protection cluster include

- Deployment of staff to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to affected populations
- Provision of protection services for prevention and response to violence including SGBV
- Establishment of safe spaces and provision of recreational materials
- Strengthening of complaints and feedback mechanisms
- Putting in place measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse
- Provision of safety and security for displace populations especially women and children
- Provision of clothes especially for children
- Mainstreaming protection in other cluster activities
- Provision of case management services to victims of violence and abuse.

UNICEF has supported strengthening coordination in Machinga, Blantyre, Mwanza, Mzimba and Nkhatabay. UNICEF has available in the warehouse recreational kits that will be distributed to children's corners in the affected districts. Child protection partners at district level with UNICEF funds will be requested to include emergency response activities in their plans. These include WVI in Blantyre and Lilongwe, Nkhoma Synod in partnership with Blantyre Synod in Blantyre, Zomba, Machinga, Dedza and Lilongwe and District Councils in Dedza, Blantyre, Mchinji and Machinga.

Nutrition

Health

The challenges facing the health sector include among others destroyed health facilities plus medicines and equipment, lack of access to reach the IDPs, lack of communication for communities to request for medical evacuation and rescue services, impending disease outbreaks (waterborne, vaccine preventable diseases).

UNICEF through Malawi Red Cross society, prepositioned supplies that included for (4) interagency kits (IHEK) and 16 tents in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Neno, Mangochi and Blantyre districts.

Critical issues that need urgent attention to save lives include:

- Ambulance service (boats, Choppers and 4X4 vehicles) to rescue patients from cutoff areas and operationalization of mobile clinics to provide treatment to the sick.
- 300,000 mosquito nets require to be distributed to affected households.
- Essential drugs in the affected communities especially for children under five years.
- Rollout of Measles and Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) vaccination to avoid outbreaks among children aged 1 – 15 years.
- Active disease surveillance and response to prevent occurrence of outbreaks and prepare for rapid response.
- Additional IHEK, cholera and malaria kits.
- Support to districts to collect and analysis real time data
- Deployment of drones to airlift critical supplies may be required.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF is in the process of developing a response plan including the funding requirements for the response.

Next SitRep: 4 February 2021

Who to contact for further information:

Rudolf Schwenk
Representative, Malawi
E-mail: rschwenk@unicef.org

Fungma Fudong
Chief of Communications,
E-mail: ffudong@unicef.org

Matteo Frontini
Community Development and
Resilience Chief of Section
E-mail: mfrontini@unicef.org