



Flooded village in Nsanje District, Southern Region.
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OVERVIEW

Since January 2015, heavy rains have affected 15 districts in Malawi resulting in the displacement of approximately 230,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), most of whom are located in the Southern Region, as reported on 24 February 2015 by the Government of Malawi (GoM) and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The GoM declared a State of Disaster mid-January, and a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team was deployed to support the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in assessing the situation throughout the country. The joint inter-agency field assessments identified the following critical needs:

- Technical support for improved Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Emergency Shelter Coordination;
- Systematic and comprehensive data collection and registration of displaced communities;
- Provision of emergency shelter and life-saving non-food items (NFIs).

HIGHLIGHTS

IDP site assessments in **six flood-affected districts** completed using Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

70 camp monitors in flood-affected communities have received Camp Coordination and Camp Management training and **12 CCCM-trained officials** deployed to IDP sites

800 non-food item emergency relief kits distributed in the Bitilinyu IDP site, Nsanje district

In response to ongoing needs in the most flood-affected districts, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is providing emergency support in the following areas as well as technical support to the Government of Malawi and the joined CCCM & Shelter Cluster for improved coordination and response to the needs of those displaced.

IOM RESPONSE

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a data collection system which allows tracking and monitoring of displaced populations. The data helps the humanitarian community map displacement sites, adjust IDP figures, and assess needs, gaps, vulnerabilities and mobility of the displaced population. The main objective of DTM activities is to provide the Government of Malawi and the humanitarian community with accurate and timely information on the population displaced in sites by the current floods, in order to inform and improve targeting of humanitarian assistance.



IOM conducts IDP site assessment, Nsanje.
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The DTM assessments are being carried out by IOM staff and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, including Save the Children and Sustainable Rural Community Development (SURCOD), with the support of local government officers in the six most affected districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Mulanje and Blantyre.

Approximately 250 displacement sites had been identified by DoDMA and the humanitarian community during preliminary assessments conducted in January and February 2015 but specific information regarding site locations, demographics and information related to IDP needs was lacking. In response to requests for assistance from the GoM and the international community, IOM has deployed staff with extensive experience in establishing data collection systems for IDPs in various emergencies and created a 45-person team for the DTM project.

On 25 and 26 February, IOM's DTM and camp management experts led a data processing workshop in Blantyre. Participants included data processing assistants from six districts— Blantyre Rural, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Nsanje, Phalombe, and Zomba—who received

formal instruction on the organization and uploading of data gathered as part of the first phase of DTM—Master List update.

In addition, IOM has provided district-level DTM monitoring and site assessment support. Between 27 February and 1 March, IOM conducted field visits to all six target districts to attend pre-assessment meetings, observe full site assessments with partners in select areas, review completed site assessment forms and provide feedback, provide guidance on site assessment methodology, and discuss managerial and logistical challenges.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

As the Global CCCM Cluster lead for natural disasters, IOM works in partnership with key government actors and national stakeholders to enhance capacity in coordination and management of displacement situations, based on general principles of disaster risk reduction and protection. IOM is currently implementing a regional disaster risk management project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) that will help strengthen the national capacity of key disaster risk management stakeholders and protect and assist displaced and at-risk populations in six target countries in Southern Africa—Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia. In Malawi, IOM is partnering with DoDMA, which highlighted camp coordination and camp management training as a critical need prior to the onset of floods in January 2015.

Country-level activities under this project include national CCCM training using a curriculum based on the IOM Global CCCM training package, adapted to the local displacement scenarios in the Malawian context, as well as national disaster risk management training, using a curriculum based on local contingency planning and disaster management policies. In 2014, IOM conducted trainings that led to the deployment of 12 CCCM-trained camp managers to affected districts during the current flood response. Between 12 and 14 February 2015, IOM worked closely with Action Aid, Concern Worldwide, and the Malawian Red Cross to facilitate refresher training courses for deployed CCCM-trained camp managers.

IOM continues to facilitate adapted training sessions to address skills gaps among acting camp monitors at displacement sites, local civil protection actors, Malawi

Red Cross and key NGO partners. To help support overall camp coordination efforts, IOM has deployed a regional level CCCM coordinator, who is currently based in Blantyre and supports improved information sharing, field level coordination and technical support to the merged CCCM/Shelter Cluster.



IOM conducts IDP site assessment, Nsanje.
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SHELTER

Six weeks from the onset of heavy rains and flooding, the emergency shelter needs in southern Malawi remain high. The procurement of timber, tarps and shelter tools has been completed and will be used by IOM to construct emergency shelters for IDPs whose homes have been destroyed, and to create shelter kits for households who are able to return to their homes to conduct repairs. An IOM shelter expert has been deployed to ensure the scale up of IOM's shelter response in affected districts, as well as to provide technical support to other partners involved in shelter interventions in Malawi, including site planning. As part of its shelter interventions, IOM will partner with

Samaritan's Purse to construct emergency shelters in Zomba and Phalombe districts.

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF ITEMS

Many communities in flood-affected areas were forced to flee their homes with without belongings. To help address the need for critical relief items, IOM—with the support of the Malawian Red Cross Society—distributed 800 NFI kits at the Bitilinyu IDP site in Nsanje district between 24 and 27 February. The kits included blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and carry bags. The village heads, camp committee members, and the local councillor all played a role in the distribution.



IOM distributes NFIs in Nsanje.
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PARTNERSHIPS

IOM is working closely with government and NGO partners in Malawi to ensure project activities build on existing capacities and knowledge of the country and are aligned with ongoing humanitarian efforts. Current partners include Concern World Wide, All Hands Volunteers, Save the Children, and Samaritan's Purse.

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