



Flooded village in Nsanje District, Southern Region.  
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## OVERVIEW

Since January 2015, heavy rains and flooding have resulted in the displacement of approximately 230,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), most of whom are located in six districts in the Southern Region of Malawi. Preliminary inter-agency assessments conducted in February by a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), identified approximately 250 displacement sites.

A preliminary round of Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) site assessments conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in early February, indicate that of 253 sites visited, 191 sites remain open and 62 have closed since the onset of the floods.

Armed with more up-to-date information regarding the location and total number of IDPs, and in response to ongoing needs in the most severely affected districts, IOM is providing direct assistance to IDPs as well as technical support to the Government of Malawi (GoM) and the joint Camp Coordination and Camp

## HIGHLIGHTS

According to preliminary [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\) assessments](#), 56 per cent of the total IDP population resides in only 25 sites

The estimated total population in the 191 open displacement sites is 173,000 IDPs, comprising approximately 43,000 households

To date, 105 camp monitors and civil protection committee members in flood-affected communities have received Camp Coordination and Camp Management training

An initial 200 households in Mchere, Nsanje district are receiving emergency shelter support from IOM

Management (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 that allows tracking and monitoring of displaced populations. The main objective of DTM activities is to provide the GoM and the humanitarian community with accurate and timely information on the population residing at displacement sites to inform and improve targeting of humanitarian assistance.

On 6 March, IOM, in collaboration with non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and with the support of local government officers, completed the first round of DTM assessments in the six flood-affected districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Mulanje and Blantyre.

Key preliminary findings of the first phase of site assessments include:

- Of the 253 displacement sites visited and assessed by IOM in Blantyre Rural, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Nsanje, Phalombe, and Zomba districts, 191 remain open and 62 sites are now closed;
- The estimated total population in the 191 open displacement sites is 173,000 IDPs, comprising approximately 43,000 households;
- Approximately 56 per cent of the total estimated IDP population resides in only 25 sites, each hosting more than 500 IDP households;
- The majority of IDPs were identified in Nsanje District (46.4 per cent of total) and Phalombe District (18.6 per cent of total);
- The estimated IDP population in the open sites comprises 58 per cent females and 42 per cent males;
- The vast majority of IDPs—74 per cent of the total estimated IDP population—reside in sites that were created spontaneously following the floods. Planned and pre-identified sites comprise only 13 and 12 per cent of the total number of sites, respectively;
- The average household size among the IDP population in open sites is 4.1.

The dynamics of flood- and heavy rains-induced displacement in southern Malawi are fluid. New sites have opened since the first phase of the DTM began, whilst other sites have closed. IOM recommends to the humanitarian community the adoption of the current population and location data as the most reliable

information available on displacement sites, which can facilitate planning, prioritization and identification of humanitarian gaps for IDPs in Malawi.

A follow-up round of comprehensive assessments of open sites are currently underway and the full report is scheduled for release the week of 16 March. Types of data that IOM seeks to capture in the current round of assessments include multi-sector site-level data that is focused on specific humanitarian needs and gaps. DTM is a continuous assessment tool with ongoing verification exercises continuing to improve the integrity and scope of data and will be adjusted to reflect the evolving context and information needs to best serve the needs of GoM and the humanitarian community.



IOM conducts key informant interviews at Mkwela IDP site, Zomba District. © IOM 2015 (Photo: IOM DTM team)

### CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Between 12 February and 5 March, IOM facilitated adapted training sessions at displacement sites to address skills gaps among acting camp monitors, local civil protection actors, Malawi Red Cross, and key NGO partners. During the sessions, which to date have included 105 participants, IOM has observed knowledge and coverage gaps related to coordination, roles and responsibilities, and site selection and set up. IOM is actively engaging with partners to address these issues, and support the deployment of site-level camp monitors, as gaps are likely to increase when current site managers transition out of camps.

IOM continues to adapt training materials and roll out training sessions at displacement sites and is



coordinating with relevant partners to ensure gender issues are incorporated into the induction courses, and that camp monitors are aware of referral pathways for addressing the needs of survivors of gender-based violence and other protection violations.

An IOM CCCM coordinator is currently based in Blantyre to help improve information sharing, strengthen district-level coordination, and provide technical support to the CCCM and Shelter cluster. The CCCM coordinator is working closely with DoDMA counterparts to develop a standard operating procedure for site verifications, create a communications toolkit, and produce a CCCM support gap analysis at the district level.



IOM-trained camp monitors and civil protection committee members in Phalombe District. © IOM 2015 (Photo: James Chilima)

## SHELTER

Shelter remains a primary need among flood-affected communities in southern Malawi. In response, IOM is using timber, tarps and shelter tools to construct an initial round of emergency shelters for 200 IDP households in Mchere, Nsanje District. As of 12 March, 116 shelters have been completed. In Magoti, Nsanje District, IOM is providing emergency shelter construction and site planning support.

Furthermore, IOM has initiated the procurement of an

additional 2,700 tarps to support the construction of new emergency shelters. In the coming days, during the second phase of emergency shelters construction, IOM will target sites in Zomba District in partnership with Samaritan's Purse. Emergency shelters for 600 displaced households will be constructed in this second phase.

An IOM shelter expert has been deployed to ensure the scale up of IOM's shelter response in affected districts, identify and address challenges in project implementation, and provide technical support to other partners involved in shelter interventions in Malawi.

## DURABLE SOLUTIONS

IOM is currently developing a durable solutions framework for Malawi, in close collaboration with the joint CCCM and Shelter cluster. The objective of the framework is to provide a tool for assisting government and humanitarian and development partners to evaluate opportunities for supporting sustainable return or resettlement of disaster-affected IDP populations in Malawi, as well as understanding the risks. The framework, which draws on sustainable livelihoods principles, such as capital assets, vulnerability and transforming institutions, structures and processes, will facilitate programme prioritization, as well as the strategies and resource mobilization of clusters and other coordination fora in support of the attainment of durable solutions for IDPs in Malawi.

## PARTNERSHIPS

IOM continues to work 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 All Hands Volunteers, Concern World Wide, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, and Sustainable Rural Community Development (SURCOD).

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