



MALAWI: TROPICAL CYCLONE FREDDY

Department of Disaster Management Affairs

Situation report - 7

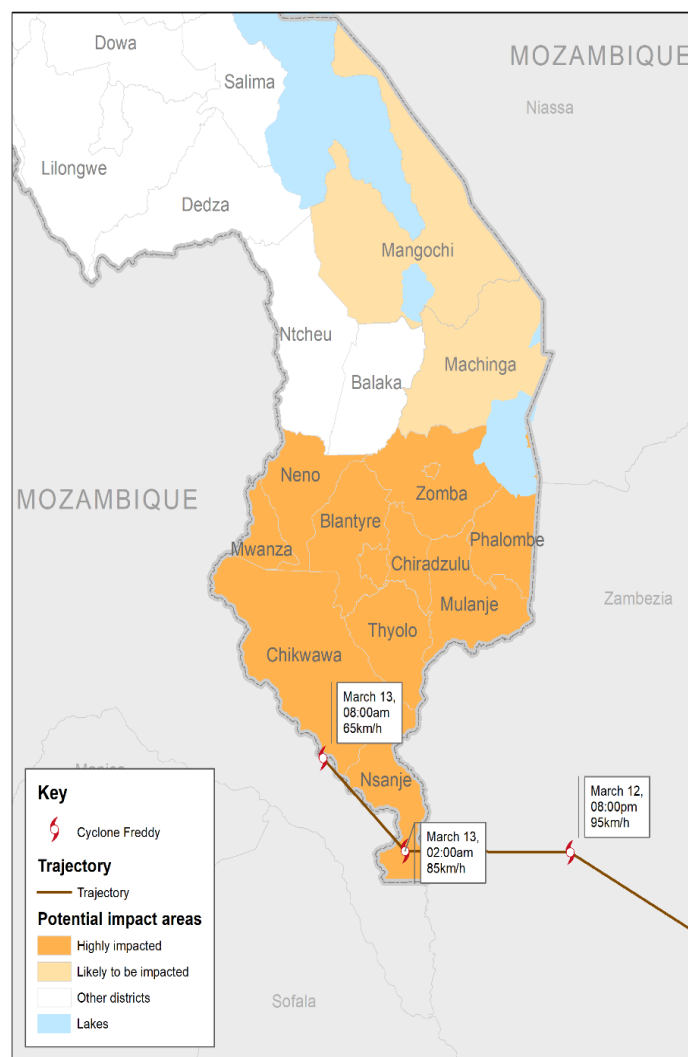
19-20/03/2023

The Malawi Government produces this Situation Report through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- With Tropical Cyclone Freddy gone, DCCMS indicates that normal rainy season weather conditions will now be experienced.
- On 13th March, a state of disaster was declared in the 14 districts that were severely affected by the cyclone.
- Emergency Operation Centre is set up at the World Food Programme (WFP) offices in Limbe, Blantyre for effective and efficient coordination during the emergency response
- Search and rescue of people is continuing in Nsanje and Phalombe districts where people are still believed to be trapped.
- The Search and Rescue team has rescued 123 people in Makhanga, Nsanje as of 20th March, 2023.
- Government has received international support in the area of search and rescue and various relief items.
- As of today, 20th March, 2023, 114,637 households have been displaced, while 499 people have died, 427 are missing, and 841 have sustained various injuries. Public infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, and district and main roads have been damaged in all affected districts.

AFFECTED DISTRICTS



Sources: Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX); Boundaries: National Statistics Office; Cyclone Track: Zoom Earth.
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Updated on 13 March, 2023

Displaced Households

114,637

Displaced People



508,244

Deaths



499

Missing



427

- Government through Department of Disaster Management Affairs is coordinating and leading all humanitarian actors in the assessment of disaster impact and needs as well as provision relief assistance to the affected people.
- The most critical needs are search and rescue for those trapped by flood waters and killed by the mudslide; and the distribution of food and non-food items to the **508,244 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** who are currently residing in one of the 534 camps set up for those who have lost their homes and belongings.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Tropical Cyclone Freddy induced torrential rains from 11th to 13th March 2023 that caused floods which affected 14 districts in the southern region of the country. The worst affected districts are Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Mulanje and Blantyre. With Tropical Cyclone Freddy gone, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) indicates that the country is now experiencing normal rainy season climate conditions up to the end of the season.

Due to the severity of the damage caused by the cyclone, His Excellency the State President declared a state of disaster in the 14 affected districts. He also appealed for both national and international support towards the affected people. The President further declared 14 days of mourning on 15th March, 2023.

Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) had been set up at the World Food Programme (WFP) offices in Limbe, Blantyre. The EOC is a coordination hub where leaders of different clusters are operating from to coordinate and share updates with humanitarian actors providing different types of support and the affected district councils on all things related to the disaster.

The Councils have reported incidences of flooding, strong winds, and mudslides that have displaced over 114,637 households translating to approximately 508,244 people in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Mulanje, Blantyre, Thyolo, Chiradzulu, Blantyre City, Mangochi, Machinga, and Balaka districts. In addition, 534 camps have been established. So far, 499 people have died, while 841 have sustained various injuries. The table below summarizes impact of the cyclone by district:

District	Displaced Households	Displaced People	No. of Camps	No. of Injuries	Total deaths	Missing
Balaka	81	346	5	22	1	
Blantyre	13,510	60,797	99	433	212	75
Chikwawa	21,518	87,085	37	40	25	5
Chiradzulu	1,076	4,842	16	65	13	0
Machinga	4,709	22,260	37	33	2	0
Mangochi	2,229	10,031	26	98	2	1
Mulanje	18,122	81,549	129	46	143	223
Mwanza	77	348	0	3	0	0
Neno	139	626	0	3	1	0
Nsanje	32,416	145,870	62	12	13	15
Phalombe	16,848	75,816	70	55	59	101
Thyolo	835	3,759	2	5	16	0
Zomba	2,931	14,655	46	20	9	7
Zomba City	145	260	5	6	3	0
Total	114,637	508,244	534	841	499	427

All the Councils are currently conducting Inter-Agency Rapid Assessments to establish the number of households affected by the Cyclone since the only available and confirmed data is for the displaced people.

In addition to the cash and in-kind donations, government has also received search and rescue support from international organizations and partners. Search and Rescue Africa and UK Search and Rescue have deployed experts and equipment to support the search and rescue efforts. Governments of Zambia and Tanzania have deployed 2 helicopter and personnel each while Governments of South Africa and Mozambique have pledged airplane and personnel each. Apart from the search and rescue services, the air assets will also be used for delivery of relief supplies to the areas cut-off and only accessible by air.

Government through Department of Disaster Management Affairs is coordinating and leading all humanitarian actors in the assessment of disaster impact and needs as well as provision relief assistance to the affected people. In response to the State of Disaster declaration and appeal for support, governments, UN Agencies, Donors, national and international non-governmental organization, private sector and well-wishers have made both cash and in-kind donations towards the people affected by flooding disaster.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Shelter, Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Sector Lead: The Ministry of Lands

Co-Lead: Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS)

Impact: 508,244 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are currently residing in one of the 534 camps set up for those who have lost their homes and belongings.

Response:

Currently mobilizing resources to procure tents, tarpaulins and other shelter materials to be distributed to IDPs. Priority will be given to the IDPs residing in schools.

Gaps & Constraints:

- No readily available shelter materials, for instance, big and family tents, housing units, tarpaulins or plastic sheets.
- Shortage of sanitary facilities e.g., toilets and sanitary supplies
- Shortage of medical supplies and personnel in camps
- Inadequate sleeping materials and NFIs, inadequate first aid kits at Maganga area.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Sector Lead: The Ministry of Water and Sanitation

Co-Lead: United Nations Children's Fund

Impact: A total of 175,891 with 86,187 Males, 89,704 Females have been affected, who are in urgent need of improved access to clean and safe WASH services.

Response:

- Southern regional water board and Blantyre District Water Office are supporting water tracking and installation of storage tanks/bladders in all camps in Blantyre City. At Manja primary school, as of 19 March, 600m³ (600,000 Litres) of water has been provided.
- Manja camp in Blantyre city, as of 19 March has received directly from UNICEF water treatment chemicals alongside water collection and storage containers. In total 44 drums of chlorine, 33 untapped buckets (20 litres), 200 untapped 60 litres buckets, Water 50 boxes of water purification tablets. Water quality monitoring is being conducted across these camps including water quality testing at the point of use. UNICEF has also provided to the camp 500 tables of 175g

soap.

- UNICEF partner Malawi Red Cross has provided 142 sanitary pads for girls and women of childbearing age totaling 110, 120 bars 1 kg soap for laundry and 740 tables of 175 grammes soap for personal hygiene including hand washing.
- For construction of construction/ rehabilitation of temporary sanitation facilities and bath shelters, UNICEF has provided 50 squatting plates and 10 tarpaulins 10 tarpaulins large to Manja camp. The distribution of supplies for sanitation is accompanied health talks on cholera prevention and general hygiene practices including installation of hand washing facilities
- With funding from UNICEF, United Purpose has constructed 32 fabricated latrines at Chitsime camp while TEVETA has installed 20 bathing units at Samaritan Trust camp.
- As of 19 March, MRCS with funding from UNICEF has provided to Makata camp 70 tapped 50 litres buckets, 10 untapped 40 litre buckets, 200 tables of Soap 175g, 10 tapped buckets (50 litres), 30 Sanitary pads and 3 small tarpaulins for construction of bath shelters.

Needs:

- HTH Chlorine, Water Guards/AquaTabs, chlorine test kits, and Microbiological water quality testing kit sets
- Water trucking - Water bowsers and related logistics (fuel & allowances), storage tanks, and complet set of Bladders.
- Emergency toilets (movable or/and temporary structures), bathing units and waste bins.
- WASH NFIs – soaps, buckets, cleaning materials (brooms, mops, etc), tarpaulins, disinfection materials, PPEs, and IEC materials.
- Sanitation and hygiene promotion including hand washing facilities and menstrual hygiene packages.



Education

Sector Lead: The Ministry of Education (MoE)

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Impact: At least 437 schools have so far been affected, from 15 Education districts. At least 139,929 learners (65,812 boys and 74,117 girls) have been affected, of which 23,066 are adolescents and 1,853 are learners with disabilities. At least 307 teachers (196 males, 111 females) have been affected. Unfortunately, 18 learners (11 boys, 7 girl) and 1 Female teacher have lost their lives. 242 schools are used as IDPs camps.

Needs:

1. Safe temporary learning spaces, recreational, and TLMs,
2. Hygiene Promotion including distribution of WASH supplies, School Safety and Psychosocial

- Support,
3. School Feeding.

Response:

- Preposition (to Blantyre warehouse) of TLMs and temporary safe learning spaces,
- Airing of education programmes and lessons on national and local radios following MoE decision released on 18th March to further extend suspension of physical classes to 31st March when Term 2 ends. Classes will resume on 17th April 2023, when Term 3 commences. Education districts affected are: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Phalombe, Blantyre Rural, Blantyre Urban, Thyolo, Chiradzulu, Mwanza, Neno, Zomba Rural and Zomba Urban.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Insufficient safe learning spaces such as education grade tents and other Teaching and Learning materials, and recreation materials.
- Inaccessibility of some schools due to impassable roads and flooded rivers.
- Communication challenges due to poor network, connectivity and power outages.
- Lack of capacity to timely respond by some districts (financing, vehicles).
- Insufficient WASH supplies in schools exacerbated by influx of IDPs



Agriculture

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Agriculture

Co-Lead: Food and Agricultural Organization

Impact: The cyclone has damaged and washed away an **estimated** area of 34,517 Ha of crop land as follows:

ADD/District	Cropland Affected (HA)	Comment
Blantyre ADD (Thyolo, Mulanje, Blantyre, Phalombe, Mwanza, Neno, and Blantyre districts).	10,445	The Geospatial assessment only captured flooded fields and technically excludes flash floods or wash-aways. The figures are likely to go up after physical assessments.
Shire Valley ADD (Chikwawa, Nsanje Districts)	22,424	
Machinga ADD (Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Zomba).	1,648	

TOTAL	34,517	
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Needs:

Type of support	Quantity
I. Intensification of irrigation & winter production activities	
• Crop seeds	172,500
• Fertilizer	6,900
• Assorted portable irrigation equipment	10,000
II. Cash plus	20,000
III. Technical Support	Lump sum
IV. Operational costs	Lump sum



Protection

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare

Co-Lead: UNICEF

Impact: There is currently the following issues: overcrowding of displaced women, adolescent girls, and children in shelters has increased the risk of sexual violence; Separation and orphaned children in camps; Collapsed Community Based Childcare Centers and disruption of children's safe spaces; Disrupted protection services and structures amplified by overwhelmed/overstretched protection service providers.

Needs:

- Create and distribute Information, Communication, and Education (IEC) materials on GBV/SGBV, psychosocial support, PSEA, and menstrual hygiene
- Extra Human resource at the district to support protection related services
- Blankets and space for post- natal women and health assistance at evacuation camps
- Fast tracking Mental Health and Psychosocial services in the evacuation camps and the affected districts including those displaced, as well as frontline workers who experience work related trauma exposure (Vicarious Trauma).
- Strengthen the GBV referral services to link to the evacuation camps.

- Clothes and dignity kits for women, adolescent girls, children and elderly.
- CBCC centers in the evacuation camps.
- Safe spaces for children and adolescent girls in the evacuation center\Need for Gender Mainstreaming across the clusters- e.g Participation of women and girls and those with disabilities both as responders and survivors.
- SEA awareness among duty bearers and rights holders.
- Popularizing of complaints feedback mechanisms such Toll Free lines, Suggestion Boxes, Help desk etc.
- Provision of Separate Tents for psychological first aid (PFA), safe spaces and CBCCs.
- Need for increased security provisions in camps such as lighting and Community Policing Forms in all camps and host communities

Response:

- Identification of non IDPs by the IDPs and discharged from the camp (MoGCDSW).
- Identification of 6 unaccompanied children in Blantyre and transferred to alternative care (MoGCDSW).
- Community based child care center (CBCCs) have started operations in camps (MoGCDSW).
- Social workers and Red Cross volunteers have started providing psychosocial support in camps (UNICEF, Save the Children, MRC and MoGCDSW).
- The Association of Social Workers in Malawi has mobilized social workers and are on the ground in Blantyre providing psychosocial support (ASWIM).
- Deployed 6 complaint boxes to report VAC, GBV and PSEA in camps in Blantyre and Chiradzulu - (UNICEF, MPS and WorldVision).
- Awareness VAC and GBV meeting in Camps in Blantyre, Mulanje and Chiradzulu for example Chanza Camp in Chiradzulu (UNICEF, MPS and WorldVision).
- Mobilization of the Psychological First Aid providers in Nsanje, Chiradzulu and Phalombe (UNICEF and MoGCDSW).
- Mobilization of resources for the deployment of MHPSS Group Interpersonal therapy (UNICEF, MoGCDSW).
- Coordination through the National protection cluster to brief members EOC challenges and gaps
- Supported for MoGCDSW lead EOC- Save the Children.
- Disaggregation using SADD tool and MISP calculator for targeting of the interventions (UN Women and UNFPA).
- Advocating for separation of girls and women from the in the evacuation camps / sites.
- Provision of safe spaces, GBV prevention and PSEA messages are intensified in the camps for women and girls in the districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje and Blantyre. Commenced referral pathways mapping and strengthened for continuity of GBV and SRHR services to the survivors (UNFPA).
- 1,000 dignity kits which are ready for distribution and some have already been distributed to Naotcha camp (UNFPA).

Gaps and Constraints:

- Lighting at the camps and sanitary facilities.
- Human resource for Protection response.
- Tents for PFA, Safe spaces for children/women and adolescent girls in the evacuation centres.
- Security and visibility materials for Community Policing Forums –need torches , whistles , jackets etc.
- Resources to increase Police presences to monitor protection concerns.
- Disaggregated data.
- Psychological First Aid and other Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in the evacuation camps and the affected including those displaced.
- Recreational materials for children’s safe spaces.
- Lack of PSEA awareness among duty bearers and rights holders.



Food Security

Cluster Lead: DoDMA

Co-Lead: WFP

Impact: All the displaced households have lost their belongings including food reserves as they lost their homes. In addition, most of the displaced people are in hard-to-reach areas due to road/infrastructure rendering areas inaccessible to motor vehicles.

Needs: The needs for the displaced households are as follows; Maize/ Maize Flour, Corn Soya Blend, Cooking Oil, Pulses (beans, peas etc), Soya Pieces, Dry Fish/ Kapenta, Sugar and Salt.

Response:

DoDMA has distributed the following items: 331 bags of beans, 1566 bags of maize, 50 (20kg) bags of Maize flour, 15,700 pieces of blankets, 580 bales of Kapenta, 10,500 kgs of Vita-meal, 335 bags of rice, 79 packets of pasta soup, and 2,000 (5 litre) of Jerry cans.

FGRF has supported 200 displaced households at Naotcha Camp and 1,000 displaced households in Phalombe south with 400 kgs of beans, 240 bags of maize flour, 200 pieces of blankets, 200 kgs of salt, 10,400 kgs sugar, 6,000 meters black sheet of paper, 200 basins and 200 packets of cooked meals.

World Food Programme is supporting to coordinate multi-sectoral assessments in accessible affected areas. Thus far, WFP has provided 40MT CSB to displaced population in Phalombe, Chikwawa and Mulanje, with an additional 10MT being airlifted to Nsanje. About 30,000 displaced people have received food assistance (Corn Soya Blend) from WFP as of 19 March against a planned 130,000 targeted people in March. Distributions are continuing.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Accessibility of areas to enable food commodities reach the affected population (working with logistics cluster to support on the available access options.
- Unavailability of other life-saving food items from the food basket and partners to provide the remaining items in the food basket for food and nutrition security.
- Availability of data - with the situation evolving as it is, there is no concrete data available to finalise needs and prioritization, however we are planning with what is available and will be adjusting as we continue with the assessments.



Nutrition

Sector Lead: Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS

Co-Lead: United Nations Children's Fund

Needs:

- Nutrition assessment through mass screening and/or family MUAC in all the camps to detect, refer and treat malnourished children
- Mulanje, Thyolo and Chikwawa need transport to aid in distribution of CSB+ donated by WFP
- Mapping of OTP/NRU facilities affected to strategize on response
- Nutrition messaging and sensitizations on continuity of SAM treatment programs in health facilities not affected by the Freddy in all the camps
- Coordinate with WFP in distribution of CSB

Response:

- DNHA has delivered 27.5 tonnes of vitameal (27500 2kg packets) to BlantyreT district council and the DC is distributing to the camps with support from their district partners including parliamentarians.
- Nutrition is requesting for support to airlift 30 tonnes of Vitameal to had to reach camps / TAs in Phalombe, Nsanje, Chiradzulu, Thyolo and Zomba
- Repositioned 1500 RUTF sachets from Mwandama and Domasi health facilities to Zomba DHO; to be dispatched to Namasalima and Likangala health facilities
- Breastfeeding Corners breastfeeding corners have been established in Namatamba primary school camp in Zomba.
- Number of people assisted; Phalombe-18 malnourished under 5 children (4 M and 14 F) referred for treatment to OTP at Phalombe health center

Gaps & Constraints:

- Rapid assessments not yet finalised by districts leading to nutrition data gaps
- Limited funding for the Nutrition to enable districts to convene Nutrition Cluster meetings and

- conduct nutrition assessments
- Communication breakdown with districts due to Electricity cuts and network problems hindering communication
- Road/Railway cut off affecting accessibility to the camps/areas delaying rapid assessments.

Partners: Feed the children for the provision of CSB from central level, The hunger project in Nsanje and Phalombe, Farmers Union in Blantyre



Transport & Logistics

Cluster Lead: Ministry of Transport and Public Infrastructure

Co-Lead: WFP

Impact: Road access is severely limited in the Southern Region from the effects of heavy rains and the resulting riverine flooding. Notably, as of 18 March Chikwawa district is accessible via the M1 from Blantyre, but access remains extremely restricted in the southern portion of the district. Nsanje district remains inaccessible by road, with multiple severe road damages reported along the only major route in the district. Access on along secondary roads throughout the Southern Region remains extremely limited, hampering support from within the districts from reaching affected populations. In the Southeast, Chiradzulu district also remains inaccessible by road due to landslides and flooding along the major road. Phalombe and Mulanje districts have limited road access due to severe flooding. Major roads from Blantyre have reported flooding, landslides, and damages disrupting humanitarian supplies from reaching affected communities.

Needs:

- Air and boat support is urgently needed to support displaced communities in inaccessible areas. Nsanje, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Mulanje and Phalombe districts have extremely limited access due to the damages caused by flooding, resulting landslides, and areas that remain waterlogged.
- Fuel is urgently needed to support search and rescue efforts and to keep essential services functioning in hospitals and health facilities.

Response:

- Air transport has been activated to support urgent transportation of life-saving cargo and support search and rescue efforts in locations not accessible by road or river. Air transport services are anticipated have begun as of 18th March, 2023.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Funding gaps have restricted response efforts; funding is urgently needed to provide life-saving logistics support to partners supporting flood-affected communities.
- Access issues along major roads are causing extreme concern as search and rescue teams are unable to reach communities. Air support is urgently needed to provide support to affected communities.
- Fuel constraints in the affected communities continues to pose serious challenges to maintain essential services.



Health

Sector Lead: The Ministry of Health

Co-Lead: World Health Organization

Impact: In total 81 facilities have been affected. 74 are functional but not accessible. Health services in 7 health centers have been suspended.

District	Number of health facilities affected	Extent of Damage
Blantyre	3	Functional but inaccessible due to bad/ cut off roads
Neno	4	
Mwanza	2	
Chikwawa	7	
Chiradzulu	4	
Thyolo	10	
Mulanje	8	
Nsanje	3	
Phalombe	4	
	2	Services suspended due to collapse and submerging
Mangochi	10	Functional but inaccessible due to bad/ cut off roads
Machinga	8	
Balaka	1	
Zomba	10	
	3	Services suspended due to collapse and submerging
Total	79	

Response: The following organizations and partners have responded to the cyclone.

- Partners: multiple NGOS : Save the Children , MSF ,World vision , PIH amongst others (resource tracking started
- MSF (France and Swiss)to support Nsanje , Chikwawa , Phalombe and Mulanje needs assessment under way (HR and logs and essential s supplies
- UN : UNICEF WHO UNFPA , WFP
- Private sector eg Illovo
- Bilateral : UK , Tanzania , Zambia , RSA ,
- Offers from india , Japan Pakistan and may others

Gaps & Constraints: The impact is huge and the response is overwhelming.



Search & Rescue

Sector Lead: The Ministry of Health

Co-Lead: World Health Organization

Updates: Search and rescue have recovered 10 corpses.

Response:

- A total of 123 people have been rescued in Makhanga, Nsanje as of March 20, 2023. Cumulatively, 1,289 people have been rescued in Nsanje, 22 people in Mulanje, 9 people in Zomba.
- Air lifted non-food items and food items to the displaced HHs in Zomba, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Mulanje.
- Searching of bodies in Blantyre using sniffing dogs underway.
- Search and rescue teams from South Africa and UK arrived and joined the MDF and Police in search and rescue operations.
- Drone search operation were done in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Blantyre.



Coordination

Sector Lead: Department of Disaster Management Affairs

Co-Lead: UN Resident Coordinator's Office

- The Government of Malawi is leading the response, through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), with support from humanitarian partners, including NGOs, the UN Agencies and donors. The cluster system was activated and is actively working to coordinate the response.
- The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee provides policy direction in the implementation of the disaster response plan. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) provides the platform for humanitarian partners to liaise and support Government in the provision of support to the affected people.
- WFP is supporting the cluster by housing the Emergency Operation Centre in its offices in Limbe and providing refreshments daily for all the officers operating from the EOC; light vehicles supporting mobility for the team currently conducting impact and needs assessment in the affected districts; IT and data entry services.

Immediate Needs

Cluster	Item
Shelter	Tarpaulin (4 x 6 m)
	Family tents/big tents
	Plastic Sheet
	Blankets
	Sleeping mats
Protection	Clothes
	Lighting lamps
	Dignity Kits
Health	Mosquito nets
	Mobile clinic services
NFIs	Plates
	Cups
	Pots
	Plastic plates
WASH	Mobile toilets
	Water treatment chemicals
	Soap
	Buckets
Food Security	Maize/ Maize Flour
	Corn Soya Blend
	Cooking Oil
	Pulses (beans, peas etc)
	Soya Pieces
	Dry Fish/ kapenta

Nutrition	Sugar
	Salt
	CSB++/Vitameal
	RUTF
	Nutrition screening
	Anthropometric equipment
	IYCF services