

# ***Malawi: Floods***

**Appeal no: 10/2000**  
*1 May, 2000*

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 586,658  
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES  
TO ASSIST 20,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS***

## ***Summary***

The Government of Malawi and the Malawi Red Cross provided initial, but limited, emergency relief assistance in the four districts affected by the floods, and a team from the Federation's Regional Delegation in Harare and the Malawi Red Cross further assessed the relief needs, concluding that many families were suffering from a lack of key supplies. Their main needs are food (maize), and maize/bean seeds to replant over the course of two to three months. In addition, relief items are needed to enable victims to rebuild their houses, and to have access to basic health services. The program aims to effectively assist a total of 20,000 beneficiaries during the initial emergency period.

## ***The Disaster***

Several areas along main rivers in Malawi were severely flooded following heavy rainfall between 12 and 25 March, 2000. This situation occurred well after the floods in other countries in the region, which is the reason that Malawi was not included in the regional emergency floods and rehabilitation appeal. In the southern part of Malawi, the Lalanje, Thangadzi and Shire rivers flooded the Nsanje and Chikwawa Districts. In the most northern part of the country, the Kaowa, Mphere, Chungu and Lufira rivers flooded more than 80 villages in the Karonga District. Finally, heavy rains on 24 and 25 March in the Nkothakota District caused the flooding of the areas along the Kaombe, Likowa, Liutsi, Nazikoko, Saliona and Chambidzi rivers.

Although some bridges were cut off, roads and bridges were generally not damaged. Most villages remained accessible, though alternative routes were used in certain areas of the country. A few schools were damaged by the heavy rains and winds. Several piped drinking water systems, in addition to wells and boreholes, have been affected by the floods.

The people who lost their crops and houses are currently in need of food and maize seeds for replanting and for plastic sheeting for roofing. Malaria is increasing in all the affected areas at a higher than usual rate. Diarrheal diseases remain very limited, but the danger of dysentery, and cholera outbreaks, is still very large. The effect of the floods has increased the risk of cholera outbreaks, and this appeal therefore covers related cholera interventions as well.

## ***The Response so far***

### **Government Action w**

The Government of Malawi reacted immediately by effectively distributing food and blankets to most of the affected households, in addition to plastic sheeting, buckets and other items. The main item, maize flour, was distributed to beneficiaries in quantities of between 10 and 40 kg. The government has no further supplies to satisfy the continuing needs of the most affected people.

### **Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w**

The Malawi Red Cross reacted promptly to the situation by joining the combined assessment teams of the local Ministry Departments and by distributing small amounts of chlorine purification solution (as well as instructing beneficiaries on the use). At the time of the assessment, relief items (3,600 blankets, 995 tarpaulins and 10 boxes of water purification tablets from Regional Delegation DP stocks) were transported from Harare and distributed to the most vulnerable. No further assistance could be provided, unfortunately, because the Malawi Red Cross had no further stocks of relief items, nor any relief funds directly at its disposal.

### **Other Agencies' Action w**

Several small NGO's, mainly religious organizations and the Rotary Club of Blantyre, have distributed relief items to some of the affected villages. However, in some cases, problems have arisen because the beneficiaries were not well informed at the time of the distributions, waiting many days for relief items. The amounts of items distributed were, in most cases, quite small and most organizations had finished their stocks by the time the assessment was carried out.

### **Co-ordination w**

The Malawi Red Cross has effectively coordinated its assessment efforts, and the limited distributions, with the district authorities in the affected areas.

## ***The Intended Operation***

### **Assessment of Needs •**

Action teams, composed of specialized volunteers of the Malawi Red Cross, executed rapid assessments with technical experts from Ministry Departments in each of the affected districts following the floods. Both the Malawi Red Cross and the Government of Malawi distributed initial limited supplies of relief items, mainly food, chlorine purification tablets and blankets. As stocks were soon depleted, the Malawi Red Cross sent an initial relief appeal to the Federation's Regional Delegation in Harare. The Federation in Harare reacted immediately by sending a two-person assessment team to Malawi to further assess the situation, accompanied by the DPP staff member of the Malawi Red Cross. This current appeal is the result of the assessment.

### **Immediate Needs •**

The immediate needs include maize flour for two to three months, maize and bean seeds for planting, plastic sheeting, blankets, hoes, chlorine (tablets and bulk powder), cooking pots, buckets or jerrycans, and anti-malaria (Fansidar) tablets. All items will be procured locally. Only maize flour is sought (as opposed to a complete food basket), because only maize crops have been lost due to the floods.

### **Anticipated Later Needs •**

Future needs will include the rehabilitation of affected boreholes and wells, latrines, houses and granaries, hygiene and health education; better disaster preparedness procedures, structures and capacity for the Malawi Red Cross. These rehabilitation needs will be met through the ongoing Federation's ongoing Regional Programme activities (please refer to the Federation's 2000-2001 Appeal 01.43/2000 for Southern Africa, *Building Capacities to Serve the Community*).

### **Red Cross Objectives •**

The programme intends to meet the immediate needs of the most affected population focusing mainly on food, agriculture and shelter, and to a lesser extent on curative health and water/sanitation.

## ***National Society/Federation Plan of Action***

### **Emergency Phase: April - July 2000**

The emergency phase will consist of the following components:

- ***Immediate distribution of the most required relief items:*** For each affected household: 40 kg of maize flour, 7 to 10 kg of maize seeds, 2 to 3 kg of beans seeds, 25 m<sup>2</sup> of plastic sheeting, 1 hoe, 1 to 2 cooking pots, 1 bucket or jerrycan, as well as chlorine solution (to be executed by Red Cross volunteers who will also provide training on the safe use of chlorine solution).
- ***Follow-up distributions of food*** (to be monitored by Red Cross volunteers): This activity will continue until people start harvesting their own maize or rice. Included in this follow-up procedure is the monitoring of the household food security situation among the affected population, in collaboration with field assistants from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- ***Provision of malaria treatment (Fansidar) to health posts in the affected districts:*** provided by Ministry of Health staff active in the affected areas, and monitored by Red Cross volunteers.
- ***Provision of active chlorine powder to the Water Departments in the affected districts:*** This product will be used for the chlorination of affected boreholes and wells as a result of the depletion of the water table (to be carried out by the field staff of the involved Water Departments and monitored by specialists in the Red Cross Action Teams).
- ***Planning and implementation:*** This will be carried out with local governmental division committees and the Malawi Red Cross staff and volunteers.
- ***Capacity building and evaluation:*** Efforts will be directed in enhancing the capacity of Red Cross branches that are in high risk areas. With support from the Regional Delegation, flood mitigation plans will be prepared in partnership with the local government authorities. Prepositioning of small emergency stock will be implemented at the branch level. Skills training for staff and volunteers in these strategic branches will be carried out in the areas of risk mapping, early warning, data collection, relief and logistics with the expected participation of Branch committee members.

In total, the following items will be distributed to the most affected households during the emergency phase:

- 480,000 kg of maize flour and 30,360 kg of early maturing maize seeds.
- 8,717 kg of beans seeds.
- 354 rolls of plastic sheeting.
- 17,425 chlorine tablets.
- 4,123 cooking pots.
- 3,475 jerrycans (or buckets).
- 8,300 Fansidar tablets.
- 3,475 hoes.

The criteria for the quantities specified and the distribution to beneficiaries is outlined in detail in an extensive background document which is available upon request.

## ***Budget summary***

See Annex 1 for details.

## ***Conclusion***

Four Districts in Malawi have recently been affected by floods. The people in the affected areas, especially those living near the rivers, are in need of relief assistance. While food has been distributed by the government of Malawi and several NGOs, unfortunately no further food assistance, or other supplies, are available. Therefore, the Malawi Red Cross aims to target the most affected 20,000 people in these areas in order to enable them to cope with the initial emergency period and to ensure their livelihood.

Jean Ayoub  
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Secretary General

## **BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL No 10  
/2000

### **MALAWI FLOODS**

TYPE

VALUE

### **RELIEF NEEDS**

IN CHF

#### Shelter & constructions

Plastic sheeting 23'600

Blankets 30'000

#### Food & seeds

Maize meals 200'000

Maize 64'000

Beans 30'000

#### Water

Chlorine tabs/Powder 1'546

Colour comparator 180

Medical & first aid (Fanzidar) 3'200

#### Utensils & tools

Hoes 11'600

Kitchen pots 31'000

Buckets/plastic 15'500

### **TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS**

410'626

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#### PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme management (automatic calculation) 39'558

Technical support (automatic calculation) 11'842

Professional services (automatic calculation) 13'132

TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS 39'000

#### PERSONNEL

Expatriate staff including support from Regional Delegation 35'000

National staff 20'500

Training 5'000

#### ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES

Travel & related expenses 4'000

Information expenses 2'000

Administrative & general expenses 1'000

Evaluation 5'000

### **TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS**

176'032

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### **TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES**

586'658

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### **LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)**

### **NET REQUEST**

586'658

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<b>Base for calculation of operations support</b>	<b>522'126</b>
<b>Total appeal</b>	<b>586'658</b>
<b>Total programme support</b>	<b>64'532</b>
<b>Programme management</b>	<b>61.30% 39'558</b>
<b>Technical support</b>	<b>18.35% 11'842</b>
<b>Professional services</b>	<b>20.35% 13'132</b>