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## MALAWI: FLOODS

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 88,704 (USD 70,963 or EUR 54,755) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 30 April, 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

### Background and current situation

In early January 2007, heavy rains in southern Malawi caused flooding at the lower Shire Region, affecting Chikwaka and Nsanje districts. The lower Shire Region has many rivers which overflow whenever there is average to high rainfall. Among the rivers is the Shire River which flows over a marshy plain that provides rich agricultural land, but is prone to flooding during the wet season.

Following the floods, an assessment was conducted by a team composed of representatives from the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs (of the Malawi government), Chikwaka District Health Office, World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Vision, World Health Organization (WHO), the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) and some local non-governmental organizations.

Findings from the assessment indicated that a total of 20,061 households had been affected in Chikwaka District, with 917 houses having collapsed, 7,666 hectares of crops destroyed, and 14 goats and 64 chickens swept away. Two people were reported to have been killed while a total of 341 others, who were rendered homeless, sought shelter in churches.

In Nsanje District, 1,351 households were affected, with 475 houses collapsing and 882 hectares of crop damaged. Some of the affected families are accommodated by their relatives while 318 others are camped at a local school.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the disaster, the MRCS mobilized its volunteers in Chikwaka District to assist in the distribution of relief items. The national society's Chikwaka branch office participated in an initial assessment, which was coordinated by the government. On 23 January 2007, the International Federation allocated CHF 88,704 (from DREF) to the MRCS to support the procurement of 2,500 tarpaulins, 3 family tents, and 50 rolls of plastic sheeting. The funding will also cover some operational costs.

## Coordination

The affected families received assistance from the government of Malawi – in form of food items (maize, salt, cooking oil and sugar) and non-food items (plastic plates, buckets, cups and spoons). In addition, UNICEF provided emergency kits, 20 litre jerry cans and water purification tablets to the affected families.

## The needs

According to the assessment conducted, additional tents are required to cater for the displaced families whose houses collapsed. Plastic sheeting and tarpaulins (for reconstruction of new homes), seeds, and water purification tablets are also needed. There is also the need to put up temporary learning structures in schools that were affected. It is in this regard that the national society requested for DREF support to cater for shelter needs of the affected population.

## Budget outline

Items	Total costs (in CHF)
Tarpaulins	30,000
Tents	14,400
Plastic sheeting	7,000
Fuel	5,000
Shipping costs	5,000
Transportation	1,304
Volunteers incentives	4,696
Per diem	4,588
Publicity	2,000
Disaster assessment	5,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>78,988</b>
NS administrative costs (5%)	3,950
Programme Support (6.5%)	5,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,704</b>

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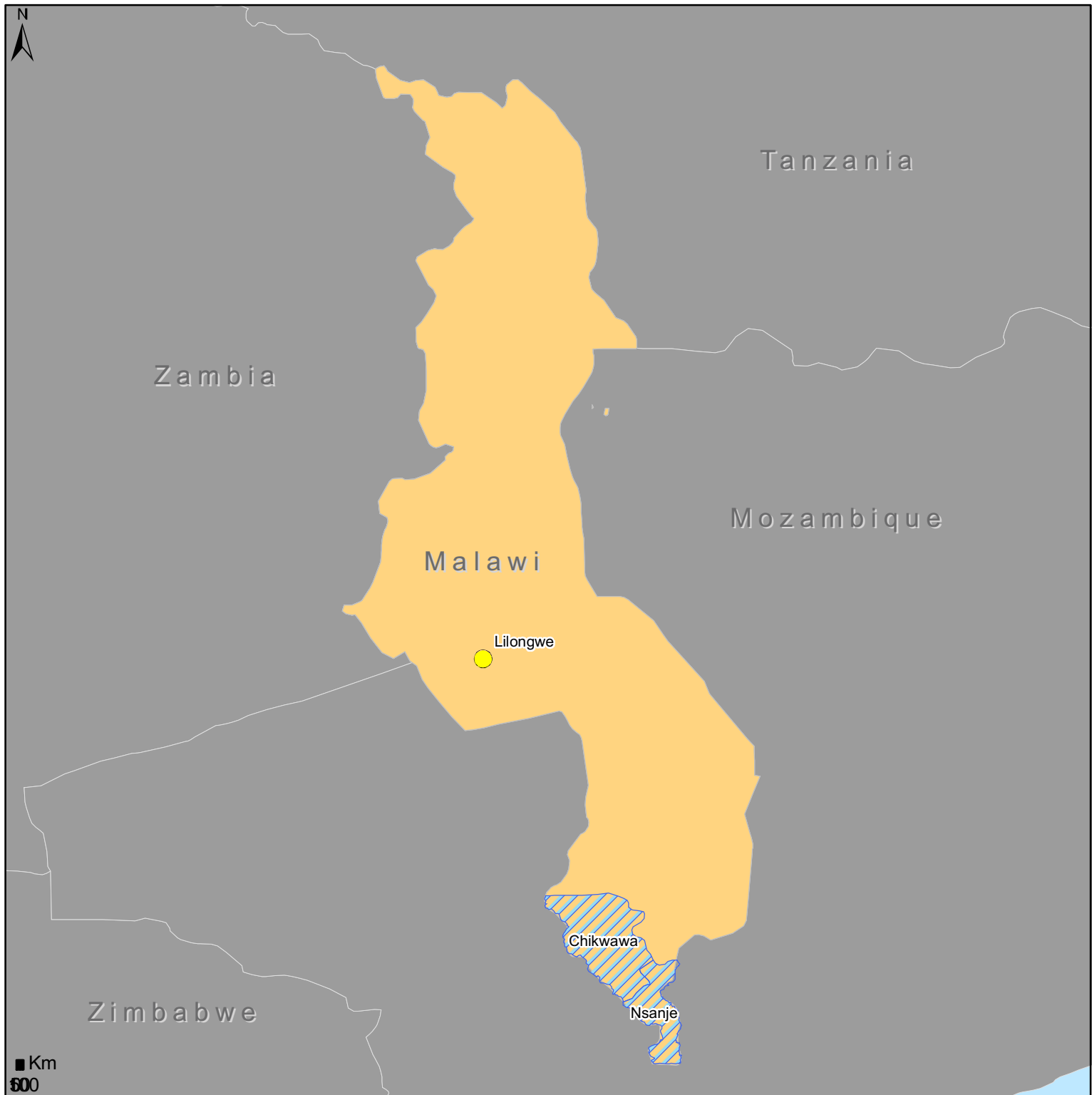
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)





# Malawi: Heavy rains and floods



Malawi affected heavy rains from 1st January 2007 causing flooding in the Lower Shire region affecting the districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje.

## Legend

-  Capitales
-  Affected districts