



## Situation Report 6 – SOUTHERN AFRICA FLOODS – 7 FEBRUARY 2008

### CONTEXT

1. The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone has moved northwards but continues to bring heavy rains to the Zambezi River Basin. Precipitation levels have increased on the border between Namibia and Angola as well as southern Malawi, with heavier rains also expected to move over the northern half of Zambia.
2. Flooding remains a major concern in the region, with river levels above seasonal averages almost everywhere and in many cases, such as central Mozambique, well above flood alert levels.
3. The Zambezi River Authority informed that it will open one of the Lake Kariba Dam floodgates on 11 February 2008 to release water into the Kafue River.
4. According to the latest figures released by national disaster authorities, the cumulative number of people affected by rains and floods since October 2007 in Southern Africa is more than 296,000 persons. This figure includes: 152,669 in Malawi (mostly damage to property and crops and including displaced from Mozambique); 99,248 people in Mozambique (all evacuated into resettlement camps); more than 20,000 in Zambia (with most in host families); and 15,168 in Zimbabwe. Latest reports from Namibia indicate that up to 3,000 people have also been affected there, while the IFRC estimates that 4,000 people have been affected in Lesotho and another 2,500 in Swaziland.
5. In addition to this, the number of people affected by Tropical Cyclone Fame in Madagascar is now 8,163.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

6. **Mozambique:** A magnitude 5 earthquake struck southern Mozambique 3 February 2008 close to the Save River, several kilometres north of

Messangena. No casualties or damage have been reported so far by the national authorities.

7. According to the Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades (INGC), as of 2 February 2008, 20,845 households (99,248 people) have moved to resettlement centres as a result of the 2008 floods.
8. The Cahora Bassa Dam has reduced its discharge from 5,900 to 3,900m<sup>3</sup>/s. It is understood that this is to balance the amount of water flowing into the swollen Zambezi by the tributaries downstream, almost all flooded. Meanwhile, concerns exist over the implications for Mozambique of the opening of the Lake Kariba Dam in Zambia on 11 February 2008. An emergency meeting has taken place between the INGC and disaster responders on 4 February 2008 to look into specific contingency planning related to this event. WFP has agreed to accelerate its pre-positioning of food stocks along the Zambezi River.
9. Water levels registered along the main river basins in central Mozambique (Zambezi, Pungue, Save, Buzi and Licungo) are still above flood alert levels. The town of Marromeu is reported to be completely isolated and difficult to reach with approximately 1,200 families in the area.
10. Rescue and relief operations along the Zambezi River basins are hindered by the constant movement of people to and from the designated resettlement centres. To date, up to 17 resettlement centres are reported to be flooded and people in them are being relocated to higher ground.
11. Road access continues to be problematic in most flood affected localities, especially in the districts of Chitete, Doa, Inhangoma, Mutarara, Chirre and Zumbo in Tete Province. The road from the Malawian border to the Mutarara district is no longer passable and the road from Caia to Sena has been cut.

12. The initial Vulnerability Assessment Committee report indicates that 258,000 people will require immediate food assistance through March 2008, while at least 256,000 will require assistance beyond this period. The overall figure is based on both those who have moved as result of the current floods, as well as those who moved in 2007, but who lost their first crop of the season.
13. Unrelated to the flood emergency, widespread social unrest occurred 5 February 2008 in Maputo and some of the major cities in reaction to a rise in bus fares. The unrest turned violent with riots and looting as well as stand-offs with the police. The situation returned calm in the evening.
14. **Malawi:** According to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), recent rains have flooded Zomba district with 657 families losing their household effects. The number of affected people in the districts of Nsanje and Chikwawa has also significantly increased to, respectively, 16,341 and 5,678 households, pushing the total number of households who either lost crops or had their houses destroyed to 27,758. There has been an estimated loss of 10,080 hectares due to floods.

District	No. of households affected	Type of Disaster
Balaka	288	Floods
Blantyre	1076	Heavy storm
Chikwawa	5,678	Floods
Chitipa	94	Hailstorm
Karonga	9	Floods
Lilongwe	197	Hailstorm
Machinga	104	Floods
Mchinji	19	Heavy rains
Mzimba	955	Heavy rains
Nkhatabay	308	Cyclone
Nsanje	16,341	Floods
Ntcheu	575	Floods
Phalombe	1,457	Rainstorm
Zomba	657	Heavy Rains
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Households affected</b>	<b>27,758</b>
	<b>Households with damaged houses</b>	<b>9,851</b>
	<b>Hectares affected</b>	<b>10,080</b>

Source: Government of Malawi, Humanitarian Update, Issue no. 3, 4 February 2008

15. The DoDMA, with the help of Malawi defence force vehicles, managed to access flood affected people in Nsanje and will start providing relief assistance to flood affected households in difficult to access areas, especially along the Shire River's east bank.
16. The number of families who crossed the border into southern Malawi after being displaced by floods in neighbouring Mozambique has also risen from 454

to 560. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security has been in contact with UNHCR to request collaboration in responding to the situation.

17. According to the Ministry of Health, during the week of 28 January to 3 February 2008, 72 cases of cholera and 4 deaths have been reported from Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Balaka, Thyolo, and Mulanje. Cumulatively, 714 cholera cases and 13 deaths have been reported from 5 November 2007 to 3 February 2008.
18. On 30 January 2008, the Permanent Secretary/Commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs informed the media at a press conference that if the situation deteriorates, the DoDMA would require external assistance.
19. **Madagascar:** Water levels of all the rivers converging to the Antananarivo plain are dropping. The latest figures from the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes (BNGRC) put the number of deaths caused by Tropical Cyclone Fame at 12, with 8,613 affected, mostly in Mampikony district.
20. The President of Madagascar has committed to rebuild all school facilities within 2 months. A general food distribution started 4 February 2008 in Besalampsy district; and the Ministry of Health emergency department has started to treat patients free of charge.
21. The UN Disaster Management Team will undertake a multi-sectoral assessment mission with cluster technical staff together with the BNGRC from 8 to 11 February 2008 in the area of Sofia in the district of Mampikony.
22. **Zambia:** On 3 February 2008, the Zambezi River Authority announced that they will open one spillway gate of the Lake Kariba Dam on Monday 11 February at 1200hrs. The Government confirmed that official notification has been given to neighbouring countries, in accordance with standard operating procedures. Communities down stream are being encouraged to move away from the riverbanks.
23. According to WFP, the situation in Kalabo is worsening. A report from the District Education Board DEB indicates more than 4,600 pupils in 20 schools have been relocated due to flooding to other educational facilities, causing overcrowding and decreasing school attendance.
24. In Monze district, 6 schools are not functioning as they are accommodating families displaced by floods. The local DEBs appealed for more tents for the area so that schools can re-open.

25. CARE International continues to offer logistical support to the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) in the evacuation and rescue of isolated communities. From 2 to 3 February 2008, it supported the national authorities in Kazangula with the evacuation of about 82 households to a nearby plot where shelter was provided. The Rotary Club in Livingston provided 30 shelter boxes (containing a tent, blanket, mosquito net, pans, plates, cups, water containers, water purification tablets, cooking utensils, pots, a hoe and axe). Shelter Box International delivered another 100 emergency kits, while CARE and CRS have provided cereals and pulses.

26. **Zimbabwe:** An inter-agency flood assessment team led by the Zimbabwe National Water Authority, with IOM, UNICEF, OCHA, UN-HBITAT, World Vision and provincial and district authorities, visited flooded areas in Muzarabani ward in Mashonaland Central Province. In Chadereka, 60 to 75% of the communities have relocated to higher ground but can only access basic services (schools, clinics) by crossing the river Nzowumvunda, which is currently flooded. In the ward of Dambakurima, up to 60% of the communities are cut off from essential service providers by the Msengezi River, and are at additional risk of flooding if the Cahora Bassa Dam backflows. In both areas, local health practitioners report an increase in dysentery and malaria cases.

27. District authorities are reported to be in control of the situation and with the support of the international humanitarian community provided some assistance to the affected communities, but outstanding needs remain for shelter, food and other non-food relief items.

28. **Namibia:** Very heavy rainfall has been reported on both banks of the northern border of Namibia with flash flooding occurring in the Cuvelai delta and in the regions of Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana, affecting approximately 3,000 persons. By 3 February 2008, the waters were slowly subsiding but water levels remain high. The following table on the impact has been provided by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Region	Reports received
Oshana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,000 persons affected in Shoopala, Oneshila, Okandjedi, Uupundi, Evululuko, Sky and Eemwandi informal settlements;</li> <li>841 are being hosted on higher ground at the Ongwediva Trade Fair and Oshakati Independence Stadium;</li> <li>Villages from Endola are completely cut off from Oshakati;</li> <li>20 schools in which 1886 learners and</li> </ol>

	161 teachers are affected.
Omusati	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 small bridges being swept away</li> <li>Classes at 4 schools temporarily suspended due to the floods. 44 schools have suspended Grades 1 – 4 classes</li> <li>Health services are reported to be affected as 24 clinics are inaccessible.</li> <li>Reports of 2 deaths of children due to drowning</li> </ol>
Ohangwena	9. 17 schools affected in 4 constituencies

31. The Directorate of Emergency Management supplied food and 47 large tents to the population affected. In addition, 200 mosquito nets (Government of Namibia) and 2,500 blankets from the Namibia Red Cross were dispatched to the area. The Office of the Prime Minister has agreed to cover the expenses incurred by the regional emergency committee in the purchase of relief items for those affected.

22. At Katima Mulilo, in the Caprivi region, the water level is still very high for the season, but lower than the level at this time of the year in 2007, when the first flood wave hit the Caprivi strip.

23. Assessments following recent flooding have reported that:

Constituency	Reports received
Kabbe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Itomba/Ikaba, Ivilivinzi, Mpukano, Nankutwe, Muzii, Mbalazinte and Masikili affected.</li> </ul>
Katima Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop fields in Lisikili and Musanga inundated;</li> <li>Mafuta inundated;</li> </ul>
Katima Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports of 200 houses surrounded by water</li> <li>Informal settlements in need of shelter and food</li> </ul>
Linyanti	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nongozi, Sangwali, Mbambazi, Samudono, Liashulu and Mamili have flooded crop fields</li> </ol>

34. Twenty large tents and 3,000 blankets have been sent to the area by the Namibian Red Cross. Meanwhile, the Regional Emergency Management Unit in the Caprivi has formulated a contingency plan and forwarded it to the central authorities for action.

#### OTHER

36. The *Preparedness and Response Plan for floods in Southern Africa 2008* will be issued on 11 February 2008. The document aims to support the current efforts of the Governments of Malawi, Mozambique,

Zambia and Zimbabwe to address humanitarian needs arising from a likely further deterioration in the current weather conditions.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

Please see Annex on commitments/contribution and pledges as of 6 February 2008. To provide OCHA with updates on contributions and have them reflected in the Financial Tracking Table, please contact Ms. Michelle Thulkanam at [thulkanam@un.org](mailto:thulkanam@un.org).

END.

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- This situation report, together with additional information on the current crisis is also available on <http://www.reliefweb.int>. As your tool for timely information sharing, please encourage submissions of documents and maps by email to [submit@reliefweb.int](mailto:submit@reliefweb.int).


**SOUTHERN AFRICA - Floods - January 2008**

Table A: List of all commitments/contributions and pledges

as of 06-February-2008

<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts> (Table ref: R10)

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations.

Donor	Channel	Description	Funding USD	Uncommitted Pledges USD
Canada	IFRC	Emergency appeal	0	407,747
Canada	SC - UK	Pre-positioning of emergency shelter and education supplies	101,937	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	UNFPA	CERF rapid response grant to project: Resposne to critical health needs of food displaced populations (Mozambique)	50,000	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	UNICEF	CERF rapid response grant to project: Nutrition support for the flood response in Mozambique	107,000	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	UNICEF	CERF rapid response grant to project: Protection response for the flood response in Mozambique	196,880	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	UNICEF	CERF rapid response grant to project: Response to critical health needs of flood displaced populations	200,000	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	UNICEF	CERF rapid response grant to project: Ensuring access to education as part of the flood response in Mozambique	230,050	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	WHO	CERF rapid response grant to project: Response to critical health needs of flood displaced populations (Mozambique)	350,000	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	UNICEF	CERF rapid response grant to project: Water, sanitation and hygiene support for the flood response in Mozambique	500,000	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	IOM	CERF rapid response grant to project: Provision of emergency shelter and non-food items to flood victims in Zambezi Valley and Lower Save in Mozambique.	599,200	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	WFP	CERF rapid response grant to project: Food Assistance for Mozambique Flood Victims	998,323	0
Central Emergency Response Fund	WFP	CERF rapid response grant to project: Augmentation of logistics capacity in support of the victims of the floods in Mozambique	1,020,541	0
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund	IFRC	(Region) To support the national societies in delivering immediate assistance to some 16,400 beneficiaries	983,011	0
Italy	WFP	Furnish alimentary assistance under the programme named WFP Operation PRRO Mozambique 10600.0; to urgent humanitarian assistance for the population in Mozambique, struck by the damages of the recent floods.	291,545	0
Sweden	SRSA	(Mozambique) Support to air movement officer through WFP	46,611	0

\* Value of contribution not specified

\*\* Estimated value

Donor	Channel	Description	Funding USD	Uncommitted Pledges USD
United Kingdom	SC - UK	(Mozambique) Provide emergency kits for up to 2,000 families. The kits include blankets and plastic sheeting for shelter and cooking pots, water containers and soap	194,183	0
<b>Grand Total: USD</b>			<b>5,869,281</b>	<b>407,747</b>

*NOTE: "Funding" means Contributions + Commitments*

*Pledge: a non-binding announcement of an intended contribution or allocation by the donor. ("Uncommitted pledge" on these tables indicates the balance of original pledges not yet committed.)*

*Commitment: creation of a legal, contractual obligation between the donor and recipient entity, specifying the amount to be contributed.*

*Contribution: the actual payment of funds or transfer of in-kind goods from the donor to the recipient entity.*

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