



Situation Report 7 – SOUTHERN AFRICA FLOODS – 14 FEBRUARY 2008

CONTEXT

1. On 11 February 2008, the international humanitarian community launched the *2008 Southern African Region Preparedness and Response Plan for Floods* seeking nearly US\$ 89 million to help the governments of Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe respond to the floods caused by heavy rains in the region. The funds sought will be used in part to prepare for a possible deterioration of the situation as more heavy rains are expected in the region, placing another 805,000 people at imminent risk.
2. Also on 11 February 2008, one of the spillway gates of the Kariba Dam was opened as per the notification by the Zambezi River Authority, issued a week earlier. It is reported that the discharge rate did not exceed 750m³/s, half of the amount anticipated. There are so far no reports of a serious impact downstream. Authorities in Mozambique believe that the release rate was low enough that they will not be forced in turn to discharge further water from the Cahora Bassa dam.
3. 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 approximately 491,453 persons.

	Affected (persons)	Cause
Angola	17,158	Rains, flooding
Lesotho	4,500	Tornado, hailstones
Madagascar	14,450	Rains, flooding
Malawi	@153,000	Rains, flooding
Mozambique	102,155 (evacuated 2008) 160,000 (2007 caseload)	Flooding
Namibia	3,000	Rains, flooding
Swaziland	2,500	Rains, hailstorms

Zambia	20,022	Rains, flooding
Zimbabwe	15,168	Rains, flooding
Total	491,453	

SITUATION OVERVIEW

4. **Angola:** Preliminary reports from the Serviço Nacional de Protecção Civil (National Civil Protection Service) indicate that torrential rains in southern Angola have affected a total 17,158 persons in two provinces. In Cunene province, approximately 9,357 people have been affected with one casualty, 2,200 houses destroyed and 2,000 heads of cattle have been lost. In Cuando Cubando, another 7,801 persons are reported affected as well as 1,000 houses destroyed. Immediate needs include temporary shelter, clothing, kitchen sets and blankets. The Government anticipates that it will be able to cover the food needs of the affected population.
5. **Malawi:** On the recommendation of the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee, four assessment and verification teams have been deployed since 12 February 2008, to districts affected by floods and rains. The teams, comprising national authorities, the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee, UN agencies, CRS and the Red Cross Movement, will visit the districts of Karonga, Nkhatabay, Salima, Balaka, Mangochi, Zomba, Phalombe, Blantyre, Nsanje and Chikwawa to validate the number of households affected, which currently stands at 27,758 (almost 153,000 people).
6. **Madagascar:** According to the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes (BNGRC), a total of 2,792 have lost their homes and another 11,658 have been affected by losing some of their assets. Thirteen deaths have been recorded so far. The districts of Besalamy and Mampikony were hardest hit.

7. In the region of Mahajamba, 11 districts have been affected by floods as a result of the destruction of local dams. Small boats and barges are the only means of transportation. About 2,211 people have been affected, with most accommodated in host families and some in military compounds. Ninety percent of the local agricultural land has been washed away and schools have closed.
8. Three rapid assessment missions have been fielded to Besalampy district since 30 January 2008. These have included the participation of the UN and Malagasy Red Cross. One mission has also been deployed to Mampikony district and is expected to report findings soon.
9. The President of Madagascar has committed 100 million ariary (almost US\$ 11,000) to repair damaged infrastructure in the areas affected by the cyclone. (*Please refer to map in annex for a list of responses so far.*)
10. **Mozambique:** Water authorities in Mozambique report that the additional water spilled into the Zambezi River by the opening of the floodgate of the Lake Kariba Dam will not affect the current discharge level of the Cahora Bassa dam, presently at a stable rate of 4,000m³/s.
11. Water levels in the central Zambezi, Búzi, Púnguè, Save and Licungo River basins have been reducing at most hydrometric stations, but generally remain above the flood alert levels. Water levels at Marromeu are still at 7m - over two meters above the alert level.
12. There is growing concern in the northern part of the country (Cabo Delgado province) where the levels of the Messalo, Montepuez and Lugenda rivers have increased significantly, causing localized flooding in Chai (district of Macomia), Miangalewa (district of Muidumbe), Nairoto (district of Montepuez) and Mandimba. Access to land in the Ruvuma river basin is reducing as several stretches of road have been washed away and two bridges threatened by rising waters. According to the National Emergency Operation Centre (CENOE), approximately 300 hectares of arable land have been destroyed and more than 2,500 persons have been affected. As more rain is forecast for this part of the country, the CENOE is recommending to the population to leave the areas at risk, which include the Mandimba, Majune, Gonda, Chai and Miangalewa administrative posts in the Cabo Delgado province.
13. The Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades (INGC) on 12 February 2008 reported that 102,155 people (21,476 households) have been evacuated from low-lying areas in the river basins of central Mozambique (mostly along the Zambezi river valley) to transit or resettlement centers on higher ground. The number of flood related deaths has risen to 12. An additional 160,000 persons, already in resettlement centres since the floods of 2007, have lost their harvest this year. According to the Director of the INGC, more than 20,000 houses have been destroyed so far, more than 115,000 hectares of agricultural land washed away and 119 wells and boreholes submerged. A revision of the national contingency plan is being considered in view of the evolving situation.
14. Health authorities in Mutarara district, which has been isolated by floodwaters for the past month, are responding to steep increases in number of acute diarrhea cases in collaboration with NGOs. Nearly 245 people have been affected and five have died as a result. Although the symptoms are compatible with cholera, there is not yet laboratory confirmation that the diarrhea is being caused by cholera. Four treatment centers have been activated, in addition to the ongoing activities of water purification and sensitization on good sanitation practices.
15. In Tete and Sofala Provinces, humanitarian interventions continue despite the significant challenge posed by the lack of access. During the week, a large barge with a 30-ton capacity arrived in Caia to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Water and sanitation, shelter and food assistance remain the priority interventions.
16. Protests, reportedly against the increase in bus fares in Mozambique, continued on 12 February 2008 in Chokwe, Gaza province. One fatality was reported and at least five persons were wounded during the unrest.
17. **Namibia:** High rainfall on both sides of Namibia's northern border continues to swell the Cuvelai River which reached its highest water peak so far causing localized flooding in the regions of Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana. Initial estimates of number affected by the Directorate of Emergency Management reported last week have not changed and stand still at approximately 3,000 persons, mostly in the Oshana region.
18. The water level of the Zambezi River at Katima Mulilo town (Caprivi region) is at 3.64m (13 February 2008). Should levels rise above 4.5m the eastern most constituencies (Kabbe and Katima Mulilo rural) will be inaccessible. The national water authorities estimate that with the current rainfall pattern this could happen in two weeks time.
19. **Zambia:** The first spillway gate of the Kariba Dam was opened on Monday, 11 February 2008. According to the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), the opening of the first floodgate was a precautionary

measure, since more water is expected from the Chavuma River, and from Angola where the rainy season is about to reach its peak. Depending on the intensity of rainfall in the coming weeks additional gates may be opened.

20. There are still no reports from communities in Zambia along the Zambezi riverbanks downstream. According to the ZRA, communities were notified one to two week in advance of the release to move away from the river bank because of possible flooding. The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) will dispatch a rapid assessment team to Chirundo town on 14 February 2008 to assess the status of communities along the river in consultation with district commissioners.
21. A reduction of rain is expected in the southern parts of the country while rainfall will increase in Northern, Northwestern, Central, Copperbelt and Luapula provinces and the northern parts of Eastern Province, exerting pressure on the main river basins of the Kafue and lower Zambezi, and increasing the chances of higher releases of water from the Itezhi-Tezhi dam. The latter is likely to necessitate the relocation of 600 households downstream in Namwala district.
22. The Zambia Red Cross has been working with the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC) in flood affected districts in Southern and Central Province to assist 1,160 people in Mazabuka district with construction of latrines and bathing and cooking shelters in four evacuation camps (Mukuyu, Mbiya, Magoye and Ndeke). Food and non-food items have also been distributed.
23. In Itezhi-Tezhi, Mumbwa, Namwala and Sinazongwe districts, 750 tarpaulins for temporary shelter have been pre-positioned by the Government. Response teams have been dispatched to Monze, Kazungula and Kasaya towns to assist with the construction of temporary housing, bathing and cooking shelters as well as pit latrines at the camps. The teams have mobilized and trained volunteers, and have conducted general health education and hygiene promotion activities in the resettlement sites.
24. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the district of Itezhi-Tezhi will need food assistance as 80 percent of the crops have been damaged by heavy rains and floods.
25. Damage to the local road network is preventing the government from delivering food aid to all of the affected wards. The logistics unit of WFP is working closely with the Roads Development Agency to undertake an infrastructure assessment. Meanwhile, the Logistics Sector is preparing an assessment

matrix of available assets and identifying available warehouse space.

26. The National Vulnerability Assessment Committee began on 10 February 2008 another assessment of flood affected areas. Results from the DDMC assessments conducted two weeks ago have yet to be released.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

27. **Denmark** has informed that in response to the launch of the UN Appeal it will contribute DKK 10M to the humanitarian intervention, with DKK 5M going to WFP and DKK 5M to UNICEF.
28. **France** has announced a donation worth € 270,000 (US\$ 391,728) for the Mozambique Red Cross that includes 200 family-size tents, 500 cooking kits, and 11,000 mosquito nets, as well as logistical support.
29. **USAID/OFDA** has provided US\$ 50,000 through its office in Mozambique to the NGO International Relief and Development for water, sanitation and hygiene activities in Chinde and Morrumbala districts. Another US\$ 130,000 will also be committed to augment local logistics capacities (personnel and barge operations)
30. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has launched a revised emergency appeal for the flood crisis in southern Africa. The revision increases to CHF 11.4M (US\$ 10.3M) the initial appeal for CHF 8M (US\$ 7.2M)

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.

END.

Contact details:

Andrea Recchia,
Humanitarian Affairs Officer (Johannesburg), +27 11 517 1624

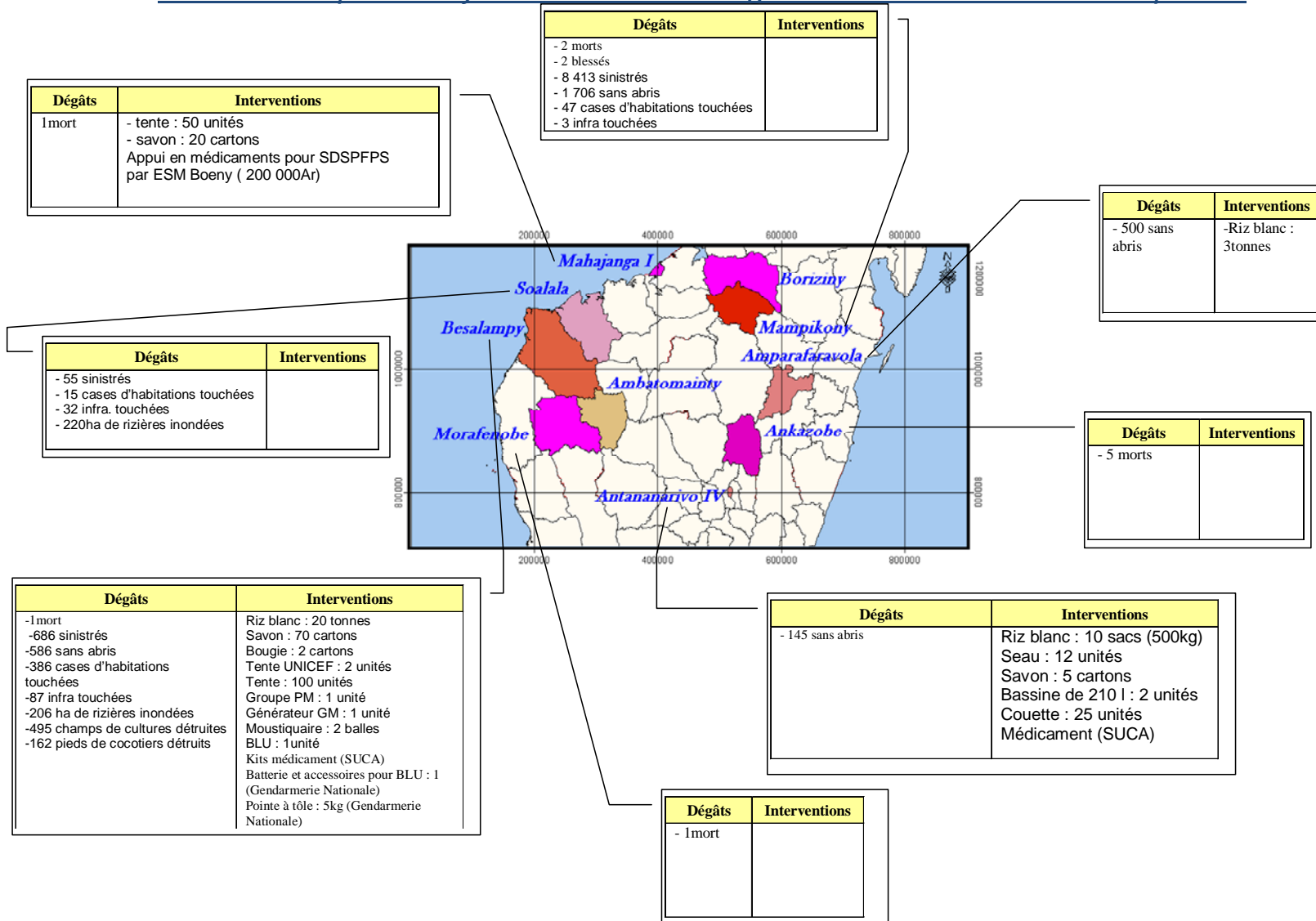
Alfred Nabeta
Desk Officer (Geneva), +41 22 917 2732

Mette Tangen,
Desk Officer (New York), +1 917 367 3001

Elizabeth Byrs,
Press contact (Geneva), +41 22 917 2653

Stephanie Bunker,
Press contact (New York), +1 917 367 5126

Carte sur l'impact du cyclone Fame à Madagascar et sur les actions entreprises¹



¹ Source BNGCR