



Issue No. 14
18th June 2008

1. REPATRIATION OF MALAWIANS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Following a spate of violent attacks on foreigners in South Africa (refer to attached timeline); Malawi has seen a number of its citizen resident in that country returning. Some are returning on their own while others are being repatriated by the Government.

2. RESPONSE

On the 27th of May, the Malawi High Commissioner in South Africa stated that 3,000 Malawians registered with the Embassy in Pretoria for repatriation. Four buses organised by the Government of Malawi from Johannesburg made the first trip to Blantyre on Saturday 24 May 2008 with 118 nationals. More buses have been organized since then. The Ministry of Women and Child Development hostel in Blantyre was turned into a receiving camp where returnees are being screened, as many do not have personal identity documents.

3. NATIONAL RESPONSE

On the 25th of May the Secretary for Home Affairs and Internal Security as Chair of the taskforce set up to coordinate the repatriation exercise. The meeting was attended by DoDMA, Ministries of: Health, Labor, MoLG&RD, Finance, Justice, Women & Child Devt, Malawi Prison Service, Immigration and Police services, MRCS, WFP. The objective was to review all the preparatory work and identify gaps. The following areas were looked into:

ACCOMMODATION:

People are being accommodated in a hostel with 14 rooms with a capacity of about 6, a hall which can fit about 40 and 3 tents (with a capacity of 6) provided by MRCS. MRCS indicated that they could increase the number of tents to 10.

DoDMA provides blankets.

FOOD:

WFP has been providing food support to returnees through DoDMA. Additional food requirements are being met by DoDMA.

MOH however indicated that there might be need for CSB to carter for children.

HEALTH AND SANITATION:

Ministry of Health has been screening returnees for TB and other infectious diseases. MoH is also providing other medical services to the returnees.

Piped water is available and additional pit latrines were dug by Malawi Prison Service.

SECURITY

The police are providing security.

TRANSPORT

Government is also paying transportation costs for those individuals who arrive in the country without any money so that they may travel to their respective districts.

NUMBER OF RETURNEES



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As of 12th June 2008, the Ministry of Women and Child Development reported receiving a total of 1,262. This number comprises 1,188 males and 72 females. Included in the figure are 38 children that comprise 19 boys and 19 girls.

4. OTHER RESPONSES

The Malawi Red Cross has been providing additional blankets, sleeping mats and tents. They are also preparing meals for the returnees at the reception centre.

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority provided funds for transport and other necessities.

5. OTHER ISSUES

The Post Floods Early Recovery Project NGO component will be commencing soon. The project, which involves NGOs carrying out assessments for early recovery and long term DRR interventions, awaits signing of project document by participating NGOs for disbursement of funds to commence.

WFP continues distributing food in the flood response food component. Food distributions are expected to end in August.

6. CONTACTS

Ministries, Departments, UN agencies, Red Cross, NGOs and other partners are invited to submit information to or request further clarification from:

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