

# Weekly Update on Tropical Cyclone Freddy in Malawi

## Overview

Latest preliminary reports by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) released on 23rd March, 2023, indicate that the number of displaced people is at 563,771 with 577 camps set to accommodate the displaced. The death toll is at 511 with 1,332 injuries and 533 still missing.

The disaster has now affected 16 district councils mainly in southern Malawi. Affected districts include; Balaka, Ntcheu, Blantyre City, Blantyre District, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje, Mwanza, Neno, Nsanje, Phalombe, Thyolo, Zomba City and Zomba District.

Affected communities' urgent needs include; Shelter: tarpaulin (4 x 6 m) family tents/big tents, plastic sheet, blankets, sleeping mats, Protection: clothes, lighting lamps, dignity kits, Health: mosquito nets, mobile clinic services.

Non-Food items: plates, cups, pots WASH: mobile toilets, water treatment chemicals, soap, buckets. Food Security: Maize/maize flour, corn soya blend, cooking oil, pulses (beans, peas ), soya pieces, dry fish/ kapenta, sugar and salt.

Schools remain closed in most parts of affected areas in southern Malawi, thereby affecting learners' right to education. Access to health services is also a big challenge in disaster affected areas as most health facilities are in ruins, compounded by washed away bridges and impassable roads.

Meanwhile, Malawi's neighboring countries, namely Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique, the SADC bloc, various humanitarian agencies, private sector, corporate and private citizens continue to render various support towards humanitarian response.



# ActionAid Malawi's Cash Transfer Intervention



Part of the official launch of ActionAid Malawi cash transfer program in Phalombe and Nsanje districts

In the aftermath of the Tropical Cyclone Freddy, ActionAid Malawi and partners on the ground are complementing government and other stakeholders' response.

During the week, ActionAid Malawi and partners in Phalombe and Nsanje launched the cash transfer program targeting a total of 1,000 survivors in both districts. The Phalombe launch was graced by Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Honorable Michael Usi while the Nsanje launch was graced by Deputy Minister of Local Government, Culture and National Unity, Honorable Owen Chomanika.

Each survivor received K60, 000 which enabled them to make decisions in meeting their urgent needs. The target beneficiaries include; women, girls, child-headed households disabled, elderly, lactating mothers and pregnant women.

In Phalombe, cash transfer benefitted a total of 500 survivors in camps set up in traditional authorities Nazombe, Nkhulambe and Phweremwe. The camps include; Likanani Community Day Secondary School (CDSS), Phweremwe Community Based Childcare Centre, Ruo Admarc, Nkhulambe Primary School, Nkhulambe CDSS, Thambe Primary School, Nazombe Primary School, Longwe Primary School, Mangazi, Luwani, Chitaotao, Nambiti and Michesi.

Another 500 survivors received cash support in Nsanje's traditional authorities, Mbenje, Malemia and Ngabu at Bangula, Motor and Mphatso camps, respectively.

## Lessons from our interventions and our next steps.

The social cash transfer intervention also provided a learning opportunity for our team and partners who noted that there is an increase in unpaid care work burden, weak safe-guarding and social protection systems and low women and youth leadership in most of the evacuation camps.

In light of the foregoing, ActionAid Malawi team, joined by International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (IHART) is currently reflecting on our ongoing interventions to further enhance ActionAid's humanitarian signature, social protection in emergencies, and mobilize resources for social protection and resilience, and enhance women and youth leadership in response and resilience interventions in our impact areas as well as other worst hit districts.