



MALAWI

Drought and Flood Relief Assistance

Disaster Context

Malawi traditionally suffers from weather-related disasters, particularly droughts and floods. Floods have worsened over the last few years. Previously to 2001, only nine districts were classified as flood-prone. In 2001, 16 of Malawi's 28 districts were affected, and 14 were affected in 2002. By the end of January 2003, there was localized flooding in 22 districts, causing eight deaths, damaged homes, and crops.

In the last two years, adverse climatic conditions, chronic poverty (greater than 65 percent of the population lives below the poverty line), reliance on a single crop, and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS have resulted in a humanitarian crisis situation that has affected 3.5 million people. In February 2002, the government of Malawi appealed to the international community for food, shelter, water, and sanitation facilities and medicines. A new state of emergency was declared in January 2003 in a number of districts affected by flooding.

Following the declaration, the UN prepared an inter-agency Consolidated Appeal (CAP) in response to the humanitarian crisis, which served as a basis for addressing the effects of the floods. During 2002 and 2003, the food crisis has worsened and a new CAP has been launched. The current humanitarian crisis has two interrelated dimensions: food insecurity and the direct and indirect effects of the food crisis. HIV/AIDS has now been identified as a major contributor to the crisis.

Projects Titles

- Assistance for the Malawi 2001 Flood Disaster (MLW/01/001/07; MLW/01/001/01)
- Food Crisis Support (MLW/02/006)

Sectors

- Capacity-building for emergency response
- Drought and flood relief and coordination

- Emergency response coordination
- Emergency response monitoring
- Contingency planning

Funding

Following the floods of 2001, UNDP contributed \$50,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds and another \$50,000 as in-kind contribution.

In March 2002, UNDP contributed \$100,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds to field a mission to help prepare the CAP and to engage food aid monitors, assigned to WFP. In addition, \$50,000 was contributed by OCHA to buy maize for distributing to the victims.

Partners

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs
- District Assemblies
- Department of Local Government
- Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- European Union
- UK Department for International Development
- Japan International Cooperation Agency
- USAID
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- UN agencies

Programme Activities

- Establishment of UN Emergency Response Unit
- Compilation of Joint Appeal Response, April-June 2002

- Supply of relief items, March 2001 and March 2002
- Contingency planning mission in late 2001 and early 2002
- Preparation of district contingency plans for three districts; additional funding has been provided to prepare 12 more district plans in 2003
- Training of personnel in three districts in contingency planning
- Strengthening of emergency response capacity at national and district level
- Strengthening of emergency monitoring, data collection, analysis, and dissemination; field Emergency Monitors have been assigned to each of the 27 districts and provided with support facilities; a liaison officer has been deployed to strengthen the coordination function of the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs

Additionally, UNDP prepared a project to boost capacity for emergency response coordination and monitoring. The project aims to aid the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs and District Assemblies in the development of 12 flood contingency plans and associated monitoring of floods. It also aims to enhance short-term national capacities to respond to emergency relief and the humanitarian crisis that Malawi has been facing in 2002 and 2003 and to enhance coordination of information collection, analysis, and dissemination.