

# Malawi: Tropical Cyclone Freddy

Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)

Situation Report No 3

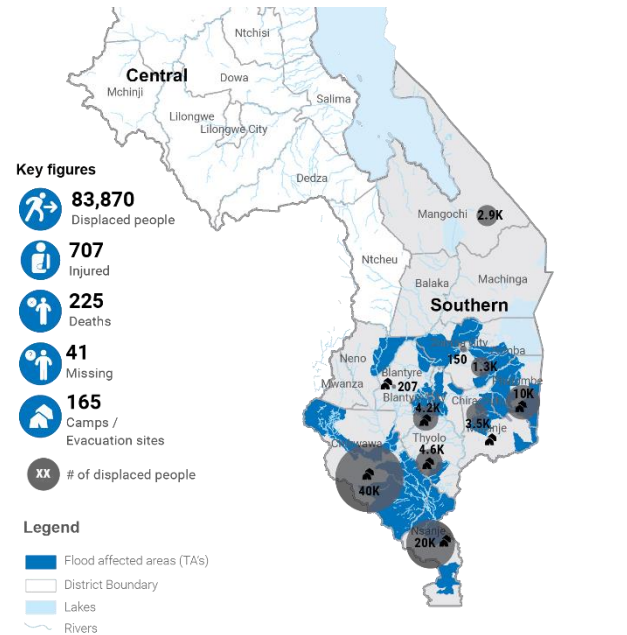
(As of 14th March 2023)



The Malawi Government produces this Situation Report through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. The Report will be issued daily starting from 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

## Highlights

- As of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) reported that Cyclone Freddy had its centre (eye) over Nsanje last night and morning today.
- At 14:00 hours this afternoon, Cyclone Freddy had weakened into a Low-Pressure Area, which is still over Malawi near the border between Mozambique and Nsanje district.
- The Low-Pressure Area will continue to cause torrential rains in most parts of Southern Malawi districts until Wednesday afternoon, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023
- Search and rescue efforts are continuing in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Phalombe, and Blantyre districts, where most of the areas are still flooded. Blantyre, Chiradzulu, and Phalombe districts experienced mudslides that have killed several people
- As of today, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, 18,689 households have been displaced, 225 have died, 41 are missing, and 707 people have sustained various injuries.

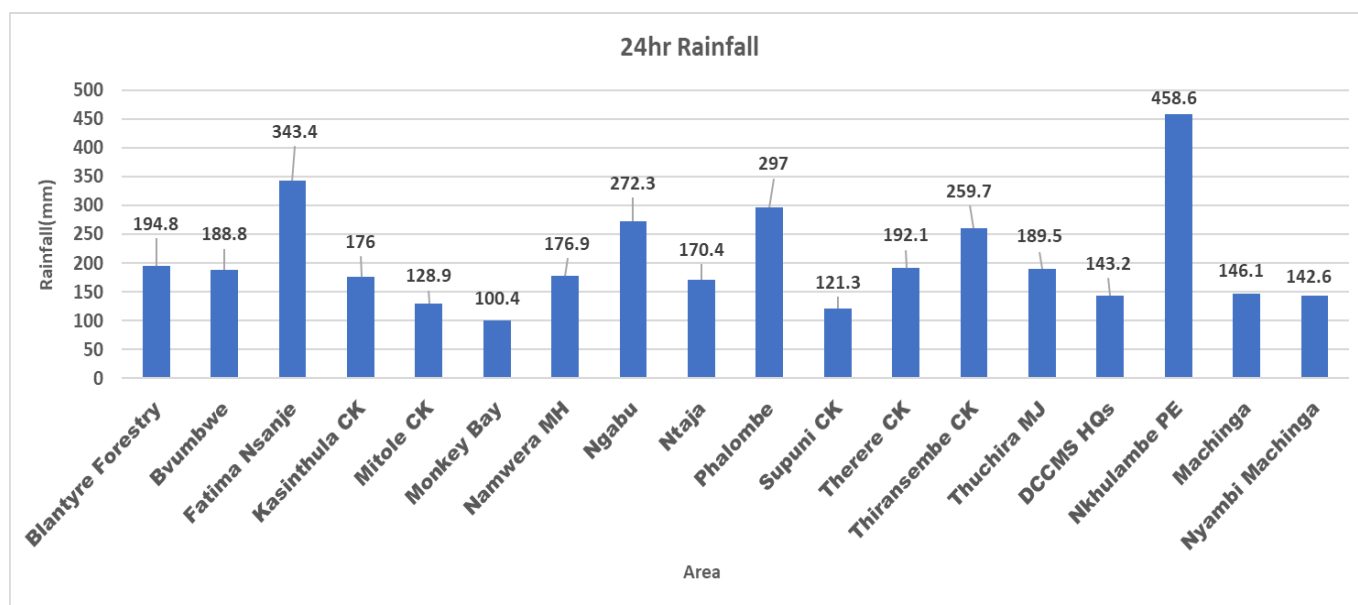


- Public infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, and district and main roads have been damaged in all affected districts.
- Government and partners are providing relief assistance to the affected districts

## Situation Overview

As of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) reported that Cyclone Freddy had its centre (eye) over Nsanje last night and morning today. At 14:00 hours, Cyclone Freddy had weakened into a Low-Pressure Area, which is still over Malawi near the border between Mozambique and Nsanje district. The Low-Pressure Area will continue to cause torrential rains in most parts of Southern Malawi districts until Wednesday afternoon, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

Some of the notable 24-hour rainfall figures reported today at 8:00 am show that the minimum rainfall amount is 100mm recorded in NKhata bay. The highest is 458mm recorded in Phalombe, as indicated in the graph below.



Today, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, Councils have reported incidences of flooding, strong winds, and mudslides that have displaced over 18,689 households translating to approximately 84,000 people in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Mulanje, Blantyre, Thyolo, Chiradzulu Blantyre City. Mangochi, Machinga, and Balaka districts. One hundred sixty-five (165) camps have been established. So far, 225 people have died, while 707 have sustained various injuries. All the Councils are currently conducting rapid assessments to establish the number of households affected by the cyclone.

COUNCIL	DISPLACED HOUSEHOLDS	DISPLACED PEOPLE	DEATHS	INJURIES	MISSING	CAMPS
Nsanje	4,502	20,259	6		4	23
Chikwawa	8,837	39,767	3	13		21
Mulanje		-	8	38		11
Zomba District	296	1,332	1	5		8
Zomba city		-	-	3		2
Blantyre District	46	207	85	134	16	4

Blantyre City	925	4,163	98	393	21	32
Thyolo	1,018	4,581	7	3		13
Chiradzulu	785	3,533	10	62		
Neno		-	-			
Mwanza		-	-	3		
Phalombe	2,280	10,030	6	40		37
Machinga			1	13		14
Balaka			-			
Mangochi	641	2,885	-			
Total	18,689	83,871	225	707	41	165

Most of the affected districts are still receiving light to moderate rains, which will continue to the afternoon of Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. However, water level in most of the big rivers in the affected districts are still high but expected to go down by 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. Most of the areas across the affected districts remain inaccessible, making it difficult for the councils to conduct rapid assessments to establish the total number of people affected by the cyclone. The only available data is on displaced people currently living in camps.

#### **Nsanje,**

- 4,502 households displaced and residing in 24 camps. Six (6) deaths have been recorded and 4 people are reported missing. The road between Bangula and Nsanje has been cut off making transportation of relief supplies from Bangula warehouse to affected areas around Nsanje Boma very difficult. The search and rescue services are continuing especially in Makhanga areas where access is only by water.

#### **Chikwawa,**

- A total of 8,837 households have been displaced and residing in 21 camps. 3 people have died while 13 have sustained various injuries. Most of the roads including the M1 have been damaged and numerous bridges washed away, rendering most areas inaccessible.

#### **Phalombe,**

- Experience floods at the boma, the displaced people from communities around the boma are camping at Phalombe Secondary School. The district has recorded 6 deaths and 40 injuries of which 10 are admitted at the District Hospital.

#### **Chiradzulu,**

- Recorded 1,555 households affected from 4 TAs, 62 injuries, 10 deaths and 785 households displaced and seeking shelter in 16 camps. Road from PIM turnoff at Chiradzulu Boma and Chiradzulu district hospital is impassable due to big rocks that came

from Chiradzulu mountain which erupted (napolo). no schools and health centres have been affected.

### **Thyolo,**

- Recorded 3,017 households affected with 3 injuries and 1,018 households displaced, seeking shelter in 13 camps. All roads to the camps not accessible; Makwasa road cut off, Suwadzi and Nawasadi bridges collapsed. No damage to schools recorded so far.

### **Blantyre City**

- 21,049 have been affected, 65 deaths, and 32 camps established. Flash floods form hills with high speeds. Roads damaged; Kabula police bridge affected. Areas that had flash floods require more effort especially the Soche hill. Some people are still missing.

### **Neno,**

- Two houses completely collapsed in TA Symon. No casualties recorded. Some health centres inaccessible.

### **Mwanza,**

- A total of 99 households have been affected representing 340 people.

### **Zomba,**

- So far, 3,500 households have been affected out of which 296 households are displaced and living in 0 camps. A total of 7 people have died and 17 have sustained various injuries.

In the past 24 hours, the following districts have been affected due to heavy rains that have caused flooding;

### **Mangochi,**

- So far, a total of 1,784 houses have been damaged due to the disaster. The damage ranges from submerged walls, partly damaged walls and completely destroyed houses. 656 households have been displaced residing in 2 camps. So far 4 Traditional Authorities (Tas) have been affected namely Namabvi, Mapira, Chowe, and Mponda.

### **Balaka,**

- So far a total of 82 households have been affected in TAs of Nsamala and Nyanyala. TA Phalula has experienced some road damage.

## Machinga,

In total 9 TAs have been affected rendering some households displaced and seeking shelter in 14 camps. A total 13 people have sustained various injuries and 1 person has died.

## Humanitarian Response

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Provision of humanitarian response supplies is currently underway in all the affected districts. So far;

- Government through DODMA dispatched 45 tons of maize to Phalombe, Mulanje and Blantyre (15 ton each district), 10 bags of maize flour, and 2 bags of 50kg beans to camps. The department has also re-fueled 6 vehicles to MDF, Police and Marine to support search and rescue operations.
- **DoDMA** has distributed the following by district:
  - Blantyre: 335 cartons of rice, 79 cartons of pasta soup, 25 bags of beans, 1,500 blankets and 500 (5 litres) of jerrycans.
  - Phalombe: 25 bags of beans, 1000 blankets, 500 Jerrycans (5 litres).
  - Mulanje: 25 bags of beans, 950 blankets, 500 jerrycans (5 litres).
  - Zomba: 25 bags of beans, 1000 blankets.
  - Thyolo: 25 bags of beans, 1050 blankets, 500 Jerrycans (5 litres).
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- **FGRF** has supported 200 displaced households at Naotcha Camp with the following relief items; 2 tons of maize flour, 200 blankets, 1,200 packets of soy pieces, 400 kgs of beans, 200 kgs of salt, 400 kgs of sugar, 6,000 meters of black sheets, 200 basins and 200 meals of cooked food.
- **MRCS** has provided a first aid kit to the injured, 400 brackets to queens, 8 solar lamps, 20 buckets, and 30 tamplines to be used as matts in camps.
- **KUHES** has supported with fuel for 10 ambulances worth MK5 million.
- CARE Malawi sub-granted cash to 6 of its 10 partners to assist with activities such as district assessments, community sensitization meetings, early warning information, and gender and protection activities. Other partners supporting districts and communities with gender and protection activities include the Women's Legal Resources Centre (WoLREC) and Girls Empowerment Network (GENET).
- **UNICEF** prepositioned WASH supplies, including 149 buckets and 50 plastic tarpaulins in Nsanje and Chikwawa. They had also prepositioned nutrition supplies to all affected districts and are dispatching more WASH, Health and Education supplies to Bangula Humanitarian Staging Area which is close to Chikwawa and Nsanje districts. CARE Malawi prepositioned Non-Food Items (NFIs) in Blantyre in preparation for the season's disasters. Half of these supplies were transferred to one of their partner's (CARD's) warehouses in Nsanje for an efficient response.

## Immediate Needs

Internally living in camps in all the affected districts require immediate support as below;

Cluster	Item
Shelter	Tarpaulin (4 x 6 m)
	Family tents/big tents
	Plastic Sheet
	Blankets
	Sleeping mats
	Clothes
	Lighting lamps
	Dignity Kits
Health	Mosquito nets Mobile clinic services
NFIs	Plates
	Cups
	Pots
	Plastic plates
WASH	Mobile toilets
	Water treatment chemicals
	Soap
	Buckets
Food Security	Maize/ Maize Flour
	Corn Soya Blend
	Cooking Oil
	Pulses (beans, peas etc)
	Soya Pieces
	Dry Fish/ kapenta
	Sugar
	Salt

## General Coordination

The government leads and coordinates the humanitarian response in Malawi through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and related emergency coordination mechanisms referred to as clusters. A national Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) was established in Blantyre on 11th March, to facilitate the coordination of preparedness and response interventions.

Through the EOC, DoDMA and humanitarian partners continue to mobilise resources and hold regular virtual coordination meetings with districts at risk, to access information that will inform further interventions. Councils, through the District/ City Civil Protection Committees (DCPC/ CCPC), provide situational updates to the EOC from the information provided by Area, Ward, and Village Civil Protection Committees (ACPCs, WCPCs, and VCPCs), which are the structures responsible for disaster risk management programmes at traditional authority, ward, and group village levels. In addition, all councils at risk have activated sectoral working groups (clusters) with Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts specifically setting up EOCs for enhanced coordination.