

UNITED NATIONS



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NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

02 February 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will hold a briefing on the humanitarian situation in Malawi following the recent floods in the country. The briefing is held following an appeal by H.E. Mr. Brian Bowler, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi in a letter sent to the President of the General Assembly, updating on the flood disaster situation and seeking humanitarian assistance from the United Nations. The above-mentioned letter is attached for your attention.

The briefing will take place on Wednesday, 4 February 2015 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00p.m. in Conference room 5.

Your personal participation at the briefing will be highly appreciated.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Arthur Kafeero  
Ambassador  
Chef de Cabinet

To All Permanent Representatives and  
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All Communication should be addressed to:  
The Ambassador and Permanent Representative



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In Reply Quote.....

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the PGA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, SUITE 486  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

January 20, 2015

Your Excellency,

It is with great distress and sadness that I convey the news about the worst disaster that hit my country recently as a result of heavy torrential rainfall, resulting in severe flooding in most parts of the southern region of the country.

The worst affected districts are Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe and Zomba where a lot of people's houses and household property have been damaged rendering the affected households displaced. It is estimated that more than 100,000 people have been displaced by floods and about 178 people have lost their lives. The floods have also damaged a lot of crops, livestock and also damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015, His Excellency the President, Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, declared all the districts affected by these flood disaster areas.

Your Excellency may wish to know that since the floods occurred, the government and other organizations have been providing assistance to the displaced households, however, due to the increasing number of affected people, the relief requirements are also increasing.

Although the government is trying its best, it cannot handle it all. Currently, the government is using military helicopters and boats to reach some of those stranded. However, the rescue operations have been hampered by poor weather for the past days.

Through Your Excellency, I would like to appeal for the humanitarian assistance from the United Nations and all its agencies, so that together we can contribute in alleviating suffering on the part of the people affected by these floods.

Lastly, I would like to assure Your Excellency that the government of Malawi will see to it that all relief assistance provided reached the beneficiaries accordingly.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Brian Bowler  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

His Excellency Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa  
President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of  
the United Nations General Assembly



Government of Malawi

## **UPDATE ON FLOOD DISASTER RESPONSE AS AT 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

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1. The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee comprising of Ministers, Principal Secretaries, senior MDF and Police officials and cooperating NGOs (World Vision, Malawi Red Cross Society) met on Sunday, January 18 at the Vice President's office where, among others, the meeting agreed to continue and speed up the search and rescue efforts in the lower shire, intensify food distribution together with World Food Programme (WFP) to save lives by meeting immediate food needs of the people affected by the floods, and engage all preventive measures to avert outbreak of diseases like cholera in camps.
2. The deployment of MDF helicopters and boats has greatly boosted the search and rescue operations with helicopters alone so far rescuing 307 people while 1,264 have been evacuated using boats.
3. As of Sunday most people who were stranded had been rescued but government continues to monitor the situation. Meanwhile, government appreciates the willingness of people to move upland, thanks to discussions and negotiations with the people using chiefs and Members of Parliament.
4. A total of 442 Community Based Child Centres have been temporarily closed due to the disaster affecting 28,007

children. Responding to this, government has moved in to provide tents, fortified corn soya blend and high energy biscuits to the children.

5. A total of 415 schools have been affected of which 234 have had their roofs blown off, submerged or collapsed; and 181 school blocks are being used as camps. The government has however started providing tents in such areas where the displaced people are staying in school blocks to ensure that learning is not affected.
6. Efforts are being made to ensure that there is total coordination in terms of information flow and need requirements with the District Commissioners and the eight clusters that were formed to coordinate and manage the disaster response.
7. But while more aggressive efforts are being made to provide essential relief assistance, there is still high need for more tents, food, kitchen utensils, essential medicines, dignity kits and water purifying chemicals amongst others.
8. Those willing to assist should channel the donations through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs and District Commissioners. The DCs are the ones responsible for distribution of the relief items to the affected population.

**Office of the Vice President**

**Lilongwe**

**18<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**