

Regional update of the flooding situation in southern Africa

- As a result of heavy rainfall, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia have experienced localized flooding which started as early as 14 January 2008. Localized flooding is common during the southern Africa rainy season, which typically lasts from November to April. But this year, floods are occurred earlier than usual in some countries.
- The impact and responses varies from country to country depending on the capacity and funding mobilized.
- On 11 February 2008, the international humanitarian community launched the 2008 Southern African Region Preparedness and Response Plan for Floods seeking nearly US\$ 89 million to help the governments of Malawi (\$18M), Mozambique (\$35M), Zambia (17M) and Zimbabwe (\$15.8M) respond to the floods caused by heavy rains in the region.
- Also on 11 February 2008, one of the spillway gates of the Kariba Dam was opened as per the notification by the Zambezi River Authority, issued a week earlier. It is reported that the discharge rate did not exceed 750m³/s, half of the amount anticipated. There are so far no reports of a serious impact downstream. Authorities in Mozambique believe that the release rate was low enough that they will not be forced in turn to discharge further water from the Cahora Bassa dam.

Table showing: Country, number of people affected and Cause

Country	Numbers affected	Causes
Mozambique	102,155 (evacuated) and a total caseload of 258,000	Flooding
Malawi	153,000	Rains, flooding
Zambia	20,022	flooding
Zimbabwe	15,168	flooding

The impact of the 2008 flooding on the region has been:

- **Food and food security:** Thousands of hectares of cropping land have been destroyed and the families who will be displaced will not have access to food. This would affect the food security of families in the long-term.
- **Human Shelter:** Most of the houses in the flood prone areas have been destroyed. Most houses are built of low quality building materials as such excessive rainfall can cause them to collapse.
- **Water and sanitation:** The drinking water sources were contaminated due to flooding of latrines. There is shortage of water for household chore, people are walking over 5km to a safe water point and there are reports of water borne diseases such as dysentery and cholera.
- **Health and Nutrition:** Infrastructure has been damaged or flooded which has reduced people's access to health facilities and supplies run out and dysfunctional. This has been compounded by the fact that there are increased cases in malaria, water borne diseases such as cholera and hygiene related such as dysentery as well as Acute

Respiratory Infections. People living with HIV and AIDS and are on ARVs and home Based have been cut off from the supply which might quietly make their condition deteriorate.

- **Education:** Children in the camps are currently not going to school because their schools have been destroyed and have no access to education infrastructure and education materials. Ensuring children especially girls return to school is critical as children are traumatized, missing out on education and they are roaming in the camps and education is one way to make them feel normalcy in the camps.
- **Infrastructure:** Infrastructure such as culverts, and bridges were washed away and part of the roads being washed away making the affected communities being inaccessible through conventional means of transport. Communication infrastructure has also be affected making communication difficult.
- **Violation of Rights:** Communities and families have been displaced and temporary housed in camps. There is a high risk of gender based violence, unequal access to assistance, discrimination in aid delivery and loss of documentation.

ActionAid response:

	Country			
	Mozambique	Malawi	Zambia	Zimbabwe
Situational analysis	Worst affected but situation is stable	Localised flooding situation is stable	Localised flooding situation is stable	Localized flooding
Districts	Mutarara, Chemba and Maganja	Nsanje,		
Interventions	<p>Rescued: 2272 people from risk areas to safer accommodation centers.</p> <p>Education: Teachers (100), school (8), and learners kits (5000) and schools tents (8)</p> <p>Watsan: Distribution of 900 hygienic kits, training of volunteers and awareness raising programs in camps.</p> <p>HIV/AIDS awareness: Raising awareness on HIV/AIDS in camps</p> <p>Protection: Distribution of 1952 OVC survival kits. Protection of women and girls rights through awareness programs.</p> <p>Capacity building: Organizing, mobilization, training and equipping of Disaster Risk committees.</p>	<p>Food: 400 families assisted (maize meal, sugar, salt, beans)</p> <p>Capacity Building: Organizing, mobilization, training and equipping of Civil Protection Committees.</p>	No response as yet, due to lack of funding	No response so far: Affected areas are outside AA areas of operations.

Fundraising	SIDA: 427,000 Euro (2); CERF (UN): US\$162,000 (2); AusAid: Aus \$193,000 (2); UNICEF \$20,000 & 1,52 OVC kits (1), IECT: £30,000 (1); ECHO: \$27,000 Euro (3)	Proposal developed but not submitted	No proposal submitted	No proposal submitted
Capacity				

NB:

- 1: Successfully funded
- 2: Submitted awaiting response
- 3: Not submitted yet

Future programming

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) work focusing on capacity building and equipping of the community, through the village wards and district disaster management committees in Malawi and Mozambique. A consultant will be visiting Malawi (11-20 March) and Mozambique (1-10 April) to review the community level DRR work and develop a concept note to submit to DIPECHO
- Conducting regional research in Malawi and Mozambique on resettlement and livelihood programming as a long-term solution to the flooding problem and to guide AAI future programming and policy and advocacy work