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for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

These primary school learners at Mkanda Primary School attended the Back to School Campaign Launch to celebrate the school reopening after the devastating impact of Cyclone Freddy.

Malawi

HIGHLIGHTS

- Malawi is prone to multiple natural disasters, climatic shocks, and public health emergencies. An estimated 10.8 million people, including 5.5 million children are affected by the impact of a widespread cholera outbreak, Cyclone Freddy, and food insecurity.
- Cholera has spread to all 29 districts, affecting 4.85 million people.¹ Since the start of the outbreak, over 58,000 cumulative cases and 1,740 deaths have been reported.²
- There is a risk of malnutrition due to acute food insecurity, affecting 3.8 million people in 21 districts. An estimated 573,800 children under five, and 228,000 pregnant and lactating women are at risk of malnutrition.³
- Tropical Cyclone Freddy influenced torrential rains over the southern part of Malawi, with devastating implications for children and their families. At least 2.3 million people have been affected (including 51 per cent female and 56 per cent children), of whom 659,278 have been displaced.⁴
- UNICEF Malawi requires US\$87.7 million⁵ to ensure malnourished children receive quality treatment, women, girls, and boys access protection services, mobile health and nutrition teams access hard-to-reach families, children access improved learning opportunities, water sources are safe and rehabilitated, climate-resilient systems are strengthened, and cholera treatment facilities have essential supplies.

IN NEED

10.8 million people⁶

5.5 million children⁷

TO BE REACHED

6.5 million people⁸

3.3 million children⁹

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



31,900

adolescents who have appropriate and life-saving information on how and where to access interventions on HIV prevention, care and treatment



2.2 million

children screened for wasting



1.4 million

children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



6.5 million

people reached with critical WASH supplies

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 87.7 million

The revised 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for Malawi is multi-hazard and covers the needs across the 29 affected districts for a one-year period. The revised OCHA Flash Appeal focuses on the response to floods and cholera in the priority affected areas for a 5-month period.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Malawi is prone to various natural disasters and climatic shocks, such as severe drought, floods, public health emergencies, and food insecurity.

Since March 2022, Malawi has witnessed the worst cholera outbreak in the last twenty years, affecting an estimated 4.85 million people.¹⁰ Since the start of the outbreak, 58,130 cumulative cases and 1,740 deaths have been reported across 29 districts.¹¹ The case fatality rate has been worryingly high at 3 per cent.¹² The top-four risk factors are unsafe water sources, inconsistent latrine usage and open defecation practice, poor food hygiene, and contact with cholera cases. Malawi also faces a health workers crisis, as health workers are inequitably distributed throughout the country, with severe imbalances between the districts. In general, there is a lack of adequate health staff in remote areas compared to cities. Evidence shows that cholera's impact on children, especially girls, can also lead to trauma, and high risks of exposure to violence. These are all critical elements to be considered in the response. The Health Cluster estimates that 3.5 million people will need emergency health services.

Tropical Cyclone Freddy influenced torrential rains over the southern part of Malawi, affecting 15 districts in March 2023. These districts experienced multiple mudslides, mass debris flows from mountains and hills, which swept away villages, causing damage to properties, crops, and livestock. Severe floods followed the torrential rains, affecting at least 2.3 million people (including 51 per cent female and 56 per cent children), of whom 659,278 people have been displaced.¹³ In addition, 679 deaths were recorded, 511 people are still missing, and 2,178 people were injured during the disaster.¹⁴ At least 67 health facilities were damaged, and access to health services has been hampered due to damaged road infrastructure. The Protection Cluster estimates that 6.5 million people,¹⁵ especially children, need protection services. The Education Cluster estimates that 5.3 million children will need education support.

A total of 89,000 household latrines, 693 sanitation facilities in schools and health facilities, and 460 restrooms in public spaces collapsed. Also, 2,695 boreholes and 37 gravity-fed water schemes were damaged.¹⁶ As a result, there is low sanitation coverage, limited access to safe water, and poor hygienic practices. The WASH Cluster estimates that 10.8 million people are in need of WASH emergency support in 2023.

The tropical cyclone has increased the risk of undernutrition for the affected communities through disruption of household food security and livelihoods (which may lead to poor child feeding practices), exposure to environmental risks and increased communicable diseases, poor hygiene practices, lack of access to safe and clean water and compromised access to health services. The Government of Malawi projected that 3.8 million people in 27 districts and four cities require food assistance.¹⁷ An estimated 573,800 children under five, 456,000 adolescent girls and 228,000 pregnant and lactating women are at risk of acute malnutrition.¹⁸ An estimated 62,067 children under 5 are expected to be severely wasted and require treatment.

SECTOR NEEDS



3.8 million people in need of nutrition assistance¹⁹



3.5 million people in need of health and HIV assistance²⁰



6.5 million children and their communities in need of protection services²¹



5.4 million children in need of education support²²



10.8 million in need of WASH assistance²³

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Malawi's worst cholera outbreak has left Penjani Chunda with little time to rest since its onset in March 2022.

Blantyre's District Environmental Health Officer receives reports, calls, and visitors daily to refine strategies to render the fast-spreading disease a history. However, his job became even more challenging when Cyclone Freddy hit southern Malawi, causing devastating landslides and flash floods that destroyed homes, schools, health centers, public buildings, and roads. The disaster claimed over 500 lives, affected over 1.35 million people, and displaced half a million individuals in the affected districts.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF has scaled up its multi-sectoral programmes in Cyclone Freddy-affected areas to contain the spread of the cholera outbreak.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF will continue to address the multiple crises in Malawi through its long-standing partnership with government institutions and national and international organizations. By drawing on its capacity to deliver a principled, child-centered humanitarian response in line with its Core Commitment to Children, it will ensure that lifesaving and sustainable solutions, underpinned by solid preparedness, are tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable families, focusing on children, women, and people with disabilities.

The government will be supported in coordinating the WASH, Education, Child Protection, Nutrition, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) clusters and working groups. The expansion of response programs to all cholera and cyclone-affected districts in displacement settings and affected host communities have been prioritized. An emergency outpost office in Blantyre has been established to strengthen field presence to be closer to the affected population in southern Malawi.

UNICEF will continue to deliver lifesaving and preventive services, operating mobile health, HIV, and nutrition clinics to reach families in hard-to-reach areas. Ongoing efforts focus on rehabilitating damaged health facilities, enhancing the Expanded Programme on Immunization, Oral Cholera Vaccination, and other campaigns, and preventing malaria outbreaks.

Increasing community water-resilient schemes will also expand operations to deliver safe and sufficient water. The provision of essential WASH items, promotion of hygiene awareness activities, and scale-up of the institutional WASH response targeting schools, health facilities, and child-friendly spaces affected by Cyclone Freddy are ongoing. Support has been provided to cholera-affected communities through a harmonized package of interventions using the Case Area Targeted Interventions approach and strengthening its RCCE programs.

UNICEF will leverage government structures and existing safety nets to channel funds to those most in need. Using government systems, it aims to provide humanitarian cash assistance focusing on the most vulnerable children. Affected schools will be provided with temporary safe learning spaces, teaching, learning materials, and rehabilitation of damaged facilities in the school including WASH. Inclusive access to formal and informal education for out-of-school children will be enhanced. Teachers will be trained in infection prevention and control, mental health, and psychosocial support.

Women and children will be provided with integrated, inclusive psychosocial support and protection case management. Gender-based violence risk mitigation activities will be integrated into all response programs. Reporting mechanisms will be improved, and assistance to survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse will be expanded.

UNICEF will continue to promote community engagement and localization of aid that prioritizes children and women, establishing solid feedback and accountability mechanisms by leveraging local women-led organizations. More support will be provided to credible evidence generation through the research, evaluation, and knowledge management programme to inform decision-making.

2023 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health and HIV/AIDS

- **800,000** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities²⁴
- **14,000** healthcare workers trained in case management, infection prevention and control, and water and sanitation for health facility improvement (WASHFIT)
- **36,000** children and adults accessing treatment for cholera in cholera treatment units provided with UNICEF supplies²⁵
- **31,900** adolescents who have appropriate and life-saving information on how and where to access interventions on HIV prevention, care and treatment



Nutrition

- **62,067** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment²⁶
- **2,170,526** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **607,877** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **79,642** adolescent girls 10-19 years old receiving iron/folic acid supplementation



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **1,423,492** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support²⁷
- **341,638** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **6,500,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **181,863** children who have received individual case management



Education

- **550,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **150,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **20,000** children accessing mental health and psychosocial support in their schools/learning programmes
- **500** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **3,300,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **450,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **350** learning facilities and safe spaces reached with basic WASH services
- **6,500,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Social protection

- **244,444** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support²⁸
- **24,222** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers across sectors



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

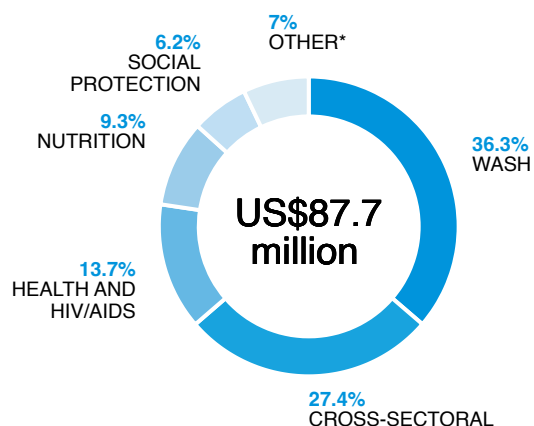
- **9,720,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services²⁹
- **30** women's rights, adolescent girls and youth groups that have been consulted and/or participated in all phases of the programme cycle
- **777,600** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF has increased its appeal to US\$ 87.7 million to respond to the urgent needs of 6.5 million people targeted, including 3.3 million children (1.76 million girls and over 344,000 children with disabilities). The upsurge of the cholera outbreak, immediate devastating impact of Cyclone Freddy and its aftermath have increased humanitarian needs and funding requirements compared to estimates made earlier this year.

This funding will be used to meet priority needs, including access to safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene items, health, nutrition, education, child protection services, and humanitarian cash assistance. Funding will enable UNICEF to provide specialized services for disabled children, address gender inequalities and strengthen the prevention of violence against children and sexual exploitation and abuse. Funding is also required to ensure minimum levels of emergency preparedness, considering multi-risk profile of the country.

UNICEF requires urgent and flexible funding to ensure that no child is left behind. Without it, UNICEF will be unable to support the Government of Malawi and its partners in responding to multiple crises affecting the country. Poor and vulnerable households with children will be left without access to basic services, essential supplies, and social assistance.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Health and HIV/AIDS	12,012,754
Nutrition	8,181,969
Child protection	3,242,592
Education	2,997,648
WASH	31,842,720 ³⁰
Social protection	5,435,424
Cross-sectoral ³¹	23,999,613
Total	87,712,720

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection (3.7%), Education (3.4%).

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health and HIV/AIDS	8,347,697	12,012,754	2,547,770	9,464,984	78.8%
Nutrition	5,352,862	8,181,969	1,229,016	6,952,953	85.0%
Child protection	2,100,855	3,242,592	882,703	2,359,889	72.8%
Education	900,000	2,997,648	790,748	2,206,900	73.6%
WASH	17,095,000	31,842,720 ³⁰	8,434,628	23,408,092	73.5%
Social protection	1,800,000	5,435,424	85,000	5,350,424	98.4%
Cross-sectoral ³¹	16,826,066	23,999,613	2,234,515	21,765,098	90.7%
Total	52,422,480	87,712,720	16,204,380	71,508,340	81.5%

Who to contact for further information:

Gianfranco Rotigliano
Representative, a.i. Malawi
T +265 1770770
grotigliano@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7163
mfontaine@unicef.org

June Kunugi
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
jkunugi@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. Malawi Cholera and Floods Flash Appeal 2023 at a Glance, OCHA, March 2023.
2. Public Health Institute of Malawi, Daily Reports, Facebook, April 2023
3. 2022/2023 National Lean Season Food Insecurity, Response Plan, Department of Disaster management Affairs, Office of President and Cabinet (OPC), Republic of Malawi, March 2023
4. Cyclone Freddy, Consolidated Assessment Report, Department of Disaster management Affairs, Office of President and Cabinet (OPC), March 2023
5. The appeal requirements increased from US\$52.4 million to US\$87.7 given the country's increasing humanitarian needs.
6. The total population in need is based on the people in need of WASH services in the context of widespread cholera and other shocks from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Report, 2020, which is the highest. It is estimated based on the number of people not accessing WASH services (10.8 million, with population projection of 2.9 per cent since 2018) out of the total population (14 million) in 17 hot spot districts that have registered the highest number of cholera cases. The districts are Karonga, Nkhatabay, Rumphu, Nkhotakota, Dowa, Salima, Lilongwe, Dedza, Mangochi, Machinga, Zomba, Blantyre Thyolo, Mulanje, Balaka, Mzimba North, Chiradzulu. Government of Malawi, National Statistical Office, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Report, 2020, available at: <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/media/6296/file/Malawi%20Multiple%20Indicator%20Cluster%20Survey%20Report.pdf>. Malawi Economic Monitor, 'Planning Beyond the next harvest,' December 2022, available at: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099945012012289449/pdf/P17952904c6c4603d0b0660c8a8483efa59.pdf>
7. The total number of children in need is calculated as 51 per cent of the people in need.
8. The total people to be reached by UNICEF is based on the number of people to be reached with WASH interventions. This includes 3.3 million children (51 per cent), 3.4 million women/girls (52 per cent) and 676,000 people living with disabilities (10.4 per cent) based on Malawi Population and Housing Census Report 2018. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/images/stories/data_on_line/demography/census_2018/2018%20Malawi%20Population%20and%20Housing%20
9. The total children to be reached is calculated as 51 per cent of the total number of people to be reached. This figure includes 51 per cent girls (1,690,650) and 9 per cent children with disabilities (298,350). This information is based on the Malawi National Census 2018, available at: <https://malawi.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/2018%20Malawi%20Population%20and%20Housing%20Census%20Main%20Report%20%281%29.pdf>.
10. Malawi Cholera and Floods Flash Appeal 2023 at a Glance, OCHA, March 2023
11. Public Health Institute of Malawi, Daily Reports, Facebook, April 2023
12. Ibid
13. Cyclone Freddy, Consolidated Assessment Report, Department of Disaster management Affairs, Office of President and Cabinet (OPC), March 2023
14. Ibid
15. An estimated 66 percent of Malawi experienced violence in their childhood. Malawi Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) report 2015 (data collection 2013), available at: <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/malawi-vacs-report-2015>
16. Ibid.
17. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) 2021 Annual Assessment, using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), has projected that 3,822,396 people in 27 districts and 4 cities are in IPC Phase 3 or worse and would require food assistance.
18. Ibid
19. An estimated 3.8 million people will be in Phase 3 IPC (crisis) and require humanitarian support between November 2022 and April 2023. This includes 573,800 children under five, 456,000 adolescent girls and 228,000 pregnant and lactating mothers.
20. The Health Cluster estimates that some 3.5 million people will need health and HIV/AIDS assistance. This includes 672,837 people in 14 districts as per the Flood appeal, and (b) 2.8 million people as per the cholera nationwide requirements.
21. This sector need was calculated by considering the 10.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and estimating that 66 per cent of Malawi experienced violence in their childhood. Malawi Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) report 2015 (data collection 2013), available at: <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/malawi-vacs-report-2015>
22. This was calculated based on the total enrollment as per Education Management Information System (EMIS) 2022, <https://www.education.gov.mw/index.php/edu-resources/2022-education-statistics>
23. This figure was estimated based on number of people not accessing WASH services (million) out of the total population (14 million) in 17 hot spot districts that have registered the highest number of cholera cases. The districts are Karonga, Nkhatabay, Rumphu, Nkhotakota, Dowa, Salima, Lilongwe, Dedza, Mangochi, Machinga, Zomba, Blantyre Thyolo, Mulanje, Balaka, Mzimba North, Chiradzulu.
24. UNICEF will support Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), Antenatal Care (ANC), and vaccination. This will be done through the support to fixed health facilities and mobile health and nutrition teams.
25. Supplies for cholera treatment will be provided to CTC/CTUs.
26. 75 per cent of the severe acute malnutrition burden (62,067), calculated at a prevalence rate of 0.7 per cent.
27. This figure has increased in comparison with previous targets, due to high number of people (at least 2.3M) affected by the floods. This includes children in schools and people returning to their communities.
28. GoM is targeting 82,380 households as per proposal.
29. Estimated based on radio listenership, mobile and internet coverage. People reached with gender- and age-sensitive, socially, culturally and linguistically appropriate life-saving information (health, nutrition, education, child protection, hygiene and sanitation)
30. The WASH budget has increased significantly due to the extent of infrastructure damage caused by the flooding. The people targeted for WASH increased slightly, because most people were already targeted in the previous response.
31. The MCO HAC is gender transformative addressing health, WASH, education gender needs as well as knowledge, attitudes and practices with gender transformative budget contribution. This budget includes US\$13.2 million for SBC/RCCE/accountability to affected populations, US\$250,000 for communication, US\$1 million for coordination, and US\$2.4 million for preparedness and resilience building.