LOCATION: Lilongwe
DATE: 10th March 2015

Summary
- Since the start of the response operation to the Malawi floods the Logistics Cluster has:
  - Moved 438mt of food and non-food items by air
  - Facilitated the transport of 1148 humanitarian passengers on UNHAS
  - Coordinated the movement of 96mt of cargo by road

Air Transport
- A single Mi-8 Helicopter remains the only asset transporting cargo and Humanitarian passengers to the inaccessible areas.
- Two South African Bell helicopters which were carrying out slinging operations have finished services following a very successful operation.

Overland Transport
- The Logistics Cluster officers carried out an Infrastructural assessment between Bangula and Makhanga. This assessment resulted in a report which was used to inform a request for standby partner assistance from MSB to provide three bailey bridges for the operation.
- A Logistics Cluster officer from Lilongwe travelled to Blantyre to assist in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) which was facilitated by the World Bank. The Logistics Cluster Information Management officer provided mapping support to the PDNA.
- Three areas remain isolated due to flooding. These areas are Makhanga, Chikali & Chigwamafumu.
- Daily attempts are being made to transport cargo by road to areas on the East Bank.

River Transport
- The Malawian Defence Forces assisted in the return of humanitarian passengers from the East Bank area. The return of the passengers by air was prohibited due to weather conditions in the operational area compromising flight safety.
- The Logistics Cluster is attempting to facilitate the opening up of sustainable supply lines to the east bank using local boatmen.

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Funding

- The Logistics Cluster is facing a funding gap which is a concern given continued access problems in particular to flood affected populations that are cut off in the East Bank in Nsanje. The Logistics Cluster has a shortfall of $450,000.00 to continue its operations.

Storage

- Storage services for Inter-Agency cargo continue at the warehouse in Bangula on a free of charge basis.

Assessment

- The Logistics Cluster is working to map PDNA’s (Post Disaster Needs Assessment) collected data on logistics infrastructure damages following the floods in the districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo and Blantyre.
- An access assessment was conducted by the Logistics Cluster between Bangula and Makhanga “island” to plan the transition from air support transport to surface transport.

Exit Strategy

- An exit strategy is currently being developed to allow for the withdrawal of the airborne asset and the introduction of sustainable supply lines to the affected areas.

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