An estimated 22,000 households (121,000 people) have now been displaced by floods, with the most affected districts being Nsanje, Chikwawa and Phalombe. Reports of additional displacement in Phalombe District are being investigated. In addition, 153 people are still missing in Nsanje.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts, where households continue to arrive at camps established to accommodate those evacuated. The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and other organizations are continuing to distribute food and non-food items to the affected. Cluster meetings are being convened to agree on sector-specific response requirements, and a consolidated response plan, led by the Government of Malawi, will be finalized on 17 January. A UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team is currently supporting assessments.

Mozambique

According to preliminary data released by Government, 52,700 people have been affected by the current floods, including 31,200 people in Zambezia Province and 15,400 in Nampula Province. An estimated 22,300 people are being housed in 14 accommodation centres in Zambézia Province. More than 4,800 houses were totally destroyed and 2,600 damaged.

Rescue operations, led by Government, are ongoing, although these are being hindered by persistent heavy rains, strong waves, overflowing rivers and damaged or blocked roads. Air bridges are being established.

Madagascar

Chedza made landfall over Madagascar yesterday as a tropical storm and weakened to a tropical depression as it crossed the island.

While Chedza was not as powerful as initially feared, it is still too early to know its impact, especially considering the weeks of heavy rains that have already fallen over Madagascar and the forecast for more heavy rains over the coming days. Preliminary information indicate that 24,968 people have been affected and 4,500 people displaced, including 22,512 people affected and 3,150 displaced in the capital Antananarivo.

Government is providing shelter and food rations to those affected in Antananarivo, and dispatching 10 days’ worth of food rations to those affected in other parts of the country. Evacuations and assessments are also ongoing.