

## IOM Responds to Cyclone Freddy Affected Populations

**600,000+**

people displaced across 15 districts

**747**

camp and camp-like settings

**Over 70%**

of displaced persons residing in public buildings (schools and churches)

**Appeal Status**



18%

RECEIVED: \$ 0.8 M

REQUESTED: \$4.7 M



Most affected populations in Nsanje receiving NFIs support. @IOM2023/L.Katsala

Tropical Cyclone Freddy made landfall in Malawi's Southern Region on 12 March, bringing torrential rainfall, causing devastating floods and mudslides. The Government of Malawi (GoM) recorded high numbers of loss of lives (with over 511 deaths as of 24 March) and destructions of homes and infrastructures, resulting in mass population displacement. Some areas are still hard to reach. Affected populations are in dire need of assistance with the most immediate needs being shelter, food, non-food items (NFIs), clean water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and protection.

IOM has been on the ground together with other UN agencies supporting the GoM in responding to the needs of the survivors. IOM as **co-cluster lead on Camp Management of the Shelter/NFI/Camp management cluster** is supporting the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and other cluster partners in coordinating the shelter, NFI and CCCM response. In the first two weeks, IOM **provided emergency NFIs** (blankets, sleeping mats) to 400 households in Nsanje, **established Camp Management Committees (CMCs)** in Blantyre districts and deployed 10 enumerators to conduct **service monitoring in camps** of Blantyre, Chikwawa and Nsanje districts, reaching more than 136,000 IDPs.

Additionally, IOM conducted a **one-day CCCM refresher training** to equip 17 government officials and partners with skills and knowledge to enhance coordination and delivery of life-saving services in camps.



A one-day Refresher training on CCCM. @IOM 2023/J.Mpeni

### IOM's Areas of Response:



**Provision of Emergency Shelter/ Non-Food Items (NFIs)**

Supporting IDPs to access immediate shelter solutions (blankets, ropes, tarpaulins, unconditional cash)



**Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

GoM capacity to establish camp governance structure in all sites to support delivery of lifesaving services including protection



**Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)**

Supporting GoM-led Emergency Operations Centres with Information Management via 10 enumerators (6m/4f) monitoring IDP site services. Aiming at rolling out DTM in all districts to monitor needs, gaps and mobility trends.



**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)**

Supporting cluster to ensure access to safe water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities for affected populations in camps via site improvements.

## Strengthening capacity in Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) mainstreaming

In February, the Humanitarian, Peace and Development Unit conducted a national training workshop on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (MECC), targeting 50 participants from national government institutions, CSOs and academia, as well as sub-national institutions from District Councils where MECC nexus issues are prevalent.

The training aimed at enhancing participants' knowledge and skills on MECC issues and mainstreaming in national and sub-national development frameworks.



MECC Mainstreaming workshop @IOM 2023/M.Simoni

Speaking after the training, Executive Director for Initiative for Climate Action and Development (ICAD) Mr Gift Maloya commended IOM for organizing the training which he said enhanced his knowledge and skills.



Mr Gift Maloya—Executive Director for Initiative for Climate

*“The training on mainstreaming Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) delivered by IOM Malawi has enhanced my knowledge and skills needed for effectively addressing complex migration issues exacerbated by climate change and disasters. It will also help my organization in carrying out impactful program design, research and advocacy that contributes to attainment of MECC sensitive national policies and programmes in Malawi”, said Maloya.*

Following the training, IOM will continue engaging with the participants who have been trained to ensure the knowledge and skills imparted are being utilized in MECC and DRR Programming among national and district level development planners and practitioners.

### Did you know? IOM and MECC

IOM has been at the forefront of operational, research, policy and advocacy efforts, seeking to bring **environmental migration** to the heart of international, regional and national concerns. In 2021, IOM launched its 10-year [Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021-2030](#).

IOM follows 3 strategic objectives:



**Prevent forced migration** resulting from environmental factors, making migration a choice.



**Provide assistance and protection** to affected populations when forced migration occurs due to environmental and climate change ; and **seek durable solutions**.



**Facilitate migration** in the context of climate change adaptation and **enhance the resilience** of affected communities

To achieve these objectives, climate change and environmental factors must be **integrated across all areas of migration management**, while also mainstreaming migration and climate change in the national development agenda.

## Border Management Officers Equipped with Skills and Knowledge on Migrants' protection



Participants at the Migrant protection workshop @IOM 2023

From 28 February to 2 March 2023, IOM, in collaboration with Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, trained 30 border management officers, located at border posts across Malawi, on protection of vulnerable migrants in mixed migration flows.

The objective of the capacity building workshop was to equip frontline officers with knowledge and skills to identify, refer, protect vulnerable migrants.

Malawi experiences influxes of mixed migration flows including Malawian and

foreign nationals being smuggled or trafficked over the border. The influx of Ethiopian nationals has increased in the past two years, as they transit through Malawi to reach South Africa, often for work purposes. Vulnerabilities of migrants differ, depending on factors such as gender, age, educational levels.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for the frontline officers to share experiences, challenges and good practices in day-to-day operations and strengthening stakeholder coordination and collaboration among border agencies to allow assurance of migrants' rights at all stages of the migration process.

The workshop was organized under the Africa Regional Migration Programme (ARMP) funded by the United States' Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

### What else did IOM achieve in Q1 2023?



**1** UN Network on Migration established with 9 resident UN partner agencies



**4974** migrants, sex workers, young vulnerable persons reached with SRHR—HIV information



**226** (143 F; 83 M) Tuberculosis health screenings

**146** (80 F; 66 M) health assessments conducted for refugees



**90** refugees resettled (44 F; 46 M) to the United States of America; Canada and Australia



**1** Annual Report 2022 published [here](#)

### IOM participated in the development process of :



**2** Flash Appeal by OCHA, consolidated in the Joint Malawi Flash Appeal on [Cholera and Floods](#).



**1** new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028 in all four strategic pillars, including vision statement development, outcome and output and monitoring indicator formulation.

## From Democratic Republic of Congo via Malawi to the United States of America



Amissi and children going through Immigration procedures at Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe, Malawi. ©IOM2023/J.Mpeni

In 2010, Hadidja Amissi, now 29 and a mother of four, left Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) due to conflict and arrived in Malawi. She was separated from her family and up to now she does not know their whereabouts.

Her father was working as a medical doctor and one day she was told that there had been an attack in the location where her parents were residing. That day marked the beginning of her journey to Malawi with support from her father's friend.

"I was just told that people have been killed, I did not even see my parents or their bodies" said Amissi.

She arrived in Malawi without any relatives despite having three siblings and she has no idea where they ended up.

Life at Dzaleka refugee camp has not been easy for her as it has been the survival of the fittest.

"I have been doing whatever piece of job or business was available in order to get food and to support my family to complement the support from the father of my children. Recently, I have been depending on my hair styling business" said Amissi.

After going through various verification processes, she was informed about her confirmed departure to the United States of America under the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in February 2023. According to Amissi, that was one of the best days of her

life.

After IOM informed Amissi about her departure date she had one month to prepare for the travel, including medical checks.

IOM's Operations Assistant Pempho Kuyama explained that the process of the resettlement programme includes identification of beneficiaries, verification of documents as well as medical examinations before a

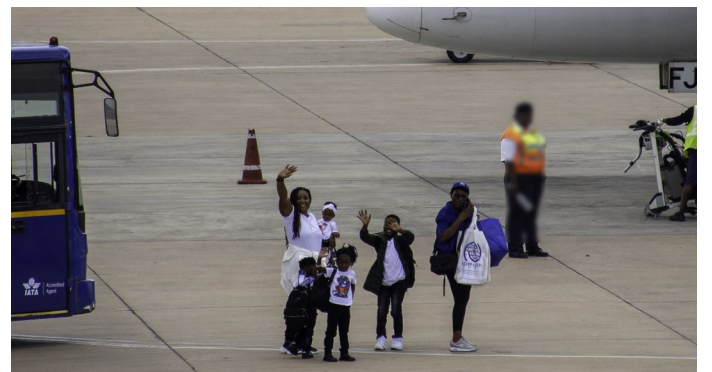


IOM Nurse conducting pre departure medical checkups. ©IOM2023/J.Mpeni

beneficiary is confirmed for resettlement.

"IOM works with various partners at country, regional as well as global level throughout the process. Our (IOM's) role focuses on the final stages by facilitating the departure and ensuring that beneficiaries move in a safe, orderly and humane manner", said Kuyama.

Amissi added that: "My children and I have been going for medical checkups facilitated by IOM.



Final farewells of Amissi and her family to Malawi. ©IOM2023/J.Mpeni

## Cont. From DRC to USA: “... ready to experience new life”—Amissi



*Transfer from Dzaleka refugee camp to the transit centre - Amissi saying goodbyes to the new family she made whilst being in Malawi for more than 13 years. ©IOM2023/J.Mpeni*

Amissi added that “we also went through cultural orientation sessions for us to know more about the United States of America, the kind of people we should expect to meet and the education system so that I can plan ahead”.

A few days before departure date, IOM brought Amissi and her children from the camp to a transit center, to ease preparation and monitoring.

Amissi and her children departed from Malawi on 8 March, 2023 with an IOM Operations escort to ensure that her journey was safe and smooth by sharing the responsibility of managing her four children.



*Amissi and her children in transit to the USA. ©IOM2023/P.Kuyama*

On the departure day, Amissi could not hide her excitement. She said she was ready to experience the new life in the USA and would work hard to support her family and integrate quickly into society.

**Resettlement assistance is free of charge. Report any solicitation or suspected fraud to:**

**[OPSfraudmalawi@iom.int](mailto:OPSfraudmalawi@iom.int)**

## From Our Social Media Platforms

**IOM Malawi** @IOMMalawi · Mar 29  
 Malawi is facing a historic cyclone that has affected 1.3 million people, w/ over half a million people internally displaced by the flooding.

W/ support from the German Humanitarian Assistance (GFFO), IOM & partners are responding to their immediate needs.



61 views 0:00 / 1:22

**International Organization for Migration Malawi**  
 Gepostet von Jaclyn Nzeru III · 28. März um 16:41

This week IOM, U.S. Government representatives and partners under the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) are meeting beneficiaries and stakeholders with an aim of enhancing the resettlement program.

With funding support from the U.S. Government, IOM conducts medical procedures and facilitates departures of refugees to resettle in the U.S.A.

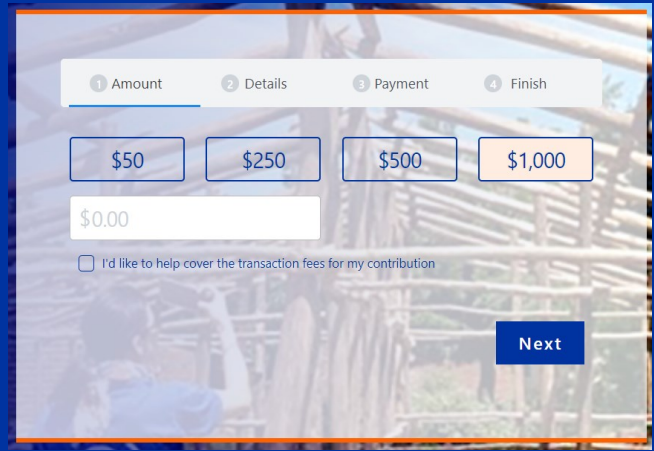
Since January this year, IOM has facilitated departures of 47 refugees (23 female and 24 male) to the United States of America.



## Help Those Affected by Cyclone Freddy in Malawi Today

100% of your donations go to life-saving assistance on the ground.

<https://donate.iom.int/malawi>



1 Amount 2 Details 3 Payment 4 Finish

\$50 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

\$0.00

I'd like to help cover the transaction fees for my contribution

Next

IOM thanks the **Government of Malawi** and its partners for their support in promoting safe, orderly and regular migration in Malawi:



Embassy of Iceland  
Lilongwe





IOM Malawi

Area 13, Plot 97, Sogecoa Golden Peacock Hotel Complex

P.O. Box 31305 • Lilongwe 3 •

*Follow-us:*

