

**THE MOUNTAIN KINGOM OF LESOTHO**

**THE IMPACT OF HEAVY RAINS THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN  
DECEMBER 2010 AND JANUARY 2011**

**EMERGENCY RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT  
CONDUCTED FROM 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

**21 January 2011**

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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The rapid assessment exercise was conducted in 8 districts to assess the impact of the destructive heavy rains that resulted in serious disruption in the national economy and the livelihoods of the Basotho people. The followings are the key highlights of the rapid assessment findings.

- The total rainfall received during 40 days of rainfall in the northern districts of Lesotho equaled to total rainfall amount for 6 months period. The rest of the country received 50% of the 6 month rainfall.
- At least 4,708 animals died as a result of the heavy rains. 94% of the dead animals representing sheep and goats.
- Outbreak of animal diseases particularly *Mastitis*, *foot rot* and *anaplasmosis* were reported in livestock especially goats and sheep.
- Food insecurity is a likely phenomenon this year as crop productivity is expected to be very low. This is attributed to the fact that most fields are waterlogged leading to loss of soil fertility, poor seed germination, high weed infestation and reduced field operation.
- Outbreak of crop pest and diseases such as harvester termites (social pest that affects almost all sectors) and blight (in potatoes and beans) which reportedly on the increase are expected to exacerbate the food insecurity situation.
- There is currently a widespread outbreak of diarrhea across the country due to poor sanitation and contamination of water sources. At least 543 cases were reported in the districts of Thaba-Tseka, Botha Bothe, Quthing and Leribe. Some few cases of dysentery were also reported in Botha Bothe.
- Many health facilities across the country have inadequate medication for management of diarrhea cases.
- Some health facilities are currently inaccessible by road due to damaged roads, bridges, culverts and flooding of the rivers. As a result, drug supply especially ARVs are expected to run out of stock while patients will not be able to access some of the health facilities.
- At least 21 cases of death due to drowning were reported in the districts of Thaba-Tseka, Qacha's Nek, Mohale's Hoek, Botha Bothe, Mokhotlong, and Berea.
- At least four siblings died when a rolling rock fell over their house at Khotsi's in Berea. In a related incidence, a house collapsed over an elderly woman at Ha Mokhehle in Berea.
- At least 672 houses were destroyed in 7 districts of Botha Bothe, Mokhotlong, Leribe, Mohale's Hoek, Berea, Quthing. Half of the houses destroyed are in Berea.
- Roads, Bridges and culverts were massively destroyed in all districts. This makes road access to health facilities, schools, trading centers particularly difficult.
- At least a total of 6 graveyards in Leribe, Thaba-Tseka and Berea were seriously damaged with some unknown number of graves completely uprooted.

## **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

Lesotho has experienced heavy rains that covered the whole country from the end of December 2010 to the first of week of January 2011. The rains according to the Lesotho Meteorological Services were categorized as above normal and many weather stations presented readings that surpassed the records for the ten year period of observation. The situation has resulted in widespread damage throughout the country with the worst affected sectors being Agriculture, Roads, Water and Sanitation, health and trade.

This prompted DMA to call Emergency Meeting for all national stakeholders on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to discuss the impact of the heavy rains on the different sectors as well as sectoral preparedness measures. Preliminary reports from the various sectors indicated serious damages on road infrastructure resulting in many communities being cut off from essential services such as hospitals and schools; destruction of planted crops, disruption of field operations; environmental health and possibility of outbreak of waterborne diseases as well as drowning.

However in their reports the sectoral representatives had indicated that their reports lacked more details as no assessment had been carried out yet.

The following were therefore some the recommendations that came out of the meeting

- A three-day rapid assessment to be conducted with immediate effect
- Country-wide dissemination of weather outlook and forecast by DMA
- Need to strengthen early warning system
- Urgent need to prepare a national contingency plan for heavy rains based on the rapid assessment reports (tentatively on 18-19 January)
- DMA to prepare weekly press releases for radios and newspapers and hold press conferences to sensitize people on measures that should be taken to mitigate the effects on communities.

Following the National Emergency Meeting, a nation-wide rapid assessment was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to determine the impact of the heavy rains. The results of the assessment will be used to prepare a National Contingency plans and to advise the Government and the nation at large on the next course of action

## **RAPID ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

The assessment was conducted from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, in eight districts of Mokhotlong, Botha Bothe, Leribe, Berea, Thaba Tseka, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, and Qacha's Nek. However the assessment could not be done in the districts of Maseru and

Mafeteng because of administrative reasons. However, the exercise in these two districts is yet to be carried out.

The assessment team comprised of forty eight (48) participants, twenty four (24) members from the national level and twenty four (24) from the district. At the district level, three people from the national level joined three people from the district.

The first day of the exercise was dedicated to meeting with the DDMTs to find out the general overview of the situation and the remaining days were then spent visiting the selected areas. Areas to be visited were selected according to the severity of the impact of heavy rains by area and due to limited available data at district level.

At the national level there was a logistics team based at the DMA headquarters to provide support and coordination function to the assessment teams out in the districts.

## **RAPID ASSESSMENT FINDINGS**

The findings for the districts have been categorized under the various sectors as shown below. However, it should be noted that that reports from Mafeteng and Maseru districts are not included in this report since the assessment in these districts are yet to be done.

### ***Agriculture and Food Security Sector***

#### **Livestock**

District	# of Villages affected	Total number of reported dead animals				
		Sheep	Goats	Cattle	Equines	Total
Mokhotlong		<i>1000</i>	<i>hundreds</i>			<i>1000+</i>
Botha Bothe		<i>213</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>362</i>
Leribe		<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>31</i>
Berea		<i>100</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>239</i>
Maseru*						
Mafeteng*						
Mohale's Hoek		<i>1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>11</i>
Quthing	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>16</i>

<b>Qacha's Nek</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Thaba Tseka</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2,929</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3882</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>4708</b>

\* No Assessment conducted

Note:

In Leribe, *Mastitis* and foot-rot disease outbreak on sheep and goats was found to be a very serious issue in the areas of Ha Tlai-Tlai, Ha Bene and Ha Molobeli. As a result, mohair and wool production is also expected to decrease.

The 1000 sheep in Mokhotlong were reported in Tlhanyaku only while other reports indicate that many farmers in other areas lost their goats and sheep in hundreds although the exact figure could not be ascertained during the rapid assessment. Cases of Anaplasinosis (caused by both internal and external parasites) outbreak were reported at Libibing agricultural resource centre, while river valley fever and black quarter disease outbreak were likely to occur in the district.

## Crop

The current heavy rain which started early December 2010 have negatively affected crop production owing to the fact that planting starting late due to drought conditions that were experienced during the start of the cropping season. The following are the ultimate results and/or impacts that are already being realized while some will be apparent in the coming months.

- Most of the fields especially in the northern lowlands of Berea, Leribe and Butha-Buthe, are waterlogged while in some fields the plants are still submerged in water for instance, along Phuthiatsana River at Kolonyama. The result of this situation is the loss of soil fertility through leaching and hence reduction in crop productivity.
- There is poor germination of the seeds which were planted during this period because the seeds have been submerged in the soil for a long time and some have rotted.
- Due to extended rainy days, most farmers have not been able to weed; hence most of the crops are already turning yellow. Since the weeds are already at flowering stage the use of post-emergence herbicides will not be effective. The only alternative is manual weeding which is also challenged by the fact that the crops are lodging.

- It is anticipated that due to these continuous wet days the outbreak of plant diseases will be very high. There are already reports of blight in potatoes and this is expected to expand to beans.
- There are also reports on moles which browse on the newly emerged beans. The situation is expanded by the fact that the soil is wet hence the ease for the moles to dig through the soil.

During the dry conditions there was a problem of harvester termites and the anticipation was that the problem would subside during the rainy period. What has been observed is that due to the heavy rain, these termites have emerged from the soil and are feeding on the plants above the soil. The most crucial issue is the fact that they are already invading houses causing damage to thatched roofs.

<b>District</b>	<b>Extend of Damage</b>
<b>Mokhotlong</b>	<i>Approximately 27% of total areas planted under different crops were damaged by the heavy rainfall and hailstorm. The worst affected crops included beans (33%), maize (30%), wheat (20%) and sorghum (20%). In Mokhotlong weeding normally ends in early January. However, most fields were not weeded and crops have turned yellowish and still swamped in water.</i>
<b>Botha Bothe</b>	<i>Wheat washed away by flooding rivers. Rain disrupted weeding process. HAIL STORM: damaged crops and vegetables completely. Damaged maize and sorghum badly, not certain whether they will recover. Water springing and deep furrows formed</i>
<b>Leribe</b>	<i>An average of 41% of the areas planted under various crops was damaged. The worst affected crops included beans (62%), sorghum (39%) potatoes (37%) and maize (31%). About 316 Ha of wheat could not be harvested due to the impact of heavy rains. Khabo Rice scheme is reported washed away while Hlotse rice scheme was seriously flooded. An estimated 1,286 HA of agricultural land remain fallow as farm machinery could not operate. High outbreak of harvester termites is expected to increase with serious consequences on crops, houses and the environment.</i>
<b>Berea</b>	<i>Generally the agricultural sector was badly affected. Preliminary report indicates that the areas; Liotloaneng (in the Community Council D01), and Ha Tšekelo (in D05) were worst hit by the heavy rains with approximately 990 acres reportedly destroyed by hail.</i>

	<i>However, the situation is currently being assessed by the District Crops Production Office.</i>
<b>Maseru*</b>	
<b>Mafeteng*</b>	
<b>Mohale's Hoek</b>	<i>About 37,794 acres were planted under various crops but damages resulting from the heavy rains could not be estimated. However, most crops were reported overtaken by weeds. It was also reported that some farmers were continuing with weeding in Thaba-Ts'oeu, Mpharane and Taung. The general concern was that low crop production is anticipated due to increased soil erosion, poor germination of seeds and disease outbreak.</i>
<b>Quthing</b>	<i>The crops have been affected mostly by hail storms. Erosion has also played some part where some crops have been eroded. Moreover, the rains have caused water-logging conditions for the crops.</i>
<b>Qacha's Nek</b>	<i>The only problem encountered is that weeding progress has been hindered by the heavy rains and also the water logging. Though they could not estimate hectares of fallow land; it does exist but it was a result of dry spell during planting season.</i>
<b>Thaba Tseka</b>	<i>Generally a large area of cultivated land was destroyed but no estimate could be provided</i>

### ***Health and Nutrition Sector***

<b>District</b>	<b>Sector Damage/Impact</b>
<b>Mokhotlong</b>	<i>Three health facilities (Moeketsane, Thlanyaku and St Martins) were reported inaccessible as a result of the heavy rains. At Thlanyaku health centre some buildings were flooded and this prevented people from attending regular check-ups, especially HIV patients who could not cross the flooded rivers. The nursing team also reported leakage at one of the buildings where medication and essential documents were stored. It is also anticipated that if the current rains continue the health centre would run short of medication especially ARVs. Vehicles were reportedly unable to reach St Martins clinic and the clinic is likely to run out of ARV drugs soon.</i>
<b>Botha Bothe</b>	<i>75 cases of diarrhea were reported in Linakeng, Motete, Selomo, Bokoro, 'Muela, and Ramalieletse. Four cases of dysentery reported</i>

	<i>in 'Muela (3) and Motete (1). 2 cases of drowning were reported in Bongala and Makhunoane.</i>
<b>Leribe</b>	<i>362 cases of diarrhoea outbreak especially among children was reported in three health centres; Linotsing (138); Matlameng (125); and Maryland (99). On the other hand, Maryland health centre was reported to have inadequate medication for management of diarrhoea.</i>
<b>Berea</b>	<i>According to the information available with the DMA-Berea, there are no reported cases of disease outbreaks in the district. Kubetu bridge was destroyed making Maluti Hospital at Mapoteng difficult to access by vehicle. There is at least one case of drowned person in the river at Mahlatsa (in D04). Four siblings died when a rock collapsed/fell over their house at Khotsi's (in D03). At Ha Mokhehle a house collapsed over an elderly woman who was taken to Hospital. She recovered but lost her house. She is now accommodated elsewhere. Four graves were washed away by the floods at Ha Mapeshoane (D04).</i>
<b>Maseru*</b>	
<b>Mafeteng*</b>	
<b>Mohale's Hoek</b>	<i>No severe damage was reported under this sector except for Montsinyane clinic which was reported to be inaccessible just for a day following the heavy rains. However, there is a likely incidence of diarrhoea in Mekaling area due to unprotected springs/wells in some of the villages. Additionally, some VIP toilets in some areas were flooded with water and if the rains continue, they might spill out and cause some disease outbreak.</i>
<b>Quthing</b>	<i>13 cases of diarrhoea were reported in the villages of Sizindeni, Liceni, and Mokae; while 15 households were also affected by diarrhoea in Maputsoe and Lipeleng within the Mokotjomela community council. There were also other reported cases of diarrhoea in the villages of Mapheelle, Ha Ntemere, Lekhalong, and Matšela-ha-beli, though the numbers were not provided.  One health centre at Ha Makoae, is not accessible by vehicle due to a damaged culvert.</i>
<b>Qacha's Nek</b>	<i>Cases of diarrhoea have increased in all the three councils but medication is available. For Mosenekeng council, the following villages were affected; Sekoti, Ha Mokakatlala and Takatso. While in Lebakeng and Matebeng the number of the villages could not be</i>

	<i>provided.</i>
<b>Thaba Tseka</b>	<p><i>78 cases of iarrhea were reported in the villages of Bobete, Mohlanapeng, Mokoto, St. James – Mantšonyane.</i></p> <p><i>Linakeng Health Centre and the St. James Hospital catchment area were found to have inadequate supply of medication for management of iarrhea, while Linakeng is also inaccessible as it was cut-off by the Senqu River.</i></p> <p><i>Most villages have no toilets and protected water systems hence the possibility of outbreaks of water borne diseases. Moreover there are defaulters of ARTs and other check-ups.</i></p>

### **Water and Sanitation Sector**

<b>District</b>	<b>Sector Damage/Impact</b>
<b>Mokhotlong</b>	<p><i>There were two reported cases of drowning at Matsoaing (1) and Mateanong (1). Both corpses were not yet recovered.</i></p> <p><i>At least two protected springs at Ha Maile and Khotsang were destroyed by the heavy rains while two other unprotected springs at Tlhanyaku were also destroyed and seriously contaminated. This is likely to result in an outbreak of waterborne diseases. The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that approximately 90% of the councils visited did not have toilets</i></p>
<b>Botha Bothe</b>	<i>A report from the team is still awaited.</i>
<b>Leribe</b>	<p><i>With the exception of dirty water reported in unprotected springs there were no major reports on other water supply systems.</i></p> <p><i>At least five cases of drowning were reported in Leribe.</i></p>
<b>Berea</b>	<i>No report yet received.</i>
<b>Maseru*</b>	
<b>Mafeteng*</b>	
<b>Mohale's Hoek</b>	<i>With the exception of unprotected springs, other water sources such as Boreholes and protected springs were not damaged by the heavy rains. However, it was reported that the pump station at Makhalleng was flooded. While four out of the six well points in the township were also destroyed</i>

	<i>It was also reported that four people drowned (two old people who were going to claim their pension and a couple who were preparing to get married).</i>
<b>Quthing</b>	<i>Two gravity water supply systems from springs were reported to be damaged due to eroded pipes for the one in the Mokotjomela community council and broken tank for the other one in the Tsatsane community council. This affected the water supply of 16 villages in all.</i>
<b>Qacha's Nek</b>	<i>Status of existing protected springs is normal. There are several villages where people still fetch water from unprotected springs. The prevalence of diarrhoea showed that the water quality was affected for both protected and unprotected springs. In Matebeng three people have drowned and the boat they were using has been washed away.</i>
<b>Thaba Tseka</b>	<i>Outbreak of water-borne diseases were reported due to poor quality of drinking water. For instance, 1 bore-hole at Ha Phaila was completely destroyed, while most of the unprotected springs were filled with debris. One high-lift pump was reported broken and one water reticulation pipe at Linakeng, was broken into half. Katse hydrometric station was reported to have been completely destroyed, while staff gauges at Koma-Koma and Ha Phaila were dented and washed away respectively. Four cases of drowning were also reported.</i>

### **Roads and Logistics Sector**

<b>District</b>	<b>Sector Damage/Impact</b>
<b>Mokhotlong</b>	<p><i>Majority of the roads and culverts were terribly damaged in Mokhotlong. Notable cases includes: Mapholaneng to Makhoabba/St Martins (3kms); two bridges at Molika-Liko Tlhanyaku route and Mateanong Sanqebethu route were badly damaged; while several culverts along Sani Pass route were seriously damaged. Additionally, Semenanyane route was also partially destroyed.</i></p> <p><i>A total of 26 houses were destroyed (21 blown off and 05 collapsed) in the councils of Tekeseleng (3)Mapholaneng (05); Liphamola (01); Khalahali (10) and Popa (07).</i></p>

<p><b>Botha Bothe</b></p>	<p><i>98 Houses were completely destroyed, 52 were partially destroyed, 205 were springing water inside, and four had their roofs blown off in the villages of; 'Moteng, Motahane, Ramalieletse, Setlakalleng, Ha Machibilane, Palehong, Khukhune, Tsime, 'Maletsunyane, Ha Ranakeli, Ha Khabele, Ha Mpepe, Ha Maieane, Sepoqoane, Ha Malefane, Ha Nyopa, Malimong, Liforong, Matebeleng, Tikathole, Ha Selomo, Ha Malofo, Ha Makhohla, Qalo, Kotsonkoaneng, Ha Sebophe, Pokane, Likhahleng, 'Mankoini, and Motete.</i></p> <p><i>Three culverts were completely destroyed on the roads leading to Khukhune and at Mankoli river while 1 culvert on the road leading to 'Malefiloane was partly destroyed.</i></p> <p><i>The roads connecting Ha Selomo and Ha Leboea, and Mabina to Makhunoane were partly damaged; and the road connecting Qalo and Ha Sebophe was completely destroyed. Two foot bridges at Khukhune and Seballa to Matsoapong respectively were partly damaged and the bridge at 'Mankoli river was completely destroyed.</i></p>
<p><b>Leribe</b></p>	<p><i>While there were no serious reports on damages to the roads, bridges and culverts,</i></p> <p><i>At least seven grave in Sebothoane and 19 graves in Thaba Phatšoa were completely destroyed by the rains while 8 graves in Sebothane (4) and Thaba Phatšoa were partially destroyed by the heavy rains. DMA assisted the villages with caskets and body bags for reburial.</i></p> <p><i>The strong winds of the 28/12/2010 completely destroyed 103 houses in Kolonyama (70) and Mahobong (32). Additionally 12 houses in Kolonyama were partially destroyed by the heavy rains and strong winds during the same period. Maryland health centre was also partially affected by the rains.</i></p>
<p><b>Berea</b></p>	<p><i>A total of 98 houses were completely destroyed while 300 were partially destroyed in Berea. Four bridges; one on the main road which joins TY and Mapoteng at Kubetu near Mapoteng, one at Ha Ramothamo, one at ha Lerotholi, and another near St Agnes High School that joins Teyateyaneng and areas around Ha Rapholo were completely destroyed. Two bridges in the district were also reported to be partially destroyed.</i></p>

	<i>Two culverts were completely destroyed and two were partially destroyed (roads not provided). Four graves (located within household compounds not graveyards) were also completely destroyed.</i>
<b>Maseru*</b>	
<b>Mafeteng*</b>	
<b>Mohale's Hoek</b>	<p><i>Tlaling River-Ha Lethana Road and Ha Putsoane were seriously destroyed and in need of immediate attention since the road and the structures are likely to be cut off if heavy rains continue. Secondly, most parts of the Holy Cross-Phamong-Ketane road and Mohale's Hoek-Mpharane road were also likely to be cut off while Raubi bridge in Taung was also reportedly destroyed and in need of repair Other road sections of the roads that were partially destroyed includes Ha Motobaki, Mok'hopha River, Ha Chola, Fika-la-tšoene, Matolong, Lithipeng Masimong, Marakong, Anone-Ralekone-Shale, Tlalind river- Ha Lethena, Makhabane-Phamong, Ha Makara, Ha Putsoane, Qacha-Malehpane-Ha Liatile-Thibella, Ha Pokola and Maqhauka. Along Mohale's Hoek –Mpharane road, two culverts were blocked at Thaba-Tšoeu and Ha Tšepo.</i></p> <p><i>Five houses at Raselepe were reported blown-off by strong winds.</i></p>
<b>Quthing</b>	<p><i>A number of roads were partially destroyed and need urgent maintenance in the Matsatseng and Tsatsane community councils, and some roads were completely destroyed in the Mokotjomela community council. However numbers and villages connected by these roads were not provided.</i></p> <p><i>Dele-dele bridge in the Matsatseng community council was partly destroyed and the bridges in the Tsatsane community council need overtopping as they are too low. Many of the culverts in the Tsatsane and Mokotjomela community councils were destroyed, and need urgent attention.</i></p> <p><i>16 houses were partially destroyed and four completely destroyed in the Mokotjomela and Tsatsane community councils. Accommodation is required by two households.</i></p> <p><i>One boat was washed away by the river in the Mokotjomela community council.</i></p>

<b>Qacha's Nek</b>	<i>Most of the roads have been partially destroyed but still useable. In the villages of Rannatlaila, Matšamaneng and Mariathall in Whitehill council drainages have been blocked. In all three councils there were no reported cases of bridges, graveyards, health facilities and houses destroyed. Since the Senqu river was flooding, patients from Whitehill could not cross the river to Tebellow Hospital for regular checkups and medications.</i>
<b>Thaba Tseka</b>	<p><i>Four roads were completely destroyed. They are: Auray to Motau, (15Km); Matšonyane to Auray (8.2Km; Mashai to Khotsong; Linakaneng to Manamaneng (21.5Km).</i></p> <p><i>Six roads were partially destroyed but need urgent attention, and they include; Tsieng to Bobete (13Km), Lephoi to Likamoreng (7Km), Lesobeng to Methalaneng (14Km), Seshote to Semenanyane (17Km), Sehong-hong to Metebeng (15Km), and Khomo-ea-Mollo to Ha Firi (15Km)</i></p> <p><i>Five bridges were partially destroyed and also need urgent attention, and they include; Maliba-matšo bridge, Semenanyane bridge, two bridges at Lesobeng river, and another bridge at Ha Seshote.</i></p> <p><i>Two graveyards at Sehaula and Malakeng were eroded and need gabions.</i></p>

### ***Report from the Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS)***

Due to heavy rains that instigated at the beginning of the festive season, people drowned and the LMPS rescue team (divers) has been engaged in rescue operations to date. The following figures specify recoveries of drowned people in diverse areas of the country.

<b>PLACE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF DROWNED PEOPLE</b>
Mohokare Maseru	05
Mohokare Peka	02
Mohokare Tšakholo	01
Maqalika	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>09</b>

**N.B. Information shows that some bodies have been observed floating past some villages; however, the information reached the LMPS after a long time which hindered the tracing of such bodies as they had floated further downstream.**

#### 1.1.1. CAUSATION

- Some Basotho and South African communities reside along the borders of Lesotho and South Africa separated by the river. These communities cross to South Africa and Lesotho respectively for work, schooling, and social reasons. These people are at high risk of drowning due to their regular movement to either side of the Mohokare River.
- Herd boys are also at high risk of drowning as the floods usually separate them from their villages and when they need food, they attempt to cross the rivers and sometimes drown.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It was concluded that the country is in an emergency situation that needs both immediate and long term interventions that are aimed at mitigating the effects of the heavy rains. The situation is currently highly volatile as more rains are still expected to come and it warrants close monitoring by all stakeholders to avoid a fully fledged disaster.

### ***Recommendations for immediate attention:***

The recommendation is that the first step should be aimed at bringing the current situation in all sectors to normality through the following ways:

- Conducting public awareness campaign to the general public.
- Repair of road infrastructures need to be done urgently to facilitate access to basic services such as health care, schools and trading centres.
- Provision of safe drinking water to the affected communities.
- Airlifting of essential drugs to the affected areas, especially ARVs and drugs for management of diarrhoea cases.
- Construction of foot bridges as a temporary measure in areas that currently are cut-off to facilitate movement of people as repair of bridges are deemed to take much longer time.
- Food aid supply to the affected communities.
- Re-roofing of destroyed houses.
- Eradication of harvester termites.
- Need to urgently undertake contingency planning for heavy rains.
- Donor agencies should be approached to provide funds to address the existing gaps in key sectors.

### ***Recommendations for medium to long term attention***

- Undertake contingency planning to scale up winter crop production to meet up the food deficiency brought about by failure of summer crops.
- Subsidizing agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers for farmers. Ministry of Agriculture is currently procuring such inputs that will be sold to farmers at subsidized prices.
- Ministry of Local Government should intensify campaign on proper land use planning. The population should be encouraged to construct houses in safe building areas or gazzeted residential areas.
- Diversification of economy to avoid heavy reliance on agriculture.