

# A REPORT ON CYCLONE FREDDY RESPONSE BY ABUNDANCE WORLD WIDE

## 1.0 Introduction

The most severe cyclone to make landfall in Malawi in the past 12 months was Cyclone Freddy.

It's devastating effects were felt and experienced in many districts of the southern Malawi such as Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Blantyre, Mwanza, Mulanje, Phalombe and Zomba while Chiradzulu, Neno (Fig 2) and lakeshore districts had mild impacts.

In many areas of these districts, the commonest impact was flash flooding especially coming from hills (whose trees had been cut down due to illegal settlement), mudslides (which was a rare happening to most people in Malawi), and of course fast abrasive winds. Consequently, many roads were rendered impassable, bridges got cut off, houses got washed away including crops, animals and sadly many people also lost their lives. DoDMA's final figures indicate over 1,000 people were dead and over 500,000 displaced as their homes got destroyed.



## 2.0 Cyclone Freddy in Mbando

Like in many places in southern region, Mbando community in Machinga district where Abundance operates, 63 households were heavily affected through houses that were destroyed. On 15<sup>th</sup> April Abundance Team travelled to Mbando to distribute relief items that were bought through funds that were donated to Abundance. For those present see Annex 1.

## 2.1 Relief Items Distribution Exercise

The Moderator Moses Phulusa welcome people present and asked a volunteer to say an opening prayer. A young lady said the prayer and preached about "Hope and remembrance of God amidst disaster".

Welcome remarks were made by both Snr Group VH Mbando and TA Mposa. Clifford Manthama was asked to say few remarks before the chiefs were given the floor. He expressed deep sadness on the loss of livelihood and property for the villagers. He gave the background to the donation that came through Abundance. The Trustees and other well-wishers through Global Giving. Communities were asked to make use of the residual moisture in all areas that water flooded and now still wet.

Snr GVH Mbando appreciated the Abundance gestures and requested TA Mposa to address the audience in details. TA Mposa explained that

- Cyclone Freddy had devastated the area like many other areas in southern Malawi.
- As part of disaster management 13 camps have been created to accommodate those people that have been displaced in TA Mposa.
- A total of 2,903 households have been affected with a total of 11,633 people. Of these 733 are men and 10,900 are women.
- The Traditional Authority stressed that even though these are the numbers being housed in camps many more people have been affected and are have sought shelter with relatives.
- Since the disaster happened Dodma has been able to provide food relief to the various camps but those that opted to find shelter with relatives have not been reached out to. These are the people Abundance reached to.
- A total of 63 households were reached (Annex 2). They have been assisted with food stuff; flour, cooking oil, sugar, salt, soya pieces and Bonya (small dry fish) and washing soap. Several meters of black roofing sheet were also procured to aide those who will be rebuilding their homes.
- Lake Chirwa is so full of water beyond the levels that the population has ever seen before. The trading centers closer to the lake are all now submerged under water, destroying infrastructures such as maize mills, shops and road networks.
- The population expected the waters to recede but now it seems it has come to stay beyond previous locations.

- It is also disheartening to note that Mposa 's main cash crop which is rice has been washed away in torrent floods. People usually use money from rice sales to buy maize for food. With less rice anticipated to be harvested there are higher possibilities of hunger occurrence. However, the chief said that use of residual moisture would be encouraged what would be needed is support in terms of inputs such as seed and fertilizers and manure.
- On a happier note since the lake is now full there has been a boom in fishing businesses as the fish population has gone up. With a lot of planktons and other fish feeds available the fishes are also of bigger size.
- There was also concern as to what was going to happen to the camps as schools opened on the 17th of April 2023, which means that camps have to be dismantled. The big question is "Where will the people when they do not have homes rebuilt yet?".
- Both chiefs echoed their thanks and appreciation to Abundance for this timely gesture to come in and help and save lives. The TA asked the Abundance representatives to carry the vote of thanks to the Trustees and Dr. Deepa Pullankatil for the relief items.

Meeting ended with a prayer.

**Reported by Grace Moyo**

**Pictorial Highlights**



*Figure 1 Off-loading relief items from the car at Mbando*



*Figure 2 One of the beneficiaries after receiving the items*



*Figure 3 offloading items*





Figure 4 Beneficiaries showing items (Clifford on the left)

## Annex 1 People Present

- (i) Traditional Authority Mposa
- (ii) Senior Group VH Mbando
- (iii) Mr. Kanthiko the Village Relief Management Chair.
- (iv) Mr Maini chair VDC
- (v) Mr Saidi Makwemba ADC Chair
- (vi) Moses Phulusa Community coordinator
- (vii) Enock Kamwendo Community Development Officer for Disaster Preparedness (Machinga district)
- (viii) 63 household representatives
- (ix) Andrew Kamzazaakazi from Abundance
- (x) Grace Moyo from Abundance
- (xi) Clifford Mkanthama from Abundance

## Annex 2 List of Beneficiaries

1	Patuma Ibu	35	LOVENESS BIZWEK
2	MINA LABANA	36	ELIZA WINED
3	JOHN CHINGALE	37	JAMES MACHOKOCHA
4	JUSTIN KANTHIKO	38	ESINAT MANES
5	JOYCEKHUMBIWA	39	BEATRICE EFDEREMU
6	ANNIE FINALA	40	SWEMA THAMANGA
7	PRAISE CHITSONGA	41	JOYCE BANDA
8	ELINA WYSON	42	HILDA BROWN
9	ZWAWZNA CHILEMBE	43	WISIKESI MAPILA
10	RUTE STENALA	44	BONEY TANDAUKO
11	ISAAC TEBULO	45	SAIDI MAKWEMBA
12	FILIPA DOSA	46	MARGRET THOM
13	MARGRET JOHN	47	YUSUFU THOM
14	ELIZA WINEDI	48	EUNICE SONGOLO
15	ESINATI SELEMANI	49	IDA WISIKI
16	ENIFA YASINI	50	JOAN SINGANO
17	EDINA AJALI	51	ALICK KANDIDA
18	CATHERINE BOWMANI	52	GEORGE MATIYASI
19	FATIMA GOODSON	53	IREEN SAMUEL
20	RHODA JAMES	54	ELUBE BOISON
21	MOSES PHULUSA	55	CARLOLINE MUNTHALI
22	SIMON MAULIDI	56	VANESSA LABISON
23	EVANCE ATIBU	57	JOHN MAJIYA
24	LONEY WYSON	58	HAWA HAJI
25	MALITA JAFALI	59	ADINI
26	LULA CHITSEKO	60	JAILOSI
27	PETER PHIRI	61	KILA
28	ELIZA CHITSULO	62	KHUMBIWA
29	GLADES KAMWANA	63	KAMNTHIKO
30	SIGASYE MDALA		
31	TIYANJANE BANDA		
32	GETRUDE TIYESI		
33	ROSE ASIMBA		
34	MARITA WYSON		