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CYCLONE FREDDY RELIEF FUND

REPORT AS OF March 30, 2023

Name of District: Phalombe
Area: Traditional Authority Chiwalo
Camp Site: Lihaka Primary School

Objectives

- To evacuate 776 survivors of Cyclone Freddy stuck at Makuwa to a safe place.
- To provide emergency humanitarian support to survivors of Cyclone Freddy.
- To provide moral support to survivors of Cyclone Freddy

Background

Warm Heart Malawi learned with a sudden shock that about 776 people including women and children were left homeless in the area of Traditional Authority (T/A) Chiwalo in Phalombe district due to the cyclone Freddy's aftermath. The group, which sought refuge at Makuwa, was anticipating the Malawi government to rescue them to a safe place. Makuwa is surrounded by the Phaloni River which flooded its banks due to heavy rains that took half a fortnight. The group through Mr. Obedi reported that they were not safe and were looking for immediate help to cross the Phaloni River to the safe side. Mr. Obedi claimed that he was one of the representatives of the group.

Due to the growing demand of people in dire need of help, Warm Heart Malawi through Warm Heart Worldwide, and its partner, BiocharLife, raised emergency funds from individual donors to immediately evacuate the victims. The goal was to find any means possible of helping the victims to cross the Phaloni River to a safe place where they could be reached easily by the government, NGOs, and any other private citizens for continued humanitarian support. Warm Heart sent a team to assess the situation in response to people's calls for help.

The team met with community stakeholders including chiefs to strategize an immediate evacuation plan. The chiefs notified the T/A Chiwalo leader who came to join the team. Eventually, T/A Chiwalo advised that he would not allow his people to cross the river to camp at Matawa Primary School because it was already overcrowded with other survivors. He, therefore, suggested to decamp the group to Lihaka Primary School. Warm Heart team further met Florence Halawa, District Director for the Department of Disaster Management

Affairs (DoDMA) who confirmed that her office was aware of the situation at Makuwa but was unable to find immediate solutions. She further said that due to flooding of the Phaloni river, the government was not able to cross the river to reach victims with immediate effect.

Warm Heart hired a row boat and met with survivors of Cyclone Freddy at Lihaka camp to prioritize their needs. The victims requested that they were in dire need of food. Due to impassable roads connecting the victims, they further requested that food be distributed at the Phaloni trading center, a trading post situated along the Phaloni River.

Planned Activities

- To assess the needs of Cyclone Freddy victims
- To provide food items to survivors of Cyclone Freddy at Lihaka camp.

Activity implemented

- Assessing the Needs of Cyclone Freddy Victims

Warm Heart met with relevant local authorities who together with the Lihaka committee organized a meeting with Cyclone Freddy survivors at the Lihaka camp. Victims narrated different degrees of effects impacted by Cyclone Freddy on their lives. Among others, survivors lost their homes, food, and properties which prompted them to seek refuge at Lihaka primary school.

- Provision of food items to survivors of Cyclone Freddy

Warm Heart distributed food items to 390 victims at Lihaka camp which catered for a week. The distribution of food items occurred along the river bank of the Phaloni River. Survivors were supported with corn flour, corn, beans, salt, soap, and relish. Four days later, the Warm Heart team donated assorted items which included two bales of blankets, black plastic sheets, corn flour, sanitary pads, plastic buckets, and plastic plates.

Operation cost

Warm Heart purchased corn flour, corn, salt, Top soy, beans, soap, blankets, plastic sheets, sanitary pads, and plates. These supplies were ferried on boats across the Phaloni River. The supplies were given at two different times.

Delivery note

Date	Item	# of items	Received by (Name of representative)	Position	Delivered by
23-03-2023	Corn flour	35 bags of 10 kgs each	J. Kapena	Chairman	Warm Heart/ BiocharLife Team
	Corns	2 bags of 50ks	D. Moffat	Committee member	
	Beans	2 bags of 50 kgs	Chakupasa	chair	
	Salt	1 bag of 20 kgs	K. Nyalugwe	member	
	Top soy	100 pieces	Rachael Kachingwe	member	
	Soap	3 cartons	Mary Kanjonjola	member	

30-03-2023	Blankets	100 pieces	Catherine Tipoti	member	Warm Heart/ BiocharLife team
	Plastic sheets	100 pieces	Bridget Chison	member	
	Sanitary pads	25 packs of pads	Yankho Mpweya	Student	
	Corn Flour	27 bags of 25 kgs	J. Kapena	Chair	
	Buckets	32 pales of 25 and 20 liters	Aida Levison	chair	
	Plastic plates	50 plates	Ellena Kumwanza	Vice-chair	

Total number of survivors

Activity	Sex	Total
Distribution of food to 390 survivors of Cyclone Freddy at Lihaka camp	Male	138
	Female	252
	Boys & Girls	301
	Children	85
	Grand Total	776

Changes in project strategy

Warm Heart changed its strategy of evacuating 776 victims from Makuwa to Matawa camp following complaints from Traditional Authority Chiwallo that there was no capacity for Matawa camp. The camp is already accommodating other survivors who left their homes for safety.

Warm Heart planned to reach out to 776 people but the number declined to 390 as many others are seeking refuge from their family, friends, and relatives whose houses did not collapse. On average, now one home is keeping five families in one compound.

Success stories

Warm Heart /BiocharLife managed to feed 390 people including women and children for a week, a development which has rendered hope for needy people as nobody was willing to take a risk of crossing the river to reach out to their rescue. This was repeated with another week of supplies.

Out of 776 survivors, 386 have left camp to start their new life. 390 remain.

Challenges

Transportation problems. To reach Lihaka, one has to cross the river, which overflowed, using local boats, a development that deprived people from getting help in time.

Failing to secure a safe space for the victims. These again predisposed victims to a lack of on-time support and care.

Ineffective communication and reporting due to lack of phone networks and intermittent power supply.

Recovery Plan

Warm Heart through BiocharLife provided plastic sheets, food, and blankets to survivors of Cycle Freddy. The sole purpose was to evacuate victims from camping at school but rather go back homes to start a new life. Survivors asked for support for among others plastic sheets to make makeshift shelters in their homes.

Sustainability Plan

As part of making sure that survivors are self-dependent, and not prone to disaster incidences, Warm Heart shall;

On a short and long-term basis

- Train survivors of Cyclone Freddy in biochar and irrigation technologies. With biochar, farmers will be able to use it in their gardens and harvest high yields, without merely relying on expensive synthetic fertilizers.
- Continue monitoring the situation and assist in providing support as needed.
- Advocate with the government through the office of the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) to allocate any UN agency, and other relief partners to continue supporting people in the area of Traditional Authority Chiwalo.
- Advocate with government and stakeholders to help people move away from refuge in the schools and start a new life.

On a long-term basis

- Ask the government to assess natural disaster-prone areas and support villages seeking safer living sites.