

# One Person at a Time in Relief Efforts to Floods Affected persons

A young man was found throwing back into the sea starfish that was swept by the heavy waves. His spectators felt it was the most effortless job they've ever seen and they asked him what he thought he was doing when there were so many of those starfishes laying off the shore. In his response the youngman said, "It makes a difference to this one".....while throwing into the sea another star fish. When all seems lost in the lives of more than 10,000 people in Songa area and well over 200,000 households across Malawi who



have been affected by floods, houses demolished and farms of a knee high corn crops washed away you only help a few, it indeed looks effortless. The truth of the matter is it makes a difference in the lives of that one family that gets assisted and surely any little help that can be given brings joy to them.

When the need is huge, spending more time analyzing its magnitude doing nothing only brings an overwhelming feeling. Thus the story of the starfish teaches us something that encourages us to help one family at a time to make a difference as we monthly distribute food to 600 families from our catchment area whose affected population is 10,000+.

Every month we distribute food to 600 families while 90 more receive 20 meters of plastic sheets to help them rebuild their

houses which crumbled down due to floods that were caused by heavy rains. These heavy rains flooded Songa area, washing away all the crops and left them with nothing. No clothes, no food, no houses.

Because of the floods which have never occurred in Malawi before, the country is experiencing problems of hunger and housing reconstructions. Infrastructures such as roads and bridges as well as schools were also greatly affected and will need to be fixed. Harvest drop



rate has been pegged 30 and 60% of the total corn that gets harvested per year. Many families who atleast harvested something in Songa villages of Mangochi district have started eating one meal per day and that will take them



up to July end before anything that is edible is nowhere to be accessed. "We are in huge problems as our crops wilted because the rains stopped quickly," said Group Village Headman Ntonda speaking at last month's food distribution.

He says he envisions his people living on wild vegetable, bush/grass tiny cereals, banana tree roots and other bitter roots from the forests before such an intensive hunger

starts killing people as malnutrition and HIV and AIDS will be accelerated.

Justin Majawa Community Development Trust in collaboration with Save Orphans Ministries continue appealing for food items monthly food relief distribution, roofing plastics for rebuilding houses, and farm inputs for winter cropping.

The Dykstras and their Meredith Reformed Church championed the first fundraiser which will feed 600 families up to August. The feeding operation started in March. When corn is found, if it is found it is expensive. A bag of corn weighing 110 pounds costs \$27, transportation included. My hope is that supply of food in markets will be available where food can be purchased when well wishers donate funds for relief. The current maize stocking in Malawi may last up to September before we start buying some from Zambia and Mozambique which will mean paying more dollars per bag.



A vote of thanks should go to Meredith Drive Reformed Church and the Dykstras for their support which has been putting food on the tables of those who have been affected by the horrendous floods this year. I can only hope for big hearts to continue giving so our needy friends are fed up to next year April when they will be ready to harvest again.

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