

Situation report – cyclone Freddy response

Following the devastating cyclone Freddy that struck Mulanje on the 15th of March, many friends and partners of the hospital showed their support. We would like to thank everyone who provided encouragement, prayer and financial support to our community.

Assessments of the damage have progressed. The toll in Mulanje District is as follows:

- 75% of the maize harvest lost
- 130 camps, based in mostly schools and churches, for people who lost their home in Mulanje
- 140 deaths and still 217 persons missing
- 6,119 pregnant women in Mulanje now stay in camps
- disruption of education with schools closed for a month

In the catchment area of the hospital and our programmes we record:

- 7 refugee camps with 1600 inhabitants, with high malaria rates
- 1000 houses collapsed
- 43 goats in pass-on programme died and 35 beehives lost, solar panel in one irrigation scheme lost
- 9035 trees in reforestation programmes washed away
- Over 400 energy-efficient stoves destroyed
- Over 2000 pitlatrines collapsed. However, latrines built to improved design in recent years are mostly intact.

Progress in our response so far:

- Electricity and water was continuously available at the hospital as the maintenance team worked around the clock. Fallen trees were removed and minor damage repaired.
- The maizeflour/corn soya blend factory at the Mission is working at full capacity; 2,000 kg of maizeflour were despatched to the hardest hit areas in Mulanje within 48 hours after the cyclone. All 7 camps were provided with foodrations.
- Health assessments and primary care clinics at all 7 camps were conducted
- All camps have been sprayed to prevent malaria and combat bedbugs
- Patients who lost their belongings were assisted free of charge, including at the new Rehabilitation department
- A comprehensive response was planned, fundraised for, agreed with partners and first actions were implemented. We do all activities in close coordination with the government other agents.

Upcoming activities

The hospital is planning a comprehensive response with a focus on food security and clean water and sanitation.

Phase 1: Emergency humanitarian aid - until 15-05-2023

- provision of weekly clinics to 1600 persons in 7 camps during 6 weeks including Family planning, under-fives, NCDs, primary care consultation, referrals
- provision of food to 1600 persons in 7 camps during 6 weeks
- emergency repair of 4 water sources at camps and in communities, provision of emergency latrines, provision of soap to 400 households
- establishment of safeguarding committee in 7 camps
- provision of toys for children in 7 camps
- provision of blankets to 400 under-fives and elderly in 7 camps
- provision of sanitary pads to 300 women of reproductive age in 7 camps
- prepare for and respond to cholera outbreak
- Provide medical care to patients coming to Mulanje Mission Hospital from all over the district and other districts

Phase 2: Reconstruction – until 31-12-2023

- Assisting 400 households with basic building materials such as plastic sheets
- Assisting 60 very vulnerable households with some cement, roof sheets and labour as needed
- Construction of 1000+ pitlatrines to prevent spread of cholera, typhoid and other disease
- Provision of materials for reparation of boreholes to waterpoint committees
- Provision of school materials to 8.000 affected children
- Provision of inputs for farming and livestock to 1600 farmers, with a focus on most needy and households with orphans/disabled.
- Reestablishment of beehives where destroyed
- Training of 500 farmers in climate smart agriculture
- Replanting of >20,000 trees through community work

Conclusion

Thank you for providing hope in an otherwise difficult period. We know that tropical storms grow in intensity due to human induced climate change, and that poor communities suffer the brunt of that.

As Mulanje recovers climate conscious solutions will have to be implemented, for us this means amongst others: less dependence on hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizer, improved soil health, increased crop diversity, reforestation, stronger latrines.

Pictures taken in the past two weeks



Community nurse interviewing an elderly man at a camp



Sorting locally donated items



Primary care team providing essential health care and assessments



Milling in progress at Mulanje Mission maize flour/soya blend factory, providing emergency food assistance