



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
SUPPORTING SOCIAL WORK IN MALAWI (SSWIM)**

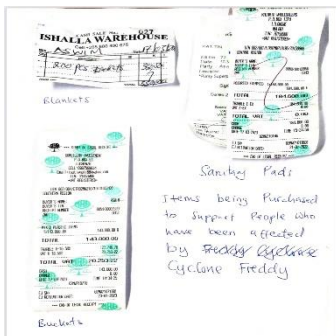
Dear SSWIM Supporter

In March we contacted you to make you aware of the impact of Cyclone Freddy on Malawi and the emergency efforts that the Association of Social Workers in Malawi (ASWIM) was coordinating to raise funds and provide essential supplies to those affected. Through our GoFundMe account we have now raised £1,260 and we have already sent 1.1 million Kwacha through to ASWIM for them to buy and distribute supplies. We wanted to thank you for your support and give you some information about how the funds are being spent..

Anstance spoke to Gloria, the Vice President for ASWIM. *“They are overwhelmed by the scale of need. They are organising a team to go to Blantyre to help Chisagalalo (President of ASWIM) and team. They are so grateful for our support. Everything is going to be bought in Lilongwe and taken to affected areas. Included is cash for transportation ...*

“We bought 1 bale of flannel blankets for adults 200 pieces, 5 cartons of sanitary pads and 20 litres 55 buckets. I am sending 250 to BT. We are using 200 for fuel local running, refreshments for 7 volunteers and 3 NEC members and transportation of these to Blantyre.”

We have received updates and photos from social work colleagues ,some of which are included below to give you an understanding of the work that has taken place in the last month.



Warehouse receipts

SWs negotiating for buckets

Gloria and team transporting the items.

Social workers visited Nthawira Parish camp in Machinjiri Blantyre, where food aid remains a major concern. According to the victims, no aid has come from government but other stakeholders came. Food aid appears to be concentrated in urban areas while hundreds of displaced people in affected rural areas are not being assisted, for example in Machinjiri Nthawira camp, they don't have buckets, blankets, shoes, in short they have nothing. Some stakeholder brought 200 blankets , the blankets were shared to them but weren't enough yet.” Nthawira Parish Camp was providing support to 55 families, including children, adults and the elderly.



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“Evening, I was in Chirazulu - the worst I have seen. With little or inadequate support. We spent the whole day, some are missing, a big number hospitalized (injured) and others have died. Witnessed a couple of bodies being dug from the mud by relatives - terrifying. The place and the people have been badly affected, they are looking for support. it is also a hard-to-reach area. What used to be a village with houses and people has turned into a bare ground. I have been in almost all the affected spots including Blantyre areas.. this has been the worst ♡”

in communities. We District...
the people just sit idle. We District...

Social workers support cyclone survivors

WISDOM CHIROMBO CONTRIBUTOR

Association of Social Workers in Malawi has donated relief items worth K2 million to 244 households seeking refuge at Mpala Primary School in Traditional Authority (TA) Maboka in Mulanje District.

The items included sanitary pads, blankets, clothes, shoes, beddings and buckets.

Speaking during the donation on Wednesday, the association's president Chisangalio Ntonio said they were complementing government's efforts in supporting the survivors.

"As social workers, we do a lot of things, including providing psychosocial support to survivors. However, we decided to team up to also contribute material things to the survivors," he said.

Ntonio also said they deployed social workers to the affected areas to provide psycho-social services to prevent incidences of suicide. He added that they

also provide family planning services to survivors.

Mpala Evacuation Camp chairperson Frank Tebulo thanked the association for the donation.

"We are facing a number of challenges, including shortage of food as we lost everything during the disaster," he said.

Tebulo also asked well-wishers to provide them with sanitary facilities such as movable toilets at the camp.

One of the survivors, Anna Kachulu said the

items will help her get back to her feet as she lost everything during the disaster.

"I lost all clothes, kitchen utensils and beddings. I am pleased to receive these items as I will use them to rebuild my shattered life," she said.

Department of Disaster Management Affairs commissioner Charles Kalemba said on Wednesday that Tropical Cyclone Freddy has so far killed 676 people and displaced 659 278 people. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY: WISDOM CHIROMBO





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“Yesterday we visited Mpala Camp in Mulanje as part of the Association of Social Workers in Malawi (ASWIM) efforts to support people that have been affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. The camp has over 700 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from seven villages. Their houses were wiped away as a result of Ruo River which flooded.” ASWIM encouraged donations and then visited the camps with the provisions needed.





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“We were honoured to be invited by Manja Secondary school Management for psychosocial counseling to survivors of the cyclone. The school has lost two students and 35 more are displaced and living in camps. Some are expected to write form four this year and have lost their entire family. 9 have been made more vulnerable and 5 should be supported with fees at 15000 a term. We can make them smile again by removing this road-block”.



We are stronger together



Children corners in camps with social workers.

Contact dibbenelaine@gmail.com if you have any queries from this newsletter. Visit our website on <http://www.children-andfamiliesinternationalfoundation.org.uk/sswim-supporting-social.html>



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We have put together some clips showing social workers visiting children in Naotcha camp, Chilobwe – follow this link to watch the 2 minute film - <https://youtu.be/rcBRtGi5i6Q>

ASWiM also arranged a 2 day training for social workers on Disaster Management at short notice with Janet Walker from SSWiM presenting as one of the trainers which was attended by over 120 participants.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO DISASTER AND CONFLICT
FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING

The Association of social workers in Malawi (ASWiM) is providing a free two days virtual training for Social Workers on "Humanitarian Response to Disaster and Conflict."

The course will equip social workers with ethical and professional principles that guide humanitarian response to conflict and disaster.

The training is free for all social workers but those requiring certificate will pay MK 5,000.

28/03/2023 - 29/03/2023
19:00 PM -21:00 PM
Via Zoom

REGISTER NOW

<https://forms.gle/FiVGzmYhsxxY3q7B7>

THE TRAINERS

SHONSHON TAMA-SWEET

Prof. JANET WALKER

Association of Social Workers in Malawi (ASWiM)

Humanitarian Response to Disaster and Conflict: Ethical and Professional Principles for Social Workers

A Competence Framework to support Social Work Disaster Management

Professor Janet Walker (JW) (Children and Families International - Supporting Social Work in Malawi)

We will remain in contact and continue supporting our colleagues in Malawi in their response to this disaster which is likely to have ongoing impact on many communities in Malawi.

Thank you again for your support.

Best wishes

Elaine Dibben



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Appendix 1



THE SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE TO CYCLONE FREDDY, MALAWI: MARCH 2023

1.0 OVERVIEW

Cyclone Freddy, which dissipated six months of rain fall in six days in Southern Malawi in the last week, has had a devastating effect on communities, families and children. Over 500 people have lost their lives, with a number of people still missing . An estimated 490,100 people were displaced (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) 19.03.2023). Many children have had their lives upended by the disaster. At least 437 schools have been destroyed or damaged by Freddy, while 242 schools are being used as sites for displaced people, impacting access to school for about 140,000 children (65,812 boys and 74,117 girls). At least 307 teachers have themselves been affected by the disaster, hampering their ability to teach children following Freddy’s passage (UNOCHA 20.03.2023. Rain, and consequently, flooding continues. Malawi is also experiencing a food crisis, with over 20% of the population expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (reliefweb 2023). Further there is already a widespread cholera, the deadliest in recent history (World Health Organization 09.02.2023).

2.0 ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN MALAWI RESPONSE TO CYCLONE FREDDY

2.1 Response to the Identified Needs

ASWiM has been very active, assisting the Malawi Government and working in partnership with NGO’s, by supporting families, children and communities affected by Cyclone Freddy. The Response Plan (Table One) outlines the immediate and longer-term activities that ASWiM is implementing, which are in line with the interventions by government gender and protection cluster.

Implementation of the response plan is ongoing. About 10 of our members are deployed in various camps in Blantyre at Naotcha, Chirimba, Kapeni, Namatete, Ndirande Green Malata, Manja and Mayela. In these camps, social workers are conducting survivor assessments according to the needs of the various gender groups, delivering Psychological First Aid (PFA) for adults, as well as play therapy sessions with children of different ages groups. In addition, they are distributing relief items to the affected families among others.

No	Activity	Target/ Time frame	Resources Needed
1	Conduct rapid assessment of the situation of Internally Displaced People (IDP) in camps with a focus on gender and CP issues	All Camps (weekly basis)	Transport & Lunch
2	Conduct tracing of unaccompanied children and facilitate their linkage to relatives or other alternative care systems.	All Camps	Transport & Lunch
3	Conduct case management assessment to the survivors.	3000 children	Transport & Lunch
4	Facilitate access to basic needs to the camps	Blankets, Clothes, food items, sanitary items, buckets	Transport & Lunch



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5	Procure and distribute to Community Based Childcare Centres (CBCC) and Children's Corners (CC) kits to the camps to facilitate Psychosocial Support (PSS).	100 CC kits 100 CBCC kits	Transport & Lunch
6	Distribute dignity kits and conduct Gender and Protection talks in camps to ensure protection of survivors.	All Camps	Transport & Lunch
7	Recruit and train additional PFA providers	30 providers	Data bundles
8	Deployment of Social Workers in the most affected areas to offer PFA and Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) to survivors.	All the Camps	Transport & Lunch
9	Support empowerment of safe spaces for girls in camps	All Camps	Transport & Lunch
10	Conduct monitoring of the situation of IDPs in camps	All Camps	Transport & Lunch

Table One: Response Plan for Cyclone Freddy (March- June 2023)

However, the social work workforce is insufficient to cope with the continuous demands, especially the demand for Psychosocial Support in 87 camps in Blantyre. The demand is very high for social works to provide support and interventions for children; many have been traumatised by their experience and many have lost parents.

2.1 Social Work Practice Example

ASWiM has had a request to undertake counselling for 35 severely traumatised young people (17 girls and 18 boys) at Manja Community Day Secondary School in Blantyre. These young people have lost their parents. The cases were overwhelming as the children grief stricken, and unable to stop crying. At the same time, they are very concerned about their futures; for example, expressing their concern that they no longer have someone to pay for their school fees. They were hungry because the camps do not provide food as they go to school; they only get a first meal at 21:00. This situation demands a professional service of a social worker/ counsellor.

2.3 Ongoing Response from ASWiM

ASWiM continues to work alongside other agencies and respond to the government as needs are identified. It is mobilising more social workers, providing training in PFA from 28th to 29th March 2023. The trained social workers will be deployed in various camps/ communities, in Blantyre and other affected districts of Zomba, Mulanje, Phalombe, Nsanje, Thyolo and Chikwawa.

ASWIM recognizes the role of social work professionals in alleviating the distress and suffering endured by those whose lives are adversely affected by external shocks and disaster, and recognising the on-going challenges for citizens in Malawi, including, for example, the impact of poverty, climate change, safeguarding and protection and health issues, including HIV/AIDS. However, resources are limited and there is a continuous need to train and support social workers in preparedness, responding to and in evaluating the impact of disaster and in responding to on-going challenges and issues and disasters in Malawi.

Chisangalalo Ntonio
President (ASWiM)