

# Floods Affected persons Eat to Live-Food Relief Distribution

You live to eat when food is a luxury. When it is not a luxury, the story is different-you eat to live. While some people live to eat in this world, this is not the case to flood affected victims of Songa who eat to live. This is the case because when they get a monthly ration, they are not sure when next they will get more food to fill their stomachs. When all seems lost in the lives of more than 10,000 people in Songa area and well over 3.5 million people in Malawi who have been affected by floods, houses demolished and farms of a knee high corn crops washed away accelerating hunger, life



that they will see tomorrow.

The need is huge such that if we spent more time analyzing its magnitude, there will just be an overwhelming feeling. Thus mother Teresa 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+.

Monthly 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. While well-wishers from Meredith Drive Reformed Church have been providing funds for the past 7 months, the joy and hope seems to be fading away as the provision of food this month seems to be the last one.

Because of the floods which have never occurred in Malawi before, the country is experiencing problems 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 people in Songa villages will have to start eating wild tubers if not nothing beginning this coming November. "We are in huge problems as our crops wilted because the rains stopped quickly," said Group Village Headman Songa speaking at last food distribution.

He says he envisions his people living on wild vegetable, bush/grass tiny cereals, banana tree roots

become a gamble. When it is such any little help that can be given brings joy and this is what the little Save Orphans Ministries is able to distribute does-bringing joy and hope

and other bitter roots from the forests before such an intensive hunger starts killing people as malnutrition will be accelerated.



Justin Majawa Community Development Trust in conjunction 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 September. The feeding operation started in March. The Irwin family from Washington DC also provided 3 tons of fortified flour called vita-meal which families received last month for their breakfast.



A bag of corn weighing 110 pounds costs \$27, transportation included. The hope is that supply of food in markets will be available where food can be purchased when well wishers donate funds for relief.

Thank you to the Meredith Drive Reformed Church, Dykstras and Paul Irwin for your support which has in the past 7 months been putting food on the tables of those who have been affected by the horrendous floods this year. May God give you big hearts to continue keeping our needy friends here in Malawi at heart as there 9,400 more needing help in Songa alone and 3.5 million countrywide.

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