

Situation Report # 2, January 2010

World Vision continues to respond to earthquakes in Karonga District, northern Malawi.

World Vision Malawi immediately dispatched an assessment team to the country's northern district of Karonga following a sequence of stronger earthquakes ranging between 5.4 and 6.2 on the Richter scale from 6th to 20th December 2009. The earthquakes killed four people and injured almost 200 others. Assessments were conducted with Government representatives from Karonga District Assembly between 22nd to 24th December focusing on Nkhando zone which has been assigned to World Vision Malawi as a lead agency in the earthquakes response.

The Malawi Government declared Karonga a National Disaster Area on 21st December. Meanwhile, US geologists are currently in Karonga to help determine further threats of the earthquake.

More than 31,220 people have had their housing partially or completely destroyed by the earthquakes. Approximately 5,000 households still remain in urgent need of humanitarian aid.

World Vision is working in collaboration with Government, UN agencies and NGO partners in its response to the earthquakes. The disaster has not directly affected any of World Vision's ADPs; however the organisation has been requested by the Government of Malawi to lead coordination of Nkhando zone, one of five designated humanitarian emergency zones established on 22 December in Karonga District.

According to recent assessments made in Nkhando zone, the area has a population of 10,989 people with two Group Village Heads in Kalambo and Mweninguwe.

To date, World Vision has provided 500 long lasting mosquito bed nets and 186 water guard units to under five children and pregnant mothers, amongst other urgent relief items. World Vision has also distributed assorted supplies from Karonga District Assembly, including: 70 rolls of plastic sheets, 12 Bails of Sugar, 60 packets of Plumpy nuts, 30 packets of Salt, 80 packets of likuni phala, 80 tins of baked beans, 120 packets of Corn meal and 220 survival kits each containing 2 Mosquito nets 2 blankets, 2 Tarpaulins, 4 Bars of Soap, 4 Steel cups, 4 Steel plates, 12 Steel teaspoons and 1 Steel table Spoon. Beneficiaries of these items include the elderly, physically challenged, chronically ill, child headed household, poorest household and orphan adopted household.



A mother gets a mosquito bed net for her under-five child



Adamson Kasis' family happy after receiving mosquito bed nets

The Malawi Government has provided materials for makeshift shelter and other essentials,

Identified Needs in Nkhando Zone

Food Security

A total of 250 households are recorded as being food insecure in Nkhando zone These are households that require immediate food assistance.

Education

The affected area has 11 full primary schools, 1 Junior Primary School and 1 Community Day Secondary School with enrolment of 3,589 (1,887 boys and 1,702 girls). All schools have classrooms that have developed cracks and classes were closed prematurely on 6 December 2009. Two School blocks completely collapsed at Mbande and Mlowo.

PHOTOS

Health

The area has one health centre (Mpata) and one under-five mobile health post (Mweninguwe). Mpata Health Centre's maternity wing has developed cracks in the building and communities are no longer accessing the facility for antenatal services.

Currently there are no cases of cholera or diarrhoea recorded in the area.

Water and Sanitation

The area has 17 functional boreholes against a population of 10,989 people. There are five villages with no safe water sources and two of them are drinking water from unprotected river sources while the others travel long distances to water points in neighboring villages.

A total 187 toilet facilities have been damaged (169 household latrines and 18 school latrines).

Shelter

A total of 169 houses have been completely damaged by the earthquakes in the zone so far., however all 1,998 families in Nkhando area are currently sleeping outside their houses as part of the safety measures advised by the District Assembly and the local leadership. This has become a challenge to most households as the area is now receiving a lot of rains.

There is a need for immediate supply of shelter materials to people in Nkhando zone.

Summary

Shelter was identified as the most critical need in the community and immediate support in this sector will greatly provide relief to the local population. Revamping of Civil Protection Committees will strengthen the first level response capacity of the community to disasters. The assistance received to date is far below the needs in the area. World Vision's priority is saving lives of children by ensuring that minimum requirements for their survival in these difficult times are provided.

The Government has released a special appeal for NGOs, the international community and the private sector to support the affected community by providing items such as tents, food, disinfectants for water treatment, blankets, and utensils.



Some pregnant mothers who received Mosquito nets



Lady walks away after receiving a net



"I used to sleep in this house" 80 year old Edasi Mwalweni shows her ruined house.



"Water guard sachets like these will keep our drinking water clean" Says head of Nkhando zone.

Contacts

- John Mandere, Associate Director Operations North: +265 888832240
- Hastings Banda, Associate Director Operations South / HEA point person: +265 888823775
- Lawrence Mtimaunenenji, Acting Communications Manager: +265 888955109