



NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2019

FLOODS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

You will have seen the reports on the news about the devastating floods affecting Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

We have involvement with communities in the extreme south of Malawi in the area of the lower Shire River, which drains Lake Malawi south to the River Zambezi. This whole area was badly affected by flooding which preceded the recent cyclone, and which has now been exacerbated by it. There is nowhere for the flood waters to go.

Many villages had relocated away from the River Shire after the terrible floods of 2015, but still many households have been affected. It has been difficult to get information from our sister villages as the road is impassable, and communications are very poor. Even the local administration did not initially know the full effect of the flooding in these areas.



Marko Jakob, who helps to manage our projects, has managed to reach the area, and has sent some photos of displaced people just hanging about. It shows a river which is now like a lake. The poor dugout canoes brought these people to dry land.

We now know that 4 camps have been established by NGOs in this area alone for displaced people, housing about 4000 displaced households, roughly 20,000 people. We don't yet know how many people are lost or missing.

However, the main tragic event is the loss of crops and livestock in this the main growing season. People still farmed near the river, where the most fertile land is, and water for growing rice, for example. The full effect of that is still to be felt in the area. Even the villages like Muyang'anira and Nkhande, where our school building is, and which are on higher ground away from the river, will be affected by loss of crops.

The Killearn Malawi Group helped following the 2015 floods, and we will be considering our response at a meeting next week. However, the scale of the disaster demands a response on a massive scale, and the Disasters Emergency Committee, which includes the main NGOs working in the areas affected, has issued an appeal for support:

www.dec.org.uk

We will update you when we have further news.