



# FOMA & Aid Africa/Open Hand Projects



**FOMA's donation: £2,000**  
Built **50 toilets**,  
and restored  
**12 damaged houses**,  
directly benefitting over  
**350 people**

We expected to be involved with community construction during our 2-month trip, as we'd heard of heavy storms destroying houses & sanitation amid the serious cholera crisis, but the level of challenge exploded as Cyclone Freddy ripped through Malawi in mid-March.

FOMA kindly offered help, and hundreds of vulnerable lives were changed as a consequence.



Salanacho

*Salanacho, his wife & 6 children are thrilled to have their home repaired*



*One of the families who lost their toilet—Enock and his wife are chronically sick and live in Bilison Village*



Loveness

*Elderly Loveness & her family are delighted with their new toilet*



Agrena

*AGRENA is elderly and cares for 2 orphans in Khatingo Village. During the cyclone, broken bricks fell where she slept but fortunately she wasn't hurt. This little family continued living in the one remaining room, as they had no alternative, so were delighted to have their home restored.*



Agrena



Flossy

*Flossy and her husband are elderly, caring for 8 children in Nansanya Village. Much of their house collapsed, and a neighbour let Lizzy and the children sleep in a tiny kitchen but her husband stayed to protect their belongings from damage and theft. The family appreciated the re-build as they say they had no other help or hope.*

*Diana and her husband are AIDS-affected, with 2 children, and live in Nansanya Village. Her husband is disabled—he's unable to walk, can only crawl. One side of their house collapsed, but they had to continue to sleep there, despite being open to the elements, animals and criminals. Now they rest protected & secure.*



Diana

## Tropical Cyclone Freddy in Malawi

For 72 hours fierce winds up to 165 mph and torrential rain, ripped off roofs, demolished houses, flooded engorged rivers breaking apart roads and bridges, closed schools, and cut electrical supplies, leaving more than 600 dead, over 500 missing, thousands injured and more still at risk of floods & mudslides. The World Meteorological Org. declared it to be one of the strongest and longest-lasting storms ever recorded.

A friend, a couple of miles away, crouched in torrential rain all night with her animals and terrified villagers, as the mountain shook, hot water and mud flowed, land and boulders—some the size of cars—crashed down around her.....

A little further on, our Senior Chief (tribal head, responsible for thousands) reported whole houses were taken by mud/water & huge rocks, others now stood immersed in sand up to 5ft. This was an area known for its verdant crops and rare good soil, backed up with a coveted irrigation scheme, but now most land is ruined and uncultivable. A hospital was swept away, and one village, famous for its sweet potato crops, has gone completely, no-one survived. 10,500 families were affected locally, with thousands sheltering in make-shift camps in schools and church buildings, hungry, with collapsed houses and destroyed crops. In our local area 59 died—mostly children trapped in mud, unable to escape the water, and another 217 were missing.

The effects of this disaster will challenge lives for years to come, and inevitably, our plans, priorities and funding strategy reflected the tragedy.....

Instantly, we were able to respond to immediate needs—food, plastic sheeting, water containers and bedding. However, by the time we left Malawi, with FOMA's support we had:

- built 100 household toilets, **50 funded by FOMA**, and a couple of public units in two different areas
- part-built 35 houses where one or two walls had gone—**12 funded by FOMA**
- constructed 2 complete houses for vulnerable families
- replaced roofs
- restored safe water to thousands
- reconstructed a couple of bridges for access and safety
- Concerned about hunger—so much food was lost when fields were washed away—we distributed Food Tokens, and developed agri-programmes:

- providing equipment & materials to plant irrigation veg for 50 households
- gave chickens (already laying eggs!) to another 47 villagers
- 500 received sweet potato vines for food and profit. 3 months later they'll gather the tubers, then replant the multiplied vines for many more harvests.....

## AID AFRICA

(UK Reg Charity No 1116336)

P.O.Box 103

Fakenham,

Norfolk, NR21 1BF

07726 93 93 00

fb: Aid Africa Charity

[www.aid-africa.com](http://www.aid-africa.com)

[lyndamills@aid-africa.com](mailto:lyndamills@aid-africa.com)

## Household Toilets — 50 Units, serving 287 people from 10 villages



Meet Margaret, from Thamanda Village.

On the left is all that was left of her toilet after the cyclone—brickwork demolished and the pit filled with debris. A common scene repeated in hundreds of homes.

Being elderly, it was impossible for her to dig a pit and build a shelter to replace it, leaving her afraid for her family's health...

So this basic unit (right) has given her hope again.



Leya and her husband are elderly, living in Lolo Village



Margaret has 8 in her family so loss of her toilet was a disaster



Malawi's in the middle of the worst cholera crisis in living memory, so safe water and effective sanitation are vitally important.

But the recent cyclone destroyed not only houses but many outside toilets as well, demolishing shelters and filling pits with debris. This destruction left villagers no alternative to using open fields, increasing risk of disease, and loss of dignity.

These simple toilet units are invaluable—constructed over an extra deep pit (3 mtr) with a bamboo framed, plastic-lined shelter for privacy, allowing villagers to maintain their own hygiene standards. Each unit should last for several years, and most of the shelters are replaced with a brick structure by the beneficiary when possible.

Working in partnership with the community, each family contributed to the project by providing grass for walls and roof.

50 needy families—with mixed vulnerabilities:

- 29 households led by the elderly
- 6 with AIDS-affected members
- 2 living with disabilities
- 2 caring for orphans
- 11 regarded as ultra-vulnerable



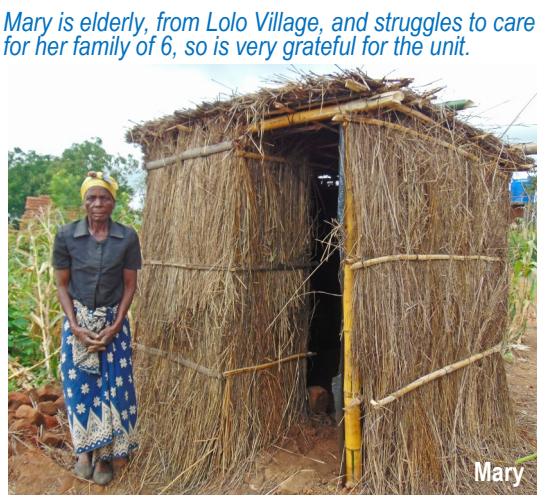
Cathreen, elderly and needy, lives in Nansanya Village with her family of 3.



Estery is elderly, with 6 people in her home in Bilison Village



Joyce's family from Bilison Village is AIDS-affected and frail



Mary is elderly, from Lolo Village, and struggles to care for her family of 6, so is very grateful for the unit.



Keston from Thamanda Village is elderly, with 7 in his household

## House Repairs —12 homes, serving 71 residents, including 53 children, from 7 villages. (3 households led by the elderly, 6 chronically sick, and 3 ultra-vulnerable).

So many homes were damaged in the cyclone's high winds and torrential rain, and the most vulnerable were left powerless to replace or repair. Their belongings were broken by the falling bricks, and their homes and families open to the elements, rooting livestock, and at risk of theft or violence. Some chose to live under trees, afraid of further collapse. Families were divided and risk of malaria increased as mosquito nets were lost or could no longer be shared in split households.



Binwell's house—before

*Binwell & his wife are elderly, AIDS-affected, and live with their 3 children in Khatingo Village.*

*2 sides of their house fell in the cyclone, and as their kitchen had already collapsed, they were worried for their safety. They had no alternative but to stay in the damaged house with little protection from the elements, animals and criminals, so the family was very thankful when the walls were rebuilt ...*



Binwell & his wife



Lizzy C's House—before



Lizzy C's House—after

*Lizzy C lives in Mangulenje Village, is AIDS-affected, with 7 children.*

*As walls collapsed in the storm, their belongings were damaged, leaving the family without even basic necessities.*

*They found emergency shelter with a neighbour but had no protection from mosquitoes as they all slept in one small room where it was difficult to use a net.*

*They're relieved & grateful, for the repairs making their home secure.*



Lizzy M's House—before



Lizzy M's House—after

*Lizzy M is from Zinganyama Village, she's elderly, caring for 4 children.*

*This family were still living in the open, broken house, where scavenging livestock also destroyed many of her belongings (water buckets, maize flour etc)*

*She's thrilled that so much work has been kindly done to help her family.*



Alex's House—before



Alex's House—after

*Alex is AIDS-affected and lives in a household of 6 in Bilison Village.*

*The cyclone terrified the family and left their home vulnerable and at risk. Kitchen utensils and household goods were lost, and the family had nowhere else to go, so stayed in the broken-down house.*

*They are now thankful to have a safe, well constructed, home again.*



Lucia's House—before



Lucia's House—after

*Lucia is elderly, living in Lolo Village with 2 children. They were sleeping on the veranda of a neighbour's house, having lost so much of their home and belongings, so was delighted to have her house rebuilt!*

**Thank you FOMA**  
for empowering us  
to give help & hope  
to some of the world's poorest,  
when so many with so little,  
had lost so much.....