

The devastating impact of the heavy rains in January in southern Malawi

Citations from “Malawi Post Disaster Needs Assessment report”

Houses totally destroyed: 75,000; partially destroyed 110,000

The floods affected 1.15 million people, displaced 230,000 households, killed 104 people and 172 people reported missing, washed away standing and stored crops and animals, household tools and properties.

Recovery and Reconstruction Needs:

Indirect + direct losses is estimated to be somewhat more than 1 billion USD

Lost forests due to the flood: 7,150.00 ha

Forests also play a major role in regulation of the hydrological cycle, climate regulation and clean water in catchment areas. The damage of forests in these districts therefore will have a long-term negative impact on these services provided by forests.

It was noted that most of the affected families are still living in the camps though small number has constructed temporally shelters. It is anticipated that after rainy seasons these families will start constructing their lost houses and this will put great pressure of forest resources mainly poles for roofing. Upon returning most of the community members will now opt for burn bricks which will make the communities to cut down more trees for curing of the bricks.

People in rural areas generally prepare for the rainy season by among other things cutting and piling fuel wood which they intend to use in the rainy season. For the displaced households their fuel wood is either washed away or left deserted in the abandoned areas. These people still are using biomass being supplied to them by well-wishers. In terms of energy supply the disaster has doubled the burden on the environment.

My Cadecom partners in southern Malawi knowing about my efforts to introduce clean cooking in the country requested early February for fuel efficient cookstoves to minimize the amount of fuelwood used by the displaced people. Thanks to the many donors in my hometown (primary school Warande; Lions club and many private persons) I had funds available to donate all stoves which I had in stock in Malawi to a number of affected families. Part of the stoves present in the new container, which will arrive about 6 weeks from now will also be donated to those families.. A few pages of the distribution report are included in this document.

My efforts have drawn the attention of the Malawian Ministry of Energy and international organizations like the Red Cross. They got convinced that since efforts to disseminate adoption of cook stoves are yet to bear fruits in many areas, this double burden on the environment can be reduced by ensuring that each displaced household gets and uses an improved cook stove. This week the Malawian government have applied for funds at the Worldbank to submit clean cookstoves to **all affected households**.

Mid of March I was in Malawi in order to initiate the 2015 projects. I have taken the opportunity to visit one of camps with the displaced persons and to see the stoves in use. According to the leader of the camp the clean stoves are a pride of the women and friendly to the environment. After my instructions the efficiency turned out to be even somewhat better. As an illustration of my visit I have included some pictures

Giel de Pooter, March 29, 2015





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DISTRIBUTION OF CLEAN STOVES DONATED BY GIEL DE POOTER TO FLOOD AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS IN CHIKWAW MALAWI



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DISTRIBUTION OF CLEAN STOVES DONATED BY GIEL DE POOTER TO FLOOD AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS

.CLEAN STOVES DONATION

The plight of the flood affected communities was brought to the attention of Giel de Pooter. He committed himself to work with CADECOM to provide support to the household to use clean cooking stoves as one way of protecting their health and environment. In the camps, households have



There is a lot of wastage of fuel wood during food preparation

difficulties to access firewood. If available, it has to be used as economically as possible. With the current method of cooking, this is just not possible as there is much wastage in fuel wood.



Fuel wood is hard to come-by in the camps