




NAMIKANGO  
MISSION

APR/MAY  
2023



# Cyclone Freddy Flooding

**Empowering African communities through  
Christ-centered transformation**



# Flooding & Response

by Symon Katete

Cyclone Freddy was a hurricane that hit the coast of Mozambique and moved inland causing torrential downpours in Malawi for almost a week. Freddy has caused loss of life and property to many in the southern districts of Malawi. Stories told by survivors are horrific. Many survived only by the grace of God. Many do not remember what occurred on the night of this tragedy and cannot comprehend how they managed to run to safety. The night was extremely dark. Pouring rain made escape very difficult. The roar from boulders and trees tumbling down the mountain sounded like the deafening noise of construction vehicles. Others heard it like the loud beating of African drum music. There was no time to retrieve belongings or even office equipment and stationery.

Many houses have been completely or partially damaged. Most of those are in danger of collapsing and therefore uninhabitable. The owners who have survived are now temporarily housed in area schools. Gardens which once had flourishing maize crops, potatoes, cassava, and bananas have been scraped flat or buried in sand to a level that one cannot recognize a garden ever existed there. The border bridge that connects Malawi and Mozambique has been cut off on the Mozambican side. The government of Mozambique has commenced rehabilitation work to make it passable to traffic and cargo. The road from the Muloza border to Chiringa in Phalombe has been severely damaged and will require some time to be repaired.

## NAMIKANGO'S RESPONSE

We have been receiving calls and requests for assistance from all 14 affected districts since the rains were at their peak. On Tuesday, April 11, we visited Muloza Center to

meet with the leaders of the church congregations, most of whom have been highly affected by the flooding.

Thanks to our donors in the USA, we have gathered relief items, such as blankets and buckets, and food, like maize, soya noodles, salt, and sugar. With available funds we will be able to assist victims in the Zomba District. Many of our church members in this area are scattered in camps located in schools. Our school, Ntonda, has also been receiving displaced people. And hygiene infrastructure has been damaged in that area.

The Malawian government plans to move people in camps back to their homes so schools can be reopened for students. Returning is a burden for many because they do not have resources to start rebuilding and few have been supplied with tents for shelter. In many areas people will still be dependent on food support because they have lost everything to sustain them after harvest.

It is our prayer that God will provide more support so that we may be able to reach out to many made homeless and destitute because of the flooding. We would like to thank for your prayer and partnership with us.



# A Message From Our Students

by Moses Nsema

Sunganani Amos Chiunika is one of the married Discipleship Training Institute (DTI) students. He was born on July 29, 1997. He is from Balaka district (one of the districts in the Southern Region of Malawi that is prominently Muslim) and is happily married to his wife, Mwaona. Mwaona is from Machinga District, another district in Southern Malawi, also a region with a strong Islamic presence. They are blessed with one daughter, Hannah Chiunika. She was born on August 21, 2019. As a family they live in Machinga, which is Brother Chiunika's home.

“When we heard about DTI recruitment, we decided to apply so that we could learn about the Bible and grow spiritually,” Chiunika said. They came to Namikango to become better disciples so that they can make other disciples for Christ. Since he and his wife came together to attend classes, Chiunika is excited that he and Mwaona will grow together to imitate Christ, as they both go out to make disciples.

We asked the students what has been most impactful about DTI. Chiunika responded saying that the DTI program has greatly helped them develop a much wider view of God:

“Before I came to study as a disciple, I thought of God as being full of anger and punishment. However, the DTI class has taught me that God is good, full of compassion, love, and grace. Our God is a God of restoration.”

He further explained how DTI classes have helped him and his family to identify who they really are in Christ. “The most important thing I have learned in the DTI class is that we should always forgive one another if we are to be at peace with others and God. God forgives us all the time and we should do likewise.”

Chiunika and Mwaona are finishing their final semester in the program. We're looking forward to seeing how God will use them as they return to their home village and serve in their church and community.





NAMIKANGO MISSION  
PO Box 16528  
Lubbock, TX 79490

NONPROFIT ORG US  
POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 764  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79424

## connect with us

**BEN HAYES – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
[ben@namikango.org](mailto:ben@namikango.org)

**ROBERT LEE – PRESIDENT**  
720-998-2066

 [namikango.org](http://namikango.org)

 [facebook.com/NamikangoMission/](https://facebook.com/NamikangoMission/)

 [linkedin.com/company/namikango](https://linkedin.com/company/namikango)

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## UNDER THE MANGO TREE



### Meet Curtis Kessler!

He and his family have been long-time supporters of Namikango and will be traveling to Malawi in July to see the work first-hand. Curtis will help supervise Namikango's social media presence, so if you are not connected currently, get ready to be connected! We're thankful for the Kesslers and their partnership with Namikango.



### Where Namikango is headed next!

Look for the next bulletin to follow soon as we talk about next steps with Namikango.

The first cohort of DTI is also coming to a close. We will have more on this in the next issue, too.