



Where mudslides started from



A survivor at her affected house





Women survivors during in the community after the displacement camps



Some survivors trying to rebuild their houses





Standing; a survivor sharing views about participation in the project



Formal registration of the survivors





A group survivors visited CAPDI organisation



Village Savings Loan (VSL) group members revolving their money to treasurer of the group.





Business management; follow up session



Psychosocial support session by expert psychologist





Psychologist in interaction activity with the survivors





## Chiefs demand money from cyclone survivors

AYAMBA KANDODO  
CONTRIBUTOR

Some traditional leaders in Mangochi are said to be demanding money from Cyclone Freddy survivors for them to relocate them to safer places.

This was revealed during the dissemination of preliminary findings of an assessment by the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) on gender-based violence and sexual exploitation on women and children affected by Cyclone Freddy last Monday in the district.

The assessment, conducted with funding from Unicef, noted that some chiefs at Chiphole Evacuation Camp in Senior Chief

Lulunga are demanding K30 000 from survivors seeking relocation.

MHRC chief human resources officer Chimwemwe Maimba said they forwarded the concerns to the office of the district commissioner, which has promised to resolve them.

Maimba further said during the exercise they recorded no serious case of GBV or sexual exploitation.

"Though we recorded no serious case we understand that poor reporting mechanisms by the people hampered data collection."

"For instance, we noted that survivors were threatened by camp managers that once they report they will not be able to benefit from relief items," she explained.

Maimba further noted poor



PHOTOGRAPH: AYAMBA KANDODO

Maimba: We recorded no serious case

security in camps, compromised accommodation and disruption of classes to school-going children, among others.

But, when contacted, Senior Chief Lulunga expressed ignorance about the issue.

But the district's assistant gender officer Laston Chikopa said the report is a true reflection of what is happening to Cyclone Freddy survivors.

"Though there is no serious case reported, we are aware that gender-based violence existed in the camps, but the survivors were intimidated against reporting," he said.

Chikopa, however, decried poor coordination among stakeholders, saying it affected data collection.

Meanwhile, the report has recommended economic empowerment through provision of cash transfers to the survivors. ■

## Programme transforms vulnerable lives in Mangochi

AYAMBA KANDODO  
CONTRIBUTOR

Officials of Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholder and Enterprise (Farmse) have hailed the transformation beneficiaries of the programme are registering in Mangochi, saying the results are impressive.

The programme's ultra-poor graduation specialist O'Brien Mandala said this last Thursday in Mangochi during a field visit to the beneficiaries' homes to appreciate the progress they are making.

With financial support from International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad) through the Ministry of Finance, Farmse is implementing the ultra-poor development programme that supports about 1 800 people to graduate from ultra-poor status to dignity level.

Speaking after visiting the home of Dan and Angela Anderson, who have transformed a grass-thatched hut into a decent house in Senior Chief Mponda, Mandala said he was thrilled with the progress of the project, describing the outcome as beyond their expectation.

He said Farmse identified the family from Social Cash Transfer and taught it how to run Village Savings and Loans (VSL), businesses and other investments before giving them a K200 000 seed capital.

Wearing a jubilant face, Angela Anderson expressed happiness with the support she gets from Farmse, saying they are now wealthy people.

"Everything has its own time, we sit down and take away our cries while thanking God," she said.

Farmse is implementing the programme in Mangochi in collaboration with World Relief. ■

# NGO empowers Cyclone Freddy women survivors

TEMWA MHONE  
CONTRIBUTOR

Caring for Persons with Disabilities (Capdi), a Blantyre-based non-governmental organisation says empowering all aspects of life of Cyclone Freddy women survivors will help them to recover sustainably.

Speaking last Friday in Bangwe Township during a psychosocial support session to 40 affected households in the area, the Capdi programmes coordinator Sungani Chitandale said they are committed to help survivors to rebuild back and better their lives.

He said, with funds from World Connect, they are also supporting affected women economically and physically.

"We paid for their rentals for four months and gave them K45 000 each as capital for businesses. We also equipped them with



PHOTOGRAPH: TEMWA MHONE

Some of the women process their village bank savings during the meeting

expertise to run those businesses and engage them in village savings and loan (VSL) groups for their sustainable recovery," said Chitandale.

One of the beneficiaries, Meria M'baya, said they are recovering

steadily.

"The assistance is alleviating our suffering, helping us to have clear heads and hope to be better again," she said.

Another survivor, Idah Dyton, commended the organisation for

empowering her economically.

"I used the money to start selling shoes and, from proceeds of the business, I have bought a safe place to build my house. We really need this support to help become self-reliant," she said. ■



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