

This bulletin focusses on **zm's** recent extended visit to the Lower Shire valley delivering relief supplies to ZEC churches. The **zm** team travelled with ZEC leaders Luckwell Mtima and Isaac Mpanga in the mission's two 4 x 4 vehicles for a multi-day visit commencing on Wednesday 11th March. Since so many families and churches had been affected in the area, they bought maize and supplies local to the places where the emergency provisions were being distributed. The team visited the following locations, providing maize, beans, salt and soap. Eight different churches/towns were visited and just under 1,000 families were provided with support, as shown in the following table:

Church	Date visited	Families provided with relief
Dzinthenga ZEC	Wednesday 11 th March	230
Chikwawa ZEC	Wednesday 11 th March	68
Kubalalika ZEC	Wednesday 11 th & Monday 16 th March	118
Nchalo ZEC	Thursday 12 th March	78
Ngabu ZEC	Thursday 12 th March	146
Bangula ZEC	Thursday 12 th March	69
Ndamera/Marka ZEC	Friday 12 th March	119
Nsanje ZEC	Friday 12 th March	138

Particular points to note are:

- Dzinthenga and Kubalalika ZEC were affected by flooding from the nearby Mwanza river, a tributary of the Shire river, which joins it in the Lower Shire valley. The church members from Kubalalika ZEC had to cross the Mwanza river in canoes to reach the distribution point as the bridge had been swept away during the flooding. Unfortunately, night fell on Wednesday 11th March before distribution could take place, and the team had to return on Monday 16th March to complete the task.
- At Ndamera/Marka ZEC, located right on the southernmost tip of Malawi, the team were also able to distribute clothing donated by Lilongwe ZEC.
- During the visit, the team met and passed on emergency supplies to a further 20 families from Chididi ZEC and 12 families from Tengani ZEC.



Pastor Isaac Mpanga (ZEC Regional Superintendent for the Southern Region) supervises the unloading of maize at Chikwawa ZEC.



Rose Chirwa, Luckwell Mtima and Ruth MacBean measure out maize, salt and beans for distribution to each family.



Maize and other provisions ready for distribution at Ndamera/Marka ZEC



The reality of hunger and poverty - children gather up maize at Ndamera/Marka ZEC after distribution.

Next Steps:

- The River of Life Evangelical Church has organised its own collection amongst their churches in Malawi. They have given the funds that they collected to the flood-affected churches in the Lower Shire region. **zm** intends to provide a matching donation to the River of Life Evangelical Church.
- Field Director Simon Chikwana is planning to deliver emergency provisions to three remaining ZEC churches: Muona, Mwazule and Phodogoma ZEC.
- Many land owners in the Lower Shire region are hoping to plant a late crop of maize within the next few weeks. If successful, this would allow a harvest during June/July, thereby avoiding food shortages and hunger later in the year. **zm** is hoping to donate seed maize and fertiliser to a number of ZEC churches in the Lower Shire region.

Prayer points:

- Please give thanks for all the gifts that **zm's** supporters have sent in to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in Malawi. In January and February we received an amazing sum of £16,571.
- Give thanks for the successful and safe visit to the Lower Shire region in which nearly 1,000 families received maize, salt, beans and soap. We thank God for the way that He provides our daily bread.
- Give thanks for the collection of clothes that was provided by Lilongwe ZEC to their fellow believers in the Lower Shire region.
- Please pray for those who are planning to re-plant their fields at this late stage of the growing season. Pray that their crops would deliver a good harvest later in the year.
- Please continue to pray for wisdom as we seek to help the re-building process for those who have lost their homes. Following on from this, we want to determine which income-generating activities we might be able to support.
- Give thanks for the members of the River of Life Evangelical Church in Malawi who raised funds to help their own church members affected by the floods.

Yours in Christ

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