

Cyclone Freddy

Information and a prayer for Malawi

The facts

On 11 March 2023, Cyclone Freddy slammed into southern Africa for the second time in a month – and its return was deadly and destructive. In Malawi, a year's worth of rain fell during the weeks of the cyclone. The heavy rains, floods and landslides caused widespread damage, especially in Blantyre and the Southern Region.

The number of people affected in Malawi continues to rise, with **more than 1,000 deaths**. Cyclone Freddy is currently **Africa's second-deadliest cyclone this century** after Cyclone Idai. It is the longest-lasting tropical cyclone ever recorded, lasting 34 days and had the strength of the equivalent of a full North Atlantic hurricane season.

Christian Aid's response

Our partners are responding to the immediate and recovery needs of communities in the affected areas. Christian Aid in Malawi responded rapidly to provide:

- Extra food for breastfeeding mothers and children under 5 years old.
- Mosquito nets to protect against malaria.
- Temporary toilets and bathrooms, water containers and water purification treatment to help prevent cholera and other water-borne diseases.
- Mobile clinics to help people process the emotional trauma of the cyclone.
- Cash distributions.

The impact on the pigeon pea programme

Jen and Esther are safe, but Jen's house is damaged and she has lost crops.

Floods have washed away crops during the critical growing season. There is a looming hunger crisis because many households will have insufficient or no crops to harvest. Jen says: **'It has impacted farming, with flooding washing away some of our fields. Farmers like me have lost pigeon peas and maize on the small pieces that have been washed away'**.

All three districts targeted for the next phase of the pigeon pea work have been affected. But the pigeon peas programme will continue; Christian Aid Malawi will focus on strengthening farming groups, including the Nandolo Farmers Association.

Your support

Your support this Christian Aid Week is more vital than ever. The fundraising supported by churches, communities and individuals each May allows us to provide relief when disasters hit. Through you, we will be there long after the flood waters recede, helping families rebuild. Your gifts this May will continue to support the pigeon pea project and other vital work. Thank you.



Prayer for Malawi

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the Earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

God who gives refuge to the distressed,
We pray to you for the people of Malawi.

Courageous and determined, they have worked to secure their future
And the future of the next generation.

Now so much that they have grown and nurtured has been swept away by Cyclone Freddy.

O God our comforter, be with those who have suffered trauma.

Give strength to those who feel they cannot go on.

Console those who grieve and who fear for themselves and their families.

We pray for the immediate relief of people in danger as they seek shelter and try to
replenish essential supplies.

We pray for the recovery of crops and livelihoods.

We pray that affected communities will soon be able to rebuild and see new growth
emerging from the flooded ground.

God of justice, you call on us to act against poverty and inequality.

May we amplify the voices of those who are feeling the effects of climate change.

Year after year, the waters roar and foam, as the climate crisis deepens.

Righteous God, move us to action that we may repair the damage done to our world

And commit to challenging the unjust structures that put the people of Malawi at risk.

Amen.

* (Psalm 46.1-3)

