

On April 12, 2014 the Emergency Coordinator traveled to Chibuto, Maqueze, Lhanganine, Chiwanga and Muboxua Communities to work in the Flood Relief Assistance to those Communities. In February, the above communities needed assistance but the Emergency Coordination was not able to reach them because they were still isolated due to rain waters. On the ground, Rev Ana (of Chibuto UMC) and the DS Rev Xavier Guambe, worked hard in preparing Flood Relief Activities through getting the necessary data: number of affected people, assessment visits to affected communities to better understand what their primary needs are and inform back to the Emergency Coordinator. While in Maputo, the Emergency Coordinator collected from the Local UMC Congregations donated stuff, mainly: foodstuffs, clothe, shoes, school supplies and the like to be sent to flood victims. Still today, the Emergency Coordination contacts local congregations in order to keep on donating whatever they have and feel important to share with their brothers and sisters in different affected places within Gaza Province. The Coordination, also went on collected donations which primarily were stored at the Liberdade UMC parsonage. On April 11, we purchased 70 mosquito nets using the funds we received from the Virginia Annual Conference that we took to distribute families with: pregnant women and children (following the data collected within the communities above).

So, on April 14 we headed to Chibuto (about 190 miles away from Maputo), where apart from distributing food, school supplies, clothe and shoes we also distributed mosquito nets. While in Chibuto and just after offloading and distributing the items, we purchased the following items locally: 2.5 tons of rice, 100kg of peanut, 250kg of beans, water purifier 100 bottles, 220kg of sugar, 220l of cooking oil, 100kg of corn flour, 50kg of salt, 3 boxes of washing soap. The items were taken to Maqueze, Lhanganine, Chiwanga and Mubuxua communities - about 45 miles away from Chibuto Village and we drove for approximately 3hrs on an off-road distance. Our decision of purchasing food in Chibuto, is that we intentionally wanted to invest in the local economy rather than buying stuff in Maputo.

Below, we share some photos and short stories/explanations.



We had just gotten to Chibuto, and here some beneficiaries mainly of mosquito nets stand with Rev Ana (in black). When we asked some of the kids if they knew what was the importance of using mosquito nets they said “to prevent malaria”. The funds used to purchase these mosquito nets are generously from Virginia Annual Conference (in response to flood victims). These kids also received school supplies donated by local congregations in Maputo.



School supplies for school kids



Foodstuffs donated in Maputo, were distributed in Chibuto.



After driving for about 3hrs (45miles) we got to the meeting point in Maqueze. Something to clarify here is that, in normal circumstances, we should have met with these people at their worshipping place (church), however, due to rain waters and inexistence of bridges, Rev Ana and the DS organized the population in those communities to cross the rivers to a meeting point in Maqueze so they could receive Relief. Rev Ana Machavele talking to people who were waiting for us (support). We got here around 3:30pm and they have been there since 11am waiting. We had a prayer and introductory remarks and, the Emergency Coordinator –Rev Joao Sambo explained them about the source of that assistance they were about to receive. Mosquito Nets from Virginia Annual Conference, Foodstuffs from Missouri Annual Conference, and school supplies, clothe and shoes from the Local Congregations in Mozambique.



Off loading the truck and the local beneficiaries helping out.



The items we took to Maqueze, Chiwanga, Lhanganine and Muboxua were distributed to 47 UMC families and to local communities. Something we noticed is that there are still many people in need of assistance.



The distribution was about to begin, we can see on the right hand side picture, people lineup to get their stuff.



Still in the distribution process.

After receiving their goods, they started packing to cross over the rivers. As we can see few meters from these women, there seems to be an ocean behind them, they had to cross those waters to come to the meeting point and of distribution. The government has put little boats that enables them to cross (7-10 people) from one side of the river to the other.



They continued packing their stuff and getting ready to sail back home.



However, after distribution and packing were done, a sort of praise took place. Standing we started singing and praising God for God's love and care. Graciously (as they sang) God stretched His hand through people who live in a distant place and provided us with physical support. Both Rev Ana Machavele and the Lay Leader were very grateful to everybody who stretched his or her hand to help. "...our families and communities have been suffering since we were attacked by swelling waters. We were isolated, then all of our resources were gone, then we resorted in catching fish but that is not enough let alone that not everybody can catch fish, so those who caught, sold them at a high price and then, not everybody could not afford it. NOW, the church, our church through its generous people, reached out and supported. We prayerfully thank you all and please, keep on praying for us too..."Rev Ana highlighted. The lay leader said "... when we received the good news of your coming here with our Pastor, we were so happy to see that the church does not only care with our spiritual side of our humanity but also with the physical and sustaining part. On behalf of Maqueze, Lhanganine, Chiwanga and Muboxua communities, we thank you for remembering and caring for us. Your coming means a lot to our local church members, and even to some of the local communities who got something you brought us. To those who donated, thank you, thank you..."

At the sunset (around 6pm), we were heading home and everybody was satisfied.

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