



Famine & Food Programs

Aid When Famine Strikes

Emergency Food Aid

In 2001/2002 changing weather patterns, and political miscalculations, plunged the nation into the worst famine since 1950. With over 90% of the people dependent on subsistence farming there was no place to turn, and government agencies were unprepared, and ill equipped, to respond to the catastrophic situation.

Suzi Stephens R.N. of the Malawi Project, returned to Malawi to assist in the construction of a medical facility north of the capital, but on her arrival she was shocked at what she discovered. Children that had played in her front yard the year before were now sitting listless and pale, a blank stare frozen in their eyes. Church leaders and friends who had laughed and sang around her dining room table were skeletons of their former selves, many near death. It was everywhere she looked.

Because she was primarily seeing the rural area where the famine was the worst, the Project was one of the first organizations to mobilize relief. The Project was able to rally \$1,000,000.00 in food aid over the next twelve months. Food was distributed on a well organized, well planned schedule, and village leaders, government officials, and church leaders cooperated to reach those most in need. A number of other aid organizations, major corporations, churches, and governments, rallied behind the program.



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Two years later as the intensity of the famine began to subside, members were able to look to the future and assist in ways to avoid the next crop failure. Farmers received 16,000 drip irrigation systems through a cooperative program with Healing Hands International, and Chapin Watermatics. Garden hoes went to villages where additional cultivation could lead to increased crops. "Don't give a man a fish when you can teach him to fish," became a phrase often used.

The Project located funds to begin construction on one of the largest development programs to come out of the famine years; a food processing and distribution plant capable of producing as many as 100,000 meals a month. Completion of the facility was accomplished in just 10 months, and 3,000 people attended the grand opening. Food immediately began flowing throughout the nation.

Then new, innovative farm methods were introduced, and farm tractors were shipped to promising locations. Funding and interest was generated for a major agricultural training center north of the capital. The site quickly produced a man-made dam and lake, and then over 50 buildings were constructed for classes, and family residents during their training.

Currently the Project is working with Agricultural Aid International, a not-for-profit aid organization, on developing a series of farm tractors designed specifically for the unique weather conditions of third world nations. Already six of the innovative, unique V-Tractors have been sent to Malawi, and the first group of newly created walk behind units has gone to five nations, including Malawi.

You Can Participate

Imagine giving a farmer a garden hoe, a drip system or one of the innovative V-Tractors to plant, cultivate and harvest enough food for them and their needy neighbors. These tools will allow them to produce food year after year. Being able to be responsible and make their own contribution through increased production increases their sense of purpose and independence.

Learn more about the Malawi Project's food sustainability programs at: www.malawiproject.org or write to info@malawiproject.org

If this touches your heart, your contribution can help Malawians provide for themselves. Please contribute online at: www.malawiproject.org or send your check to the address below.

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