



Towards a More Resilient Veterinary Workforce for Africa 2024

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Animal health is our health. It's everyone's health



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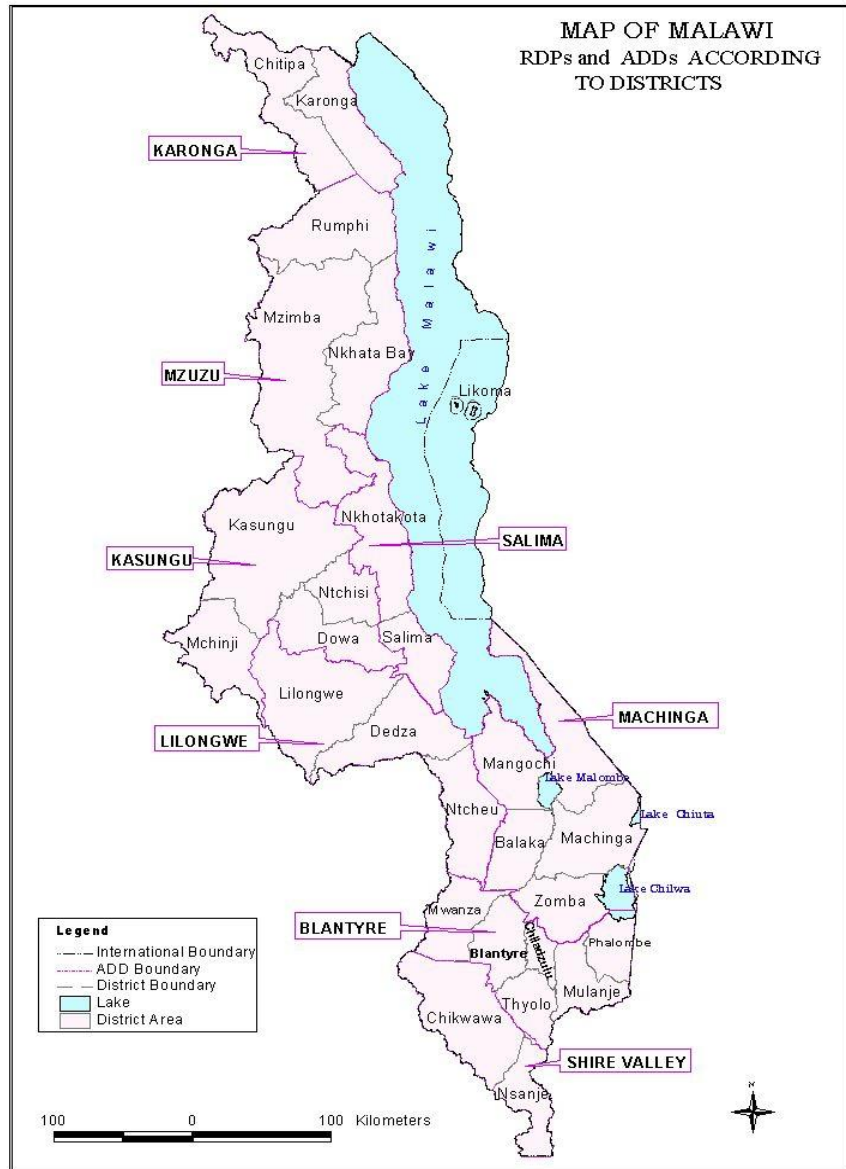
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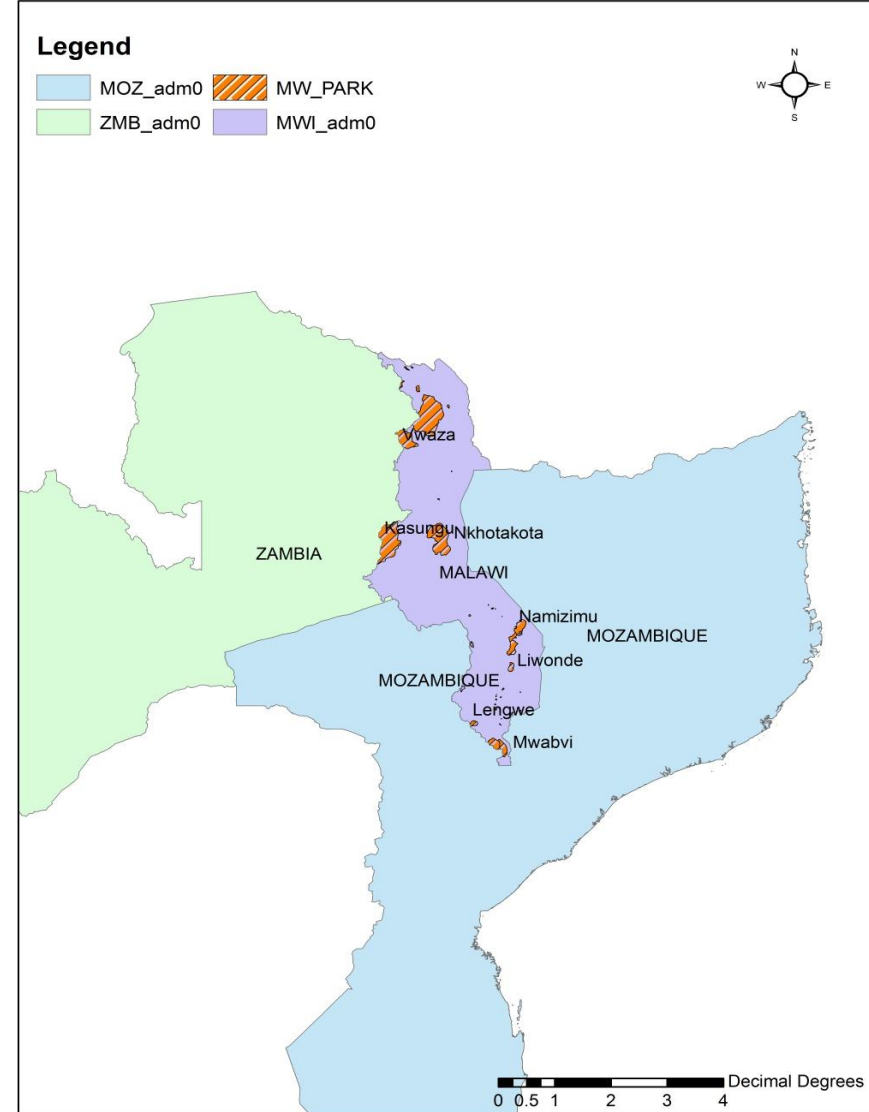


Disaster Recovery and Resilience in the Wake of Cyclone Freddy Malawi Experience

Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development
Action for Protection and Care of Animals
Malawi Veterinary Association



Distribution of Tsetse & Trypanosomosis in Malawi



Background

- Tropical Cyclone Freddy caused severe damage in Mozambique, Malawi, and Madagascar.
- A total of 14 districts were highly impacted in Malawi, including Blantyre, Zomba, Thyolo, Mulanje, Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Mangochi, Machinga, Balaka, Chikwawa, Mwaza, Neno, Nsanje and Ntcheu.
- The disaster left an estimated 1.1 million people in dire need of urgent humanitarian support, with public infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, and district and main roads damaged in all affected districts.
- The cyclone submerged and washed away hundreds of thousands of hectares of crops, leaving over half a million displaced and sheltered in camps across flood-affected areas.
- Assessments by the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD) indicated that over 200,000 livestock were killed when the cyclone hit 14 districts in Southern Malawi.
- Prolonged wetness increased the risk of wounds on animals' hooves, and the risk of internal parasites was higher than usual because the animals are immuno-suppressed due to the psychological and physiological stress induced by drastic changes in the environment. There is generally an increased risk of vector borne, bacterial, and viral diseases.

Rationale for Response

- Tropical Cyclone Freddy left a devastating impact on Malawi, it is essential to emphasize both the immediate disaster recovery and the long-term capacity-building aspects of our response. Cyclone Freddy has exposed the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by the nation, making it crucial to not only rebuild but also strengthen Malawi's disaster preparedness and resilience for the future.
- Post-Cyclone Recovery: Our primary objective was to provide veterinary health disaster recovery assistance to the 21,700 animals affected in Malawi.
- By prioritizing their welfare and well-being, we can help mitigate the risks of unmonitored disease transmission and ensure their survival and recovery.
- Capacity Building for Future Resilience: To ensure Malawi is better prepared for future disasters, we conducted disaster preparedness and response training for veterinarians in Malawi.

Disaster response activities

- The Department of animal health partnered with Worldwide Veterinary Services and Malawi Veterinary Association for Treatment of livestock in Mulanje and Phalombe.
- A team of volunteer veterinarians was sent between 11th and 14th April 2023.
- The department of animal health and Livestock Development also partnered with Action for Protection of Animals and Africa and Malawi veterinary Association for disaster resilience program in September 2023.

Cyclone Freddy – Livestock support

- 13th March 2023: Tropical cyclone Freddy hit Southern Malawi
- Catastrophic flash floods and mudslides
- More than 600 people confirmed dead, addtl 500 declared dead
- Assessment by DAHLD:
 - Around 200,000 livestock was killed in the 10 districts in Southern Malawi



Cyclone Freddy – Livestock support

- Challenges for livestock after the floods
 - Prolonged wetness: increased risk of wounds on animals' hooves
 - Risk of internal parasites higher as animals are immunosuppressed due to psychological and physiological stress
 - Increased risk of vector borne, bacterial and viral diseases



Cyclone Freddy – Livestock support

- April 2023
 - Stakeholders (DAHLD, WVS, MVA) came together and quickly discussed support options
 - WVS: donation of medical supplies (albendazole, deltamethrin, ivermectin, injectable antibiotics, topical wound treatments, canine antiparasitics, fipronil)
 - DAHLD: Vehicle, driver and fuel for program
 - MVA: platform to recruit vet volunteers, contribution towards lunch



Cyclone Freddy – Livestock support

- Over 3,000 animals were treated
 - Majority of cattle in poor body condition
 - Many had wounds on legs after standing in water for prolonged periods
 - High worm burden
 - High prevalence of lumpy skin disease and *Dermatophilus congolensis* (esp Phalombe)
- Mainly antiparasitics were given to prevent further diseases caused by mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and worms after the floods



Cyclone Freddy – Livestock support

- Over 420 farmers were visited in Chikwawa, Mulanje and Phalombe
 - These farmers lost 330 cows, 163 goats and 34 dogs



Snapshot of Phalombe and Mulanje



Snapshot of Chikwawa



Disaster response training

- Veterinarians in Malawi, have been trained on disaster preparedness, response and management. The training was offered from December 2023 to January 2024.
- The training was online and offered by specialists from the Action for protection and care of Animals.

Conclusion and recommendations

- Cyclone Freddy had a negative economic and animal welfare in Malawi.
- Economically the farmers acknowledge that they cannot afford veterinary services for the injured animals due to the cyclone and the projects helped a lot.
- There is a need for more resources to continue providing free veterinary services more especially vaccinations to protect the affected animals.
- There is need for inclusion of disaster preparedness and management in the animal welfare courses provided by the country veterinary schools.

Providing urgent aid in the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy

- In the wake of Cyclone Freddy teams based in Blantyre, Malawi, were providing emergency response for injured wildlife, livestock, and pets.
- Leaving a path of destruction across southern Malawi, Cyclone Freddy is likely to be the longest lasting tropical cyclone in history, according to World Meteorological Organisation.
- An urgent fundraising appeal was been launched to support with the increasing demand for veterinary care.

Providing urgent aid in the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy



Vets at BSPCA in Blantyre treating animals injured in the cyclone,

Providing urgent aid in the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy



Thank you for your attention

