Community members in Traditional Authority Mbenje in Nsanje District have commended Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) for empowering them to implement interventions to mitigate the impact of climatic-shocks induced by climate change.

Sam Chapepa, 45, from Zuze Village, said through the Humanitarian Project funded by FUNDACION PUEBLO PARA PUEBLO (Humana Spain), DAPP has taught their communities ways on how they can offset natural disasters induced by climate change and land degradation.

“Our area is prone to floods. We are pleased to implement the flood-response intervention plan, which among other we are constructing water absorption trenches and plant vetiver grass to control run-off. The benefits of these interventions have been clearly seen this year, as only few people in our area were directly affected by Cyclone Freddy, for that reason we would like to thank DAPP Malawi,” he said.

Cyclone Freddy affected over two million people in the country mostly from southern region. In response to the tragedy, DAPP Malawi with assistance from FUNDACION PUEBLO PARA PUEBLO (Humana Spain) donated food and non-food items to over 6500 people affected by the Cyclone in Nnembe and Khope Evacuation Camps in Nsanje District.

People around Chikwewo Health Centre in Machinga, Katuli and Makanjira Health Centres in Mangochi can now afford a smile, as they will no longer wait for so many days before obtaining results of their Tuberculosis (TB) test.

This follows the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project TB Local Organisation Network (TB LON) II initiative of refurbishing laboratories and the supply of modern testing equipment in the three districts where the project is being implemented by DAPP Malawi.

Speaking during one of the hand-over ceremonies in Mangochi, Chief of Party for the project Mitsunge Nkhono Phiri said the project is contributing to Malawi’s efforts of ending TB by 2030.

“To achieve that, it is crucial to equip facilities in rural areas with testing equipment. This approach will enable diagnoses to be conducted at the facility while ensuring early treatment and infection prevention,” she said.

An official from Mangochi District Council, Innocent Lanjesi, said during the function that the new acquisitions will ensure surrounding communities easy access to various disease tests not only TB but also HIV and cervical cancer.

“We are delighted with the renovation and the modern equipment. Now a lot of services will be done under one roof, he said.”

DAPP is implementing the TB LON II project in Mangochi, Machinga and Mulanje through provision of health services aimed at improving active TB case findings,
improving diagnostic capacity and quality and supporting treatment adherence with support from USAID.

GOVERNMENT APPLAUDS DAPP FOR PATRIOTISING DEVELOPMENTS

Government has commended Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) for its invaluable contribution to the country’s socio-economic development, through long-term developmental programmes.

Speaking during an official opening ceremony of DAPP’s fifth retail shop along the M1 Road at the old Kandodo corner shop in Blantyre, Regional Trade Officer for the Southern Region in the Ministry of Trade Noel Sherma, expressed gratitude towards the organisation.

“We highly appreciate the assistance of organisations like DAPP in enhancing the socio-economic profile of our people in Malawi. They provide accessible commodities for low-income earners,”

He further, acknowledged DAPP’s role in job creation and narrowing the unemployment gap in the country, as well as the implementation of programmes that elevate the socio-economic status of Malawians.

Precious Malaya, a customer from Mbayani Township in Blantyre, expressed his joy during the opening of the new shop and explained that the shop’s presence would make their lives easier, allowing them to purchase goods at affordable prices and providing nearby communities with convenient access to essential commodities.

The sale of second-hand clothes and shoes is one of the organisation’s efforts to promote sustainable development, conserve the environment and support communities through implementation of various developmental projects.

REVIVING FUTURE OF YOUNG VICTIMS - (CASE STORY)

Witness Kapichi is a 17-year-old boy and a standard six learner at Chanza Primary School in Chiradzulu District. His younger brother Robert, aged 15, is in the same class and school. They have not yet reached adulthood, but they have already assumed the role of parenthood due to Cyclone Freddy. Their parents, siblings and all their belongings were swept by the cyclone. Their future depends on well-wishers.

“It was during the wee hours of Tuesday, 14th March 2023, when I went outside to relieve. I later came back in our small house where I used to sleep with my peers. Few minutes later, I heard a strange noise as if a vehicle was loaded with heavy goods. The moment I set my foot on the door step to check outside, I realised that I was already in deep muddy water which swept me through a distance moments before dumped on shrubs.”

“When I woke up in the next day morning, I realised that I was admitted at a nearby hospital with severe body injuries. Others were admitted as well with various degrees of injuries, and that is when I was told that almost our entire village had gone. Many including my parents and my relatives had all died and their bodies were found in a decomposed state. I cried thinking of my future and that of my only surviving brother,” Witnessed lamented.

Upon hearing this sad story, DAPP Malawi has shouldered the burden of the two boys by committing to assist them. So far, DAPP has issued one million Kwacha to the boys to cater for their food, clothing and education coupled with both psychosocial and other material support.