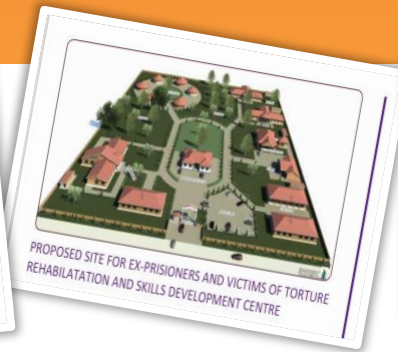


Centre for Hope and Life in and after Prison Initiative - Uganda

CHALAPI-UG – A VOICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



Special Edition!

Welcome to this special edition of the CHALAPI Newsletter.

The reason for this extra newsletter is that on May 7th, right in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, there was disastrous flooding in the area where CHALAPI operate - Kasese, Western Uganda. Heavy rain up in the beautiful Rwenzori mountains rushed down the valleys wiping out villages, towns, hospitals and anything else in its path, damaging the CHALAPI Pastor's home too. Hundreds of people became homeless, losing animals, crops, food and all their possessions. By a miracle no-one lost their life on this occasion. Godfrey and CHALAPI mobilised immediately, being selected to join the Disaster Committee alongside the Red Cross and other NGOs to try and help these people, providing shelters in schools closed by the pandemic, food, cooking utensils, blankets, water purifiers, mosquito nets, soap to help keep hands clean amid the pandemic, and sanitary towels for the women. In true CHALAPI style Godfrey was also able to purchase 240 balls to encourage the traumatised children to play, to help relieve some of their stress and anxiety.



Before the flood



After the flood; note the houses left in the middle

Sadly the flooding repeated itself a week later, this time resulting in the loss of 8 lives, with only 4 bodies recovered so far. This caused further destruction, washing away bridges and essential infrastructure as well as more homes and livelihoods. Again CHALAPI mobilised, helping to rescue two women who were in labour, getting them to hospitals where they both delivered their babies safely, with one needing a life-saving caesarean section. We are thankful that none of the prisons were badly affected!

Please check out our website at <http://www.chalapi.com> for more information

CHALAPI have been recognised and appreciated in several reports following this disaster, including one presented to the President of Uganda when he visited to see the extent of the damage for himself.

CHALAPI were also able to support the Inter-Religious Council to reach out to the flood victims with a message of restoring hope.

CHALAPI are still on the frontline of this disaster, trying to raise funds for the post flood challenges ahead.



Getting clean water to the camps



Lots of footballs = lots of happy children!



Rebuilding bridges that were swept away



Delivering food (matoke) to the camps



Creating screened areas for men and women to wash and change with dignity

Assisting with people returning to their home villages



So many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this work. One man sadly could see no way out of his situation and committed suicide, but so many others have been given hope that they are not forgotten and that people care about them in this disaster that has overtaken them. May God bless you.

In the middle of all this Godfrey became a father for the second time! Crystal Ebenezer Biira was born to his beautiful wife Goret on Mother's Day!



Please check out our website at <http://www.chalapi.com> for more information