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The most recent disaster affecting the developing world is the severe flooding in Malawi following the cyclone that had hit neighbouring Mozambique. Nsanje, Blantyre and Nkhata bay region of Malawi are worst affected by rainfall and flooding.

Over 6,000 people (over 3,500 are children) are living in camps as many of their homes have been destroyed as a result of the heavy rainfall and floods. These bad conditions are going to be lasting for several weeks and rebuilding the homes that have been lost will take a lot of time and effort from charitable aids.

The people affected by this are currently only living on one maize-based meal a day and are living in makeshift shelters, making them hugely vulnerable to mosquitoes and bad weather. They need a huge amount of help from charities and food and shelter for them are the main priorities.

Organisations are working to provide them with emergency supplies including nutritious foods, plastic sheets for shelters to keep them dry, fuel or firewood for cooking and insecticide treated nets. Child protection is a priority and the aim is to keep these children nourished and free from disease. To keep their spirits up child friendly centres are also going to be set up, with donations of toys and school equipment, where they can learn and play.

Here are just a few examples of how your help can make a difference

â€¢ A gift of Â£38 from you could buy a 20kg bag of cereal to feed hungry babies.

â€¢ Â£85 could pay for a roll of plastic sheeting to shelter families from continuing rain.

â€¢ Â£100 could buy over 250 exercise books and over a thousand pencils so children can continue their education.

This is just one of the natural disasters affecting the developing world, but there are many other developing countries still struggling with new disasters and outbreaks of violence every day.

Charities can never be completely prepared, and new issues are arising all the time. Sponsoring a child not only means in times of crisis, but donations can help them and their families through many aspects of their lives. From providing safe drinking water or securing their childrenâ€™s education to advising families on earning a living or helping to fight against disease, charities are always looking to improve their quality of life. The harsh reality is that one in five children born in the poorest countries wonâ€™t live to see their fifth birthday.

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If you feel like you could help in some way, then A HREFhttp://www.plan-uk.org/>sponsor a child/A>

and help them to build their future.

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