

# Zimbabwe Tropical Cyclone Idai Response

12-04-2019

Since the cyclone hit, at least **344** deaths and **175** injuries have been reported and **257** people were reportedly missing. Over **270, 000** people have been affected.

Destruction to infrastructure and property is severe. The death toll is expected to rise as areas previously cut-off become reachable by road and the full extent of the damage becomes known.

There are **20,411** refugees and asylum seekers in Zimbabwe. **13,865** have been registered as refugees. **6000** are in immediate need following the cyclone.

## UNHCR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

80MT of CRIs for 10,000 Zimbabweans affected by the cyclone have been transported to Chipinge District. UNHCR has also brought 60 tarpaulins and 300 tents from Zambia specifically for refugees who need immediate shelter. A limited distribution of these has begun.

On 9 April, UNHCR airlifted additional CRIs for 5,300 affected refugees in Tongogara refugee camp.

The airlifts contained blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, solar lamps, sanitary pads and soap.

## CHOLERA PREVENTION

Cholera has reached the border between Mozambique and Zimbabwe. UNHCR Zimbabwe has ensured that refugees are covered in the current vaccination campaign in the region affected by the cyclone and is prioritising the installation of proper latrines for refugees to avoid the spread of disease. So far, no confirmed cases of cholera has been reported.

## UNHCR's role

UNHCR has joined the collective UN systems efforts in response to the emergency. UNHCR has deployed Emergency Response Teams and dispatched relief items. The UN cluster system has been officially activated and UNHCR is leading the protection cluster. UNHCR will support the ongoing efforts to respond to the urgent life-saving needs of the affected people and stands in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, who have for decade's generously hosted refugees and shared their resources with them.



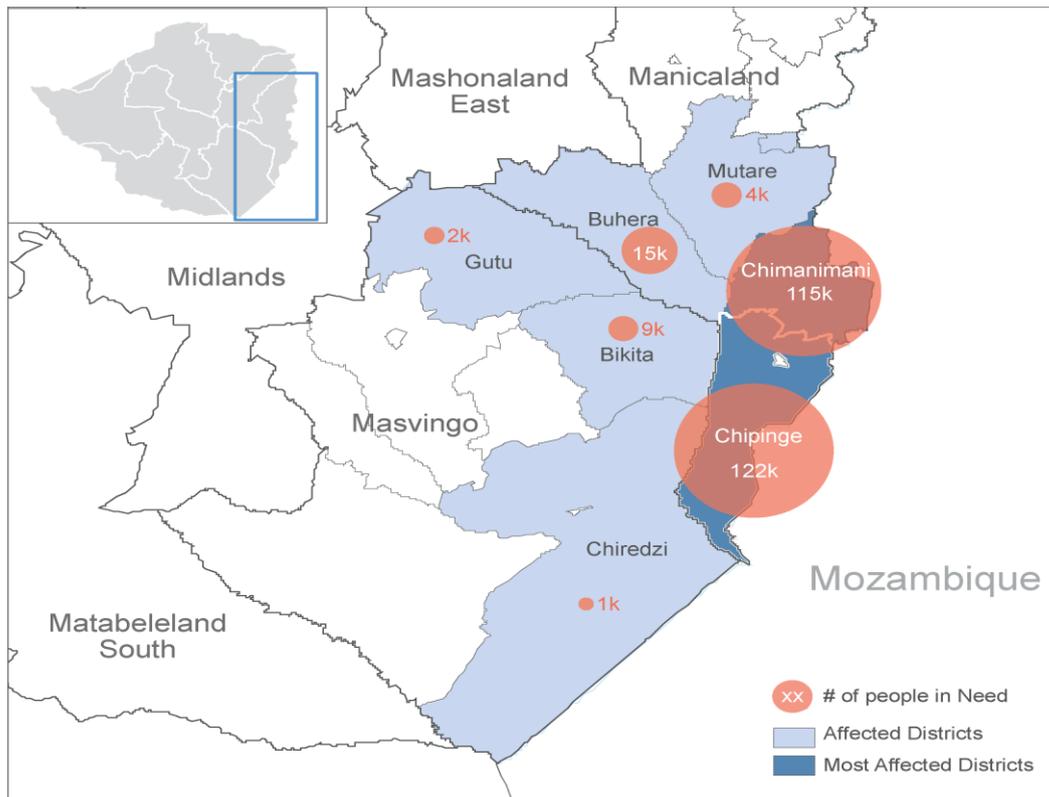
Airlift arriving on 2 April ©UNHCR Zimbabwe



The CRIs delivered via the airlift ©UNHCR Zimbabwe

## Operational Context

**270,000** people across the following seven districts have been affected and are in need of humanitarian assistance: Chipinge, Chimanimani, Buhera, Bikita, Mutare, Gutu, and Chiredzi. The vast majority of people affected are in the districts of Chipinge (**122,000**) and Chimanimani (**115,000**):



### Refugee Numbers and camp location

The refugee camp in Zimbabwe is at Tongogara in Chipinge district – a district directly affected by cyclone. There are **12,800** residents in the camp, the majority of whom are of Congolese origin. Just under half of these (**6,000**) are in need of immediate assistance following the cyclone because their homes were damaged or destroyed.

UNHCR is also concerned about **6,546** Mozambicans, living in villages by the border in Zimbabwe.

### Tongogara refugee camp

Approximately 1,200 refugee homes were damaged or destroyed during the cyclone due to excessive rain weakening their structure, affecting 6,000 people. UNHCR was already working to build stronger homes in the camp and many families were able to find temporary shelter in these structures. Tents have been provided to a limited number of families with no shelter. UNHCR is prioritizing the construction of stronger and seasonal homes so that the whole refugee population have homes that can withstand heavy rains.



## PROTECTION

### Identified Needs

- A Protection Cluster has been activated, which UNHCR is leading.
- UNHCR, with cluster partners, will work with local authorities to make sure the people affected by the cyclone are consulted and participate in coming up with any relocation plan.
- Following meetings with local officials, UNHCR has received a number of reports of separated or unaccompanied children. UNHCR will be prioritizing care for these children as well as vulnerable young women and people with disabilities.
- A number of persons affected by Cyclone Idai have indicated that they have lost their identification documents. Exact number to be confirmed. According to the Provincial Registrar General's office, their sub-office in Rusitu has been decimated as the office and equipment were completely destroyed and records including archives were washed away. The Chimanimani District office which remained intact is able to issue civil status documentation albeit with reduced capacity. Assessment is needed to map the gravity of the problem and assistance is required to facilitate the access to documentation of those who are in need as well as support to the Provincial Registrar General's office.
- We will ensure relief items are distributed in accordance with humanitarian principles based on neutrality and impartiality.

### Working in partnership

- With the activation of the cluster system, UNHCR, as the Protection Cluster lead, is working closely with the Government of Zimbabwe and all other UN Agencies in delivering assistance to everyone affected by Cyclone Idai, both refugees and members of the local community.
- GOAL, UNHCR's partner, is warehousing CRIs for distribution to the affected Zimbabwean population. Distribution will be conducted in collaboration with GOAL and the Government of Zimbabwe.

### Deployment and missions

Emergency Response team members have been deployed to Zimbabwe covering reporting, protection, WASH, health, shelter and admin.

## External / Donor Relations

### LINKS

Twitter: [twitter.com/UNHCRROSA](https://twitter.com/UNHCRROSA)

Facebook: [facebook.com/UNHCRSouthernAfrica](https://facebook.com/UNHCRSouthernAfrica)

Data-portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/zwe>

Global Focus: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/10232>

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