

TROPICAL CYCLONE IDAI

LAST UPDATE JUNE 2019

On 14 March 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai, one of the deadliest storms recorded to hit the Southern Hemisphere, caused catastrophic flooding, landslides and large numbers of casualties across Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. More than 2.6 million people in the three countries are estimated to have been affected by the natural disaster.

On 22 March, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator activated an "IASC Humanitarian System Wide Scale-Up" in Mozambique for an initial period of three months. UNHCR subsequently activated its internal Level 3 emergency procedures for the Office's response in the three countries, and facilitating the delivery of UNHCR's commitments under the IASC scale-up protocols.



Displaced families take UNHCR solar lanterns back to their tents to charge, in Picoco camp, Beira, Mozambique ©UNHCR/Vania Turner

As UNHCR was already implementing refugee operations in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, the Office was able to join the collective UN system wide response in all the three countries promptly. UNHCR co-leads the Protection Cluster in Mozambique and Malawi and participates actively in the Protection Sector in Zimbabwe.

Since March, UNHCR swiftly airlifted some 240 MT of shelter and relief items from global stockpiles to the three countries affected to assist initially some 30,000 most vulnerable cyclone survivors. Approximately 25 staff have been deployed on emergency mission since the onset of the emergency.

In order to continue providing lifesaving protection and assistance, and to play its full part in the inter-agency response, UNHCR urgently requires US\$ 11.3 million until September 2019.

Response to date

In **Mozambique**, the most affected country of the three, it is estimated that more than 1.85 million persons are in need of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR emergency response teams have undertaken essential activities in coordination with Government and partner agencies, including:



Core Relief Item (CRI) distribution for some 10,000 people;

- Shelter support to more than 430 vulnerable families;
- Protection assessments and monitoring;
- Relocation of affected people from collective sites to temporary camps and settlements;
- Co-leading of the Protection
 Cluster with the governmental
 counterpart Provincial Directorate
 of Gender, Child, and Social Action
 (DPGCAS), and working on the
 gradual transfer of protection
 coordination and oversight to the
 Government as part of the
 Protection Cluster exit strategy.



Esther and her child are alive but Tropical Cyclone Idai destroyed their home. Subsequently lashing rains and floods flattened two other shelters where they sought refuge in eastern Zimbabwe ©UNHCR

In **Zimbabwe**, the Government reported over 270,000 people have been affected, and it is estimated at least 16,000 households need shelter. In addition to co-leading the Protection Cluster, UNHCR has undertaken key activities including:

- Ongoing CRI and firewood distribution to some 1,500 affected Zimbabweans and 350 refugees;
- Shelter support;
- Assisting the Government with civil registration of the displaced;
- Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence;
- Supporting cholera vaccination campaign for 450,000 people;
- One-day Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) workshop carried out at UNHCR Harare for staff and partners on 4 June 2019.

In Malawi, it is estimated that some 870,000 people have been affected. Displaced people are scattered across more than 170 displacement sites, and include Malawian nationals as well as some 4,500 Mozambicans who sought refuge in Malawi. In addition to co-leading the Protection Cluster, UNHCR has undertaken key activities including:

- CRI distribution to some 10,000 beneficiaries (2,000 households), thanks to the UPS airlift in-kind donation;
- Participating in vulnerability screening for the displaced population in several sites;
- Distributing tents in displacement sites for the most vulnerable
- Delivering a workshop through the Protection Cluster on 13 June 2019, with district social welfare officers, local police, and representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Social Welfare, and Disability (MoGCDSW), to consolidate the lessons learned from the humanitarian response, in order to guide the development of an exit strategy.

SCALING UP THE RESPONSE

UNHCR has scaled up its operations to respond to the needs of affected people, including refugees in the three affected countries, and as part of its IASC commitments. Despite the response in the three countries, needs remain particularly high. Cholera and malaria cases are on the rise, access to proper shelters and basic non-food items is limited and displacement sites have become highly congested.



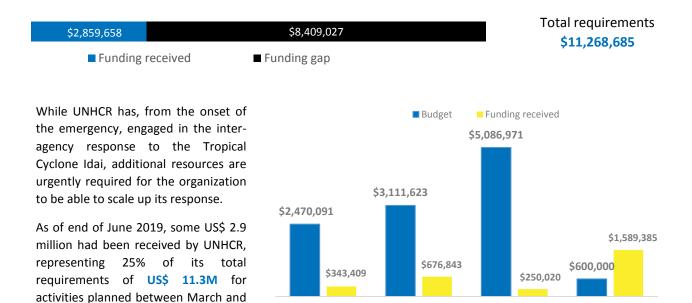
Among key planned activities between April and September 2019 are:

Mozambique **Zimbabwe** Malawi Leading or coordinating the protection response Ensuring assistance and protection for refugees Establish the mapping of Establish presence in Chipinge Establish presence in Blantyre service providers and to provide assistance to to provide assistance to the reinforce the referral displaced and vulnerable affected population; Distribution of additional relief pathways in displacement population; Assist with the relocation of items and tents; affected population to Provision of shelter kits to Assess and analyse key protection issues and trends relocation sites identified by support return; through regular protection the government; Set up of school tents in some monitoring, assessment and Provide 1,228 <u>Refugee Housing</u> of the displacement sites; advocate for a timely Implement programmes to **Units** to refugees whose response; shelters were destroyed or mitigate the risks of sexual and Improve the profiling of the gender-based violence. damaged. displaced population to better identify persons with specific needs and provide adequate/tailored assistance; Support national strategies

FUNDING THE RESPONSE

and multi-partners approaches for IDP's solutions and recovery.

September.



Malawi

Zimbabwe

Regional

Mozambique

^{*}Flexible funding can be used across the situation for the three affected populations



THE IMPORTANCE OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR UNHCR'S SITUATIONS

Flexible financial support allows UNHCR to place it anywhere within a given situation, in line with the Office's priorities, from where people in need are forced to flee, to where they find refuge. Importantly, flexible funding needs to be timely for UNHCR to plan in the most efficient manner, allocating to priorities first.

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