

## UNHCR flies aid to support Cyclone Idai affected in Malawi

An aircraft carrying relief items from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to support 10,000 survivors landed today on Lilongwe Airport.

The flight's 87MT cargo includes much needed items like family tents, plastic tarpaulins, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, solar lamps and kitchen sets.

"I have seen first-hand the devastation this cyclone has brought on people in Malawi, leaving them in dire need of humanitarian support," said UNHCR Country Representative Monique Ekoko.

"Our supplies will help provide shelter and basic items to survivors, including women and children, as they have lost everything."

UNHCR is part of humanitarian working in close collaboration with the host government and other humanitarian partners to ensure people receive the required assistance and are protected from risks and dangers.

UNHCR has also deployed emergency staff to support relief efforts.

In Malawi, the Tropical Cyclone Idai has displaced over 86,000 people in 15 districts. The cyclone has reportedly killed 59 and has left 731,879 in dire need of assistance.

Nsanje, one of the hard hit districts, has also welcomed over 4,400 Mozambican nationals – who forced by the Cyclone Idai to seek safety in Malawi. UNHCR plans to assist both Mozambican new arrivals and their Malawian hosts.

Malawi is already host to some 37,000 refugees and asylum-seekers mainly in Dzaleka Camp. Fortunately refugees have not been affected.

UNHCR is grateful to its corporate partner UPS Foundation which has donated the aid flight.

The airlift is part of UNHCR efforts to provide aid to thousands of people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Earlier, a plane carrying UNHCR items arrived in Maputo, Mozambique on Wednesday. Further flights are also scheduled in the coming days.

For more information on this topic, please contact:

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*Over 86,976 people have been displaced in 15 districts with Nsanje being the hardest hit, and are seeking refuge in shelter like this. UNHCR core relief items has among others tents that will provide a proper shelter to the IDPs. @UNHCR/ Emmanuel Juma*



*UNHCR Malawi Representative Monique Ekoko has already been on the ground assessing the situation by visiting affected areas and makeshift camps offering a message of hope to the IDPs. @UNHCR/ Emmanuel Juma*