

## **Cyclone Idai and floods in Mozambique: Medair launches emergency response to help those affected**



Medair has launched an emergency response in Mozambique to quickly assist families affected by the cyclone and floods.

Our intervention seeks to provide rapid emergency relief through emergency shelter and non-food items. We will seek to restore the dignity of populations affected by Cyclone Idai and subsequent flooding in Mozambique. In collaboration with our local partner Food for the Hungry (FH), we aim to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs, based on the findings of the ongoing needs assessment.

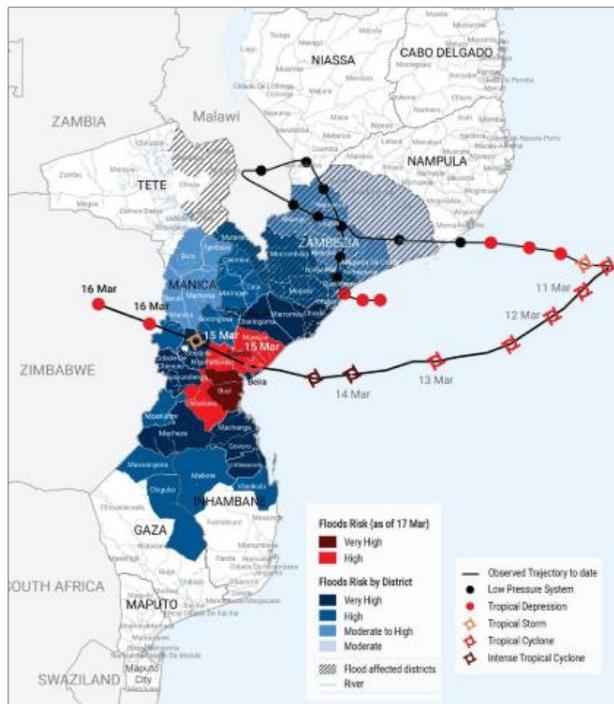
### **Context and needs**

The central coast of Mozambique has been devastated by category 3 Cyclone Idai which made landfall on 14<sup>th</sup> March, directly striking the city of Beira, in Sofala Province. Ensuing rainfall has resulted in massive and widespread flooding across six provinces, leaving **2.5 million people in need** as reported by the United Nations. The national government has reported in multiple media outlets that it is expected that over 1,000 people may have died. There is an expectation of increased flooding, with persistent rain expected until the last week of March in some areas, and rivers continuing to expand, specifically in Sofala and Manica Provinces. Flyover photos taken by Mission Aviation Fellowship just after the disaster demonstrated widespread flooding. More disheartening was the plight of many people observed on rooftops, escaping the flood waters with no help in sight. Telephone networks are down and most places affected remain out of power. Health facilities and schools have been damaged. Crops have been destroyed just before the main harvest. This will cause extreme food insecurity. Four provinces: Nampula, Zambezia, Tete and Niassia, were noted to have cumulatively almost 300,000 people food insecure (Integrated Phase Classification - IPC level 4 crisis) due to drought even prior to the storm.

Public health indicators were poor at a baseline in Mozambique, with high rates of infectious diseases and high prevalence of malnutrition. Multiple hospitals are reported to have been severely damaged following the storm. Malaria and diarrhoea are common but expected to worsen due to the heavy flooding, lack of access to clean water, damage to infrastructure and likely contamination of boreholes and wells.

Cholera outbreaks are common in the first quarter of the year in Mozambique due to the rains. Beyond the health issues, the trauma caused by loss of home, social structures, and basic services is likely to leave the population with extensive psychosocial needs.

At least 12,000 shelters have been destroyed with many more expected to be confirmed as destroyed as flood waters subside. Beira is currently inaccessible by land, but sea transport is still functional including from Maputo to Beira. Aircraft support is planned including helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.



## Medair’s experience

As the Trade Aid UK Foundation knows (through its previous support of our work), Medair is an international humanitarian organisation inspired by Christian faith and specialising in emergency response and recovery. We work in the major sectors of shelter and non-food items; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and health and nutrition. We have significant experience responding to natural disasters over 30 years, with responses in the last six months alone in the Philippines following Typhoon Manghut and the earthquake and tsunami which devastated Sulawesi Island, Indonesia. We strive to respond quickly and efficiently to new onset disasters. We have developed key partnerships with organisations like Mission Aviation Fellowship and Food for the Hungry to create efficiencies and complement our respective skill sets.

## Project description: Initial Emergency Phase (March - July 2019)

### Overall goal

To restore dignity and provide life-saving emergency assistance to vulnerable populations affected and threatened by the floods in Mozambique, to prevent disease and further deaths. We will achieve this by providing rapid support of emergency basic needs and services to targeted vulnerable populations most affected by Cyclone Idai.

### Specific objectives

1. Carry out multi-sector rapid assessments to determine most vulnerable populations with critical needs;

2. Address the basic needs of survivors, in collaboration with our local partner, to support vulnerable families to access emergency shelter and critical non-food items;
3. Coordinate with government disaster management teams, counterparts and clusters or sector coordination bodies - to ensure a coordinated response;
4. Coordinate with other actors on the ground specifically with MAF, FH, and other Integral Alliance partners, in order to ensure an effective response.

## **Beneficiaries**

As always, we will seek to reach out to the most vulnerable communities, who have not yet received any relief, in the most remote areas. We are planning to reach and support at least 2,000 households, covering a total of 10,000 beneficiaries. Participatory methods will be used to identify priority beneficiaries and the most appropriate actions. A follow-up evaluation will be carried out after the distributions, in order to ensure the quality of our response.

## **Outcomes**

1. Provide emergency shelter, hygiene kits, and non-food items, including tools for water filtration, to a minimum of 2,000 vulnerable households (10,000 beneficiaries)
2. Assess the opportunities to utilise cash transfer to the most vulnerable if feasible based on market conditions;
3. Prepare for additional recovery projects, considering shelter and water and sanitation needs.

## **Activities and methodology**

We will continue to support assessments and prepare for distributions of emergency shelter kits and non-food items as quickly as vulnerable communities are identified. We have been coordinating with partners on the ground and logistics teams are currently liaising with suppliers to ensure critical items are deployed in the coming hours.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

We want to be accountable to both donors and beneficiaries in all of our responses. Participatory methods will be used to determine beneficiaries of this project and ideal inputs for support. Registrations will be done with the support of local community leaders and verified to ensure exhaustive coverage and support are being given to the most vulnerable. A post-distribution monitoring survey will be carried out following all distributions –to ensure quality and fairness of our response. Focus group discussions will be used at the end of the project to determine successes and disappointments from the perspectives of different community groups.

## **Coordination and partners**

We are participating in the humanitarian coordination system led by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (UN OCHA) and those established by local disaster management teams of the local government. A coordination hub has been set-up at the airport in Beira led by the National Institute for Disaster Management with inter-agency coordination currently being facilitated by World Food Programme and COSACA (emergency and humanitarian consortium). A second hub is established in Quelimane,

with another being set up in Chimoio. We have been in contact with the logistics cluster already and will participate in coordination meetings. We will promote a coordinated and efficient response to ensure the best access to services for beneficiaries.

## Long-term Recovery Phase / Exit Strategy

We will work with local counterparts and communities to build capacity on the ground, developing the potential of affected communities for self-response in the midst of future crises. We will respond to this acute crisis, and will carry out more in-depth assessments before determining the need to continue to a second phase.

## Project Budget: Urgent Lifesaving Support in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai

Emergency Response Phase Budget March – July 2019	£
Direct Beneficiary Assistance	274,270
Personnel Expense (Assessment and Distribution Teams, Technical Support and Coordination)	34,165
Facilities, Security and Transport	27,332
Equipment, Office and Communications	12,907
Indirect Costs: Administrative Expenses (15%)	52,301
<b>Costs – Total</b>	<b>400,975</b>

## Request

We are urgently seeking funding to ensure rapid procurement of supplies and assessment, to provide the fastest and most efficient response, and to help contribute economically to rebuilding. We will provide assistance to families in desperate need of food, water, shelter and medical treatment.

We would be extremely grateful if the Trade Aid UK Foundation would kindly support our work in Mozambique. Your help will be fundamental in helping us to respond rapidly and provide assistance to the population affected by this disastrous cyclone.

Thank you for considering our request for support.