



# CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL

CYCLONE IDAI AND FLOODS: MOZAMBIQUE, ZIMBABWE AND MALAWI



***“It’s nature showing its strength and we need to accept it and find strength after the rain to stand up and move forward”*** – Cristovao Forquia, Local Businessman, Mozambique. BBC News, 20 March 2019.

Cyclone Idai may be the worst weather-related disaster to hit the southern hemisphere in modern history. Wind speeds at the cyclone’s peak were measured at 194kph/120mph. On making landfall for the second time on 15<sup>th</sup> March, it cut a devastating path through Mozambique, Malawi and neighbouring Zimbabwe. This natural disaster is estimated by the UN to have affected over 2.6 million people and left hundreds of thousands displaced across a vast region.

The DEC is always ready to mobilise in times of great need. Before appeals launch, we carefully assess against three criteria:

**1 – Is the need great, and will the affected country or countries benefit from international support?**

Since the cyclone, monsoon rains have battered the countries, exacerbating an already urgent situation and causing continued flood waters to rise. Roads and bridges have been swept away creating difficulties with early assessment and access for provision of relief supplies. Following drought conditions, poor crop yields have been decimated. The confirmed death toll across the three countries stands at 480 (21 Mar) and is feared to significantly increase in the coming days, as the extent of the damage is revealed. Hundreds of thousands of lives are currently at serious risk.





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## 2 – Can DEC Members provide swift and effective humanitarian assistance?

Thirteen of the fourteen DEC member agencies have mobilised and are already present in the three affected countries. They are providing immediate assistance with staple food items and shelter materials for those who have lost their homes, crops and livestock, or access to local markets. There are reports of destruction of sanitation facilities and unsafe water supplies. Damage to water supply increases the likelihood of water-borne diseases, including cholera, so heavy focus on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and Health based relief programmes will be essential. Women, children and older people faced heightened protection risks, especially where they have been left with precarious shelter conditions. The risk of children becoming separated from their families during widescale displacement is considerable. School facilities - which often provide protection – are reportedly badly damaged, so a focus on education programming will be vital in days and weeks to come.

## 3 – Are people aware of the situation?

Media coverage has been significant and the DEC's broadcasting partners have given their full approval to launch a nationwide DEC appeal. Broadcaster backing is key to the raising of public awareness, impressing upon the British people the magnitude of the situation faced by those whose lives who have been severely affected.



- **£6,000 can provide blankets to keep 400 families warm**
- **£12,000 could provide 240 families with dry food for one month**
- **£20,000 could provide 1,000 families with emergency shelter kits**

If you can lend your support for this emergency appeal, please donate via the following channels:

Online at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)

By cheque or CAF voucher. Please send to James Winterkorn, Disasters Emergency Committee, Ground Floor, 43 Chalton Street, London, NW1 1DU. Cheques should be made out to **DEC CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL**

By Bank Transfer (BACS or CHAPS)

Bank Name: Barclays Bank plc  
Bank Address: 1 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HP  
Account Number: 03042294  
Sort Code: 20-00-00  
Account Name: DEC CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL

For any enquiries please speak directly to James Winterkorn, DEC Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager, via

- the DEC Secretariat Switchboard 020 7387 0200
- direct dial 020 7255 9115
- or email to [jwinterkorn@dec.org.uk](mailto:jwinterkorn@dec.org.uk)

Thank you.