

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

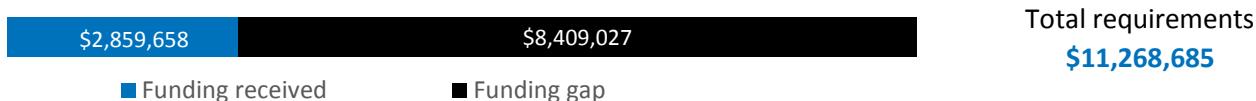
**Leading or coordinating the protection response
Ensuring assistance and protection for refugees**

- Establish the mapping of service providers and reinforce the referral pathways in displacement sites;
- Assess and analyse key protection issues and trends through regular protection monitoring, assessment and advocate for a timely response;
- Improve the profiling of the displaced population to better identify persons with specific needs and provide adequate/tailored assistance;
- Support national strategies and multi-partners approaches for IDP's solutions and recovery.

- Establish presence in Chipinga to provide assistance to displaced and vulnerable population;
- Assist with the relocation of affected population to relocation sites identified by the government;
- Provide 1,228 [Refugee Housing Units](#) to refugees whose shelters were destroyed or damaged.

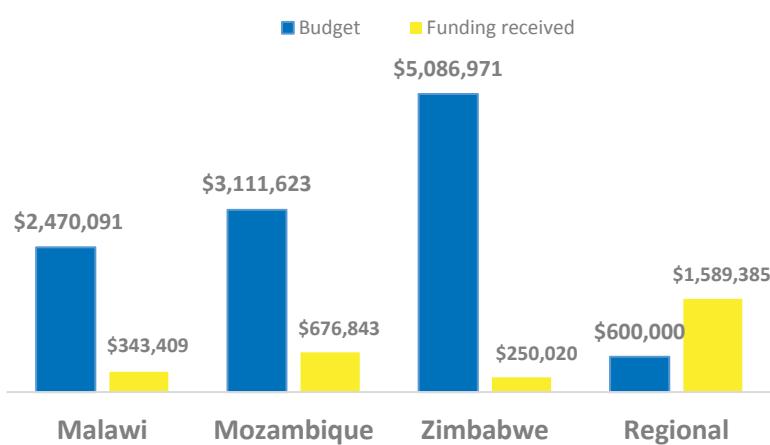
- Establish presence in Blantyre to provide assistance to the affected population;
- Distribution of additional relief items and tents;
- Provision of shelter kits to support return;
- Set up of school tents in some of the displacement sites;
- Implement programmes to mitigate the risks of sexual and gender-based violence.

FUNDING THE RESPONSE



While UNHCR has, from the onset of the emergency, engaged in the inter-agency response to the Tropical Cyclone Idai, additional resources are urgently required for the organization to be able to scale up its response.

As of end of June 2019, some US\$ 2.9 million had been received by UNHCR, representing 25% of its total requirements of **US\$ 11.3M** for activities planned between March and September.



*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.

Contacts

UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Markku Aikomus, Senior Regional External Relations Officer
aikomus@unhcr.org, Tel: +27 81 797 7456

UNHCR DONOR RELATIONS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

hqfr00@unhcr.org

Links

Data Portals: [Mozambique](#) | [Malawi](#) | [Zimbabwe](#)

Global Focus: [Mozambique](#) | [Malawi](#) | [Zimbabwe](#)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Story](#)



Survivors of Cyclone in front of their tents in Guara Guara transit centre, Mozambique ©UNHCR