



**2019 CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL  
FINAL REPORT**

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# THE IMPACT

**3.1 MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED**  
**1,593 DEATHS**  
**2,452 INJURIES**

“Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have suffered one of the worst weather-related catastrophes in the history of Africa”

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General,  
26 March 2019

**15–17 March 2019: Cyclone Idai crosses central Mozambique and eastern Zimbabwe, tearing apart roads, bridges, houses, schools and health facilities; torrential rain and flooding submerges vast swathes of agricultural land**

**24 April 2019: Cyclone Kenneth passes north of the Comoros Islands**

**25 April 2019: Cyclone Kenneth makes landfall in Cabo Delgado province, flattening entire villages with wind gusts of up to 220km/h**

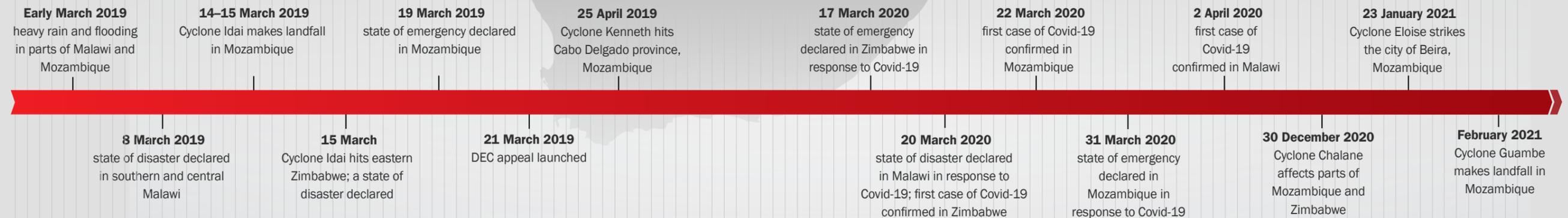
**4 March 2019: Cyclone Idai begins as a tropical depression in the Mozambique channel, bringing heavy rain and flooding to parts of Mozambique and Malawi**

**10 March 2019: Cyclone Idai strengthens to a tropical storm**

**14–15 March 2019: Cyclone Idai makes landfall near Beira city, ripping roofs off houses and uprooting trees**



21 March 2019–31 March 2021



Cover image: Rosinha, Joanna and Shika, three small scale farmers from Mozambique, benefit from drought-resistant seeds provided by CARE. In the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, DEC charities delivered similar livelihood support projects in the region. © Josh Estey/CARE International

# THE DEC RESPONSE

## DEC APPEAL LAUNCHED 21 MARCH 2019

APPEAL TOTAL **£43 MILLION** | **£30.5 MILLION** RAISED DIRECTLY BY DEC

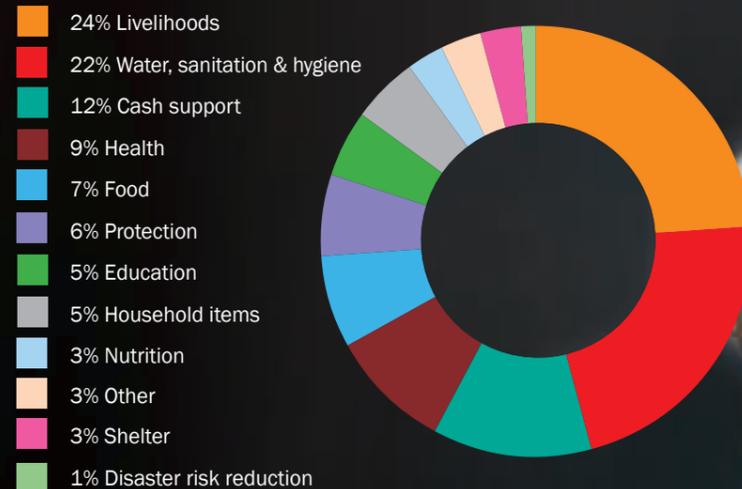
including £4 million from the UK Government's Aid Match scheme<sup>1</sup>

13 DEC member charities and their partners responded

“The very substantial funds that the DEC successfully mobilised for Cyclone Idai enabled Christian Aid to significantly scale up its programming and reach a lot more extremely vulnerable people whose lives and livelihoods were shattered by the disaster than we would have been able to support with our own appeal funds alone”

Michael Mosselmans,  
Head of Humanitarian Division, Christian Aid

### Expenditure by sector across the response



As of January 2020, the DEC was the eighth largest funder of the Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan 2019, contributing 3.2% of total appeal funding; and the seventh largest funder of the Zimbabwe Flash Appeal 2019–20, contributing 3.8% of total appeal funding.

“The [DEC] funding mechanism allowed us to design programming from the outset that built longer term recovery actions on the base of the early humanitarian response activities. This was a unique opportunity for our Idai response”

Saul Butters, Country Director, CARE International

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

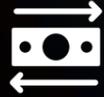
### PHASE 1

March to September 2019

**57,400**  
people received  
**food parcels.**



**29,500**  
families received  
**cash** to meet their  
immediate needs



**220,700**  
people benefited  
from **agricultural inputs**  
(e.g. seeds, fertiliser, tools)



**30,700**  
people received  
personal **hygiene kits**  
(e.g. soap, toothbrush,  
toothpaste)



**85,500**  
people taught  
about **gender-based  
violence**



**56,500**  
households received  
**shelter assistance**  
or **household items** (e.g. tarpaulins,  
wooden beams, vouchers/cash for  
shelter materials, kitchen utensils,  
cooking equipment, mattresses,  
blankets)



### PHASE 2

October 2019 to March 2021

**36,700**  
families received  
**agricultural kits, seeds,  
livestock** and other support



**135,800**  
people provided  
with access to  
**safe drinking water**



**21,300**  
people benefited from **cash  
for work** (e.g. digging toilets,  
rehabilitating canals, farm work)



**14**  
**schools**  
rehabilitated



**163,000**  
people provided  
with access to basic  
**health care**



**1,000**  
families received  
**food assistance**  
through food parcels  
or vouchers for food



A note on figures: each sector of activity presented in this report includes net figures for the number of people reached with DEC funds. Double-counting in the net number of people reached per sector has been eliminated. However, there may be double-counting across sectors and also when two or more charities reach the same people with different types of assistance. All figures reported have been rounded down.

<sup>1</sup> Through UK Aid Match, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office gives the British public the opportunity to decide how the UK aid budget is spent and supports people in desperate need, matching £4 million of donations to this appeal pound-for-pound.

AT A GLANCE

- Fragile States Index<sup>2</sup>: 22nd
- INFORM Covid-19 Risk Index<sup>3</sup>: 6.2 (High)
- Population: 31.1 million
- Acutely food insecure: 2.9 million people
- Internally displaced: 769,000 people<sup>4</sup>



Number of DEC member charities using DEC funds in each location

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique is one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world, ranked 181 out of 189 countries on the UN Human Development Index. Almost two-thirds of the population lives below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day. As a result of a 16-year civil war and frequent flooding and droughts affecting agriculture and livelihoods, 80% of families cannot afford an adequate diet, and almost 43% of children under five are stunted because of malnutrition.

On the night of 14–15 March, Cyclone Idai made landfall in Mozambique with winds of up to 230km/h, destroying and damaging many buildings and flattening whole neighbourhoods. Electricity pylons collapsed, cutting off power and communications. Two dams broke in Buzi and Lamegu and a week of heavy rain left huge areas of land submerged; people were stranded on roofs or in trees and many areas outside Beira were accessible only by boat or helicopter. Food and livestock were swept away, along with the entire personal possessions of many families. At least 90,000 people in affected areas sought refuge in temporary accommodation centres and transit camps. In Sofala province, the cyclone affected almost 2.5 million people who were already living in vulnerable conditions.



Ilda outside her rebuilt home

“I was lost, I walked and walked around but I couldn’t find my house until my neighbours brought me [to] where it was. It was all destroyed”

Ilda, 75, from Nhangau, Sofala province

HOW WE HELPED: A PLACE TO LIVE

Cyclone Idai swept away entire villages, totally or partially destroying 33,600 houses and making 90,000 people homeless. DEC member charities provided materials and assistance for families to build or repair their homes, and to construct shelters in camps for displaced people.

75-year-old Ilda (pictured left) was at church when the cyclone struck and her house was flattened by a tree. “I couldn’t even recognise it,” she said in November 2019. “There was still a place where I could get inside like a mouse hiding, that’s where I slept. When help came I felt so happy because even with a little money I wouldn’t have had enough to rebuild my house. . . I felt a big relief.” With DEC funds, she received plastic sheeting for a roof, iron wire, nails, hammers and a saw.

In Sofala province, a DEC member charity supplied more than 28,000 people with shelter repair kits. Local men and women were trained to provide these families with technical support in building new homes, and more than 4,000 people were reached with information on building cyclone- and flood-resistant houses through radio messaging, leaflets, community events and demonstrations. In the hardest-hit provinces of the country, a total of 530 toilets were also constructed or rehabilitated.

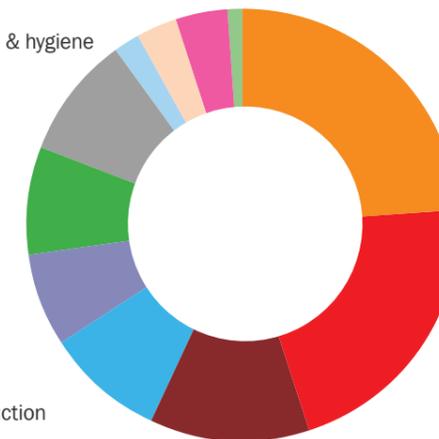
DEC funds were also used to support families in camps for people displaced by the disaster, including Mutua camp about 70km from the city of Beira. Seven hundred families were provided with corrugated iron sheets, wooden beams, iron wire, roofing nails, pliers, hammers and hand saws. A survey of families receiving materials revealed that almost two-thirds of those interviewed were very happy with the content of their kits.

In Mozambique, 12,500 families were provided with shelter support.

Total budget	Total expenditure
£14,059,688	£13,807,684

Expenditure by sector

- 24% Livelihoods
- 21% Water, sanitation & hygiene
- 12% Health
- 9% Food
- 7% Protection
- 8% Education
- 9% Household items
- 2% Nutrition
- 3% Other
- 4% Shelter
- 1% Disaster risk reduction



<sup>2</sup> The Fragile States Index is an annual assessment of 178 countries based on a measurement of the social, economic, and political pressures that face each country, 1st being most fragile. The three Cyclone Idai countries are all in the top 50 most fragile states according to the index: <https://fragilestatesindex.org/global-data/>.

<sup>3</sup> This index aims to identify “countries at risk from health and humanitarian impacts of COVID-19 that could overwhelm current national response capacity, and therefore lead to a need for additional international assistance”. It is ranked out of 10, with 10 being most at risk. All three countries are either classed as ‘High’ or ‘Very high’ in this index: <https://dmcjrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/inform-covid-19>.

<sup>4</sup> As of December 2020.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**25,700** families benefited from agricultural assistance (e.g. seeds, fertiliser, tools)

**34,300** people provided with access to rehabilitated or newly constructed sanitation facilities in schools

**90,300** people provided with access to basic health care

**9,400** people received food assistance through food parcels or vouchers for food

**34,600** households received household essentials (e.g. mattresses, blankets)

**9** schools rehabilitated



© Peter Catony/DEC

**RESETTLEMENT SITES**

In the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, at least 90,000 people sought refuge in temporary accommodation centres and transit camps. At the beginning of April 2019, the government began to move people to permanent resettlement sites. However, these sites lacked roads, clean water, sanitation, clinics and schools, and offered few opportunities for work. Protection risks were also high, as children had to walk up to seven kilometres to get to school, and women and girls were forced to travel long distances to collect firewood and water.

Two years after Cyclone Idai, more than 104,000 people continue to live in resettlement sites and accommodation centres in central Mozambique.

**HOW WE HELPED: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

Many children were traumatised by the effects of Cyclone Idai, losing not only their homes and possessions but sometimes their families through death or separation during the chaotic aftermath. To help the healing process, volunteers were trained using DEC funds to facilitate play and learning activities in child-friendly spaces in Nhamatanda and Buzi, reaching more than 3,000 children.

Zaida (pictured below), 25, is a volunteer at the Macurungo Children's Centre in Buzi. With other volunteers she went from house to house, encouraging children to come to the centre to play. "It wasn't easy," said Zaida in November 2019. "Children were reluctant to leave their parents, fearing Cyclone Idai would come back." When they did come, the children were withdrawn and unresponsive. "They would stay in their corner looking out or would sing without any enthusiasm," she said.

For Zaida, the road to the recovery is through playing and dancing. "The children had never seen anything like [the cyclone] before so it was a serious trauma for them. But here, we jump and dance with the children to try to calm them. If the wind blows hard and the children start to scream 'Auntie! Auntie! The cyclone is coming back!' we jump and dance with them to relax them from the fear and trauma," she said. The hard work of the volunteers has clearly paid off. "Now the children smile, they laugh, they are forgetting about the fear. The children can once again enjoy simply being children," said Zaida.

Child protection committees were also set up with DEC funds to involve the wider community in ensuring the safety of boys and girls. Women-friendly spaces that were designed to meet the specific needs of women and girls provided counselling and information on health and gender-based violence, as well as a safe space for women to relax with friends.

In Mozambique, 63,300 people were supported with protection interventions.



Zaida at the Macurungo Children's Centre, Buzi

**HOW WE HELPED: MAKING A LIVING**

Cyclone Idai had a catastrophic effect on people's ability to make a living. Farming is the main source of income for most families in Mozambique, where 715,000 hectares of crops were destroyed, along with irrigation systems, agricultural equipment and seed stores. During the emergency phase of the response, DEC funds were used to get seeds, fertiliser and tools to affected farmers as quickly as possible, in time for the next planting season.

Joaquin, 55, (pictured right) went to inspect his fields as soon as the cyclone had passed. "Once I got there I saw the devastation. I realised that I had absolutely nothing left. All my harvest was spoiled, the water was covering everything," he said in November 2019. "The next two days we only survived by eating coconuts." Through a DEC-funded project, he received seeds to replant his fields when the floodwaters receded, including 10kg of maize, 5kg of rice, 2kg of beans, 2kg of soya and 2kg of peanuts. "I feel very happy because without these seeds we would have had many problems. . . The land would have been empty because we had no seeds and our bellies would have been empty because we wouldn't have had food," he said.

DEC member charities encountered some issues in delivering agricultural support. An invasion of fall armyworms rendered the first post-cyclone crops unusable in some parts of Mozambique, so DEC member charities switched to providing rice and maize seeds, which are less susceptible to attack. In one livelihoods project, almost all of the chickens supplied to farmers died from an outbreak of Newcastle disease and were replaced with goats and training on how to rear them.

Alberto, 65, who has a physical disability, received a young goat with DEC funds. "When the goat grows up and has babies we can start a small business that will help our family and even buy me a wheelchair," he said.

With DEC funds, 128,500 people in Mozambique were provided with support to earn a living.



© Peter Catony/DEC

**IMPACT OF THE CYCLONES**



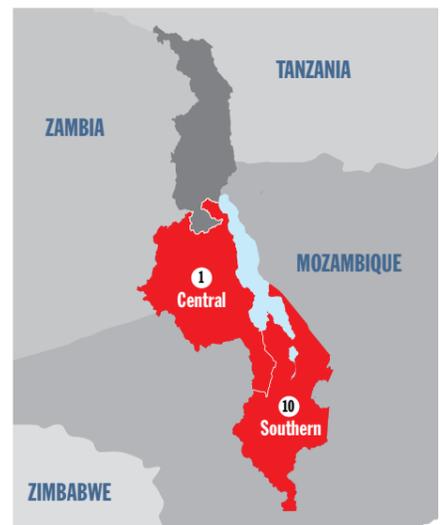
<sup>5</sup> Based on government figures available at the time, though the actual figure is likely to be higher.

**21 March 2019–31 March 2021**

<b>Early March 2019</b> flooding in Tete and Zambezia provinces	<b>19 March 2019</b> state of emergency declared	<b>25 April 2019</b> Cyclone Kenneth makes landfall in Cabo Delgado province	<b>31 March 2020</b> state of emergency declared in response to Covid-19	<b>23 January 2021</b> Cyclone Eloise strikes the city of Beira
<b>14–15 March 2019</b> Cyclone Idai makes landfall, flattening large parts of Beira	<b>21 March 2019</b> DEC appeal launched	<b>22 March 2020</b> first case of Covid-19 confirmed	<b>30 December 2020</b> Cyclone Chalane brings wind and rain to Sofala province	<b>12 February 2021</b> Cyclone Guambe makes landfall causing widespread flooding

AT A GLANCE

- Fragile States Index: 46th
- INFORM Covid-19 Risk Index: 5.8 (High)
- Population: 18.9 million
- Acutely food insecure: 2.6 million people
- Internally displaced: 29,000 people<sup>6</sup>



Number of DEC member charities using DEC funds in each location

MALAWI

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, where around 70% of the population lives below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day. More than three-quarters are dependent on agriculture for a living, making families vulnerable to extreme weather events that have occurred during the last 50 years, including at least 19 major floods and seven droughts. Following the failure of staple food crops, around 3.3 million people were already short of food at the beginning of 2019.

Cyclone Idai brought heavy rain and flooding to southern and central regions before it made landfall, and a state of disaster was declared on 8 March 2019. A total of 975,672 people were affected, 60 killed and 672 injured. Crops and livestock were washed away as vast swathes of land were submerged. Houses collapsed, forcing families to seek shelter in schools, churches and other public buildings.

“Around 420,000 metric tonnes of maize has been lost, representing roughly 12 per cent of the country’s forecast output”  
Hamilton Chimala, Ministry of Agriculture, 27 March 2019



A woman from Chikwawa, Malawi, receives cash support after losing everything to heavy flooding.

<sup>6</sup> As of December 2020.

HOW WE HELPED: FOOD

The Government of Malawi estimated that more than half a million people required urgent humanitarian assistance between July and September 2019, as food stocks and hundreds of acres of crops were swept away by Cyclone Idai. Providing food assistance quickly was a key part of the first emergency phase of the response.

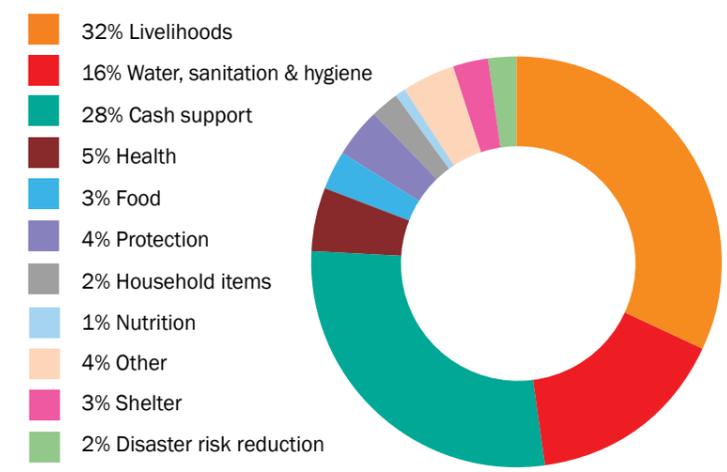
Ulumbiche, 56, and her family was one of 1,500 households targeted by a DEC-funded project in Mangochi. They lost everything when their house was levelled to the ground. A widow, she was already struggling to provide for her seven children and three grandchildren. She received 50kg of maize, 20kg of beans, 2 litres of cooking oil, and 1kg of kitchen salt for a month. “I am very thankful for the support,” she said in February 2020. “Now our lives have changed and we are able to eat at least twice a day.”

So that families would not be reliant on food aid for the following season, the project also distributed seeds and tools to affected families. Ulumbiche received maize and vegetable seeds, sweet potato vines, cassava cuttings, 50kg of fertiliser, a hoe, a watering can and a panga (a type of machete used for clearing land). Feedback from those who received farming inputs suggested that most will harvest 400kg to 750kg of maize, which will help to bridge the food gap until the next rain-fed harvest.

Across affected districts in Malawi, 23,300 families received food assistance through food parcels or vouchers for food with DEC funds.

Total budget	Total expenditure
£8,655,088	£8,572,430

Expenditure by sector



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**87,100** families received agricultural kits, seeds, livestock and other support to restore their livelihoods

**20,100** families benefited from cash for work (e.g. digging toilets, rehabilitating canals, farm work)

**27,400** hygiene kits distributed (e.g. soap for handwashing, buckets, aquatabs, sanitary pads)

**40** health facilities supported

**157** safe spaces established or rehabilitated

**23,300** families received food assistance through food parcels or vouchers for food





**HOW WE HELPED: CLEAN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

Water supplies were disrupted by floodwater in many districts of Malawi and damaged sewerage systems threatened contamination of groundwater, increasing the risk of disease. DEC funds were used to construct new hand pumps, rehabilitate boreholes to provide fresh drinking water and renovate toilets and sanitation systems. Towards the end of the response, member charities also repurposed funds to respond to the pandemic, for example by running mass media campaigns on Covid-19 prevention.

Poor hygiene and sanitation conditions in camps for displaced people meant that those who had survived the cyclone risked succumbing to diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea. Maintaining good hygiene including frequent handwashing is crucial in preventing the spread of disease, but this was extremely difficult in crowded camps.

Malita (pictured left) and her family fled their home in Mozambique when all of their possessions were washed away. They sought refuge in Bangula camp, Nsanje, Malawi and are one of 500 vulnerable families who received hygiene packs with DEC funds. Each pack comprised a water container, water dipper, toothbrushes and toothpaste as well as 10 bars of bath soap and laundry soap. "We really needed soap here – I am so grateful," said Malita in March 2019. "We lost everything in the flood, but today marks a new beginning for us. I have a baby and two other daughters and these buckets and soap will make it a bit easier to take care of them."

Data broken down by age, gender and disability enabled teams to target individuals based on their specific needs, for example including sanitary pads in hygiene packs for families with adolescent girls and women of reproductive age.

In affected areas, DEC funds were used to support 162,000 people with water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.



Hygiene kits in Mulanje district, Malawi

**HOW WE HELPED: HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS**

When floodwaters rushed through their communities, thousands of families lost all of their belongings – mattresses, blankets, cooking pots, crockery, clothes. Enabling families to restock and resume some sort of normality was a key part of the emergency response phase. Goods supplied ranged from plates, pots and pans, jerry cans and buckets to sleeping mats and plastic sheeting. As the weather grew colder, warm blankets were particularly appreciated.

DEC funds were used to support families in camps for displaced people, who often arrived with nothing. Maines (pictured right), a grandmother of three, sought refuge in a camp when her house in a village in Chikwawa was swept away. "At the camp we have faced a lot of challenges such as lack of food, bedding, clothes and toilets," she said in March 2019. Maines and her family were supplied with household items as well as food. "This will help me," she said.

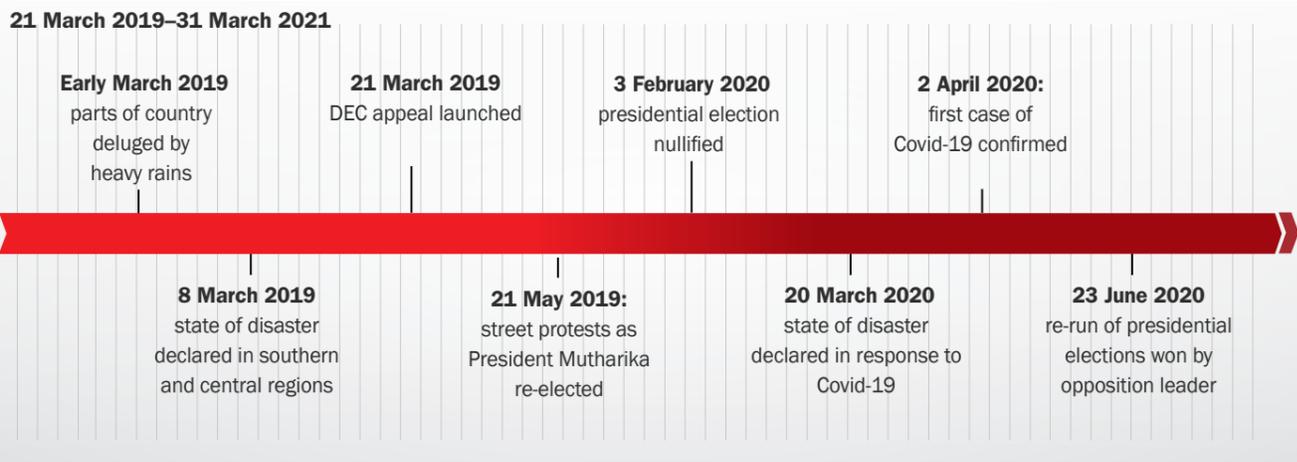
In Mangochi and Chikwawa, DEC funds were used to provide more than 17,000 people with household goods, such as blankets, cooking pots, spoons, plates, cups and mosquito nets. "I have been sleeping without covering myself with a blanket as we only rescued two blankets during the floods," said Enifa from Mchenga, Chikwawa. "My five children were using the two blankets, they are now worn out. My little children used to suffer from coughs due to cold weather; now we have nice blankets to keep us warm."

Feedback from families who received these goods, as well as data broken down by age, gender and disability, enabled DEC member charities to make informed decisions on the amount and type of goods most needed.

In affected areas of Malawi, 17,600 families were supported with essential household goods.



**IMPACT OF THE CYCLONE**



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**373** toilets constructed or rehabilitated

**2,000** households received cash to support their immediate needs

**6,200** households received agricultural kits, seeds, livestock and other support

**34,500** people received food assistance through food parcels or vouchers for food

**950** children received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition

**2,300** children received education materials (e.g. pens, bags, uniforms) or vouchers to buy them



HOW WE HELPED: EDUCATION

Cyclone Idai damaged school buildings across the country, affecting more than 90,000 children. In Manjokota Primary School in Buhera, Manicaland, one of the classroom blocks cracked right through the centre, making it completely unusable, and the new toilet blocks were destroyed. With DEC funds, tents were set up as temporary classrooms while plans were made with the Ministry of Education and the local community for a more permanent solution. To encourage local ownership, it was decided that the community would provide the bricks while other partners, including the DEC, supplied everything else.

“We were doubtful, honestly,” said school development committee chair Benson Manjokota. “Would that really happen for Manjokota?” The community split themselves into 10 groups, each group tasked with making 10,000 bricks. “We were now in competition,” said Muchanyara, one of the women who took part. “We wanted to see which group would make the most bricks in the shortest time.”

Local leaders were equally involved, mobilising the community, organising tasks, supervising the work and ensuring everyone stayed motivated. As a result, the school was able to re-open less than four weeks after the cyclone, minimising the disruption to children’s learning.

“It’s hard to learn outside,” said Life, a Grade 7 student at the school. “The wind makes too much noise, you can’t hear the teacher or each other. . . Learning is fun in a nice classroom like the new ones we have now!”

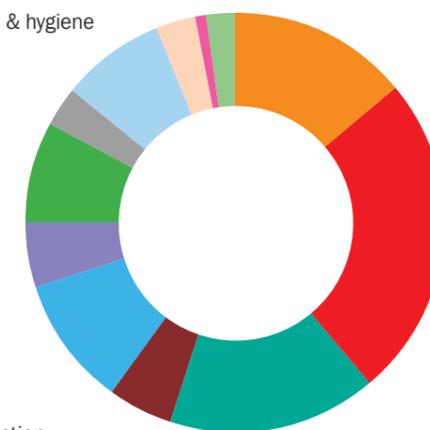
In Zimbabwe, DEC funds were used to build and renovate damaged classrooms and provide furniture and textbooks, benefiting 8,200 children.

For more information, visit [wvi.org](http://wvi.org)

Total budget	Total expenditure
£4,936,470	£4,956,268

Expenditure by sector

- 14% Livelihoods
- 25% Water, sanitation & hygiene
- 16% Cash support
- 5% Health
- 10% Food
- 5% Protection
- 8% Education
- 3% Household items
- 8% Nutrition
- 3% Other
- 1% Shelter
- 2% Disaster risk reduction



DEC funds are flexible and member charities have the opportunity throughout the response to adjust their budget and programme to respond to the changing needs on the ground. DEC member charities rebudgeted funds from other country programmes to provide additional support in Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe has faced severe climatic and economic challenges for decades. As a result of years of erratic rainfall, including a severe drought in 2018–19, 5.3 million people were predicted to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance even before Cyclone Idai struck, with many districts having less than a three-month supply of maize, the main food crop.

The ongoing economic crisis, including devaluation of the currency and hyperinflation running at 175% in 2019, pushed up the cost of basic commodities, including food, medicines and fuel. The UN identified that lack of food and the poor economic situation has increased protection risks for some 840,000 women and 150,000 children. Girls are particularly vulnerable to early marriage, teenage pregnancy and transactional sex.

Cyclone Idai struck the provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo and Mashonaland in eastern Zimbabwe, bringing strong winds, heavy rain, flash flooding and mud slides. Chipinge and Chimanimani in Manicaland province were the most severely affected districts, where whole settlements were destroyed, houses flattened and water points contaminated. Valuable infrastructure such as roads, bridges and irrigation schemes suffered extensive damage, and fields and granaries were swept away. The Government of Zimbabwe estimated that 270,186 people were affected by the cyclone and 10,000 houses were destroyed.

“It looks like the situation in Chimanimani – the hardest hit district in Zimbabwe – is very bad. Some 90% of the district has been significantly damaged”

Herve Verhoosel, World Food Programme spokesperson, 21 March 2019

AT A GLANCE

- Fragile States Index: 10th
- INFORM Covid-19 Risk Index: 5.3 (High)
- Population: 14.9 million
- Acutely food insecure: 3.3 million people
- Internally displaced: 21,000 people<sup>7</sup>

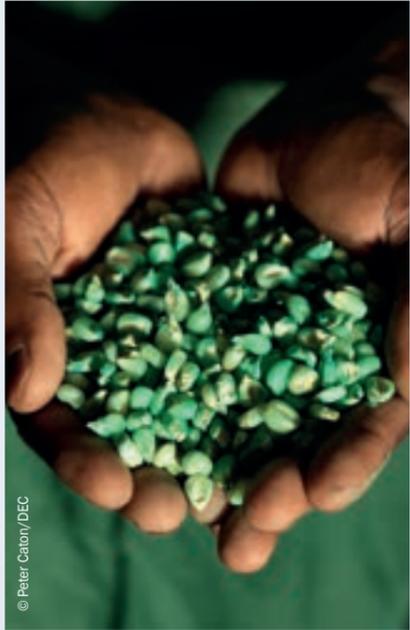


Number of DEC member charities using DEC funds in each location



Cyclone Idai affected women supported with solar lamps for increased protection in Buhera district, Zimbabwe

<sup>7</sup> As of December 2020.



**HOW WE HELPED: NUTRITION**

Malnutrition is a serious condition among children, making them more susceptible to disease, life-long stunting, cognitive impairment and even death. Poor infant feeding practices, childhood illnesses and limited access to health services meant that rates of malnutrition were already high before Cyclone Idai struck. In the aftermath, the risk of acute malnutrition increased greatly because of a lack of nutritious food and a steep rise in diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea through drinking contaminated water.

Although these risks can be avoided with swift diagnosis and treatment, many families living in remote areas cannot get to medical facilities as they are often miles away and transport is expensive. Village health workers have a critical role to play in bridging this gap, enabling malnourished children to be diagnosed quickly and treated in their own communities. With DEC funds, nearly 400 doctors, nurses, nutrition coordinators and environmental health workers in Chimanimani and Chipinge were trained on nutrition in emergencies. They went on to train more than 800 village health workers, who between them screened more than 28,000 children under five for acute malnutrition, and referred 950 children for treatment. School health coordinators were also trained on how to encourage good hygiene practices and prevent diarrhoeal diseases.

In another DEC-funded project, children aged between two and five and all pregnant and breastfeeding women within the project area received rations of fortified food for three months, to prevent a deterioration in their nutritional status. Food packs were also given to pregnant women visiting health centres. With DEC funds, village health workers were trained to provide counselling to new mothers on the importance of breastfeeding.

In Zimbabwe, 27,600 people received nutrition assistance with DEC funds.



Nutrition garden – Vegetables boost nutrition with extra sold for income

**HOW WE HELPED: HEALTH**

Cyclone Idai damaged many rural health facilities, affecting their ability to deliver essential services. DEC funds were used to repair water systems in two clinics in Chipinge, which together provide family planning services, vaccinations and diagnosis and treatment of injuries and other health conditions to more than 18,000 people. In Chimanimani, another district that bore the brunt of the cyclone, a solar piped water system was installed at Chakohwa Rural Health Centre. It has a huge catchment area of about 10,500 people but until recently had only a manually operated borehole, which was difficult to use – especially for pregnant women visiting the clinic for antenatal services – and could not deliver enough water for the community. Solar-powered water systems are a cost-effective and sustainable solution that do not rely on expensive and scarce diesel fuel, or power from the national grid, which is unreliable in Zimbabwe. A second solar piped water system was also installed in Tuzuka Rural Health Centre in Chipinge.

To reach remote and under-served areas, DEC funds were used to support a monthly mobile clinic in Chipinge, working with the Ministry of Health. It supported vaccination campaigns for cholera and MMR, as well as vitamin A supplementation, focusing its services on children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women and other vulnerable people who had been affected by the cyclone.

The health needs of older people are often overlooked during an emergency. A DEC-funded project in Chipinge and Chimanimani trained volunteers and community nurses in palliative care for older people. Community nurses were provided with a basic medical kit including painkillers, a blood pressure monitor, thermometer and first aid supplies; in some cases the kits were better stocked than local clinics.

In Zimbabwe, 9,000 people benefited from DEC-funded health interventions.



**IMPACT OF THE CYCLONE**

**270,186** people affected

**628** deaths

**186** injuries



# IMPROVING HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME DELIVERY

## INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

DEC-funded projects targeted the most vulnerable, including young children, women and girls, older people and those living with disabilities. Data broken down by age, gender and disability was collected, analysed and used to inform project targeting and design. In an education project in Zimbabwe, for example, a DEC member charity used a specially developed online platform to register children benefiting from its interventions and monitor their progress. This gave the programme a comprehensive overview of the demographic structure of learners and their specific needs at targeted schools. As a result, distributing sanitary pads to adolescent girls was prioritised, as well as rehabilitating and adapting toilet blocks to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Key messages on the specific needs of vulnerable groups were also shared with communities through various media platforms such as mass text messaging, radio jingles in local languages, posters and fact sheets.

## SUPPORTING A LOCALLY LED RESPONSE

Many DEC member charities were already supporting locally led development projects in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. When Cyclone Idai struck, they focused their efforts on boosting capacity at every level, including that of partner organisations who were new to humanitarian work, as well as local authorities, government ministries and affected communities themselves. In a schools project in Zimbabwe, for example, a DEC member charity worked closely with Ministry of Education staff, school development committees, heads, teachers, parents and the wider community to rehabilitate damaged classrooms. This approach helped to deliver more sustainable results and enabled affected communities to acquire skills and become more resilient.

Where possible, member charities worked through community structures such as village development committees. This meant the response was shaped by local people with detailed knowledge of the context and an understanding of community dynamics.

## BEING ACCOUNTABLE

DEC member charities took steps to hold themselves accountable to the communities with whom they worked. This included consulting local people on proposed interventions and setting up clear feedback and complaints systems, such as toll-free hotlines, complaints boxes and speaking directly to project staff. In Malawi, a radio phone-in was organised by the partner of a DEC member charity, which particularly benefited those who might otherwise have found it difficult to share feedback, such as people with sight, hearing or mobility issues. To ascertain communities' preferred recovery activities, some member charities conducted rapid needs assessments at the outset, incorporating findings into proposed action plans. Affected people were engaged in planning interventions, drawing up the selection criteria for those who would benefit, identifying villagers who fitted the criteria and implementing project activities. Project budgets were also shared with community leaders, local authorities and affected communities, which helped to increase confidence and trust in member charities and their partners.

## SAFEGUARDING

In 2019, the DEC commissioned a report to review its safeguarding guidance and assess how its member charities are operationalising safeguarding measures across three different contexts: a refugee crisis, a conflict response and a climate-related disaster response. Findings for the Cyclone Idai Appeal noted that:

- Safeguarding policies and procedures were understood and adapted to local contexts to varying degrees across the response.
- At the start of an emergency response, DEC member charities found it challenging to support local partner organisations to set up safeguarding policies if they did not already have them. The report recommended having a set of core safeguarding materials ready to translate and use.
- Better coordination and learning between members is needed to share lessons and challenges on safe recruitment procedures.
- The most commonly highlighted safeguarding risk was exploitation and abuse of power by community leaders.

Farmer Joaquin, hoes his field where he has scattered his DEC funded seeds to restart his livelihood.

## COORDINATION

Although each country had slightly different mechanisms in place, government bodies took the lead in coordinating the response. DEC member charities supported both local and national authorities, sometimes setting up Memorandums of Understanding with government counterparts to deliver interventions, such as district disaster contingency plans. According to district officials in Malawi, this helped to encourage accountability, transparency and ownership by the local government. DEC member charities attended 'cluster' meetings in each country, which provided an opportunity for member charities and their partners, other aid agencies and government authorities to discuss and coordinate interventions in particular fields, such as water and sanitation. As a result of sharing information, some DEC member charities switched their areas of implementation when they realised that another aid agency was active in the same location. In addition to regular meetings, DEC member charities in Malawi also formed a WhatsApp group to share information.

## CASH PROGRAMMING

Cash programming is a fast and flexible way to provide support to people in need, as well as boosting local markets and jobs. In a survey of a cash programme in Malawi, almost three-quarters of those interviewed said they preferred cash to materials or other goods, because they were able to choose and buy what they themselves considered urgent – most commonly food, household items and materials for house repairs.

Cash for work proved a good way of providing families with a temporary source of income so that they could buy essentials such as food and clothes. These schemes were usually casual labour on public work that benefited the whole community, such as the construction of dykes to prevent flooding, digging canals and repairing roads.

“The cash vouchers were very helpful, they afforded the cyclone victims to start over. They were able to purchase food, clothes, household utensils and other household needs at a time they desperately needed a hand”

Person benefiting from DEC funds



Soap and water purifier distribution at the Ndeja Resettlement Center, Nhamatanda district, Mozambique

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Though a definitive link between climate change and Cyclone Idai has not been proven, it is generally agreed that climate change makes this type of disaster more likely to happen. For the first time in recorded history, 2019 saw two strong tropical cyclones – Idai and Kenneth – make landfall in Mozambique during the same season. These cyclones were not isolated incidents – a series of severe weather events in southern Africa over recent years has made the ground more susceptible to flooding and thus intensified the cyclones' impact.

With DEC support, communities developed and implemented disaster preparedness plans, helping them to become more resilient to future disasters. Work included building dykes and retaining walls to prevent flooding, checking and repairing dams and desilting streams. Local committees were also set up and trained on early warning systems, devising evacuation plans and delivering first aid. In Malawi, river gauges were set up along the Phalombe River to monitor water levels and alert downstream communities at risk. To reduce environmental degradation, tree seedlings were also procured and distributed in some areas.

To respond to the effects of climate change, DEC member charities supplied farmers with drought- and pest-resistant seeds. Communities were also supported to produce seeds locally through the provision of packing machines, airtight bags and weighing scales. Ensuring a supply of seeds that are well-adapted to the local environment makes farmers less dependent on national seed markets and increases their resilience.

“Cyclone Idai is a clear demonstration of the exposure and vulnerability of many low-lying cities and towns to sea-level rise as the impact of climate change continues to influence and disrupt normal weather patterns”

Mami Mizutori, UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, 18 March 2019



Temubura, 50, fetches water with his family from a repaired borehole in Metuchira, Buzi.

## ADAPTIVE PROGRAMMING

In the face of ongoing political, economic and climatic uncertainties in all three countries, DEC member charities were flexible in their interventions in order to accommodate changing needs. A review of DEC-funded activities noted that agility and adaptability was one of the strengths of its interventions. Good examples included:

- buying additional seeds and tools with cost savings from other interventions
- training health care volunteers using the budget that had been allocated to salaries but was covered by other programmes
- building toilets in schools or communities instead of resettlement camps when camps were closed
- extending a Phase 1 budget so that seeds and tools could be distributed to coincide with the planting season
- repurposing some of the funds for renovating classrooms to buying tents to provide a temporary learning space for children

During this period, Mozambique and Zimbabwe were also affected by other extreme weather events. Exactly six weeks after Cyclone Idai wrought devastation across these countries, Mozambique was hit by Cyclone Kenneth, the strongest cyclone ever to hit the African continent. It left 374,000 people in need and destroyed almost 55,000 hectares of agricultural land. Between December 2020 and February 2021, a further three cyclones – Chalane, Eloise and Guambe – struck Mozambique, causing further flooding and washing away tents and shelters. In Zimbabwe, Cyclone Chalane damaged roads, buildings and agricultural land.

DEC funds were repurposed to support families affected by these cyclones. In Mozambique, several DEC member charities supplied emergency items such as cooking equipment, hygiene packs and seeds to families who were affected by Cyclone Kenneth, as well as soap and water purification products to more than 2,000 households affected by Cyclone Eloise. In response to the impact of Cyclone Chalane in Zimbabwe, DEC funds were used to provide families with food and shelter and to set up temporary handwashing stations at evacuation centres.

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

**Mozambique** recorded its first case of Covid-19 on 22 March 2020 and a state of emergency was declared at the beginning of April. The pandemic has aggravated the vulnerability of almost everyone who had been affected by the Cyclone Idai and has led to a significant increase in domestic violence, especially physical and sexual abuse.

The first case of Covid-19 in **Malawi** was reported on 2 April 2020, almost two weeks after a state of national disaster had been declared. Schools were closed and public gatherings banned. The socio-economic conditions faced by the country during the first six months of the pandemic led to people adopting negative coping mechanisms, with the government reporting a total of 40,000 teenage pregnancies and 13,000 child marriages between March and July 2020.

The Government of **Zimbabwe** declared the Covid-19 pandemic a national disaster on 17 March 2020 and recorded its first case three days later. The ongoing dire humanitarian situation has been exacerbated by lockdown restrictions. Rampant inflation and job losses have meant that many families could not afford the cost of seeds for the 2020–21 planting season. This situation has heightened protection risks, particularly for women and children.

A total of £1.1 million was repurposed to adapt existing DEC-funded programmes to respond to Covid-19. DEC member charities introduced new interventions, such as setting up handwashing stations, providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers and running mass media campaigns on Covid-19 prevention and management. Some added new geographical areas of intervention when assessments revealed that the economic impact of the pandemic was particularly high in some districts. Member charities were also forced to rethink the way they delivered projects, given the restrictions on large gatherings in all three countries. In Mozambique, for example, when group activities in child-friendly spaces had to be suspended, local volunteers travelled door-to-door bringing teaching and recreational materials for children and offering advice to parents. As well as providing masks and hand sanitisers, DEC member charities and their partners increased the number of distribution points and collection days to avoid overcrowding during aid distribution events.

Staff were encouraged to work from home where possible, with meetings conducted virtually. In Zimbabwe, when field visits were suspended, volunteers were trained on the use of a member charity's digital feedback system to capture and analyse community feedback. Where field visits were unavoidable, staff were supplied with PPE.

“The efforts [in] Covid-19 adaptations have created much awareness [in] communities to adapt and observe preventive measures that they could have not known without such interventions, and it is saving their lives”

AG, local partner of Tearfund receiving DEC funds

## ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

**630**  
handwashing facilities constructed

**538,100**  
people reached with messages promoting good hygiene

**15,700**  
families received hygiene kits containing hand soap and sanitisers

**3,800**  
children provided with access to home learning

**5,300**  
people received food assistance

**26**  
health facilities provided with PPE (e.g. masks, gloves)



Ducks are distributed in Sofala province, Mozambique, to allow households to resume bird breeding after the cyclone.

© Save the Children International in Mozambique



© Richard Nyoni/Christian Aid

## CHALLENGES

Widespread flooding washed away roads and bridges, making access to affected areas extremely difficult. As well as delaying project implementation, it also meant that assistance did not always benefit those who needed it. In Buzi district in Mozambique, for example, the DEC response was concentrated on just one side of the river, as the barge that ferried vehicles to the other side had been damaged by the cyclone. Damage to infrastructure also led to a shortage of key supplies, such as fuel and food. Local traders were often unable to cope with the high demand for certain items such as water purification tablets and shelter materials, so that some goods had to be procured from outside the project area, or even outside the country, causing delays.

Government restrictions sometimes impeded the work of DEC member charities. In Mozambique, the government opposed cash programming during the early months of the response. DEC member charities had to supply goods instead, such as food, shelter materials and kitchen equipment, which were difficult to transport given access

issues, and meant that affected communities did not have the freedom to choose for themselves what they needed. In Zimbabwe, the government temporarily banned the construction of temporary shelters, causing a three-month delay.

Recruiting local staff with appropriate technical capacity, humanitarian experience and language skills sometimes proved a challenge. In Mozambique, a DEC-funded health and nutrition programme struggled to identify suitably qualified nurses, midwives and doctors. In Malawi, a lack of livelihood specialists, logistics officers and experienced caregivers for child-friendly spaces undermined timely delivery of some project activities. It was sometimes difficult to find enough local skilled artisans to construct sanitation facilities and water points.

Covid-19 caused delays in programme implementation and affected the way in which DEC-funded programmes were delivered (see **The impact of Covid-19**, page 23).



© Save the Children International in Mozambique

Seeds, farming tools and water tanks are provided in Sofala province, Mozambique, to help rural communities improve their harvest.

## LEARNING AND IMPROVING

Between July and September 2019, the DEC commissioned an independent review of its member charities' response to Cyclone Idai. The aim of the review was to generate learning while the project was being implemented, and to provide recommendations for ongoing activities. Despite the unique challenges presented, the review found that the DEC's response to Cyclone Idai was largely successful. The DEC provided a flexible source of funds that allowed members to adapt their responses quickly when circumstances required, addressed the needs that communities said were most relevant, and provided means of accountability to those communities. A particular strength highlighted was the diversity of DEC member charities, allowing for them to learn lessons and best practices from each other, saving time and effort.



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Housebuilding and repairing damage in Chikwawa district, Malawi

# FUNDRAISING FOR THE CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL

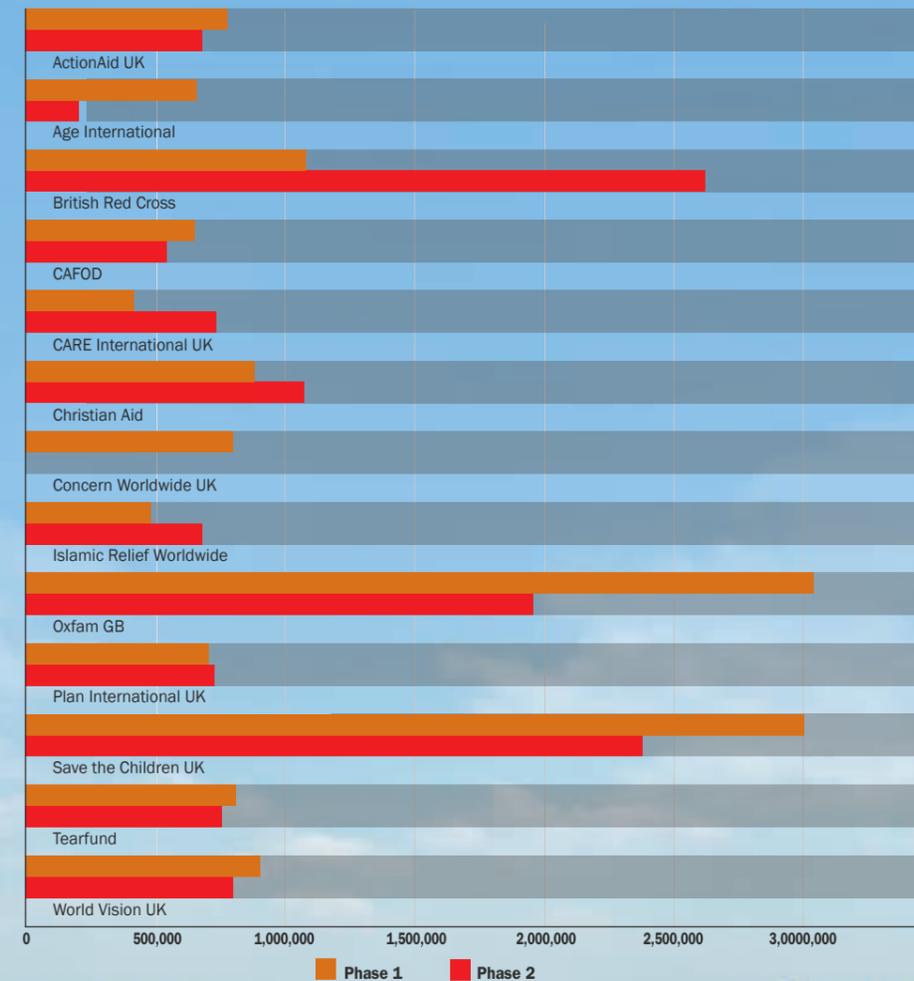
The DEC is sincerely grateful for the incredible generosity shown by the UK public and its corporate partners towards the Cyclone Idai Appeal. The appeal raised **£43,059,502**, of which **£30,486,002** was raised directly by the DEC Secretariat, while a further **£12,573,499** was raised by DEC member charities appealing directly to their existing supporters. The UK Government also provided UK Aid Match funds for the appeal, matching £4 million of donations given by the UK public to the DEC's appeal.

The DEC Secretariat ran a national fundraising and marketing campaign for a 14-day period from the launch of the appeal across TV, radio, national press, outdoor and digital advertising. The DEC Secretariat also engaged directly with supporters of its previous appeals, and continued to benefit from the generous pro bono support of corporate and media partners within its Rapid Response Network. The DEC is especially grateful to the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, Sky, Radio Centre and PayPal for their significant and generous support of the Cyclone Idai Appeal.

Of the £30.5 million raised directly through DEC Secretariat fundraising activity, £27.6 million was allocated to DEC member charities for their emergency response to Cyclone Idai (90.4%), and £3.2 million was retained by the DEC for both direct appeal costs and indirect overhead recovery (totalling 10.7%). In addition, unspent funds from previous appeals were transferred to this appeal, totalling £0.3m (1.1%).

## Total expenditure of DEC funds (£)

Thirteen DEC member charities responded with DEC funds



Zaida, a volunteer at the Macurungo Children's Centre, Buzi

# THE TASK AHEAD

The effects of frequent climate-related natural disasters and ongoing conflict have been compounded by the impact of Covid-19 in **Mozambique**. Tens of thousands of families are still without a proper home, living in emergency shelters or damaged houses, and are extremely vulnerable during the rainy season. Floods and drought have affected harvests, resulting in food shortages. The province of Cabo Delgado – which was badly affected by Cyclone Kenneth – has long experienced instability but a recent escalation of attacks by non-state groups has left an estimated 1.3 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection. The UN has reported violations against civilians including killings, beheadings and kidnappings. The number of people displaced by the crisis more than quadrupled between March and November 2020.

Despite recent bumper harvests in **Malawi**, the government estimated that more than 2.6 million people would need humanitarian assistance between October 2020 and March 2021, with 15% of the population acutely short of food during the 2020–21 lean season. More than a fifth of these people live in cities, where families have been badly affected by job losses, shrinking businesses and wage cuts as a result of the economic impact of Covid-19. Rural areas have been hard hit by low market prices which has forced farmers to sell most of their crops, leaving little for their own consumption.

A combination of droughts, flooding, ongoing economic challenges and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic left an estimated 6.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in **Zimbabwe** at the beginning of 2021. While 2020 saw improved rains and better harvests, lockdown measures to contain the pandemic severely affected the livelihoods of vulnerable people, limiting opportunities for casual work and forcing families to sell valuable livestock to survive. Half of the population is living in extreme poverty, according to the World Bank, up from 42% in 2019. The suspension of school meals as a result of school closures has increased the risk of malnutrition among children. Women are also extremely vulnerable, with a 200% increase in cases of gender-based violence reported through the national hotline compared to 2019.

When DEC-funded activities came to an end, many member charities continued to assist vulnerable people in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe using other sources of funding. In **Mozambique**, this includes helping older people to find more secure ways of earning a living as well as providing counselling and health advice; training communities on how to build cyclone-resistant houses using local materials; repairing hospitals and health centres; and constructing water points.

In **Malawi**, one member charity is supporting communities that benefited from DEC-funded programmes while also reaching out to other families who were affected by Cyclone Idai. This includes income-generation projects, such as fish farming, rearing and passing on livestock and vocational skills training, as well as training village committees on how to reduce the impact of future disasters. With other sources of funding, a DEC member charity in **Zimbabwe** is constructing toilets, drilling and rehabilitating boreholes and setting up health clubs, as well as supporting the Covid-19 response.



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The following sources were used in this report: EM-DAT, the International Disaster Database; OCHA, Southern Africa Cyclone Idai Snapshot (as of 9 April 2019); OCHA, Southern Africa Cyclone Idai Snapshot (as of 10 July 2019); UN Secretary-General, press statement on Cyclone Idai, 26 March 2019; Act Alliance, Zimbabwe: Drought Emergency 19 September 2019; UN News, 19 March 2019; Malawi National Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, March–June 2020; January–March 2021 outlook, IPC Analysis, January 2021; IDMC Malawi, December 2020; World Bank, The World Bank in Malawi; Government of Malawi, Malawi 2019 Floods Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), 2019; Islamic Relief Worldwide, DEC Evaluation Of The Cyclone Idai Response In Malawi, 2021; OCHA, Mozambique; IPC Mozambique, January–March 2021; IDMC, December 2021; Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018–2019; OCHA, Zimbabwe; IPC Zimbabwe, January–March 2021; IDMC Zimbabwe, December 2020; Zimbabwe Education Cluster, Rapid Joint Education Needs Assessment, Cyclone Idai, Zimbabwe; OCHA, Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan 2021; IOM, Zimbabwe Crisis Response Plan 2021; UN News, 'Break the cycle of disaster–response–recovery'.

# HOW THE DEC WORKS

The DEC brings together 14 of the UK’s leading aid charities to raise funds at times of significant humanitarian need overseas. It allocates appeal funds to its members and ensures that the generous donations of the UK public are spent where the need is greatest. This means providing immediate emergency aid for communities devastated by humanitarian crises as well as providing long-term support to help these communities rebuild their lives and strengthen their resilience.

Donating through the DEC is simple and effective. It removes unnecessary competition for funding between aid charities, reduces administration costs and improves coordination, collaboration and efficiency.

Over the past five years, the DEC has provided support to affected communities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Zimbabwe.



© Peter Caton/DEC

Julia, an aid worker for Oxfam, demonstrates good hygiene practice at Victoria’s home in Beira, Mozambique

**DEC  
MEMBER  
CHARITIES**



**act:onaid**



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