



AFTER THE STORM: REPORT ON THE HUMANITARIAN COALITION RESPONSE TO CYCLONE IDAI

AUGUST 2020

**HUMANITARIAN
COALITION** 
Together saving more lives



Canada 

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Glossary of Terms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Population
CARD	Churches Action in Relief and Development
CFM	Complaints and Feedback Mechanism
CBV	Community-Based Volunteers
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
KII	Key Informant Interview
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
NAZ	Nutrition Action Zimbabwe
NFI	Non-Food Items
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
PWS&D	Presbyterian World Service & Development
RTR	Real-time Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Humanitarian Coalition Members

Action Against Hunger / Action Contre la Faim (ACF) Canada
Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
CARE Canada
Humanity & Inclusion / Humanité et Inclusion (HI) Canada
Islamic Relief (IR) Canada
Oxfam Canada
Oxfam Québec
Plan International Canada
Save the Children Canada

BACKGROUND

In March 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai swept through three Southern African countries (Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi), killing at least 900 people and leaving some 3 million in need of assistance.¹ The UN estimated that Cyclone Idai was the deadliest storm system of 2019 and possibly the worst weather-related disaster ever to strike the Southern hemisphere.²

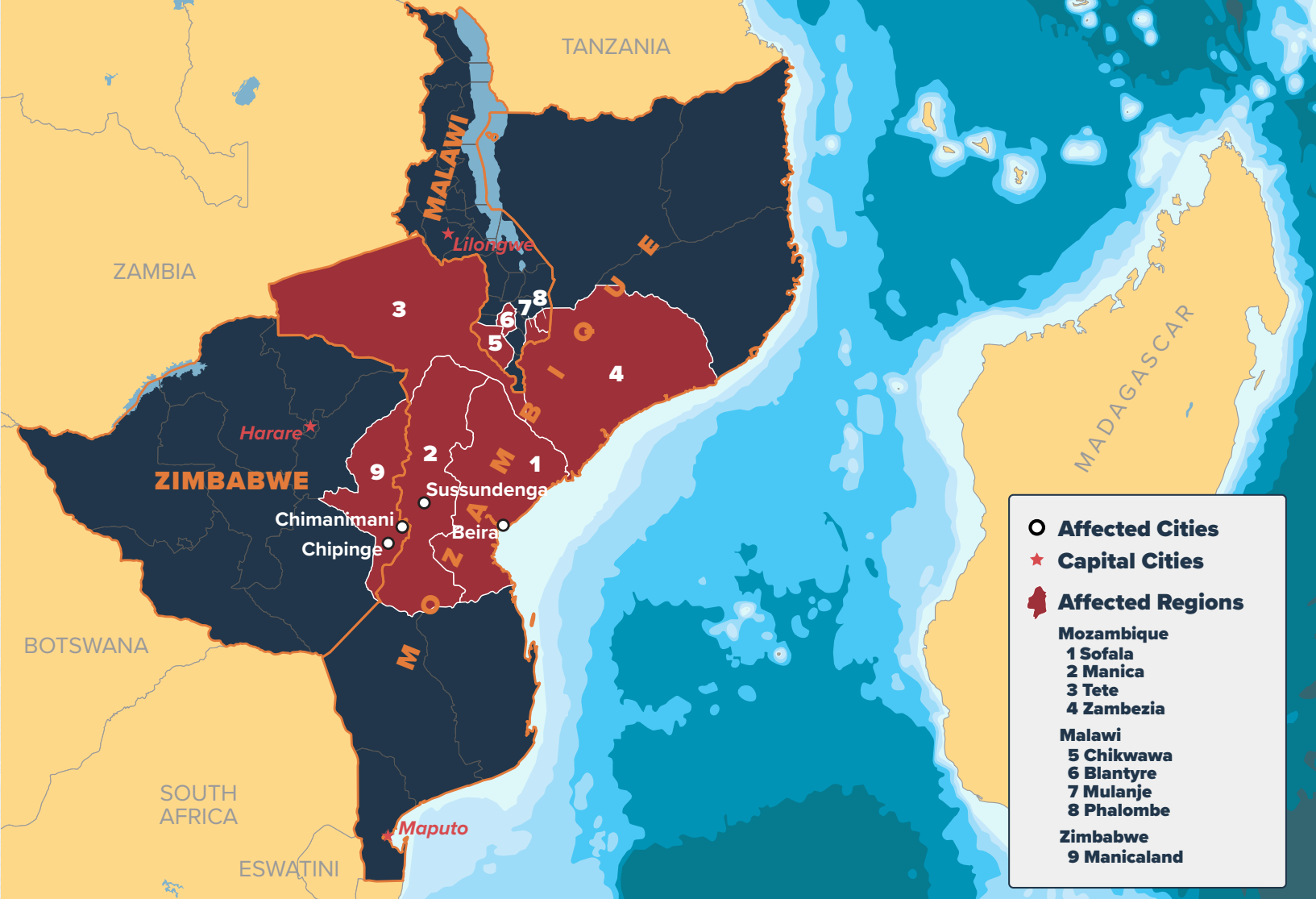
Prior to landfall as a cyclone, the tropical depression caused rain and flooding which displaced nearly 87,000 people in Malawi and 17,100 in Mozambique.^{3,4} After strengthening to a tropical cyclone, Idai first hit Mozambique in the night of 14-15 March 2019, making landfall near Beira City (Sofala Province) and bringing torrential rain and winds to Sofala, Zambezia, Manica and Tete provinces.⁵ It then continued as a tropical storm, bringing more rain to Southern Malawi and striking eastern Zimbabwe (particularly Chimanimani and Chipinge districts) with heavy precipitation and wind.^{6,7}

The succession of extreme weather conditions in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi over the past decade combined with difficult living conditions had eroded households’ resilience to shocks and their ability to cope with financial hardship. As such, even before Cyclone Idai hit Malawi, more than 3.3 million people were already facing hunger in flood-affected areas.⁸ Similarly, the markets of Mozambique were

suffering from steep price inflation, and Zimbabwe was experiencing foreign currency shortages with an economy on a downward trend since 2015.^{9,10}

Cyclone Idai damaged or completely destroyed many hospitals, roads, schools, and farms. Safe water and sanitation were compromised, resulting in a cholera outbreak in Mozambique, where access to health services is limited or non-existent. Households lost food, documents, and other assets; and risks of physical harm increased, particularly for persons with disabilities, older persons and children.^{11,12} The violence of the storm and loss of family members, homes, and livelihoods was extremely traumatic, creating a need for mental health support services. Hundreds of thousands of people were also displaced and gathered in transit camps, with little to no access to clean water or food assistance, and suffering from high risk of waterborne diseases.¹³

Humanitarian responders prioritized food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and health needs of affected communities. This included trucking water to communities lacking access to clean and safe water; building toilets and handwashing facilities to reduce the risk of cholera and other diseases; distributing emergency shelter materials and non-food items (NFIs); distributing food, seeds and tools; and providing urgent health assistance.



Humanitarian Coalition Appeal and Government of Canada Dedicated Matching Fund

On March 27, 2019, the Humanitarian Coalition launched an appeal to the Canadian public to support the disaster response in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe following Cyclone Idai. On April 1, the appeal was coupled with the Government of Canada’s commitment to match Canadians’ financial support to the Humanitarian Coalition and its members up to \$2 million CAD.

The collective appeal ultimately raised more than \$3.8 million – including more than \$752,000 by the Humanitarian Coalition centrally – to be used by Coalition members for critical disaster response. The goal of the matching fund was two-fold: galvanize public engagement, and mobilize Canadians to support humanitarian efforts in the affected regions of Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

In addition, the Humanitarian Coalition and the Government of Canada also collaborated in channeling additional funding of close to \$1.75 million for four projects in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi through the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF). These four CHAF projects were reported upon separately in the Humanitarian Coalition’s 2019-2020 annual report.



OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN COALITION RESPONSE

The Humanitarian Coalition and its member and affiliate agencies are committed to coordinated, integrated, and localized responses to humanitarian crises, with an emphasis on gender equality aligned with Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Nine distinct projects were funded through combined Humanitarian Coalition appeal and Government of Canada matching funds for Cyclone Idai. Each project’s planning and implementation activities were considered through the lens of gender equality. The projects prioritized assistance for marginalized and vulnerable families, including people living with disabilities or chronic illness,

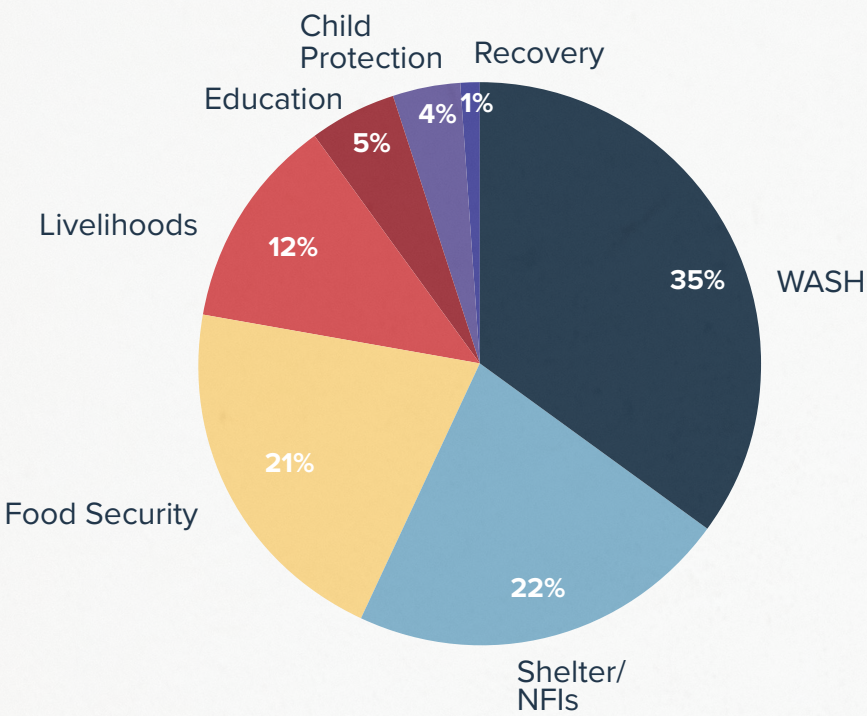
the elderly and elderly-headed households, orphaned children, female-headed households and pregnant or nursing mothers.

As leaders in humanitarian work, we recognize that effective and efficient humanitarian response relies on local experience and capacity. All Humanitarian Coalition projects were carried out through local partners or members’ national offices to develop response plans, implement project activities, monitor interventions, and report on achievements.

Humanitarian Coalition members coordinated their project implementation in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe with

local, district-level, and national authorities. Each implementing agency participated actively in the humanitarian cluster system, and worked to uphold standards for cash distributions and in-kind support. At the community level, agencies worked with local leaders to identify families who were especially in need of help following the cyclone. In addition, Humanitarian Coalition members coordinated their response with other humanitarian actors to reduce duplication and ensure a proportionate distribution of emergency funds across various sectors of intervention, as presented in the graph below.

Sectoral Distribution of Project Funding



Partnership Profile

Humanitarian Coalition affiliate agency Action Contre la Faim (ACF) Canada worked with Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ) to ensure the food security of communities in the Chipinge district of Zimbabwe: “The key to our success was that together we combined a deep understanding of the area, its population...its livelihood and nutrition culture/habits as well as an extensive knowledge on cash transfer programming in emergencies. This allowed the NAZ and ACF response to reach the...affected households, leaving no one behind while ensuring an efficient implementation and respect of humanitarian principles”



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The Humanitarian Coalition recognizes that our interventions must be primarily accountable to the affected communities, and ensure their active participation. This engagement is critical to increase and sustain community ownership of hard-won outcomes, and resilience to future disasters.






Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In the period following a major disaster, it is critical to restore water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure to mitigate the spread of illness and disease. Through Humanitarian Coalition projects in Malawi and Zimbabwe, more than 68,469 people received clean water.

maintain the working condition of these new water points. CBVs also participated in door-to-door sustainable hygiene promotion campaigns, and increased the project’s impact by reaching more than 37,000 people across dozens of communities. This participation was crucial to the success of the project and ensured the community feels a sense of ownership in maintaining the assets.

Oxfam Canada and Oxfam Québec’s combined response in Malawi focused on rebuilding water and sanitation infrastructure destroyed by the cyclone, with the active participation of the community. Local leaders convened consultations on the locations of new boreholes for water points, and they supported the identification of families that would be reached by other activities, such as building household latrines. When the project began drilling new boreholes, community-based volunteers (CBVs) formed water committees to manage and

The focus on WASH for Save the Children Canada included activities designed for local schools, where child-centred hygiene promotion activities and messaging helped them engage with affected children. School health clubs and other groups helped children participate in these activities more meaningfully, and provided them with new skills to promote key hygiene practices in their communities.

	Agency	Funding	Project Implementation Area		Project Beneficiaries			
			District	Province/Region	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
 Malawi	CFGB	\$395,615	Mulanje	Southern	1,434	2,348	3,817	3,864
	IRC	\$521,718	Chikwawa/Blantyre	Southern	8,426	12,060	31,082	
	Oxfam	\$400,010	Phalombe	Southern	6,196	6,471	6,296	6,532
 Mozambique	CLWR	\$88,958	Sussundenga	Manica	507	532	540	
	HI	\$69,814	Beira	Sofala	599	673	2,191	
 Zimbabwe	ACF	\$118,156	Chipinge	Manicaland	1,210	1,445	420	440
	CARE	\$270,251	Chimanimani	Manicaland	7,291	10,009	8,986	
	Plan	\$523,675	Chimanimani / Chipinge	Manicaland	471	873	9,983	12,569
	Save	\$222,349	Chimanimani / Chipinge	Manicaland	10,836	13,935	8,535	8,745
Total					36,970	48,346	71,850	32,150
					189,316			

Note – The Government of Canada granted the Humanitarian Coalition and its members \$2 million in matching funds, of which 1% (\$20,000 CAD) was retained as a central administrative fee. 15% of all donations made to the Humanitarian Coalition during the Cyclone Idai appeal campaign were retained to cover campaign costs and fundraising expenses, and an additional 1.5% was retained to finance monitoring and evaluation activities.



Food, Shelter and Household Items

Humanitarian Coalition members launched projects to address the life-threatening needs of affected communities, including food, shelter, and household items, all of which are critical in the period following a major disaster. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank provided much-needed food to 14,978 people through the distribution of food baskets and multi-purpose cash grants. Other members, like Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), provided household items and shelter repair kits to families whose homes were partially or completely destroyed. By distributing essential non-food items, CLWR assisted families by relieving some of the financial burden of rebuilding their lives and enabling them to spend on food, medicine, and other necessities. Their response, led by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Mozambique, provided shelter repair kits, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and solar lights to 1,039 families.

“We see so much more hope after our intervention... Community life is getting back to normal again. We see families rebuilding their homes, eating together, children going back to school. Some families have even started to grow food in small garden plots. The presence of both national and international aid organizations gave hope to the people. They appreciated the fact that they were not alone in managing the situation and that there is a lot of good will, even from people outside the country.”

Job Ngaroita Nguerebaye,
Emergency Response Team Leader,
Lutheran World Federation

Livelihoods

Plan International Canada, CARE Canada and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank each chose to integrate livelihood recovery activities into their response projects. The Foodgrains Bank provided seeds to 800 families who were identified as relying primarily on agriculture as their main source of income. The seeds helped them restart the crops that had been washed away. Plan International selected 90 economically vulnerable families to receive one-time cash transfers that enabled them to start up new income-generating activities, such as raising poultry. With the funds to jump-start their businesses, Plan also provided training on small-business management to ensure long-term sustainability of the livelihood activities. CARE Canada’s emergency

response used a cash-for-work (CfW) model, which provided local community members the opportunity to become involved directly in disaster recovery efforts while also receiving adequate compensation to cover the needs of their households. The CfW approach prioritizes active participation in rehabilitating community assets while promoting economic recovery, and has the added benefit of promoting women’s participation in roles outside the household, working towards adjusting power imbalances in the community and promoting gender equality for women like Margret Nkudu.



Participant Profile

Margret Nkudu is a 30-year-old mother of four from Zimbabwe. Under CARE Canada’s cash-for-work project that rebuilt the village livestock dip tank, Margret was elected to be the restoration project leader. Through community engagement and mobilization skills that she learned through CARE’s training, she successfully managed the completion of the dip tank, including fencing, construction of a plunge pool, the race pen, communal toilets and environmental protection. In the process, she also learned record keeping and accountability, including how to process the payments for her work crew members.



“I did not expect to be selected, let alone become the chairperson for a group that has men and older women experienced in leading community projects,” she said. “At first, I lacked the desired confidence to assign tasks, plan and organize workers, but the support that I got from my husband, fellow women at the site and CARE staff members changed the way I saw the world.” When she reflected back on the four-month project she said, “I learned that leadership is for both men and women.”

Margret Nkudu



“I know that I shall do well in life and I will look back and say Islamic Relief contributed to my success.”

Sandikonda Chuma

Education

Islamic Relief’s efforts centred on ensuring that children affected by Cyclone Idai could return to school without delay, mitigating the negative impact of the disaster on their educational achievements. They established 20 temporary learning spaces, and equipped 36 schools with much-needed learning and teaching materials. In all, 22,440 children were supported to return to school, including a young man named Sandikonda.



Participant Profile

“My name is Sandikonda Chuma.... I am 16 years old. I am an orphan and a person with a disability. I lost my left arm to a crocodile attack.” Sandikonda lives with his grandmother, who is too old to work and take care of the needs of her family.

When Cyclone Idai swept across southern Africa in March 2019, damaging houses and destroying crops, their situation got worse. They lost their food stores and many of their belongings, including Sandikonda’s school supplies. “Due to the challenges I was facing, I told my head teacher to allow me to discontinue school because my dreams were slowly being shattered,” says Sandikonda. “But after the assistance from Islamic Relief and Humanitarian Coalition, I reversed my decision and now I enjoy coming to school.”

Islamic Relief Canada, member of the Humanitarian Coalition, responded to the needs in Sandikonda’s community by providing cash grants to meet basic food needs, hygiene supplies, and educational material.

“Honestly, the materials have helped me a lot in my performance at school. I now want to work hard in school to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. That way, when I get educated, my community will also benefit because I will be mentoring young people to work hard in school by being a role model.

Child Protection



Plan International maintained a strong emphasis on addressing issues of child protection throughout their interventions. Their mobile One-Stop Shop approach was an effective method for responding to child protection needs in a holistic manner, bringing much-needed services directly to communities, while also improving the coordination between government services. By using this approach, Plan facilitated collaboration on case management for 2,817 boys and girls, and streamlined the process for referring them to different resources and care. For children like Tino, this approach made a world of difference.



Participant Profile

For a young girl, 12-year-old Tino has dealt with serious trauma in the wake of Cyclone Idai. When the cyclone struck her village in the middle of the night, it washed away her family home, resulting in the loss of both of her parents and all three of her siblings. Tino had limited options, so she went to live with her paternal grandmother, who abused her physically and emotionally.

Plan’s project in Zimbabwe identified child protection as a priority, and began visiting communities with a team of specialists, trained to identify and intervene when children were at risk. A few days after they met Tino, the Department of Social Welfare removed her from her grandmother’s home for her protection and brought her to live with another family member, who was happy to take her in.

Though Tino’s maternal grandmother was now taking good care of her, Tino was still demonstrating signs of trauma and stress. Her social worker recommended that Tino visit the nearby children’s centre operated by Plan International, which offered a variety of activities and psychosocial support for children and families affected by the cyclone.

In the beginning, traumatized by the loss of her parents and siblings, Tino did not want to interact with the other children or participate in the games, like volleyball and chess, at the centre. But through individual counseling and group therapy with other children who had experienced similar loss, Tino gradually started to participate in the activities. She says the games helped improve her social and problem-solving skills because the social workers would teach the children as they played. “They also gave us information on how to protect ourselves as children and what to do if we realize that adults are treating us badly.”

While Tino was busy at the centre, her grandmother was receiving bereavement counselling and positive parenting training. Plan also provided her a conditional cash transfer to help her meet the needs of her granddaughter. Since she started attending the centre, Tino’s performance at school has improved, her self-confidence has increased and she is again participating in activities at school and church. She says, she is inspired by her teachers and wants to become a teacher when she grows up.

Including People with Disabilities

Accountability to affected communities must also include those who are marginalized and may otherwise be left out of the recovery process altogether. The team at Humanity & Inclusion (HI) ensured that disability inclusion was at the forefront of their interventions in Beira City, Mozambique. HI provided training for key humanitarian partners and stakeholders, which raised awareness about the critical barriers faced by people living with disabilities in the context of major humanitarian crises. They also provided their technical expertise and support to other humanitarian actors to further amplify their impact. While distributing household items to 815 individuals or families with a member living with a disability, they employed a door-to-door delivery system, and provided private transportation when needed, to ensure that people received the same support as their neighbours.

PROJECT DETAILS

Action Against Hunger / Action Contre la Faim



Action Contre la Faim (ACF), in collaboration with their local partner, Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ), supported 568 families in the Chipinge district of Zimbabwe to access much-needed food. These families were selected in consultation with the community, and included primarily female-headed households that had children under five, or families with pregnant or nursing mothers. ACF reached 3,515 people through the transfer of multi-purpose cash grants, which enabled beneficiaries to buy food and other essential items from local markets. This approach had the double impact of supporting vulnerable families to access adequate food rations while stimulating the local economy in a difficult period of disaster recovery in Zimbabwe. The project undertook monitoring visits following the distribution of cash, and found that the community felt a high level of satisfaction with the assistance received. Project beneficiaries reported that the project helped to increase dietary diversity and meal frequency, and drastically reduced the use of negative coping mechanisms, such as a parent skipping meals so their children could eat more or engaging in exploitative labour for money.

CARE



CARE reached more than 24,000 people across Chimanimani and Chipinge districts of Zimbabwe with their project to rebuild critical water and sanitation infrastructure. All of these activities were led by the local community, with CARE providing tools, supplies, and capacity-building training, enabling teams of local residents to build piped water and water storage systems, and livestock dip tanks. CARE used a Cash-for-Work model to support economic recovery while ensuring local ownership and upkeep of the community's assets after the project ends.



Did you know?

A community dip tank is a structure that is key to keeping livestock healthy by fighting ticks and disease. Cattle walk into a corridor that slopes down into a pool filled with water and insecticide and then emerge into an enclosure on the other side. A functioning dip tank is central to supporting the livelihoods of residents in rural communities, where it can help by preventing up to 65% of livestock deaths. In order to repair the dip tanks and other essential community structures that were damaged by Cyclone Idai, CARE Canada initiated a program to pay community members to lead the reconstruction efforts. Along with the obvious outcome of repaired structures, other benefits of this approach included providing a revenue stream for local residents to help them get back on their feet, teaching local residents how to maintain and repair structures, and developing local management and leadership skills.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank



Canadian Foodgrains Bank member Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) used Cyclone Idai Appeal funds to support their local partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) in providing food packages to 2,000 families (11,463 individuals) in the Mulanje district of Malawi. The monthly distribution of food parcels took place over four months, and targeted families facing food insecurity and those who were displaced by flooding. The parcels included local staple foods: maize flour, beans, and cooking oil. Some 500 of these households – those with children under the age of 5, and pregnant or nursing mothers – received additional supplies of nutrient-dense Likuni Phala (CSB+) super cereal to enable supplementary feeding and reduce future incidence of malnutrition. While food packages helped families cope with Malawi's lean season, CARD also distributed maize and vegetable seeds to 800 families who rely primarily on farming as their livelihood, and who had lost their crops in the flooding caused by Cyclone Idai. Households that received seeds were also trained in effective agricultural practices by a group of lead farmers.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Canadian Lutheran World Relief channelled funding to the Lutheran World Federation Mozambique, where their team delivered household items and shelter materials to a total of 1,039 families in the country's Sussundenga district. In consultation with the community, beneficiary households were selected from marginalized or vulnerable groups, including female-headed households or single mothers, orphaned children, elderly people and people living with disabilities, and pregnant or nursing mothers. The packages of items were distributed within the communities; each family received a tarpaulin, and a shelter construction kit, tool kit, or kitchen set, based on their needs. Shelter construction kits included iron sheeting, nails, roofing poles, and tools. Tool kits contained shovels, hammers, machetes, sickles, axes, picks, mosquito nets, blankets and solar lights. Kitchen sets included cups, cooking pots, ladles, kettles, plastic buckets, jugs, and plates.



Humanity & Inclusion

Humanity & Inclusion worked in Beira City, Mozambique, one of the areas most heavily affected by the impacts of Cyclone Idai. They distributed non-food item (NFI) kits to 815 households (3,425 individuals) using a door-to-door distribution model. They first visited each household to distribute tokens, with the goal of reducing the risks associated with distribution activities. Their kits included a bowl, cup, cooking pot with lid, cooking ladle, deep plate, spoon, cooking knife, washing basin, blanket, mosquito net, rechargeable lamp, water jerry can, and bucket with lid. The HI team also provided disability and inclusion training to 38 humanitarian stakeholders and beneficiary communities in support of inclusive early recovery and reconstruction efforts across Mozambique. Finally, HI provided technical support to their consortium partners (World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry) to ensure that barriers to inclusion of people with disabilities were identified and addressed, further allowing people living with disabilities to have equitable access to relief efforts.



Islamic Relief Canada



Islamic Relief distributed 20 school tents to provide temporary learning spaces, provided learning materials to students and teaching materials to teachers in 36 schools across Chikwawa and Blantyre districts in Malawi, supporting 22,440 children’s access to education during the disaster recovery period. Some 6,240 adolescent girls and women in the project’s target districts also received dignity kits containing wrapper cloths, towels, pads, bathing and hand washing soaps, tooth brush and tooth paste, buckets and plastic cups for bathing.

In an effort to increase access to protection in targeted camps and schools, Islamic Relief Malawi trained community leaders on protection issues and gender-based violence. The community leaders then delivered the training to local communities and school pupils. The awareness campaigns were paired with the distribution of solar lights to 1,000 families to promote safety inside and outside of the home.

Oxfam



Oxfam worked in the Phalombe district of Malawi, where they drilled 10 new boreholes to provide critical access to clean water for 25,295 people. With the new boreholes in place, Oxfam trained and equipped 20 pump mechanics to provide maintenance to the boreholes and further convened 20 water-user committees on the operation, maintenance and management of the water points. The water-user committees created financial plans for the collection of user fees, which functions as a key component in increasing community ownership over the asset, and ensures responsible use and sustainability of the water pumps. Oxfam also distributed materials for the construction of 1,100 household latrines, while 100 local masons were trained in slab casting and latrine construction to support their neighbours in rebuilding toilet facilities destroyed by the cyclone. Oxfam distributed 1,000 menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits, which were combined with hygiene awareness activities undertaken in the local communities. Community-based volunteers (CBVs) spearheaded sustainable hygiene promotion activities through a door-to-door campaign that reached 37,887 people.

Finally, Oxfam distributed solar lights to 150 families to help decrease safety risks. These distributions were complemented by protection activities that linked women and girls at risk of violence with informational materials outlining the social protection measures available to them, including newly formed safety committees that were trained on case management and referral processes for addressing gender-based violence in their communities.



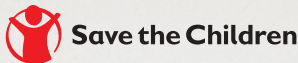
Plan



Plan International Zimbabwe focused their activities on supporting children affected by Cyclone Idai. They brought their One-Stop-Shop mobile child protection unit to four communities, providing a variety of services and awareness-raising activities, with 2,817 children receiving individual case management and referrals, as well as psychosocial social support through play and counselling. An additional 1,132 parents and caregivers benefitted from access to services and psychosocial support. Plan also equipped nine child-friendly spaces with toys, sports equipment, art materials, water containers and storage trunks. The child-friendly spaces also functioned to host structured group and individual psychosocial support sessions through age-appropriate creative arts, games, and counselling for a further 10,260 children. Plan distributed dignity kits to 9,475 adolescents and 158 school teachers, the contents of these kits were different for boys and girls. The teachers were trained on hygiene promotion and menstrual hygiene management to teach their students about how best to use the items they had received. In 9 selected schools, Plan supported the rehabilitation of the school’s water system, which benefitted 1,800 students and 72 teachers by providing them with access to clean water at school.

An additional 90 economically vulnerable families, selected by their communities, received a one-time cash transfer of \$250 USD to support them in meeting their most urgent needs including food and household items. These transfers were provided on the condition that each family must send their children to school and the caregivers must attend child protection sessions. The nominal transfer amount helped households to transition to disaster recovery by providing a start-up amount, enabling them to restart income-generating activities. These families also received training on small-business management, helping many to get started in the activity of poultry-raising.

Save the Children



Save the Children rehabilitated 28 water points, providing 19,174 individuals in the Chimanimani and Chipinge districts of Zimbabwe with clean water. They also set-up a piped water system at the Paidamoyo Clinic which was critical to ensuring the clinic could continue to safely care for approximately 11,420 people. They trained and equipped caretakers for the repaired water points, and provided water quality monitoring supplies to ensure long-term functionality and safety of the water systems. Save the Children distributed non-food items and dignity kits (including menstrual hygiene management supplies) to 1,582 families and an additional 15,999 school children.

Save the Children focused much of their interventions in schools, rehabilitating 7 water points and providing water treatment supplies where needed, building gender-sensitive latrines in 22 schools, providing psychosocial support activities for 1,463 children through Supervised Recreational Play in child-friendly spaces, and distributing dignity kits that included menstrual hygiene supplies.



CHALLENGES/LESSONS LEARNED

Responsible humanitarian programming requires continuous learning in an effort to improve the quality of future interventions. Throughout the implementation process, Humanitarian Coalition member agencies undertake monitoring and evaluation of project activities, which informs their reflections on project successes and lessons learned. As part of the continuous learning process, the Humanitarian Coalition also took part in a Real-time Review (RTR)¹⁴, in collaboration with the UK's Disasters Emergency Committee. The RTR helped to identify gaps and challenges in project implementation that needed to be addressed while the projects were still active and implementation was ongoing. Sharing this information within the Humanitarian Coalition membership and more broadly enables humanitarian project teams and decision-makers to learn from this context and better adapt future projects. The following section shares a few of the challenges faced by Humanitarian Coalition member agencies during project implementation, and highlights some lessons they learned in the process.

Zimbabwe

A major lesson for the Humanitarian Coalition is that in a context similar to Zimbabwe, where the macroeconomic environment is highly volatile and there is a shortage of hard cash, mobile money services present a robust implementation strategy to reach beneficiaries with unconditional and unrestricted cash grants. However, with the inflation rates increasing month over month, donors and humanitarian partners should have flexibility in adjusting the monthly allocation to match the minimum expenditure basket (MEB)

when the program has planned several distributions over several months. This flexibility should be allowed and planned for as early as possible to avoid delays in implementation on the ground.

Plan highlighted that the delay in standardization of dignity and hygiene kits by the clusters resulted in discrepancies in the contents of kits being distributed between agencies. The lesson learned from this experience is for partners to work with the WASH cluster to agree upon the contents of hygiene and dignity kits soon after consultations with affected community members, so that distributions are standardized.

Malawi

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank faced challenges upon learning that village chiefs in their project location were requiring families to share the food parcels they received from the Foodgrains distributions. Project monitoring indicated that approximately 36% of food distributed were reportedly shared amongst the community. High levels of food insecurity in the district meant that families who were not targeted beneficiaries of this project also required support. Within the communal culture, the village chiefs felt that the food parcels made available by Foodgrains should be portioned out to all members of their community. This adaptation of the project was unforeseen, and this diluted some of the project's intended impact of the food transfer on the food consumption scores of beneficiary households. To address this, the local partner of the Foodgrains Bank, CARD, provided funding to implement a follow-up food assistance project during the

lean season (December to March), using cash transfers to support households experiencing crisis-level food insecurity.

During their post-distribution monitoring exercise, Islamic Relief Malawi learned that men and boys, specifically adolescent boys, were disappointed to not have been included in the distribution of dignity kits. They expressed that they felt they too have critical needs in this area that were not addressed. In the future, humanitarian interventions should explore providing separate dignity kits that target both adolescent girls and boys to reduce the possibility of tension within the community.

During the project period, political unrest and demonstrations in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe, required Oxfam staff to adapt their project delivery activities while the office was closed. A teacher's strike in December 2019 also disrupted and delayed the registration of beneficiaries for the distribution of NFI kits. Finally, heavy rains in January 2020 caused flash flooding that damaged many of the latrines that had been built over the course of the project. Fortunately, beneficiaries were able to recover materials for re-use in a replacement latrine and community-based volunteers supported reconstruction efforts once the rainwater receded. Strong contingency planning and donor flexibility on project timelines and adaptation of project activities enabled the project to be implemented successfully, despite the difficulties faced during the implementation period.



CONCLUSION

Cyclone Idai marked the first time that Global Affairs Canada implemented a dedicated \$2 million matching fund to support the work of the Humanitarian Coalition. The matching fund played a critical role in enabling the Humanitarian Coalition and our member agencies to mobilize more Canadians to donate in response to this unprecedented weather-related disaster in Southern Africa. In the end, \$3.8 million CAD in private donations were raised as a result of the appeal, including contributions from 2,618 new donors and 14,675 pre-existing donors. Canadians clearly care when they are made aware of humanitarian crises, and encouraged to take action.

The generosity of Canadians, bolstered by the Government of Canada matching funds, enabled the member agencies of the Humanitarian Coalition to support a total of 189,316 beneficiaries at an average cost of \$13.77 per person across Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Our sectors of intervention included water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food as well as non-food item (NFI) distributions, restoration of livelihoods, education and protection, and inclusion of people with disabilities. This report has endeavoured to consolidate and highlight the impact of our members' collective life-saving work, but additional program details are also available on each agency's individual projects. Please contact the Humanitarian Coalition for more information.

It is worth underscoring the dynamic needs assessments carried out by Humanitarian Coalition member agencies in responding to Cyclone Idai. Mozambique was certainly one of the countries hardest hit by Cyclone Idai, and the Humanitarian Coalition's initial response through the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF) in partnership with the Government of Canada, was indeed focused there.¹⁵ As the situation on the ground continued to evolve – both in terms of awareness of needs as well as significant interventions by domestic and international humanitarian actors – it became clear to the members of the Humanitarian Coalition that there were vital unmet needs and important gaps in the collective humanitarian response emerging in Zimbabwe and Malawi as well. As a result, the programming funded by the joint appeal and matching fund aimed to bridge these gaps across the region.

The devastation of Cyclone Idai and ongoing economic and environmental challenges continue to leave many people in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi facing considerable hardship at the time of this report. Nonetheless, it is clear that the effective and efficient work of the Humanitarian Coalition and its members, in partnership with the Government of Canada, indeed saved thousands of lives. This is something in which all Canadians can rightly take some measure of pride.

Endnotes

- ¹ UNOCHA, “Mozambique: Cyclone Idai & Floods Situation Report No. 19 (As of 29 April 2019).”
- ² MercyCorps, “Quick Facts: Cyclone Idai’s Effect on Southern Africa,” 2019
- ³ Oxfam, “Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe,” 2019.
- ⁴ Inter-Agency Standing Committee, “IASC Operational Peer Review: Mozambique: Cyclone Idai Response,,” n.d.
- ⁵ UNOCHA, “Mozambique: Cyclone Idai & Floods Situation Report No. 10,” Situation Report, April 11, 2019
- ⁶ UNOCHA, “Zimbabwe: Emergency Situation Report No. 8,” Situation Report, May 22, 2019.
- ⁷ UNICEF, “Malawi Humanitarian Situation Report - Flood Situation Report,” Situation Report, March 29, 2019
- ⁸ Department of Disaster Management Affairs, “Malawi: Floods Response Situation Report No. 5,” Situation Report (United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator, May 20, 2019).
- ⁹ Post- Cyclone Idai Cabinet for Reconstruction, “Mozambique Cyclone Idai Post Disaster Needs Assessment (Conference Version May 2019),” n.d.
- ¹⁰ “The World Bank in Zimbabwe - Overview,” The World Bank, October 31, 2018
- ¹¹ Humanitarian Country Team and UNOCHA, “Humanitarian Response Plan (Revised Following Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, May 2019).”
- ¹² USAID, “SOUTHERN AFRICA - TROPICAL CYCLONE IDAI - FACT SHEET #9 FY2019.”
- ¹³ Post- Cyclone Idai Cabinet for Reconstruction, “Mozambique Cyclone Idai Post Disaster Needs Assessment (Conference Version May 2019).”
- ¹⁴ See Cyclone Idai Real-time Response Review Synthesis report (2020) available at www.humanitariancoalition.ca/reports-publications
- ¹⁵ See separate CHAF reporting within the Humanitarian Coalition’s 2019-2020 Annual Report, available at www.humanitariancoalition.ca