

28 March 2019

Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Re: The humanitarian situation in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe resulting from Cyclone Idai

Just on two weeks ago Tropical Cyclone Idai struck the coast of Mozambique near Beira City in Sofala Province, bringing torrential rain, storm surge and winds to the region. Flooding caused by the Tropical Cyclone Idai weather system has affected nearly 3 million people and caused at least 678 deaths in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe¹, with the death toll expected to rise in coming days as the water recedes. As of 26 March:

- In Mozambique, about 1.85 million people have been affected, with at least 447 deaths. Nearly 129,000 people have been accommodated so far in 143 emergency sites across Sofala (103 sites), Manica (26 sites), Zambezia (10 sites) and Tete (4 sites).
- In Zimbabwe, at least 172 deaths have been reported, more than 186 people have been injured and 327 are missing.
- In Malawi, about 868,900 people have been impacted, with 59 deaths and 672 injuries recorded. Nearly 87,000 people are estimated to be displaced.

Humanitarian response is ongoing across the region, led by respective governments, however significant response challenges remain, as heavy rains have damaged roads and main access bridges have been washed away. There are real fears of disease outbreaks – cases of cholera have already been confirmed in Beira, Mozambique – and the crisis situation leaves people highly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

In the face of huge needs INGOs have lifted our emergency response to Cyclone Idai to our highest respective response protocol. Fundraising efforts by our respective organisations are ongoing, and additional resources and deployments by our rapid response teams to the affected areas are already underway. The constraints in access mean that getting aid to people is difficult, costly and requires levels of innovation and expertise from the world over.

In addition to the US\$20M that has been allocated by the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund² to ramp up the response to TC Idai, humanitarian partners have updated the Humanitarian Response Plan³ for Mozambique seeking an additional US\$282M to meet the immediate response to needs. Revised Humanitarian Response Plans are expected to follow for Malawi and Zimbabwe.

We urge the Australian Government to also commit funding and resources to best placed organisations on the ground to respond to the enormous humanitarian need. While Australia continues to face disasters at home, the sheer scale and impact of TC Idai cannot be ignored. We have the opportunity to join with other nations in swiftly supporting vulnerable communities in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe as they look to recover and re-build after this unprecedented disaster.

¹ UNOCHA 'Southern Africa: Cyclone Idai Snapshot (as of March 26 2019)'

² UNCERF 'UN Emergency Fund allocates \$20 million to ramp up response to Cyclone Idai in Southern Africa'

³ UNOCHA '2018-19 Humanitarian Response Plan – Mozambique (revised following Cyclone Idai March 2019)'

Please do not hesitate to contact Roslyn Dundas, Advocacy Coordinator via email Roslyn.Dundas@care.org.au or 0407 916 328 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



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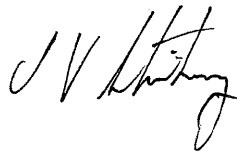
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