Tropical Cyclone Idai hit eastern Zimbabwe with heavy rains and strong winds on 15–16 March 2019. Manicaland and Masvingo provinces are mostly impacted, where floods and landslides caused by the Cyclone have caused severe damage on the affected populations.

An estimated 270,000 people have been affected, with 50,905 individuals being estimated by IOM DTM as internally displaced persons (IDPs). 96 per cent of these displaced persons are residing in host communities with only 4 per cent residing across 18 collective centres and displacement sites.

Food and shelter remain the key needs for those displaced residing in the collective centres. For those IDPs in host communities (the majority), it is likely that many will continue the hosting arrangement beyond the initial phase of the emergency response. The coping capacity of host communities is already strained due to economic challenges affecting Zimbabwe. A more thorough assessment of the host families’ intentions and ability to continue the hosting arrangement is needed and a comprehensive plan to support those displaced communities in the short to medium term as well as in the long term.

There is a need for an increased financial support particularly for the Shelter and NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp management response to ensure that immediate and sustainable support to emergency and longer-term early recovery and development needs are addressed in a comprehensive manner that respects the rights of those who have been displaced by the Cyclone.

In response to the aftermath of Cyclone Idai and the massive needs in the affected communities in the eastern provinces of Zimbabwe, IOM is appealing for USD 7.2 Million for its emergency response through September 2019. IOM’s appeal is currently funded at 14%.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team conducted village-level assessments in Chimanimani and Chipinge from 9 to 14 May 2019, initially targeting the wards currently hosting the highest numbers and ratios of Cyclone-induced IDPs.

- IOM’s Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) conducted psychosocial support sessions for 1,106 pupils and staff members at Ngangu, Ndima and Chimanimani Secondary Schools from 8 to 10 May 2019.

- IOM’s Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) support on the establishment of Garikai camp in Chimanimani is ongoing. A total of 31 tents have been pitched in the camp.

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

**270,000 individuals**
Affected Individuals

**90,000 individuals**
In need of Emergency Shelter and Non food items.

**6,560 individuals**
Provided with shelter and non food items assistance in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts.

**50,905 individuals**
Reported as displaced by Cyclone Idai across 12 affected districts in Manicaland and Masvingo.

**$ 1M** RECEIVED, **$7.2M REQUESTED**

**14% ASSISTED, 90,000 TARGETED**

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IOM, through its partner CAFOD, is conducting ward prioritisation assessments for shelter support in Chimanimani and Buhera districts.

IOM continues with distribution of NFI kits donated by Econet to 139 households (approximately 695 individuals) at several camps in Chimanimani.

The SNFI/CCCM Cluster continues to engage with its partners on mapping the response to date. Assessments will be carried out by cluster members to triangulate and verify reported levels of damage and destroyed houses in priority wards.

From 9 to 14 May 2019, IOM’s DTM team conducted the first round of village-level assessments in order to understand the needs and challenges of Cyclone Idai host communities in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts. 12 enumerators were trained by IOM for the assessments in villages of Chipinge and Chimanimani.

61 village assessments were completed for Chipinge district and most of the internal displacements occurred due to damage/destruction of houses. From the 61 villages assessed in 13 wards in Chipinge there are 2,934 IDP households (14,851 individuals) out of 18,881 households (99,328 individuals). Those who returned to their original homes are constructing temporary shelters or repairing some of their destroyed shelters. These temporary shelters are prone to harsh weather conditions. Priority needs for the villages are 46 per cent food assistance and 43 per cent shelter and housing assistance.

Key needs in the camps have been identified as outdoor lighting, food, blankets, mattresses, sanitary wear for women, baby diapers/napkins and solar lamps for their respective tents.

IOM continues to engage its cluster partners working in the camps to improve conditions in the temporary holding sites, through community participation, camp lifecycle, capacity building and boys and girls empowerment.

IOM’s partner Counselling Service Unit (CSU) has started operations in Chimanimani and Chipinge.

From 8 to 10 May 2019, IOM and CSU conducted psychosocial support sessions for 26 teachers and 700 pupils at Ndima Government High School, 30 teachers at Chimanimani Secondary School and 350 pupils at Ngangu Secondary School.

The sessions involved the Counselling team consisting of IOM and CSU appreciation of the challenges faced by the pupils and teachers and reassuring them of the availability of psychosocial support service for them. The school was informed of the call centre and the importance of utilising it as a tool to further inform various stakeholders on existing gaps and violations that may occur or may have occurred during the peak of Cyclone response.

IOM and CSU visited 5 camps to assess the living conditions and welfare of families who are still grieving on the loss of their spouses, children and livelihoods at camps; Chimanimani Hotel, Roman Catholic Church, Kopa and Nyamatanda 1 and 2. 104 families were reached at these camps, 10 individual counselling sessions and 2 family therapy sessions were also conducted.

IOM-CSU team engaged and created a referral path with the Higher Life Foundation for education support to the Cyclone affected families. and one family with 2 children from one of the camp in Nyamatanda were selected for an education scholarship.

1,151 CSU call centre fliers were distributed to pupils and teachers at Ndima secondary school, families at Kopa camp, Nyamatanda camps, and Chipinge wards 21 and 22.
Story from Cyclone Idai affected beneficiary “This support means life to me, I almost lost my child to the cold”

The high-density suburb of Ngangu in Chimanimani which used to be a hive of activity with traders bringing wares from neighbouring Mozambique and farmers supplying markets as far as Harare has been devastated by the effects of Cyclone Idai. The Cyclone struck the area with heavy rains and violent winds. Both homes and livelihoods were destroyed, leaving residents seeking refuge in collective centres such as churches, schools and shops. Those whose homes remained standing are also supporting friends and relatives where they can, with almost 95% of those who have lost their homes seeking refuge with host communities.

Sarafina Shohwa of Ngangu Extension had just given birth when the disaster struck. The cyclone destroyed the house that she built with her husband and sadly her husband and four-year-old son also lost their lives in the disaster. She managed to escape with her 2-week-old baby. The collective centre in Chimanimani Golf Club is what she now calls home, together with other 63 people who also lost their homes and belongings in Cyclone Idai and are temporarily housed there.

“I came here on the night the cyclone destroyed my home, I only managed to escape with my baby. We slept here without blankets, I feared for my child’s health since this area is very cold. I needed blankets, clothes to wear and soap to wash and bath. I had nothing.” Said 34-year-old Sarafina.

Chimanimani Golf Club is one of the collective centres which IOM Zimbabwe has supported with much needed NonFood Items, in partnership with Econet. “Their support means life to me, it came when I feared losing my child to the cold. I received blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils, soap and candles,” narrated Sarafina.