Responding to women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health needs, and prevention and response to gender-based violence in cyclone-affected Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe
OVERVIEW OF THE THREE AFFECTED COUNTRIES

- 3,039 MILLION people in need of humanitarian assistance
- 759,750 women of reproductive age: more than half (438,000) are in Mozambique
- 121,560 estimated live births a year
- 91,170 estimated women currently pregnant
- 1.419 million people targeted by UNFPA for assistance
- $26.309 million urgently needed to provide assistance
APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

$26.309 million for Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

On 14 March, Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall in Mozambique then crossed into Zimbabwe, leaving a wide path of destruction across Eastern Africa. By the time the storm struck, communities throughout Malawi and Mozambique were reeling from days of downpours and flooding.

The damage is massive and horrifying. Hundreds are dead or missing in each of the three affected countries. In total, over three million people have been affected. Humanitarian emergencies are known to increase significantly the vulnerability of women and girls. Displacement and the destruction of social service facilities create barriers to access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, which are already limited in the affected areas. For sexual and reproductive health, people need access to accurate information and the contraception method of their choice; they must be informed and empowered to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections; and when they decide to have children, women must have access to services that can help them have a fit pregnancy, safe delivery and healthy baby. The timely provision of SRH services prevents disease, prevents disability and saves lives. Access to SRH care is a human right and its provision in humanitarian response is now a global standard.

With United Nations partners, UNFPA has conducted an assessment mission and is working to rapidly deploy emergency reproductive health services and supplies and prevention and response to gender-based violence. There is a critical need for these services. UNFPA is appealing for $26.309 million for Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

With your help, we can make a difference in the lives of all those who desperately require assistance.
When their home began to flood shortly before midnight on 15 March, heavily pregnant Tina Patissone, 30, grabbed her 4 children and braved strong winds to reach 3rd of January Secondary School, where other people had gathered.

Within hours, Ms. Patissone felt the start of contractions. Those with her knew that if she was to have a safe birth, she would need the assistance of a midwife or trained birth assistant. They attempted to contact the provincial hospital to call for an ambulance, to no avail. All of the mobile networks had been down since Cyclone Idai made landfall on 14 March.

They did the next best thing they could. They arranged a motorcycle taxi to transport her to Matundo Health Centre in Tete city. Thankfully, Ms. Patissone reached the hospital safely and within a short space of time she gave birth to her daughter, Joana Antonio, without any complications.

Sadly, her home has been destroyed and their compound is unrecognizable.

Ms. Patissone and her family were accommodated in a tent in a transit centre located at the Industrial Institute of Matundo in Tete City. UNFPA has provided Ms. Patissone and other women and girls at the centre with dignity kits, which contain essential products for women and girls, including capulanas (sarongs), soap, sanitary pads, toothbrushes, a safety whistle and other essentials.
The President of Malawi declared a state of disaster in the country on 8 March, following persistent rains that resulted in flooding in 14 districts, mostly in southern Malawi. Almost 923,000 people have been affected. There have been 56 reported deaths and 577 people injured. Of those affected, an estimated 230,737 are women of childbearing age, of whom around 27,693 are pregnant, and 18,462 live births are expected within the next 6 months.

- **Areas affected:** Chikwawa, Thyolo, Mulanje, Phalombe, Machinga, Zomba, Nsanje, Chiradzulu, Blantyre, Neno, Mwanza, Dedza, Balaka and Mangochi.
- **People in need of assistance:** 731,879
- **People displaced:** 87,000

**UNFPA RESPONSE**

**Assisting 185,000 people with SRH services:**
To provide basic life-saving MISP interventions for women of reproductive age displaced by floods, including life-saving, quality maternal/neonatal care and protection for women and girls, and HIV prevention services

**Assisting 520,210 people with GBV response:**
Prevention of GBV and other forms of violence against women and children through cost-effective emergency communications with the affected communities, supported by in-built community-based complaint and feedback mechanisms. District SRH and GBV coordinators in 9 affected districts to provide GBV information, services and monitoring, as well as coordination and to strengthen referral mechanisms.
The cyclone has affected 1,85 million people, including:

- **462,000** women of reproductive age
- **77,000** women living with HIV
- **55,500** pregnant women. Expected live births in the next 6 months: 37,000
- 1,85 million people, including:
On 14 March, Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall near Beira city, causing a devastating loss of life and large-scale destruction of assets and infrastructure.

- **Areas affected**: Beira, Chimoio cities; Barue, Gondola, Macossa, Manica, Sussundenga, Buzi, Cheringoma, Chibabava, Dondo, Maringue, Muanza, Nhamatanda, Gorongosa and Chinde.
- **People in need of assistance**: 1.1 million
- **Within the next 3 months**, 19,000 live births are expected and 3,000 women are expected to experience complications during pregnancy or childbirth.

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**UNFPA RESPONSE**

**Assisting 500,000 people with SRH services:**
Ensuring sexual and reproductive health services for affected populations

**Assisting 350,000 people with GBV response:**
Ensuring all vulnerable women and girls are protected against violence in the affected areas, creating safe spaces (maternity waiting homes and GBV shelters) for pregnant women and girls, and those vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse, including child-headed households and provided with needed services
ZIMBABWE

The cyclone has affected 270,000 people, of which:

- 67,500 women of reproductive age
- 1,250 pregnant women are HIV positive
- 382 pregnant women are HIV positive
As of 15 March, Cyclone Idai has brought severe destruction to critical infrastructure, injuries and loss of life across a widespread region of the country.

An estimated 50,000 households have been affected, and a population of 270,000. About 154 deaths were reported, as well as 162 injuries, 136 people were marooned, 500 were missing, and 4,884 people were completely displaced.

According to the HMIS (Health Management Information System), Chimanimani has an average of 270 deliveries a month and Chiping, 956 deliveries per month.

- **Areas affected:** Gutu, Buhera, Mutare, Bikita, Chimanimani, Chipinge, Chiredzi
- **People in need of assistance:** 250,000
- **Within the next 3 months, 3,750 live births are expected and 560 women are expected to experience complications during pregnancy or childbirth.**

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**UNFPA RESPONSE**

**Assisting 65,000 people with SRH services:**
To reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality through ensuring access to priority basic and comprehensive obstetric care services

**Assisting 14,950 people with GBV response:**
To enhance GBV prevention, mitigation and response for women and girls of reproductive age and men in the affected districts
Sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence (GBV)

Women and girls in affected communities will be provided with access to lifesaving reproductive health services and supplies, dignity kits, and GBV services, including safe spaces to support their physical, social and mental well-being.

Survivors of gender-based violence, and women and girls at risk, will have access to services including post-rape treatment and psychosocial support, and referrals to other services. Prevention mechanisms will be put in place.

Pregnant women will be provided access to antenatal, perinatal and postnatal care to ensure that they give birth safely. Access to basic and comprehensive obstetric care, including Caesarian sections and safe blood transfusions, will be provided.
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

$26.309 million is urgently needed to provide assistance:

$13.319 million required for sexual and reproductive health services

$12.99 million required for GBV prevention and response