**Salvation Army Responds to Cyclone Idai**

With wind speeds reaching 124 miles per hour (200 km/hour), Cyclone Idai has caused widespread devastation across a large swathe of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Local media reports suggest that 1,000 people have lost their lives in Mozambique alone. With roads flooded and the regional airport closed, 500,000 people have been cut off in Beira, one of Mozambique’s largest cities. Reports suggest that up to 90 per cent of the region has been destroyed. The Salvation Army is implementing emergency responses in each of the three countries.

In Mozambique, The Salvation Army – working in partnership with the Red Cross and other agencies – is providing emergency food packages, including maize, rice, cooking oil and beans, to 500 of the most severely affected families in Beira. This will ensure that two nutritious meals per day are provided for at least 21 days, guarding against malnutrition and ensuring that children are able to continue attending school.

The Zambezi and Tete areas are also being evaluated with a view to providing similar relief supplies.

In Zimbabwe, where a state of emergency has been declared after homes and bridges were swept away, The Salvation Army is coordinating with the government and other agencies to provide assistance in stricken areas in the south and east. The initial aim is to provide an initial 167 households with vital supplies of food and other essential items such as blankets.

In Malawi, an initial needs assessment is being undertaken by Salvation Army teams. Nearly a million people have been affected according to government estimates, with 56 deaths and 577 injuries recorded. More than 82,700 people are believed to be displaced, with the Chikawa district particularly badly affected.

Communications links – including roads, electricity and mobile phone networks – remain significantly disrupted by the wind damage and subsequent flooding in many areas. Several rivers have burst their banks and access to clean drinking water has been impaired.

Major Chris Mulryne from The Salvation Army’s London-based International Emergency Services team said: ‘This is an unprecedented disaster for this part of the world. Considering the difficulties faced we are grateful that our teams are on the ground responding effectively to bring relief to those suffering as a result of this disaster.’

Update: April 2 – Cyclone Idai – Mulanje, Malawi Food Relief – $20,000 USD.
This project supported by the Canada and Bermuda Territory will target 400 households who will receive 50 kg bag of Maize, 2 litres of cooking oil and 5 kg of beans. This ration can last up to a month for a family of five.

Update: April 2 – Cyclone Idai – NFI (Non-Food Items) & Flood Relief – $20,000 USD
The Salvation Army in Mozambique has provided food item assistance to more than 540 families of Ndunda/Beira community through rapid response projects supported by the Canada and Bermuda Territory and other NGO partners’ efforts. To complement these efforts, the Beira/Zambezia affected families have been identified in need of non-food items such as blankets, mosquito nets, and kitchen utensils to be able to resettle in their homes again. The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory will purchase non-food items for 500 vulnerable families.

Click the link below to view and download photos from this disaster relief response:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yxbha9g6wri7fb4/AAC1K9haxYVuKVkgu8hOIN5Da?dl=0>

Malawi and Mozambique are two of our five Partner Territories and also the focus of this year’s Partners in Mission campaign. Please keep the victims and first responders in your continual prayer. If you would like to make a financial contribution to The Salvation Army’s relief efforts, please visit **salvationarmy.ca/cycloneidai** to make a donation. Anything you can give will make a difference. Thank you.