Christian Aid and Bristol Link Beira call Bristol to stand with Cyclone Idai victims

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Patience Kanda – KB Mpofu/ Christian Aid

## **ARTICLE 295 WORDS**

An estimated 3 million people have been affected by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

The Disasters Emergency Committee has reported at least 960 people killed while Christian Aid has observed some 400,000 homeless. The slow-moving cyclone made landfall on 14 March following already extensive flooding in the region.

Those affected are in desperate need of food, water, clothing, shelter and medicine.

Bristol's Twin City Beira, Mozambique was directly hit, causing 90% destruction in the city according to Bristol Link to Beira. Cholera cases have jumped from five to 138 in Mozambique alone, as agencies on the ground continue the rush to provide support and assistance.

Patience Kanda in Zimbabwe says 'I managed to leave my house a few minutes before it collapsed, and I feel very lucky. I don't have any clothes for my child and for myself and it's just too much. We are appealing for help, please, anyone who can assist us.'

DEC member charities are working closely with national partners to support relief efforts, along with focus on longer-term food security and disaster preparedness. Rehabilitation of livelihoods is paramount, and some communities are already being provided with seeds and tools.

Bristol Link to Beira has been supporting Bristol's Twin City for 30 years, and are establishing a sustainability and rebuilding strategy informed by local partners, with the support of the Mayor of Bristol Marvin Rees and BBC Radio Bristol.

Christian Aid Country Manager for Malawi Pansi Katenga says: 'Although the rains have stopped for now, they're forecast to begin again soon, and we need to help people who are most vulnerable before the situation gets worse'.

Please join Christian Aid and Bristol Link to Beira in standing with communities in need. We need to help, before the situation gets worse.

*To donate please visit <u>https://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/cyclone-idai-appeal</u> or <u>www.fundsurfer.com/crowdfund/beira-cyclone-crisis-and-sustainability-campaign</u>.* 

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## SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMARY 255 CHARACTERS

Christian Aid and Bristol Beira Link call on citizens of Bristol to support ongoing work with victims of Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, specifically Bristol's Twin City Beira. Donate via www.caid.org.uk and https://tinyurl.com/y44fzbsy.

Copy by Callum Humphries, Christian Aid Regional Coordinator for Bristol and Somerset. For enquiries contact <u>chumphries@christian-aid.org</u>; 01454 415 923; 07814 137 000.