

# Cyclone in Mozambique

A cyclone is a tropical storm that brings a very strong circular wind and heavy rain which can cause extreme flooding. They are sometimes called hurricanes or typhoons.



## Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327.

On 15th March 2019 a cyclone (Cyclone Idai) hit Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, destroying homes, buildings and schools. The cyclone winds ripped out trees by their root and the flood washed away farmer's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and no produce to sell at market.

Across the three countries:

- Over 800 people were killed
- Hundreds of thousands of people left homeless
- 3 million people were in desperate need of help

## Linda and Maria's story

Linda and Maria are both 16 years old. They are best friends and classmates at secondary school in Mozambique. After the cyclone destroyed both the girl's family homes, they made their way to a camp for people made homeless by the disaster.

"I'm living in a tent in the camp because our house was badly damaged in the cyclone. The roof was ripped off."  
– Maria

Linda also told us "My house was badly damaged too. It lost its roof during the cyclone. We thought the walls might collapse so we ran to a neighbour's house. The next day we saw that the house was completely destroyed. I hate living in the camp because it's totally different to how we were living before. We had TV and I miss it and our furniture. It is so hard to keep clean – it is a dirty place. I miss playing with my friends."



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The girls school books and uniform were washed away in the cyclone and they both miss going to school every day.

“The school was damaged in the cyclone but we all went to help clean up. The school opened again last week but we can’t afford to go back yet.” – Linda

“Our parents have asked us to be patient. We need to have our books and uniforms replaced but any money we have has to be used first for trying to repair the house and other things. We really want to go back to school but we realise that home has to come first.” – Maria

Generous SCIAF supporters raised over £235,000 to help survivors. This helped to provide families with:

- Emergency food
- Sleeping mats and blankets
- Mosquito nets
- Cooking utensils like pans and cutlery

As well as providing immediate help SCIAF will continue to work with families in Mozambique and Malawi in the months and years ahead to help them rebuild their homes and their lives.

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