

## **EFFECTS OF TROPICAL CYCLONE IDAI IN THE PROVINCES OF CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE**

Since the first week of March 2019, the National Institute of Meteorology in Mozambique, through various means of communication, has issued several warning messages to the Mozambican population about the occurrence of heavy rains and winds in the central region of the country (a phenomenon known as Tropical Cyclone IDAI of grade 4), with the peak between the days 14 and 15 March of 2019 with great impact in the provinces of Sofala; Manica; Tete and Zambézia.

In compliance with the guidelines issued by the meteorological services, many public and private services, including flights to Beira and Chimoio, were canceled long time before the phenomenon occurred. The measure aimed at ensuring the safety of the population in regions considered to be at high risk.

And from Thursday 14 March 2019, afternoon; began the fall of intense rains accompanied by strong winds affecting all the central region of the country with great impact in Sofala and Manica provinces. Rain and strong winds lasted for more than 48 hours without interruption, causing power outage and communication in the 3 available mobile phone lines in the country, as a result of the fall of many public and private infrastructure (buildings and bridges; energy transport and communication posts).

These were days and nights of true terror, a devastating phenomenon that sowed mourning in many families and caused uncountable material damage, leaving more than 90% of the homeless families in the cities of Beira and Buzi District in Sofala Province and administrative post of Dombe in Manica. It was the biggest natural disaster ever.

Some survivors of the phenomenon stayed more than 24 hours in the trees and were rescued later.

### **EFFECTS OF CICLONE IDAI BY PROVINCE / CITY**

#### **BEIRA CITY**

- The whole city was submerged;
- Completely destroyed; falls of real estate; buildings were not covered; houses of precarious construction disappeared altogether;
- Preliminary data indicate approximately 700 deaths and 600,000 people affected in the regions where the phenomenon occurred;
- Schools; Hospitals and churches were equally damaged, without coverage;
- All avenues blocked by tree trunks that have fallen;
- No power supply and communication;

- Beira city was isolated from the rest of the country due to the collapsing of the bridges that constitute the main access routes;
- The population without food; the banks were inoperative;
- The number of fatalities as a result of cyclone IDAI increases day by day and there are people who are believed to have disappeared;
- Hundreds of thousands of victims still in critical condition receiving medical care at Beira Central Hospital.

### **BUZI DISTRICT (SOFALA)**

- The village - totally submerged and stayed on an island and totally isolated from the rest of the province;
- Infrastructures have been completely destroyed;
- The survivors were evacuated to an accommodation center set up in Guara-Guara, an administrative post that is 25 km from Buzi village. The conditions are precarious and they lack almost everything;
- The rescue team is still on the ground and the number of casualties is increasing each day;
- Schools; hospitals; machambas and diverse cultures were destroyed;

### **MANICA PROVINCE**

Manica province did not escape the effects of the cyclone. It was hit with a great magnitude, also causing deaths and material damages. At the Province level, a total of 17 accommodation centers were created in the following places: Chimoio (4); Gondola (3); Inchope (3); Macate (3); Sussundenga -Matarara (3) and Vanduzi (1) housing more than 8000 affected families.

### **DOMBE ADMINISTRATIVE POST (SUSSUNDENGA)**

- It was completely submerged; houses destroyed;
- Preliminary data point to the occurrence of more than 100 deaths and about 8,000 displaced families;
- The main access roads were blocked with collapsing of the bridges, isolating it from the rest of the province;
- Corn farms and crops have disappeared completely;
- The schools have been destroyed and those who have resisted are functioning as accommodation centers, putting pupils without classes.

### **TETE PROVINCE**

Tete Province was the first to be flogged by the floods as early as the first week of March due to a surge in floodwater from the Revubue River causing flooding on the night of March 8, causing substantial material and human damage to the populations of the Chingodzi Ward, including the partial destruction of the bridge over the Revubue River, isolating both Tete city and Moatize District.

Death was recorded and many families lost their property and many of them are in some accommodation centers set up for this purpose.

### **DIRECT EFFECTS OF TROPICAL CYCLONE IDAI IN AFFECTED POPULATIONS**

- Destruction of housing and public and social infrastructure (schools, hospitals, churches, etc.), thus compromising the education of students; health and spiritual assistance to affected populations;
- Total destruction of corn fields and crops, which will aggravate the situation of hunger in the communities and consequently increase the number of cases of malnutrition in children;
- Destruction of roads and bridges, thereby compromising the accessibility of access roads to the supply of basic products such as food; medicines, clothing and other material for the populations concerned, further exacerbating the prices of products from these currently impassable sites;
- Deficient sanitation of the environment and scarcity of drinking water, a primary condition for the emergence of water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, and accumulation of puddles leading to mosquitoes proliferation and an increase in malaria numbers and their complications.

Chimoio 27th of March 2019

Med. Dr. Araujo Mussa

Some pictures below,

**Note: I have removed some pictures and videos because are very shocking.**







