DOMINICAN MISSIONARY SISTERS
of The Sacred Heart of Jesus
CALLED BY GOD
TO PRAISE, TO BLESS, TO PREACH

Sisters' response to the Cyclone Idai

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TROPICAL Cyclone Idai, which brewed in Mozambique having catastrophic impact there as well as in Malawi also hit Zimbabwe with strong winds and thunderstorms and left a trail of destruction in Manicaland, Bikita and Buhera. Cyclone Idai triggered floods which swept away hundreds of homes in Chimanimani and Chipinge areas of the Manicaland. In the Chimanimani and Chipinge areas what survivors say seem suggest some sort of an earthquake combined with floods and strong winds.

There has been an amazing solidarity shown by local and international individuals and organizations in responding to this urgent need. The Dominican Sisters in Zimbabwe and beyond have been involved in various ways sensitizing and mobilizing efforts to get different items to the affected areas or through prayerful support of all those on the ground and all affected.

Dominican Convent High School Human Rights Club and our other schools mobilised for provisions from parents and pupils. Through the Schools provisions were collected, campaign awareness was made during assemblies; prayers were offered for the dead and the affected. Buses carrying clothes and food provisions were send to the affected places. The provisions were kept in the care of the sisters in Mutare. The sisters from St Joseph Hospital Mutare and other staff joined a team that tried to evacuate the children from St Charles Lwanga in vain as the road had been destroyed by floods. The following day instead of going again with the rescue team, they waited for the rescue team to arrive with the learners from St Charles. The Sisters helped in the feeding, counselling and giving of medication to those who needed medical attention. Our Sisters in Mutare have been working hand in hand with other organisations like Caritas and JPIC Mutare Diocese.

Sr Dr Agnes Tererai visited Mutare with some Intravenous fluids, Plaster Of Paris, and other medical sundries which were donated by USHAMWARI doctors in Holland. Some of it was given to Mutare Provincial Hospital which is attending to most of the surgical cases and the sisters at St Joseph will distribute the rest as per assessment and need. St Joseph hospital has received nurses from different Provinces in the country to help out when need arises. Sr Andrea who is the Sister in Charge at St Joseph hospital narrated that they were receiving patients with chronic illnesses coming from Chimanimani for medication, who...
had already gone for 4 to 5 days now with no medications like ARVs, anti-hypertensive and anti-diabetic drugs.

On 23 March 2019 Dominican Convent Harare provided a venue for psychosocial support of more than 100 students from St Charles Lwanga Catholic School in Chimanimani. There were psychologists, psychiatrists and other counselors helping out. Other sisters were directly involved in the counselling sessions families and learners who were affected in their different communities.

The JPIC team for the Dominican Sisters Zimbabwe appealed for water and the response was positive and an amount of RTGS$ 2500 was raised and people appreciated the initiative. The Life Lines Media assisted with the designing of the flyer and Sr Andrea Mazhunga together with the community helped greatly in the buying and distribution of water and keeping the JPIC team of the Region informed about new developments and current needs of the victims of Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani. There have been further responses for appeal for help from organisations such as Kinder Missions, Action Medeor and friends such a Dr Winter, Our Generalate, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa and others. Former students from Dominican schools have made their contributions or are assisting in campaigns for help. The government of Zimbabwe is working hard through the army and other relevant ministries to rebuild infrastructure in the affected areas. To make sure that the donations coming through us as Dominican sisters reach the intended beneficiaries we channel all our efforts via our sisters in Mutare who in turn work in conjunction with CARITAS and JPIC Mutare. Today, 16 April 2019, the JPIC team has travelled to Chimanimani to support the affected people and bring them food. The OP JIPC’s focuses on addressing immediate needs which is why they are now buying food instead of water.

The cyclone in Zimbabwe has come up as a reminder for all Zimbabweans to express in action their belief in the Gospel values of giving food, clothes and shelter to those who do not have. The healing process will take time but the touch of love from everyone will continue to renew our sense of purpose and the reason to live.

Zimbabwe Region –(Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation) JPIC Committee
Coordinator- Sr Sarudzai Mutero
Assistant Coordinator- Sr Doreen Chikomo
Team Members- Sr Tendai Makonese, Marita Tafirenyika
Cyclone Contact person- Sr Andrea Mazhunga
Sisters’ response to the Cyclone Idai

they need your help!
Donate to victims of cyclone Idai.
Drop off your donation at the Dominican Convent High School Reception.

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Appeal for Water
Give me a DRINK
CYCLONE IDAI DESTROYED OUR CLEAN WATER SOURCES
- Not just your religious community but YOU also
- Not just your school but YOU also
- Not just your family but YOU also
- Not just your parish but YOU also
- I need YOU for a drink
- GIVE ME A DRINK

SEND TO DOMINICAN SISTERS FIRTH STREET
ECOCASH 0778 189 420
7PM, March 2019 onwards

Channels Of Appeal
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