

L3 EVALUATION BRIEF

UNHCRs Response to Cyclone Idai



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE & SCOPE

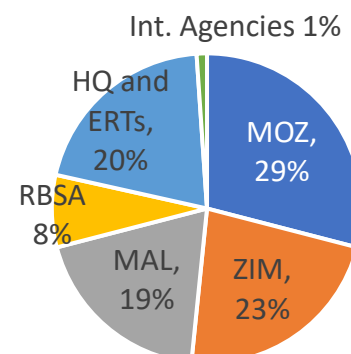
- To assess UNHCR's response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi covering the period from March 2019 to May 2020;
- Identify lessons that can be extrapolated to other disaster responses and, with a broader perspective, provide inputs into UNHCR's role in climate-related disaster displacement.

METHODS

- The evaluation made use of desk reviews and key informant interviews of which 70% was with UNHCR staff and 30% with partners

385 Documents reviewed
93 Key Informant Interviews

Spread of KI interviews



UNHCR's response to cyclone Idai revealed a critical "policy-implementation gap"

concerning its engagement in climate-related disaster displacement in non-conflict situations. The organization was not able to fully implement its own policies concerning emergency and IDP responses.



Contradictions in the engagement to respond to Kenneth and shortcomings in the response to Idai impacted on the reputation of the organization as a credible and predictable actor.



Limited involvement of UNHCR in UNSDCF prior to Idai hampered its ability to participate in key UN decision-making forums when Idai hit.



On the one hand, UNHCR's presence contributed to the reinforcement of the

protection lens as a key element of the collective response. UNHCR's effectiveness however, was inconsistent throughout the three phases of the response (preparedness, response, recovery).



Idai revealed the stagnating situation of small protracted refugee operations and the difficulties these face, particularly in regard to securing adequate resources and limited technical capacity to invest in emergency preparedness.

CONCLUSIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Develop clear guidance on UNHCRs engagement in disaster displacement

2

Develop regional/operational plans that include resourcing, M&E, and risk assessment

3

Reinforce UNHCR's participation in UNCT coordination and take an active role under the UNSDCF

4

Strengthen partnerships in the field of DRR, preparedness, and durable solutions for IDPs

5

Reinforce training for disaster responses and strengthen engagement of national staff

6

Develop a consistent narrative to support fundraising and communication

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ACTIONS AGREED

