



**THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY**  
**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS**

**Press Statement: 22 March 2019**

**The Royal Commonwealth Society responds to humanitarian crisis caused by Cyclone Idai.**

The Royal Commonwealth Society has put out a call to its branches and networks to provide whatever assistance they can to those communities devastated by one of the worst weather-related disasters ever to hit the southern hemisphere.

Cyclone Idai has triggered a massive humanitarian crisis. Millions of people in southern Africa, in particular Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, have been affected by flooding and thousands are still missing.

At least 440 people have died in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi and tens of thousands of people are still awaiting rescue. There is a critical lack of basic supplies including clean water and aid agencies are becoming increasingly concerned about an outbreak of cholera as a result of people having to drink sewage-contaminated water.

People affected by Cyclone Idai are in need of urgent assistance.

Chief Executive of The Royal Commonwealth Society, Dr. Greg Munro, says, "I think it is both appropriate and important that the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion citizens come together in times of crisis and provide whatever support they can. This is such an occasion and I hope that the Society's branches and networks can support those affected by Cyclone Idai, in whatever capacity they are able."

**Notes to Editors**

The Royal Commonwealth Society is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world.

Founded in 1868, it is non-partisan, is independent of governments, and is supported by public generosity.

The Society engages with youth, civil society, business, and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

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