



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

## PUBLIC STATEMENT ON VICTIMS OF CYCLONES IDAI AND KENNETH

The LWF Council, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 to 18 June 2019, under the theme “Because we know God’s voice” (John 10:4), deliberated and adopted the following public statement:

The Council expresses its deep sadness over the devastation, human suffering, loss of lives and destruction of livelihoods and infrastructure caused by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, which struck the south-eastern African countries of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in March and April 2019.

We are troubled to hear that, several months later, many people remain sheltered in temporary settlements and their basic needs have not been attended. The destruction of crops and livelihoods also mean that people will continue to be dependent on external support until they are back on their feet and able to rebuild their lives.

The Council acknowledges the solidarity letter of the LWF General Secretary and appreciates the rapid response of respective member churches, neighboring countries, the Department for Mission and Development (DMD) and LWF World Service (WS) to support people in need. To this end, the Council calls upon:

Its member churches and Communion Office to:

- Continue to mobilize support, financial, material, psychological and pastoral care, for the victims;
- Organize solidarity visits to the member churches in the countries, especially regions/areas, affected by the cyclones.

National governments in the affected countries and the international community to:

- Provide maximum support within their capacity to the victims and people in need;
- Mobilize financial and material support for the governments and people affected by the cyclones and enable rehabilitation of the infrastructure lost;
- Address one of the root causes, which is climate change.

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the  
mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and  
foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.” (Psalm 46)*