



News from Doctors for Mozambique stichting

Number **24** EXTRA EDITION

This is the Doctors for Mozambique Foundation newsletter. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter in future, please let us know via info@doctorsformozambique.org Newsletter number 24 is an extra edition, published in light of the havoc wreaked in Mozambique by Cyclone Idai.

STUDENTS SAFE FOLLOWING WORST CYCLONE EVER

Fortunately, all our students survived the worst cyclone ever to hit the world. They are alive, but in despair. Uncertainty about the fate of their families in the completely flooded district is unbearable. 95% of Beira has been destroyed. Residents – including our students – are without electricity, food and safe drinking water. All shops, bakeries and banks are closed in the wake of intense damage and destruction.

Gitta and Harrie van der Meeren had just arrived back from Mozambique when Cyclone Idai struck. It was not until a week later that they were able to establish text message contact with Mauane, students and colleagues, who are all reeling from what has happened and the prospect of what is to come. All rooves have been damaged or blown away completely. All buildings, including the medical faculty and Gitta and Harrie's house, are underwater and the rain is forecast to continue for the next few days. The hospital mortuary is full and cannot accommodate any more bodies. Conditions are such that burials cannot take place. The situation in the rural areas is even worse. 3,000 square kilometres of land has been flooded. Only satellite images are available.

Bram Vermeulen from the NOS (Dutch national television) has not been able to get beyond the outskirts of Beira. The only access road to Beira, built recently for 400 million euros, has been washed away in several places. We hope that adequate emergency aid will arrive soon. Doctors for Mozambique will do all it can to alleviate our students' suffering. We wish our students and all those impacted strength at this terribly difficult time.



Damage to the university's medical faculty



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