TRANSLATION Matters

MAY 2019

# CYCLONES AFFECT TRANSLATION TEAMS IN MOZAMBIQUE

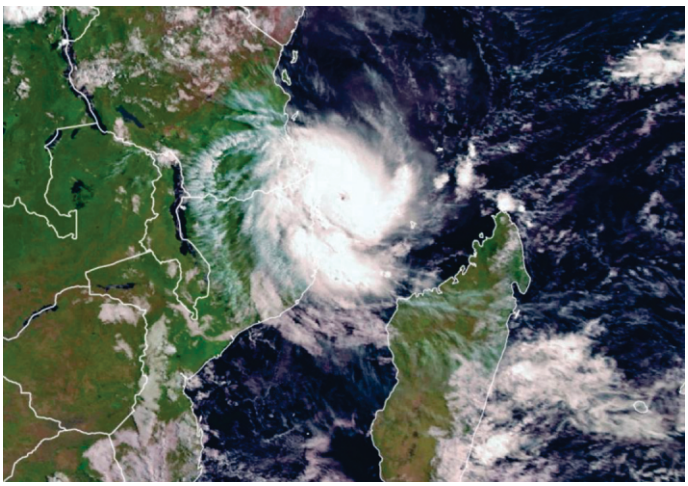
Many of you contacted us after the catastrophic cyclones in Mozambique and the Indian Ocean islands. We appreciate your concern and compassion for those affected by the devastation of two consecutive cyclones, Idai and Kenneth. In both cases, translation teams were affected, and translation work interrupted.

In Zambezi province, the lives of everyone on the Sena translation team were graciously spared after the wind and floods caused by Idai. All seven team members were spared, but they suffered material loss, with damages ranging from totally to partially destroyed homes.

Idai was followed by Kenneth, which made landfall in the northern-most province of Mozambique, leaving destruction in its wake. On Ibo Island, 90% of the houses were destroyed, as the cyclone cut right through the Mwani heartland. We struggled to make contact with our friends there; communication was difficult while heavy rains fell for nearly two weeks.



Wycliffe South Africa staff members, Ken and Corine Brown, met back in 2000. They had both responded to a call for relief workers at the time of the 2000 floods in southern Mozambique. Almost 20 years later, they found themselves in another relief situation in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. They had just relocated their family to Pemba, when Cyclone Kenneth hit. They were able to secure their roof and put down sandbags to prevent the flooding of their house and translation office. Watching from the safety of their home, they saw roofs flying off houses, palm trees blowing over like matchsticks, and household debris floating down the flooding streets.





As Ken and Corine were praying about how to get involved in relief work, Ken was offered a seat on a flight to Ibo Island with Mission Aviation Fellowship. He and the others went prepared with tents, drinking water and food, so as not to burden the afflicted population. They gave most of it away, and spent their time encouraging and helping where they could.

The devastation everywhere was huge, after winds of 240km per hour, and a deluge of 800mm of rain in just a few days. Thankfully, no lives were lost. Island authorities had been

able to warn the population to take shelter in solid buildings, like the fort. What was left of people's homes was little less than piles of rubble. Amazingly, people seemed very resilient, busying themselves with making shelters from what was left of their homes. Relief supplies had already been delivered, but there were delays in the distribution of food, tarpaulins and other items, due to a lack of consensus on how to conduct the distribution in a fair and orderly fashion.

Please continue to pray for the tens of thousands of people affected by these two cyclones. Pray for the government as it manages the disaster relief, and for the many non-government agencies and ministries who have stepped in to help. Above all, pray for the faith of young believers to remain firm. The north of Mozambique is newly evangelized in its history, from as late as the early 1990's. The church is still young. Pray that God's people will experience comfort in the translated Word, and in the loving hands reaching out to them in the coming weeks and months.

With thanks for your partnership in the ministry of Bible translation, for such a time as this!

Karen Floor, CEO







It's at times like these that the translated Word speaks into the lives of people needing the hope and security of faith in the living God. Bible translation gives them the words of Life that feed their faith. Pray that soon, the Sena, Mwani, Meetto, and all language communities in Mozambique will be able to turn to passages like Psalm 46, and join those of us who are privileged to be able to say:

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be removed;
And the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.
Though the waters roar and be troubled, and the mountains shake with their swelling;
There is a river, whose streams make glad the city of God.
God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved.
God will help her at the break of day.'

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