

22,010*

CONFIRMED CASES IN 15 COUNTRIES

432*

DEATHS



\$49.9M

REQUESTED BY IOM FOR ITS SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN FOR CORONAVIRUS 2019

Confirmed 8M (15%)
48% R-programmed
52% New Funding



Pipeline 12M (24%)

Funding Gap 30M (61%)



IOM staff help a Zimbabwean migrant through her pre-boarding hand sanitization process. On 15 May 2020, IOM facilitated the voluntary return from South Africa to Zimbabwe, of 209 migrants, stranded in South Africa by the COVID-19 related national lockdown - ©IOM 2020

*SOURCE: WHO COVID-19 Situation Dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>, 21 May 2020

OVERVIEW

Reported COVID-19 cases in **Southern Africa** continue to increase, though at a relatively stable pace. Countries of the region have augmented their public health responses and are maintaining stringent mobility restrictions. As of 21 May, over 22,010 cases and more than 432 deaths have been reported in the region.

IOM has noted reports of stigma and discrimination towards migrants in locations of origin, transit and destination upon their return, due to fears around COVID-19 transmission, which may lead to further exclusion from or unwillingness to access health and other essential services. Equally concerning is the increase in requests from governments for assistance to stranded and vulnerable migrants abroad, both in return and the provision of basic needs. Countries in the region have implemented border and travel restrictions. The majority of borders have been closed for the movement of people, with few exceptions, including border openings for the return of foreign citizens and repatriation of own nationals. At the same time, several countries have automatically extended visa and permit extension to those already regularly in country before the pandemic, showing some leniency for stranded migrants and visa overstayers

Hundreds of thousands of migrants have lost their jobs in the region and are particularly vulnerable to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. The repercussions of the aforementioned on remittances within the region may also have far-reaching consequences. During the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM expect a slowing down of remittance transfers at least in the immediate short term. This is because, the COVID-19 pandemic is global affecting both sending and receiving (EU, Middle East, North America, intra Africa) countries simultaneously as their labour markets gets impacted

Several Points of Entry in the region have conducted COVID-19 testing among transnational truck drivers and border communities, with a concerning number of confirmed cases in some locations including on the Zambia-Tanzania border. While the number of positive COVID-19 cases among truck drivers and other high risk populations along transport corridors in the region is unknown, recent transmission trends among transnational truck drivers in East Africa continues to raise concerns that transamination trucker drivers and the communities in which they interact may become a major driver of the epidemic in the region.

Protracted internal conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and north of Mozambique continue to generate internal displacement patterns which could further challenge the humanitarian response to COVID-19.

To address these challenges, IOM missions in the region are working with governments and partners to ensure that migrants, whether in regular or irregular situations, as well as returnees and forcibly displaced persons, are included in all aspects of COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts. IOM is also coordinating closely with governments on both immediate and long-term strategies for ensuring that travel remains safe, including through combined inputs from IOM's border management and health teams.

In Southern Africa, as migrants across the region are facing increasing pressure as a result of COVID-19, IOM has established a platform with ambassadors from SADC Member States and UN agencies to coordinate humanitarian assistance for migrants in distress, strengthen partnerships with the diaspora community, and establish a platform for fundraising for humanitarian needs of stranded migrants

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IOM DR Congo trained health 'prestataire' (provider) assists travellers at an internal control point in Gombe, Kinshasa, with prevention means

RESPONSE

RISK COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

IOM South Africa, through the *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV (SRHR-HIV) Knows No Border Project*, has developed and disseminated COVID-19 messages in Gauteng and Mpumalanga, while maintaining the implementation of its initiatives of sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness. More information on the project can be viewed at the three following links: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#).

Risk communication campaigns were conducted by IOM Zimbabwe in three displacement camps; Nyamatanda, Arboretum and Koppa, involving health partners, community leaders and humanitarian agencies. No awareness and prevention campaigns were done at Garikai IDP Camp as most of the residents are out of the camp during the day sourcing for livelihood activities hence planning for the awareness campaigns remains a challenge.

IOM Malawi oriented 250 Change Agents (community volunteers) on COVID-19 in Mchinji, Mwanza and Neno districts to communicate in communities through door to door educational talks on preventive measures. Change Agents were equipped with hand washing soap, sanitizer and non-medical face masks, as well as posters and leaflets to distribute when sensitizing communities. The volunteers disseminated messages to migrants and their peers, including commercial sex workers.

IOM Mauritius and Seychelles has provided accessibility of information to migrants by disseminating multi-lingual information sheets.

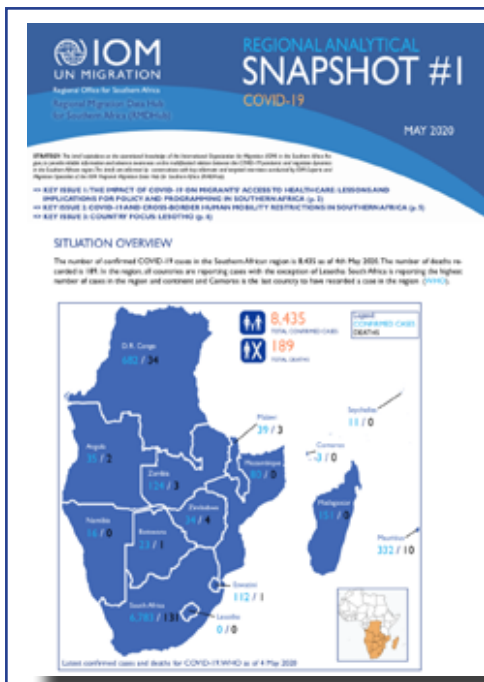
IOM Lesotho is going to conduct the knowledge level of COVID-19 as well as the vulnerability and the needs of returned migrants and their family members along the official and unofficial borders to enable us the evidence-based tailored solution to the COVID-19 related impact on migrants. In parallel, IOM is in the process of designing, testing and distributing IEC materials on risk communication targeting migrants,

key populations and passengers at borders. Through reprogramming and regional reprogramming of the projects, the mission will provide critical risk communication to the identified community crossings or Ports of Crossings (POC) to implement COVID-19 risk communication and social behaviour change.

IOM DR Congo provided training to camp/site managers on COVID-19 prevention messages in camps and camps-like settings across the country. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials were also disseminated in 62 displacement sites under IOM coordination in North Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika provinces. Under the European Union (EU) funded cross-border project, "Secure Cross-border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region," and in partnership with Trademark East Africa, IOM DRC conducted an assessment at select POEs to identify specific needs related to COVID-19. This will inform the development of POE specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) and RCCE for border communities and truck drivers.

IOM Mozambique is supporting Ministry of Health (MoH) in community outreach and dissemination of key COVID-19 prevention messages to migration affected communities across Maputo, Gaza, and Inhambane provinces, specifically to areas where Mozambican migrant workers have been returning in the past few weeks following the lockdown in South Africa. COVID-19 prevention messages are disseminated by IOM Mozambique to displaced and resettled populations in Sofala and Cabo Delgado, targeting both displaced families and host communities. IOM is ensuring that life-saving interventions for displaced families in Cabo Delgado continue and that COVID-19 awareness raising, and prevention activities are fully integrated into aid delivery, such as the ongoing distributions of Non-Food Items (NFIs).

IOM Zambia is supporting community outreach and awareness on COVID 19 in the Eastern province, through the SRHR – HIV knows no borders project. Change agents have been trained on COVID-19 messaging and given appropriate IPC supplies (face masks, hand san-



IOM Regional Office for Southern Africa launched and released its first **Regional Analytical Snapshot** on 6 May 2020.

This brief capitalizes on the operational knowledge of IOM in the Southern Africa Region, to provide reliable information and advance awareness on the multifaceted relation between the COVID-19 pandemic and migration dynamics in the Southern African region. The briefs are informed by conversations with key informant and targeted interviews conducted by IOM Experts and Migration Specialist of the IOM Regional Migration Data Hub for Southern Africa (RMDHub).

DOWNLOAD SNAPSHOT

itisers, disinfectants) and teaching aids to use in engaging their peers and communities on COVID-19. Further, the project has been supporting weekly radio programmes to discuss and educate listeners on COVID-19. The radio programmes have been well received with many listeners phoning in to seek additional information. IOM, through its partners has also been disseminating IEC materials on COVID-19 to target populations including truck drivers, sex workers, and other mobile populations at POEs and along the transport corridor.

PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

IOM South Africa has established a platform comprising of Ambassadors from SADC member states and UN agencies to coordinate humanitarian assistance for migrants in distress. IOM South Africa participates on the Humanitarian Technical Advisory Committee of the Solidary Response Fund in South Africa. IOM South Africa, through IOM's **iDiaspora**, launched a **Zimbabwe Diaspora Appeal of USD 2.5 million**. This will facilitate support to 4500 Zimbabweans living in South Africa under the socio-economic brunt of the covid-19 related national lockdown.

In support to the Ambassadors Platform, the **Regional Migration Data Hub for Southern Africa** (RMDHub) has developed a survey to collect information from migrants stranded in South Africa and, more broadly, diaspora communities as a whole. The survey aims to collect information not only on the immediate needs of migrants but also on the profile, intentions and overall migration experience. The survey is being rolled out both with migrants currently supported by IOM in the context of ongoing repatriation activities, as well as to migrant communities across the countries of the region. The analysis of these data will facilitate evidence based support provided to migrants in difficult conditions, but also medium-to-long-term policy and programming responses. The analysis of the data collected aims to address misperceptions about migration and inform public debates about the topic

IOM Lesotho established partnership with Khathdara Foundation in supporting vulnerable Basotho in South Africa as well as medical diaspora professionals to support COVID-19 response in Lesotho. In addition, the mission has established new partnership with COVID-19 Obe Lesotho, a NGO operating under the auspices of His Majesty the Queen's National Trust Fund as a not for profit company based in South Africa in order to facilitate capacity building and tele-medicine for the nurses and doctors in Lesotho.

IOM Eswatini is working closely with the United Nations (UN) member agencies and partners in Eswatini, to ensure the integration

of migration health concerns and the correct protection measures and respect of their human rights are accomplished across the UN system. IOM Eswatini is also participating in the Social Protection cluster which is co-led by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and Deputy Prime Minister's Office to safeguard social issues of the vulnerable group during and after COVID-19.

IOM DR Congo is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health's National Program for Hygiene at Borders (PNHF), the Directorate of Migration (DGM) and the Congolese National Police (PNC) by supporting measures put in place by the authorities in the context of COVID-19 prevention and control.

IOM Zambia is the UN lead for the POE sector in the response and has been working closely with MOH in coordinating response efforts at POEs. Furthermore, IOM has supported and participated in sub national cross border coordination forums at Chirundu One Stop Border Post (OSBP) (Zambia – Zimbabwe), where a common way forward was agreed by both countries.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

IOM DR Congo facilitated the establishment of 63 hand washing stations in the capital province of Gombe and its perimeters. In addition, digital thermometers, sprayers for disinfecting administrative buildings and tents to serve as shelters at strategic health checkpoints have been donated to the National Border Hygiene Programme.

IOM Zimbabwe has reprogrammed activities and procured under the J-TiP Trafficking in Persons (TiP) program, infection prevention control (IPC) materials (hand sanitizers, bins, disinfectant, soap, thermometers) that were redirected to support preventive measures at Beitbridge border post and quarantine facilities and improve basic services for returning migrants.

IOM Zambia procured and distributed IPC supplies inclusive of hand washing stations, hand held thermometers, disinfectants, tents, bins and chlorine to points of entry in Eastern province (along the borders with Malawi and Mozambique) and Kasumbalesa (border with DR Congo). Following these donations, hand washing, and surveillance check points have been set up within the points of entry, and at key points along the transport corridors. Further, IOM has supported the capacity building of health workers in Kasumbalesa and Nakonde on IPC and case management and referral systems for suspected cases from points of entry to designated isolation units.



IOM Mozambique Health Team guide children at Mandruzi resettlement site in Sofala Province on COVID-19 sensitization and means of prevention ©IOM 2020

IOM Mozambique is supporting the Provincial and District Health Department in Montepuez district to upgrade an old health facility to serve as an COVID-19 isolation and treatment centre. This centre is expected to have at least 25 beds with the potential to increase to over 50 beds. IOM is upgrading a treatment facility in Pemba, in close coordination with partners and the Government, to strengthen preparedness and response capacities in case of outbreak. IOM Mozambique has also engaged Mozambican migrants returning from South Africa, through its network of community health workers across the southern provinces to identify the returnees in their home communities and ensure they are reached with key prevention and quarantine messages.

PROTECTION

IOM Zambia completed a training of trainers for shelter and service providers on identification, protection, referral, trafficking of persons and smuggling of migrants and provision of services in Chipata. The Chipata place of safety was handed over to the local authorities on 12th May 2020. The facility will be used for vulnerable persons, including migrants and victims of trafficking, including men, women and children with a total capacity of 40.

IOM Angola is working with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the development of a training manual for Angolan Police on respecting human rights of citizen and migrants during the current state of emergency. This process started as a response to numerous complaints that irregular migrants are being detained and, in some cases, deported from Angola during the state of emergency. IOM is supporting the development of the manual and will also facilitate sessions on identification, screening and assistance of vulnerable migrants.

In Zimbabwe, IOM developed a rapid mechanism to provide immediate humanitarian assistance (including food and non-food items) to returning migrants, as well as transportation to quarantine facilities in their places of origin. A returnee assessment was conducted covering 196 villages across Chipingue Chimanimani, and Buhera districts in Manicaland province. The exercise covered 41 wards with the pres-

ence of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Data collected includes current vulnerabilities and needs of IDPs, including exposure to COVID-19 related risks.

IOM Zimbabwe with the support of IOM Regional office and the Embassy of Zimbabwe in South Africa, has registered the most affected vulnerable migrants impacted by COVID-19 who are looking for assistance to return to Zimbabwe, ensuring a well-coordinated intervention to guarantee an adequate transportation and assistance of the migrants returnees and safeguard migrants rights. IOM dedicated staff at the border is conducting registration of the returnees and distributing food packages (lunch boxes) as immediate support and ensuring the appropriate referral mechanisms are in place for UAM and those needing medical first aid assistance and MHPSS services.

IOM Lesotho's IOM Lesotho's rapid assessment has confirmed the needs to integrated HIV response in this COVID-19 response due to the high percentage of migrants who are also suffering from HIV/AIDS. Combined with COVID-19 related socio-economic stressors, migrants living with HIV/AIDS may be prone to stop taking their treatment due to lack of food, in turn compromising their immune system, and exposing them to further complications. The assessment found that more women are in disadvantageous situations and therefore, gender sensitive-interventions are critical.

IOM Mozambique supported eleven of 14 survivors of a tragedy that killed 64 smuggled migrants on March 24 in Mozambique returned to Ethiopia, their country of origin. While in Mozambique, the migrants were provided with food and COVID-19 prevention items.

CAMP COORDINATION, CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM DR Congo, as co-lead of the CCCM working group, started coordinating various stakeholders including IDP committees, local government entities, actors from different sectors to develop a contingency plan and referral mechanism in displacement sites.

IOM Mozambique teams provided materials at 20 resettlement sites in Sofala and Manica provinces for the set-up of 600 handwashing stations at different locations in the sites. At these sites, IOM health



IOM South Africa health staff checks a migrant traveller's temperature during pre-traveling health screening - ©IOM 2020

teams conducted health education and awareness raising sessions around COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures reaching more than 500 community influencers (government staff, activists, community leaders, and traditional birth attendants).

IOM Zimbabwe's humanitarian assistance to affected populations is provided through technical assistance to the Government in the CCCM, Information management utilizing its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tool. Through DTM tools, IOM collects and analyses data, disseminates information on crisis affected districts focusing on IDPs needs and socio-demographic characteristics, and has recently included COVID-19 health related risk, to support the coordination of humanitarian assistance. In addition, IOM has been actively advocating for durable solutions for displaced populations and it is currently leading the Shelter/CCCM cluster, to ensure that the basic needs of IDPs and host communities are addressed and there are included in the COVID-19 National response Plan.

IOM Zimbabwe has resumed its emergency response activities, with the adequate and recommended COVID-19 preventive measures, to implement a shelter intervention looking to address the shelter gap for IDPs impacted by Cyclone Idai. This response arrives in a timely manner since the winter season will exacerbate IDPs vulnerabilities living in very deteriorated conditions in camps and host communities.

TRACKING MOBILITY IMPACTS

IOM Mozambique Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) conducted a COVID-19 Preparedness Assessment in the 71 resettlement

sites of the central region to inform government and humanitarian partners on the preparedness and precautionary measures available. The information gathered will help decision-makers to plan interventions and restrictions as well as recommend health and site preparations measures for outbreak prevention and containment in the resettlement sites.

IOM Zimbabwe Since the beginning of COVID-19 outbreak, IOM through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tool, has reprogrammed its activities and has been using a new innovative and remote methodology to continue monitoring mobility trends, needs and vulnerabilities of migrants returnees and IDPs, and health risks associated with COVID-19. IOM has conducted regularly DTM Flow Monitoring exercises at key border crossing points with South Africa (Beitbridge) to capture migration trends by analysing the inflows and outflows of movements into the country, through the border points. IOM is looking to scale up Flow Monitoring intervention to other main border posts (Forbes, Nyampanda, Chirundu, Plumtree, Victoria Falls) receiving returnees migrants from neighboring countries, to ensure a proper registration and profiling of the vulnerabilities and conditions of returnees to provide and appropriate post-arrival humanitarian assistance.

POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

IOM in the Region has undertaken a more in-depth analysis of travel and visa restrictions that States have put into place since the COVID-19 outbreak, including an overview of measures taken in Southern Africa. A brief has also been developed on the identification and monitoring of Consular, immigration needs. This is a living analysis

and will be updated.



IOM's COVID-19 Global Mobility Impacts platform

IOM Madagascar is in discussion with the Ministry of Transportation and other lead ministries including the Ministry of Health to assess needs for technical support and capacity building in order to implement Health Screening Points (HSPs) which could be needed to ensure a resumption of daily life activities and movements of person, while enabling to keep robust disease surveillance and control in place in areas of high congregation and population mobility (bus stations, markets, etc).

IOM Zambia is supporting training of POE staff. Trainings have included both health and non-health frontline officials in POEs inclusive of Immigration, Port Health, Customs and police. Trainings have been conducted in five (5) POEs country wide in Eastern and Copperbelt provinces, while trainings in Nakonde are on-going.

IOM Zimbabwe conducted an assessment of the border post and quarantine facility to assess the conditions in which returnees will be quarantined. Key finding showed a lack of adequate standards, only few facilities were identified, most of them do not have running water, handwashing stations, disinfectant or sanitizers. The personnel responsible for provision of assistance in these the facilities are not trained in preventive measures and do not have the personnel protective equipment (PPE) to protect themselves and provide assistance. There

are challenges regarding insufficient food, Non-Food items, and a gap in medical services, screening, testing, case management, or health care treatment, counselling or psychological support. IOM Zimbabwe is scaling up interventions to provide support by sending tarpaulins and NFIs kits for the different quarantine facilities, Beitbridge, Plumtree, Chirundu to ensure isolation facilities are set up in the border posts and returning migrants have access to basic services.

In collaboration with the Programme National d'Hygiène aux Frontières (PNHF) of the Congolese Ministry of Health, **IOM DR. Congo** has trained between 11 and 16 May, 20 Data Managers who are deployed at points of entries and points of control in Kinshasa. The training for the Data Managers included the use of tablets (POE Data application) for contact tracing. This training enabled the frontline workers to be more capacitated to perform COVID-19 screenings, intercept COVID-19 cases, report alerts and trace contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

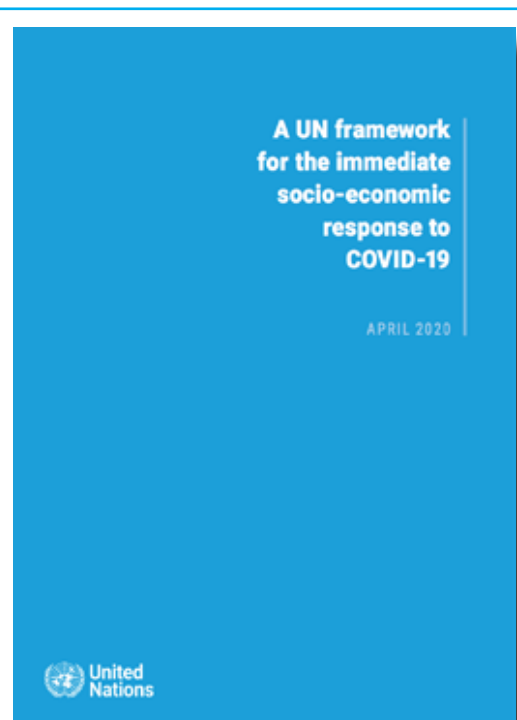
To support the Ministry of Health surveillance activities, **IOM Mozambique** has mobilized its community health workers across the southern provinces to contact returned migrant workers to ensure that they receive COVID-19 prevention and quarantine messages, and refer them to a health centre if they are experiencing symptoms. IOM is working in close coordination with local health authorities, migrant workers associations, community leaders and traditional medicine practitioners to locate and inform returned migrants and their relatives.

ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

The "United Nations Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19: Shared responsibility, global solidarity and urgent action for people in need" publication was launched in April 2020, and lays out a roadmap to support countries' paths to social and economic recovery under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinators.

IOM missions in the region undertook a COVID-19 Rapid Country Analysis, in view to support an assessment of socio-economic impacts on migrant and migration.

“Let's not forget this is essentially a human crisis. Most fundamentally, we need to focus on people – the most vulnerable.”
UN Secretary-General's Call for Solidarity



IN THE NEWS

IOM Joins Call to Action on Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Remittances

Geneva - As the world faces the economic and broader development repercussions of COVID-19, remittances to low- and middle-income countries are projected to fall sharply in 2020 - by about 20 percent or US \$110 billion. A reduction in remittances, in particular for remittance dependent countries, communities and households, can have substantial socio-economic impacts. [More at this link.](#)

Combating Xenophobia is Key to an Effective COVID-19 Recovery

Geneva - Few crises in our collective memory have had the global reach of COVID-19. Across our societies, communities have responded to this pandemic with strong cooperation and solidarity. Some, however, have found in it a pretext to scapegoat foreign nationals including migrants, and others living on the fringes of society, blaming them for the virus' spread.

[More at this link.](#)



IOM donates infection prevention control (IPC) to the Department of Immigration and the Ministry of Health in Zambia. The donated IPC materials will benefit Mwami, Chanida and Lusuntha points of entry, in Zambia - ©IOM 2020

On 22 April 2020, IOM's Regional Office for Southern Africa launched its [Regional Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan \(SPRP\) for Coronavirus Disease 2019](#), based on IOM's expertise in response to previous public health emergencies, such as the ongoing response to Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as in other humanitarian emergencies which affected several countries in the region. The financial requirements (49.9M) represent an indicative requirement for IOM's planned interventions in the region, aiming to cover emerging health, humanitarian and socio-economic needs, while working with governments and partners to ensure that migrants in the region, regardless of their legal status, are included in local, national and regional preparedness, response and recovery efforts.



IOM acknowledges the support of the following donors in the re-purposing of existing grants or new funding committed to date. This seed funding has enabled IOM to initiate a few of the most urgent COVID related initiatives in the region:



European Union



Government of Canada



Government of the United States of America



UKaid
from the British people



Kingdom of the Netherlands



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



german humanitarian assistance
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE