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## ECHO PROJECT BRIEFING

Ensuring access to life-saving emergency referral services for the communities living in the city of Beira, especially for the most vulnerable categories, namely pregnant women and children under five.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The night between March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2019, **Tropical Cyclone Idai** made landfall in Sofala Province, in central Mozambique, and particularly in the city of Beira and in the Districts of

Dondo and Nhamatanda. According to a rapid assessment conducted in the city of Beira at the end of March 2019 by International Committee of the Red Cross, the cyclone affected the entire population living in the area (approximately 592,090 inhabitants, Census 2017), with **almost 90% of its health infrastructure damaged**. Therefore, its population, and in particular pregnant women and children under five, who represent more than half of the population, were at risk in seeking and reaching basic healthcare.

As a key partner of the local health authorities (DPS) in supporting service delivery – more specifically maternal, newborn and child health care services – at the Central Hospital of Beira (HCB) and in 7 main health care centers in the Beira district, CUAMM participated in the rapid assessment of the health services and infrastructures in Beira. Following the assessment and upon official request of the DPS, CUAMM agreed to take on the role of leader in strengthening the emergency referral system in the city of Beira, by establishing **the urban ambulance system**.





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**The 12 months-initiative, fully funded by EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid – ECHO** since June 2019, intends to respond to the emergency in Beira city by improving access to basic and essential primary healthcare services, in particular obstetric and paediatric health care and preventive services, through interventions aimed at:

1. improving the skills of qualified healthcare personnel (especially nurses and midwives working in the 7 peripheral health units located in the most densely populated *bairros*) in identifying danger signs among

pregnant women and children under five, in referring cases to the HCB appropriately, as well as in implementing infection and prevention control (IPC) measures in order to reduce risks for infectious diseases;

2. supporting a system of ambulances assigned to 5 key health centres, strategically serving all of the 15 health centres (HCs) in the city of Beira, in order to ensure a 24/7 free-of-charge ambulance service for the whole population.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The project officially started on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2019, and soon after the initial months of implementation, a specific component aimed at strengthening the knowledge of healthcare personnel in referring patients arose. Therefore, a pilot triage system was designed and later implemented at the beginning of December 2019. Indeed, starting from this date a new triage system called **Beira Triage System (BeTS) for the emergency referrals** – created *ad hoc* for the setting and conditions of Beira City<sup>1</sup> – was elaborated. It was designed and implemented by CUAMM in collaboration with

CRIMEDIM (Research Center in Emergency and Disaster Medicine of Piemonte Orientale University), with the District and Hospital Health Authorities as a pilot in 3 of the 15 HCs involved in the intervention.

At the beginning of the project, 3 ambulances<sup>2</sup> were already operational as immediate CUAMM response to the emergency, to which other 2 have been added starting from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2019, in order to cover all the 15 health centres of Beira city. The **5 ambulances**, equipped with basic material and consumables, have been **allocated to the 5 main HCs**





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of Beira city (Ponta-Gea, Munhava, Chingussura, Macurungo and Nhaconjo) and **each one of them is covering the referrals from an average of 3 HCs.**

Moreover, in order to support the referral system and to ensure 24/7 skilled healthcare personnel availability at ambulance and HCs level, a total number of **35 nurses**, selected in collaboration with the district health authorities, have been **hired by the project** and allocated as follows:

- 20 nurses to the 5 main HCs maternity wards (4 nurses per HC);
- 15 nurses to the 5 ambulances (3 nurses per ambulance)

During the first 7 months of the project activities<sup>3</sup>, **3 different trainings** have been realized:

- Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment (ETAT) training provided by CRIMEDIM, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of September 2019 to a total of 64 participants;
- Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care training provided by the district health authorities in collaboration with the HCB during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November 2019 to a total of 72 participants;
- Beira Triage System (BeTS) training provided by CRIMEDIM during the last week of November 2019 to a total of 73 participants, in the 3 HCs selected for the implementation of the pilot triage system above mentioned.

Finally, an Integrated Management for Childhood Illness training is planned to be provided by the district health authorities during the last week of January 2020 to a foreseen total of 114 participants.

The data related to the referrals made by the 5 ambulances are collected using a specific referral form created by CUAMM and the DPS, in order to integrate the routine data with the project indicators.

Please find below a summary of the data collected during the first 7 months of project activities<sup>4</sup>:

**5,066**  
**Direct beneficiaries**  
(of which 1,970 pregnant women, 962 children U5 and 2,134 adults)

**0.25%**  
**percentage of deaths due to direct obstetric complications** of tot cases of direct obstetric complications

**10.40%**  
**percentage of deaths among children U5 within the first 24h of admission to Hospital**

**5**  
**N° of ambulances**

**5,066**  
**N° of emergency referrals**  
(of which 1,969 obstetrical cases, 1,097 neonatal/ paediatric cases, 1,434 medical cases and 566 surgical cases)

**55 MIN AND 48 SECS**  
**Ambulance average overall mission time**

**1,862**  
**N. of hospitalisation**

**1,969**  
**N. of women referred, receiving obstetric emergency care**

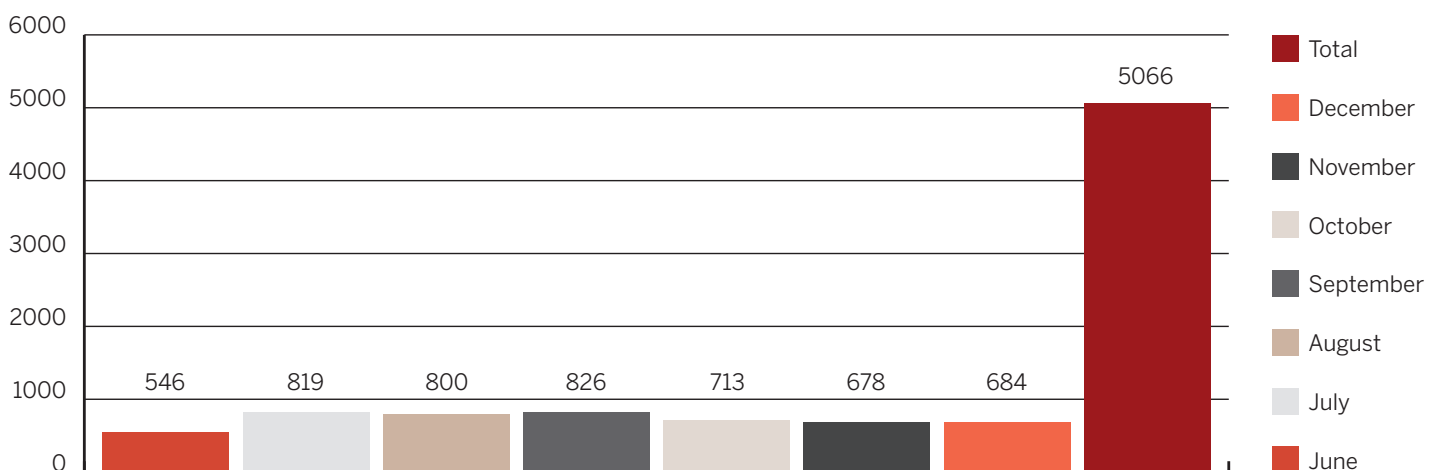
**962**  
**N. of children U5 referred, receiving emergency care**

**70**  
**N. of healthcare staff trained<sup>5</sup>**

**61**  
**N. of participants in the training, passing the final test<sup>6</sup>**

**9**  
**N. of days' drugs not available in stock<sup>7</sup>**

## TOTAL OF EMERGENCY REFERRALS PER MONTH (June – December 2019)

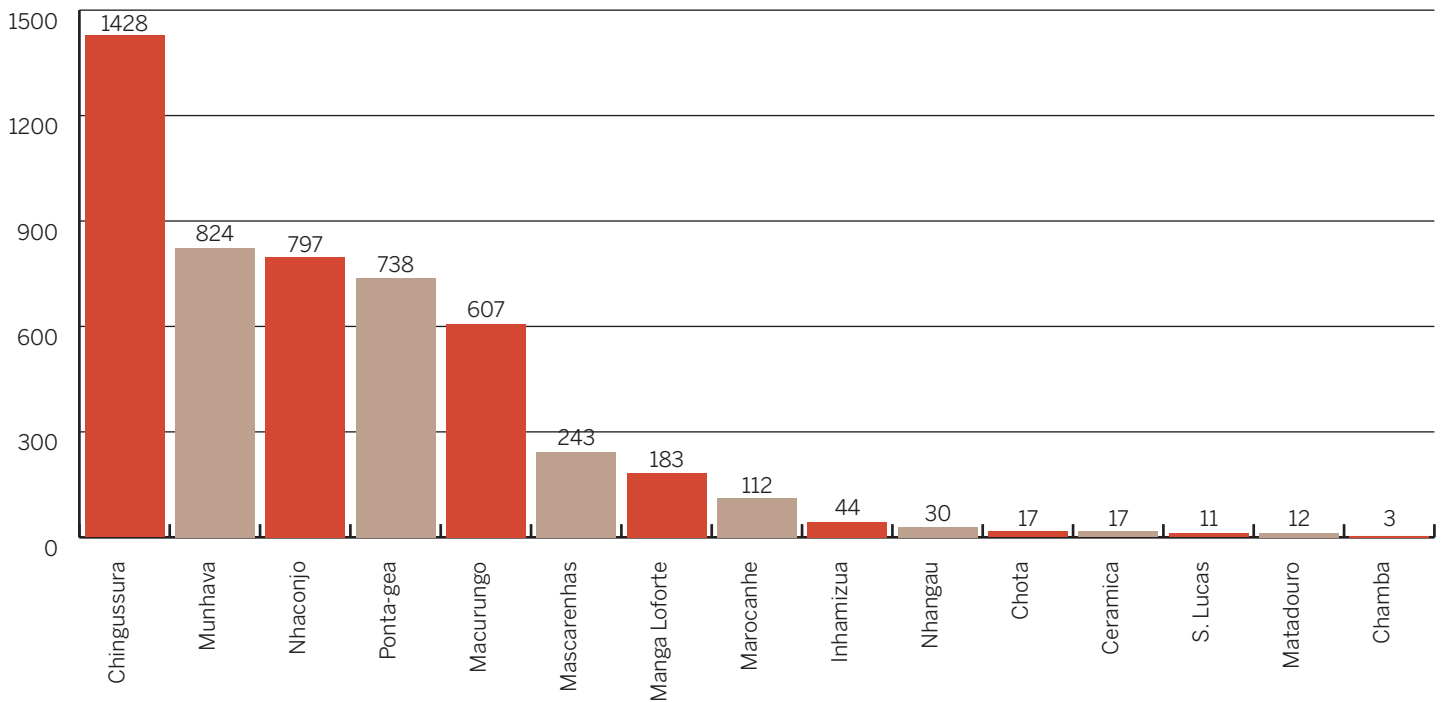




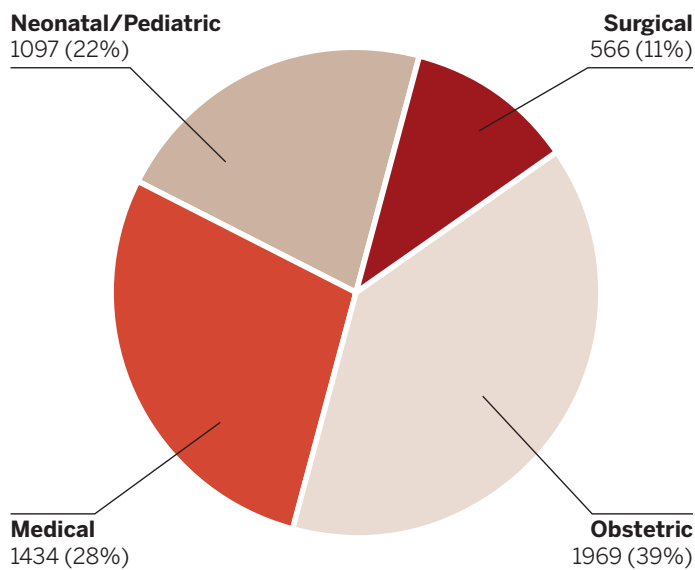
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## TOTAL OF EMERGENCY REFERRALS PER HEALTH CENTER (June – December 2019)



## TOTAL OF EMERGENCY REFERRALS PER TYPE OF EMERGENCY (June – December 2019)



So far, this ECHO-funded project resulted to be positively welcomed by both local and national health authorities, since it is **the very first 24/7 free-of-charge urban ambulance service in Mozambique**. Therefore, upon official request of the Mozambican Ministry of Health (MoH), CUAMM is committed in identifying additional funds to keep supporting the MoH in its effort in establishing a resilient ambulance referral system in Beira.

1 Considering the cyclone recovery phase in a Low-Middle Income Country.  
2 Rented minibuses adapted to be used as ambulances.  
3 Reference period: 01.06.2019 – 31.12.2019.

4 Reference period: 01.06.2019 – 31.12.2019.  
5 Data calculated as average between the 3 trainings provided.  
6 Data calculated as average between the 3 trainings provided.  
7 Data calculated as monthly average.