

**Citizens Initiative**



## **BACKGROUND**

When Cyclone Idai hit Eastern Zimbabwe, people rallied to support. The Zimbabwe Cyclone Relief Fund-GoFundMe was set up in response to Cyclone Idai which affected parts of Zimbabwe in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. The fund received funds from individual donors across the world through a GoFundMe page administered by Freeman Chari as the team leader. The effort became known as Citizens Initiative mainly because money was raised from more than 3000 individuals.

Initially the objective of the fund was to contribute towards meeting the urgent needs (emergency relief) of the affected communities arising from Cyclone Idai's impact with a target of US\$10,000. Specifically, the fund was on a short-term basis and focused on providing non-perishable foods, clean bottled water, blankets and possibly tents for displaced people.

Given the overwhelming response from other stakeholders in meeting the short-term needs, evaluation by deployed volunteers and the huge response from donors (the fund surpassed US\$100,000) a review was made to cooperate long term needs (recovery) of the disaster areas. The long-term focus of the fund targeted rehabilitation of schools.

### **Fund Objectives:**

1. Emergency Response - Assist affected communities with immediate urgent needs arising from Cyclone Idai. This includes provision of food, bottled water, medicals and temporary shelter.
2. Emergency Recovery - Assist the affected communities to at least restore and/or improve lives and infrastructure that supported them prior to Cyclone Idai. Specifically, the fund focused on the rehabilitation of school infrastructure.

**Fund Achievements:**

Through partnerships with volunteers and organizations in Zimbabwe and South Africa the fund significantly contributed to the achievement of the two objectives. On emergency response the Fund disbursed money to Miracle Missions and One Church who provided emergency food supplies, clothes and medicals to areas in Chimanimani, Chipinge and Bikita. Further, the fund assisted a group of Zimbabweans based in South Africa to transport donated items from South Africa to Zimbabwe.

Item	Scope	Cost
Food Supplies and Medical Supplies	Miracle Missions and One Church purchased food and medicals for emergency response. The food items complemented food donated by other donors. Medicines were purchased and these were dispatched together with volunteers coordinated by Miracle Missions.	Food supplies:  Medicals:
Transport	The fund supported the transportation of food and clothing items collected in South Africa to Zimbabwe. The goods were distributed in Masvingo.	

In terms of emergency recovery, the fund supported rehabilitation of infrastructure in Bikita, Chimanimani and Chipinge. Through the fund a total of six schools were assisted. The scope of the works carried in the schools include infrastructure rehabilitation -classrooms blocks, construction -classrooms and toilets, water provision and furniture. The breakdown of emergency recovery achievements of the fund are summarized in the following table.

Institution	Project Scope	Project Cost	Project Duration
1. Ngangu Primary School	Construction of a 16-squat hole toilet. The toilets were constructed at a new site after Cyclone Idai completely destroyed structure of the same.	The fund supported the entire project cost through providing building materials and labor costs. The total cost of the project is ---	63 days
2. Rimbi Primary School	Refurbishing a 2-classroom block after the roof was completely blown off by the wind. Work involved reconstruction from the wall plate, plastering, replacing the asbestos sheets, replacing broken window panes and repainting the entire block.	The fund met the entire cost of the project and provided building materials as well as meeting the labour costs of the project. The total cost of the project is ---	8 days
3. Mt Selinda High	Construction of a 10-squat hole and refurbishing of a junior science lab which had its roof damaged by the cyclone.	The fund partially covered costs of the project through providing building material. The total cost of the project is --	33 days
4. Tafara High School	Finishing construction of a 10-squat hole toilet structure from slab level. The project was inherited from well-wishers coordinated through Pardon Gambakwe.	The fund partially met the costs of the project. Building materials to cover the wall structure and roof were provided at a cost of ----	13 days (from day materials were supplied)
5. Ndimba Primary	The fund assisted the school to complete a four-classroom block whose completion had stalled. The school was also provided with furniture for the two of the four classes.	The fund covered the entire cost of the project. Building material and labor was provided to the school at a cost of ---. Further 80 chairs and 16 tables were supplied to the school a cost of ---. In total the project cost was	
6. Mandara Primary School	Construction of a 2-classroom block and supply of furniture the two classrooms.	The fund covered the entire cost of the project. Building material and labor was provided to the school at a cost of ---. Further 55 chairs were refurbished and 35 chairs & 16 tables were supplied to the school a combined cost of ---. In total the project cost was	45 days
7. Ndimba High	The fund supplied pipes that were used to connect the school to clean water. The water infrastructure of the school was damaged by Cyclone Idai. This project was supervised by Miracle Missions	The fund met the entire cost of the project-supply of materials and installation at a cost of US\$2,000.	

## **Citizwean Clinics**

Following the Cyclone Idai Initiative, the same spirit was carried over in establishing ad hoc mobile clinics following the healthcare crisis in Zimbabwe. These were called Citizwean Clinics. We helped kids and the elderly across the country get access to healthcare. We raised \$23 000 towards this effort and our volunteer doctors saw 3400 people across Zimbabwe.

## **CITIZENS INITIATIVE TODAY**

The Citizens Initiative operated as an informal rapid response entity, relying mainly on the network of volunteers and goodwill. We have since registered as a non-profit organisation in United States of America. We are also expanding our network within Zimbabwe so we can work with more communities.

## **OUR STRENGTHS**

- 1) **Community Participation** - We believe in community participation in our projects. Our financing has been through individual donations, and we have relied on community volunteers to help execute the projects. We do not tolerate political interference.
- 2) **Transparency & Accountability** - We believe in total transparency especially with regards to finances and the costs of our interventions.
- 3) **Efficiency & Less Bureaucracy** - We execute fast and are not fond of bureaucratic red-tape
- 4) **Low Cost High Impact Interventions** - We believe in working with communities to identify the most cost-effective interventions for the challenges they have.

## **Past Work**



**Mandara Primary School Block**



**Ndimba Primary School Block**



**Toilets At Ngangu Primary School**





**Shoe drive for school kids (2019)**



Citizens  
Initiative



Citizens Initiative has good news  
for the residents of **Rimbi, Manyezu,  
Mbeure, Matezwa and  
Nyazvikari**

**FREE**

*We will be offering*  
**BASIC  
MEDICAL CARE**

for children under the age of 10 and adults over 60 years  
We will be operating from Rimbi Clinic

**15TH JANUARY 2020**

 Rimbi Clinic, Rimbi,  
Chipinge  
Callback | Whatsapp | Text  
+263 714 896 724

A flyer that we used for a Citizwean Clinic in Chipinge



**Some of the patients we saw at Siabuwa in Binga.**





## Articles of Incorporation

A video of the cyclone response is here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXKokCtCOd4>

## Website

Coming soon

## Contacts

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