

When the unprecedented becomes precedented: Lessons from Cyclones Idai and Kenneth



Post-event study in Southeast Africa - desk research, in-person interviews in impacted areas, analysis to deconstruct why these events became a disaster

Learning from disasters is critical if we want to understand how people are already resilient and what's needed to further their resilience.



Unprecedented weather - days of wind and heavy rain in Malawi, catastrophic landslides in Zimbabwe, Cat 5 winds and so much water that an inland lake formed in Mozambique

Idai was the most devastating cyclone on record to hit Africa and the second-deadliest storm in the southern hemisphere; Kenneth made landfall in northern Mozambique as the strongest cyclone (220 km/h) to ever make landfall in Africa

Much progress has been made in Africa - all 3 countries saw notable successes, particularly with forecasting and forecast dissemination. But challenges remain. The study identified concrete suggestions for future action.

