

# Oxfam seeking world help for Mozambicans

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## *Herald Reporter*

**SAVE the Children Fund (UK) and Oxfam have launched their first joint emergency appeal to the international community in an urgent attempt to secure food and shelter for millions of Mozambicans who have been displaced because of MNR attacks.**

Oxfam's desk officer who covers Southern Africa, Ms Anne Lloyd-Williams, said yesterday that four million people — over a quarter of the Mozambican population — face hunger and destitution because of attacks by the MNR bandits. Oxfam and Save the Children Fund were now co-ordinating a \$9 million relief operation in the worst-hit areas.

The director-general of Save the Child-

ren Fund, Mr Nicholas Hinton, said recently: "We must not wait for famine to strike, or for terrifying television pictures to rouse the compassion of the world. If we act now, and get public and international support, the worst can be averted and thousands of lives saved."

Ms Lloyd-Williams said since September 1976, fighting had escalated in Mozambique as the MNR attacked the northern parts of Mozambique, traditionally the most fertile parts which had served as the country's breadbasket.

Many Mozambicans had lost their homes, belongings and even relatives. Many children had been orphaned. Although it had been very difficult to establish definite figures on the people at risk, the Mozambican authorities had been very co-operative in supplying information to aid agencies.

Oxfam had been working very closely with the Mozambicans providing transport

to ferry aid to the needy provinces.

Ms Lloyd-Williams said the Zambezia province was the most heavily populated Mozambican province and therefore had more problems needing emergency attention. The province required 47 000 tonnes of food aid.

The two non-governmental agencies are organising an aid package to include grain, fabrics, sewing kits, tools, medicines, soap and blankets, plus trucks to deliver these supplies to the most worst hit areas.

The second phase of the aid operation later this year will provide seeds, fertilisers and tools for up to 50 000 families to enable them to plant crops from October this year to February next year.

Oxfam and Save the Children are pressing the United Nations to send a second co-ordinator to handle emergency operations in Maputo. They also called on the EEC to translate aid pledges into reality.