

Bandit victims aid ^{H. 13/2/87} appeal

Herald Reporter

TWO of Britain's biggest overseas aid agencies yesterday launched a joint appeal to raise \$11 million to help Mozambicans facing hunger and poverty because of continued MNR bandit attacks.

According to a statement released by Oxfam's Zimbabwe office, this is the first-ever joint appeal by Oxfam and Save the Children and will be aimed at providing relief to the worst hit areas.

"We must not wait for famine to strike and terrifying television pictures to rouse the compassion of the world. If we act now, and if we get public and international support, the worst can be averted and thousands of lives saved," said the director-general of Save the Children, Mr Nicholas Hinton, in the statement.

The statement highlights the toll that has been exacted on Mozambique by the MNR, backed by South Africa, which has "waged a relentless war using terror tactics. The disruption of agriculture and communications has been compounded by the worst drought in the south and central provinces in living memory and widespread crop failure".

The statement said the situation had been deteriorating since September last year, prompting the two agencies to join forces and launch their own emergency relief operation.

The \$11 million will initially be used to buy grain, fabric, sewing kits, tools, medicines, soap, blankets, knitted tops, high energy biscuits and other essential goods plus trucks to deliver them.