



UNITED METHODIST COMM.

(212) 870-3600 (Cable: miss..)

UMCOR ALERT

Mozambique Emergency

UMCOR is issuing an urgent request to members of the United Methodist Church for the Emergency in Mozambique. Food, children's clothing, medicine and medical equipment are desperately needed. In late July, UMCOR sent \$50,000 to the United Methodist Church in Mozambique to respond to the victims in Hoimoine.

Then, again, in mid August, word was received for desperately needed children's clothing and domestic cooking utensils. UMCOR responded with a shipment of children's clothing and funds for purchase of domestic utensils.

And now, the atrocities have reached deeply into the lives of the United Methodist family. Fifteen United Methodists were killed at Cambine, (close to Inhambane) and a pastor and a wife of a District Superintendent with 52 others were taken hostage. Medical supplies stolen; homes, church property, and community buildings looted and burned. Refugees are displaced and there is massive disruption to all life in that area.

The situation is desperate. This Mozambique Emergency Advance will also help provide life saving assistance country-wide through the Mozambique Council of Churches.

The major problem is not drought, not floods, but war. Local populations have worked hard to plant food crops but have then been unable to harvest their crops because of the activities of the "Armed Bandits." The bandits burn fields and houses and take away material possessions. The situation is most critical in the fertile province of Zambezia, the "breadbasket" of Mozambique, where bandits have destroyed the infrastructure and severely disrupted food production. People have been forced to flee in search of safety and are being cared for in refugee camps.

At least 1.2 million persons within Mozambique have been displaced from their homes. Another 400,000 have crossed the borders of Mozambique to Southern Malawi, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. These numbers will increase and the problem of refugees and displaced persons will be a long term problem for the churches of Southern Africa. Funds are needed not only to provide critically needed food, clothing, water, and shelter to displaced persons but to assist in rebuilding the agricultural infrastructure of Mozambican village life. Funds are urgently needed for the Mozambique Emergency, Advance Special Number 156500.

For Up-to-date Information

call

UMCOR Hotline 1-800-841-1235