

# Radio team helps those affected by cyclone

A Worthing team flew out to Mozambique to help with the crisis caused by Cyclone Idai in an unusual way.

Jon Hargreaves and Johnny Fisher, who both live in the town, flew out to Beira to start up a First Response Radio station to spread information to people affected.

They were invited by the UN to work in Buzi, a town about 26km south of Beira. This is an area badly affected by the cyclone, which has reportedly killed more than 600 people.

Jon and Johnny are from Worthing charity Health Communication Resources, set up after seeing the impact community media has in Africa, Asia and Middle East.

Jon said: "Our inspiration comes from the example of Jesus whose life exemplified

care for the vulnerable, marginalised and poor of this world."

The team used a suitcase radio invented and built by a Worthing radio technical expert, Charles Randall.

These are designed for disaster response teams to establish emergency radio stations within 72 hours of a disaster to help in areas with limited communication.

Besides the 71kg suitcase radio, Jon and Johnny had to take a transmitter and an aerial, as well as tents just in case there was no accommodation for them.

The two radio men trained people in Mozambique on how to create content and run FM radio broadcasts.

With radio, TV and telecom infrastructure destroyed

by the cyclone, people need information and radio is said to play a key part in reducing the spread of cholera.

Jon said: "The station we set up, Buzi FM, is providing critical information such as where to get food, clean water, medical help or how to find missing family members.

"But it also provides messages of encouragement and help and gives the communities a voice, letting them tell their stories creating a community dialogue."

The First Response team members said the trip will cost about £10,000, and it needs donations. People have already contributed more than £7,000. For more, visit [www.firstresponseradio.org](http://www.firstresponseradio.org) or to donate, visit [www.give.net/mozambique](http://www.give.net/mozambique).



Johnny and Jon with some of the Radio Buzi team, the sign reads: "Buzi FM - a voice of hope at a time of crisis"