

The Media Coverage of Tropical Cyclones in Mozambique: A Study Centered on the News Follow-Up of the Impacts of 'Idai

By

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Abstract

We are concerned about the apathy of the press in dedicating itself to covering a subject that constitutes one of today's challenges. "The Media in Covering Tropical Cyclones in Mozambique: a study focused on the news follow-up of the impacts of idai" comprises the theme of this article. Based on concerns about the (im) possibility of Television of Mozambique (TVM) covering and publishing news about Tropical Cyclone Idai, the study aims to understand whether or not TVM continues to explore other angles that could provide further information. For the understanding of a specific Tropical Cyclone, from the perspective of this information being able to enlighten viewers. The notion that journalistic work must go beyond the simple reporting of events moves us to develop this study, and it is essential that, after the occurrence of a phenomenon, the journalist dedicates himself to Follow up to explore other nuances that would not be explored in depth. in a simple immediate news report. Methodologically, we used Content Analysis with a hybrid approach (qualitative and quantitative). We found that TVM did not follow up on cyclonic impacts during the period under analysis (April and May 2019), having often published breaking stories instead of in-depth articles on the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Idai.

Keywords: Follow up, Cyclone Idai, Environment, Media, Mozambique Television.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mozambique is, after Madagascar, the most vulnerable country to climate change in Southern Africa and one of the most affected in the world. The country is cyclically affected by the impacts of this type of natural disasters and cyclonic manifestations are increasingly intense with each passing year. In this context, the media are recognized as vehicles whose role is to provide an information service regarding any aspects that affect society. Naturally, the media do not appear as agents that solve problems, but they can always send an appealing message about how people can behave in a given situation.

Mozambique's vulnerability to tropical cyclones can be seen as a topic that poses a challenge to newsrooms. We say this because weather coverage in the country, through the media, could be a practice with fertile ground to take root. The challenge we are referring to is for newsrooms to conceive coverage of natural disasters, particularly Cyclones, as an agenda at the top of their priorities.

At the rate the country is at in terms of frequency of occurrence of tropical cyclones in the country, it is thought that it is necessary to raise and deepen the debate on the social responsibility of the media, if we want to think of the media as legitimate carriers of appealing information.

Tropical Cyclones in Mozambique place the country in an emergency situation that, unequivocally, affects several sectors, challenging them to reformulate their way of acting to face the emergency that now persists. We therefore understand that the media is a sector that must view the country's vulnerability to the impacts of tropical cyclones as an emergency. To understand this possibility, it is important to analyze Mozambique Television's coverage of the impacts of Cyclone "Idai".

The tropical cyclones that have been felt in Mozambique seem to show the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Evidence of this vulnerability may be reflected in the impacts of Cyclones Idai, Kenneth, among other tropical depressions that have devastated the national territory.

Cyclone Idai, which devastated the central part of the country, with emphasis on the city of Beira, in the province of Sofala, and the subsequent floods caused the deaths of more than 600 people, 1,641 injured, 400 were displaced, says the National Situation Report of the Cyclone Idai and Kenneth (GUDO et al., 2019). With the study "The Media in the coverage of Tropical Cyclones in Mozambique", we seek to understand whether or not TVM continues to explore other perspectives that provide more data for understanding a Tropical Cyclone, aiming to clarify and elucidate viewers.

1.1 Investigative Restlessness

One of the issues discussed regarding the coverage of tropical Cyclones is the continuation of the dissemination of articles on a subject previously covered by the media (GIRARDI and REGES, 2007). The two authors discuss the notion of follow-up, clarifying that the disclosure of an event may deserve news continuity, since all aspects of an event cannot be exhausted in just one report news.

Regarding media follow-up, it is worth mentioning that Girardi and Reges (2007) refer to the need for journalistic coverage far beyond the simple fact of reporting an event. In this sense, we can think about the possibility of Television of Mozambique having followed up on the impacts of Cyclone Idai, under the assumption that it is necessary for journalistic coverage to go beyond the dimension of just reporting the occurrence of an event, but also of follow up on the matter and explore other angles.

Amaral et al. (2020) state that time affects the journalistic narrative in many ways. There is the time involved in producing the journalistic material, there is the pressure of time in conveying the information and there is the inscription of time in the narrative of the event. There is the moment of

emergency, of alert or outbreak of the crisis, which always emerges due to its consequences. Subsequently, there is a phase that includes the search for the causes and controversies surrounding the fact.

Given this thought, it seems that the authors recognize that it is necessary for journalistic coverage to prioritize news follow-up, with a view to projecting an in-depth approach to events, in this case, tropical Cyclones.

In the United States of America (USA), on December 12, 2021, the State of Kentucky was shaken by a long-lasting tornado. The storm caused deaths and destruction of several properties, especially homes in several cities.

On this day, the New York Times website published on December 12th the news with the following title: Maps: Where the Tornadoes struck properties and houses which means: Maps: Where the tornado destroyed properties and houses (NEW YORK TIMES, 2021). After this news, others followed. On December 13, a news headline read: Kentucky Tornadoes Followed Flash Floods, Ice Storm and a Covid Spike (NEW YORK TIMES, 2021). Translated, it means: Kentucky tornado followed by flooding, ice breaking and an increase in the number of COVID-19 infections.

On December 15th, a news story was published whose title stated: What to Know about the Deadly Tornado Outbreak, which in Portuguese means: What to know about the severely deadly tornado (NEW YORK TIMES, 2021). In chronological order, the last three news items appear to be within a short time frame. However, later on, the New York Times appears to have followed up on the tornado's occurrence days after the storm struck.

Let's see: On January 25, 2022, the vehicle released the following news: A Kentucky Town Feels the Long Reach of a Tornado's Trauma or: A Kentucky town suffers from a prolonged trauma caused by the tornado (NEW YORK TIMES, 2022).

Considering the time horizon, the New York Times appears to have covered the tornado in the State of Kentucky for almost a month, which seems to us like the vehicle prioritized news follow-up. In Asia, in turn, the example of Indonesia is given. On December 16, 2021, BBC News Brasil released an article with the title: Tsunami in Asia: a wave of death and destruction. In the report, the channel reports on the tsunami that shook several Asian countries, including Indonesia, 18 years ago, with the natural disaster occurring on December 26, 2004 (BBC NEWS BRASIL, 2021).

Part of the original text of the report says: The 226,000 lives taken by the tsunami waters will always be a painful reminder of nature's destructive capacity. Faced with a future of climate change, the lessons left by giant waves, about how to respect the planet and protect communities, must be learned (BBC NEWS BRASIL, 2021).

On September 29, 2018, BBC News Brasil published the news that said: More than 380 people died after a tsunami triggered by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake hit a city in Indonesia on Friday. Waves three meters high swept over Palu, on the island of Sulawesi (BBC NEWS BRAZIL, 2018).

Among the two articles broadcast by BBC News Brasil, one is simple news and the other is a report about a tsunami that hit Indonesia and other Asian countries. With the report, the channel seems to have privileged the in-depth look at the event, highlighting the consequences of the disaster and the progress of the rescue work.

Rodrigues and Xavier (2013, p. 1) state that "unlike news, which is simple and objective, reporting is rich in details of information, therefore, it generates greater interest and requires extra care in

investigating the facts, when checking sources, so that the text does not run the risk of becoming confusing”.

Thus, it can be said that news follow-up seems to be an ideal way to do more detailed journalistic work and this would require more time to work on a given subject. In this sense, BBC News Brasil may have privileged follow-up when producing a report on the occurrence of a tsunami, in an effort to provide the public with more complete information beyond the simple fact of reporting the matter.

Furthermore, the British channel's report includes a kind of reminder about the threats of natural disasters that says the following: Faced with a future of climate change, the lessons left by giant waves, about how to respect the planet and protect communities, must be learned (BBC NEWS BRAZIL, 2021).

In this excerpt, it seems to us that the follow-up allowed the journalist to also bring a didactic angle on the occurrence of the tsunami, as a problem of climate change and the need to be sensitive to this situation. Europe, in turn, according to *Diário de Notícias de Portugal* (2016) is considered by the United Nations (UN) as the third region in the world most affected by natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods, right after the Americas and to Asia.

In July 2021, Germany was hit by floods whose damage appears to have been large. Several media outlets provided information about the situation. On July 18, 2021, Euronews reported the following: Torrential rains cause flooding in southern Germany (EURONEWS, 2021).

On August 15, 2021, practically a month later, the international channel published the news that said: Germany is slow in responding to flood victims. The news reported that 180 people had died that day (EURONEWS, 2021).

Then, on October 18th, approximately four months after the floods occurred, a piece of news from Euronews (2021) had the following title: The factors that led to the deadly floods in Germany and the challenge of reconstruction.

The first and second articles were published within a month, the second and third are separated by two months. The third and first are separated by a period of four months. The three articles address the same phenomenon, but from different angles.

The first article is an immediate report on the event and the rest, from the angle of approach; it seems to us that Euronews was guided by the follow-up, by denouncing the late response to the victims and trying to explain the causes of floods with apparently negative impacts.

The news examples referenced above find support in the approaches of authors such as Girardi, Reges, Rogrigues and Xavier who share the same idea, arguing that news is a temporal product. For this reason, it is crucial that the subject, now disclosed, be continued, in order to explore more of it and make it possible to clarify issues that would not fit into a simple news report.

The News Manual says that “tracks” show how different parts of life are connected. Whenever you finish writing a story, you limit your account of the event or debate to a single moment in time.

“Follow-ups help us contextualize stories over a long period of time and explain cause and effect. Most events are like throwing a stone into a puddle: the stone forces the ripples to spread out, disturbing the water in all directions. Just because we stop reporting an event (like a falling rock) doesn't mean the ripples themselves stop spreading. We must observe and report the ripples too”, warns THE NEWS MANUAL (2019, p. 1).

In the particular case of Africa, specifically in Mozambique, we were unable to identify relevant examples of continuous news. Most of the articles were seen as breaking news/stories and not necessarily follow up.

In the field of research, the authors who wrote with a scientific content about the issue of news follow-up in journalistic coverage of natural disasters in the country are countable.

We have studies by authors such as Buque, Langa and Macia (2018) that address environmental educommunication without, however, referring to tropical cyclones or follow-up in publicizing the phenomenon.

Although these authors have contributed with their studies in another aspect of Communication, the lack of response, with a scientific content, regarding the (in) existence of media follow-up on Tropical Cyclonic Impacts, gave rise to concerns that gave rise to the following question: Will there be a Television of Mozambique privileged the news follow-up in covering the impacts of Cyclone Idai between the months of April and May 2019?

1.2 News follow-up and coverage of the impacts of Cyclone Idai

It is vital to understand to what extent the impacts of Cyclone Idai would have the privilege of meriting news follow-up by Televisão de Moçambique. But before trying to make this bridge, it is important to know the concept of follow-up and related aspects.

Firstly, the Priberam dictionary defines follow up (continuity) as a task or function that aims to establish consistency and coherence of all elements (images, sounds, cuts, sequences, characterization of characters, objects, spaces, etc.) of a film, a show, a program and more. The dictionary states that follow up (continuity) is related to what is continuous or has a continuous duration.

The online dictionary of the Portuguese language, Infopédia, relates follow up to continuation, continuation and subsequence. The definitions of the concept of follow-up in both dictionaries have similarities that lead to the same line of approach, which is the continuation of a given subject.

Still on follow-up, Cardoso (2017) states that it consists of following, monitoring, keeping the topic on the agenda, in order to inform public opinion in an uninterrupted manner about the evolution of the event and not let the issue die without the reader being aware of it. As the case unfolds.

The author recalls that monitoring the development of news is one of the central aspects in the process of forming, informing and clarifying public opinion. The lack of continuity causes speculation and consequent misinformation.

According to Ferreira and Gil (2011) apud Cardoso (2017), the functions of the press are reserved for providing a forum for the discussion of ideas and giving voice to public opinion to act as a watchdog.

Compliance, says Cardoso (2017), materializes through hard work, around the monitoring of matters of public interest. Only in this way will citizens be equipped with information that allows them to judge objectively when called upon to take a stand.

Ferreira and Gil (2011) cited by (Cardoso, 2017), these expectations are based on the assumption that ideal democracy is equivalent to participatory democracy, in which well-informed citizens play an active role in terms of political decision-making.

These statements suggest to us the idea that since follow-up allows the processing of information in an accurate way, which can generate different perspectives; it has the potential to encourage a debate between members of a social fabric about a phenomenon of its own. Interest or that greatly affects your day-to-day life.

Cardoso (2017) states that the press is the privileged place for discussing ideas and monitoring reported issues until their outcome. An informed person is less at risk of making wrong decisions and will be more cautious against manipulation.

In this sense, we can assume that the follow-up would be a mechanism by which the impacts of Cyclone Idai would be part of Mozambique Television's agenda, being able to update what was happening in the affected areas, and being able to generate debates on the issue of the vulnerability of these regions to Tropical cyclones and solutions for adapting to these natural disasters. Furthermore, the author states that the proactivity of journalists appears to be one of the important aspects, so that a given matter enters the media agenda and receives due follow-up.

Regarding this thought, (Meneses, 2003 apud Cardoso, 2017) recognizes the need for the journalist to be insistent and avoid preconceived ideas, which involves resorting to the practice of news follow-up.

1.3 The thirteenth (13th) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

According to the United Nations (UN) website, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the environment and climate, and ensure that people, everywhere, live can enjoy peace and prosperity. These are the objectives to which the United Nations is contributing in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda in the country and in the world.

The United Nations recalls that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consisting of 17 objectives, broken down into 169 targets, was approved by world leaders on September 25, 2015, at a memorable summit at the UN headquarters in New York, in the United States. United of America.

Entitled “Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the United Nations resolution would come into force on January 1, 2016. The thirteenth Sustainable Development Goal says:

“Adopt urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts”. Among the goals of this objective, three stand out: strengthening resilience and the capacity to adapt to climate-related risks and natural disasters in all countries; integrate measures related to climate change into national policies, strategies and planning.

The third goal is to improve education, increase awareness and human and institutional capacity on mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning measures regarding climate change.

As we can see, the thirteenth objective privileges the notion of raising awareness about natural disasters, particularly tropical cyclones. Now, it is known that the media, in addition to informing, also has the function of forming citizenship, which means that if TVM had guided the news follow-up in covering the impacts of Cyclone Idai, it would have contributed to raising awareness about the climate agenda you want to achieve.

1.4 The Press Law and its applicability in the coverage of Tropical Cyclones

Law No. 18/91 of 10 August defines the press as information bodies whose main activity is the collection, processing and public dissemination of information, in the form of graphic publications, radio, television, cinema or any reproduction of writings, sound or images intended for social communication.

The instrument points out that the press contributes, among many others, to the fulfillment of objectives such as: the consolidation of national unity and the defense of national interests; the promotion of democracy and social justice; scientific, economic, social and cultural development; raising the level of social, educational and cultural awareness of citizens; citizens' timely access to facts, information and opinions; educating citizens about their rights and duties; promoting dialogue between public authorities and citizens and promoting dialogue between world cultures.

Regarding citizens' timely access to facts, information and opinions, TVM could have achieved this objective with continued coverage of the impacts of Cyclone Idai. After the storm occurred, several people were left incommunicado, with the destruction of infrastructure, including telecommunications, as mentioned in the news from the online newspaper O País, on March 19, 2019.

“In addition to cutting electricity, Cyclone Idai is affecting communication, preventing people in the affected regions from interacting via cell phone or internet. This has been the case since last night (March 18, 2019) in the center of the country”, (O PAÍS ONLINE, 2019).

It is assumed, therefore, that with continued news coverage of the impacts of Cyclone Idai, the victims would know what the authorities were doing to restore the damage and reestablish communications interrupted by the bad weather.

1.5 Scheduling Theory or Agenda Setting

As the main theory of our study, we propose Agenda Setting. It is our understanding that news continuity in covering the impacts of Cyclone Idai would be intrinsically linked to the media's ability to schedule its audience on certain hot topics.

According to Sousa (2006), the Scheduling Theory was presented by McCombs and Shaw in 1972 and developed from the study of the electoral campaign for the President of the United States in 1968.

“The Agenda-Setting Theory argues that the media have the ability (not intentional or exclusive) to schedule topics that are the subject of public debate at any given moment”, (SOUSA, 2006, p. 501).

The author highlights that research carried out within the scope of Agenda Setting showed that the greater the media emphasis on a topic and the more continuous the approach to that topic, the greater the importance that the public attributes to that topic in their daily agenda.

Given the theoretical approach to scheduling, it can be said that this study fits the scheduling theory. If our concern is to understand whether or not Televisão de Moçambique privileged the follow-up on the impacts of Cyclone Idai, this presupposes understanding whether Televisão de Moçambique included the subject on its journalistic agenda.

As we have seen, agenda-setting theory emphasizes that the public attaches increasing importance to a given topic when it is continually highlighted by the media. Therefore, it is worth assuming that if TVM had followed up on the impacts of Cyclone Idai, then, probably, the public was properly informed about the phenomenon and this would be the first condition for the matter to become part of the public debate.

According to Sousa (2006), the success of scheduling depends on several factors. Among which the emphasis is on consonance and accumulation on a given topic. Regarding accumulation, the author states that a topic covered by the media probably has a better chance of moving onto the public agenda the more people are successively exposed to the same messages.

Consonance presupposes that a topic will more easily move onto the public agenda, with a certain framework, if the messages transmitted by different media are similar.

If Televisão de Moçambique was guided by follow-up, then the articles about the impacts of Cyclone Idai had the effect of accumulation, which would allow more people (viewers) to follow the evolution of the situation caused by the bad weather.

No less important is consonance, although it does not suitably fit our study. But it is worth stating that if TVM privileged news follow-up on the impacts of “Idai”, it probably had the opportunity to serve as a “mirror” for other media outlets to place the impacts of Cyclone Idai on their agenda.

42 editions of the 8 pm Telejornal were analyzed, which is the main news service on Television in Mozambique. From this number of editions, we managed to obtain 35 articles related to Cyclone Idai.

The news items collected are from the period between April and May 2019, two months after the occurrence of Cyclone Idai. The 35 articles cover different topics. Some about updating the number of victims and material damage, others about solidarity with people affected by the storm or the appeal for the investment necessary for reconstruction after the Cyclone.

Interpretation and analysis will be limited to these matters. These pieces have the potential to make us understand whether TVM followed up on the impacts of Cyclone Idai, in the true sense.

2. AN ANALYSIS OF TVM’S NEWS FOLLOW UP

It is natural for a media outlet to update data on the occurrence of a certain phenomenon. Television of Mozambique did so and therefore it is appropriate to bring here the issues that TVM disclosed in this regard.

Table 1: Update on the consequences of “Idai”

Update on the consequences of “Idai”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The area affected by Idai represents 47 percent of the 801,537 square kilometers of Mozambique's territorial area - 4 de Abril ▪ The number of deaths in central Mozambique rose from 501 to 518 - April 1 ▪ Humanitarian tragedy figures: preliminary data from INGC indicate a rise in deaths to 598 in the central zone ▪ Number of deaths victims of Cyclone Idai- April 9th rose to 602 ▪ 30 days after Idai: Collapse of the main transport pipeline leads to interruption of water supply to the city of Beira - 14th of April ▪ 30 days after Idai: Cyclone victim spends four days without eating while immersed in water and suffers from anemia - April 14

Source: Authors, 2023

The table shows us six articles, one of which mentions the area affected by Cyclone Idai, three about the update on the number of deaths caused by the natural disaster and two about the 30 days after the occurrence of the bad weather. The three articles about the death update appear to us as “breaking-stories”, as they are configured as being more reports on a new event and not necessarily a continuation of previous articles.

Even though they focus on Cyclone Idai, they do not clearly demonstrate that this is a follow-up to a previous issue. Despite the fact that these are new numbers of deaths, this alone is not enough to consider that there was news continuity, as follow-up presupposes that the article is a continuation of

a previous one and that it brings new elements or another angle to the subject, which it was not possible to verify these matters in reference.

Follow up is a journalistic term for a story that is written to portray more about the previously published event. These additional details may be new facts, developments, reactions or new aspects that have been provoked by the main phenomenon, (THE NEWS MANUAL, p.1, 2019)

The first and last two articles can be considered as a follow-up achievement. After TVM reported on the occurrence of Cyclone Idai in the city of Beira and the rest of central Mozambique, it was essential that the television station brought new approaches to the affected area. We believe that informing about this fact would help society in general to have an idea of the impact that the storm caused, in addition to giving an idea of the effort needed to recover after the damage caused.

We also see two articles in which TVM discusses the 30 days after Cyclone Idai. In one of the pieces, he talks about the interruption of water supply in Beira, due to the collapse of a pipeline and in another; he portrays the day-to-day life of an Idai victim, who lives in deplorable conditions. It can also be said that this is a follow-up on the impacts of Cyclone Idai.

However, in one of these two articles, it is thought that Televisão de Moçambique could have gone deeper, addressing not just one victim living in a precarious situation, it could have portrayed, for example, the lives of several people living in the same conditions. Talking about just one victim gives the idea that the majority is fine and that some people, the minority, continue to resent the consequences of Idai.

2.1 Post-Cyclone Idai recovery on Mozambique Television's agenda

Regarding post-Idai reconstruction, there are a total of 13 articles that address this subject. In the tables below, there will be the pivots of each piece, the analysis of which allows us to assess whether or not Televisão de Moçambique followed up on the impacts of Cyclone Idai in the period under study.

Table 2: Post-Cyclone Idai recovery

Post-Cyclone Idai recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, USA and Thailand promise to help with reconstruction- April 3, 2019 ▪ Government approves the terms of reference for preparing the program - April 2, 2019 ▪ Tica-Buzi Road reopens tomorrow, for all types of vehicles - April 2nd ▪ African Bank provides 100 million US dollars to Mozambique - April 2019 ▪ ADB announces 500 million US dollars for the post-Cyclone phase in the center of the country - April 5, 2019 ▪ African Union offers 9 million meticaís to INGC- 5 de Abril ▪ Government makes efforts to facilitate infrastructure reconstruction - April 12 ▪ Work completed on the bridge over the Munhinga River in Sussundega ▪ Government needs 7 billion meticaís to replace public infrastructure - 13 billion April ▪ Victims use refurbished sheet metal, reeds and stakes to replace their homes- 13April ▪ IMF guarantees financing worth more than 100 thousand dollars to Mozambique - April 13 ▪ IMF announces credit facilities - April 23 ▪ Macurungo complains about the lack of transparency in the redistribution of products - April 12 ▪ INGC declares zero tolerance for cases of product diversion for victims - April 12

- Sweden supports with 10 million dollars for the return to normality in the central area - May 23
- Optimistic businesspeople in the restoration of socio-economic infrastructures - 25th May
- Coastal protection of Beira: Construction of infrastructure costing 91 million dollars - 28 May

Source: Authors, 2023

The topic of post-Idai reconstruction featured 17 articles during the months of April and May on Telejornal. After weeks of rescuing and housing victims of Cyclone Idai in areas considered safe, debate ensued on the reconstruction of areas affected by the storm. Once again, these pieces seem more like breaking stories than follow-ups.

It is understood that Television of Mozambique seems to have guided a more progressive approach supported by speeches from entities and left aside the humanization that the victims deserved. For example, let's look at the following television play titles:

- Government makes efforts to facilitate infrastructure reconstruction - April 12, 2019
- Government needs 7 billion meticaïs to replace public infrastructure - April 13, 2019
- IMF guarantees financing worth more than 100 thousand dollars to Mozambique - April 13, 2019
- IMF announces credit facilities - April 23, 2019

These four news titles from the 8 pm Telejornal are merely breaking stories, they do not offer any in-depth approach that brings a reflection on what the victims were going through. Follow-up is based on the principle of new vision that a subject can offer the audience. Breaking stories are just reports, often with a single version of the phenomenon.

In the same table, we can see a minimal follow effort made by TVM, as we can see in the following articles published by it:

- Macurungo complains about the lack of transparency in the redistribution of products - April 12 2019
- Victims use refurbished sheets, reeds and stakes to replace their homes - April 13 2019

In these two pieces, Public Television seems to have privileged the follow-up in the sense that it brought the voices of those affected, who in turn, gave voice to the difficulties they were going through. These voices may have helped to assess the extent to which the impacts of Cyclone Idai interfered in the lives of the victims and how the management of this human crisis was progressing (good or bad).

2.2 Support for victims of Cyclone Idai and TVM coverage

After the devastation caused by Hurricane Idai, there was a wave of support for victims of the storm. Support came from many sides, involving non-governmental institutions, diplomatic entities, charitable organizations, companies, etc. Our research found that Television of Mozambique also focused its coverage on this solidarity movement, as illustrated in the table below.

Table 3: Support for victims

Support for victims
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Royal Group donates 10 million meticaïs and various products - April 4, 2019 ▪ The world turned towards Beira: at least 200 aircraft take off and or land at the airport - April 3, 2019 ▪ Lebanese community offers donation valued at 4,500 million meticaïs to victims of Idai - April 3, 2019 ▪ The number of solidarity grows across the country - April 1, 2019 ▪ Sixty tons of food for those affected in Manica - April 12, 2019 ▪ Military medical assistance arrives in the district of Nhamatanda in Sofala by air - April 12, 2019 ▪ PR relaunches solidarity movement in the country - May 1, 2019

- Sasol donates 400 thousand dollars in support of the victims of Cyclone Idai in the center of the country - 7 May 2019

Source: Authors, 2023

As we can see, Television of Mozambique seems to have privileged breaking stories in terms of supporting victims. Not that it is not important to report on who supported the victims of Cyclone Idai, but the frequency with which they did so may have been harmful as, instead of continuing to report on the needs and gaps that those affected were experiencing, TVM could have fallen, consciously or unconsciously, into promoting the image of those who offered support, leaving aside those who really need to give a voice, in this case the victims.

2.3. Agricultural production in the post-Idai period and TVM coverage

One of the consequences of Cyclone Idai was the destruction of agricultural fields and their respective crops, with 711 thousand hectares destroyed, according to the balance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER), in April 2019. From the data collected, Public Television mentioned the contours around agricultural production, let's see.

We understand that it is rational to take a look at this aspect, since agriculture in our country continues to be considered the basis of local development. This data validates the idea that the destruction of several hectares may have caused pockets of hunger and TVM, probably, may have accumulated this issue, in the sense of appealing to the intervention of those responsible for the solution, as illustrated in table below.

Table 4: Post-Idai agricultural production

Post-Idai agricultural production
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ICM guarantees: Impact of Idai will not compromise the cereal production plan - April 4, 2019 ▪ Agriculture and food security sector needs 67 billion meticaís - April 23, 2019 ▪ Governor of Sofala expects success in the 2nd agricultural season - May 7, 2019

Source: Authors, 2023

Regarding the issue of agricultural production, Television of Mozambique published little in the two months, judging by the number of articles, as the table shows us. Agriculture is considered the basis of the country's human and economic development. The sector was also severely affected by the bad weather.

However, Television of Mozambique appears to have been apathetic in not focusing its attention on aspects surrounding agricultural production in the months under review. TVM could have explored the subject more; the consequences suffered because of the Cyclone, from small, medium and large-scale producers of agricultural production.

The follow-up would have been a way in which Public Television could have taken sides to explore this issue. It is known that the channel has delegations in all provinces of the country, including those that were devastated by Idai, but it is understood that there may have been little effort on the part of local teams and at central level, where the entire informative scope is coordinated.

3. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Television of Mozambique represents the history of television in Mozambique, judging by its emergence and its coverage throughout the rest of the national territory. These characteristics alone give TVM a great responsibility in providing a public service that represents the sensibilities of citizens.

Mozambique, considered one of the countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, cyclically faces natural disasters and these have become a huge burden for citizens (the victims), government and society in general. This burden should also be enormous for the press, the sector considered the

fourth power. It turns out that natural disasters, which are increasingly felt in the country, also affect the newsrooms, or in a generalized way, the media.

It is possible to see journalistic coverage when a storm, cyclone or a specific tropical depression occurs. Until then there is no problem. What is disturbing is the fact that this rush of coverage or production of articles on ecological issues is only temporary, that is, it does not last, it happens sporadically at the height of the event, after the peak, the need to continue offering information is forgotten environmental in nature. It was within the scope of this discontinuity that this study sought to understand whether this actually occurs or not. The object of study, Television of Mozambique, made it possible to understand the hypotheses that guided this research.

Responding to three hypotheses, we would like to answer the third and then the first two. Therefore, the third refers to whether or not TVM's editorial statute is oriented towards environmental matters. It turns out that TVM does not even have a specific section on Environment, which could only be dedicated to environmental content. This data places public television in a negative classification. It doesn't make sense that to this day, TVM's editorial team hasn't have an editorial team focused on exploring environmental issues, at a time when the country calls for newsrooms to reinvent themselves with an eye on current challenges: the impacts of tropical cyclones in the context of climate change.

Thus, Television of Mozambique fails to show itself as exemplary, at least in this regard. The first and second hypotheses seek to understand whether or not TVM followed up on the impacts of Cyclone Idai. However, it was found that public television dedicated its time to counting the number of articles about Idai.

In other words, quantitatively, television was fine, but it did not provide adequate news coverage about the impacts of Cyclone Idai. TVM did more breaking stories than news continuity. Publishing an issue about "Idai" does not mean continuing a certain phenomenon, as The News Manual draws attention to. Both the News Manual, as well as the authors Girardi and Reges, among others, argue that news follow-up presupposes the depth of a certain subject previously covered, it is as if seeking through follow-up the evolution in treatment and a certain phenomenon, addressing the various faces of this same event.

TVM did not make this effort. It was only guided by an approach to the cult of the positive and not really the other sides of the impacts of Cyclone Idai. If Televisão de Moçambique had properly followed up, it would have explored beyond the catastrophic event, which would not have been possible at the time of its occurrence.

News continuity, follow-up, is a way to uncover these nuances. In view of the findings, this research suggests some formulas that Television of Mozambique can use, with a view to favoring the "follow up" label, so that the subjects it broadcasts are more enlightening, to bring a new way of seeing the phenomena.

Firstly, TVM could start by creating an editorial/section that produces journalistic pieces specifically about ecology/environment. Television has a clear example of sports publishing, which even has a department in this area and the work has been plausible. Secondly, it would be necessary to specialize environmental journalists, through training or training.

Thirdly and finally, the Information Directorate could create an internal legal instrument that accommodates environmental information as one of television's priorities. In other words, it would be vital for the company to follow the thirteenth SDG, which involves adopting urgent measures to

combat climate change and its impacts. TVM can help achieve this objective through information that favors the monitoring of issues, known as follow-up.

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