

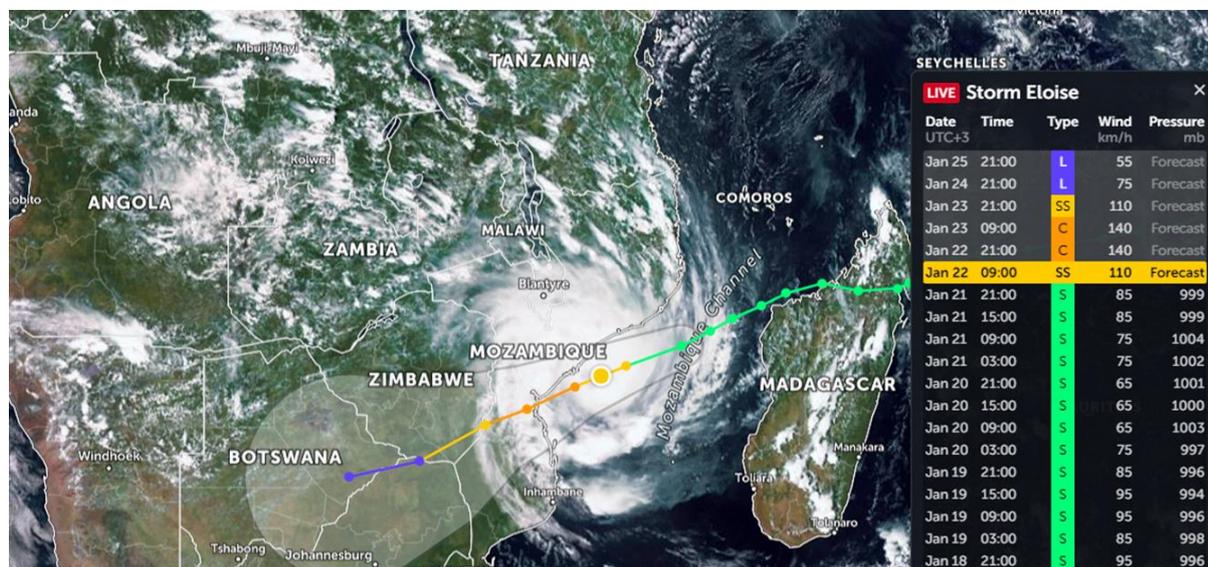
Information bulletin #1

Mozambique: Tropical Storm Eloise

Date of disaster 22 January 2021	Date of issue: 22 January 2021
Host National Society: Mozambique Red Cross Society (Cruz Vermelha de Mozambique, CVM) was established in 1981 and officially recognised by the Government of Mozambique (GoM) in 1988. Recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the same year, it became a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) almost one year later, in October 1989. Its actions are implemented by approximately 170 staff, 5,500 volunteers and 70,000 members.	
Number of people affected: Estimated 100,000 people	
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, Spanish Red Cross, Belgium-Flanders Red Cross, German Red Cross, PIROI (French Red Cross)	
N° of other partner organisations involved in the operation: National Disaster Management Institute (INGD), Civil Protection Unit (UNAPROC), UN Agencies, CARE, IOM, OXFAM, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision.	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The **Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM)**, with the support of the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** and its members, are taking preparedness actions and following the course of events and will determine the need for international assistance in the next hours.*

The situation



Tropical Storm Eloise Satellite imagery, 22 January 2021 Source: Zoom Earth

Tropical Storm Eloise is expected to turn into a Cyclone with expected winds between 140km/h and 160km/h. The storm will make landfall in the Sofala Province, Central Mozambique, about 20km north of the City of Beira in the first hours of Saturday, 23 January. However, heavy rains will start to affect the coastal areas of the Zambezia and Sofala provinces from this evening, 22 of January. The cyclone will cross through Central Mozambique with considerable strength and potential for widespread floods. It is expected to decrease in intensity as it crosses southern Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Over 1 million people are living in “red areas” along the projected route of the cyclone. Population in the Sofala Province, particularly the districts of Beira, Buzi and Nhamatanda suffered severely from cyclone Idai in 2019 and their houses, agriculture fields and coping capacity has not been restored. In addition,

consecutive floods throughout the past year, namely in the last days of December 2020 (tropical storm Chalane) have raised river levels and dams are at a tipping point.

It is reported that there are already 4,000 households affected by floods in Buzi, 266 households in Nhamatanda and 326 households in Beira. The provinces of Inhambane, Manica, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia have already received between 200mm and 300mm of rains since 9 January and are predicted to receive heavy rains in the days ahead. The Inhanombe and Mutamba basins in southern Mozambique are both at alert levels—in addition to the Buzi and Pungue basins in central Mozambique.



Pungue River, 22 January 2021 Source: CVM

From previous events of this kind, Tropical Storm Eloise is expected to damage houses and other infrastructure, by pulling out roofs and destroying structures of the most vulnerable dwellings, leaving people unprotected. Power outages are likely, which could affect communications and basic services. Floods may leave people stranded in some localities in need of rescue and will cause displacement of populations to accommodation centres and informal sites which will lead to the need for supply of water, hygiene items and food. Floods will likely destroy crops that have been planted from October to January (regular planting season), and add food insecurity and economic strain to families for the months ahead. Health outbreaks cannot be ruled out as frequent spikes of Cholera and Malaria are common in these areas. Finally, with increased cases of COVID-19 in recent weeks, overcrowded sites may intensify rates of transmission.

Projections of Affected Population

- **Best Case Scenario** - 100,000 people affected: The cyclone will decrease in intensity immediately after landfall, but heavy rainfall will persist for over 24 hours. The amount of rain will be sufficient to flood low areas of Beira and Buzi. Further flooding may arrive some days later as accumulated water flows down the Pungue and Buzi Rivers from Zimbabwe.
- **Likely Scenario** – 400,000 people affected: The cyclone will intensify in landfall and persist in land for 24 hours, well into areas of Sofala and South of Manica Provinces. Torrential rains will immediately flood low areas of Beira, Buzi, Nhamatanda, Chibabava and Sussundenga. Accumulation of water in Zimbabwe will flow downstream, enlarging the flooded areas for several days.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Mozambique Red Cross (CVM) is assuming a leading role in this response. IFRC and CVM are participating in the Humanitarian Country Team meetings and leading the Shelter Cluster in the central province. CVM is also coordinating the response in support to the National Institute for Disaster Management.

The National Society has deployed two teams, one to Sofala and the other to Inhambane Province. On the ground, they are receiving technical support from IFRC teams. CVM has already activated its network of over 500 volunteers (Beira city), and 28 volunteers are already providing assistance in accommodation centres organized by the local government, supplying mosquito nets, chlorine, and facilitating cholera, malaria and COVID-19 prevention activities. Additional humanitarian stocks are being shipped from Maputo, Caia and Tete to the Beira warehouse, where the supply to affected areas is faster.



CVM Volunteers evacuating community from dangerous areas of Buzi, 22 January 2021 Source: CVM

Collaboration from Movement Partners

- Spanish Red Cross is considering activating the “crisis modifier” with the support of ECHO
- Belgium-Flanders Red Cross is supporting the National Society with the dispatchment of humanitarian goods to Beira
- German Red Cross (GRC) offered a test activation of the floods Early Action Protocol (EAP) for 500 families. If the situation worsens, the GRC will activate emergency funds from its financial resources.
- PIROI - French Red Cross Centre for Disaster Management – has offered to dispatch 2,000 Shelter Kits and non-food items (NFIs) from its contingency stock in La Reunion, via French Army airplane on 25 January.

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The IFRC is supporting the National Society in the preparation of a response DREF. This DREF will allow CVM to provide health, WASH and Shelter emergency support to 2,500 people in the province of Sofala, for three months. The National Society will assess the impact of the disaster in the first hours of 23 January, and decide if a call for international assistance via an Emergency Appeal must be considered.

We also need to mention that IFRC has relief goods based in Beira that will be distributed in case of need. Regional Surge was activated to increase the workforce for this operation. A regional logistics and a communication expert will be deployed in the next hours. Additional surge alerts will be launched for Disaster Management and Partnership and Resource Development (PRD).

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.