

Mozambique: Flooding

Office of the Resident Coordinator, Situation Report No. 1

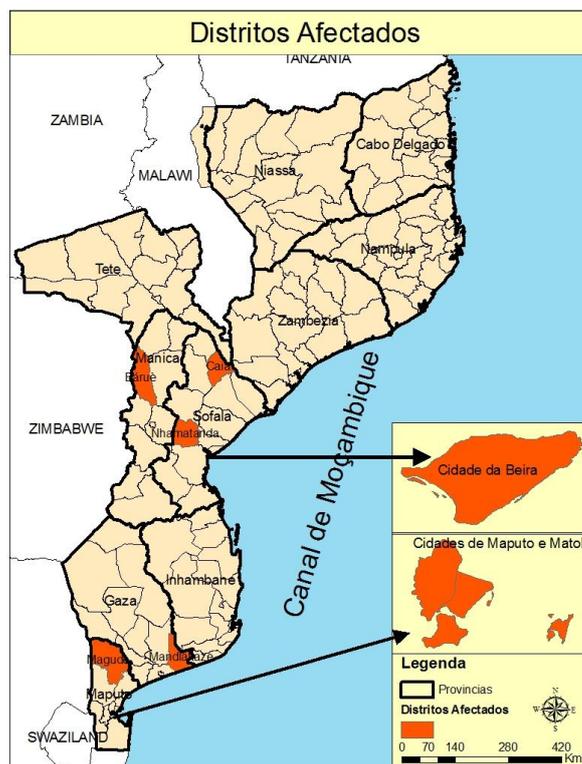
(as of 20 January 2013)



This report is produced by Office of the Resident Coordinator in Mozambique in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 12 to 20 January 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 25 January 2013.

Highlights

- On 12 January the Mozambique authorities declared an Orange Alert due to heavy rains that lasted for more than a week.
- Moderate to intense rains have affected 19,646 persons throughout the country, causing total or partial damage to 2,979 houses, inundating 679 houses, and interrupting road infrastructures, as well as electricity and drainage systems.
- Nine temporary accommodations centers were set up around Maputo city to provide shelter to about 5492 people;
- The water line in some river basins remains above alert level, with a levels rising in the southern and central regions of the country.
- Government authorities and partners are closely monitoring the situation, with multi-sectoral teams including UNAPROC members deployed to strategic locations to support local authorities.



Source: INGC

Situation Overview

The Mozambique Disaster Management Technical Council (CTGC) activated the orange alert on 12 January 2013, due to the heavy rains that caused an increase of hydrometric levels in main river basins in the southern (Limpopo, Incomati, Inhamitanga and Save) and central (Zambezi, Pungoe and Buzi) regions. The aim of the orange alert is to scale up monitoring measures and strengthen preparedness for response where it is deemed necessary.

Small-scale flooding caused by intense rains resulted in nine (9) deaths and affected a total of 18,699 people throughout the country. Damage was also caused to social infrastructure such as classrooms (25) and houses (1,889 totally destroyed, 985 partially damaged, and 679 inundated). Victims reportedly died by electrocution, building collapse, or drowning (see details in table below). As assessment missions are still ongoing and some affected people are being accommodated in host families, the number of people affected may fluctuate.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

Table 1: Heavy rain impact 12-20 January 2013

Provinces	Deaths	Affected People	Temporary Displaced People	Houses destroyed			Classrooms
				Totally	Partially	Inundated	
Inhambane	0	775	154	32	0		4
Panda		685	101	13			
Homonine		90	53	19			4
Zambezia	1	1,914	400	87	160		5
Milange	1	1,050	50	80	130		0
Gile		315					
Nicoadala		14		7	0		0
Chinde		35			30		
Namarroi		500					5
Manica	1	11,600		1,744	814		0
Cidade Chimoio		9,970		1,721	510		
Gondola	0	1,090			218		0
Sussundenga	0	255			51		0
Barue	0	70		13	1		0
Mussourize	0	220		10	34		0
Macossa	1						
Sofala	0	135		26	8		15
Nhamatanda		55		18			15
Machanga		15			3		
Muanza	0	40		8	0		0
Cidade da Beira	0	25	0	0	5		0
Gaza	2	0	0		3		1
Chibuto	1						
Chiguto	1						
Mandlakazi					3		1
Maputo Cidade	5	5,222	5,222	105		679	
KaMavota	2	2756	2756		6	306	
Kamubukwana		2364	2364			144	
Kamaxakeni	3	102	102	105	8	229	
Total	9	19,646	5,776	1,994	985	679	25

In general, some affected areas in southern (Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces) and central (Sofala, Tete and Manica provinces) regions remain flooded, and huge holes have emerged due to erosion, some in the middle of the road and between houses. Six Bridges in Inhambane (3), Sofala (1), Tete (1) and Nampula (1) have been destroyed. Heavy rains have interrupted traffic circulation, caused damage to drainage systems and power supply lines, cut access to some districts (e.g Chigubo and Massangena in Gaza, Chemba and Chiramba in Sofala). The access roads in Maputo (including Maputo City), Gaza, Inhambane, (in Inharrime-Panda), Tete-Zumbo and Mutarara (Tete) and Metuchira (Sofala) are flooded impeding the movement of people and goods.

National meteorological services are predicting a rainfall slowdown over the coming week, but with possible moderate to intense rains in the southern regions influenced by the low pressures system affecting upstream countries (South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland) and Southern Mozambique (Maputo, Inhambane and Gaza). Since Saturday 19 January 2013, the Cahora Bassa Dam in the Zambezi basin has been discharging approximately 650m³/s of water. With less intense rainfall expected in this region, the discharge should have very minimum impact in upper and low Zambezi (Caia, Marromeu, Chinde and Luabo). However, the situation may be different in Maputo, which saw extreme rainfall (157mm in less than 24h) in the last 5 days. This was an amount of water that the drainage system was not prepared to cope with. As a consequence, social infrastructures, including houses, as well as access to roads were affected, with some areas becoming highly exposed. For instance in Laulane (sub-urban area of Maputo) about 150 families are at risk and assessments are ongoing to decide if these

should be relocated. If heavy rains continue before lost or damaged infrastructure is repaired or rebuilt, the situation may worsen and more people might become affected.

The heavy rains have also led to the flooding of crop fields in many districts. If crop losses ensue, this can have a negative impact on food security, especially in the most vulnerable communities. Inundations are already impacting the ongoing WFP food assistance programmes. Lack of road access may hinder relief assistance to 6,030 beneficiaries in Machanga, 1,500 orphans and vulnerable children in Chemba and Caia and 300 chronically ill people in Caia. The Food Security Cluster has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday this week to take stock of available information.

Humanitarian Response

In terms of response, as this is still a relatively small-scale emergency, the assistance provided has been localized and focused on provision of non-food items, including tents, water purification tablets, etc, in affected provinces, and food items in Maputo and Zambezia provinces. In Maputo City, nine (9) temporary accommodation centers were set to provide shelter and protection to 5,222 people in the following three municipal areas: in Ka mubukwane, Magoanine C (1,032), Magoanine B (1,206), Inhagoia A (126); in Ka Maxaquene, Polana Caniço B (102); and in Ka Mavota, Força do Povo (1,050), Solidariedade (1,092) Costa do Sol (144) Bairro Ferroviário (160) and Mahotas (310). In Manica province 400 families affected have been assisted by local Government and HCT partners with several non-food items (including tarpaulin, jerry cans, tents and blankets).

The National Civil Protection Unity (UNAPROC) continues providing safety and ensuring movement of people and goods in areas where roads and bridges were inundated or had collapsed. Also, local and community radios are currently broadcasting public awareness messages in high-risk areas with UNICEF support, alerting communities to health, hygiene, and preparedness concerns, particularly targeting families and school children.

During the last 24h, and in order to have an overview of the situation in the field, a high levels mission of the HCT WG composed of Shelter, Health, Education and Protection WASH members visited one of the major temporary accommodation center in ka-mubukwane (in Maputo city) to more effectively support the Government sectors efforts.

Funding

The intervention to date is secured by 120,000,000 Mt (about US\$ 4 million) of the GoM funds allocated to the Contingency Plan, which should be complemented by resources of the HCT members.

Preliminary multisectoral assessment conducted by GoM in collaboration with HCT shelter cluster members to affected areas in Maputo indicates an estimated need of USD 30M to rehabilitate infrastructure and roads damage.

General Coordination

With the declaration of orange alert by the CTGC on 12 January 2013, daily meetings are being held at National Emergency Operation Centers (CENOE) to ensure adequate monitoring of the hydro-meteorological situation throughout the country and in the upstream countries, mainly Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa as well as adequate assistance to people affected. To complement the GoM's efforts, a Humanitarian Country Team Working Group (HCTWG) coordination meeting to streamline the HCT approach was held on 16 January 2013, in which clusters were advised to actively participate in the CTGC meetings and integrate in the four sectors of CENOE (which include infrastructures, social, communication and planning / information) at central level as well as other emergence structures at decentralized levels.

HCT cluster members are on stand-by at strategic sites (Maputo and Beira) and others, including WASH, Health, Education and Protection, were deployed to Caia and Vilanculos to join government support to local structures. Cluster members at decentralized levels were also advised to take part in the multi-sectoral assessment missions

and to support information/data collection to ensure that the overall view of the situation is captured and affected populations receive adequate assistance.

Background on the crisis

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