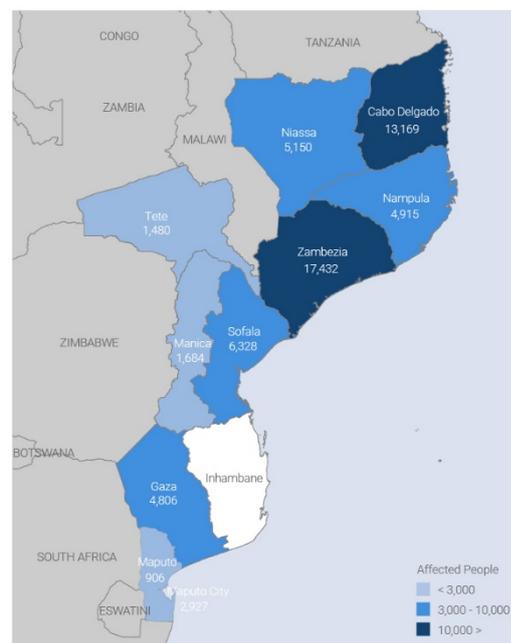


HIGHLIGHTS

- At least 28 people have died and more than 58,800 have been affected by heavy rains and flooding in Mozambique, with Zambezia, Cabo Delgado and Sofala provinces hardest-hit.
- The Government of Mozambique declared an Orange Alert on 28 December 2019 due to strong winds and heavy rains in the central and northern regions of the country.
- Several key bridges have been damaged, including the bridge over the Montepuez River on road N380 in Cabo Delgado, cutting off people in surrounding areas from essential services and assistance.
- Chipembe Dam, in Cabo Delgado, is now at 100 per cent capacity and having daily uncontrolled over spill.
- In the last 24 hours, water levels have started to rise across Sofala Province, mainly in Beira City, Buzi and Nhamatanda districts, all of which were affected by Cyclone Idai in March 2019.



Source: INGC

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since December 2019, Mozambique has experienced strong rains, winds and flooding, affecting at least 58,851 people, in Zambezia (17,432), Cabo Delgado (13,169 people), Sofala (6,328), Niassa (5,150), Nampula (4,915), Gaza (4,806), Maputo City (2,927), Manica (1,684), Tete (1,480) and Maputo (960), according to the National Disaster Management Institute (Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades, INGC). More than 10,200 houses have been damaged or destroyed, including 2,589 completely destroyed, and at least 47 schools have been affected. At least 28 people have died, and 66 have been injured, since the storms began, according to INGC.

In Zambezia, the province with the highest number of people affected, flooding since the beginning of 2020 has damaged infrastructure, destroyed crops and led to displacement. Nearly 2,300 hectares of crops are currently flooded across the province, less than two months before the planned March harvest. On 5 January, the electrical system of the water treatment plant in Maganja da Costa District was damaged. According to the INGC, water points have also been damaged, especially in neighbourhoods in Namacurra District where people were resettled after Cyclone Idai. In Maganja da Costa and Nicoadala districts, more than 180 shelters were swept away in the resettlement sites in the first week of January, and at least 290 latrines were destroyed, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), increasing the risk of communicable diseases.

In Cabo Delgado, which has been one of the hardest-hit provinces, strong winds and heavy rains on 28 December 2019 caused flooding across eight districts and damaging the province's infrastructure: 59 electricity poles fell down; and several bridges were damaged, most notably the bridge over Montepuez river on road N380. Although 80 per cent of damaged electric poles have already been rehabilitated, five districts (Muidumbe, Mueda, Nangade, Palma and Mocimboa da Praia) remain without electricity, hampering access to safe water in these areas. Livelihoods were also impacted in the province, with 40 boats destroyed and 21 damaged, affecting 1,220 fishermen in the coastal districts. About 4,000 hectares of agriculture land were flooded. About 51 metric tonnes (MT) of maize and 25 MT of beans will be required to replace the lost

produce in the second agricultural season. According to the water management authorities, Chipembe Dam (near Balama) is now at 100 per cent capacity and having daily uncontrolled over spill. Some of the areas hardest-hit by floods in Cabo Delgado, including Quissanga District, were still recovering from Tropical Cyclone Kenneth, which struck the province in April 2019. The floods may also heighten the needs of the estimated 60,000 people displaced or otherwise affected by violence in the province since October 2017.

In Sofala Province, heavy rains have caused flash and riverine floods since December 2019, impacting some of the areas hardest-hit by Cyclone Idai in March last year, including neighbourhoods where people were resettled after the cyclone. Several roads are impassable and access to remote villages in Buzi District is very limited. There are reports that people who need medical assistance are not able to access Buzi Town. According to IOM, over 3,676 shelters in the resettlement sites across Sofala have been damaged, including nearly 500 that were completely destroyed, following heavy rains on 10 December. In addition, 300 latrines were damaged and the clinics in Metuchira and Kura resettlement sites, Nhamatanda District, were swept away by the floods. In the last 24 hours, water levels have started to rise across Sofala, mainly in Beira City, Buzi and Nhamatanda districts, increasing the risk of flooding. In Beira, around 300 people sheltered in three different schools during the night of 20 January as their houses were flooded, according to INGC. The majority went back home on 21 January, as the water receded, but about 10 families are still in the Matadouro School, in Beira. In Buzi, 48 people had to be evacuated from risky areas on 20 January to temporary accommodation centres.

RESPONSE

The INGC is leading the floods response in all affected provinces, with support from international and national partners. The Government of Mozambique declared an Orange Alert on 28 December 2019, deploying response team to coordination hubs in Cabo Delgado, Gaza, Manica, Nampula, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia provinces.

Health and WASH are major priorities, considering the heightened risk of water-borne disease. Technical multi-sectoral groups have been reactivated across the country to review water-borne disease preparedness and response capacity. The Government has also allocated medicines, surgical material and other inputs needed for 2-months' consumption for districts that are difficult to access during the rainy season. At least 30 new latrines are being built in Namacurra (18) and Maganja da Costa (12) districts in Zambezia, and the rehabilitation of water points is underway in resettlement sites in Namacurra and Mocuba. In Zambezia, the Government is undertaking awareness campaigns on prevention of disease outbreaks and on preventive actions in case of floods.

Education is also a priority, given damages to schools and classrooms across flood-affected areas. Efforts are underway to ensure that the 2020 academic year can start on time, including through mobilization of support from partners for the assembly of temporary learning spaces where needed.

With homes destroyed and damaged, efforts are underway to relocate displaced people and provide temporary shelter. In Zambezia, the INGC has resettled around 10,000 people in the districts of Maganja da Costa, Namacurra and Mocuba, located in the Licungo basin. Another 10,000 people are sheltering with family members in the region. Across the country, the INGC has identified over 520 places in 92 districts that can be used as temporary accommodation centres to up to 186,000 people, if needed.

For Cabo Delgado Province, 367 tents and enough food for 137,000 people have been identified for the response. This includes Government assistance for 7,000 people for a period of 1 month with 35 MT of food available in stock, and WFP assistance for 130,000 people in the next 3 months with 4,500 tons of food (maize, fortified Corn Soya Blend, beans and vegetable oil), as part of its ongoing humanitarian interventions in the province. In addition, the Government has assisted populations waiting to cross the collapsed bridge over Montepuez river with cereals, beans, preserved food, salt and Non-Food Items. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will distribute 15 tons of maize seeds and 30MT of beans in complement to the 17.5MT of maize seeds being distributed by the Government to the affected population. Rehabilitation of water supply systems in Quissanga, Meluco, Macomia, Metuge, Ancuabe, Chiure, Mecufi and Ibo districts is underway.

Similarly, all supplies have been made available to restore water supply to Nanjua resettlement site and to the district of Meluco. IOM is planning shelter distributions in Ibo, Matemo, and Mucojo.

However, access to affected areas remains a challenge, including due to infrastructure damage, particularly in Cabo Delgado. The National Road Administration (Administração Nacional de Estrada - ANE) has started rehabilitating alternative routes and a detour over Montepuez river. In the meantime, INGC boats are supporting the crossing. Two cargo vessels have reopened the route between Pemba – Mocímboa da Praia transporting priority items to the isolated districts, and WFP coordinated with humanitarian partners a sea shipment to send vehicles, supplies, fuel, and urgent medical supplies, which arrived on 20 January. For Macomia, where road access is constrained by insecurity, WFP is organizing sea transport from Pemba to Quissanga then by road to Macomia. Insecurity has also been a challenge in Sofala Province, where there have been recent attacks on key road routes.

In support of the Government-led response, the international community is scaling up operations and developing a rapid response plan to meet the urgent needs of people affected by the floods.

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