

MOZAMBIQUE

On 14 March 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall near Beira City, Sofala province, causing human losses, massive destruction of infrastructure and houses, and significant internal displacement. The disaster exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities in the affected areas. A total of 1.85 million people have been affected.

As of 1 April 2019, over 146,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) had sought refuge in 155 temporary accommodation centers across four provinces (Sofala, Manica, Zambezia, and Tete). The last temporary accommodation centers in Beira were closed in June 2019. Most IDPs have returned home, while as of 29 October 2019, 17,708 families (88,367 persons) had been relocated to 66 resettlement sites, allocated by the Government of Mozambique (GoM), in Sofala, Manica Tete and Zambezia Provinces.

The Sofala Province Protection Cluster, co-lead by UNHCR, covers 22 Resettlement Sites in which 10,405 families (53,742 persons) live. There is no established Protection Clusters in the other three provinces where the remaining 7,303 families (34,625 persons) live.



Distribution of core relief items to affected communities in Buzi district on 22 September 2019. ©UNHCR/Silvia Cravesana

OVERALL RESPONSE KEY FIGURES

(as of 30 September 2019, country-wide)

1.85 M people in need of assistance

1.8 M people targeted

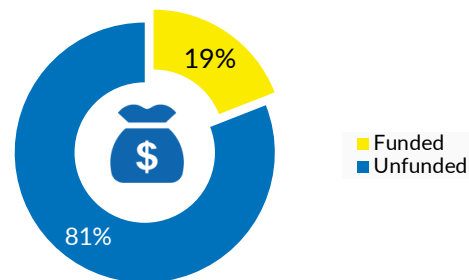
125 K Internally Displaced Persons

68 K people reached with protection services

Source: OCHA, IOM

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (as of 31 October 2019)

USD 3.55M requested for Mozambique-wide Protection Operation



Funding gap: USD 2.87M



UNHCR and partners' presence and activities as at 30 September 2019.

Key Protection Activities in Sofala Province

1. Systematic **Protection Monitoring** in resettlement sites to inform advocacy for improved protection response with relevant humanitarian and Government partners.
2. Delivery of **life-saving assistance** including 89,500 core relief items and emergency shelter for over 10,000 displaced families.
3. **Integrated Protection Desks** where **Community-based Protection Focal Points**, comprising a pool of trained volunteers from affected populations, act as link between the community and service providers and conduct awareness-raising activities.
4. **Support to the establishment and strengthening of community structures** to improve safety, self-reliance, and protection through community mobilization.
5. Co-lead of the **Protection Cluster** with the Sofala Provincial Directorate for Gender, Children and Social Action (DPGCAS), with focus on supporting the most vulnerable groups, including through the Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Sub-Clusters and Disability Working Group.
6. As a Protection Cluster co-lead, **Centrality of Protection and Mainstreaming of Protection** exercises conducted at Inter-Cluster level to ensure protection is mainstreamed across all sectors of the humanitarian response.

KEY PROTECTION CONCERNS

1. **Insufficient availability of basic facilities** in resettlement sites and **precarious shelter conditions**, especially in hard-to-reach areas, increasing risks particularly for children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
2. **Lack of or insufficient community structures** to enable effective community participation and support community engagement in their own protection, safety and security.
3. **Lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities** in resettlement sites, especially for persons formerly living in cities, which can lead to family separation.
4. **Challenges concerning access to education** due to the limited capacity of schools to absorb additional children; distance from schools; lack of materials; and lack of documentation, leading to risks such as child labour, family separation or early marriage.
5. **People with disabilities disproportionately affected**, especially persons with mobility restrictions.
6. **Destruction, unavailability or loss of civil documentation**, leading to challenges in accessing basic services, such as education and housing, land and property (HLP) rights.
7. **Challenges related to women's access to HLP documentation**.
8. **Risks of tensions with host communities** over aid distribution, service accessibility and pre-existing livelihood activities in resettlement sites.

Protection Cluster (Sofala Province)



30

Partners



1

Province

Sub-Clusters & Working group



Child Protection



Gender Based Violence



Disability Working Group

Donors

We are very grateful to the Government of Norway and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for their financial contribution to UNHCR to protect cyclone-affected populations in Mozambique and to Spanish Decentralized Government Entities (*Ayuntamiento de Barcelona, Ayuntamiento de Erreterria, and Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza*) for their financial contribution for core relief items.

Contacts

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RESPONSES BY THE PROTECTION CLUSTER

- **Updated Protection Cluster Strategy** that re-aligns activities from emergency response to early recovery and enhances implementation monitoring.
- **Emergency shelter and core relief items** (such as blankets, jerry cans, buckets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and solar lamps) distributed.
- **Centrality of Protection exercises** conducted at Inter-Cluster level to ensure protection is mainstreamed across all sectors of the humanitarian response.
- **Systematic Protection Monitoring conducted in Dondo, Nhamatanda and Buzi** to support advocacy and improved protection response.
- **Enhanced coordination of community-based protection activities and integrated Protection Desks** managed by Acção Social and Protection Focal Points in Dondo, Buzi and Nhamatanda Districts providing affected populations information about on-site services, counselling and referral to appropriate response mechanisms.
- **Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and Women Friendly Spaces (WFS)** established in resettlement sites to provide for safe places for activities aimed to help re-establishing a sense of normalcy.
- **Coordination meetings** conducted at the **district level** to promote capacity building of local authorities and enhance coordination mechanisms at all levels.

Gaps and Constraints

- Lack of resources to ensuring **basic support and facilities** for displaced populations in return and resettlement sites, contributing to **heightened protection risks** for affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable.
- Significant **underfunding of UNHCR**, limiting expansion of protection monitoring and other services, especially in hard-to-reach areas.
- Need to support **the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Affairs (MGCAS)** with adequate resources to scale-up service response for the most vulnerable groups.
- Need to work on providing **sustainable solutions** as response moves towards the recovery phase.