WFP Humanitarian Emergency Response in Northern Mozambique

Situation Update - July 2023

WFP NEEDS US$ 50.6 MILLION TO CONTINUE ITS LIVESAVING RESPONSE IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS (July-December)

Humanitarian needs

Mozambique has suffered a series of shocks over the last five years, leading to successive emergencies that included both climate and man-made events, such as Cyclones Freddy, Idai, and Kenneth, the outbreak of COVID-19, and a rapid and significant deterioration of the security situation in the northern provinces of Mozambique. Together, these events caused human, physical, and economic losses, and impacted the living conditions and the wellbeing of different segments of the population, especially the poor and most vulnerable.

The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), released in March 2023, estimates a total of 3.15 million people suffering high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Mozambique during the past lean season. The 2023 Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) launched in February 2023, indicates critical assistance and protection needs of 1.6 million conflict-affected people in northern Mozambique. Within this, the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, co-led by WFP and FAO, is seeking to provide emergency food assistance and livelihood support.

According to IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM, April 2023), a total of 834,304 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have been mapped in 221 locations in northern Mozambique. Around 70 percent of IDPs are in host communities, whose already meagre resources have been further strained by the continuing influx of IDPs, severely limiting access to basic services, natural resources, and humanitarian assistance.
Northern emergency response

WFP Mozambique provides emergency food and/or cash-based transfers to crisis-affected populations in the northern provinces of Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado, where conflict is driving internal displacement. In April 2022, due to funding shortages and to meet rising needs, WFP decided to distribute reduced rations, which continues to this day. Food distributions were put on hold in February 2023 due to limited resources but were resumed in March 2023. During the May-June distribution cycle, WFP has so far reached over 465,070 IDPs with reduced food rations.

School feeding

Internal displacement has disrupted the education of thousands of children who have either interrupted their studies or entered schools overwhelmed by the sharp increase in enrolments of IDPs. WFP is the main provider of school feeding programme in Mozambique, supporting schools in Cabo Delgado through the following programmes: the National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE), the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme, and the School Feeding in Emergency/Recovery (SFiE/R) Programme. In total, more than 70,000 children were reached by school feeding programmes in northern Mozambique in May 2023.

Nutrition

WFP addresses the root causes of malnutrition and aims to reduce malnutrition by continuing to support the Ministry of Health in the implementation of the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition in the three northern provinces through the National Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme in 29 districts and 262 health facilities as part of the northern displacement crisis response. In Cabo Delgado, the epicentre of the northern crisis, WFP is also implementing a targeted supplementary feeding programme to children under the age of 2.

Logistics and common services

In the absence of commercial flights and to address other transport restrictions, the WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) launched its Cabo Delgado operation in 2020. UNHAS transports people, food, and other essentials to communities in need. WFP also supports humanitarian partners with storage, transport solutions and handling services – critical as demands continue to rise.

Protection

WFP manages three community feedback mechanisms: a help desk at each distribution point; complaint boxes for anonymous feedback at each distribution point; and the Linha Verde 1458, a toll-free number with all local languages available. Once complaints are received, WFP’s protection unit follows the most sensitive cases, including allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and abuse of power.

Restoration of livelihoods

To contribute to increased self-reliance of conflict-affected communities, greater gender equality and social cohesion, WFP works to support IDPs and host communities through various income generation and agricultural support activities and trainings.

Since the second half of 2022, livelihood activities have been scaled up in nine districts in Cabo Delgado province to strengthen food production, reduce post-harvest losses, and promote business and collective marketing skills.

WFP Response

In total, WFP requires USD 56.6 million of funding to continue supporting people across all activities in Mozambique during the next six months (July—December), of which USD 50.6 million is required to continue emergency response activities in northern Mozambique.

The conflict in northern Mozambique has brought a dramatic increase in humanitarian needs in the country, while a constrained resource outlook bears the risk that assistance will fall substantially short, leaving several hundred thousand vulnerable people without critical support. To fully implement emergency food and nutrition assistance in northern Mozambique until December 2023, USD 46.1 million is required.

UNHAS is in critical need of funding to sustain operations in northern Mozambique in 2023. To continue providing transportation services to humanitarian partners and reaching people in need in otherwise inaccessible areas of Cabo Delgado, WFP requires USD 4.5 million until December 2023.

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