



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mozambique

External Situation Report #2

26 February 2023

Extreme Weather – Severe Tropical Storm Freddy

Highlights

- Severe Tropical Storm Freddy made landfall in Inhambane province, southern Mozambique, in the early afternoon of 24 February. Sustained winds of between 110/120km/h were recorded.
- As of February 26, the storm is moving northwards through Manica province. Its path is highly uncertain, with moderate probability of re-entering the Mozambique channel and intensifying once more.
- There is a high risk of flooding across Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, and Sofala provinces, a situation compounded by the heavy rains already recorded since the start of February.
- WFP staff have been deployed to the affected provinces to support INGD with impact and damage assessments.
- WFP is making available logistics assets, including two SHERPs – WFP’s amphibious all-terrain vehicles – to INGD and humanitarian partners, to conduct assessments and support the response in the worst impacted areas.
- WFP support is being coordinated through the recently established Operations Centre, under the stewardship of OCHA, and set up to support INGD in the response.
- WFP Mozambique has secured initial resources through the Immediate Response Account, WFP’s corporate life-saving funding facility. This has allowed WFP to initiate operational arrangements for the provision of food assistance upon request from the Government, as well as logistics support.

Situation Update

- Severe Tropical Storm Freddy made landfall in Inhambane province, southern Mozambique, in the early afternoon of 24 February. Sustained winds of between 110/120 km/h were recorded, classifying Freddy as a Severe Tropical Storm, just below the classification threshold of a Tropical Cyclone.
- After making landfall, the storm system has slowly moved across southern Mozambique. As of 26 February, Freddy is moving northwards through Gaza and into Manica.
- While the storm had previously been projected to dissipate over Zimbabwe, its trajectory over the coming days is now considered highly unpredictable. There is moderate probability it will re-enter the Mozambique channel, where it would regain strength and pose the risk of a further deterioration of the situation in affected areas.
- The most intense rains are expected across Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, and Sofala provinces (>300 mm between 26 February – 3 March).
- Ongoing rains, along with discharges from upstream dams, is increasing the risk of flooding across the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane, Manica and Sofala. The situation is compounded by the heavy rains already recorded since the start of February.
- The areas at highest risk of substantial flooding are in the upstream and downstream areas of the Limpopo River (Gaza province), as well as downstream along the Save and Buzi Rivers (Sofala province). Coastal areas in all three provinces are also likely to experience flooding.
- Alongside flooding, Freddy has caused damage to unstable and light infrastructure in areas directly within the storm’s path.



Needs and Assessments

- WFP staff have been deployed to the affected provinces to support the National Institute of Disaster Risk Reduction (INGD), including through impact and damage assessments.
- WFP conducted preliminary analysis on 24 February, using satellite imagery and weather forecasts, which indicated a total of 1,250,000 people living in areas at risk due to intense winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding.
- Areas identified as at high risk are predominantly located along the coastal areas in Inhambane province impacted by the strongest winds, and flooded areas in Gaza and Sofala provinces, due to extreme rains.
- In light of the storm's uncertain path, WFP will continue to support assessments, leveraging its own corporate tools and analytical capacity, to complement assessments from INGD and other partners. The number of people affected is likely to evolve depending on the storm's path.
- An interactive map to monitor the cyclone season in Mozambique was created by WFP. It provides easy access to updated information on roads condition, rainfall forecast, cyclones track, river water level alerts, population data and other critical data. The map can be accessed by all stakeholders (see below).



WFP Mozambique has created an [interactive map](#) to monitor the cyclone season in Mozambique.

Contacts

Antonella D'Aprile, Country Director, WFP Mozambique

Pierre Lucas, Deputy Country Director (OIC)
pierre.lucas@wfp.org

Francesco Stompanato, Research, Assessment and Monitoring
francesco.stompanato@wfp.org

Geert Gompelman, Emergency Coordinator
geert.gompelman@wfp.org

Liam Wylie, Partnerships Officer
liam.wylie@wfp.org

For further information, visit the WFP Mozambique page on <https://www.wfp.org/countries/mozambique>

WFP's response

- To date, WFP's first priorities have been rapid assessments, providing logistical support, on-the-ground coordination with National Institute of Disaster Risk Reduction (INGD) and other partners and anticipating formal requests from the Government for the provision of food assistance.
- Upon request from the Humanitarian Coordinator, OCHA has established an Operations Centre, to allow real time sharing of information, identify urgent operational gaps and define rapid solutions.
- Focal points from the active Clusters have been established across the affected provinces. WFP's support to Government-led efforts will be coordinated through the Food Security Cluster.
- Two SHERPs - WFP's all-terrain vehicles - are being used in the affected provinces, to support search and rescue operations, rapid assessments, and the movement of key personnel, assets, and commodities.
- WFP Mozambique has secured funds through the Immediate Response Account, WFP's corporate life-saving funding facility. Funds have allowed WFP to initiate the procurement of food commodities, kickstart operational arrangements and planning for cash-based assistance, as well as carry out key logistics activities in support to the Government.
- As the situation evolves, WFP is coordinating with the Government and Humanitarian Country Team to assess anticipated resourcing needs.