



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
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WFP Mozambique

External Situation Report #1
20 February 2023

Extreme Weather

204,989 people in flooded areas

71,854 hectares of cropland flooded

16 accommodation centres activated (Maputo province)

16,914 people in accommodation centres

Highlights

- Since the beginning of February, heavy rains and flash flooding have severely impacted southern Mozambique, while more recently expanding to central Mozambique.
- 205,000 people are currently estimated to be living in flooded areas across southern and central Mozambique, with up to 70,000 hectares of cropland affected.
- Alongside the heavy rains and flooding, the Intense Tropical Cyclone Freddy continues its trajectory westward, with estimated landfall in central Mozambique between 23-24 February, which is likely to significantly intensify the situation in central Mozambique.
- In the past week, WFP has made available key logistics assets, including a helicopter and a SHERP – an amphibious all-terrain vehicle – to the National Institute of Disaster Risk Reduction (INGD) and humanitarian partners, to conduct assessments and support the response in the worst impacted areas in southern Mozambique.
- Upon request from the Government, over the coming days, WFP is planning to assist affected populations in Maputo province through the provision of return food kits.
- The scale and scope of WFP's support to Government led efforts is likely to increase within the next 10 days.

Situation Update

- Heavy rains and flooding have left large areas in southern and central Mozambique inundated; a cyclone strike in the coming days is likely to significantly intensify the situation in areas already impacted by flooding.
- In Maputo province in southern Mozambique, recorded rainfall between 5-13 February was triple the monthly average for February, with the heaviest rains recorded in Maputo city and surrounding areas.
- While heavy rains had previously been predominantly recorded in southern Mozambique, they have expanded to several provinces of central Mozambique.
- After several weeks of intense rains, global forecast systems predict less rainfall in the coming days, with intense rains limited to coastal districts in Inhambane and Sofala, and in localized areas of Tete. The rainfall outlook for the second half of the week (24-27 February) will mostly be influenced by the cyclone.
- Upstream, the main dams in neighbouring countries connected to Mozambique, as well as those within the country, are above or close to alert levels, and remain highly saturated. Large discharges into rivers are being carried out and will continue over the coming days.
- Continuing heavy rains and discharges are likely to cause further flooding, particularly along parts of rivers which are already at alert level (Tete, Sofala, Manica and Zambezia), and in the Limpopo basin (Gaza).
- Intense Tropical Cyclone Freddy continues its trajectory westward, with high likelihood that it will strike central Mozambique (Sofala & Zambezia) between 23-24 February (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts).



Needs and Assessments

- Based on mapping conducted by the European Union's Earth observation programme, Copernicus, and analysis from WFP's [Advanced Disaster Analysis & Mapping](#), an estimated 205,000 people are currently directly impacted by the flooding.
- The same analysis indicated that 71,584 hectares of croplands are flooded, predominantly in the Maputo and Gaza provinces.
- In Maputo province, a total of 16 accommodation centres have been activated, hosting 16,914 people. A total of 10 people died as a result of the heavy rains and flooding.
- Under the overall leadership of INGD, OCHA is coordinating cluster specific rapid needs assessments, which began on 16 February across the worst affected areas of Maputo province, the results of which will be discussed over the coming days.
- Continuing heavy rains, along with the likelihood of Cyclone Freddy making landfall in central Mozambique, will significantly increase in the number of people affected between now and the end of February. WFP is continuously assessing the situation and sharing key information with relevant stakeholders.

WFP's response

- To date, WFP's support to the INGD-led response efforts has focused on supporting coordination, the deployment of supply chain and logistics services for the assessment of the situation on the ground in hard-to-reach areas, and ensuring preparedness to respond to requests.
- An all-terrain vehicle, SHERP, was immediately deployed to affected areas in the morning of 12 February, allowing WFP and INGD staff to assess first-hand the impact of the flooding and better understand support requirements.
- UNHAS services have been made available, through the deployment of the helicopter to Maputo. Between 13-15 February, five assessments were conducted to the worst impacted areas in southern Mozambique.
- Following a formal request from the Government, WFP will be providing return kits to populations returning to their areas of origin from the accommodation centres. WFP will provide a 30-day relief ration in the form of a food kit, redeemed through commodity vouchers.
- Considering the weather forecasts over the upcoming weeks, WFP is closely liaising across its sub-offices and relevant authorities in relevant provinces, ensuring ability to respond as relevant.



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

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