



World Food Programme

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WFP Mozambique

External Situation Report #3

01 March 2023

Severe Tropical Storm Freddy

155,286 people affected
4 provinces affected
7,589 people displaced
26 active Accommodation Centres
15,097 houses damaged or destroyed
26,788 ha of cropland lost
20,073 students impacted
7 deaths recorded

Highlights

- Following landfall in Mozambique on 24 February, Severe Tropical Storm Freddy passed through the provinces of Inhambane, Gaza, and Manica.
- As of 01 March, the storm is over Inhambane, heading towards the Mozambique channel, where it will likely continue its trajectory eastward in the direction of southern Madagascar.
- While the storm's trajectory remains unpredictable, there is currently low risk it would make further landfall in Mozambique.
- Continuing heavy rainfall is expected across the provinces of Gaza and Inhambane, leading to further flooding in areas already heavily impacted in recent weeks.
- Data from the National Institute of Disaster Risk Reduction (INGD) indicates that as of 27 February, a total of 155,286 people have been impacted by Severe Tropical Storm Freddy.
- WFP staff have been deployed to the affected provinces to coordinate the response with INGD and partners, support INGD with impact and damage assessments, and provide key logistics capacity. WFP has finalised operational arrangements for the provision of food assistance, and is standing by ready to intervene, pending formal request from the Government.
- WFP continues to participate in the Operations Centre, under the stewardship of OCHA and in support to INGD, to identify operational gaps, clarify needs at district level, and define support to the response, including through a costed action plan.

Situation Update

- Severe Tropical Storm Freddy made landfall in Inhambane Province, southern Mozambique, in the early afternoon of 24 February. After making landfall, the storm system slowly moved across over the southern provinces of Inhambane, Gaza, and Manica.
- On 27 February, Freddy moved onto Zimbabwe, before returning eastward and re-entering Mozambique on 28 February. As of 01 March, the storm is heading eastward over Inhambane province.
- The storm is forecasted to re-enter the Mozambique Channel by tomorrow, where it will likely continue its trajectory eastwards. There is moderate probability it will make landfall in southern Madagascar as a Tropical Cyclone.
- While the storm's trajectory remains unpredictable, there is currently low risk it would again make landfall in Mozambique.
- Intense rainfall continues across much of southern and central Mozambique, with further rains and flooding expected, particularly in Inhambane and Gaza provinces (> 250 mm between 01-06 March).
- 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).



Needs and Assessments

- On 27 February, INGD issued preliminary data on the impact of Severe Tropical Storm Freddy. A total of 155,286 people are estimated to have been directly impacted by the storm, across the provinces of Inhambane, Gaza, Sofala, and Maputo.
- INGD estimate that some 26,788 hectares of cropland have been impacted. A total of 15,097 houses have been damaged or destroyed.
- A total of 26 accommodation centres have been activated, housing a total of 15,178 affected people (as per INGD).
- Latest estimations from OCHA indicate that 618,000 people are at risk across the provinces of Inhambane (90,000), Gaza (161,000), and Sofala (367,000).
- WFP staff remain in the affected provinces, supporting INGD, including through impact and damage assessments.

WFP's response

- To date, WFP's priorities have been rapid assessments, key logistics support, on-the-ground coordination with the National Institute of Disaster Risk Reduction (INGD) and other partners, supporting beneficiary information management, providing technical assistance on protection considerations, and anticipating formal requests from the Government for food assistance.
- WFP continues to participate in the Operations Centre, under the stewardship of OCHA. Through this platform, discussions are ongoing to identify operational gaps, clarify needs at district level, and define the Humanitarian Country Team's support to the Government-led response efforts, including through a costed action plan.
- Across the provinces, WFP's support to Government-led coordination and response efforts is being carried out through the Food Security Cluster (co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO), along with established focal points from the active Clusters.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Government, for WFP to provide food assistance in specific areas of Gaza and Inhambane provinces. WFP has finalised operational arrangements and plans to provide assistance within 24 hours of the formal request from INGD.
- Assistance will comprise food packages to support people in accommodation centres, as well as return kits to those returning to their places of origin. Assistance will be in the form of 7-day rations (covering 100 percent daily kilocalorie needs). Depending on the request, WFP may then provide a return kit covering 30 days (meeting approximately 75 percent of kilocalorie needs).
- Upon request from INGD, WFP has mobilised a SHERP - WFP's all-terrain vehicle - and two heavy terrain trucks, to Mabote district in Inhambane, which is faced with significant access challenges. These assets will support search and rescue operations, rapid assessments, and the movement of key personnel, assets, and commodities.



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

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