



World Food Programme

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WFP Mozambique

External Situation Report #5

12 March 2023

Tropical Cyclone Freddy

Highlights

- Tropical Cyclone Freddy made landfall in Quelimane city, central Mozambique, overnight between 11 and 12 March, recording sustained winds of 160-170km/h. It is the second time Freddy has made landfall in Mozambique.
- The system is resulting in very intense rains, with 400 mm expected in Zambezia province over the 24 hours following landfall.
- Several rivers are currently at alert level; continuing intense rainfall expected to result in overflowing and widespread flooding.
- The return of Freddy to Mozambique follows weeks of intense rainfall and flooding, which have already significantly impacted the southern and central parts of the country.
- Since second landfall, WFP has been participating in government coordination platforms, sharing information and identifying areas to support the response. WFP's priority is staff safety, while ensuring the capacity to respond.
- WFP has so far provided food assistance in Sofala and Inhambane provinces, in response to Freddy's first landfall. Operational arrangements are finalised to scale up the response; WFP is ready to support government-led efforts.
- WFP is currently pre-financing the response through a corporate funding facility. Further resources will be required to facilitate a wider response in the coming weeks.

Situation Update

- Tropical Cyclone Freddy made landfall in central Mozambique overnight between 11 and 12 March.
- Its epicentre was recorded just north of the city of Quelimane, in Zambezia province. Upon landfall, Tropical Cyclone Freddy recorded sustained winds of 160-170 km/h, with wind gusts up to 250km/h, alongside very intense rains. Sofala, Nampula, and Tete provinces have also recorded heavy winds and rainfall.
- Freddy maintained its strength overland for several hours, before weakening to a severe tropical storm. As of the afternoon of 12 March, the system is moving northwest over Mozambique at 6km/h. The system's slow speed is an aggravating factor, worsening the impact in areas in its path.
- The system is resulting in very intense rains, with 400 mm expected in the 24 hours following landfall across certain areas of Zambezia province.
- Licungo and Namacurra rivers are currently at alert level, and the continuing intense rainfall is expected to result in overflowing, with widespread flooding throughout their basins. River levels along the Zambezi River are also rising, with upstream discharge levels being reduced to minimise flooding in the surrounding areas.
- Forecast models indicate that Freddy will continue northwest, briefly entering Malawi, before making a U-turn on 14 March and heading back towards the Mozambique channel.
- The return of Freddy to Mozambique follows weeks of intense rainfall and flooding, which have already significantly impacted the southern and central parts of the country.
- The situation in the provinces of the southern Inhambane and Gaza remains concerning. The recent flooding occurred at the start of the harvest season, and in districts already categorized as IPC3 crisis level of food insecurity, as per the latest IPC analysis (to be released shortly).
- The World Meteorological Organization is evaluating whether Tropical Cyclone Freddy has broken the record as the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record, having formed in early February northwest of Australia.



Needs and Assessments

- It is currently too early to assess the overall impact of Tropical Cyclone Freddy, however considering that its epicentre upon landfall was near the densely populated area of Quelimane city, widespread disruption to populations can be expected.
- On 7 March, INGD issued data on the impact of the Freddy system since February. A total of 171,385 people were estimated to have been directly impacted. The same data from INGD indicates that 27,199 hectares of cropland have been lost, while a further 29,705 of cropland has been flooded. These figures are likely to significantly increase following Freddy's second landfall.
- According to government estimates made prior to second landfall, more than 565,000 people live in areas expected to be affected by the return of Freddy, across the provinces of Zambezia, Tete, Sofala, and Nampula. The real impact on Mozambique will only be known by the coming days.
- An interactive map to monitor the cyclone season in Mozambique was created by WFP. It provides easy access to updated information on road conditions, rainfall forecasts, cyclones' trajectories, river water level alerts, population levels, 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.

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

WFP's response

- Following the return of Freddy, WFP has been participating in government coordination platforms at the district, provincial, and central levels, sharing information and identifying areas to support the response. WFP's priority is staff safety, while ensuring the capacity to respond.
- To date, following the initial landfall of Freddy in late February, WFP has supported rapid assessments, and provided key logistics support, technical assistance on protection considerations, and food assistance upon request from the Government.
- In anticipation of second landfall, WFP deployed additional staff to support the response, including programmatic and logistical expertise, in the provinces of Sofala, Zambezia, and Nampula.
- Across the provinces, WFP's support to government-led efforts is being carried out through the Food Security Cluster (co-led by FAO), along with established focal points from the active Clusters.
- To date, WFP has provided food assistance in response to the first landfall of Freddy, including to 11,000 people in accommodation centres in Sofala province. WFP is currently coordinating, alongside the National Institute of Disaster Risk Reduction (INGD), for the provision of return kits to 4,600 people in Inhambane, in places where accommodation centres are planned to be deactivated.
- WFP has finalised operational arrangements for the provision of food assistance across the affected provinces, following the landfall of Freddy for a second time, and is standing by ready to intervene following formal requests from the Government.
- WFP has deployed its two SHERP – all-terrain vehicles – to strategic positions in central Mozambique, to support anticipated emergency needs assessments, search and rescue operations, and the provision of food assistance.
- Over the coming weeks, WFP's response is likely to be multi-faceted, supporting government-led efforts in southern Mozambique to those already impacted by the severe rains and flooding, while supporting response efforts in central and northern provinces following the landfall of Freddy for a second time.
- WFP, in coordination with the Food Security Cluster, is working to identify the financial resources required to support the response and will communicate these needs to the donor community in due course. Due to operational expediency, WFP is currently pre-financing the response through a corporate funding facility, while further resources will be required to facilitate a wider response in the coming weeks.