



# Mozambique – Complex Emergency & Tropical Cyclone

JANUARY 23, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>3.3</b> MILLION	<b>2.3</b> MILLION	<b>1</b> MILLION	<b>670,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Number of People Facing Crisis—IPC 3—Levels of Acute Food Insecurity <i>IPC – November 2023</i>	Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Mozambique <i>UN – December 2023</i>	Number of People in Need as a Result of Tropical Cyclone Freddy, Floods, and Cholera <i>UN – August 2023</i>	Number of IDPs Affected by Conflict in Northern Mozambique <i>UN – August 2023</i>	Confirmed cholera cases between October 2023 and January 2024 <i>MoH – January 2024</i>

- The UN calls for \$413 million to provide humanitarian assistance to 1.7 million vulnerable individuals in Mozambique in the 2024 HNRP.
- An estimated 3.3 million people are projected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between October 2023 and March 2024, an increase of approximately 700,000 people from the May–September 2023 period.
- NSAG attacks between late December and early January resulted in six civilian deaths—including one INGO staff member—and the displacement of approximately 2,300 people. The Rapid Response Mechanism—supported by USAID/BHA—provided more than 400 IDPs with emergency assistance.
- Cholera continues to spread, with more than 10,000 cases confirmed between October 2023 and mid-January 2024. Civilian unrest prompted by misinformation on cholera has resulted in the deaths of local leaders in Cabo Delgado Province.



<sup>1</sup> FY 2024 funding for the Mozambique Complex Emergency and Tropical Cyclone will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government (USG)'s funding toward the response in FY 2023, refer to Mozambique Complex Emergency and Tropical Cyclone Fact Sheet #4 released on September 30, 2023, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### UN 2024 HNRP for Mozambique Targets 1.7 Million People for Assistance

The UN released its 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for Mozambique in December, calling for \$413 million to support 1.7 million vulnerable individuals out of the nearly 2.3 million people in need of assistance countrywide. The plan aims to support the re-establishment of essential services and livelihoods and is focused on areas most affected by climatic shocks and conflict, including northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province. The HNRP calls for \$172.6 million in funding for food and livelihood assistance—the plan's largest sector by funding—followed by \$41 million for shelter support, and \$40 million for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. The plan also includes assistance for health, nutrition, and protection support.

Among the most vulnerable people identified by the HNRP are internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by conflict in northern Mozambique, numbering approximately 670,000 as of August 2023, according to the UN. IDPs have endured multiple displacements due to violence and continue to require humanitarian assistance amid struggles to engage in income-generating activities. Additionally, more than 570,000 former IDPs returned to their districts of origin during 2023 but still face challenging humanitarian conditions in 2024, requiring protection and other support to meet basic needs until they can rebuild their homes and livelihoods, the UN reports. The HNRP also calls for anticipatory actions and the pre-positioning of life-saving supplies to mitigate the impact of future climatic shocks, including cyclones, droughts, and flooding. During 2023, relief actors—including USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners—reached approximately 1.6 million people in northern Mozambique with life-saving support, including food, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH services.

### IPC Expects Approximately 3.3 Million People to Face Acute Food Insecurity Through March

Approximately 3.3 million people in Mozambique are projected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between October 2023 and March 2024, according to an IPC analysis released in late November.<sup>2</sup> The projection reflects an increase of approximately 700,000 people facing Crisis or worse conditions compared to estimates during the May–September 2023 period. IPC projects that Cabo Delgado will have the largest concentration of people facing Crisis or worse conditions, with more than 863,000 acutely food-insecure individuals, representing 32 percent of the population and the highest proportion of all of Mozambique's provinces. Furthermore, Emergency—IPC 4—conditions may become prevalent in parts of Cabo Delgado's Meluco and Mocímboa da Praia districts in 2024, as most households in these areas already had high rates of poor food consumption in 2023 and were largely dependent on humanitarian assistance, IPC reports. Climate patterns are also expected to impact food security in northern Mozambique. Adequate rains during late 2023 allowed for some planting in Tete and Zambezia provinces, and crops remained in good condition as of December, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). However, IPC analysis warns that tropical cyclones, heavier rains, and associated flash flooding are forecast to impact parts of northern Mozambique during January and February, which may reduce harvests.

In central and southern Mozambique, IPC expects the El Niño weather pattern—the unusual warming of Pacific Ocean surface temperatures—and resultant below-average rainfall to move 11 districts from Stressed—IPC 2—conditions of food insecurity to Crisis levels through March. In the southern region, a

<sup>2</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

false start to the 2023/2024 rainy season in October encouraged many households to plant crops, but dry conditions in November prompted crop wilting and forced households to replant. Although increased rainfall during December allowed new planting, FEWS NET expects below-average rainfall through March. Increased food and fuel prices are also likely to limit household access to food and exacerbate food insecurity between October and March, according to IPC. In November, prices of maize grain—a staple food in Mozambique—in local markets remained 20 percent to 80 percent higher than in November 2022. The abnormally high prices are likely due to the cumulative impacts of recent shocks, including Tropical Cyclone Freddy—which made landfall over Mozambique in February and March 2023—and subsequently reduced harvests, FEWS NET reports.

### **NSAG Attacks Result in One INGO Staff Death and 2,300 People Displaced**

Attacks by non-state armed group (NSAG) elements continued in Cabo Delgado during late December and early January, resulting in deaths and displacement among civilian populations. In Mocímboa da Praia, NSAG attacks between January 3 and 5 resulted in six civilian deaths, the UN reports. International nongovernmental organization (INGO) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) identified one off-duty staff member—a health promoter—among the deceased following a January 5 attack in Mocímboa da Praia’s Chibanga village. MSF plans to continue providing humanitarian and medical assistance in Mocímboa da Praia and other districts in Cabo Delgado, according to a January 7 statement. The attacks also resulted in an unreported number of abductions and the burning of more than 60 buildings, as well as the looting of food, livestock, and transportation equipment, the UN reports.

During a wider span between December 26 and January 11, NSAG attacks on villages in Cabo Delgado’s Macomia, Mocímboa da Praia, Mueda, and Muidumbe districts displaced approximately 2,300 people—nearly half of whom were children—according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). More than 1,000 people sought shelter in displacement sites in Macomia, but heavy rains on January 1 and 2 damaged more than 700 shelters and strained the capacity of the sites to accommodate IDPs. Displaced individuals require food, hygiene kits, and shelter items, including bedding sets and kitchen supplies, the UN reports. More than 400 IDPs in Mocímboa da Praia received food, hygiene kits, and shelter items through the INGO-led Rapid Response Mechanism supported by USAID/BHA as of January 12, the UN reports.

### **Cholera Outbreak Reaches More Than 10,000 Cases As Misinformation Prompts Unrest in Cabo Delgado**

Cholera continues to spread in Mozambique, with a total of 25 cholera-associated deaths from more than 10,000 confirmed cases recorded by the Government of Mozambique’s Ministry of Health (MoH) between October 1, 2023, and January 21, 2024. The outbreak’s case fatality rate of 0.2 percent remains below the UN World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 1 percent. The spread of cholera has been most severe in northern Mozambique, with Nampula Province experiencing the highest prevalence nationally, recording more than 3,200 cases—32 percent of the total caseload—during the reporting period. Tete Province recorded the second-highest number of cases during the period with nearly 1,900 cases, followed by Cabo Delgado with more than 1,800 cases, according to the MoH.

Misinformation regarding cholera continues to prompt unrest in Cabo Delgado, resulting in the deaths of local leaders. In the province’s Chiure District, unrest resulted in the deaths of four local government officials on December 18 following accusations of intentionally spreading cholera, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED). In neighboring Montepuez District, a rumor that local authorities were spreading cholera caused unrest on December 9, resulting in the deaths of four community leaders and the destruction of their homes, ACLED reports.

## KEY FIGURES



**642,000**

People reached with food assistance in northern Mozambique by USAID/BHA partner WFP in October



**7,800**

People provided with civil documentation assistance by State/PRM partner UNHCR between January and November 2023

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA is supporting partners to provide agriculture, food, and nutrition assistance in Mozambique as climatic events, displacement, and protracted conflict continue to result in acute food insecurity and malnutrition throughout the country. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached more than 642,000 people in Cabo Delgado, Niassa, and Zambezia provinces with more than 800 metric tons of in-kind food and approximately \$3.8 million in cash transfers for food and food vouchers during October 2023. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provide life-saving nutrition services—including malnutrition screenings and treatment—to conflict-affected children and pregnant and lactating women in northern Mozambique.

### PROTECTION

The USG supports multiple partners to address protection concerns among conflict- and cyclone-affected populations in Mozambique. With USAID/BHA support, CARE and UNICEF are providing child protection programming, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention activities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and other specialized protection services to IDPs and host community members throughout the country. USAID/BHA partner UNICEF supports vulnerable populations with GBV risk mitigation and response services while providing comprehensive case management to children throughout northern Mozambique.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supports access to civil documentation for IDPs and host community members in Mozambique. Between January and November 2023, UNHCR and its partners assisted nearly 7,800 people in Cabo Delgado's Pemba city and Zambezia's Nicosadala District in re-acquiring destroyed or lost civil documentation, which allowed them to access basic services. In Cabo Delgado's Montepuez District, UNHCR provided more than 1,100 core-relief kits—containing essential items such as blankets, buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mats, and mosquito nets—to families residing in the Nicuapa displacement site during November. The State/PRM partner also supports shelter construction and repairs in relocation sites. Furthermore, UNHCR's protection monitoring activities are critical in identifying protection risks and trends and referring people with heightened needs to specialized services.



**67,500**

Cholera patients able to be treated by health supplies delivered by UNICEF in November

## HEALTH

USG partners provide health programming—often integrated with nutrition and WASH activities—throughout Mozambique to reduce the spread of communicable diseases and facilitate access to primary health care services. USAID/BHA partners support outpatient consultations for diseases—including diarrhea, malaria, and scabies—among vulnerable individuals while also providing postnatal care to women and newborns. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners support vaccinations against diseases such as tuberculosis. In November 2023, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided cholera treatment supplies to cover more than 67,500 patients for three months in 24 districts in Nampula and Zambezia.



**33,000**

People supported by water points constructed or rehabilitated by UNICEF in November

## WASH

USAID/BHA supports partners to address populations' hygiene needs, improve access to safe drinking water, and prevent the spread of communicable diseases through several dedicated WASH interventions throughout Mozambique. USAID/BHA partners also support water chlorination and the provision of disinfection supplies and hygiene kits to reduce the spread of cholera. Furthermore, USAID/BHA partners also provide hygiene promotion messages on topics such as disease prevention, proper handwashing, and water treatment solutions to reduce the spread of communicable diseases. In November 2023, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF completed the construction and rehabilitation of nearly 100 water points, benefitting approximately 33,000 people across Mozambique.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- In 2017, local political grievances—exacerbated by growing competition over liquefied natural gas reserves, fisheries, and mineral resources—gave rise to a nascent insurgency in Cabo Delgado. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria–Mozambique (ISIS-M) carried out escalating attacks on security forces and civilian population centers throughout the province in subsequent years, resulting in significant civilian casualties, exacerbating local food insecurity, and driving mass population displacement in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa.
- In 2020, ISIS-M elements gained control of large swathes of Cabo Delgado's Macomia, Mocímboa da Praia, and Muidumbe districts, including Mocímboa da Praia town. In March 2021, insurgent forces launched a deadly attack on the critical port town of Palma in Cabo Delgado's Palma District, driving a new wave of displacement through northern Mozambique and minimizing humanitarian access to populations in need. Beginning in July, Rwanda Defense Forces and the Southern Africa Development Community Standby Force Mission in Mozambique deployed to the region to support Government of Mozambique (GoM)-led offensives against ISIS-M enclaves and restore security in Cabo Delgado, resulting in the rapid recapture of ISIS-M-held territory, improved humanitarian access, and initial IDP returns. However, large areas of Cabo Delgado remain inaccessible to relief actors, and NSAG attacks on civilian populations continue to drive widespread acute food insecurity and humanitarian needs.

- On October 13, 2023, U.S. Ambassador Peter H. Vrooman renewed a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) due to the ongoing complex emergency in northern Mozambique. USAID/BHA continues to support food-insecure and at-risk IDPs and host community members with food assistance and other emergency interventions to improve agricultural production and revitalize livelihoods. In addition, USAID/BHA funding supports the provision of health care, protection services, shelter, safe drinking water, and improved WASH infrastructure among conflict-affected communities.
- Recurrent tropical cyclones pose a serious threat to food security, infrastructure, and public health in Mozambique. In February and March 2023, Tropical Cyclone Freddy made consecutive landfalls in central Mozambique, adversely affecting nearly 1.2 million people—many of whom were still recovering from the impacts of 2022 cyclones—and damaging or destroying critical infrastructure, including health centers, housing, and WASH services. In response to elevated humanitarian needs exacerbated by Tropical Cyclone Freddy, Ambassador Vrooman issued a DHN on March 3, 2023. USAID/BHA continues to support cyclone-affected populations in Mozambique with food assistance, critical relief commodities, shelter, and WASH assistance.

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## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)