



## MOZAMBIQUE: FLOODS AND CYCLONES

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.*

### In Brief

Period covered by this update: 30 January to 9 February 2007

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 37,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 19 January 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation (refer to the [DREF Bulletin](#) for more information).
- An additional CHF 150,000 was allocated from DREF on 11 February 2007.
- This operation was planned to be implemented for 3 months; due to the deteriorating situation and the need to scale-up activities, the International Federation is deploying a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to reinforce the Mozambique Red Cross Society's team already in place.
- A Preliminary Emergency Appeal will be launched shortly, and will be revised as the operation becomes clearer and the FACT provides updated information.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

### Background and current situation

Since December 2006, Mozambique has been experiencing heavy rains and storms. These have subsequently caused flooding and destruction of unstable huts, schools, health centres and crops. Information provided by the National Disaster Management Institute<sup>1</sup> (INGC), on 9 February 2007, indicated that the water level at the Zambezi River Basin is still increasing as a result of persistent rainfall in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. This may result into localized flooding in central and northern Mozambique.

Currently, the water level is far above alert level (having reached 6.1 metres). It is feared that the impact would be greater than that of the disastrous floods of 2001 (during which the water level rose to 7 metres). According to the Mozambique government, approximately 61,000 people have been displaced and 29 killed. The most affected provinces are Zambezia, Sofala, Manica and Tete, where the flooding caused destruction of 4,677 houses, 111 schools, 4 health centres, several roads, bridges and 15,000 hectares of crop.

<sup>1</sup> In Portuguese: Instituto Nacional de Gestao das Calamidades (INGC)

The Cabora Bassa Dam, which is the second largest dam in Africa, is opening its drain gates and this will aggravate the flooding situation. The dam has been discharging water at a rate of 7,000m<sup>3</sup>/s since 7 February 2007. The National Water Directorate increased the discharge rate to 8,400m<sup>3</sup>/s, on 9 February, while the influx into the dam reservoir has increased to 10,000m<sup>3</sup>/s. Significant flooding is expected in the Zambezi River Basin due to the continuing heavy rains in Mozambique and neighbouring countries as well as the increased discharge rate at the Cabora Bassa Dam.



*A flooded section of Zambezi River Basin.*

INGC estimates that the flooding in the Zambezi River Basin may affect approximately 285,000 people, who may require emergency assistance in the form of food, shelter, health and care, clean water, sanitation facilities and other immediate relief needs. Approximately 23,000 people are currently in accommodation centres provided by the government on safer locations. Some 33,000 others are gathered in resettlement centres. There is still lack of adequate shelter, food and safe drinking water. Crocodiles are also becoming a threat, as they have found their way to the flooded areas. There are emerging cases of malaria and other waterborne diseases, and these may soon be a major cause for concern.

It is likely that the government will declare a national emergency, given the trend of the disaster. All humanitarian agencies have been put on alert and the government is holding daily emergency and coordination meetings.

**Table 1: Status of affected districts and (as at February 2007)**

Province	District	No. of affected households	Status	No. of accommodation centres
Sofala	Chemba	224	evacuated	5
	Caia	450	evacuated	10
	Marromeu	-	N/A	4
Manica	Guro	-	N/A	2
	Tambara	290	evacuated	4
Tete	Mutarara	702	N/A	4
	Zumbo	-	N/A	1
Zambezia	Chinde	218	displaced	3
	Mopeia	7,564	displaced	4
	Morrumbala	330	displaced	1
	Nicoadala	56	displaced	1
	Quelimane	255	displaced	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,089</b>		<b>35</b>

*Source: INGC and CVM provincial branches*

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

On January 2007, the Federation provided CHF 37,000, from DREF, to the Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM<sup>2</sup>) in support of the national society's emergency response. Due to the deteriorating situation, an additional CHF 150,000 was released from DREF on 11 February 2007. Furthermore, CVM has started local resource mobilization and approximately USD 200,000 has been donated by local companies.

A six-member team from the CVM headquarters has been deployed to the affected provinces to conduct assessments and to provide technical support to the volunteers. CVM has a wealth of experience in preparedness and response to floods emergencies from the



*CVM volunteers provide first aid to a beneficiary.*

<sup>2</sup> In Portuguese: Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique

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2001/2002 floods operation. The national society (NS) has been conducting contingency planning on a regular basis and is part of the government's disaster response team. The CVM contingency plan was last updated in November 2006.

CVM has established a task force, at the headquarters, which meets on a daily basis. In addition, the NS mobilized a total of 400 volunteers to assist the affected people by:

- Mobilizing people in flood-prone areas to relocate to safer areas;
- Providing community-based first aid (CBFA);
- Conducting health, hygiene and sanitation education;
- Assisting with water chlorination;
- Assisting in water rescue exercises;
- Supporting the distribution of relief supplies;
- Registering households/people sheltered in accommodation centres.

**Table 2: Relief items distributed by CVM (as at 9 February 2007)**

Relief items	Zambezia	Tete	Sofala	Manica
Tents	100	60	-	100
Tarpaulins†	-	420	-	-
Sleeping mats	14	60	-	-
Plastic sheeting†	-	-	-	100
Jerry cans	596	89	-	-
Mosquito nets	-	147	-	-
Blankets	-	180	-	-
Boats (pre- positioned)	-	-	3	1
Emergency kits*	-	-	-	200
Chlorine tablets†	-	-	-	48

\*An emergency kit consists of 4 plates, 4 spoons, 1 blanket, 1 bar of soap, 1 bucket, 2 cooking pots and 6 cups.

†Tarpaulins (pieces), plastic sheeting (metres) and chlorine tablets (kilograms).

The International Federation, in coordination with partner national societies (PNS), has mobilized and is deploying a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT)<sup>3</sup>. The FACT will assist CVM with coordination, detailed assessments as well as in developing a plan of action for response. A preliminary Emergency Appeal will be launched shortly, and will be revised as the operation becomes clearer and the FACT provides updated information.

The Federation regional delegation in Harare has established a task force composed of disaster management, health, water and sanitation (WatSan), reporting, finance and information staff. The task force is coordinating regional response, including mobilization of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), release of emergency stocks and provision of technical support.

### Further needs

CVM plans to scale-up the operation to reach 142,000 people with temporary shelter and relief items. Most of the affected areas are inaccessible and the government has deployed the armed forces to evacuate people. Only a few people managed to recover some of their personal belongings, thus there is a need for additional basic relief items. The affected populations are currently living under extremely harsh conditions due to humidity, wet conditions and lack of basic goods and services.

With support from the Federation, CVM is preparing to launch of an emergency operation for six months (until August 2007). CVM requires immediate human resource assistance in logistics, reporting, finance management and WatSan to complement the FACT.

### Coordination

The national disaster response is being coordinated by INGC, which is under Ministry of State Administration (MAE)<sup>4</sup>. The United Nations (UN) resident coordinator, through the UN disaster management team, is coordinating

<sup>3</sup> FACT- for more information refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/fact/>

<sup>4</sup> In Portuguese: Ministerio da Administracao Estatal (MAE)

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UN support to the government. At the request of the resident coordinator, the regional office of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is deploying two humanitarian affairs officers to support in preparing a proposal to be submitted to the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) and the implementation of a cluster approach. The Federation and CVM are discussing with the UN and the government on practical approaches as well as other flexible solutions to the floods situation.

CVM is expected to take a lead role in coordination as it has been in operation since January 2007. Daily emergency meetings are held at CVM, government and UN levels where latest information on the situation is exchanged, roles and responsibilities are clarified and plans of actions are discussed. The Belgian, Finnish, German, Icelandic and Spanish Red Cross societies also attend the coordination meetings. CVM headquarters is in close contact with its branches, with regards to situation on the ground, and is sharing regular updates with them.

### ***For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:***

- **In Mozambique:** *Fernanda Teixeira, Secretary General, Mozambique Red Cross Society, Maputo; Email: [fernanda.teixeira@redcross.org.mz](mailto:fernanda.teixeira@redcross.org.mz); Phone +258.1.497.721; +258.1.490.943; Mobile +258.82.31.16.25; Fax +258.1.497.725*
- **In Zimbabwe:** *Françoise Le Goff, Head of Southern Africa Regional Delegation, Harare; Email: [francoise.legoff@ifrc.org](mailto:francoise.legoff@ifrc.org); Phone +263.4.70.61.55, +263.4.72.03.15; Fax +263.4.70.87.84*
- **In Geneva:** *John Roche, Federation Regional Officer for Southern Africa, Africa Dept., Geneva Email: [john.roche@ifrc.org](mailto:john.roche@ifrc.org); Phone +41.22.730.44.40, Fax +41.22.733.03.95*

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

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