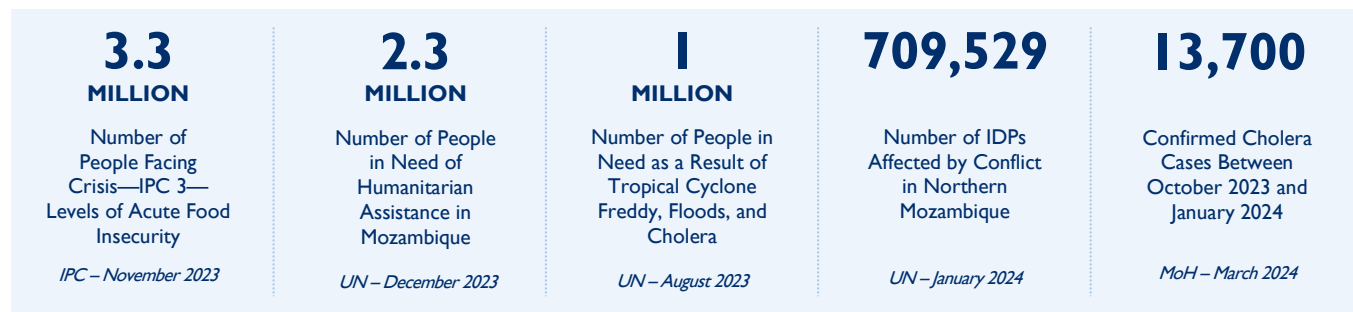


Mozambique – Complex Emergency & Tropical Cyclone

MARCH 21, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Renewed NSAG violence displaced approximately 112,800 people—including nearly 61,500 children—across Cabo Delgado between late December and early March. This includes 99,300 people displaced between February 8 and March 3 alone.
- The negative effects of El Niño on agricultural harvests in central and southern Mozambique are expected to increase the prevalence of Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity between February and September in the areas. Meanwhile, ongoing violence continues to impede humanitarian actors from reaching populations in need of assistance.
- As of March 14, the Government of Mozambique’s Ministry of Health reported 13,700 confirmed cholera cases and 30 associated deaths since October 2023.



¹ 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

NSAG Violence Displaces Approximately 112,800 People in Cabo Delgado Between December and March

Non-state armed group (NSAG) violence in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province between late December and early March displaced an estimated 112,800 people—including 61,500 children—across six districts, including Chiure, Ibo, Macomia, Mecufi, Mocímboa da Praia, and Muidumbe, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Of this total, approximately 99,300 people were displaced between February 8 and March 3 alone and require emergency relief supplies, food, and shelter assistance, the UN agency reports. Displaced individuals sought refuge at internally displaced person (IDP) sites and in host communities across the affected districts; however, many IDPs remain uncertain about when it will be safe to return to their communities of origin due to ongoing insecurity in the area. The recent uptick in displacements follows a resurgence of NSAG attacks and other activity across the province, with the number of attacks reported as of mid-March, more than doubling the number of attacks reported during the previous 12 months, according to a security-focused nongovernmental organization. Since the conflict in Cabo Delgado began in 2017, approximately 48 percent of affected households have experienced repeated displacement, according to IOM. Meanwhile, the number of people returning to their areas of origin also increased by 11 percent between October 2023 and February 2024. Relief actors warn, however, that many IDPs may be incorrectly classified as returned, due to proximity to their areas of origin, though they have not fully returned to their prior residences, negatively affecting their ability to receive humanitarian aid though they remain displaced and in need of assistance. Despite ongoing violence in the province causing temporary interruptions, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners continue to reach conflict-affected populations in Cabo Delgado with food, health, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.

El Niño Drives Continued Drought, Worsening Food Insecurity in Parts of Mozambique

The number of households facing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity will likely increase through at least September across Mozambique, particularly in southern provinces, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).² FEWS NET's most recent projections, released in February, highlight the negative effects of the El Niño phenomenon—which typically results in atypical changes between severe drought and above-average rainfall in Southern Africa—and resultant poor harvest seasons as the primary factors contributing to increased food insecurity. In southern Mozambique's Gaza Province, drought-like conditions due to insufficient and erratic rainfall resulted in crop losses, requiring households with little to no remaining food reserves from the previous harvest season to purchase food from markets consistently. In addition, the effects of El Niño are likely to negatively affect Mozambique's ability to import food from neighboring countries facing similar effects of the phenomenon and may also result in higher food prices, based on reduced availability.

Relatedly, in conflict-affected districts of Cabo Delgado and parts of Nampula Province, ongoing violence and displacement has hindered livelihood activities, including agricultural practices, likely resulting in low crop production and negatively affecting food security outcomes in the area, according to FEWS NET. Following increased violence in the province since late December, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) temporarily postponed activities in Chiure and Quissanga districts due to the

² 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.

volatile security environment, but have since resumed activities as of March. Insecurity continues to disrupt relief organizations' access to the area, hindering their ability to reach vulnerable populations with critical humanitarian aid promptly. Despite the difficult operating environment, WFP continues to provide emergency food assistance to displaced families throughout Cabo Delgado and neighboring Nampula.

Largest Cholera Outbreak in 25 Years Reaches Nearly 14,000 Suspected Cases

Cholera continued to spread across Mozambique as of early March, resulting in the country's most severe outbreak in 25 years, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Government of Mozambique's Ministry of Health (MoH) recorded at least 13,700 confirmed cases between October 2023, and March 14, resulting in 30 associated deaths. Beginning in mid-December, parts of Mozambique reported as many as 600 new cases weekly, with cases likely to continue to spread given the seasonality of cholera and the ongoing November-to-May rainy season, according to UNICEF. Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Tete, and Zambezia provinces have recorded the largest number of cholera cases nationwide as of mid-March, according to the MoH. Health actors attribute the rise in cholera cases to limited WASH capacity in IDP sites and host communities, as well as flooding caused by erratic rainfall due to El Niño. In addition, continued NSAG violence in southern districts of Cabo Delgado has resulted in displacement to Chiure and Nampula's Erati District, and relief actors warn that increased overcrowding and inadequate sanitation facilities at IDP sites could further exacerbate poor health conditions.

KEY FIGURES



403,300

People reached with food assistance in northern Mozambique by USAID/BHA partner WFP between January and February



8,000

People provided with civil documentation assistance by State/PRM partner UNHCR between January and December 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, WFP reached nearly 403,300 people in Cabo Delgado with food assistance between January and February. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and UNICEF continue to provide life-saving nutrition services—including malnutrition screenings and treatment—to conflict-affected children and pregnant and lactating women in northern Mozambique in 2024.

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. UNICEF also helped reunite 91 children with their families in Chiure and Erati, providing interim support to 27 unaccompanied children during February. UNICEF also actively

monitoring the 215 children in Erati listed as missing.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) facilitates access to civil documentation for IDPs and host community members in Mozambique. Between January and December 2023, UNHCR and its partners assisted nearly 8,000 people in Cabo Delgado's Pemba city and Zambezia's Nicoadala District in re-acquiring destroyed or lost civil documentation, which allowed them to access basic services. In Cabo Delgado's Montepuez District, UNHCR provided emergency relief supplies—containing essential items such as blankets, buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mats, and mosquito nets—to more than 600 families residing in the Nicuapa displacement site during December. The State/PRM partner also supported the construction of 300 transitional shelters at the Lianda displacement site in Cabo Delgado and upgraded 40 shelters at the Nicuapa IDP site in Montepuez in December. In response to recent displacement throughout February in Erati, USAID/BHA partner IOM distributed emergency shelter supplies, including buckets, kitchen kits, mats, solar lamps, and tarps for nearly 5,000 people in the district.



212,200

Women and children were reached with primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities during 2023

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 2023, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided primary health care assistance to approximately 212,200 women and children in Mozambique.



4,800

Hygiene kits delivered to IDP families in Erati District by UNICEF in March

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 provide hygiene promotion messages on topics such as disease prevention, proper handwashing, and water treatment solutions to reduce the spread of communicable diseases. In early March, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided hygiene kits to more than 4,800 IDP families in Erati.

- 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 provinces.
- 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 also 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 the cyclones in 2022—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.

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://www.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://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

