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Emergency appeal operation update Mozambique: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRMZ012	
Date of Issue: 26 July 2016	Expected end date: 22 January 2017
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Hung Ha Nguyen, Disaster Preparedness Delegate, IFRC, Southern Africa	Point of contact: Ernestina Jama, Acting Secretary General
Operation start date: 22 April 2016	Expected timeframe: 9 months
Appeal budget: CHF 1,702,895	
Total number of people affected: 1.2 million people	Number of people to be assisted: 14,767 individuals (2,953 HH)
Host National Society presence: Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM), 159 Staff members and 6,500 volunteers actively engage on various programmes in 11 Provinces. For this operation: 11 staff and 197 volunteers will be directly involved.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, Spanish RC, German RC and Danish RC	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Department of Disaster Management (INGC), WFP, COSACA (a consortium of NGOs comprised by Concern Worldwide, Save the Children and CARE International), World Vision International and IOM are the only organizations responding to drought.	

Appeal History:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 22 April 2016 for CHF **1,702,895 Swiss francs** to enable the IFRC to support the Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM) to reach 14,767 people (2,953 households) in 6 districts: Magude and Manhiça in Maputo province, Mabalane and Chibuto in Gaza province and Funhalouro and Govuro in Inhambane province. It aims to provide assistance over the next nine months with a focus on interventions on the sectors of food security (carried out through cash) and livelihoods.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 160,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to start up the operations by meeting immediate needs of affected people.
- [Operations update 1](#) and [Operations update 2](#) were issued to give progress on the operation.



First cash transfer to beneficiaries in Changanine, Chibuto district, Gaza province. Photo by CVM

IFRC, on behalf of Mozambique Red Cross appeals to various donors to support this Emergency Appeal to enable Mozambique RC meet the needs of vulnerable people in affected communities. Support was received from Japanese RC, Monaco RC and the Netherlands RC.

Summary: The Mozambique Food Security Outlook Update released by FEWSNET in April 2016 showed that drought conditions intensified in early and mid-February in much of the south and parts of central Mozambique. The low rainfall in these areas, combined with high temperatures, led to low water availability and wilting of crops. This has resulted in further reduction in expected production. Following this dry spell, heavy rains set in across most parts of the country in late February and early March. However, these rains were generally too late to benefit crops in the affected areas due to the negative impact of the previous dry conditions. In some areas where crops had not succumbed to the preceding heat and dryness, such as coastal Inhambane Province, central Manica Province, western and eastern portions of Tete Province, and parts of the interior of Sofala Province, the late rains helped crops to reach maturity. The Crop and Early Warning Unit (DCAP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MASA) indicated in mid-April that drought and excessive rains affected 67 out of the country's 154 districts. DCAP estimates nearly 879,000 hectares of mixed crops have been lost, with 3,000 hectares from excessive rains and the rest due to drought. According to MASA/DCAP, about 18% of the total planted area was lost. On livestock, MASA/DCAP estimated there were nearly 5,708 cattle deaths (approximately 0.32% of the estimated national total) due to drought, mainly in Maputo and Gaza Provinces.

The Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition's Vulnerability Assessment Group (SETSAN/GAV) conducted a food security assessment in March in seven provinces through structured household interviews and community focus groups, along with visits to local markets to assess staple food prices. SETSAN/GAV determined that the overall level of acute food insecurity has deteriorated since November 2015, estimating 1.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Tete is the province with the highest number of people in need (334,413), followed by Sofala (329,022), Zambézia (254,379), Gaza (202,282), Inhambane (129,827), Maputo (123,960) and Manica (92,484). However, the assessment does not provide any breakdown based on severity and/or timeframes. Overall, in six of the seven provinces (except Zambézia), SETSAN found that more than 98% of households had no cereal reserves and less than 10% were hoping to harvest some cereals. The majority of households had made at least three planting attempts, exhausting seeds for the upcoming second season and for the 2016/17 agriculture season. Dietary diversity has fallen since November, and on average 41% of households have an "inadequate" food consumption score. Based on a rapid mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) survey, global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence is critical in Tete and in Sofala Provinces (greater than 15%). FEWS NET participated in Tete Province, and the most vulnerable households with low or no income were resorting to wild foods at a higher frequency and for more prolonged use.

Based on the assessment results, SETSAN recommended prioritizing the provision of food assistance in areas with acute food insecurity needs since last year, which include the southern provinces of Gaza and Inhambane and parts of the central provinces of Sofala, Manica and Tete. SETSAN also recommended providing seeds for short-cycle crops for areas receiving late rainfall, and prioritizing nutritional rehabilitation interventions for Tete, Sofala, Manica, and Inhambane Provinces.

Generally, food access and availability will continue to be limited after the April and May harvest due to near total crop failure in many areas of the south and the imminent poor harvest in parts of the central region. In addition, the below-average labour availability, as well as the very high food prices, will further constrain food access and purchasing power, especially for the poorest households as they increasingly rely on market purchases. In March, the average price for maize grain in major markets monitored was 143% above the five-year average. Prices of some major substitute staples, maize meal and rice, were up compared to the five-year average in markets monitored, by 62% and 38%, respectively.

The combination of drought impacts and ongoing political and military tensions in central Mozambique have already forced households to abandon their villages in search of more secure areas, adversely impacting normal livelihoods. According to UNHCR, as of April 15, there were nearly 10,000 Mozambicans registered as asylum seekers in Malawi after fleeing violence in Mozambique. The numbers peaked at more than 250 arrivals per day in early March but have since slowed.

Immediate intervention

Immediate response to assist 14,767 people (2,953 households) that are in a severe food insecurity situation in six districts: Magude and Manhiça in Maputo province, Mabalane and Chibuto in Gaza province and Funhalouro and Govuro in Inhambane province, all in the southern part of Mozambique impacted by drought through:

- **Cash Transfer Programming** for 14,767 people (2,953 households) by direct cash distribution through cash vouchers of 757 MNZ (one-person household); 1,400 MNZ (two-person household); and 3,600 MNZ (three or more) per household per month for 9 months, considering the size of the household, to allow most vulnerable households to meet their basic needs. The amount to deliver has been calculated based on the prices of the composition of the Mozambique Government standard food basket (25 kg bag of maize, 25 kg of rice, 5 kg of beans, 5 kg of sugar and 1 litre of cooking oil. This modality has been accepted in the country and some of the players such as COSACA are using vouchers to assist the drought affected families.
- **Provision of supplementary feeding:** CVM initially planned to distribute CSB (corn soya blend) to pregnant and lactating women and children 6-60 months to provide additional 400 kcal on top of the basic ration and to provide additional Vitamin A for all the children. Referral system for malnourished children will be set up between volunteers and health facilities. Children who are severely malnourished with MUAC < 110 mm will be referred to the Health Centres. However, after consultation with the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF and WFP, it seems that this component is well covered by partners and it is therefore suggested that CVM will no longer be involved in this intervention but will instead have volunteers trained by MoH assisting targeted communities in terms of awareness raising and work together with partners on the ground.
- **Support to Agricultural production:** Provision of seeds (maize, bean, lettuce, onion, tomato, cabbage) and tools (watering can, hunter axe, hoe with handle) to 1,476 very poor households has been started with procurement process and it aims for 2016 planting season, to be distributed in September/October 2016. Only half of the targeted households will benefit from this intervention for the households that will still be showing signs of distress after the CTP. Prior assessment will be carried out to identify very poor households among targeted families benefiting from the intervention. CVM will work closely with the government extension officers in the process of sourcing seeds and further advising communities on good agricultural practices. Opportunities will be explored for provision of seeds and fertiliser through vouchers. The market will be assessed as to its capacity to support seed requirements, to keep the logistics burden of distribution to a minimum.

Coordination and partnerships

Mozambique Red Cross (CVM), is a member of the Department of Disaster Management (INGC) regularly attends coordination meetings which are convened by either INGC or HCT to share practices and updates on on-going disaster response, preparedness and risk reduction and get updates from other partners to avoid duplication and complement to make larger impact.

The CVM branches have an existing operational partnership with the provincial authorities and down to the community level and through various ongoing projects supported by Spanish Red Cross (Maputo and Zambezia, Tete and Sofala), German RC in Gaza and Danish RC in Inhambane. The CVM also works closely with WFP, COSACA (a consortium of NGOs comprised by Concern Worldwide, Save the Children and CARE International), World Vision International (WVI) and other partners on the ground to ensure that cash and other support reach intended and targeted beneficiaries.

The CVM with support from the IFRC will ensure coordination with the national and local authorities before, during and after the appeal's interventions. The existing structures at the cluster level (IFRC) and Mozambique (CVM) facilitate participation at all levels and the CVM is a member of different platforms where technical issues in regard to food security are discussed.

This operation also closely co-ordinates with relevant national and local authorities, it integrates them in the implementation of activities. These authorities are an integral part of the Action. For instance, Technical Committee for Disaster Management (CTGC) as the institution responsible for co-ordination of disaster management. CTGC is the main platform to coordinate and share practices under this operation.

CVM has been receiving technical support from partner national societies in the country such as the Spanish Red Cross which has presence in Cabo – Delgado Province, in districts of Montepuez and Namuno, strengthening local authorities and structures to fight against food insecurity and malnutrition in women (lactating and pregnant), and children under 5 years. In Maputo city the programme focuses on hygiene promotion in three neighbourhoods and municipal markets: Kamubukuane, KaMavota and Romão.

German Red Cross is running a disaster risk reduction (DRR) programme in three districts of Gaza Province namely Chocwe, Guijá and Chibuto, and developing a pilot initiative – Forecast Based Financing (a new mechanism for financing activities immediately after a disaster or warning).

Danish Red Cross is finalizing a DRR programme in Inhambane province covering Inhassoro and Vilanculos districts, aiming at strengthening DRM structures at both district and community levels.

Operational implementation

Overview

CHF 160,000 was released from the DREF to start the operation. Additional support was received from the Japanese RC (CHF 56,200), Monaco RC (CHF 10,886) and the Netherlands RC (CHF 383,000). Surge Support was provided to the Mozambique Red Cross to support in the start-up of the operation by deploying one DM delegate from the IFRC southern Africa Cluster Office to Mozambique to assist CVM in rolling out all components including training of volunteers in beneficiary selection, CTP and livelihoods and meet with local authorities and other stakeholders to inform and coordinate with them on the Appeal's interventions. From 18-24 July 2016, the DM delegate visited two among three communities where the first cash voucher was implemented in Fonhalouro-Inhambane and Magude- Maputo province. According to initial feedback from beneficiaries and observation that the first cash voucher distribution went well with full participation and cooperation of food suppliers by making food items available at the community distribution points and help beneficiaries a lot in terms of accessing to those items due to distance from identified food suppliers and beneficiary residence. Three categories of cash vouchers were arranged according to household size, refer to the table below:

Items	One-person household	Two-person household	Three or more household
Maize meal	5 kg	10 kg	25 kg
Rice	5 kg	10 kg	25 kg
Bean	1 kg	2 kg	5 kg
Sugar	1 kg	2 kg	5 kg
Cooking oil	0.5 litre	0.5 litre	1 litre
Equivalent to	757.05 MZN	1,452.50 MZN	3,600 MZN

For the first cash voucher 937 households were targeted for at least three months based on the current funding situation. More households will be targeted in coming months thanks to additional contribution from the Netherlands Red Cross which came in second half of July 2016.

Coordination meetings with stakeholders resulted in the changes in targeted districts in Gaza and Inhambane provinces where other stakeholders have had interventions including COSACA, WFP, WVI and the GoM. Through the coordination meetings, it was recommended that those agencies providing cash and livelihoods to affected people should share concrete information of areas of interventions and number of households and people to be assisted through INGC so that duplication is avoided; the INGC ensures collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce to stabilize the market price.

CVM is working with the Ministry of Health to conduct MUAC trainings to CVM volunteers so that awareness campaigns and monitoring of malnutrition among children and lactating and pregnant women is properly done. Bilateral meeting with UNICEF and WFP took place in June to get technical support and cooperation in supplementary feeding (CSB) to pregnant and lactating women and children from 6 to 59 months.

CVM has conducted a series of meetings with local authorities in all targeted districts to inform and coordinate with the local government and other stakeholders in the areas such as INGC, Ministry of Agriculture and other NGOs where relevant. Sensitization meetings and awareness among selected communities and beneficiaries were also conducted to inform them of the operation targets and criteria.



CVM volunteers are assisting beneficiaries to purchase food items from the supplier. Photo by CVM

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors (assessments, monitoring and evaluation)		
Outcome 1: Increased CVM Visibility and information sharing with communities		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
Improved knowledge of CVM activities within communities	Media tours	25%
	Procurement of visibility materials (t-shirts, hats and bibs)	100%
Outcome 2: The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive assessment, monitoring and evaluation		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
Initial needs assessments are updated following consultation with beneficiaries and stakeholders	Post distribution monitoring by volunteers	Ongoing
	Pre-assessments in targeted districts	100%
	Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey (ODK)	0%
	HQ Monitoring	25%
Output	Activities planned	Progress
The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in future planning	Inception meeting	100%
	Final external evaluation	0%
Food security, Nutrition and Livelihoods		
Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of the disaster affected population (14,767 beneficiaries, 2,953 households) are met through cash transfer for 9 months		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
Improved food consumption for food insecure households through a cash transfer programme for 9 months	Designing of beneficiary selection tools	100%
	Beneficiary selection and verification	100%
	Preparation of monthly CTP distribution and uploading of plan	50%
	Beneficiary training and sensitization on CTP	50%
	Training of 197 volunteers in CTP management	100%
	Engaging of local service providers CTP	50%
	Training volunteers on MUAC, nutrition, GBV, hygiene, etc.	100%
	Community notification of distribution date and time	50%
	Distribution of cash amounting to USD to 2,953 households for 9 months	10%
	Post distribution monitoring, reporting and feedback to partners	Ongoing
	Procurement of CSB for 3,618	Cancelled
Distribution of CSB	Cancelled	

Outcome 2: Livelihoods of 1,476 households are reinforced to build community resilience in targeted districts		
Appropriate agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers) are distributed to 1,476 farmers	Assessment and targeting of beneficiaries	100%
	Local procurement and distribution of seeds and tools	25%
	Awareness sessions on good agricultural practices by Extension Officers	0%

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.