

Mozambique

Impact of Tropical Cyclone Eloise



KEY FIGURES

314,000

AFFECTED PEOPLE

+20,000

PEOPLE DISPLACED

+29,000

HOUSES DESTROYED,
DAMAGED, OR FLOODED

NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- The National Institute for Disaster Management
- Operational emergency centres
- Mozambique Red Cross

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- UN agencies (IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, OCHA, WFP)
- IFRC
- CARE

CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

Tropical Cyclone Eloise reached the coast of Mozambique on 23 January, with winds of around 140km/h and gusts of up to 160km/h (category 2 tropical cyclone equivalent). It affected Sofala, Manica, the southern part of Zambezia, Inhambane, and Gaza provinces (Protection Cluster 31/01/2021; INGD 23/01/2021). The epicentre of the cyclone hit Buzi district and brought heavy rainfall that caused Chicamba Dam and Mavuzi Reservoir to overflow. The resulting flooding affected the residents of Vila Sede, Guara-Guara, Ampara, Grudja, Estaquinha, Inhamuchindo, and Bândua localities in Buzi district (DTM, INGD 31/01/2021). Other affected districts are Dondo Nhamatanda and Chibabava in Sofala (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021). Tropical Cyclone Eloise has led to the deaths of 11 people (ECHO 29/01/2021).

Cyclone Eloise affected 314,000 people, including more than 20,012 people who are living in 31 temporary accommodation centres in Sofala and Inhambane provinces (30 centres in Sofala and one in Inhambane) (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021; OCHA 29/01/2021). 29,310 houses were affected: 17,738 were destroyed, 8,565 were damaged, and 3,007 were flooded, mainly in Sofala province. At least 579 classrooms and 86 health centres will need repairs (DTM, INGD 31/01/2021; Protection Cluster 31/01/2021; OCHA 29/01/2021). Prior to Eloise, heavy rains had already affected at least 3,917 hectares of farmland in Buzi district. 242,000 hectares of crops were destroyed in areas hit by Eloise (IFRC 12/02/2021; IFRC 29/01/2021; DTM, INGD 31/01/2021).

The priority needs reported in all of the accommodation centres are food, followed by water and shelter (DTM, INGD 31/01/2021).

From 9 January until 23 January when Eloise made landfall in Mozambique, the provinces of Inhambane, Manica, Niassa, Sofala, Tete, and Zambezia received heavy rains (IFRC 22/01/2021). Sofala province and the entire Zambezi Basin also experienced heavy rainfall, strong winds, and flooding prior to Eloise. The districts hit hardest by the heavy rains were Beira (neighbourhoods Mungassa and Ndunda I e II), Buzi, Muanza, Caia, Dondo, Marromeu, and Nhamatanda. The pre-cyclone rains affected more than 21,500 people and more than 1,900 houses (ECHO 23/01/2021; OCHA 22/01/2021).

MOZAMBIQUE TROPICAL CYCLONE ELOISE: DISTRICTS AFFECTED



Source: OCHA 29/01/2021

ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

Only 25 of the 31 temporary accommodation centres are currently fully accessible; four of these could become inaccessible in the event of additional disasters (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021).

The Mozambique National Institute of Meteorology (INAM) has warned of a possible upcoming Cyclone that would likely affect the central provinces of Zambezia and Sofala and the southern province of Inhambane. Tropical Storm Guambe – currently in the Mozambique Channel circulating about 240km south-east of Beira – is expected to become a moderate Tropical Storm in the coming days. While its current trajectory is still unknown, its impact is estimated to be minor if it hits the coast of Mozambique in the coming days. The Tropical Storm could, however, lead to extreme weather conditions, such as heavy rainfall and winds in coastal and Southern Mozambique. (Cycloneoi 17/02/2021; AfriWX 17/02/2021).

The main reason that people are unable to return to their place of origin is because their houses and basic infrastructure, including roads and electricity lines, were damaged or destroyed. There is a lack of materials to rebuild and repair people's homes, as well as a lack of access to food and safety. 12 accommodation centres in Sofala province – 39% of the total number of centres – reported that people staying there do not want to return to their place of origin (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021).

HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

Floodwaters and rivers carrying debris, damaged, blocked, or destroyed bridges and rail networks, and blocked roads are impacting overland travel and access in and around the Beira area (CARE 21/01/2021; GardaWorld 22/01/2021).

Of the 31 accommodation centres, 25 (81%) are fully accessible. Three centres are only accessible by boat, one centre is only accessible by foot, and another only with 4x4 vehicles. As at 31 January, one accommodation centre in Sofala, EPC Bandua, was inaccessible (DTM, INGD 31/01/2021).

CRISIS IMPACT: SECTORAL NEEDS

Shelter/non-food items (NFIs)

Prior to Cyclone Eloise, pre-cyclone rains flooded more than 1,900 houses (OCHA 22/01/2021). Cyclone Eloise affected 29,310 houses, destroying 17,738, damaging 8,565, and flooding 3,007 – the majority in Sofala province (DTM, INGD 31/01/2021; Protection Cluster 31/01/2021; OCHA 29/01/2021). More than 20,012 people are still displaced, and are being hosted in 31 accommodation centres across Manica and Sofala provinces (Protection Cluster 31/01/2021; IFRC 29/01/2021; INGD 23/01/2021). Shelter has been reported by the affected population as their third most urgent need (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021). Five new accommodation centres have been opened to meet the shelter needs of displaced people. The newly opened accommodation centres are: ES de Guara-Guara (hosting 8,052 individuals), EPC de Bandua II (hosting 1,692 individuals), Muchenssa (hosting 1,473 individuals), EPC de Inharongue (hosting 1,371 individuals), and Campo 11 (hosting 769 individuals) (DTM, INGD 31/01/2021). The most urgent NFIs for IDPs are mosquito nets, sleeping items or bedding materials, hygiene products, cooking items, and containers to transport and store water. IDPs in the accommodation centres reported that they lack money to purchase these NFIs, which is the main reason why they have not been able to access them (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021).

Food and livelihoods

The most urgent need in all the 31 accommodation centres is food. Seven centres do not have access to markets and six centres report never having received food assistance (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021). Eloise completely destroyed at least 142,189 hectares of cropland (IFRC 29/01/2021; OCHA 29/01/2021). The pre-cyclone heavy rains affected at least 3,917 hectares of farmland in Vila Sede, Guara-Guara, Ampara, Grudja, Estaquinha, Inhamuchindo, and Bândua localities in Buzi district in Sofala province (OCHA 22/01/2021; ActionAid 22/01/2021). People who lost their crop yields in the storm and floods caused by Eloise are in need of farming materials and short-cycle seed stocks (FEWS NET 01/2021). People living in accommodation centres face challenges in accessing farmland, as only 6% of the accommodation centres are located near farmland that can be accessed and used by IDPs in one to two hours. People have also not received any agricultural assistance, including seeds and tools (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021).

Health

At least 86 health facilities and clinics were damaged by the cyclone, leading to a slower response to attend to the injured and sick (OCHA 29/01/2021; IFRC 29/01/2021). Six accommodation centres report that there is no onsite healthcare facilities, and medical shortages are reported in three centres (DTM, INGD 05/02/2021). Displacement resulting from the cyclone and flooding of resettlement sites and evacuation centres are likely to accelerate the spread of COVID-19, especially in the 17 centres that lack handwashing stations and soap (IFRC 22/01/2021; UN Mozambique 04/01/2021).

WASH

In 80% of the accommodation centres, people report having access to functioning latrines. Six centres (five in Sofala province – EPC 25 de Junho, EPC Chota, Centro Educacional de Sofala, Centro de Apoio de Vítimas de Violência, and Nharimue – as well as Madebunhane 3 in Manica province) report a lack of access to functioning latrines (DTM, *ingd 05/02/2021*). Only Madebunhane 3 has individual latrines (shared by a maximum of one or two families), but none of them are functioning. Centro de Acomodação de Guara-guara in Sofala province has latrines adapted for people with disabilities or elderly people, but there are not enough to meet needs (DTM, *INGD 05/02/2021*). 14 centres do not have bathing spaces and 17 centres lack functioning handwashing stations with soap (IFRC 22/01/2021; UN Mozambique 04/01/2021).

In the provinces commonly affected by tropical storms and cyclones, including Eloise, an estimated 40 wells and boreholes were damaged or destroyed in rural areas, impacting an estimated 30,000 people (IFRC 29/01/2021).

Education

At least 579 school classrooms were partially or totally damaged, including 25 classrooms in Zambezia province (OCHA 29/01/2021; Oxfam 02/02/2021). Five accommodation centres in Sofala province lack access to primary school education materials (12 de Outubro, EPC Macuti, Escola 25 de Setembro Tica Cede, Nharimue, and Samora Machel). Seven accommodation centres do not have access to secondary school materials (DTM, *INGD 05/02/2021*).

AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Frequent extreme weather events

Mozambique is prone to tropical cyclones and storms that often leave a trail of devastation and destruction that can take years to overcome (IFRC 28/12/2020). Cyclone Eloise compounded an already fragile humanitarian situation in a region that is still grappling with the devastation of the 2019 Tropical Cyclones Idai and Kenneth – two of the worst tropical cyclones to hit Africa – and Tropical Storm Chalane in December 2020 (Protection Cluster 31/12/2020). Idai resulted in widespread destruction and affected 2 million people across the country. In 2019 Idai made landfall in the same regions as Eloise, while Kenneth made landfall just north of Pemba in Cabo Delgado. Since Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, displaced people have been living in 76 temporary sites across six provinces in the central and northern regions of the country (OCHA 30/10/2020; IFRC 30/09/2019).

Overstretched health system

Prior to Cyclone Eloise, Mozambique's health system was already struggling to cope with the treatment of COVID-19 patients and multiple other disease outbreaks – including cholera (in Cabo Delgado) and malaria (across Mozambique during the rainy season) (AllAfrica 06/01/2021). The December rainy season rains and floods and the recent cyclones are likely to increase the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks such as cholera and malaria, and overcrowded resettlement sites with poor hygiene conditions are breeding grounds for disease outbreaks including COVID-19 (OCHA 29/01/2021; IFRC 29/01/2021). These risks are generating health needs that are challenging to meet.

Agriculture and food insecurity

Multiple crises – including previous extreme weather events, conflict and violence, and COVID-19 movement restrictions – are disrupting agricultural production across Mozambique and increasing food insecurity in the country (Afrik21 27/01/2021). Prior to Cyclone Eloise, almost 3 million people (in both rural and urban areas) in southern, central, and northern Mozambique were already facing high levels of food insecurity (UN News 26/01/2021; OCHA 30/10/2020). Some areas recovering from the impacts of Cyclone Idai, Tropical Storm Chalane, and Eloise are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity outcomes (FEWS Net 01/2021). 142,189 hectares of cropland were completely destroyed by Cyclone Eloise, heightening food insecurity and economic strain for families in the coming months (IFRC 29/01/2021; OCHA 29/01/2021; IFRC 22/01/2021; IFRC 29/01/2021).