



KEY FIGURES

128,000

PEOPLE AFFECTED IN
CABO DELGADO
(90,000 ARE CHILDREN)

46,000

PEOPLE AFFECTED IN
NAMPULA

500

PEOPLE REPORTED
INJURED NATIONWIDE

45

PEOPLE REPORTED
DEAD NATIONWIDE

CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

- On 12 December, Tropical Cyclone Chido reached its peak, sustaining wind speeds of 250km/h, later weakening to 185km/h as it made landfall in Mozambique (OCHA 15/12/2024; Zoom Earth accessed 16/12/2024; NASA accessed 17/12/2024).
- On the morning of 15 December, Tropical Cyclone Chido made landfall in Cabo Delgado province, northern Mozambique, as a Category 4 cyclone. The cyclone caused high winds, heavy rainfall, and an increased risk of coastal flooding (OCHA 15/12/2024).
- By 17 December, 128,000 people (90,000 of whom are children) had been affected in Cabo Delgado province and 46,000 in Nampula province (OCHA 17/12/2024 a; UNICEF 17/12/2024). By 18 December, 45 people have been reported dead and nearly 500 injured nationwide (The Hindu 18/12/2024). Figures may increase as recovery efforts continue.
- Cabo Delgado and Nampula are the most severely affected provinces. In Cabo Delgado, the districts of Ancuabe, Ilha de Ibo, Mecúfi, Meluco, Metuge, and Quissanga, as well as Pemba city, have been most affected, while Nampula's Erati, Meconta, Memba, Monapo, Mogincual, Mossuril, Muccate, Nacala Velha, and Nacaroa districts, alongside Mozambique Island, Nacala, and Nampula city municipalities, have been worst hit (OCHA 15/12/2024). By 15 December, there remained no precise estimate of the extent of Chido's damage. Precise figures of infrastructural damages require verification (OCHA 15/12/2024; STC 15/12/2024).
- Before making landfall in Mozambique, Cyclone Chido affected the Comoros Islands, Madagascar, and Mayotte before weakening in intensity. By 18 December, information on the exact extent of damage in all affected countries remained available, as assessments were still underway.
- Mayotte is the worst affected country, with 21 dead, 830 injured (45 in critical condition), and 100,000 displaced to 70 emergency centres by 17 December (AJ 16/12/2024; ECHO 16/12/2024; AP 17/12/2024). In Madagascar, the cyclone brought heavy rainfall and damaged houses. By 16 December, data on the extent of this damage remained unavailable (AJ 16/12/2024). In Comoros, Chido injured five people and affected more than 64,000 others. Nine schools and 218 houses sustained damage or destruction,

while approximately 45% of agricultural crops had also been damaged by 17 December (OCHA 17/12/2024 b). In Malawi, the cyclone affected nearly 35,000 people and caused seven deaths (OCHA 17/12/2024 b).

ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

- The rainy season typically lasts from November–April, meaning further rainfall is expected to compound the impacts of Cyclone Chido on affected populations. Forecasts on 15 December indicated that Cyclone Chido is expected to bring heavy rainfall over a span of ten days, with totals expected to exceed 150mm. Between 15–20 December, around 132mm of rainfall is forecasted for Montepuez district in Cabo Delgado province, with 108mm forecasted for Pemba city, 106mm for Cuamba (Niassa province), 65mm for Tete (Tete province), and 49mm for Nacala city (Nampula province) (WFP 15/12/2024). The forecasted rainfall for Cabo Delgado over a period of five days is almost equal the monthly average of 170mm (WB accessed 16/12/2024 a).
- Heavy rainfall over a short period of time could result in flash floods and mudslides (OCHA 15/12/2024; WFP 15/12/2024). There is a risk of urban flooding in Pemba city, Cabo Delgado, particularly in the areas of Alto Chuiba, Bairro Cariaco, Carioca, Eduardo Mondlane, Ingonane, Natite, and Paquetete (OCHA 13/12/2024 a).
- The number of people estimated to be affected or at risk varies between sources, likely because of methodological differences. By 16 December, the WFP estimated that over two million Mozambicans were at risk from Cyclone Chido, with 627,000 at risk of high impact and 1.4 million at risk of moderate impact (WFP 16/12/2024). Other sources indicate that around 1.7 million people in Mozambique live in Chido's trajectory, including an estimated 650,000 children (OCHA 15/12/2024; STC 15/12/2024).
- The frequency and intensity of cyclones in the Indian Ocean, as well as heavy rainfall and flooding, are expected to increase as a result of the La Niña phenomenon from November 2024 to January 2025 in areas affected by the 2023/2024 drought (OCHA 08/11/2024). Urban floods, drought, cyclones, and strong winds may affect at least 2.2 million people in the country this rainy season.

- The lack of civil documentation services is the greatest protection concern in cyclone-affected areas (OCHA 17/12/2024 a). Four out of five people in northern Mozambique did not have civil documentation, even before the cyclone, because of loss or destruction during conflict and displacement (IOM 19/09/2022). This may affect people's access to assistance.

HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

- Post-election protests, which erupted in early October, continue to impede humanitarian access and operations in both Cabo Delgado and Nampula (STC 15/12/2024).
- Armed group activity is likely to hinder access to assistance in both affected provinces. For example, in October 2024, insecurity forced the Norwegian Refugee Council to briefly suspend many of its activities in Mozambique, particularly in the north (NRC 25/10/2024).
- The November–April rainy season worsens poor road conditions in both provinces, as roads become muddy, rugged, and difficult to negotiate (OCHA 29/11/2024; Siyabona Africa accessed 17/12/2024).

Cabo Delgado

- By 17 December, approximately 200,000 people in Pemba city and the surrounding areas of southeastern Cabo Delgado province were experiencing a power outage caused by the extreme weather (Crisis24 17/12/2024).
- By 15 December, mobile networks were not operational in Pemba city (OCHA 15/12/2024). There were also significant disruptions to communication in Ancuabe, Chiure, and Mecúfi (Crisis24 16/12/2024; WFP 16/12/2024).
- Election-related protests continue to affect humanitarian operations in Cabo Delgado. By 13 December, spontaneous roadblocks had hindered access to Pemba city and its airport, preventing humanitarian personnel and goods from reaching affected areas (ECHO 13/12/2024).
- Humanitarian responders operating in Cabo Delgado are at high risk of being searched, interrogated, and detained by security forces and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) (OCHA 10/10/2024 a). By the end of October 2024, insecurity and poor road conditions were impeding travel between Pemba city and Quissanga district (both affected by Cyclone Chido), and through cyclone-affected Ancuabe and Metuge districts (OCHA 29/11/2024). By August, there were reports of a NSAG presence on the N380 ring road, which serves as a major transportation route in Cabo Delgado, linking Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, and Pemba city (OCHA 10/10/2024 a).

- Throughout 2024, prior to the cyclone, NSAGs had shown increased capacity for coordinated attacks, including the use of IEDs (Humanitarian Action 04/12/2024). The presence of IEDs challenge people's ability to safely move and evacuate from cyclone-affected areas, as well as return to their homes. This also hinders humanitarian access and poses a risk for aid workers.
- Prior to the cyclone, humanitarian access in Macomia district had been partially reestablished by October, though the security situation still remained unstable (Health Cluster 22/11/2024).

Nampula

By 16 December, Erati and Memba districts in Nampula province were experiencing a power outage and significant disruptions to communications resulting from the cyclone (Crisis24 16/12/2024; WFP 16/12/2024). According to the 2017 census, roughly 387,700 people lived in Erati and 328,500 in Memba (Protection Cluster 06/03/2024; BlueFuture accessed 17/12/2024). The number of people affected by the power outage is likely to be higher, however, as changes in population since 2017 – particularly in Erati district, which hosts many IDPs from bordering Chiure district of Cabo Delgado province – are observable (Protection Cluster 06/03/2024).

CRISIS IMPACTS AND PRE-CRISIS CONTEXT BY PROVINCE

Shelter

Cabo Delgado

By 17 December, provincial authorities had identified 21 schools in unspecified locations to be used as temporary displacement sites and developed relocation plans for those in high-risk areas. It is unclear whether displaced or relocated people have arrived at displacement sites or the conditions at these sites (OCHA 15/12/2024; IFRC 17/12/2024). By 17 December, 25,000 homes had been destroyed in the province (OCHA 17/12/2024 a).

The cyclone's impact on the limited basic services available pre-crisis is expected to aggravate the situation for affected people and compound humanitarian needs for pre-existing displaced populations in cyclone-affected areas. Even prior to the cyclone, Cabo Delgado had a high presence of IDPs displaced by the conflict, which began in 2017 (EC 17/12/2024). By July, the province had over 541,000 IDPs and more than 576,000 returnees (IOM 07/2024). Macomia, Metuge, and Pemba city hosted the highest number of IDPs (Humanitarian Action 04/12/2024). Over the past seven years, the displacement situation has become protracted and the lack of opportunities and access to services in places of displacement have been driving people

to return to their places of origin (Humanitarian Action 04/12/2024). Many returnees to Cabo Delgado, some from neighbouring Nampula province, had been displaced for many years and already faced multiple losses. The conflict has caused significant damage to homes and basic infrastructure, worsening people's abilities to return to their homes and rebuild their lives. By November 2024, basic services still had not fully resumed in the areas of return affected by conflict (OCHA 22/11/2024 and 28/12/2023). Limited resources in these areas are likely to be stretched further by the impact of the cyclone.

Nampula

By 17 December, 9,000 homes had been partially damaged or destroyed in the province (OCHA 17/12/2024 a). It is unclear where people displaced by Cyclone Chido are sheltering in Nampula, and it is likely that pre-existing IDPs have also been affected, compounding shelter needs.

By July 2024, the province was hosting nearly 33,000 IDPs and over 33,000 returnees (IOM 07/2024). By September, there was still a reported outflow of people displaced from Cabo Delgado to Nampula as a result of conflict and in need of multisectoral assistance (OCHA 19/11/2024).

WASH

Prior to the current storm, conflict-induced access limitations and infrastructure damage had already caused high WASH needs in northern Mozambique. The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Mozambique reported two million people in need of WASH services countrywide, of whom 1.4 million were in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa (OCHA 28/12/2023).

Cabo Delgado

By 17 December, there was no access to water in Megaruma. Approximately 3,000 families were urgently in need of water trucking services to meet daily water needs (OCHA 17/12/2024 a). There is a lack of granular and comparable data on WASH needs across all of Cabo Delgado's affected districts.

Prior to the cyclone, WASH infrastructure and service coverage in Cabo Delgado was already limited, with only 45% of households having access to water, 21% to sanitation, and 56% to hygiene services. Only 37% of rural communities in Cabo Delgado had access to potable drinking water (EC 17/12/2024). Conflict-induced displacement had put additional strain on the already limited WASH system, challenging the ability to meet minimum WASH standards and aggravating tensions between IDPs and host communities (OCHA 28/12/2023).

Nampula

By 18 December, there was a lack of granular and comparable data on WASH needs across all of Nampula's affected districts.

By 12 December, prior to the cyclone, over 40,000 people were using water from unsafe sources, including from the Meluli River, in Mogovolas district (DW 12/12/2024).

Health

Cabo Delgado

By 17 December, ten health facilities had been damaged in the province. In Chiure, the need for supplies to meet health needs is urgent. In Mecúfi and Murrebue, exposure to the weather caused damage to all medical supplies (OCHA 17/12/2024 a).

By October, prior to the cyclone, 14% of health facilities in Cabo Delgado were already damaged, leaving some communities without access to basic healthcare services and increasing the risk of disease spread (Health Cluster 22/11/2024). By March 2024, most of the non-operational facilities were located in Chiure, Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe, Nangade, Palma, and Quissanga districts (OCHA 10/10/2024 b). On 24 October, a measles outbreak was declared in Cabo Delgado (Health Cluster 22/11/2024). Cyclone-induced displacement and disruption to WASH and health services may increase the risk of measles spreading. Similarly, the risk of a cholera outbreak, which was already high, has increased since the cyclone.

Nampula

By 18 December, information gaps remained around the impact of Cyclone Chido on health and healthcare service in Nampula.

Prior to the cyclone, Erati, Meconta, Nacala, and Nampula districts had been affected by a measles outbreak, with 218 cumulative cases and 11 deaths reported between 19 September and 30 October 2024 in Erati alone (Health Cluster 22/11/2024). There is also currently a cholera outbreak; cholera is endemic in the province. Between the start of the disease outbreak in November and 13 December, approximately 257 cholera cases and 11 fatalities had been recorded (Club of Mozambique 13/12/2024; MSF 26/11/2024).

The absence of sufficient water sources, as a result of drought, led to the consumption of contaminated water, the primary catalyst for cholera outbreaks, fostering conditions favourable to disease transmission (MSF 26/11/2024; Club of Mozambique 13/12/2024; Crisis24 16/12/2024). There is a problem of misinformation amid the outbreak, with people accusing

activists distributing water purifiers and preventative information of spreading the disease (OCHA 13/12/2024 b; Club of Mozambique 13/12/2024). Heavy rainfall and waterlogging from Cyclone Chido can be expected to further contaminate water sources and increase the risk of waterborne diseases.

Livelihoods, food insecurity, and nutrition

By 18 December, the cyclone destroyed thousands of hectares of maize, beans, sesame, and cassava crops and seeds, leaving communities with depleted food stocks and no immediate recovery plan. The damage to crops can will affect income generation for many, as around 80% of Mozambique's population are employed in agriculture (WB accessed 16/12/2024 b; FAO 18/12/2024).

The El Niño phenomenon had already aggravated below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures during the 2023–2024 planting season (December–April) (OCHA 08/11/2024; FEWS NET 07/2024). By August 2024, military operations and attacks by NSAGs had disrupted farming and fishing activities in Macomia coastal areas, which may face compounded impacts on livelihoods from the cyclone (OCHA 10/10/2024 a).

It is also likely that cyclone-induced crop damage, combined with the impact of drought and conflict on the most recent harvest, will aggravate northern Mozambique's lean season, which typically occurs from December–March, and worsen longer-term food insecurity by disrupting the October–December land preparation and December–January planting season (FEWS NET 07/2024).

Throughout 2024, one in three people in Mozambique were already affected by food insecurity (Humanitarian Action 04/12/2024). During the lean season, staple food prices typically peak. In 2024, however, this peak was above average, affecting people's access to food from markets (OCHA 08/11/2024). This particularly affects people living in poverty. The impact on the lean season, coupled with the effects of the cyclone, mean that households typically able to harvest some crops in April–May 2024 are likely to quickly deplete their limited stock.

Cabo Delgado

By 18 December, over 15,000 families in the province lost their stored and planted crops, including maize, beans, cassava, and sesame. The cyclone collapsed granaries, killed 750 goats and sheep. Additionally, it destroyed 420 boats, including 150 motorised vessels, canoes, and fishing nets (FAO 18/12/2024).

By August 2024, food insecurity was already particularly severe in cyclone-affected Quissanga district, where 55% (around 34,000) of the 62,000 inhabitants faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or above levels of food insecurity, including 20% facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels (IPC 14/08/2024). In August, it was projected that 31% of Cabo Delgado's population will experience IPC 3+ levels of food insecurity between October 2024 and March 2025, until the next harvest season in April–May. This deterioration can be attributed to the depletion of food stock during the lean season, combined with the effects of conflict.

Nampula

By 18 December, information gaps remained around the granular impacts of Cyclone Chido on livelihoods and food security in Nampula.

Increased food insecurity will also contribute to malnutrition, which, in August, was particularly high in Erati district, where children faced Serious (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute malnutrition (IPC 14/08/2024). In August 2024, acute malnutrition was projected to worsen in the province until March 2025. Erati district is expected to continue experiencing IPC 3 levels of acute malnutrition, while Memba and Monapo are projected to deteriorate from Alert (IPC Phase 2) to IPC 3 and Acceptable (IPC Phase 1) to IPC 2 levels of acute malnutrition respectively (IPC 14/08/2024). The impacts of Cyclone Chido may worsen an already declining nutrition situation in 2025.

Education

By 17 December, the cyclone had damaged nine schools and destroyed 186 classrooms in affected areas. These numbers may be higher, however, as assessments are still continuing. Some schools have been turned into evacuation centres and others are being used to provide health services, as numerous health facilities have been destroyed (OCHA 17/12/2024 a; UNICEF 17/12/2024).

By December 2023, there were nearly 414,000 people in need of education in Capo Delgado and around 12,000 in Nampula (OCHA 12/12/2023). 85% of schools in Capo Delgado lacked adequate access to WASH by December 2023 (OCHA 28/12/2023).

CRISIS DRIVERS

Cyclone Chido and La Niña

On 5 December 2024, tropical depression Chido developed in the southeastern Indian Ocean Basin and then moved westward. On 9 December, it developed into a moderate tropical storm with sustained wind speeds of 70km/h. On 12 December, with a peak sustained wind speed of 250km/h, Chido was classified as an intense tropical cyclone, making landfall in northern Mozambique with wind speeds of 185km/h (OCHA 15/12/2024; Zoom Earth accessed 16/12/2024; NASA accessed 17/12/2024). Affected areas have been hit by heavy rainfall and strong winds.

Since 2018, Mozambique has experienced one cyclone per year, with the exception of 2019–2021, when the country was hit by nine cyclones, affecting around 750,000–1.5 million people (OCHA 28/12/2023; WD accessed 17/12/2024). Three cyclones in the past five years (Idai in March 2019, Kenneth in April 2019, and Freddy in February 2023) killed over 1,100 people and caused around USD 4.8 billion worth of damage (STC 15/12/2024; Oxfam 12/03/2024; Nhundu et al. 28/09/2021). Mozambique's vulnerability to cyclones is linked to its geographic location, particularly its extensive coastline, which adjoins one of the most cyclonic regions in the southwest Indian Ocean. This cyclonic zone is characterised by a high frequency of cyclones and tropical storms, particularly during the rainy and cyclone season, which spans from October–March (IFRC 04/02/2024).

Both Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces are particularly vulnerable to cyclones because of their coastal locations (STC 15/12/2024).

COMPOUNDING/AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Conflict and displacement

In 2017, an insurgency led by Al Shabaab, an armed group with links to the Islamic State, erupted in Cabo Delgado and spread to the northern neighbouring provinces of Nampula and Niassa (BBC 29/12/2021; HRW 11/01/2024). Despite security improvements in northern Mozambique in 2024, there remained a total of nearly 583,000 IDPs across Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa provinces by the end of October, nearly 541,000 of whom were in Cabo Delgado (OCHA 29/11/2024; HRW 11/01/2024). In November, an additional 28,700 people were displaced by conflict, attacks, or fear of attacks across these three provinces, with the highest rates in Cabo Delgado, including cyclone-affected Ancuabe and Meluco districts. Women and children make up the majority of IDPs across these provinces (OCHA 13/12/2024 b).

Continued conflict, associated protection threats, and displacement will aggravate Cyclone Chido's impacts, particularly for pre-existing IDPs with little capacity to cope with natural hazards.

Political instability

The disputed outcome of the 9 October 2024 presidential election led to nationwide protests in Mozambique (WB accessed 16/12/2024 b). On 10 October, independent candidate Venâncio Mondlane, supported by the Podemos party, claimed victory based on his team's partial vote count. Demonstrations by Mondlane's supporters soon widened to include various opposition groups, driven by the 18 October assassination of both Mondlane's lawyer and a Podemos parliamentary candidate and the 24 October official declaration of the Frelimo party's election victory. Protests expressed general discontent with Frelimo, which has governed Mozambique since its 1975 independence from Portugal (ICG 15/11/2024).

Cyclone-affected Nampula has seen the most intense demonstrations, along with Maputo and Zambezia provinces. Protests have damaged critical infrastructure and forced people to stay home from work, threatening economic stability (ICG 15/11/2024). By 11 December, security forces had killed at least 110 people and arrested 3,500, while protestors had attacked security forces, authorities, and political and security infrastructure (AI 11/12/2024).

Mondlane, whose location remained unknown by 2 December, has continued to direct protestors through social media, pledging to continue until Frelimo concedes the election (BBC 02/12/2024). This political instability is likely to undermine a cohesive, effective government response to Cyclone Chido and impede humanitarian operations.

Poverty

High poverty rates in Mozambique decrease communities' capacity to cope with Cyclone Chido's impacts on livelihoods, food security, and other needs. Shocks including repeated cyclones, conflict in the north, and COVID-19 have all contributed to rising poverty in recent years. Based on the latest available World Bank data, between 2014/2015–2019/2020, multidimensional poverty increased significantly across the country, from around 71–78%, rising to 95% in rural areas (WB accessed 16/12/2024 b). By December 2023, northern provinces had the highest poverty rates in the country, with Nampula recording the second-highest rate of people living below the national poverty line (65%) nationwide (OCHA 28/12/2023).

FUNDING AND RESPONSE CAPACITY

By 15 December, the Government of Mozambique had issued red alerts for Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces (OCHA 15/12/2024).

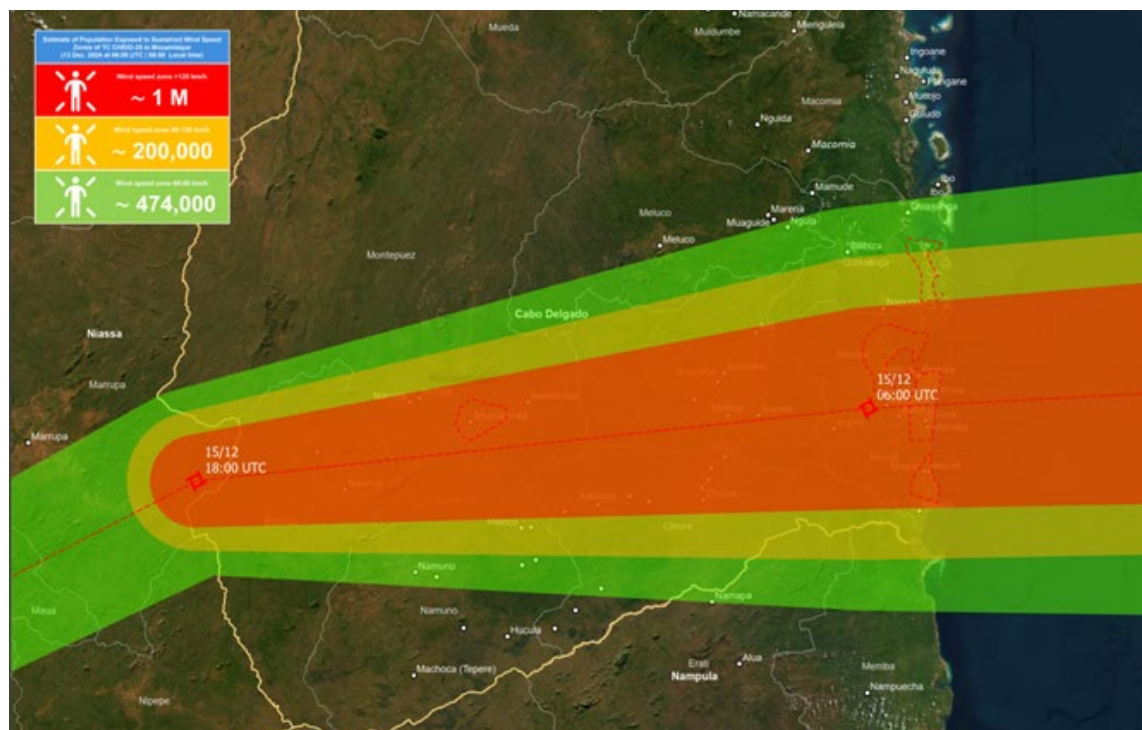
In **Cabo Delgado**, the Provincial Coordination Emergency Centre is cooperating with UN agencies, INGOs, and NGOs to identify displacement sites, plan preventive relocation, and pre-position emergency stocks in the province's southern districts (OCHA 15/12/2024). By 15 December, Save the Children was preparing to support the response in the province, including by providing survival kits and other essential items and supporting school repairs (STC 15/12/2024).

In **Nampula** province, the Mozambican Red Cross Society and WFP are carrying out anticipatory measures subsequent to its activation by the Government-led Technical Council for Disaster Management for Mogincual and Angoche districts (OCHA 14/12/2024).

Cabo Delgado remains the focus of the humanitarian response in Mozambique, as the province hosts the highest number of people affected by conflict with the most severe humanitarian needs. By August 2024, the humanitarian response in Cabo Delgado and Nampula was multisectoral, but Niassa only received education, food security, and livelihood assistance (Humanitarian Action 04/12/2024).

There is a significant funding gap for local and national organisations, often the first to respond to crisis. National NGOs make up 25% of the 71 humanitarian organisations coordinating assistance through the Humanitarian Response Plan, but had received less than 1% of the plan's funding by September 2024 (OCHA 19/11/2024).

Map: wind speeds and affected areas in mozambique, 15 December 2024



Source: UNOSAT (13/12/2024)