

MOZAMBIQUE

Impact of Tropical Cyclone Jude

KEY FIGURES

390,000
PEOPLE AFFECTED

89,000
HOUSES DAMAGED
OR DESTROYED

81
HEALTH FACILITIES
DAMAGED

CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

- On 10 March 2025, Tropical Cyclone Jude made landfall in Mozambique's Nampula province, with sustained winds of 75mph (120km/h) and gusts of up to 120mph, equivalent to a Category 1 hurricane. The cyclone resulted in more than 200mm of rain in the coastal districts of the Island of Mozambique, Memba, Monapo, Mossuril, and Nacala within 24 hours. The cyclone later weakened to a severe tropical storm and moved across northeastern Zambezia province, affecting the Gilé and Pebane districts (DTE 17/03/2025; The Guardian 14/03/2025; Shelter Cluster/IOM 17/03/2025).
- The passage of Tropical Cyclone Jude led to heavy rainfall and flooding, causing injuries, casualties, and extensive damage (ECHO 19/03/2025). By 18 March, the cyclone had resulted in **16 deaths (13 in Nampula, two in Zambezia, and one in Niassa provinces)**, one missing person, and 135 injuries (OCHA 18/03/2025; ECHO 19/03/2025). By 19 March, **over 390,000 people/83,933 families had been affected (85% in Nampula), more than 40,164 houses were destroyed and 48,843 houses were damaged**, and damage had also been recorded to **81 health facilities, 272 schools, 18 bridges, 48 water systems, and 73km of electricity lines** (CCCM Cluster 18/03/2025; OCHA 23/03/2025). At least 1.416 million hectares of land were inundated across seven affected provinces of Cabo Delgado, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete, Zambezia, and Tete (OCHA 23/03/2025).
- Alongside Mozambique, Tropical Cyclone Jude has also hit Madagascar and Malawi, affecting a total of 420,000 people across the three countries by 19 March (ECHO 19/03/2025).
- By 19 March, the main humanitarian needs included food, water, shelter, health services, NFIs, sanitation, hygiene, education, nutrition, and protection with majority of the affected people still unassisted (OCHA 13/03/2025; 19/03/2024; CCCM Cluster/Govt. of Mozambique 17/03/2025).
- Mozambique has an INFORM Climate Change Risk score of 4/5, reflecting its high vulnerability to climate-related hazards. The country scores 4.3/5 for the impact of cyclones and floods and 2.9/5 for the condition of people in need, suggesting limited capacity to respond to and cope with the effects of such hazards (EC accessed 18/03/2025).

- The lack of data disaggregated by age, gender, and disability hinders the identification and addressing of specific needs, complicating the provision of targeted assistance and heightening the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse as a result of inadequate safeguarding measures and oversight (OCHA 14/03/2025).

ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

The estimated number of people affected is expected to increase as the floods continue to cause damage and additional assessment data becomes available (OCHA 18/03/2025). Mozambique is currently at the peak of its rainy season, which extends from October–April, a period historically associated with severe weather events. This season has already seen the impact of cyclones Chido in December 2024 and Dikeledi in January 2025, both of which affected the northern regions of the country, further compounding humanitarian challenges (Club of Mozambique 13/03/2025).

The US funding freeze and cuts led to FEWS NET being issued with a stop-work order, which constrains global food security analysis, including anticipatory (Reuters 07/02/2025; AJ 04/02/2025; BBC 12/02/2025). This will affect the overall information landscape, including for Mozambique.

HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

Physical access has been significantly disrupted, with 17 districts cut off due to damage affecting 670 kilometers of roads across five provinces (OCHA 23/03/2025). Damage to the road network and Mecuburi bridge has been disrupting the transportation of fuel and other essential supplies from Nacala port, leading to shortages in Pemba city, Cabo Delgado province, where many humanitarian organisations operate. Fuel shortages at Pemba Airport also led to a reduction in UNHAS flights in Cabo Delgado province (OCHA 13/03/2025; Club of Mozambique 19/03/2025). By 21 March, the fuel supply in Pemba had normalised (Club of Mozambique 21/03/2025).

In **Nampula**, the National Roads Administration reported damage to several roads, including R681, N104, R703, R696, and R698, which had been rendered impassable by 16 March as a result of washed-away bridges and damaged road platforms (OCHA 14/03/2025). Humanitarian field missions planned for 11 March to Nacala city and the Island of Mozambique districts were also cancelled after the main road and alternative routes via Namatil were cut off (OCHA 13/03/2025 and 16/03/2025).

In **Zambezia**, the N323 (Gilé-Alto Ligonha) road had multiple obstruction points, as bridge access over the Mitusse, Muachaca, Mureamule, and Namireche rivers had been eroded. By 14 March, the N103 (Magige-Lioma) road remained partially accessible after a manual embankment was created to allow pedestrian movement while awaiting culvert construction (OCHA 14/03/2025). By 24 March, it remained unclear whether access had been restored.

Cabo Delgado is facing access challenges in Namuno and Chiure districts, where the R698 and R772 roads had become impassable by 14 March as a result of river overflows (OCHA 14/03/2025). By 13 March, the transportation of relief supplies and personnel from Cabo Delgado to Nampula had been severely affected, as a damaged bridge caused the N1 national highway to become inaccessible (OCHA 13/03/2025).

CRISIS IMPACTS

Shelter and displacement

By 18 March, Cyclone Jude had affected more than 390,000 people and 40,164 houses were destroyed and 48,843 houses were damaged with Nampula accounting for 79% of the damaged and destroyed houses (OCHA 23/03/2025). Around 12,324 IDPs were sheltering across 36 temporary accommodation facilities in 6 districts in Nampula (Meconta, Mossuril, Monapo, Ilha de Moçambique, Muecate, Rapale) and one in Zambezia (Maganja da Costa) by 19 March (CCCM Cluster 18/03/2025; OCHA 23/03/2025). Barracks, school classrooms and courtyards, churches, mosques, unfinished buildings, health centres, and neighbours' yards comprise most of the temporary accommodation facilities, providing little access to WASH and other basic services (CCCM Cluster 14/03/2025; OCHA 14/03/2025 and 18/03/2024). It remains unclear where the more than 355,000 displaced people not in temporary facilities are living.

Health

By 19 March, at least 72 hospitals had been damaged and fuel shortages had resulted in a disruption to medical referrals from Pemba Provincial Hospital to Nampula Regional Hospital, limiting access to specialised care for patients requiring urgent treatment (OCHA 23/03/2025). As a result, critical cases in Nampula may not receive timely interventions, increasing the risk of complications and mortality (OCHA 14/03/2025).

The hospital damage caused by Cyclone Jude further aggravates Mozambique's already fragile healthcare system, which has been severely affected by previous climatic events and conflict in Cabo Delgado. With over 472 hospitals damaged or destroyed since 2019 and 32 lost to insurgent attacks, the further loss of health facilities will strain the remaining operational centres, leading to overcrowding, longer wait times, and shortages of medical supplies (Club of Mozambique 06/01/2025). It is unclear whether previously damaged hospitals had been rebuilt or repaired.

This disruption will significantly hinder access to essential health services, including maternal care, treatment for communicable diseases, and emergency medical assistance. Limited healthcare access could result in a surge of preventable illnesses and fatalities, aggravating the current cholera outbreak and risk of waterborne diseases from flooding. Mozambique has been grappling with a cholera outbreak since October 2024, with the situation aggravated by successive cyclones in December 2024 and January 2025. The continued spread of the disease remains a major public health concern. Between 17 October 2024 and 16 March, the country reported over 1,568 cholera cases. On 16 March alone, 119 new cases were recorded, with the majority (114) in Nampula and Zambezia provinces. The steady increase in cases, particularly in these provinces, raises concern about the rapid spread of the outbreak, especially in overcrowded displacement sites and flood-affected areas where access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare remains limited (Govt. Mozambique 18/03/2025; CCCM Cluster/Govt. of Mozambique 17/03/2025).

WASH

By 18 March, the cyclone had damaged or destroyed 48 water and sanitation systems, likely resulting in a lack of access to potable water and sanitation facilities. There have also been reports of a scarcity of water purification and disinfection products, as well as insufficient levels of chlorine in the water supply, especially in Manica province. This could result a lack of potable water, leading to dehydration and the spread of waterborne diseases (OCHA 18/03/2025; WHO 13/09/2023; Cleveland Clinic 05/06/2023).

It is estimated that more than half of Mozambique's population has no access to clean water and more than 75% has no access to proper sanitation facilities (UNICEF accessed 19/03/2025). Diarrhoeal diseases linked to poor water and sanitation are one of the leading causes of death among children under the age of five in the country (Macicame et al. 14/10/2018; Chilaule et al. 04/2016; Chissaque et al. 10/05/2018). Flooding, combined with poor sanitation facilities, could increase the prevalence of diarrhoeal diseases.

The combination of stagnant water, inadequate sanitation, and limited access to essential WASH facilities in overcrowded accommodation centres is expected to aggravate hygiene concerns. Such conditions significantly increase the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, including cholera, diarrhoeal infections, and malaria, posing a serious public health threat to affected communities.

Food security and livelihoods

By 19 March, at least 1.416 million hectares of land were inundated across seven affected provinces of Cabo Delgado, Manica, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala, Tete, Zambezia, and Tete (OCHA 23/03/2025). This has led to significant production losses, severely affecting livelihoods and food security (OCHA 14/03/2025). Floods will also compound existing market access challenges, leading to income losses and forcing affected populations to resort to coping mechanisms with potential harmful effects, such as debt (Helvetas accessed 19/03/2025).

In Nampula, the most affected province, at least 36,538 hectares of cropland have been lost, impacting the production of cassava, rice, corn, peanuts, sesame, and beans, as well as the livelihoods of 4,146 farmers. Additionally, eight districts in Nampula are already experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, with an estimated 87,000 people likely to be in IPC Phase 4 due to the effects of successive cyclones (OCHA 23/03/2025). Approximately 80% of rural households in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces rely on agriculture as their primary source of subsistence and income. As a result of flooding, smallholder farmers face significant challenges, including low productivity and limited access to markets. The main harvesting season, which is expected to continue until April, is crucial to food security (GFSC 29/08/2023).

Between October 2024 and March 2025, 4.9 million people experienced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or above levels of food insecurity (OCHA 20/03/2025). Damage to farmlands from subsequent cyclones is likely to further deteriorate food security in the country, potentially pushing more households into IPC 3.

Education

By 19 March, 272 schools, including 729 classrooms, were damaged, impacting the continuing education of 94,761 students as they were in the middle of the first school term, which runs between January–April, when the cyclone hit (OCHA 18/03/2025). Some schools have also been converted into makeshift shelters, further delaying children's return to education. Out of 36 temporary shelters, 48 are schools (CCCM Cluster 18/03/2025; OCHA 23/03/2025). By 19 March, over 94,761 students and 560 teachers in 17 districts had been affected by the cyclone (AIM News 14/03/2025; Club of Mozambique 14/03/2025; OCHA 23/03/2025). The use of schools as displacement sites also results in additional damage to the facilities from misuse (JCM accessed 19/03/2025; CCCM Cluster 14/03/2025; UNICEF/IDMC 09/07/2019).

Impact on critical infrastructure

The National Roads Administration (ANE) has reported damage to 14 road segments, disrupting essential access within Nampula and to other provinces. A total of 2,800 kilometers of roads have been affected, with 670 kilometers sustaining damage across Nampula, Zambezia, Niassa, Cabo Delgado, and Tete. The destruction, which includes 20 bridges, 3 pontoons, 5 drifts, and 42 culverts, has significantly hindered accessibility to 17 districts across these provinces (OCHA 23/03/2025).

In **Nampula**, over 272,700 people were without electricity by 13 March, as 74km of medium and low voltage lines, six transformer stations, and two high voltage towers had been damaged. By 16 March, however, reports indicate that power supplies had been restored to parts of Angoche, Liupo, Mecuburi, Monapo, Mogincual, Nacala, and Nampula city. According to the Eletricidade de Mozambique, the cyclone had resulted approximately USD 1.6 million in damage to electricity infrastructure by 13 March (OCHA 14/03/2025; Club of Mozambique 13/03/2025).

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS

Frequency of cyclones

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).

Between December 2024 and March 2025, three cyclones – Chido, Dikeledi, and Jude – affected around 1.4 million people in Mozambique (OCHA 20/03/2025). 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; WorldData accessed 18/03/2025). 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 in damage (STC 15/12/2024; Oxfam 12/03/2024; Nhundu et al. 28/09/2021).

Because of their coastal locations, both Nampula and Zambezia provinces are particularly vulnerable to cyclones. Since 2017, approximately five million individuals have been affected by cyclones in Mozambique, predominantly in Nampula, Sofala, and Zambezia provinces. Cyclones are also the natural hazard with the highest associated economic losses (STC 15/12/2024; OCHA 17/01/2025).

COMPOUNDING/AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Poverty

In Mozambique, high poverty rates decrease communities' capacity to cope with the impacts of Cyclone Jude 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% to 78% and rising to 95% in rural areas (WB accessed 18/03/2025; OCHA 17/01/2025). By December 2023, Mozambique's northern provinces had the highest poverty rates in the country, with Nampula province recording the second-highest rate of people living below the national poverty line (65%) nationwide (OCHA 28/12/2023).

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 29/03/2021; HRW 11/01/2024). Despite security improvements in northern Mozambique in 2024, there remained a total of nearly 580,000 IDPs across Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa provinces by the end of January 2025, nearly 541,000 of whom were in Cabo Delgado (OCHA 07/03/2025; HRW 11/01/2024; UNHCR accessed 18/03/2025).

Continued conflict, protection threats, and displacement will aggravate the impacts of Cyclone Jude, particularly for pre-existing IDPs with little capacity to cope with natural hazards.

US funding freeze and cuts

The US funding freeze and cuts will have severely negative implications for the humanitarian situation in Mozambique. In 2024, over 49% of humanitarian aid for the country came from the US (USD 113.3 million of the total USD 236.7). The freeze on US aid is likely to affect the response capacity of humanitarian organisations previously funded by the US in Mozambique (FTS accessed 18/03/2025).

FUNDING AND RESPONSE CAPACITY

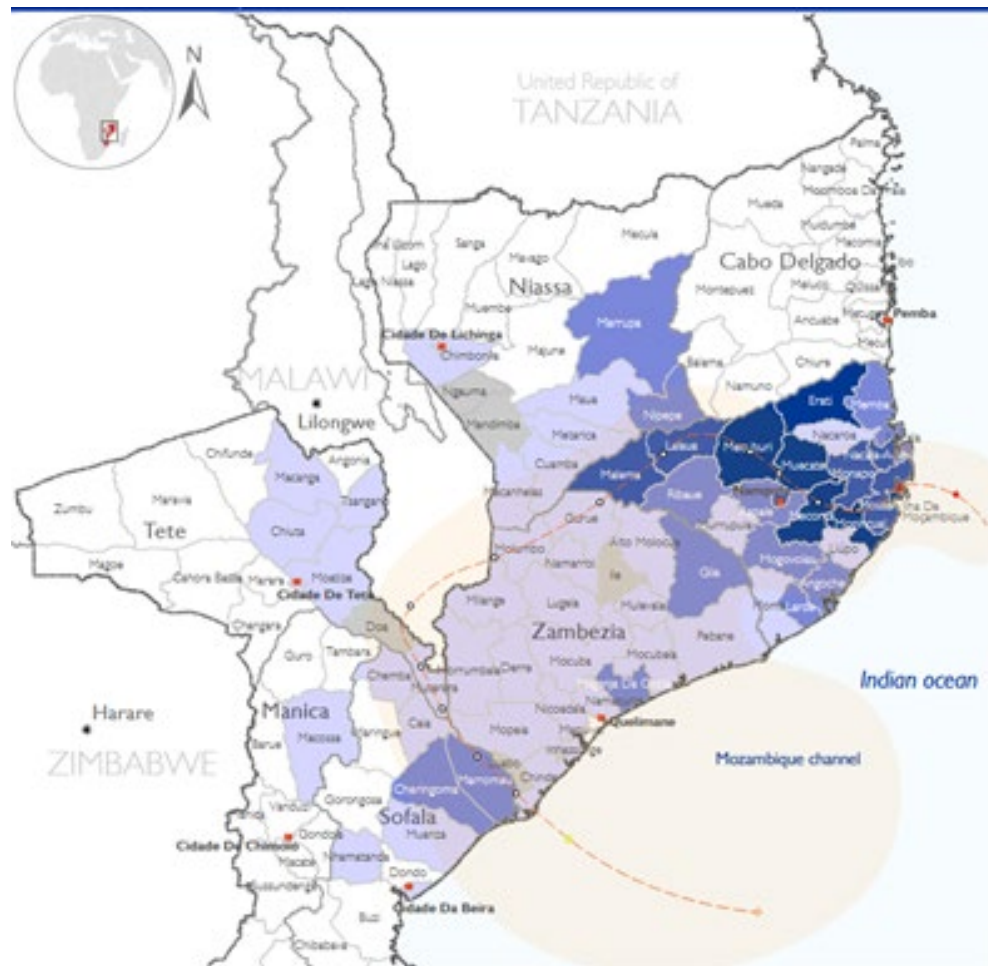
Humanitarian response capacities in northern Mozambique have been overstretched by the need to respond to successive cyclones – Chido in December 2024 and Dikeledi in January 2025 – alongside other crises, including cholera outbreaks, food insecurity, conflict, and political tensions (OCHA 18/03/2025).

By 18 March, emergency operation centres had been activated in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Zambezia provinces, focusing on pre-emptive evacuations, stockpile pre-positioning, response organisation, and relief distribution (OCHA 18/03/2025).

By 14 March, a temporary health facility had been established in Entete Accommodation Centre in the Island of Mozambique district to provide essential medical assistance to 400 displaced families. The Ministry of Health has also deployed health workers and an ambulance to facilitate referrals (OCHA 14/03/2025).

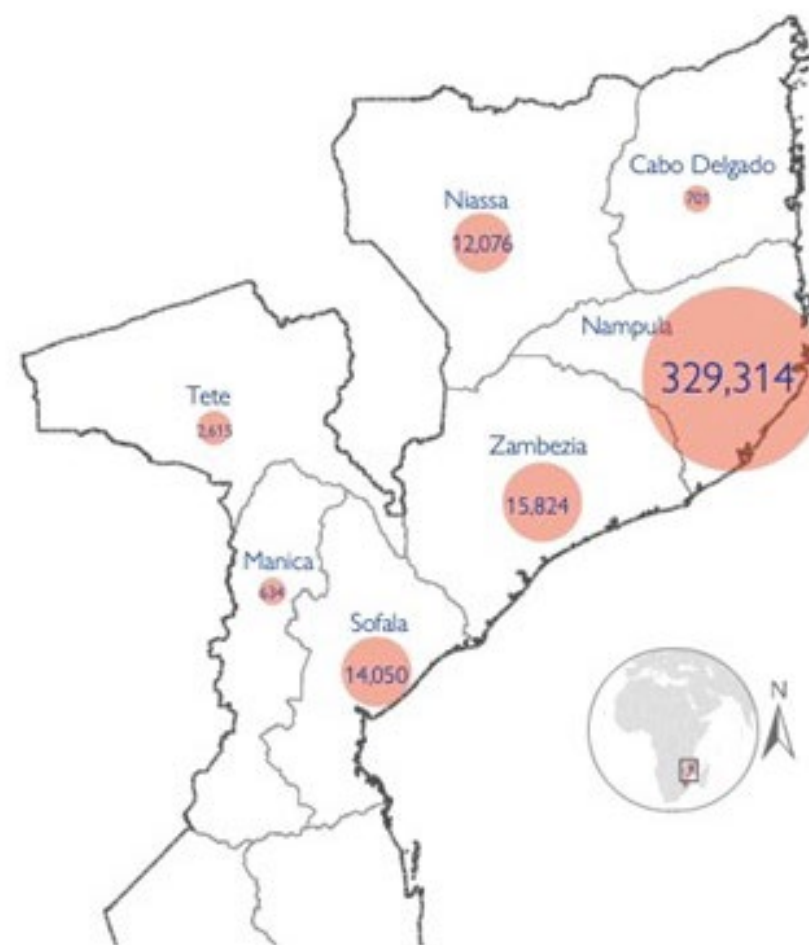
On 11 March, OCHA released a guidance document on humanitarian access, drawing on lessons learnt from the response to cyclones Chido and Dikeledi. This guidance aims to support humanitarian organisations' navigation of access challenges and improve the delivery of assistance to affected communities (OCHA 14/03/2025).

MAP 1. MAP OF PROVINCES AFFECTED BY TROPICAL CYCLONE JUDE BY 17 MARCH



Source: CCCM Cluster/Govt. of Mozambique (17/03/2025)

MAP 2. MAP OF NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY PROVINCE BY 17 MARCH



Source: CCCM Cluster/Govt. of Mozambique (17/03/2025)