

MOZAMBIQUE

Tropical Cyclone IDAI

Tropical Cyclone Idai that developed from a tropical depression beginning on 9 March made landfall on the evening of 14 March through Beira city, Sofala province, central Mozambique. 600,000 people are estimated to be affected. Heavy rains and flooding over recent days have already affected 141,000 people, displaced 17,100 and killed 66 people. Stronger winds, storm surge and heavy rains are expected to affect the provinces of Zambezia, Sofala, Tete, Manica and Niassa until 17 March. 15 transit centres have been set up in Zambezia and Tete to assist the displaced population.

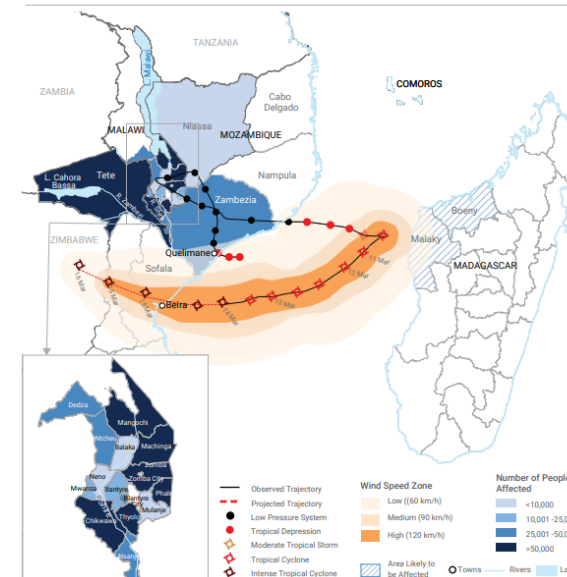
IMPACT



NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



CYCLONE AND FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS



Map by OCHA (12/03/2019)

Anticipated scope and scale

Significant flooding is still expected as the tropical cyclone Idai moves inland towards Manica province. 160,000 people are at risk due to the expected rise in water levels in the Zambezi, Licungo, Pungoe and Buzi river basins. Most districts in Zambezia, Sofala, Manica, Tete and Inhabane will be affected by strong winds (150 km/h) and heavy rains (up to 150 mm in 24 hours). Rains, thunderstorms and strong winds will also impact district in Niassa, Cabo Delgado and North of Tete. A storm surge of 4 metres is expected to hit the city of Beira, with a much higher tide at the mouth of the Pungwe River likely to cause extensive flooding and potential loss of lives.

Key priorities



600'000
people affected by the cyclone (estimate)



+17'000
displaced (9-14 March)



+12'000
homes and classrooms damaged



85,000
hectares of crops destroyed

Humanitarian constraints



Beira and other districts in Sofala are without communication lines as of 15 March. Beira is also without electricity. Up to 1,583 kilometers of roads in five regions have been damaged. 11 bridges have also been destroyed.

Limitations

Due to the rapid changes in the natural development of the cyclone the impact on the population and infrastructure is hard to assess until the cyclone has passed. At the time of writing this report the situation continues to quickly evolve.

Crisis impact

On 9 March Tropical Cyclone Idai formed over the Northern Mozambique channel and hit the central coast of Mozambique on the evening of 14 March as a category 4 cyclone. As of 15 March, the cyclone is weakening but maintaining a category 3 with winds at 140 km/h. The cyclone is influencing the weather conditions in Zambezia, Sofala, Manica, Tete, Inhambane and Niassa. (INAM 15/03/2019). Preliminary information shows that Cyclone Idai will severely impact up to 600,000. Among 100,000 people have already been evacuated, 60 per cent of whom are children. (Save the Children 14/03/2019) 160,000 people are at risk of flooding living along the Zambezi, Licungo, Buzi and Pungoe river basins. Winds speed is estimated to be between 188-220 km/h and rainfall expected above 150mm in 24 hours. Urban flooding is expected in Quelimane, Beira and Dondo. (OCHA 12/03/2019)

Prior to the cyclone making landfall, severe flooding in recent days has already impacted several districts affecting over 140,000 people. Due to flooding 66 deaths have been reported and more than 100 people injured. At least 17,000 people have been displaced by the floods and are currently being sheltered in 15 transit centers. The flood affected population are likely to also be affected by the impact of the cyclone (OCHA 15/03/2019) (Club of Mozambique 15/03/2019).

Shelter: more than 12,000 houses have been destroyed during the flooding since 9 March in Zambezia and Tete. The impact of cyclone Idai on shelters is still unknown but it is likely that thousands of homes will also be damaged or destroyed.

Food and Livelihoods: In Zambezia over 80,000 hectares of crop areas has been flooded affecting more than 52,000 smallholder farmers. In Tete 6,370 hectares of crops have also flooded and affected nearly 6,000 farmers. (OCHA 12/03/2019) The devastating effects of the floods as well as the expected impact of the cyclone, will have long-term effects on food security and livelihoods. (IFRC 14/03/2019)

Health: The Central Hospital of Beira reports not having registered any person injured in relation to the cyclone. However, the national TV channel reported 5 people severely injured. (BBC 15/03/2019) As of 11 March, 194 new cases of malaria and 14 cases of diarrhoea were registered in Zambezia, reportedly in relation to the floods exacerbating the spread of disease. Health authorities have stock piled supplies to respond to the first 100 cases of cholera, should it occur. The health post of the accommodation centre in Tete has reported a combined total of 471 cases of malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections. (OCHA 12/03/2019) There is a heightened risk of waterborne diseases due to the flooding. (OCHA 15/03/2019)

WASH: Damage to sanitation facilities and prevalence of unsafe water, due to water supply destruction and interruption, has been reported. (OCHA 15/03/2019) Although no information is available, wells and boreholes are likely to be contaminated by floods.

Education: school facilities have been highly damaged by the flooding. Some 340 classrooms are partially or totally damaged in Zambezia, Tete and Niassa affecting more than 45,000 students. (OCHA 12/03/2019)

Protection: Women and children face heightened protection risks, especially gender-based violence particularly if the impact of the floods and cyclone means that they have been left with precarious shelter conditions. (OCHA 15/03/2019) Without adequate shelter facilities children are at risk of being separated from their families.

Impact on critical infrastructure

Extensive damage to roads has been reported as well as on electric infrastructure in Beira and some districts of Sofala, restricting communications since the evening of 14 March. There are 1,583 kilometres of roads severely damaged across five provinces in central and northern Mozambique. Also eleven bridges have been destroyed. (Club of Mozambique 15/03/2019)

Vulnerable groups affected

Children are particularly vulnerable during flooding, due to the higher risk of drowning as well as the risk of being separated from their parents. Among 100,000 people evacuated so far, 60 per cent are children. (Save the Children 14/03/2019)

People with disabilities are also at risk, physical mobility restrictions are very likely to make evacuation more difficult for them.

Among the displaced population being hosted in the accommodation centre in Tete, 170 vulnerable people have been identified including 55 people from female-headed households, 41 orphan children, 16 elderly people, and 58 people with disabilities. (OCHA 12/03/2019)

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Access is a challenge due to damages to roads sections and infrastructure. Trees and electric poles have fallen and are blocking movement. Communication is severely limited due to damage to electric cables, especially in and around Beira. Villages nearby Beira and Chinde have been cut-off from mainland by a two meters tidal surge. (BBC 15/03/2019) Flights to and from Beira, Quelimane and Chimoio have been cancelled. (Club of Mozambique 14/03/2019)

Aggravating factors

Flooding

Mozambique broadly follows a southern African weather pattern, with rains falling largely between December and March. (Expert Africa 2015) The provinces of Zambezia, Sofala and Tete have been experiencing intense flooding since 9 March causing extensive damage to houses, crops and public infrastructure. Cyclone Idai is bringing more water to areas already flooded, increasing widespread damage and leading to more displacement. Beira is the most vulnerable city in the country to storm surges and rising sea levels. (AfricaNews 15/03/2019; Reuters 15/03/2019)

Previous disasters

Mozambique has seen a pattern of deadly floods being worsened by devastating hurricanes in the past, most notably in 2000 and 2007. The strongest landfalling storm in Mozambique was Tropical Cyclone Eline, which hit the southern parts of the country in February 2000, killing 350 people and displacing 650,000 people across Southern Africa. (Reuters 15/03/2019) Other major tropical cyclones with a Category 3 intensity happened in 2006 and 2008. The last tropical cyclone with a Category 4 hit Mozambique in mid-February 2017. (Wunderground 13/03/2019) Tropical Cyclone Desmond hit the country on 22 January 2019, making landfall in the city of Chinde although the worst of the rains impacted Beira resulting in 120,000 people displaced. (Salvation Army 21/02/2019) The recurrent impact of these hazards has likely reduced the coping capacities of the population, especially impacting food security. This has also been made worse by recurrent drought periods.

Population density and poverty

Beira is the fourth largest city in Mozambique with a population of 530,000 people. As much as three-fourths of the population in the affected areas live below the poverty line and are therefore socially vulnerable. (Direct Relief 14/03/2019)

Location

Beira is the most vulnerable city in the country to rising sea levels and storm surges. A sea level rise of one meter can flood 40 per cent of the town, including the port and the airport. Beira's port is the second busiest in the country and has long been a major trade point for exports coming in and out of Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and other Southern African nations. (Wunderground 14/03/2019)

Drought and food insecurity

The heavy rains are falling on areas normally affected by drought. In Zambezia and Nampula provinces thirty days of rainfall deficits were reported. (FewsNet 15/03/2019) The below average rainfall in the southern region has negatively impacted the ongoing agriculture season. The main harvest due to take place in March is likely going to be severely disrupted. The El Niño induced effects have had a deteriorating impact on food insecurity in the country, with Zambezia, Tete and Nampula among the most affected. (IPC 10/2018) Floods will have both short- and long-term effects on food security, especially if farmers are unable to access seeds and agricultural tools in time.

Province	Total population	IPC 3	IPC 4
Zambezia	5,110,787	255,539	51,108
Tete	2,764,169	331,700	27642
Sofala	2,221,803	22,218	0
Niassa	1,789,120	89,456	35,782
Nampula	6,102,867	183,086	183,086

Disease outbreaks

Cholera

Mozambique regularly suffers outbreaks of cholera and diarrhoea during the October-March rainy season. Cholera is spread through contaminated water, which is why the most affected communities are usually those who have poor access to sanitation facilities. Children, especially under five years of age and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable. In 2015 Mozambique suffered a major outbreak of cholera in Tete, Nampula and Niassa. (MSF 27/02/2015)

Malaria

Most of the country has year-round malaria transmission with a seasonal peak during the rainy season. Floods have likely contributed to an increase in malaria transmission in recent years, particularly in low-lying coastal areas and along major rivers. Malaria is considered the most important public health problem in Mozambique and accounts for 29 per cent of all deaths, followed closely by AIDS at 27 per cent. Among children under five years of age, malaria accounts for 42 per cent of the deaths, followed by AIDS at 13 per cent. (USAID 26/10/2016)

Political instability and insecurity

A violent Islamist insurgency is operating in Cabo Delgado province, northern Mozambique. Incidents of political violence between the Frelimo ruling party supporters and an armed branch of the opposition Renamo groups are also widespread, however these situations are unlikely to hamper relief distribution and humanitarian access in central Mozambique.

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

On 11 March the Government of Mozambique issued a red alert for the central provinces. The National Institute of Disaster Management is leading an inter-agency team, expected to reach Beira in the evening of 15 March to assess the situation. The centre for operations led by the Government is located in Caia district, Sofala province given its proximity to the areas affected. The Government of Mozambique is providing food and NFIs to the people displaced in the transit centres set up in Zambezia and Tete, with the support of local and international partners. (OCHA 14/03/2018)

The Mozambique Red Cross with support from IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund has prepositioned materials to respond to the needs of the population. Supplies have already been distributed to the affected families as part of their early actions. The National Society will conduct detailed needs assessments on the ground to inform the operational strategy. (IFRC 14/03/2019)

International response capacity

OCHA is present in the country and is supporting a coordinated needs assessment, facilitating coordination through the clusters, preparing a response plan and a potential application to CERF. It has also deployed staff to support on Coordination and Information Management.

Save the Children is working in coordination with the Government, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) and other NGOs to inform people on evacuation procedures, to provide supplies to build shelters and setting up family tracing systems in case of children being separated from their parents during the emergency. The organisation has also deployed a specialised emergency health team for needs assessment, mainly focused on prevention of disease outbreaks and will provide Child Friendly Spaces for children and families who have lost their homes. (Save the Children 14/03/2019)

UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has deployed a team of humanitarian experts to assess what UK aid is needed to support the affected population and coordinate relief efforts. DFID is already helping the people affected by flooding since last week with supplies they had pre-positioned such as tents, buckets for clean water and basic cooking items. Other prepositioned relief materials by DFID include: 9,000 hygiene kits; 7,000 tool kits to repair homes and clean debris; 6,000 family kits and 1000 latrine kits including solar lamps and water purifiers; 5,000 shelter kits, 10,000 tarpaulins and 600 plastic rolls; 1,573 family tents and 15 community tents. (DFID 14/03/2019)

WFP will provide emergency food distributions and food vouchers for people to use at local markets.

CARE International is working with the Governments of Mozambique and Malawi to support communities affected using internal emergency funds. In Mozambique it has deployed a contingency aid stocks of non-food items and water sanitation materials. (CARE 14/03/2019)

Logistics

The closest humanitarian response depot for Mozambique is located in Accra, Ghana at 4463 km away. Field and sub offices for WFP are located in Chimoio, Beira, Quelimane, Nampula and Masvingo. (WFP 13/03/2019) The logistics cluster has been activated to support response by providing a helicopter for an initial period of four weeks to reach inaccessible areas. The cluster is also facilitating road transport between Maputo, Beira, Nampula to Caia and Quelimane. (OCHA 15/03/2019)

Population coping mechanisms

There is a lack of information regarding coping mechanisms of the population affected, however vulnerability is high due to the impact of the previous week's heavy rains and floods.

Information gaps and needs

- At the time of this report, the number of directly impacted people and a breakdown of needs is unknown.
- There is no figure of displaced people after Tropical Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique.
- Despite Mozambique being prone to natural disasters and having experienced the impact of a tropical cyclone multiple times, information on coping mechanisms of the population and how they would behave in the face of such a disaster is unavailable.

- Information on the patterns and dynamics of population movements especially in the very poor coastal areas of Mozambique is not available. (Direct Relief 14/03/2019).

Lessons learned

Heavy rainfall and floods cause annual outbreaks of cholera during the rainy season from December to June and of malaria from December to April.

The education sector is always affected by heavy rains, cyclones and floods in Mozambique. This is related to the vulnerability of the school infrastructure to these events given