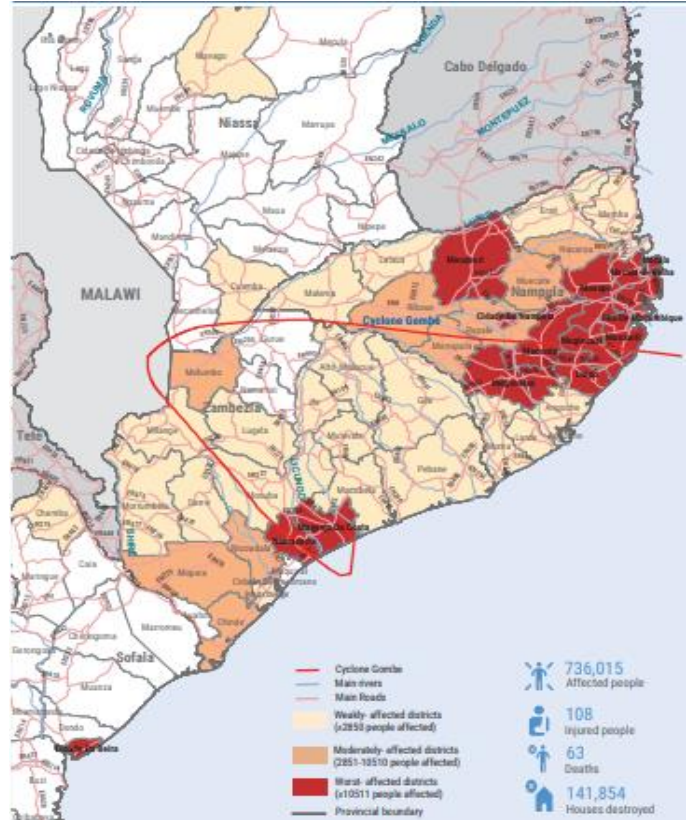


HIGHLIGHTS

- Latest data on the impact indicate that Gombe affected at least 736,015 people (148,253 families), caused 63 deaths and injured 108 people, mostly impacting on Nampula and Zambezia provinces and, to a lesser extent, Sofala, Beira, Tete and Niassa provinces.
- While the number of people affected has significantly increased, the number of displaced people hosted at accommodation centers has declined and it now stands at 14,119 people.
- Inter-agency assessments have been completed in Nampula province and are expected to be completed in Zambezia province early next week.
- Considering the overstretched resources and ongoing humanitarian crisis in the northern region, further financial support to cover the unfolding needs is urgently needed.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

According to the latest data from the Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (INGD), to date, Gombe affected at least 736,015 people (148,253 families), caused 63 deaths, and injured 108 people. While the number of people affected has significantly been increasing, the number of displaced people hosted at accommodation centers has declined from more than 23,000 to 14,119 people, indicating that people have started returning to their homes as flood waters recede. The number of accommodations centers established by the Government has decreased from 49 to 34.

As information on the impact of the cyclone is being collected, the magnitude of the damage to infrastructure continues to increase. A total of 141,854 houses have been partially damaged or totally destroyed along with 69 health centers, 1,458 classrooms (affecting 143,904 students), 2,764 electricity poles and 12 water systems. A total of 91,177 hectares of crops have been lost with grave concern for the food security outlook of the affected areas.

A total of 1,008 km of roads have been severely damaged; the National Road Administration was able to complete emergency repair work on the north-south highway (EN1) that connects Zambezia province to Nampula province which reopened to road to traffic on 23 March. On 22 March, the Mozambique Electricity Company (EDM) succeeded in reconnecting the district of Ilha de Moçambique, in the north of the country, to the national electricity grid, from which it had cut off when Tropical Cyclone Gombe made landfall earlier this month.

The figures on the impact on people and infrastructure are likely to increase further. Multisectoral needs assessments were completed in Nampula province this week while in Zambezia will be finalised early next week.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

INGD has been leading needs assessments and preliminary response, including distributions of food and non-food items. Moreover, INGD has been conducting search and rescue operations, evacuating stranded population and establishing temporary accommodation centers to host displaced people.

Humanitarian organizations are closely coordinating with the authorities at national and provincial levels with regards to needs assessments and response's activities.

Initial evaluation by the surge team deployed to Zambezia, indicate that some 50,000 people have been affected by Cyclone Gombe in the province. There are 16 transit centers operating in Zambezia hosting approx. 10,000 people and one resettlement neighbourhood hosting some 2,000 people. While Government authorities do not expect the figures of people affected to increase significantly once the assessments are completed, there is widespread concern that the number of houses destroyed could increase exponentially as homes are built with adobe which does not withstand the impact of heavy rains. Local authorities indicated that most of the damage in the province was caused by Storm Ana which affected infrastructure while Cyclone Gombe's impact is restricted to excess water from the ten days of consecutive rains and flooding in low lying areas.



Figure 1: Damaged health facility in Corrane IDP site (Credit: OCHA Mozambique)

On March 24, OCHA and UNHCR conducted a joint mission to Corrane IDPs' site and Namialo's accommodation center, in Nampula province. The team visited the Corrane distribution centre, located approximately 5 kms from the IDP site due to impassable roads, and met with community member who lamented that the distance of the distribution center made it difficult for the elderly and the disabled to access supplies. The team reported that approx. 40 per cent of temporary shelters were destroyed and would need plastic sheeting or some form of repair, while the resilient houses withstood the storm. In

the local health facility, which had recently been refurbished by UNHCR, the roof had been blown away by Gombe and equipment had been damaged, and a makeshift tent is now being used as a delivery room. The team also went to Namialo distribution centre, where INGD and UNHCR are collaborating on a joint distribution with beneficiaries receiving shelter kits (plastic sheets, blankets, and sleeping mats) as well as pre-cooked food rations. The team observed that the distribution was well coordinated ensuring that communities got a complete package enabling them to rebuild/return to their homes.



Figure 2: flooded community in Maganja da Costa (Credit: UN Mozambique)

Damage to roads, aqueducts, and bridges is extensive throughout Maganja da Costa. Two dams that fed irrigation systems in Nante Administrative Post were damaged by Storm Ana and have collapsed during Cyclone Gombe. A total of 4,000 farmers were impacted in Intabo, Muda-Muda, and Moguloma communities. Flood control prevention system in Licungo river tributaries was partially destroyed and the soil is completely saturated with water due to the amount of rains brought by Tropical Storm Ana and Tropical Depression Dumako and Cyclone Gombe. INGD is using evacuation routes to get to affected communities and some communities are still only accessible by boat. Government officials report that most of the population in affected areas had lost their crops with Storm Ana in January and the little that they were able to plant again quickly was destroyed. Food distribution for communities who had been cut off by floods was supposed to start on 24 March, but WFP trucks got stuck and could not reach the place where items would be transported by boat.

The Community of Pareirão, where approx. 4,300 people live, has been cut off completely by Storm Ana and access has been limited since 16 January. However, reports indicate that the community has reliable access to water and that its health clinic is still working.

Considering the overstretched resources and ongoing humanitarian crisis in the northern region, further financial support to cover the unfolding needs is urgently needed.

For more information, please contact OCHA Mozambique:

Fernando Hesse, Head of Office a.i., hessef@un.org, +258 85 801 9500
Sergio Dinoi, Deputy Head of Office, dinoi@un.org, +258 86 831 7569