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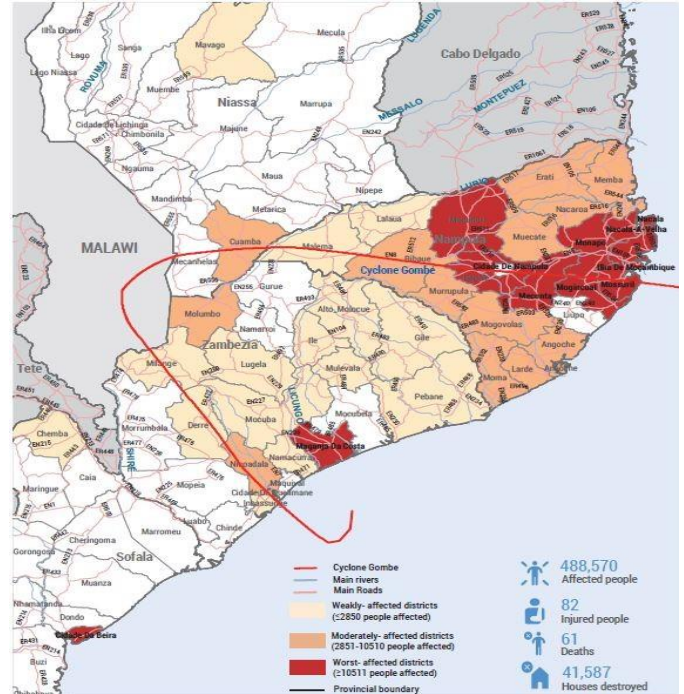
# MOZAMBIQUE – TROPICAL CYCLONE GOMBE

Flash Update No. 5

As of 22 March 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Gombe made landfall over the coastal area of central Nampula province in the early hours of 11 March as a Category 3 cyclone with heavy rains (200mm/24h) and strong winds (150-185km/h).
- Gombe heavily affected the provinces of Nampula and Zambezia, and to a lesser extent Sofala, Beira, Tete, and Niassa provinces.
- Latest data on the impact indicate that Gombe affected at least 488,570 people (95,717 families), caused 61 deaths, and injured 82 people.
- Some 23,408 people have been displaced and are currently hosted in 52 accommodation centers and two resettlement sites.
- The magnitude of the damage is not yet fully determined as humanitarian partners are gradually accessing areas previously cut off by floods.
- 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

Tropical Cyclone Gombe made landfall on 11 March in Mossuril district, Nampula province. Gombe hit Mozambique as a Category 3 cyclone with heavy rains (200mm/24h) and strong winds (150-185km/h). The cyclone heavily affected the provinces of Nampula and Zambezia, and to a lesser extent Sofala, Beira, Tete, and Niassa provinces.

According to the latest data from the Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (INGD), to date, Gombe affected at least 488,570 people (95,717 families), caused 61 deaths, and injured 82 people. Some 23,408 people have been displaced and are currently hosted in 52 accommodation centers and two resettlement sites.

A total of 41,587 houses have been damaged along with 69 health centers, 1,458 classrooms (143,904 students affected), 2,748 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, including the national road (EN1) that connects Quelimane, the Administrative Capital of Zambezia province, to Nampula. Damage between Nicoadala-Mocuba (Zambezia) extended for 42m; the interruption effectively cut off Northern Mozambique from the rest of the country, leaving air transport as the quickest option for movement. On 22 March, the National Road Administration of Mozambique (ANE) indicated that emergency repair work on EN1 had started, and a temporary structure would be completed to facilitate transit already as of 23 March. The full rehabilitation of EN1 will be completed after the end of the rainy season.

Nampula's most affected districts are: Mongicual, Liupo, Angoche, Larde, Moma, Ilha de Mocambique, Mossuril, Monapo, Meconta. Four of the nine most affected districts in Nampula are currently inaccessible (Angoche, Mongicual, Moma, and Larde). However, teams are finding ways to access them, also through the use of drones. In Zambezia, the most affected districts are: Maganja da Costa, Nicoadala, Quelimane, Mocuba.

There is serious concern that the magnitude of damage is not yet fully determined as humanitarian partners are gradually accessing areas that had been cut off by floods, specifically in Zambezia. The figures on the impact of people affected and damage are likely to increase further in the coming days. Prior to Gombe, this rainy/cyclonic season had already affected more than 271,900 people, injured 251 people, and killed 75 people across Mozambique.

## 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.

As of 22 March, the Government has established 52 accommodation centers (33 in Nampula, 16 in Zambezia, and three in Sofala) and two resettlement sites, hosting a total of 23,408 people displaced.

Humanitarian organizations are closely coordinating with the authorities at national and provincial levels with regards to needs assessments and response. Multisectoral needs assessments have currently being finalised in Nampula province. In-depth needs assessments will be initiated in Zambezia and Sofala province in the coming days, following initial evaluations of needs and damages.

Humanitarian partners have been deploying staff to the affected provinces to provide support at various levels. Moreover, partners reported the following key activities undertaken over the last few days:

The Nutrition cluster has activated cluster coordination in Nampula and Zambezia to facilitate coordination among partners. The cluster participated in inter-agency needs assessments in eight out of the ten most affected districts in Nampula, conducting rapid nutrition screenings among IDP children. It also delivered nutrition supplies for the treatment of 700 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and for 4,500 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). The Nutrition cluster is supporting the implementation of integrated mobile brigades for nutrition screenings and SAM treatment in affected districts.



Figure 1: Destroyed school, Magincual District, Nampula (CENOE)



Figure 2: Interrupted EN1 road, between Nicoadala-Mocuba  
(Credit: INGD)

The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster responded to requests for assistance by local authorities. In Zambezia, at the request of INGD, WFP provided 30-days ration to the 400 families in the resettlement centres of Maganja da Costa, Nicoadala, and Quelimane while cash-based transfers are being used to provide 7-day rations for 1,752 households in 11 temporary transit centers. In Nampula, WFP is complementing INGD food stocks to cover more than 11,500 displaced people in temporary transit centres, providing 9 mt of cereals and 11 mt of pulses. WFP is also supporting INGD in its maritime access to the administrative post of Lunga through the provision of fuel.

The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Area of Responsibility conducted GBV Safety audits in five relocation centres in the district of Ilha de Moçambique, Nampula province, to understand the key GBV risks and priority needs of people displaced by Gombe and prepared a situational analysis report.

Considering the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the northern region of the country and the limited availability of current stocks, only sufficient to cover the needs of about 100,000 people, further financial support to cover the unfolding needs is urgently needed.

**For more information, please contact OCHA Mozambique:**

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