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Organization of the
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2021 – 2023

NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE CRISIS

Agriculture Livelihoods Response Plan

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
ADIN	Northern Integrated Development Agency
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
CPF	Country Programme Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSC	Food Security Cluster
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INGC	National Institute for Disaster Management
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
MADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MEAL	Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RBA	Rome-based Agency
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy
SDAE	District Agricultural Services
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The crisis in northern Mozambique has rapidly deteriorated owing to conflict, insecurity and violence in Cabo Delgado, leading to significant displacement, disruption of livelihoods and lack of access to basic services. The violence has escalated since January 2020, with reports of attacks by non-state armed groups expanding geographically at increased intensity. The number of people displaced by the crisis has sharply risen from 110 000 in March to over 520 000 in November 2020. While violence was previously confined to smaller villages, attacks on district capitals increased in 2020, leading to larger displacement flows. The displaced people are seeking safety in several parts of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa, Zambezia, Sofala and Inhambane Provinces. Invariably, the internally displaced persons (IDPs) left behind almost all their possessions, including agricultural inputs, cereal stocks and livestock.

The conflict is worsening food and nutrition insecurity in the region, where communities are yet to recover from the impacts of Cyclone Kenneth that landed in April 2019. As a result, food and nutrition insecurity have increased due to violence and disruption of livelihoods. According to the preliminary results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), eight districts out of 17 in Cabo Delgado are classified as facing “Crisis” (IPC 3) levels of food insecurity (Mocimba Da Praia, Macomia, Ibo, Quissanga, Palma, Muindumbe, Nangade and Cidade de Pemba). The COVID-19 pandemic has further elevated the vulnerabilities of the population to a serious humanitarian and socio-economic crisis. There have also been serious, indirect impacts on livelihoods due to disruptions to food supply chains and access constraints for much-needed basic services, food and humanitarian assistance. As a result, more households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms (e.g., eating fewer meals) that can have lasting effects on their lives and livelihoods.

About 90 percent of the IDPs are residing with host communities, while the remainder have been relocated to sites that still do not have adequate basic facilities, such as water, safe shelter

and sanitation, thereby increasing protection risks. Agriculture (cropping and fishing) were the main livelihoods of the IDPs before their lives were disrupted by the conflict. The influx of IDPs in host communities in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula is putting a further strain on the already overstretched land, water, agriculture and forest resources of the host communities. Moreover, the rapid IDP influx has overwhelmed the host communities: in Ibo District, for example, there are now more IDPs than host community members. It is crucial that, from the outset, appropriate measures are in place to ensure IDPs and their host communities produce adequate healthy food, while sustainably managing their land, water, forestry and fish resources.

The Government has started to allocate agricultural land to IDPs in relocation sites, providing IDPs with the opportunity to produce their own food. However, the land they are receiving now (1 acre) is not sufficient, is of unknown fertility and most of the beneficiaries may not be able to clear it in time for planting during the 2020/21 cropping season. There is need for technical support in the assessment of the land provided so as to ensure the growing of appropriate cereal, vegetable and tree crops in the camps. Access to agricultural inputs, and especially good quality seeds, is problematic. While good quality seed should be procured and availed to farmers in the short term, sustainable crop production will require the establishment of local seed multiplication initiatives that will guarantee good quality seed for the IDPs and host communities. This will build upon the initiatives by the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) OIKOS and Aga Khan, who have started the promotion of local seed multiplication in some districts of Cabo Delgado.

Existing gender and other inequalities will be amplified and intensified as the crisis worsens. Women are likely to face economic, health, unpaid labour and gender-based violence (GBV) related consequences; there is a risk of reversing the limited achievements made in women’s rights and economic empowerment in recent years.

It is therefore crucial to include women and their organizations in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2021–2023 Agricultural Livelihoods Response Plan (ALRP) for northern Mozambique.

The near-term projections are that disruptions and displacements will escalate, contributing to an increased gap in the access to basic services and critical resources in areas of displacement. Humanitarian actors are striving to respond to the rapidly growing needs, amidst limited access to the most affected areas due to the deteriorating security environment. Additionally, further restrictions are expected due to the rainy season, November 2020 to April 2021, as the roads become inaccessible. Restoring assets, while preser-

ving natural resources, are central to rebuilding the livelihoods of the IDPs. Substantial support to the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors is critical, considering that the IDPs and host communities are dependent on these sectors for their livelihoods and income. The rapidly escalating intensity of the crisis and its impact on the food and nutrition security of the affected populations and the economy calls for a two-pronged approach, consisting of timely and coordinated humanitarian support for agricultural livelihoods, as well as addressing underlining causes of deepening vulnerability that builds livelihoods back better in a sustainable and equitable manner. This will enable affected populations to become increasingly self-reliant and productive again with empowerment and dignity.



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RESPONSE OVERVIEW

TO ASSIST: 300 000 HOUSEHOLDS (1.5 MILLION PEOPLE)

FAO REQUIRES: USD 45 MILLION

PERIOD: JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2023

It is within this context that FAO launched the ALRP for northern Mozambique for the period 2021–2023. The funding appeal of USD 45 million has the overall aim to *immediately enhance the food and nutrition security of 100 000 households of the IDP and host communities affected by conflict, while laying the foundation to sustainably build resilient livelihoods against future climatic shocks and stressors*. Support provided to the IDP and host communities will ensure they *resume local crop production, fishing and livestock rearing activities, while sustainably managing soil, forest and fish resources*. The ALRP will further ensure that humanitarian interventions are appropriately linked to medium and longer-term actions that embrace market-oriented and ecosystem-based approaches.

The geographical scope of the response will be in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa Provinces. Priority will be given to households in resettlement camps that lack basic needs and woman-headed households and elderly, among other vulnerable groups. While immediate interventions will be prioritized in the short term, FAO will gear up for sustainable medium and longer-term support as a means to reduce the vulnerability of communities, the economy and infrastructure to climate risks and other natural and/or human-induced disasters. Beneficiary targeting will comprise of households facing IPC Phase 3 or worse levels of food and nutrition insecurity. By providing quality agricultural inputs (through vouchers or in-kind distribution) - such as cereal, pulses and vegetable seed, fertilizer, farming tools, products to control pests and diseases, irrigation equipment, and fisheries and aquaculture inputs - the ALRP will prioritize actions with quick impact.

To maximize on the overall outcome of the response, a combination of direct beneficiary support will be provided in: agricultural production, small

stock rearing (chicken and goats), sustainable fisheries resumption and natural resource management for the affected IDP and host communities. The agriculture recovery kit provided under the ALRP will ensure communities can resume food production as soon as possible. In the medium to long-term, the kits will be accompanied by training and good practice demonstrations covering key areas (crops, livestock, fisheries, agroforestry, nutrition) through tailored extension approaches. Capacity building will focus on elements such as climate-smart agriculture to ensure efficient use of resources, including soil, water and seed, as well as livestock productivity and health, and sustainable fishing and hygienic handling, in addition to low technology post-harvest management and basic agri-business skills so that market linkages can be forged, resulting in value addition and income generation. The FAO approach will take into account the continued influx of IDPs as they escape the conflict in the north, ensuring a combination of the humanitarian and recovery activities in the first two years.

FAO's response will contribute to Government response plans including the 2021 Northern Integrated Development Agency (ADIN) Institutional Strategy and Action Plan, and will follow the overall coordination of the Government through the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC). In addition, FAO will operate within the inter-cluster structure to foster synergies and complementarities in order to ensure harmonized geographical targeting. The 2021–2023 ALRP's internal alignment includes the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) for Mozambique Priority Area C: *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to climate change, threats and crisis*. This is because emergency livelihood support represents the foundation and entry point for building resilience in the medium to long term, while responding to immediate humanitarian needs.

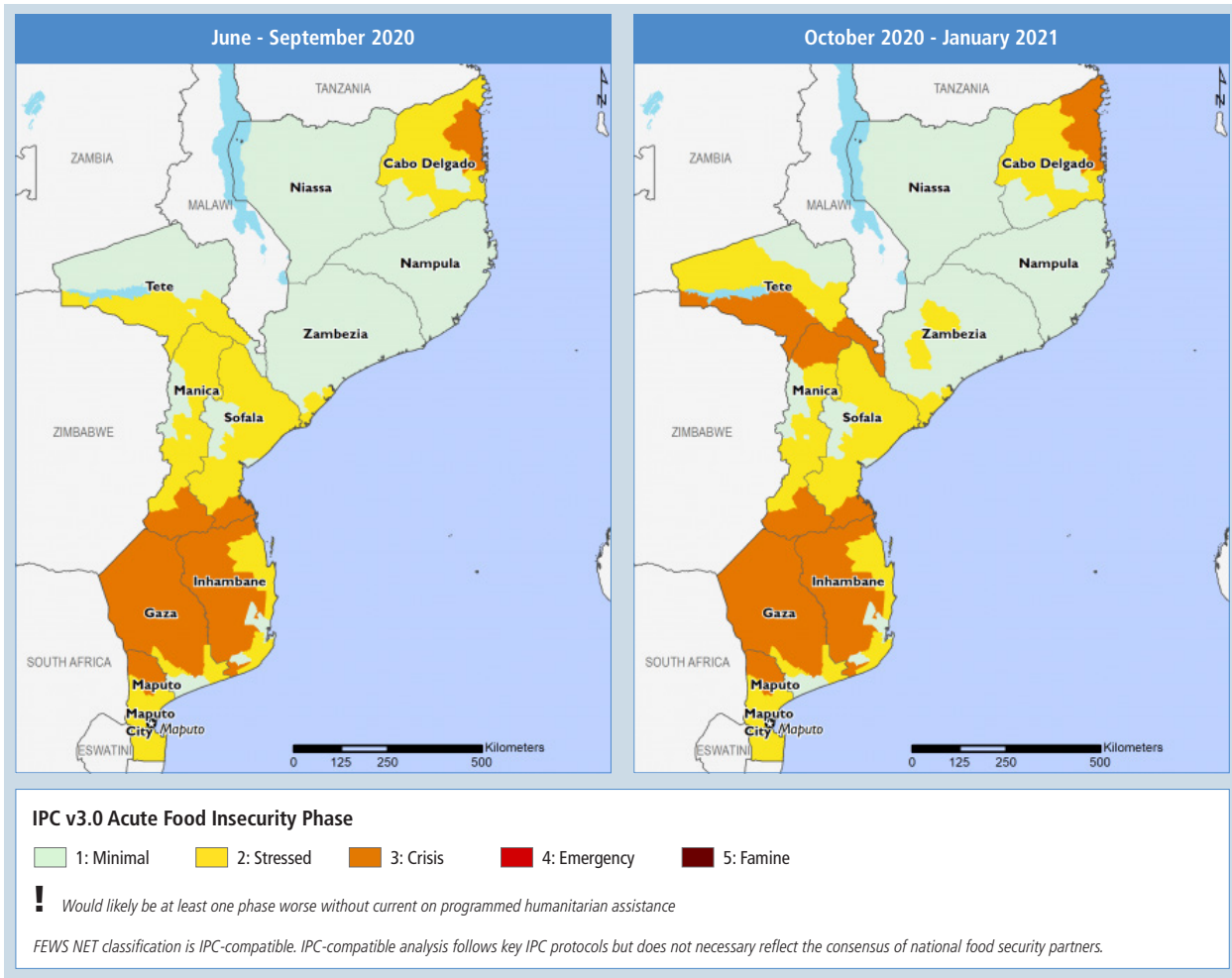


FIGURE 1-2

IPC acute food insecurity in Mozambique (Jun 2020 – Jan 2021)

FEWSNET. 2020. Mozambique Food Security Outlook, June 2020 to January 2021.

Available at: https://fewsn.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/MOZAMBIQUE_Food_Security_Outlook_June_2020_Final_0.pdf

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

IMPACT: immediately enhance the food and nutrition security of 100 000 households of the IDP and host communities affected by conflict, while laying the foundation to sustainably build resilient livelihoods against future climatic shocks and stressors.

The impact of the 2021–2023 ALRP for northern Mozambique will be attained through the implementation of interventions categorized under four main pillars, namely: i) emergency support to recover agriculture-based livelihoods, ii) sustainable livelihoods and income diversification; iii) increased preparedness to future shocks; and iv) food security and livelihood information, analysis and coordination. As such, there are three windows of implementation: immediate, medium and long-term.

A layered approach among emergency, resilience and development interventions within the geographical scope of the ALRP will enable the most vulnerable to have the opportunity to graduate from heavy reliance on agri-inputs and food aid to productive self-sufficiency. It will also enable the most vulnerable to enhance and diversify their production capacities and sell surplus in markets for income and savings to better prepare for the future.



Outcome 1: Emergency support to recover agriculture-based livelihoods



YEAR 1: 100 000 HH

YEAR 2: 100 000 HH

YEAR 3: 100 000 HH



YEAR 1: USD 8 M

YEAR 2: USD 6 M

YEAR 3: USD 3 M

To protect the most vulnerable households from falling into higher levels of food and nutrition insecurity, Outcome 1 will include an integrated package of emergency livelihood assistance tailored to the needs of farmer, fisherfolk and agropastoral communities as a means to restore agriculture-based livelihoods and food production capacities.

In this regard, emergency livelihood assistance will be in the form of increasing access to crop pro-

duction inputs that include seed and planting materials of agro-ecologically appropriate varieties of early-maturing maize, bean, cowpea, horticultural crops and cassava cuttings, as well as agricultural hand tools such as axes, alfaías, hoes and machetes. This will ensure households take full advantage of the winter and main summer agricultural seasons, while also enhancing production and productivity through the application of extension-backed improved agricultural practices.

As much as possible, emergency livelihood assistance will build on existing modalities and systems with beneficiaries using electronic vouchers to access agricultural inputs from local agrodealers, where market assessments deem suitable. As food sources become more readily available, the provision of energy-efficient stoves, including those locally produced, will help reduce cooking times, reduce the use of biomass, enable household safety and labour benefits and help mitigate protection risks through the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) approach.

Moreover, fisherfolk communities will be re-equipped with appropriate fishing gear for sustainable catch. As FAO is cognisant that the provision of fishing gear can result in overfishing, it is crucial that, in close collaboration with the Government, fisherfolk receive facilitation to form associations and councils that coordinate, provide oversight and enforce sustainable fisheries management. Particular focus will be given to displaced fisherfolk in pre-existing associations and councils so that they can resume their main livelihood activity and maintain the continuity of their groups. With linkages to Outcome 2, FAO will help develop the fisheries value chain so that coastal communities can turn improved post-harvest handling into viable income generation opportunities and enhanced food security. In the short term, one way to do this will be through an emergency supply chain approach that entails marketing produce to food-insecure beneficiaries for consumption through voucher schemes.

Under Outcome 1, FAO will also ensure the safeguarding of livestock assets through animal treatment and vaccination campaigns among livestock-dependent communities. In these communities,

the provision of small stock (chicken and goats) will also be facilitated to meet immediate food needs, while rebuilding herds and flocks.

Outcome 1 will be achieved through the following outputs and activities that will be implemented in the first 12 months:

OUTPUT 1.1 Increased access to livelihood inputs for resumed food production and self-reliance

OUTPUT 1.2 Livestock assets rebuilt and safeguarded

OUTPUT 1.3 Sustainable fish catch revitalized

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS	Immediate (12 months)	Medium (18 months)	Long-term (24 months)
Increase access to crop seed and other planting materials, agricultural hand tools, fertilizer, products to control pests and diseases, as well as vegetable seed for home gardening (through voucher scheme and/or in-kind distribution)	X		
Capacity building to improve agricultural production practices	X		
Provision of energy-efficient stoves (safe access to fuel and energy)	X		
Provision of small stock (chicken and goats)	X		
Provision of animal health services (livestock vaccination and treatment)	X		
Provision of appropriate fishing gears, nets, canoes, and local boat repair and purchase	X		
Promote emergency fish supply chains	X		
Facilitate new (and build the capacity of pre-existing) fisherfolk associations and councils for sustainable fisheries management	X		

Outcome 2: Sustainable livelihoods and income diversification among food-insecure communities



YEAR 1: 100 000 HH

YEAR 2: 100 000 HH

YEAR 3: 100 000 HH

YEAR 1: USD 7 M

YEAR 2: USD 5 M

YEAR 3: USD 7.5 M

Building on Outcome 1, Outcome 2 will improve crop, livestock and fisheries production capacities of the communities, support them along the value chain and link them to pre-existing and/or new markets for the sale of surplus produce. As a stepping-stone, agricultural productive assets will be built. This includes the setup of water-efficient, small-scale irrigation systems, provision of solar-powered ice-making equipment and cool boxes, medium to large-scale boat construction and fish market restoration/construction, and improved access to roads that lead to markets through cash-for-work schemes. This component will be a bridge to ongoing development programmes in the country.

FAO has been implementing cash-based programmes in Mozambique since 2015. Cash and vouchers play a critical role in FAO's response to shocks and crises when farmers, agropastoralists and fisherfolk can no longer buy food or the productive inputs they need, while providing immediate relief, as well as strengthening the resilience of livelihoods. Communities receive the required support to transition from humanitarian assistance to development, including through enhanced linkages with social protection systems.

Community-driven small stock fairs (with pass-on schemes), apiculture, fruit and coconut tree nurseries and seedling planting at household level, improved cashew integrated management, in addition to home gardening activities, will be accessible to households stripped of their productive assets. Such interventions will provide long-lasting vitamin and protein-rich food sources, diversify livelihoods and generate new avenues of income – overall, helping those most affected build back better.

In the medium to longer-term phases, specific agricultural (crops, small stock, fisheries, agroforestry,

apiculture, nutrition) trainings and good practice demonstrations will be imparted to beneficiaries through tailored extension applications. Capacity building will focus on elements such as nutrition education, including cooking demonstrations, as well as climate-smart agriculture to ensure efficient use of resources, including soil, water and seed, as well as livestock productivity and health, and sustainable fish catch and hygienic handling, in addition to low technology post-harvest management and basic agri-business skills so that market linkages can be forged.

Market-oriented production will be linked to bulking produce and value chain practices, as well as cold chain support. Means of transportation including boat and bicycles (particularly in remote areas) will be reinforced to support linkages to markets and private sector initiatives.

There will be efforts to ensure availability of good quality seed and planting material through multiplication initiatives by both the private sector and farmers. The income generated from such initiatives will feed into community-based savings and loan systems, including reinforcing existing local community saving groups (formal and informal).

Lastly, enhanced production capacities will go hand-in-hand with sustaining the natural resource base. This will entail rehabilitation of degraded lands and agro-forestry systems to replenish trees, but also as a means to rehabilitate mangroves and deforested areas. Eco-system management will be key to the 2021–2023 ALRP in order to mitigate the effects of future climatic shocks and land degradation.

Outcome 2 will be achieved through three outputs as follows:

OUTPUT 2.1 Productive assets restored and diversified

OUTPUT 2.2 Market-based production established and income generated

OUTPUT 2.3 Natural resource base sustained at community and household levels

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS	Immediate (12 months)	Medium (18 months)	Long-term (24 months)
Asset creation through the provision of water-efficient, small-scale irrigation systems, procurement of veterinary equipment and infrastructure (dip tanks and laboratories), fish market construction, along with the establishment of storage units and increased road access to markets	X	X	X
Livelihood diversification (small stock fairs, fruit tree raising, home gardening, etc.)		X	X
Beekeeping (production of honey for household consumption and income generation)	X	X	X
Provision of training on nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, climate-smart agricultural practices, and build production capacities through various approaches including the farmer extension group approach of pre-existing and/or new groups		X	X
Bulking of produce and value chain support		X	X
Transportation support to forge market linkages		X	X
Land, agroforestry and mangrove rehabilitation		X	X
implement reforestation-related interventions in deforested areas		X	X
Promote the formation of associations and provide technical assistance to charcoal producers/ forest management committees for better natural resource management		X	X
Support fish production and value chain development, including aquaculture		X	X
Promote and support women fisherfolk and charcoal associations	X	X	X
Installation of essential equipment and materials for fish marketing and preservation (e.g. ice machines, scales)		X	X
Promote saving and loan associations, with particular focus on women and female-headed households		X	X
Production of quality seed and planting material multiplication		X	X



Outcome 3: Increased preparedness to future shocks and climatic events



YEAR 1: -
 YEAR 2: 100 000 HH
 YEAR 3: 100 000 HH

YEAR 1: -
 YEAR 2: USD 2 M
 YEAR 3: USD 2.5 M

FAO’s main counterpart in the implementation of the ALRP for northern Mozambique is the Government, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER). FAO will therefore continue supporting Government institutions at all levels (national, provincial, local) for contingency planning across

the agriculture, fisheries, forestry and livestock sectors – bringing together best practices based on national and regional expertise and global standards. These may include, but not limited to, seed and grazing fodder reserves, safe storage facilities for seed and cereal harvest, stock piling of agricultural tools, among others. Through mapping coordination arrangements, and via public information and training on preparedness measures, the capacity of community and local stakeholders will also be built to better prepare for future events and variances. With robust preparedness measures in place, impacts of disasters can be reduced, especially on the most vulnerable populations.

Outcome 3 will be achieved through two outputs:

OUTPUT 3.1 Strengthening Government institutions at all levels

OUTPUT 3.2 Strengthen community and local stakeholders’ response capacity

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS	Immediate (12 months)	Medium (18 months)	Long-term (24 months)
Support national and local preparedness planning (contingency planning for agriculture, fisheries, forest and livestock)	X	X	X
Mapping coordination arrangements, public information and training at community and local levels	X	X	X
Agricultural practices at national and local level promoted (local seed multiplication, safe storage facilities for seed and harvest, stock of agricultural tools and other agri-inputs, etc.)		X	X
Engage and work closely with national technical institutes and vocational training centres to address skill development in the ancillary industry (fish farming, boat building, fish processing, mangrove/ecosystems management, etc.)		X	X



Outcome 4: Food security and livelihood information, analysis and coordination



YEAR 1: -
 YEAR 2: 100 000 HH
 YEAR 3: 100 000 HH

YEAR 1: -
 YEAR 2: USD 2 M
 YEAR 3: USD 2 M

At the core of the 2021–2023 ALRP is evidence-based decision-making. From emergency to post-disaster contexts, FAO plays a key role in determining agriculture and food security needs in close consultation with farmers, livestock owners,

fisherfolk and local authorities. Through inter-agency missions, and as part of the Food Security Cluster (FSC) system, damage and loss analysis, complemented by ad hoc needs assessments, will be the main vehicle carried out by FAO, Government and partners to inform and tailor agriculture programming for the displaced populations and host communities. FAO will play a critical role in developing and advocating technically sound standards and practices for the humanitarian community operating in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors. This is in addition to regular food security and nutrition data collection, analysis and coordination across the three northern provinces in support of, for example,

the IPC – a key tool to guide humanitarian response – as well as through crop and food security assessment missions. To ensure agriculture-based livelihood and food security response actions are appropriate, coordinated and timely, FAO as the FSC co-lead in Mozambique, will continue to engage in cluster fora, technical working groups and response coordination at all levels, alongside the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Government and partners. Furthermore, a results-based Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning (MEAL) system will be established to assess the level of implementation, gather successes and lessons learned, and instil adaptive programming, where and when needed. As such, Outcome 4 will be achieved through three outputs as follows:

OUTPUT 4.1 Increased access to timely food security and nutrition information for effective decision-making

OUTPUT 4.2: Strengthened coordination of food security, nutrition and livelihood response and mechanisms

OUTPUT 4.3 Establish the Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning (MEAL) System

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS	Immediate (12 months)	Medium (18 months)	Long-term (24 months)
Conduct rapid needs, damage and loss assessments	X	X	X
Develop, update and/or disseminate standard technical and operating procedures for agriculture, fisheries and livestock-related interventions	X	X	X
Undertake crop, food security and nutrition monitoring missions	X	X	X
Analysis and dissemination of timely food security and nutrition information for decision-making (including the IPC)	X	X	X
FSC partner coordination (co-led with WFP)	X	X	X
Establishment of the MEAL system	X	X	X



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IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Since 1979, Mozambique and FAO have been working closely to eradicate hunger and improve nutrition; develop policy and institutional reforms; promote sustainable agricultural production and natural resources management practices; and support disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and humanitarian response. With longstanding presence and technical expertise in Mozambique in implementing agricultural development, as well as humanitarian programmes originated by floods, drought, insecurity and/or conflict, FAO is in good position to respond to the imminent food security, nutrition and livelihood threats currently brought upon the country's IDP population and host communities.

In light of the prevailing humanitarian context in northern Mozambique, the 2021–2023 ALRP will be implemented with particular focus on the province of Cabo Delgado as a result of the compounding effects of both natural and human-induced disasters, while the geographical scope of the ALRP will be extended to the provinces of Niassa and Nampula given the spill-over effects and the associated negative implications of ongoing insecurity and displacement on agriculture-based livelihoods and food security. As per implementation, FAO Mozambique will work at central and local levels in close collaboration with relevant Government institutions and local and international NGO partners to kickstart and sustain food production among the most vulnerable people in the affected areas.

Overall, FAO will closely collaborate with Government counterparts (Line Ministries and District Agricultural Services [SDAE]), UN agencies and related organizations such as WFP, IFAD, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and other bodies/institutions within the region to ensure full coverage of the ALRP, while building on existing activities implemented by FAO, other UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and initiati-

ves undertaken by partners. These synergies will ensure complementarities between the humanitarian support to agricultural production and food assistance and development programmes, and will take into consideration the specific, multi-sectoral concerns of vulnerable groups during implementation.

FAO will work in close collaboration with SDAE and local relief committees to conduct the pre-selection of the communities and finalization of the selection criteria for beneficiaries. This includes supervising the selection of beneficiaries, while providing overall supervision to project implementation, thereby ensuring high community involvement in the project activities. SDAE will also support rapid assessments on the impact of the project, backed by FAO technical assistance. Close liaison with the central Government will be critical to ensure ownership.

FAO in Mozambique is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the ALRP in close collaboration with different stakeholders, namely international and national NGOs, community-based organizations, local institutions and the private sector. FAO's Lead Technical Officer appointed by the Lead Technical Unit housed within the FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa will provide technical support and required oversight to ensure timely and effective implementation of the response initiatives. The FAO Regional Office for Africa and Headquarters will provide additional backstopping, as appropriate. This support may include surge support missions for the introduction of innovations and lessons learned from other FAO offices.

FAO's principal role in the implementation of the ALRP will be to provide management, coordination, monitoring, operations and logistics, as well as reporting, administering the financial contribution in accordance with FAO's internal rules and regulations, as well as provide technical and operational expertise in livelihoods, agriculture, apiculture, natural resource management, livestock, fisheries and market-led interventions. All activities through the ALRP will ensure and secure a strong involvement of beneficiaries along the programme's lifespan.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

The humanitarian response in Mozambique is under the leadership and coordination of the Government through the INGC and related mechanisms, including the newly established governmental entity ADIN that aims to restore peace, security and stability and provide opportunities for economic growth in northern Mozambique. In addition, the humanitarian response in Mozambique is supported by the Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCT) along with NGOs, the Red Cross and donor representatives, and through the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and specific activated clusters.

As a co-chair and member of the FSC, and as an active member of the HCT, FAO participates in the coordination and preparation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) with the main objectives of supporting Government response plans and requests. Both the HCT and FSC are closely monitoring the evolving situation in northern Mozambique to provide the required assistance. The UN RBAs are also working together to ensure a coordinated food security and livelihoods response within the agriculture sector. Thus, the 2021–2023 ALRP is externally aligned to the 2021 ADIN Institutional Strategy and Action Plan and the 2021 HRP for Mozambique, while internally aligned to the FAO CPF for Mozambique Priority Area C: *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to climate change, threats and crisis.*

While emergency livelihood activities will represent the foundation and entry point for building resilience under the ALRP, medium to longer-term responses are equally crucial. These will be coordinated through the United Nations Country Team and existing coordination platforms in close collaboration with relevant line ministries at central and local levels.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

A results-based MEAL system will be established and include post-distribution, post-planting and post-harvesting assessments. A set of indicators, timelines and responsibilities for monitoring the implementation of activities will be defined for each of the direct implementers – FAO, SDAE and NGO implementing partners. Findings from these, complemented by regular field visits and spot checks at field sites, will be conducted to the affected areas in order to assess the level of implementation, gather lessons learned and introduce corrective measures, if needed. To monitor progress and reporting of the 2021–2023 ALRP, FAO will convene monthly meetings for coordination and to access progress in the implementation of activities. Lessons learned and best practices will be documented and fed into future response strategies and interventions.



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

This response plan will contribute to addressing the underlying causes of malnutrition of the most affected populations by providing gender-responsive, nutrition-sensitive agricultural assistance. For example, the provision of seed will increase food production capacities for staple cereals, coupled with protein-rich legumes, in addition to leafy green vegetables. For balanced diets, the ALRP will also increase access to fruit, milk, meat, eggs and fish, which will yield nutrient-rich sources of food, while cash-based interventions are expected to increase the income of households and the rural poor – enough for them to buy food of nutritional worth in markets. With particular focus on pregnant and lactating mothers and households with children under five, nutrition education (including healthy eating habits and promotion of home gardens) is also expected to yield positive nutritional outcomes under the 2021–2023 ALRP. All of which will support efforts to increase the macro and micronutrient intake of household members affected by the ongoing humanitarian context in northern Mozambique.

Within the country, the agriculture sector is gender-sensitive, with 60 percent of the agricultural labour force being female. Nevertheless, gender inequality and women's poor access to and control over resources tends to perpetuate low productivity, food insecurity and malnutrition. Furthermore, female producers experience more constraints in accessing international markets than male producers, and women traders are often confined to local markets. While Mozambique has signed several conventions that promote gender equality, gender inequality remains in the country, both in urban and rural areas, and particularly in terms of access to land and natural resources. Even though gender equality and women rights are enshrined in the Constitution and other Government laws, implementation of these laws has been difficult. It is also difficult to spread legal information to the population due to high illiteracy rates, particularly among women, and in accessing remote areas where basic services are not widely present.

FAO recognizes that minimizing the gender gap in food security and agriculture-based livelihoods can be a game changer to eliminating hunger and combatting malnutrition for both men and women, and children. Therefore, this response plan will ensure that gender equity and equality is upheld when carrying out interventions, starting with the design of gender-responsive agricultural interventions and tailored beneficiary targeting.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

FAO will continue to promote its accountability to affected populations (AAP) framework that comprises of seven commitments:

- strengthening leadership and governance to embed good practices;
- greater and more routine transparency;
- feedback and timely response;
- fair and representative population;
- accountability to affected communities mainstreamed in design, monitoring and evaluation;
- prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; and
- collaboration with partners.

This approach calls for transparent targeting which involves community engagement through participatory rural appraisal to allow beneficiaries, as well as non-beneficiaries, to better understand why they were or were not targeted based on pre-determined selection criteria. It is expected that this will also help reduce any potential internal conflicts.

FAO will also develop a monitoring system to strengthen AAP, which includes on-site monitoring during the distribution of inputs to obtain rapid feedback from beneficiaries. Post-distribution monitoring assessments will also obtain feedback on perceived positive aspects of assistance, as well as shortcomings. Feedback will be taken into consideration and, where appropriate,

will inform alterations to the design and implementation of activities.

To ensure AAP is mainstreamed in the ALRP's implementation, FAO will build key partners' capacities on the AAP approach through the provision of guidelines, trainings and the setup of beneficiary feedback mechanisms.

GENDER

Community resilience, as well as the elimination of hunger, cannot be achieved without closing the gap between women and men in agriculture and food production, as well as ensuring protection of vulnerable women. Conflict, displacement and the deterioration of infrastructure and basic services increase the inequalities between men and women, which can result in increased labour of women. In the most conflict-affected areas, a rapid disruption of livelihoods with severe depletion and loss of productive assets and massive displacement have been seen, as well as loss of social safety nets. This has had an impact on nutrition outcomes particularly among children, as women may not have adequate resources to feed and care for them.

The traditional role of agriculture in producing food and generating income is fundamental, but agriculture and the entire food system – from inputs and production, through processing, storage, transport and retailing, to consumption – can contribute significantly to the eradication of malnutrition. In recognition of this and women's essential role in improving household food security and nutrition, FAO has designed its programme to respond to their needs. The ALRP thus seeks to help women as they help their families manage the consequences of crisis and food insecurity, providing opportunities for access to agriculture-based livelihood assistance and extension, staple and nutritious food sources, market linkages, income generation and savings. In this regard, over a majority of beneficiaries will be women and represent female-headed households.

PROTECTION

Addressing GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse is critical given its prevalence in conflict-affected areas and its potential for devastating the lives and livelihoods of affected people. Specifically, in the agriculture sector, such impacts can lessen the productivity of survivors, diminish the resilience capacities of individuals to sustain their livelihoods as a result of illness, injury, stigma, discrimination and violation of their rights. Those at risk include not only women and girls, but also men and boys, elderly, unaccompanied children, disabled, minorities and displaced persons.

FAO contributes to the protection of individuals from GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse as part and parcel of its efforts to restore and promote sustainable livelihoods. Protection is mainstreamed throughout FAO's ALRP programme, ensuring at-risk groups' specific needs are taken into consideration and risks mitigated, where and when possible. FAO will also work closely with other UN agencies and related organizations, such as IOM and UNHCR, that undertake protection activities in the same communities where the ALRP will be implemented.



NUTRITION

Continued increases in malnutrition rates in Mozambique have been driven by rising food insecurity, spread of endemic diseases, limited access to safe water and sanitation, and declining availability of health and nutrition services, especially in areas affected by conflict. Acute malnutrition mostly affects children under five and women, as well as other vulnerable groups. Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition are nine times more likely to die than their healthy peers. Moreover, households that are nutrition secure are better able to recover more quickly from external shocks.

Reducing malnutrition rates are crucial to strengthening resilience. When people are well

nourished, they are healthier, can work harder and have greater physical reserves. Addressing malnutrition in this context requires multisectoral strategies and approaches that respond both to long-term development challenges and to immediate needs, linked to the survival and well-being of families and communities.

The ALRP is designed to respond to nutrition needs by enhancing the diversity of food production and providing access to inputs, services and extension that will ultimately improve food-based nutrition intake. The implementation of which will be done in close collaboration with key stakeholders operating nutrition-centred programmes.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

FUNDING WINDOW	2021 - 2023 (USD 45 MILLION)	BENEFICIARY HH
Immediate (12 months)	USD 15 million	100 000
Medium (18 months)	USD 15 million	100 000
Long term (+24 months)	USD 15 million	100 000
Total	USD 45 million	300 000

2021 – 2023 NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE CRISIS

Agriculture Livelihoods Response Plan

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