**WFP Mozambique**

**Country brief**

**May 2023**

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**Operational Context**

Acute food insecurity has been on the rise in recent years in northern Mozambique, as conflict and recurring displacement, compounded by climatic and economic shocks, have disrupted communities' agricultural activities, livelihoods, and purchasing power. Moreover, Mozambique is classified as one of the countries in the world most affected by extreme weather events. Since 2007, eleven Tropical Cyclones have hit Mozambique, and the global climate crisis is driving more frequent and intense floods, storms, and droughts.

Significant challenges remain in achieving food and nutrition security in Mozambique. Most Mozambicans cannot afford the cost of a nutritious diet. High levels of malnutrition affect almost half the children under five years of age. Approximately 3.15 million people face crisis, or worse, levels of food insecurity, as per the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessment. Of those, 690,400 are in Cabo Delgado province alone. Nearly half the population remains below the poverty line.

WFP has been present in Mozambique since 1977. WFP Mozambique’s Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026) is strengthening WFP’s support to nationally driven sustainable solutions towards zero hunger in the country.

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**In Numbers**

- **825,461 people** assisted in May 2023
- **5,289 MT** of food distributed
- **US$ 1.1 million** in Cash-Based Transfers
- **US$ 64 million** six-month (June – Nov 2023) net funding requirements

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**Emergency Response**

**Northern Mozambique displacement crisis**

- Due to funding shortages and to meet rising needs, WFP has been distributing reduced food rations since April 2022. In February 2023, due to funding shortages, WFP was forced to put on hold distributions temporarily. During the May – June food distribution cycle, WFP has so far assisted 465,070 beneficiaries with reduced food rations.
- WFP has commenced distributions using Vulnerability Based Targeting (VBT) in 3 out of 9 districts in Cabo Delgado (Metuge, Namumo, and Montepuez). This exercise will gradually be expanded to other districts.
- WFP Mozambique has been facing severe funding shortages for emergency food assistance, nutrition programmes and UNHAS.
- **WFP requires USD 64 million** in total to continue supporting people across Mozambique over the next six months (June - November 2023), with most of the additional funding needed to deliver life-saving humanitarian food assistance to conflict-affected populations in the country’s north.

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**Social Protection**

- In May, WFP supported the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Action in the organization of a **workshop on Digital Payments and Financial Inclusion**. This workshop was conducted in partnership with the World Bank and with the financial support of Irish Aid, which supported WFP’s work on institutional capacity strengthening around shock responsive and adaptive social protection. The workshop saw the participation of the National Institute for Social Action (INAS), the National Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (INGD), the National Institute for e-Government (INAGE), the National Institute for Information and Communication Technologies (INTIC), and other national social protection stakeholders, as well as UNICEF, the World Bank, International Labour Organization (ILO), Ireland and Sweden from the international community of partners. The scope of the initiative was to mainstream digital data protection and beneficiary information management, as well as mainstreaming digital financial inclusion and map the standard process used in the roll out of national social protection programs.
- In parallel, WFP started preparation for the implementation of the **shock responsive social protection programme to support the COVID-19 recovery phase** in the province of Niassa. The programme is being rolled out in partnership with INAS, which is the operational branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and with the financial support of Germany (BMZ/KfW).

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**UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)**

- Over the course of May, WFP provided logistics and transport services to Government and humanitarian partners. In total, UNHAS transported a total of 1,382 passengers for 40 different organizations, and 8.3 MT of light humanitarian cargo.
- Since April 15, the UNHAS fleet in Mozambique has been reduced to one fixed-wing aircraft.

*All of the assistance figures in this report are an initial estimate and are subject to change upon final verification.*

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**Photo:** Beyond Cotton project – harvesting of cotton in Cahora Bassa district, Tete province.  
**Photo credits:** ©WFP/ Diocleiano Gento
School Feeding

- In May, the Government-led National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE) celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Currently, the programme supports over 220,000 beneficiaries across 340 schools nationwide.
- The final round of take-home ration (THR) distributions under the School Feeding in Emergency and Recovery (SFIER) Programme occurred in Mueda and Palma districts, Cabo Delgado. In Mueda, WFP planned to provide double THR to over 31,419 beneficiaries and quadrupled rations to those who were unable to receive THR due to degraded road accessibility caused by heavy rains in February and March. In Palma, WFP planned to reach 13,700 beneficiaries. The SFIER activities also included the distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Kits to both districts, benefiting over 5,000 girls of menstrual age.

Nutrition

- Under the National Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme (PRN) in the provinces of Nampula, Niassa, and Cabo Delgado, WFP provided 5,879 children under the age of five with Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and 2,164 pregnant and breastfeeding women with Super Cereal for moderate acute malnutrition treatment.
- During the month of May, 1,284 people accessed health services at the Roadside Wellness Centre in Inchope. A total of 1,278 patients were screened for tuberculosis.

Climate Change Adaptive Food Systems

- In Tete province, WFP, along with IFAD and government representatives from the provincial and district levels, accompanied the Norwegian Minister of International Development on a visit to the climate-resilient food security for smallholder farmers project in Changara district. During the month of May, 4,428 people (1,958 men and 2,470 women) replicated the climate resilient agriculture techniques learnt through the resilience project and were able to collectively save USD 12,076.
- In Sofala province, 30 smallholder farmers (23 men, 7 women) attended trainings on post-harvest loss management and conservation agriculture. A joint monitoring visit with partners was conducted to assess a total of 25 fields in Chembia, Caia, and Maringue districts of Sofala province. Through the climate-resilient food security for smallholder farmers project in Sofala province, a total of 9,033 smallholders (4,072 men and 4,961 women) replicated the climate resilient agriculture techniques and were able to save USD 3,086.
- As part of the Zero Loss Initiative in the provinces of Zambézia and Manica, 2,761 smallholder farmers received training on post-harvest management, and 1,811 hermetic bags were distributed to facilitate the storage of grains and pulses.

Disaster Risk Management/Financing

- WFP and INGD revised and updated the anticipatory action plans for drought for Gaza province. This will ensure operational readiness to implement anticipatory actions which aim to mitigate the negative impacts of a potential drought in 2023 before it occurs. Furthermore, WFP presented the national map of arid and semi-arid zones and specific climate district profiles in Manica province, which will allow for the design of anticipatory action plans tailored to the specific local context.
- The Government of Mozambique has formally approved the purchase of sovereign risk insurance through the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) mechanism. WFP is providing technical assistance to government counterparts for this initiative and aims to purchase a replica insurance coverage, allowing WFP to act immediately in case a disaster strikes, and the insurance pay-out is triggered.

Donors

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Green Climate Fund, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, UN CERF, UN funds other than CERF, World Bank.