

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION MOZAMBIQUE IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	10674
U5 mortality rate (2006)	138
Infant mortality rate (2006)	96
Maternal mortality ratio (2000-2006, reported)	410
Primary school enrolment ratio, 2000-2006, net (male/female)	81/74
Gender gap in primary net enrolment ratio	8
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	72
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban)	26/72
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	1800
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight	24

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2008*

Mozambique is a country prone to natural disasters, chronic vulnerability and persistent humanitarian conditions. The UNICEF Country Programme in Mozambique endeavours to address vulnerability reduction by mainstreaming humanitarian response through regular programme activities with the ultimate goal of strengthening national capacity to prepare for and respond to the country's endemic humanitarian and chronic vulnerabilities.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008*

Sector	US\$
Child health and nutrition	2,200,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,500,000
Basic education	800,000
Child protection	400,000
Programme communication	100,000
Emergency coordination and operations	650,000
Total**	5,650,000

* Coordination is an integral part of emergency preparedness and response factored into all sector priorities of the *Humanitarian Action Report*.

** The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

In recent years, Mozambique has made encouraging strides in reducing its crippling poverty levels and is making gradual progress towards benchmarks set by the national Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty (PARPA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nevertheless, Mozambique remains one of the least developed countries in the world, ranking 168 out of 177 countries in the 2006 Human Development Index, mainly due to the country's chronic state of vulnerability and humanitarian crisis.

There are several factors impacting the persistent chronic vulnerability and humanitarian conditions in Mozambique. First, the country is still attempting to rebuild after more than a decade of civil war, which decimated the infrastructure of basic social services. The rapidly escalating HIV/AIDS pandemic is weakening national capacities and considerably slowing the rate of development. Mozambique is also threatened by natural disasters including seasonal floods, cyclones and prolonged droughts, disrupting livelihoods and services, and exhausting limited coping mechanisms and exacerbating population vulnerabilities -- especially for women and children.

While the latest assessments indicate that overall national food security and nutrition have improved, households have not fully recovered from persistent drought conditions in the south of the country and will continue to experience humanitarian conditions. Preliminary results from the June 2007 Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) exercise indicate that flood- and cyclone-affected families in parts of the Zambezi River basin and in the province of Vilanculos will not have the capacity to recover from the shocks caused by the 2007 floods and cyclones – and will require continued humanitarian assistance.

Vulnerable populations face the constant threat of cholera outbreaks due to the poor availability of clean water and sanitation facilities. Diarrhoea resulting from waterborne diseases is still a major child killer, with a prevalence of 14 per cent among under-five children. Poor access to clean water affects women and girls directly as they are responsible for collecting most of the domestic water at the household level – leaving less time for school attendance and childcare.

Nutritional problems are the underlying cause of almost 50 per cent of all child deaths in Mozambique: of an estimated 715,000 children born every year, about 89,000 will die before reaching age one and an additional 39,000 will die before reaching age five. Malaria is responsible for the majority of child deaths in the country.

Education activities are often threatened by natural disasters, most notably seasonal floods and drought. National and subnational education authorities are missing the resources and the capacity to quickly resume educational activities after an emergency in order to return some normalcy to the lives of children affected.

In 2006, the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS was estimated at 380,000. This figure is expected to increase to 630,000 by the year 2010. Orphaned children are becoming more and more vulnerable as extended families are unable to meet their basic needs, particularly in areas where the worst humanitarian conditions prevail.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

In 2007 UNICEF Mozambique's humanitarian action was marked by the response to floods in the Zambezi River Valley. On 4 February 2007, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) declared a 'red alert' calling for the evacuation of communities along the Zambezi River basin, as rising water levels caused by heavy rains threatened to flood low-lying areas. An estimated 285,000 people were affected by the floods, with over 107,000 of them sheltered in accommodation centres.

UNICEF mobilized emergency education, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies prepositioned with line ministry partners and supplies kept in the UNICEF Maputo warehouse. UNICEF Mozambique also deployed three multisectoral teams to the flood-affected areas to carry out preliminary rapid assessments with local officials and cluster partners, and to assist national, district and provincial authorities in the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the flood-affected population.

UNICEF supported the creation of the Mozambique Humanitarian Country Team and the implementation of the cluster approach to support the Government in its emergency response efforts. UNICEF assumed leadership of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition clusters; it co-led the education and

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protection clusters with Save the Children Alliance; and it was an active participant in the health, logistics, telecommunications and shelter clusters during the emergency response. Technical coordination and logistical support were provided to the INGC Emergency Operations Centre (CENOE), to line ministry counterparts in Maputo and to the Caia operational hub for national disaster preparedness and response efforts, as well as to the operational bases established by UNICEF in the districts of Mopeia (Zambezia Province) and Mutarara (Tete Province).

On 22 February 2007, in the height of the flood emergency in the Zambezi River basin, Mozambique suffered the brunt of yet another natural disaster when cyclone Favio made landfall in the coastal Inhambane Province. In total, an estimated 133,670 people were affected by the cyclone in four districts – Vilanculos, Inhassoro, Govuro and Massinga. On 23 February, a UNICEF team was deployed to Vilanculos to assess the damages and support INGC in the emergency response. Supplies were dispatched immediately to meet shelter and water and sanitation needs. UNICEF worked with the clusters at the Maputo level to identify how to best support the INGC-led emergency response in the cyclone-affected areas, despite the limited presence of cluster partners in Inhambane Province.

In both the flood and cyclone emergencies, UNICEF worked with national and local authorities and with cluster partners to meet the basic needs of children and women, in accordance with its *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies*. This included assisting in the restoration of basic health services, the re-establishment of child-friendly learning spaces and school facilities, the provision of supplementary and therapeutic feeding for under-five children in accommodation centres, the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, the promotion of positive behaviours for the prevention of cholera, malaria and HIV; the provision of safe water and sanitation facilities; and the distribution of emergency household kits for the most vulnerable affected families.

As part of its regular Country Programme efforts, UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health in the battle against cholera – most recently in Chemba District, one of the areas affected by the floods. Through its Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health and the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide community-based integrated health and nutrition services for the detection and treatment of moderate and severe malnutrition. Through its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme, UNICEF is also working with national water authorities and provincial public works authorities to ensure that the drought-affected populations have access to safe water thanks to the drilling and rehabilitation of water points, and the trucking of water to vulnerable communities.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF Mozambique is an active participant of the UN Disaster Management Team, which works closely with the Government of Mozambique to respond to emergency conditions and to the country's resulting chronic vulnerability and to strengthen national capacity for emergency preparedness and response.

UNICEF will also work to achieve its humanitarian objectives through the UN 'delivering as one' joint programme for emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction. An integral component of the joint programme is to strengthen national capacity for disaster preparedness and response. These overall objectives will be achieved in partnership with the Government of Mozambique, the Humanitarian Country Team, the Mozambique clusters, and other private sector, bilateral and multilateral stakeholders.

As a member of the Mozambique Humanitarian Country Team, as leader of the WASH and nutrition clusters and as co-leader of the education and protection clusters UNICEF forms part of the cluster-based emergency preparedness and response planning process. This process also aims to strengthen and support national capacity to respond to forthcoming natural disasters.

Regular programme

With the world's highest HIV prevalence rate, responses to the pandemic are essential in all programme activities within the Country Programme. Women and children in general and orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) in particular are severely affected, resulting in an ever increasing number of OVC and of grandmother- and child-headed households. UNICEF's planned emergency interventions for 2008 are all linked to these target groups and aim to alleviate their burden.

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Child health and nutrition (US\$ 2,200,000)

- Cholera mitigation and response;
- Preventative and curative health-care support in emergencies (malaria prevention, integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) initiative);
- Nutritional rehabilitation in disaster-affected areas;
- Avian influenza prevention and preparedness.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 1,500,000)

- Rehabilitation and construction of water points in disaster-affected areas;
- Latrine construction for affected populations;
- Trucking of potable water in disaster-hit areas.

Education (US\$ 800,000)

- Prepositioning of school tents, school kits, learners' kits and didactic materials for teachers;
- Support to the Ministry of Education and Culture to implement the emergency preparedness and response plan for the education sector.

Child protection (US\$ 400,000)

- Strengthening the capacity of civil society to monitor and address gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse, and psychosocial care in emergencies;
- Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable in emergency situations (e.g., provision of emergency household kits).

Programme communication (US\$ 100,000)

- Supporting community-based social mobilization and outreach activities (e.g., mobile units, community radio, community theatre) in emergency situations;
- Providing social mobilization materials for the prevention of cholera, malaria, and HIV/AIDS in emergency contexts.

Emergency coordination and operations (US\$ 650,000)

- Supporting the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) with technical assistance to prepare for, monitor and evaluate disaster response initiatives;
- Providing operational support for emergency assessments, and the transport and distribution of humanitarian supplies during natural disasters.

Coordination is an integral part of emergency preparedness and response factored into all the sector-specific initiatives and priorities highlighted above.

UNICEF Mozambique has also developed an emergency supply prepositioning strategy to support overall emergency preparedness and response plans. The prepositioning strategy takes into account emergency supply items to meet the immediate needs of 25,000 affected people within the first 72 hours of a natural disaster in line with UNICEF's *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies*. The strategy is broken down by (i) essential supplies that will be prepositioned prior to an emergency, (ii) supplies that will be ordered in the first 24 hours of an emergency, and (iii) emergency supplies to be ordered to meet the needs of the affected as assessed through preliminary rapid assessments. The UNICEF emergency supply prepositioning strategy will form part of the broader emergency preparedness plans of the Mozambique clusters and the Humanitarian Country Team.