

Mozambique Situation Update

15 April, 2003

Assessments

Cholera Outbreak

The latest figures from the Ministry of Health show that during the past two weeks (31st March – 14th April inclusive), a total of 2,067 new cases of cholera were registered throughout the country, bring the total cases since 20 September to 7,704 with 66 deaths. The outbreak continues to register most new cases in the urban areas of Beira and Maputo.

To put this into perspective, a comparison with last year's situation shows that by March 2002 the cumulative cases had reached a total of 32,267 (from the start of the outbreak in August 2001 to 26th March 2002).

Implementation of the Humanitarian Response

A. Immediate Actions with Immediate Effect

Prevention and Treatment of Malnutrition

World Vision has been continuing to implement the supplementary feeding programme, including the participatory hygiene education component and the distribution of Corn and Soy Bean Blends (CSB) to the beneficiaries, in three districts in Tete Province.

Samaritan's Purse has now begun implementation of the supplementary feeding programme in three districts in Gaza Province, starting with the training of 95 community volunteers who will be responsible for registering the beneficiaries, distributing the supplementary food and monitoring for cases of severely malnourished children.

The planned training courses on the management of severe malnutrition for Gaza and Inhambane Provinces have been temporarily postponed due to unforeseen staff constraints within the Ministry of Health. In order to build capacity in training in this area, UNICEF will support three participants to attend a "Training of Trainers Course for Management of Severe Malnutrition" being run by WHO. The course will take place in Malawi from 24th April – 4th May.

Prevention and Treatment of Diarrhoeal Disease

The Ministry of Health continues to have sufficient stocks of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) at this time.

Funds have been provided to the Provincial Directorate of Maputo, to support the additional staff costs of running the Cholera Treatment Centres established to respond to the cholera outbreak in Maputo city.

Funds have also been provided to the Provincial Directorate of Sofala, to provide lunch to community volunteers carrying out hygiene education and

chlorination of water in the urban areas affected by the cholera outbreak in Beira city. The chlorine for this activity was also provided by UNICEF.

B. Immediate Actions with Mid to Long Term Effect

Nutritional Surveillance

Following reported deaths from hunger in Magoe district (Tete Province), the Provincial Health Department (DPS) requested support from UNICEF to carry out a nutrition survey to verify the situation in the district. The DPS/UNICEF team is currently carrying out a 30 x 15 cluster survey (measuring weight/height).

Prevention and Treatment of Malnutrition

Over 11,000 nursing mothers are now benefiting from regular supplementary feeding as an added incentive to pursue breastfeeding for their young infants. They are also participating in education sessions on good feeding and hygiene practices.

A workshop to finalise the training manual for health workers on infant feeding practices will be held on 29th-30th May. Participants will include provincial health staff and clinicians from central level.

Prevention of HIV/AIDS

Following discussions with the Gaza Provincial Health Department, it was agreed the implementation of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) activities at the Xai-Xai Hospital would begin in June 2003.

Care and Treatment for People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA)

A meeting between Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and Mozambican Red Cross was held last week to discuss the network of volunteers for home-based care (HBC) currently being established in Gaza Province. The current co-ordination mechanisms for referring HIV+ patients from the Xai-Xai Hospital to a volunteer need to be improved, and discussions aimed to gain agreement on how this can be achieved.

External Relations

The press release on the presentation of the UNICEF Regional Nutrition Report was distributed to the Mozambican media. The story was picked up by the national daily newspaper 'Noticias'.

A consultant was hired during March to prepare a collection of feature stories on the impact of the crisis in Tete. These have now been uploaded onto the UNICEF Mozambique website. The stories focus on:

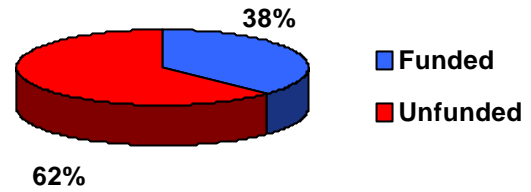
- ✓ the supplementary feeding programme,
- ✓ the distribution of education kits,
- ✓ the project for orphans in Kachembe (Help Age International / UNICEF), and
- ✓ the link between HIV and water/sanitation.

Fundraising

During this reporting period (15th March – 15th April 2003), the following funds have been received:

- Norwegian Government: USD 36,053
- Portuguese National Committee: USD 161,117

As of 15th April, UNICEF Mozambique has received contributions totalling USD 3,156,796 against the Regional Humanitarian Assistance Strategy (Total requested: USD 8,416,444).



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s have been allocated as follows:

Nutrition & Health: USD 2,503,287
 Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Promotion: USD 356,342
 Basic Education: USD 161,117
 Special Protection: USD 36,053
 Co-ordination & Logistics: USD 99,997

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