Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Shortages of rainfall, especially in the southern and parts of central regions of Mozambique, were recorded between October 2015 and January 2016. Currently, the country is facing the worst drought in 30 years with great severity in the southern provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane, and parts of central regions, notably in Tete and Sofala provinces as a result of El Niño.

Compared to the year 1997 when the country was last hit by El Niño, the National Institute for Meteorology (INAM) and National Directorate of Water and Resource Management (DNGRH) are reporting that the

**Highlights**

- On 15 January 2016, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) declared the Orange Institutional Alert due to El Niño drought conditions in the South of the Country. On 9 February the Government requested the HCT to assist in mobilizing additional funds to respond to the drought emergency.
- From 9-11 March, UNICEF supported an INGC-led joint needs assessment in Tete and Sofala provinces amid reports of increasing humanitarian needs and gaps in the drought response.
- Though the current government estimate of people in need of assistance is 380,000 people, the latest food security vulnerability assessment, due to come in early April, will increase this estimate number to 1.5 million people in food insecurity and in need of urgent food assistance.
- 15.3% of children under 5 in Sofala have GAM, while 42% of pregnant and lactating women in Sofala have GAM. 15.5% of children under 5 in Tete province have GAM and 28.3% of pregnant and lactating women in Tete province have GAM.
- To date, 155,650 people have been reached through government and HCT food assistance, water trucking, and the distribution of agriculture inputs.
- UNICEF interventions are prioritizing WASH and Nutrition, with targets of 40,000 beneficiaries for the WASH response and over 18,000 malnourished children targeted in UNICEF’s Nutrition response.
- The UNHCT’s $4,679,803 CERF proposal for the drought response has been approved.
prevailing El Niño conditions are the strongest to ever been recorded in the country since 1997.

Natural disasters are cyclical in Mozambique. In 2015, Mozambique was hard hit by localized floods and strong winds. The destructive effects and cumulative social and economic impacts of the floods have resulted in major social and economic setbacks. Combined with slow recovery pace, the current drought impact have further pushed communities deeper into their vulnerability particularly, those already struggling to recover from the long-term effects of floods. While the north has experienced some rain which resulted in light floods, particularly in Nampula, Cabo Delgado and parts of Zambezia province, in contrast, the south is experiencing a drought situation as a result of shortages of precipitation. The criticality of the current drought is such that demanded the activation of the Institutional Orange alert by the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) on 15th January. Following various discussions within the Technical Council for Disaster Management (CTGC) and a presentation to the Development Results Group (DRG), the INGC officially requested the UN Resident Coordinator on 9th February for additional funding to cover the increasing needs and gaps in the current response.

With official INAM’s meteorological projections indicating below normal rain fall and DNGRH hydrological interpretations showing majority of dams in the south with limited water and currently discharging lower than during the same period last year and lower compared to the 1997 El Niño time period. This has led to insufficient discharges of water to carry out normal agricultural activities.

The Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition Security (SETSAN) anticipated that the situation could escalate from the projected March moderate food insecurity scenario of 380,000 people to a severe scenario of 1.8 million people food insecure in the next six months.

However, data from the new SETSAN’s food security and nutritional assessment provides a much different picture of the situation, particularly in the central region of the country. Overall, the report indicates that currently, 1,493,928 people are food insecure in seven provinces (Zambezia, Tete, Manica, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo). According to new assessments, GAM rates for children under 5 are 15.3% and 15.5% in Sofala and Tete provinces respectively, and 42% and 28.3% for pregnant and lactating women in Sofala and Tete respectively.

The escalation of the current food insecurity situation has extreme implications for children, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups, including female-headed households, agriculture dependant families and labour constrained families (who are often poorer and acutely vulnerable to even small changes in socioeconomic and climate conditions in addition to increased demand for food supply at the household and community level). With more than 75 percent of the population living in rural areas and their survival intrinsically tied to agriculture, particularly rain-fed agriculture, the loss of agriculture crops due to drought can represent loss of family income, limited access to food or non-availability of food and increased vulnerability to food insecurity.

In the south, the most critical drought affected provinces are Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane. The geographical hotspots, are the districts of Guija, Chigubo, Chicualacula, Mabala and Massangena in Gaza, Funhaloro, Guvuro and Mabote in Inhambane and Moamba and Magude in Maputo province. UNICEF has begun WASH and Nutrition interventions in these three provinces as well as in Tete (see map below).

### Nutrition status of children < 5 years (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provinces</th>
<th>SAM</th>
<th>MAM</th>
<th>GAM</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tete</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manica</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofala</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhambane</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maputo</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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</table>

### Nutrition status of pregnant and lactating women (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provinces</th>
<th>SAM</th>
<th>MAM</th>
<th>GAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tete</td>
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<td>24.1</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manica</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofala</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhambane</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maputo</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SETSAN March 2016
Given the severity of the on-going drought, FEWS NET projects the food security outcomes between June and September could lead to widespread crisis (IPC Phase 3).

**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

The National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) provides overall leadership and coordination of all humanitarian interventions in the country and is supported by the Humanitarian Country Team working group (HCT-WG) co-chaired by UNICEF and WFP. The HCT-WG gives direct support to implementation of drought response interventions, working directly with relevant government sectors and inter-agencies. At implementation level, drought interventions are being coordinated by INGC and implemented by and through members of the HCT-WG through existing partnerships and new programme cooperation agreements (PCAs) with both national and international NGOs with proven capacities and operations to intervene in the affected districts.

Centrally, the HCT-WG works and is integrated within the four sectors of the National Emergency Operations Centre (CENOE), namely Infrastructure, Social Services, Planning & Information and Communication. As a member of the Technical Council for Disaster Management (CTGC) and HCT, UNICEF leads the WASH, Nutrition clusters and co-leads the Education cluster with Save the Children and Protection cluster with UNHCR.

Within the current drought response, UNICEF has provided both leadership, coordination and technical and financial support to the WASH and Nutrition clusters. Technically and financially, UNICEF contributed to the nutritional component of the on-going SETSAN’s food security and nutritional assessment. In WASH, UNICEF continues to support the WASH cluster and the government (DNGRH) to develop a WASH drought response plan. In Education, UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Education to assess intervention options to reduce the impact of the drought on children’s education. In addition, UNICEF has been centrally involved in the planning, preparation and coordination of the INGC-led joint needs assessment in Tete and Sofala provinces. The assessment sought to provide a shared understanding of the impact of the drought in the two provinces. The assessment included analysis of the needs, current gaps, and identification of potential constraints to providing sustained humanitarian assistance. The assessment analysis should be received shortly, which will help inform the emergency response over the next few months.

UNICEF continues to provide structured coordination support and leadership through existing coordination mechanisms such the CTGC, the HCT working groups, and the sectoral working groups within the CENOE. Internally, UNICEF holds regular meetings to coordinate UNICEF-supported interventions, reduce gaps in the current drought response and to ensure alignment with government sectors. UNICEF also supports humanitarian response capacity at the government sub-national levels.
UNICEF Humanitarian Strategy

The humanitarian response strategy in the country focuses on three critical areas as agreed on by government and the HCT-WG; these include (a) agriculture and food security (led by WFP and FAO), (b) WASH (led by UNICEF) and (c) Nutrition (led by UNICEF). Despite focusing on these sectors, there are rising concerns over Protection and Education which are demanding special attention from the government and the HCT-WG. UNICEF is engaging with the food security cluster to ensure a focus on school children and schools in vulnerable communities. On agriculture the priority is to increase food availability for the most vulnerable households and ensure preservation of their assets for life saving and livelihoods. In food security, the priority is to provide immediate food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable families, particularly those who lost their harvest and are experiencing food insecurity. In WASH and Nutrition, the priority response includes cover humanitarian WASH needs through emergency water provision, and covering priority nutrition needs through the screening, referral and treatment of moderate and acutely malnourished children through supplementary food rations.

UNICEF is committed to reducing the impact of the drought on the most vulnerable demographic, including children, women, elderly, pregnant, and lactating women in the provinces most affected. This will be achieved through the implementation of coordinated UNICEF-supported interventions guided by the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) and through the implementation of the HCT drought response plan.

The scope of UNICEF’s drought response underpins the HCT planned interventions, which are heavily grounded on the analysis of the SETSAN’s food security and nutrition assessments. Based on current response gaps and the geographical spread of the HCT, UNICEF interventions will be limited primarily to the most affected provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane and Tete, particularly within the CERF proposed interventions. UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy gives priority to WASH and Nutrition as critical interventions to reduce the impact of the drought on the most vulnerable groups, including children and women.

In Nutrition, UNICEF’s response is geared towards reducing acute malnutrition on children through screening, referral and treatment. At least 20 outreach teams will be operational to treat malnourished children. Essential nutrition commodities for the treatment of moderate and acute malnutrition as well as support to Infant and Young Feeding in the context of emergency will be provided through World Food Programme (WFP).

In WASH, three strategic WASH approaches have been agreed on by the Government and WASH Cluster partners jointly to mitigate the impacts of the drought. These include (i) emergency water provision through water trucking to the most affected communities; (ii) rehabilitation/upgrading of existing community water points to increase water yield and storage capacity; and (iii) drilling new deep boreholes in strategically selected locations and equipping them with solar powered pumping systems and elevated water tanks. All three activities under WASH will be complemented by hygiene promotion and education linking nutrition and health interventions.

UNICEF’s interventions are proposed for a period of six months which began in March and are aimed to cover humanitarian needs in WASH and Nutrition initially for 40,000 people and 18,669 children and 13,500 pregnant and lactating women. However, with the newly released SETSAN’s food security and nutritional assessment data, there is a need to re-shift UNICEF’s geographical scope to include other provinces where the situation is also deemed critical.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

WASH

UNICEF Mozambique is targeting 40,000 people in need of water supply in Maputo province. As cluster lead for WASH, UNICEF is supporting the HCT and government response and coordination the sector response. As one of the provinces least covered, UNICEF has prioritized its WASH interventions in Maputo province, specifically in Magude and Moamba districts. UNICEF has allocated funds from its regular resources and received additional One UN funds to support the drought response. As part of the recommendations from the INGC-led assessment, in which UNICEF participated, UNICEF is currently working with provincial and districts government authorities in Tete to support WASH interventions in two districts; Changara and Marara. Planned interventions in Tete will include the drilling of a borehole to improve access to drinking water to at least 8,000 people in the most critical districts, including upgrading and rehabilitation of boreholes to improve access to water for human and animal consumption.
The largest challenge in WASH has been the disaggregation and availability of reliable data in terms of the number of people affected by drought versus the number of people in need of water.

**Health and Nutrition**
UNICEF will be supporting the nutrition response through CERF funds received for emergency response to 18,669 malnourished children in Gaza and Inhambane provinces. The initial priority response in Nutrition includes supporting identification (screening) and the referral to treatment of 18,669 acutely malnourished children in the most affected provinces of Gaza and Inhambane. Based on newly released SETSAN’s data, the need to expand UNICEF’s interventions beyond current geographical targeting is justifiable. However, this will also require additional resources to scale up interventions.

Screening of over 55,000 children in the most affected districts of Gaza and Inhambane provinces is currently under way in collaboration with CARE and Save the Children. UNICEF is supporting the deployment of 8 mobile nutrition teams and is strengthening the existing health centres to provide an integrated treatment package to all acutely malnourished children, including 926 severely malnourished children. Emergency response to acutely malnourished children is complemented by support and counselling targeting 13,500 women with children under 6 months for exclusive breastfeeding support in the context of an emergency.

**Education**
The March update from the Ministry of Education (MINEDH) reports that more than 175,000 children are affected in the drought areas with reports of drop-outs in Gaza province reaching nearly 1,000 students. It is not yet clear whether students are dropping out because of the drought, however, as families are on the move to keep their cattle/livestock alive, it also very likely that the opportunity cost is too high and children are withdrawn from school to take some of the domestic burden as families exhaust their coping mechanisms.

UNICEF is working closely with MINEDH to obtain comparable data from last year’s school drop-outs in the same drought affected areas to help determine whether there is a spike in the drop-out rates and how much can be attributed to the current drought situation. A more structured assessment is required, both to support tailored interventions and to reach a common agreement on priorities and modalities of intervention. However, there is an initial consensus that the most appropriate intervention at this stage is emergency school feeding which should be implemented through WFP.

UNICEF continues to support overall coordination and advocacy on drought and Education. As cluster lead for Education, UNICEF is working on the development of a drought response plan for the Education sector, as part of the HCT overall drought response plan. UNICEF is further supporting the development of assessment tools from the INEE Minimum standards of Education in Emergencies, making relevant adaptations to better respond to the contextual needs. There is an upcoming UN-led assessment to Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane in which UNICEF will participate as cluster lead and co-chair of the UN HCT. The assessment and monitoring of the current HCT response will also serve as the basis for further advocacy and re-alignment of interventions to operationalize the drought plan and maximize resources.

**Child Protection**
Preliminary data from the INGC-led joint assessment in Tete and Sofala indicate that some vulnerable groups, particularly elderly, are not benefiting from food for work interventions and government social protection schemes (INAS), which provide monthly financial stipends to the most vulnerable families. To address this gap, UNICEF is engaged with the protection cluster, WFP and the government relevant authority in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) to consider general food distributions and other social protection schemes targeting specifically labour-constrained vulnerable groups. UNICEF Mozambique is also supporting the government to strengthen their institutional capacity to address protection and gender issues, particularly in the context of drought and floods.

In addition, UNICEF is strengthening government capacity on protection and gender issues at sub-national level, particularly in Tete, one of the drought affected provinces. As co-lead for the Protection cluster, UNICEF and UNHCR are finalizing the drought response plan to ensure mainstreaming of protection and gender issues into the overall drought response interventions.
Communications for Development (C4D)
UNICEF has been working with community Radios to develop their capacity on disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, particularly those in the most disaster prone locations. Following recommendations from INGC’s Director General to develop a multi-sectoral team and ToR to support the production of drought-specific Radio and TV spots to be aired nationally, particularly focusing on water and hygiene promotion, UNICEF’s support to the Institute for Social Communication (ICS) is central in achieving this goal. Social mobilization activities are being implemented by ICS with UNICEF support. UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Health in the design and implementation of social mobilization messaging focusing on nutrition.

Funding
UNICEF’s initial requirement in 2016 to respond to the drought emergency in the sectors of WASH and nutrition is $3.8 million. The UN HCT’s $4,679,803 CERF proposal has been approved. UNICEF Mozambique has requested CERF funds for WASH and Nutrition interventions to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, including children and women. CERF funds are critical to ensuring a quick and timely response. The disbursement of the funds should arrive to partners within the next few weeks. UNICEF will continue to pursue other funding opportunities to meet current funding gaps, particularly in light of the new data following SETSAN’s assessment report.

UNICEF Funding Status

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<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements US$</th>
<th>Funds received (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap US$</th>
<th>Funding gap %</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>$490,348</td>
<td>$1,509,652</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>$954,323</td>
<td>$2,845,677</td>
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</table>

Next SitRep: 29/04/2016

UNICEF Mozambique: [http://www.youtube.com/UnicefMozambique](http://www.youtube.com/UnicefMozambique)

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