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20 December 2024

# MOZAMBIQUE

## Cyclone Chido

### Flash Update #2



## Highlights

- At least 380,147 people across Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa provinces have been affected; nearly 200,000 are children.
- Most recent reports have recorded 76 deaths, 768 injuries and widespread destruction of personal and public infrastructure.
- At least 86,500 houses were damaged or destroyed. It is estimated that damage to infrastructure in Mecúfi and Chiure districts is near total, with very few structures still standing.
- 1,126 classrooms in 250 schools have been damaged or destroyed, impacting the upcoming return to school for at least 109,793 students.
- Priority needs include food, shelter, WASH, NFIs, medicines and supplies for health facilities, and rehabilitation of schools being used as accommodation sites.
- Mobile phone signals in Cabo Delgado are becoming more stable and some areas of Pemba have been reconnected with electricity.
- UNICEF has scaled up assistance in accommodation centres including through the Joint Response Programme.

## Situation in Numbers



380,147 people in affected districts (Source: INGD)



At least 197,600 children affected



76 deaths and 768 injured (Source: INGD)



At least 250 schools, 1,126 classrooms affected (Source: INGD)



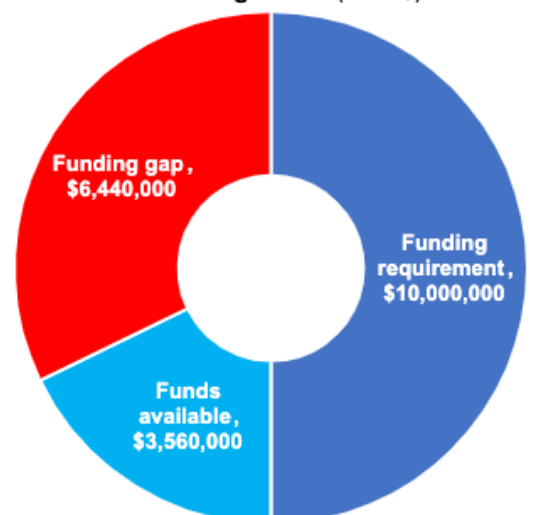
At least 52 health facilities damaged or destroyed (Source: INGD)

## UNICEF Funding Requirement

(preliminary estimate)

**US\$ 10 million**

Funding Status (in US\$)



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## Funding Overview and Partnerships

**UNICEF's initial assessment is that a minimum of US\$10 million is required to respond to urgent needs and begin the recovery process** in Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces. This figure is likely to increase as the extent of the damage to infrastructure, public facilities, and communities becomes better understood. UNICEF has released flexible global humanitarian thematic funding available, has applied to the U.N's Central Emergency Response Fund, and has received a payout of over US\$3 million from UNICEF's global parametric insurance providers under the Today and Tomorrow Initiative. The impact of Cyclone Chido is stretching humanitarian operations within the province and the resources available. Many of the locations requiring assistance are not included in UNICEF's HAC 2025 appeal. Thus, UNICEF's funding requirements for 2025 will be higher than anticipated, even before the start of the year.

## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Cyclone Chido made landfall on 15 December in Mecúfi district, Cabo Delgado province with winds of up to 165 km/h and heavy rains exceeding 250 mm in 24 hours. The early-season cyclone has caused widespread devastation across northern Mozambique, affecting Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa provinces. The storm disrupted roads, energy, and communication networks. Relief efforts are underway, but the level of humanitarian supplies remains critically low.



As of 21 December, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) had identified 380,147 people affected, an estimated 75 per cent of whom are women and children. The cyclone caused 76 deaths and 768 injuries. Additionally, at least 86,500 houses were partially damaged or destroyed. It is estimated that damage to infrastructure in Mecúfi and Chiure districts is near total, with very few structures still standing. Numbers are expected to rise as assessments continue.

UNICEF assessment teams, in collaboration with government and interagency colleagues, have visited Mecúfi, Chiure, and Metuge districts of Cabo Delgado and Erati and Memba districts of Nampula. Initial assessments in Chiure revealed high levels of distress among affected populations, with 60 per cent of homes having lost roofs and 40 per cent completely destroyed. The district's population of 371,742, which includes 36,000 IDPs, faces heightened vulnerabilities, including increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV) due to overcrowded shelters lacking gender-segregated spaces.

The multi-sector initial rapid assessment (MIRA) conducted by OCHA on 16 December provided preliminary insights, and a more detailed MIRA began on 18 December in Nampula province, covering Memba, Erati, Mecuburi, and Mossuril districts. The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) is developing a Flash Appeal to further outline the needs and response plans. Despite ongoing power outages, UNICEF's field office in Pemba has remained operational and serves as a hub for other agencies whose offices were more severely impacted by the storm.

## Summary of Programme Response

### CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

By 18 December, it was reported that 52 health facilities were damaged or destroyed. To address immediate health needs, UNICEF prepared the deployment of integrated mobile brigades (IMBs) to Mecúfi on Thursday, 19 December. UNICEF has delivered health and nutrition supplies, including RUTF, for over 6,000 children.

In Chiúre, two health promotion and infant and young child feeding sessions were conducted in the Khupe community, reaching 1,122 participants (788 women). Additionally, radio announcements were broadcast to raise awareness on good hygiene to combat diarrheal diseases.



In Mecúfi, UNICEF distributed supplies including scales, MUAC tapes and length boards for the screening and treatment of malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women to health facilities. Nutritional assessments were conducted in two communities in conjunction with the Joint Response Plan distributions. Visits were also

made to several communities to engage local leaders and inform them about upcoming mobile brigade activities.

### EDUCATION

The most recent reports indicate damage to 1,126 classrooms in 250 schools 51 schools which, if not quickly addressed, may delay the start of the school year in late January. Roof repairs were supported for at least 15 partially damaged schools in Mecúfi, Metuge, and Chiure districts and additional construction assessments are being undertaken. To help children regain a sense of normalcy and engage children during this stressful time, UNICEF reached 3,000 children and adolescents, including children with disabilities, in Mecúfi and Metuge with recreational activities. In addition, UNICEF delivered 47 early childhood development (ECD) kits to Mecúfi, Chiure and Metuge districts and dignity kits for 1,000 girls.

### CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF scaled up the child protection response into two new communities in Chiure and Metuge districts, reaching 330 new children (169 girls) with community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services through recreational activities. Existing community-based protection activities including GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response, and child protection services are ongoing in Chiure, Pemba, Ibo, Metuge, and Ancuabe districts.

In Mecúfi, child protection services were integrated into the JRP distributions including the provision of MHPSS and screening for child survivors of violence. Overall, 1,141 new children (671 girls) were registered and benefited from community-based MHPSS services, and awareness-raising on child protection risks and preventing injuries. UNICEF also identified community-based activists to support the response and dispatched 1,000 recreation kits which can benefit up to 90,000 children and adolescents.



### JOINT RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (JRP)

UNICEF, IOM, and WFP have launched the JRP mechanism to support Mecúfi district. Distributions began on 18 December to provide emergency kits including critical water purification and storage supplies, hygiene kits, food, and shelter materials to 2,760 families.

## WASH

UNICEF has been actively supporting efforts to restore access to clean water in the affected areas. UNICEF distributed supplies including soap, buckets, and water purification supplies for 6,250 people in Chiure, Mecúfi, and Metuge districts. In Pemba, UNICEF supported the water service provider FIPAG with water treatment chemicals to facilitate the cleaning and rehabilitation of water systems and 20,000 litres of fuel to restore regular water supply through generators while power is being restored.

UNICEF and partner Helvetas have repaired hand water pumps in Murrebué, Mecúfi, benefitting 600 people. Water trucking activities conducted by partner Mentor Initiative are ongoing in Mecúfi and Chiure. The supply of two generators to ensure water supply to Metuge district is under process and will ensure clean water to Metuge town, health centres, and schools reaching more than 7,000 host community members and 1,000 IDPs. The generator will feed an existing water network that was rehabilitated and expanded in 2023.



## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with the Institute of Social Communication (ICS), Radio Mozambique and community radio stations were engaged to disseminate radio spots and produce radio programmes, including live broadcasts from affected communities. These programs shared information on available services and key messages to improve safety. Multimedia mobile units were deployed to project videos and facilitate debates on life-saving practices, with a particular emphasis on cholera prevention and information sharing about services available to the community. Additionally, community theatre groups were engaged to perform interactive sessions at the community level, encouraging the adoption of key protective and preventive practices.

## HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND STRATEGY

UNICEF leads the Nutrition and WASH clusters, co-leads the Education cluster, and leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. In coordination with the interagency, UNICEF is supporting and participating in needs assessments, coordination, and development of interagency flash appeals and response plans. Assessments have taken place in multiple districts of Nampula and Cabo Delgado. The WASH Cluster identified a lead partner for each affected district and holds partner meetings every other day to facilitate communication gaps and challenges.

## SUPPLIES

By 18 December, UNICEF dispatched supplies to address immediate needs in Mecúfi, including nutrition supplies for over 6,000 children, CP supplies for 1,000 children and WASH kits for 5,000 people. Between 19 and 20 December, dispatches included recreation kits for 3,000 children in Pemba, high-performance tents for CHN services in Mecúfi and Metuge, and drug kits to support over 2,500 patients in Metuge.

Planned dispatches for 20 and 21 December – all to be delivered to Mecúfi district – include dignity kits for 700 girls, ECD kits for 1,000 children, recreation kits for 4,500 children, tarpaulins for education, 5,026 RUTF sachets and 1,000 bottles of Amoxicillin. To support WASH interventions, 8,675 kg of calcium hypochlorite and 5,300 kg of aluminium sulfate will also be dispatched.

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