



MOZAMBIQUE

Flood Response Flash Update #2

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UNICEF Mozambique | Flood Response

Highlights:

- As of 29 January 2026, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) reports that over 700,000 people have been affected by flooding across impacted provinces. A total of 112 temporary accommodation centres are currently hosting over 100,730 displaced people.
- As the situation continues to evolve, UNICEF estimates that the number of affected people could reach 800,000 within the coming weeks, including approximately 400,000 children, who face heightened protection, health and WASH risks.
- National response coordination structures remain operational at Filipe Jacinto Nyusi Airport in Chongoene, Gaza Province, alongside the State House situation room, which continues to support high-level coordination and briefings.
- Humanitarian access, particularly in Gaza province, remains constrained in several affected areas due to damaged road infrastructure; however, UNHAS flights are operational and supporting access to priority locations.
- UNICEF is appealing for US \$34 million to scale up its emergency response in accommodation centres and affected communities. UNICEF continues to work closely with Government counterparts, partners and clusters to deliver life-saving supplies and services to affected children and families.

KEY SECTOR TARGETS |



319,028

people reached with appropriate drinking water



86,381

children 6-59 months screened for wasting



355,552

children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities



124,433

children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based MHPSS

KEY FIGURES |

HNRP Figures | January 2026



700,000 People in Need

600,000 People Targeted

UNICEF Targets | January 2026



450,000 People Targeted



225,000 Children Targeted

FUNDING NEEDS
US \$34,000,000

UNICEF's estimated funding needs for the first 6 months of response to provide life-saving humanitarian support in supplies.



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FUNDING OVERVIEW & PARTNERSHIPS

In coordination with Government and partners, UNICEF is conducting rapid assessments of flood impacts on children and families, while delivering lifesaving assistance. UNICEF has deployed emergency and cluster coordination teams to Gaza Province where needs are greatest. Pre-positioned emergency supplies from Beira were sent to Gaza and a local market survey is being conducted for local procurement of additional emergency supplies. Thanks to immediate support from ECHO, on 26th January, UNICEF received 88 metric tonnes of emergency supplies, via a charter flight, from its global humanitarian warehouse in Copenhagen. These supplies are already being distributed to the most affected communities. The shipment included lifesaving health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education supplies. As flooding persists during the rainy and cyclone season, access constraints and humanitarian needs are increasing, requiring urgent and flexible funding to sustain and scale up the response.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS UPDATE

Mozambique is facing an ongoing serious flood emergency following exceptionally heavy rainfall between December 2025 and mid-January 2026, coinciding with the onset of the rainy and cyclone season across southern, central and northern provinces. Gaza Province experienced particularly heavy rainfall, reaching 700 mm in less than seven days in some parts of the province. This was exacerbated by heavy rainfall in western parts of Mozambique and in South Africa, triggering large-scale flooding along the Limpopo River basin which impacted Chókwè, Guijá, Chibuto and Xai-Xai districts. Flooding has also been reported in the Incomati and Umbeluzi river basins in Maputo Province, as well as along the Save, Buzi, Pungue and Licungo rivers, with impacts extending into Sofala, Zambézia and Inhambane provinces.

On 16 January 2026, the Government activated a nationwide Red Alert, and on 17 January formally requested UN support. According to latest INGD data (9-29 January 2026), floods have affected over 700,000 people across Gaza, Maputo, Sofala among other provinces. As of 29 January 2026, 100,730 people are hosted in 112 accommodation centers, many of which are overcrowded. With nearly 166,000 homes flooded, it is expected that at least 400,000 people might be displaced, over 100,730 of whom are in temporary sites and currently overcrowded accommodation centers (at least 60,000 registered). The other 310,000 are in host communities. These numbers are growing by the day.

Flooding has caused extensive damage, with 4,335 houses either partially or totally destroyed, and nearly 166,000 houses inundated. Impacted social infrastructure includes 355 schools, 796 classrooms, 229 health facilities and 83 education administration buildings, affecting 233,489 students and 6,348 teachers. Livelihoods have been severely disrupted, with 440,246 hectares of agricultural land affected, over 261,185 hectares lost, impacting 312,790 farmers, alongside the loss of 430,972 livestock and damage to fishing assets, 1,425 km of roads, bridges and water supply systems affected.

Children, who account for over half of those affected (at least 350,000), face heightened risks due to disrupted access to safe water, healthcare, nutrition and education, increasing exposure to waterborne diseases, malnutrition and protection concerns.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

UNICEF Mozambique requires US\$34 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of 450,000 people including 225,000 children affected by the floods. To date, the response has been supported by US\$450,000 from reprogrammed UNICEF's core resources with a confirmed pipeline of US \$300,000 through the crisis modifier mechanism in EU's development projects to sustain life- saving health, nutrition, child protection and WASH services, and US \$1,400,000 through CERF funding supporting WASH, Health and Child Protection activities. UNICEF has also utilized pre-positioned essential WASH supplies with support from Canada forming a core component of WASH service delivery in government-led accommodation centres. Without adequate funding UNICEF will be significantly constrained to scale up and sustain critical assistance, particularly for children and women.

Funding Requirements by Sector

Sector	Funding requirements (US\$)	Funding Available* (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)	Gap %
WASH	11,093,098	0	11,093,098	100%
Child Protection	4,268,811	100,000	4,168,811	98%
Health	3,245,447	100,000	3,145,447	97%
HIV/AIDS	212,990	0	212,990	100%
Nutrition	2,365,496	100,000	2,265,496	96%
Education	6,741,704	0	6,741,704	100%
Social Protection	3,654,720	150,000	3,504,720	96%
SBC/RCCE	1,518,750	0	1,518,750	100%
PSEA &AAP	428,895	0	428,895	100%
ADAP	303,750	0	303,750	100%
Emergency Operations	391,429	0	391,429	100%
Total	34,225,090	450,000	33,775,090	99%

**Exclude CERF RR funds as they have not been released yet*

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

CHILD HEALTH & NUTRITION

UNICEF deployed one health and one nutrition specialist to Xai-Xai to support the Ministry of Health in establishing temporary health services and integrated mobile brigades across four accommodation and transit centres. Services include maternal, newborn and child health care; immunization; child wasting screening and treatment; management of malaria, diarrhoeal and respiratory infections; vitamin A supplementation; deworming; and antenatal, neonatal and HIV services. Breastfeeding corners are being set up to support caregivers and nutritionally at-risk infants under six months. A joint UN–Government statement is being prepared to reinforce adherence to the breastmilk substitutes code and promote safe breastfeeding and complementary feeding during the flood response.

Through mobile brigades, 175 children received vitamin A and 158 received deworming. 686 children aged 6–59 months were screened for malnutrition in Gaza accommodation centres; four were

identified with wasting and referred for treatment in Chokwe. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health's cholera vaccination efforts, including a preventive campaign planned for early February in flood-affected areas such as Sofala province.

UNICEF prepositioned lifesaving health and nutrition supplies in Gaza and Maputo Provinces and Maputo City, sufficient for 22,000 people for up to three months. Preparations are underway to deliver 2,300 boxes of RUTF, 172 boxes of F100, and anthropometric equipment to treat at least 2,300 children with severe wasting and screen more than 10,000 children under five and 2,000 caregivers. A total of 45 AWD kits, 40 IEHK 2024 kits, and 41 tents were delivered, supporting an estimated 404,500 people, including children and pregnant women. Additional supplies and staff deployments are being mobilized to sustain the ongoing response.

EDUCATION

UNICEF has begun distributing pre-positioned Education in Emergencies (EiE) supplies in Gaza, Maputo Province and Maputo City, including 30,000 learner kits, 300 recreation kits, and 300 School-in-a-Box kits, to support learning continuity for more than 30,000 flood-affected children. Education staff have been deployed to support sectoral assessments, coordination and response planning with authorities and partners. UNICEF is working with local authorities and partners to facilitate the relocation of displaced families from schools, support cleaning, disinfection and minor emergency repairs, and activate education sector and cluster coordination mechanisms. Upcoming priorities include the distribution of additional EiE supplies, establishment of temporary learning spaces, and implementation of back-to-school, remedial and catch-up activities. These efforts include teacher training on school-based MHPSS and recreational learning in affected areas and other provinces. This support is critical as the start of the academic year has been delayed by one month, to 27 February 2026.



CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF has deployed child protection staff to conduct rapid assessments, particularly in Gaza Province, while continuing engagement with government and civil society partners to identify priority protection risks and response gaps. Supplies have also been allocated to Maputo Province across the five most affected districts. Child protection materials (tents, recreational kits and dignity kits) are being positioned to establish Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in temporary accommodation centres for approximately 3,000 children.

More than 50 social workers and community animators are being mobilized through the Gaza Provincial Directorate for Gender, Children and Social Action (DPGCAS) to deliver psychosocial support (PSS) and structured child protection activities through the CFS. UNICEF has supported

induction sessions for frontline workers on core Child Protection in Emergencies interventions, including MHPSS, case management, family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), GBV prevention and response, host family identification for alternative care of UASC, and community engagement to strengthen prevention and reporting of protection risks. Similar training is being organized in Maputo Province.

UNICEF, in partnership with civil society organizations, will continue to provide technical support to DPGCAS in both provinces to ensure delivery of lifesaving child protection services in accommodation centres. UNICEF will also work with the Police Department for the Protection of Women and Children to raise awareness of protection risks and available reporting channels, including referral pathways to specialized child protection services for vulnerable or at-risk children and their families.

WASH

UNICEF deployed a WASH emergency focal person to conduct rapid assessments and coordinate with INGD, DPOP Gaza, DPOP Maputo, DNAAS and partners to identify urgent needs and prioritize interventions. The National and Provincial WASH Clusters have been activated, with the National Cluster Coordinator deployed to Gaza to reinforce coordination and provide information management support to INGD for improved data collection and evidence-based planning.

Critical WASH supplies are being positioned to support immediate lifesaving interventions in accommodation centres across Gaza and Maputo provinces. Pre-positioned items include hygiene kits for 25,000 people, collapsible water tanks, water treatment products and emergency sanitation materials. Initial deliveries in Maputo and Gaza have reached 4,567 people. To date, essential WASH supplies have benefited 27,014 people across Gaza, Maputo and Sofala provinces.

In the coming weeks, the response will focus on installing water tanks with tap stands, deploying a portable water treatment station in Gaza, and distributing bulk and household water treatment products. Emergency sanitation support will be scaled up through temporary latrines constructed with plastic sheeting, squatting plates and portable sanitation services as needed. Temporary handwashing facilities and intensified hygiene promotion activities will continue to mitigate public health risks and prevent waterborne disease outbreaks.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

UNICEF is working closely with the National Institute of Social Action (INAS) to strengthen shock responsive social protection systems and national capacities to enable timely emergency cash

assistance for flood affected families. Shock responsive social protection staff have been deployed to Gaza Province to support INAS and INGD in assessing system impacts. Preliminary findings indicate that 7,900 households (39,500 people) in Chókwè District have been affected, with many losing homes, livelihoods and access to essential services. UNICEF is preparing to support an INASled PASDPE emergency intervention in the most severely affected administrative posts in Chókwè, providing a one off emergency cash transfer of 2,500 meticaís per vulnerable household to meet immediate needs, including food, water and essential household items. The response will leverage national social protection systems to reach affected populations rapidly, including vulnerable beneficiaries of government programmes (PSSB, PASD, PASP) and households on waiting lists. Flexible payment mechanisms will be used based on local conditions—cash in hand where access and services are disrupted, and mobile money transfers where feasible. The intervention is expected to extend to Guijá District, while strengthening system scalability, accountability and coordination with disaster risk management authorities.

SBC/RCCE/AAP

UNICEF is deploying a Social Behaviour Change (SBC) emergency focal person to conduct rapid assessments and work with Government counterparts and partners to identify urgent RCCE priorities in flood-affected areas. Support is underway to reactivate sub-national RCCE coordination mechanisms. UNICEF will roll out a mix of mass communication and community-based approaches to promote protective and preventive behaviours related to health, nutrition, child protection and PSEA. Radio spots and interactive programmes through provincial and community stations are expected to reach 345,000 people in Sofala, 224,000 in Gaza, and 300,000 in Maputo Province. Public video projections, facilitated discussions, and participatory theatre sessions are being conducted in accommodation centres using ICS multimedia mobile units and local theatre groups. Engagement with religious leaders, community influencers and existing networks is being strengthened to build trust, counter misinformation and promote lifesaving behaviours, particularly in accommodation sites. UNICEF will collect community feedback and complaints through U-Report and during community engagement activities, supported by digital tools, to ensure accountability to affected populations and inform programme adjustments.

PSEA

UNICEF is supporting the integration of PSEA into the flood response by raising community awareness on humanitarian standards of conduct and available reporting mechanisms, initially through mass communication via radio and progressively through increased face-to-face engagement in affected communities. As part of UNICEF's child protection response, 50 social workers and community animators have been trained on PSEA, equipping them to identify, safely receive, and appropriately refer SEA reports — particularly critical given that CFSs serve as a key child-friendly reporting channel. UNICEF is also strengthening the capacity of child protection partners to use child-friendly communication materials to raise PSEA awareness with children in an age- and context-appropriate manner.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, AND STRATEGY

UNICEF continues to play a central leadership and coordination role, supporting a coherent, timely and principled humanitarian response across flood-affected areas. National and provincial cluster/sector mechanisms have been activated to strengthen inter-agency coordination, information sharing and alignment of sectoral response plans. UNICEF is coordinating the WASH emergency response, including joint needs assessments and gap analysis with WASH Cluster partners, and leading nutrition response coordination through joint assessments with Nutrition Cluster partners to guide prioritization and scale-up. Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) is working closely with UNICEF to provide technical guidance and has conducted a series of capacity-building initiatives, including trainings on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE), safe referrals, child-friendly referral pathways, and child protection monitoring and assessments. In addition, key child protection messages related to floods have been disseminated, alongside sensitization on emergency response plans for both service providers and government counterparts. All interventions are being closely coordinated with the Protection Cluster and the CP AoR to ensure protection risks are systematically identified and mitigated across sectors.

At the inter-agency level, in its role as UN co-chair of the national PSEA Network, UNICEF is closely coordinating PSEA integration with agencies operating on the ground and supporting the continued implementation of the PSEA Network Emergency Response Plan. With the Education Cluster, UNICEF has activated cluster coordination mechanisms to ensure integrated response planning, in collaboration with the provincial and district EiE focal points. To strengthen evidence-based planning, two Information Management Officers have been deployed to support INGD in enhancing data collection, analysis and information sharing.



SUPPLY & LOGISTICS

By 29 January, UNICEF had dispatched 32 metric tonnes of supplies directly to hardest hit areas of Xai-Xai, and a further two tonnes to support the response in Boane. These supplies include 40 tents to provide temporary spaces in accommodation centers, 25 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) community kits and 35 additional Emergency Health kits to support health care needs at primary and hospital care levels, benefitting more than 45,000 beneficiaries. Additional medical supplies and equipment such as ReSoMal, Iron, Amoxicillin, Albendazole, MUAC measuring tapes and measuring boards have been dispatched to enable regular consultations for children and adults within accommodation centers, including growth monitoring, nutrition screening and family planning methods. To support WASH interventions, dispatches include squatting plates, WASH and dignity kits, and water tanks.

With support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), UNICEF will deliver a further 15 metric tonnes of supplies, mostly consisting of WASH supplies including a water treatment plant. With further support from ECHO, UNICEF will deliver an additional 29 tonnes of supplies, which will be dispatched to Mozambique by charter flight from UNICEF's global humanitarian warehouse in Dubai. The flight will carry a mixed load of medical kits and essential pharmaceuticals, hygiene items, WASH, nutrition, education, and shelter materials with delivery expected on Monday 7 February 2026.

In a positive development for the humanitarian response, it was reported on 30 January that access from Maputo to parts of Gaza via the N1 road had been restored. Prior to this restoration of access, supplies had been delivered to Gaza through through charter flights and maritime transport from Maputo to Xai-Xai, including through government-arranged ship.

The humanitarian logistics cluster has now arrived in the country and is providing technical and operational support to ensure timely delivery of critical supplies. Logistics staff have been deployed to Xai-Xai to safeguard the supplies and coordinate receipt, sorting, storage and distribution.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Links to publications on UNICEF's emergency response and multisectoral actions for flood response in Mozambique: [Seeking Safety as Floodwaters Surround a Temporary Shelter in Maputo | UNICEF Mozambique](#)

Selected external media reporting

[New York Times - Devastating Floods Displace Hundreds of Thousands in Southern Africa](#)

[AP - What to know about the devastating floods in southern Africa](#)

[Reuters - Mozambique counts 13 dead in floods so far but toll expected to rise](#)

[PRX – The World - Deadly flood waters inundate Mozambique](#)

[SABC Channel Africa News - UNICEF and EU ramp Up Flood Relief in Mozambique](#)

[DW - Flooding hammers Mozambique, southern African neighbors](#)

[UN News - Mozambique floods heighten disease, malnutrition risks – UN agencies](#)

[ENCA - Death toll from floods rises in Mozambique, South Africa](#)

[AfricaNews - Mozambique floods spiralling into escalating emergency, UN warns](#)

[ZDF Heute - Heftige Überschwemmungen im Süden Afrikas](#)

Summary of Programme Indicator & Targets

Sector Indicator	Flood Response Targets
Health	
# of children and women receiving essential primary health care services	355,552
# individuals receiving treatment for cholera/acute watery diarrhoea in UNICEF-supported facilities	31,558
Nutrition	
# of children 6-59 months with wasting admitted for treatment	2,345

# of children 6-59 months screened for wasting	86,381
# of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving IYCF counselling	52,269
Child Protection	
# of children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community based MHPSS	31,108
# children who have received individual case management	124,433
# unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified	1,600
Education	
# of children accessing formal and non-formal education, including early learning	175,228
WASH	
# of people in humanitarian contexts reached with appropriate drinking water services	319,028
# of people reached with hand-washing behaviour change programmes	204,130
# of people accessing appropriate sanitation services	204,130
Social protection	
# households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	10,139
PSEA	
# people with safe and accessible channels to report SEA by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	2,600,000
SBC, RCCE & AAP	
# people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	2,600,000
# people who participated in community feedback and complaint mechanisms	900

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