



# URGENT APPEAL

## FAO's role in the Mozambique Floods Response and Recovery Proposal 2015

**URGENT FAO FUNDING NEEDS: USD 7 MILLION**



**≈ 50 000 people**  
estimated displaced by floods\*.



**160 000 people**  
targeted under the RRP.



**USD 30.3 million**  
needed under the RRP.

\* Figures as of 5 February 2015.



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Mozambique is particularly vulnerable to weather-related hazards, ranking third most exposed in Africa. The country is situated in one of the most prolific tropical cyclone zones and lies downstream of nine international river basins. In recent years, floods caused by cyclones, heavy rains and rising river waters have devastated the livelihoods of the country's predominantly rural and agriculture-dependent population. In late December 2014/early January 2015, heavy rains triggered massive flooding in northern and central areas. An estimated 50 000 people had been displaced by early February and 160 000 affected by the floods, mainly in Zambézia, Nampula and Niassa Provinces. Vital infrastructure (roads, bridges, irrigation schemes and markets) has been damaged and homes destroyed. Livestock were washed away and crop fields submerged. The rains are expected to continue through February and March, increasing the cost to lives and livelihoods. With no seeds to plant and no remaining food reserves, farmers will not be able to meet their families' needs through their own production or by earning a minimal income through selling part of their produce. Many will sell their few remaining productive assets to make ends meet, forcing them to rely on external assistance. Urgent assistance is needed to ensure that affected families can quickly restore their production, protect their assets, prevent the complete loss of the main 2015 harvest and mitigate medium-term hunger and food insecurity.

### CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

**Before the floods, 150 000 people were facing food insecurity, according to the 2014 assessment of the Mozambique Vulnerability Assessment Committee.** An estimated 75 percent of Mozambique's population depends on agricultural production for their livelihoods. In flood-affected areas, this rises to 80 percent of the local population relying on farming and livestock rearing. Women, who are often responsible for food security within the household, are particularly at risk of food insecurity. They tend to have lower levels of resilience, low purchasing power and poor access to markets when compared with their male counterparts. One of the hardest hit provinces – Zambézia – is also home to some of the most vulnerable populations in the country, with the highest rate of acute malnutrition (9.6 percent).

- ❖ **Crop fields have been submerged in water** – Preliminary data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security estimates that 86 869 ha of crops (rice, maize, cowpeas, beans, vegetables, cassava, sorghum and sweet potato) have been lost. Most crops were in an advanced stage of growth when fields were flooded. The loss of these crops means not only a lack of harvest in April/May, but threatens the next planting season as small-scale farmers in Mozambique normally use a portion of their harvest as seeds.
- ❖ **The 2014/15 production season is completely lost for some farmers, while for others the window of opportunity for replanting is extremely narrow.** The situation is of particular concern for staple crops such as rice and maize. An estimated 71 411 farming families (about 357 055 people) have been affected by the floods. Irrigation systems have been partly or completely destroyed, further constraining efforts to restart production.
- ❖ **Pasturelands have been flooded and livestock washed away.** Livestock play an important role in providing rural families with protein and herds will need to be rebuilt once water recedes. As assessments continue, further information is emerging on the extent of damage to livestock production.

### Response and Recovery Proposal Objectives

- 1 Provide immediate life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to the flood-affected population.
- 2 **Restore livelihoods and support the normalization of flood-affected communities through early recovery and resilience building activities that link the humanitarian activities to longer-term development efforts.**
- 3 Boost logistics and operational capacity by strengthening coordination and reinforcing the logistics cluster, guaranteeing that relief items are adequately procured and distributed in a timely manner.

# URGENT FAO NEEDS: USD 7 MILLION



**PLANNED BENEFICIARIES**  
**44 000 HOUSEHOLDS**

**AREAS TARGETED**  
**ZAMBÉZIA, NAMPULA, SOFALA, TETE**

**FOCUS AREAS**  
**CROPS, LIVESTOCK**

## PROPOSED FAO RESPONSE

FAO is urgently seeking **USD 7 million** to help flood-affected families who have lost all or part of their crops and livestock to quickly resume food production and enhance their resilience to future shocks. Resources are urgently needed to assist 44 000 farming families to restart their livelihoods. A failure to provide adequate, quality inputs in time will worsen food insecurity in the flood-affected areas. FAO will continue to liaise with the National Institute for Disaster Management, which is coordinating the flood response, as well as with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, particularly in carrying out more in-depth assessments as flood waters begin to recede. As co-lead with the World Food Programme of the Food Security Cluster, FAO will make every effort to coordinate agricultural input distribution with food assistance to allow people to recover from the floods, resume their agricultural activities and survive the lean season.



- **Provision of emergency livelihood kits (seeds, tools, livestock, irrigation equipment)**

Some 44 000 flood-hit farming families in Zambezia, Nampula, Sofala and Tete Provinces will be provided with a basic agricultural kit adapted to their preferences, maturity period, as well as to the local agro-ecological conditions. The kits will contain a mixture of crop, vegetable and pulse seeds, tools, basic irrigation infrastructure and/or livestock, depending on the area and farmers' main livelihood activities.

- **Training on improved production practices**

Farmers receiving the kits will benefit from training on improved agricultural practices and climate-smart production, along with technical support at the community level. FAO, in collaboration with local partners and district agriculture services, will ensure that farmers learn more about adapted and resistant crops and short-cycle varieties, crop and livelihood diversification. Capacity development will contribute to strengthening farmers' ability to prepare for, respond to and cope with future natural disasters.

FAO is already preparing to provide assistance to 6 700 households with the Organization's own resources under the Technical Cooperation Programme, and 4 300 households with funding from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund. The selection of beneficiaries will be a challenge given the small percentage of affected farmers that can be reached with these interventions. A total of 133.5 tonnes of seeds, including maize, cowpeas and vegetables, as well as 22 000 hoes, are being procured. Additional funds are crucial to extend the support to more vulnerable farmers and ensure their food security.



In Mozambique, FAO supports disaster risk reduction efforts to enhance the coping capacities of farming families who face recurrent natural disasters. Resilience building is a critical component of FAO's emergency response to the 2015 floods, which focuses on helping affected people to quickly resume food production, while improving production practices. People with resilient livelihoods are better able to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters in their lives. They can better withstand damage, recover and adapt when disasters cannot be prevented.

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### FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER OBJECTIVES

1. Meet basic food needs of flood-affected people in Zambézia, Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado Provinces
2. Restore food production capacity, and food security and nutrition of 40 000 households in Zambézia, Nampula, Sofala and Tete Provinces.



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