This report is prepared by the Humanitarian Country Team/Office of the Resident Coordinator in Mozambique. It covers the period of March and mid-April 2016.

**Highlights**

- At least 1.5 million people are currently in need of assistance based on the updated SETSAN assessment with alarming Global Acute Malnutrition rates in 3 provinces;
- The Government of Mozambique activated on 12 April 2016 the institutional Red alert due to drought;
- About 315,000 people received food assistance during March 2016 in Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica and Tete provinces;
- The UN system mobilized about US$ 4.7 million through CERF;
- The Ministry of Agriculture, based on the crop lost area, estimated that 323,000 farmers are currently affected by drought;
- Prices of staple food in the main markets have increased by 100%;

![% of population in food insecurity per district – March 2016 © SETSAN](image)

| 1.5 million people in need of assistance | 315,000 people who received food assistance | US$ 4.7 million mobilized through CERF | 323,000 farmers affected by drought | 533,000 cattle at risk due to drought |

**Situation Overview**

The rainfall season 2015/2016 in Mozambique is in its final stage and in the coming weeks it is expected weak to moderate rains mostly in the Northern and Central region of the country whereas in the Southern region very little or no rains at all is expected. However, a low pressure system in the Mozambique Channel can always result in rainfall occurrence in the country.

During March 2016, the country recorded significant rainfall especially in the Northern and Central region including some few areas of Gaza and Inhambane provinces in the Southern region. Despite this significant rainfall recorded mostly in mid-March, drought conditions remain across in much of the southern region and some areas of Central region. The rainfall improved some pastoral conditions and water availability, but it is considered too late to recover the affected crops planted in late January 2016.
In general, regarding to the hydrological situation, the main river basins records oscillatory water levels with downward trend in almost entire country. The Corumana (1%) and Massingir (1%) dams (both are for irrigation purposes) recorded slight increase in the water storage volume although this is a drop in the ocean looking the irrigation requirements in Maputo and Gaza province. The Massingir dam was releasing water through an emergency discharge through the bottom outlet in rehabilitation and for safety reasons, the bottom outlet of Massingir dam was closed on 24th March 2016 meaning that no water is being released from this dam. Therefore, the water supply to the Chókwè Irrigation scheme (the largest irrigation system in the country) is limited and might affect the second period of the agricultural season when essentially the vegetables are produced.

The preliminary data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MASA) indicates that about 550,116 ha of several crops were lost and approximately 320,498 farmers are affected being Sofala and Tete (in the central region), Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo (in the southern region) the most affected provinces. Although this loss represents 11% of the total cultivated area in the country, is still a concern to ensure food access to the affected people till the next harvest in March 2017.

The National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) delegation of Manica province, reported recently that in Bárue district, locality of Inhazónia there are at least 404 people (77 families) temporary resettled due to drought. These people are coming from Maringüé district, a neighbor district of Sofala province looking for fertile land with residual soil moisture to develop their agricultural activities. The center was opened early in March 2016 and the local government installed 41 tents to shelter the affected people and is providing food assistance as well as agricultural inputs. COSACA is supporting INGC with the provision and distribution of household and hygiene kits for these families.

From 28 February to 18 March 2016, the SETSAN team was in the field to update the food and nutrition security situation with the support of FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, FEWS NET and other partners in the ground. The assessment covered 46 districts in six provinces (Tete, Manica, Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo), 2,506 households were interviewed, 1,933 children and 615 pregnant and lactating mothers screened for malnutrition.

On 1st April 2016, SETSAN released the results of the food and nutrition security assessment which indicated that at the moment, almost all the households do not have cereals reserves for consumption; there are very little households (less than 10%) that expects to harvest some cereals due to the current drought; most of the households did at least 2 – 3 sowing indicating need of assistance in seeds for the coming season; there was a sharp reduction on the diet quality from November 2015 – March 2016; the nutritional status of the children is worrisome in Sofala, Tete and Manica provinces with very high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates (over 15% in two provinces). The estimated number of people in food insecurity situation and in need of humanitarian assistance is 1,493,928. Note that this number includes Zambézia province (estimated 254,379 people based on information from agriculture authorities, source of income statistics) where the assessment is still ongoing (see table below).

As can be seen in the table, the most affected provinces in terms of people that need assistance are Tete and Sofala provinces followed by Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo. These results are within the SETSAN scenarios defined in January 2016 indicating that the number of people that might be in need of assistance would vary from 380,000 people in case of moderate scenario to 1.8 million people considering a worst-case scenario.

As of end of March 2016, 315,366 people affected by drought in Maputo, Gaza, Sofala, Manica and Tete provinces received food assistance provided by the Government and HCT members. Looking at the response efforts being implemented so far and the new update on the people in need of assistance it is clearly seen that the country need to rethink, adjust the current plans and define the most effective strategy for resource mobilization to respond to the crisis.

Staple food prices are still rising, which is limiting food access for poor households as they increasingly rely on market purchases. Reference markets such as Beira, Chimoio, Gorongosa, Tete, Mocuba in the central region, Nampula and Pemba in the North region, Chókwè and Maxixe in the South region indicates that the price of white maize grain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Província</th>
<th># Pessoas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zambézia*</td>
<td>254.379*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tete</td>
<td>334.413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manica</td>
<td>92.484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofala</td>
<td>329.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhambane</td>
<td>129.827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>202.282</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maputo Província</td>
<td>123.960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.493.928</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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increased almost 100% when compared to similar period in previous year (2015) and the average price of last five years. Similar trend is also recorded for cowpeas with some markets showing rises of more than 100%.

The seriousness of the situation triggered the INGC to call the partners for a meeting where the results of SETSAN assessment were presented and request for additional mobilization was done by INGC general director to address the new needs during the next 12 months. Furthermore, on 12 April 2016, the Government activated the institutional red alert in the most drought affected provinces such as, Tete, Sofala, Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo aiming to intensify and expand the response actions, disburse additional funds planned for emergency situations and mobilize additional resources through the cooperating partners.

**Funding**

The current funding for the Drought response is very limited which makes challenging to assist the population in need in drought affected areas. The additional needs in terms of people affected informed by SETSAN assessment were presented to partners in a meeting called by INGC. The Government announced that needs at least US$ 180 million to ensure assistance in the next 12 months. Following the communication from the Council of Ministers on the activation of Institutional Red Alert, the Government announced an allocation of US$ 6.7 million for the Drought response.

The UN in Mozambique in response to the Government request to mobilize additional resources applied for the CERF. On 24th March 2016, the CERF application was approved with a total budget of US$ 4.7 million for three main response sectors namely: food security – food assistance and Agriculture/Livestock, WASH and nutrition. The CERF funds will be used to respond the immediate needs of the affected people for a period of 3 – 4 months.

In the meeting with partners convened by INGC some agencies such as USAID, Iris Aid, Germany Embassy, JICA informed that there will be some support to respond the current drought without mentioning any budget. USAID mentioned that will be supporting the response in Tete province in the sectors of Agriculture and Water and most likely the Food for Peace through WFP will be providing some food assistance.

On 16th March 2016, a high level Italian delegation mission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy visited the country and met with the Government-INGC and other partners to understand the current drought situation and how Italy can contribute to the response. During the visit, the Italian delegation announced 3 year project with 10 – 12 million EUR per year to respond to the drought in Africa including horn of Africa. It was not specified the amount that will be allocated to Mozambique.
Humanitarian Response

The response actions to the current drought in the country are in Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala and Tete provinces. The actions consists of food assistance, drilling/rehabilitation of water boreholes and in some cases water trucking to affected communities.

Food Security

Needs:
- 1.5 million people are need of food assistance in Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica and Tete provinces;
- Need to disaggregate the information of vulnerable groups within the universe of total affected to enable suitable assistance to this target group;
- 323,000 farmers lost their agricultural production due to drought and are in need of agricultural inputs;

Response:
- COSACA distributed food vouchers to 10,000 HHs in the districts of Chigubo, Mabalane, Guijá and Chicalacuala in Gaza Province as planned and 11,335 HHs in Funhalouro, Homoíne, Panda, Mabote and Govuro districts in Inhambane Province;
- World Vision distributed seeds to 1400 HHs in Guija district, planning to start the distribution of vines (cassava and sweet potatoes) to the 2000HH in Guija in upcoming week;
- FAO will be supporting approximately 46,000 most vulnerable households affected in the provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Tete by promoting vegetable production and providing improved access to water for cattle;
- In April 2016, WFP will be assisting 32,650 people in Gaza and Tete (Mutarara districts) provinces. With the additional contributions recently received, WFP will be able to extend food assistance from May to July 2016 to more 24,850 HHs that corresponds to 124,250 beneficiaries in the following places: Maputo province, 2 districts (Magude and Moamba); Gaza, in Massingir district; Sofala, Machanga district.
- LWF is assisting about 280 HHs in Chigubo district during the month of April 2016;
- The government through INGC will be providing food assistance in April 2016 to about 196,766 people in Maputo (31,750), Gaza (52,416), Sofala (38,900), Manica (37,700) and Tete (36,000) provinces;
- In summary, during April 2016, approximately 337,491 people will be receiving food assistance delivered by the Government and Partners;

Gaps & Constraints:
- Limited availability of food in country and very high prices of staple food in local markets. Therefore, the purchase of food to assist the affected population is being done at regional level;
- There is no clear information/data regarding the vulnerable groups (children, pregnant women, elderly, disabled people) in the universe of total people affected;
- Very limited funding for food assistance to cover the 1.5 million people in need;
- Following the last SETSAN report that confirmed close to 1.5 million affected, the HCT-Food security cluster plans to support 225,000 Households drought affected with quality seeds and vines (cassava and sweet potatoes) as well support the beneficiaries in adapting agricultural techniques for drought conditions. For that World Vision is finalizing a proposal to OFDA, aiming to improve agricultural productivity of 6000 drought-affected farming households in Gaza and Tete.
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The initial estimates for urgent WASH humanitarian needs, as per findings from the multisectoral assessment conducted by SETSAN in March, are for 300,000 people;
- The estimated WASH humanitarian needs corresponds to 20% of total population in need of humanitarian assistance in Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Tete, Zambézia and Manica provinces;
- These additional humanitarian needs in WASH represents financial needs of around US$ 12 million.

Response:

- Government and WASH humanitarian partners are focusing on increasing access to safe drinking water to drought impacted populations. Regular WASH programmes supported by both Government and WASH humanitarian partners are being refocused and additional funds are being mobilized. To date, about US$ 2,687,280 have been mobilized: UNICEF-$663,900; COSACA -$1,403,379; World Vision -$350,000 (WV Internal); LWF-$90,000; IOM-$180,000;
- Government and WASH humanitarian partners have agreed on response strategy which includes: (i) the rehabilitation of existing community water points and, where feasible, upgrading water points to increase the water quantity and storage capacity; (ii) drilling of new deep boreholes where ground water tables have dropped; (iii) trucking water to the most affected communities while sustainable measures are being assessed; (iv) distribution of locally produced chlorine solution (Certeza); (v) testing community based desalination in areas with very salinity ground water.
- A 4W matrix was developed and is being updated on a regular basis. WASH Cluster coordination meetings are being held on regular basis (bi-weekly) under the leadership of UNICEF in partnership with the GoM.

Below summary of WASH interventions by WASH Cluster partner:

- COSACA - providing safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of 132 boreholes and drilling 20 new deep boreholes in Gaza and Inhambane province benefiting around 50,000 people. So far, a total of 69 boreholes were repaired and rehabilitated in the Gaza (13) and Inhambane (56) provinces;
- World Vision – supporting drilling of 31 deep boreholes (of which upgrading of two) in communities, schools and health centers and the rehabilitation of 9 existing boreholes targeting 17,500 people in Gaza province;
- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) - supporting provision of emergency safe water through water trucking in eight communities in five districts of Gaza province; targeting about 10,915 people;
- IOM – supporting water trucking to a total of 3,625 affected people in Moamba districts in Maputo province and public awareness campaign for rational use of water (covering Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces);
- UNICEF, as WASH Cluster lead, provides assistance to Government for overall coordination. In addition, supports the drilling and upgrading of community water points targeting about 11,100 people and trucking water to about 40,000 people in Maputo and Tete provinces;
- Government, overall coordination of humanitarian WASH response in partnership with UNICEF. Supports also drilling of deep boreholes and upgrading existing water points through reorienting and whenever appropriate, regular rural WASH programs to respond the drought situation.

Gaps & Constraints:

- No comprehensive assessment of WASH needs has been completed;
- Challenges around hydrogeological conditions: deepening aquifer water levels and worsening water quality (salination);
- Based on the updated WASH humanitarian needs, the sector has an estimated funding gap of approximately US$ 12 million;
Nutrition

Needs:
- Based on the March 2016 SETSAN report, over 95,000 children are expected to be acutely malnourished over the next 6 months in the 6 most drought affected provinces. This is an increased from November estimated of 72,000 children expected to be malnourished over the next 6 months;
- Scale-up of active case finding, referral and treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition is required urgently.

Response:
- Active case finding and referral with support from NGOs (CARE and Save the Children) is underway in Gaza and Inhambane aiming at reaching out to the 9,000 children acutely malnourished in these provinces;
- UNICEF and WFP received US$ 677,000 through CERF, ONE UN fund and own resources to initiate the nutrition response;
- UNICEF, in collaboration with WFP, is supporting the deployment and equipment of MoH led mobile teams in Gaza and Inhambane aiming at treating at 50% of all acutely malnourished children;
- UNICEF and partners will also provide nutrition counselling to 15,000 pregnant and lactating women in most affected districts.
- On-going nutrition need and response gap assessment in Sofala and Tete with support from UNICEF and partners.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Gap in essential commodities (RUTF, CSB/RUSF);
- Funding requirements for the nutrition response is under revision however no funding for the scale-up of nutrition emergency response beyond Gaza and Inhambane provinces has been received.
General Coordination

The Government of Mozambique through INGC is leading the coordination of drought response in the affected provinces. The coordination meetings of the Technical Council for Disaster Management (CTGC) are being held at least once a week to continue monitoring the drought situation, response and gaps. On 04th April 2016, INGC convened a meeting with partners to inform and request additional support about the new situation of food insecurity in the country indicating that 1.5 million people are in need of assistance.

On 12 April 2016, the information regarding the new food security assessment was presented in the Council of Ministers as well as the justification for the activation of institutional red alert. Based on the information presented, the Government activated the institutional red alert in the most drought affected provinces such as, Tete, Sofala, Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo. The activation of this alert level will trigger additional allocation of funds from the Government, intensify the response and monitoring activities in the ground and it represents a signal from the Government to the partners and donors for their contribution to respond to the current Drought situation.

The Red alert was activated for 90 days and the Government will give a special attention to the drought affected people disbursing 320 million MT (US$ 6.7 million) budgeted in the Contingency Plan for emergency situations. The Government, through this decision is also requesting the cooperation partners’ support to assist the affected population.

The HCT is continuing to ensure coordination among the partners responding to the situation in support to the Government. A new schedule for the HCT and cluster meetings was adopted to enable better exchange of information and proper feeding to the weekly CTGC meetings. From 11 – 17 April 2016, the HCT is also conducting a visit to Inhambane and Gaza provinces to gather first-hand account of the current HCT and Government drought response interventions. The field monitoring will provide an opportunity for joint monitoring and shared understanding of the impact of the drought, current gaps in the response and potential constraints to providing sustained humanitarian assistance based on reality on the ground. Based on the new SETSAN findings all clusters are revising their sector response plan to mobilize additional funding in support of the government led response.

The ER Cluster continue to support the development of the draft response plans and the SitReps to inform decision making. In Gaza, the Cluster through UNDP is providing technical support in the deliberations of the CTPGC meetings. Key points arising from the meetings are communicated to the Cluster team at the central level to be raised in the CTGC meetings.

Ongoing efforts by the government and humanitarian team are not being publicized. There is the need to have a communication strategy to ensure regular updates on interventions are prepared and posted on relevant websites and journals to inform the public on the interventions are gaps.

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