

Key nutrition challenges



74 700 children under 5 years were **wasted** in February 2021–January 2022

27 400 of them were **severely wasted**



22 100 pregnant and lactating women were **acutely malnourished**

Source: Mozambique IPC AMN, June 2021.

In 16 areas analysed in the province of Cabo Delgado, the acute malnutrition situation was expected to deteriorate throughout 2021. Nearly 75 000 children under the age of 5 were wasted, 27 000 of them severely so. In Mecúfi, the prevalence of child wasting exceeded the 'very high' (>15 percent) threshold at 18.4 percent (IPC AMN, June 2021).

One in every two children under five in Cabo Delgado is stunted, with stunting prevalence ranging from 31 percent (in Ibo district) to 58 percent (in Palma) (UNICEF, April 2021).

Key drivers

Health services and household environment

Conflict in Cabo Delgado led to the destruction of sanitary infrastructures and disruption of health systems and services. The number of functioning health centres reduced by around 50 percent (IPC AMN, June 2021).

Poor access to potable water sources and improved sanitary systems, high morbidity rates, lack of access to nutrition treatment, and high illiteracy among women also contributed to acute malnutrition among children. The rainy season also tends to have a negative impact on water and sanitary conditions, increasing the likelihood of diarrhoea and other infectious diseases such as malaria (IPC AMN, June 2021). As of 23 February 2021, 2 551 cases of cholera were recorded in northern Mozambique, with 14 deaths. Cholera and diarrhoea outbreaks were also reported in Nampula, where IDPs were hosted (FEWS NET, February 2021).

Caring and feeding practices

Almost all children aged 6–23 months did not have a minimum of three meals per day, nor did they consume five food groups in their daily meals (IPC AMN, June 2021).

The percentage of children aged 6–23 months having access to Minimum Dietary Diversity in eight districts of Cabo Delgado ranged from 32.1 percent in Metuge indicating Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) levels to 3.2 percent in Ancuabe, indicating Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) levels. Access to Minimum Acceptable Diets was estimated at its lowest levels in Metuge (3.8 percent), indicating Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5) levels (SMART 2021).

During the lean season, as demand for labour increases to prepare crop fields for planting, childcare provided by parents becomes more limited (IPC AMN, June 2021).

Food security and access to healthy diets

High levels of acute food insecurity in the region also contribute to the low quality and quantity of food consumed by children. During the October 2021–January 2022 period, deterioration in nutrition conditions are likely due to the exhaustion of food stocks during the lean season and increased acute food insecurity (IPC AMN, June 2021). Most of Cabo Delgado was classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity in 2021, and was projected to remain in this phase until at least September 2022 – except in some southern districts.

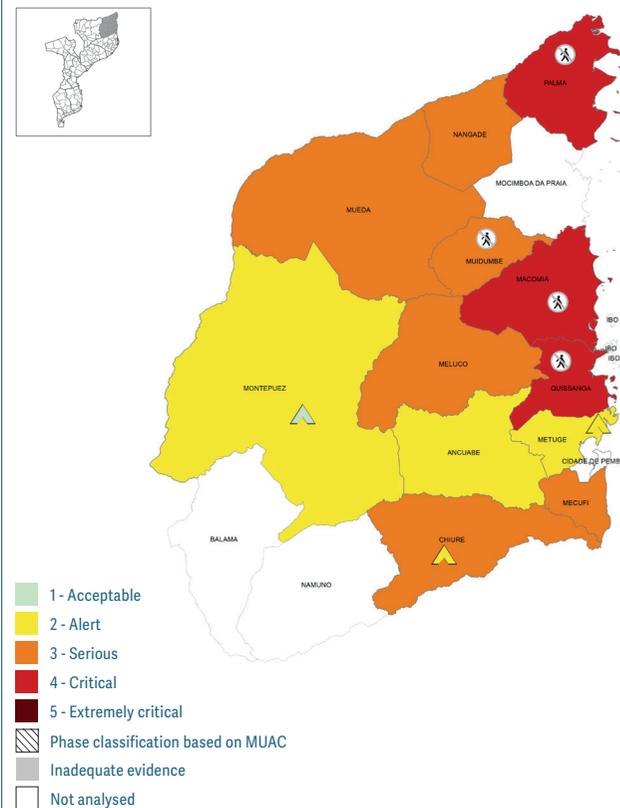
At the same time, nutrition deteriorated throughout 2021 with acute malnutrition on Alert (IPC AMN Phase 2) levels across most of the region in February–March 2021, reaching Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) by January 2022 (IPC AMN, June 2021).

In particular, three districts – Palma, Macomia and Quissanga – were projected in Critical levels (IPC AMN Phase 4) of acute malnutrition from October 2021–January 2022. These three districts were also expected to have 80–85 percent of their population facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) acute food insecurity levels in November 2021–March 2022 (IPC AMN, December 2021).

MAP 3.46

IPC acute malnutrition situation, October 2021–January 2022

During the peak of the October 2021–January 2022 lean season, three districts – Palma, Macomia and Quissanga, all with limited or no humanitarian access – were projected to face Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), while six districts were in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Mozambique IPC AMN Technical Working Group, June 2021.