Mozambique (specific areas)

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | The magnitude and severity of the crisis deepened.

**PEAK 2023/24 (OCTOBER 2023–MARCH 2024)**

- **3.3M people** or 20% of the analysed population in 72 of Mozambique’s 156 districts faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This included 0.2M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The situation has deteriorated compared with the 2022/23 lean period; the share of the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity in districts classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) has increased from 23 to 50 percent. Two newly analysed districts in Cabo Delgado have been classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

**DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024**

- **Conflict/insecurity** Despite a reduction in conflict in Cabo Delgado, sporadic attacks disrupted local food systems in the province in 2023. From December, insecurity deteriorated sharply. More than 0.7 million people were still displaced as of October 2023 while another 0.6 million had returned to safe areas (IDM), but without the means to restart their subsistence activities (IPC, November 2023).

- **Weather extremes** In February 2023, floods in the south were closely followed by two landfalls of tropical cyclone Freddy across eight provinces. An estimated 4 percent of the total cropland, largely concentrated in central and southern provinces, were impacted by floods (FAO, March 2023). High winds and widespread flooding led to displacement and extensive damage to infrastructure, crops and livestock, reducing food stocks and access to income-generating opportunities, especially in Zambezia province (WFP, December 2023).

- **High winds** and widespread flooding contributed to rising food prices in southern provinces, were impacted by floods (FAO, March 2023). High winds and widespread flooding led to displacement and extensive damage to infrastructure, crops and livestock, reducing food stocks and access to income-generating opportunities, especially in Zambezia province (WFP, December 2023).

Below-average rainfall in November 2023, high temperatures and the likelihood of a poor rainy season due to the strong El Niño were expected to lower crop production and contribute to rising food prices in 2024 (FEWS NET, November 2023).

- **Economic shocks** Scarcity employment opportunities in areas affected by weather shocks and conflict reduced household purchasing power, reducing consumption. Annual food inflation reached 18.3 percent in March and declined to 3.2 percent by the end of October before rising again to 9.1 percent at the end of the year (WFP, December 2023).

**DISPLACEMENT**

- **0.7M forcibly displaced people, 2023**

- **0.02M refugees and asylum-seekers**

**ACUTE MALNUTRITION**

**0.2M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in 2023**

While most analysed districts were classified in Minimal (IPC AMN Phase 1), Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) levels of acute malnutrition were estimated in Palma district in Cabo Delgado where conflict has driven population displacement.

**Inadequate services** Poor access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation contributed to high levels of diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia. In Nampula province, 70 percent of households had poor drinking water (WFP, November 2023).

Flooding and damage to WASH infrastructure following cyclone Freddy in February and March 2023 accelerated the spread of the cholera outbreak that began in September 2022. Between February and late April, the number of cholera cases increased tenfold to reach a total of 28,000 (UNICEF, April 2023).

**Inadequate practices** There was poor consumption of food groups rich in protein, vitamin A and heme iron across the country, with the lowest rates in Cabo Delgado and Tete (WFP, November 2023). Fewer than 10 percent of children aged 6–23 months had a Minimum Acceptable Diet, which is considered Extremely Critical. Low healthcare-seeking behaviour for sick children adds to the disease burden (IPC, November 2023).

**Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023/24**

- 2016: 6.4
- 2017: 5.7
- 2018: 19.2
- 2019: 6.7
- 2020: 6.7
- 2021: 6.7
- 2022: 6.7
- 2023: 6.7

Source: Mozambique IPC TWG, November 2023.

**A protracted major food crisis** A low-income country, Mozambique has been defined as a major food crisis in all editions of the GRFC, with more than 1.7 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity every year since 2016, rising to more than 3 million people since 2022. Prior to 2017 the main driver was weather extremes, and since 2017 conflict in Cabo Delgado has disrupted livelihoods, caused displacement and limited access to basic services, and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 drove figures higher in 2020.