

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Mozambique, Africa | Floods

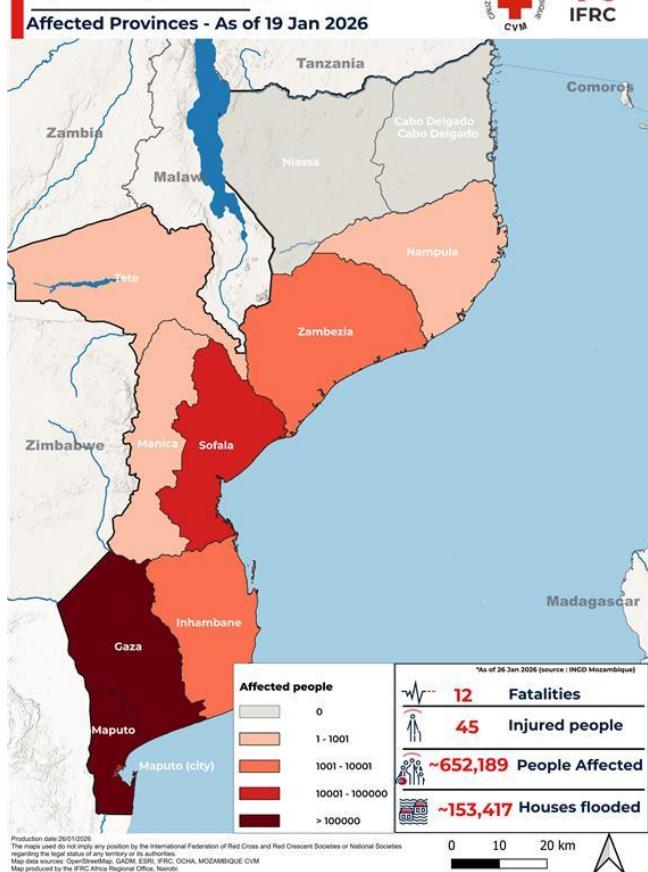


Mozambique Red Cross (CVM) volunteers transport household items to flooded areas during activation of the Floods Anticipatory Action Protocol in Maganja district. (Source: CVM December 2025)

Appeal №: MDRMZ027	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 6 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 7 million¹	
Glide №: FL-2026-000004-MOZ	People [affected/at risk]: 652,189 people	People to be assisted: 75,000 people
DREF allocation: Amount TBC	Appeal launched: 29/01/2026	Appeal ends: 31/01/2027

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Mozambique Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique – CVM) in response to the emergency. It includes the CVM's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 1 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 6 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

Mozambique Floods



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Mozambique is experiencing a large-scale flood emergency triggered by persistent and intense rainfall since late December 2025. The situation has been compounded by exceptionally high upstream river inflows from South Africa and Zimbabwe and by controlled and emergency discharges from key dams, particularly Massingir Dam, which exceeded 100 per cent of its storage capacity in mid-January 2026.

As of 26 January 2026, official data from Instituto Nacional de Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres (INGD) indicate that approximately 652,189 people (141,317 households) have been affected nationwide. According to INGD-validated government data, at least 12 fatalities and 45 people have been injured, with INGD warning that these figures may increase as floodwaters persist and

access remains limited. Preliminary damage assessments estimate losses at USD 220 million, with Gaza, Maputo, Inhambane, and Sofala as the worst-affected provinces.

As the potential impact of the rains and floods become more certain, national hydrological and meteorological authorities (INAM, DNGRH and ARA-Sul/Centro) issued successive high-risk alerts, prompting the Government of Mozambique, through INGD, to activate Anticipatory Actions and initiate evacuations in low-lying areas.

In line with this request, the Mozambique Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique – CVM) has been supporting the government with evacuations, the distribution of relief items, and dissemination of early warning messages. This support has been delivered through the Government's request for activation of the CVM Floods Early Action Protocol (EAP), triggered on 27 December 2025 (MDRMZ022EAP),² and other mechanisms.

Despite these efforts, the scope and scale of the emergency have exceeded local capacities, and on 16 January 2026, the Government of Mozambique activated a nationwide Red Alert in response to the deterioration of weather conditions and the heightened risk of severe flooding and related hazards across the country. This measure aims to strengthen national preparedness, accelerate inter-institutional coordination, and enable a more effective and timely humanitarian response to the ongoing emergency. The government has also formally requested international assistance to support the national response.

The impact of the floods spans across multiple sectors simultaneously, including shelter, livelihoods, agriculture, water supply, sanitation, health services, and transport infrastructure. Roads and bridges have been damaged or rendered impassable, limiting humanitarian access and increasing the urgency for rapid, coordinated assistance.

The humanitarian situation is **severe and rapidly evolving**, with impacts already exceeding national coping capacities. Additional rains and potential floods are also forecast in the coming days, which could lead to further impacts. It is also important to

note that Mozambique is in the middle of the cyclone season, and additional systems may affect the country in the coming weeks and months.

The graphic below summarises some of the available information regarding the impact of the floods in Mozambique (as of the launch of this Emergency Appeal).



Resource gap and urgency. Local authorities and humanitarian agencies are overstretched. Without urgent international support, thousands of people remain exposed to:

- disease outbreaks
- hunger and malnutrition
- prolonged displacement and loss of dignity

With continued rainfall forecast and river levels still rising, the situation remains time-critical. The rapid mobilisation of humanitarian assistance is essential to prevent further loss of life and to stabilise affected communities.

Early and decisive intervention will be crucial to limit long-term damage, reduce displacement, protect livelihoods, and support recovery pathways before the crisis deepens further. Furthermore, as Mozambique is in the cyclone season of 2025-2026, rapid support is crucial to prevent potential cyclones and storms from compounding the impacts on an already affected population.

TARGETING

This Emergency Appeal targets the most vulnerable and severely affected people across **seven provinces** impacted by the floods (**Zambézia, Sofala, Manica, Tete, Inhambane, Gaza, and Maputo**) This Emergency Appeal will target **75,000 people**, corresponding to approximately 12 per cent of the affected population.

Accordingly, the response prioritises the most vulnerable and affected households in line with the scale of identified needs and current response capacity. This targeting reflects close coordination with government response plans and national coordination mechanisms, ensuring complementarity with ongoing efforts and avoidance of duplication. This Emergency Appeal target also allows for flexibility to scale-up should the situation deteriorate further due to additional rainfall or weather systems, or if additional resources become available.

³ INGD Dashboard for the 2026 floods (26/01/26).

The CVM, in coordination with INGD and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, will target households that have been displaced, lost their homes, and immediate sources of livelihood. Activities conducted in accommodation centres will be coordinated with the appropriate authorities, with priority given to households where the combined effects of prolonged food insecurity and flooding have disproportionately affected women and girls, as well as children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

The CVM will integrate community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) into all operations to further select the targeting at the household level, with increased attention to the most vulnerable and at-risk groups. These include households with pregnant and lactating mothers and/or children under five; households caring for the elderly or terminally ill with HIV/AIDS or other chronic diseases; households headed by children or adolescents; households with special social protection needs; persons with disabilities; and internally displaced households.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the Mozambique Red Cross in assisting 75,000 people affected by the floods. The response strategy under this appeal aims to save lives, protect dignity, and reduce the immediate suffering of flood-affected populations across seven provinces in Mozambique (Maputo, Gaza, Manica, Inhambane, Sofala, Zambezia, and Tete).

Through a phased approach, the strategy of the IFRC's response will focus on delivering **immediate life-saving assistance and relief (0-4 months)**, prioritising evacuations, search and rescue, health, WASH, shelter, essential household items, and multipurpose cash assistance, while integrating early recovery and resilience design from the outset. This will be followed by **post-relief and early recovery (4-12 months)**, supporting a gradual transition from in-kind assistance to cash-based and recovery-oriented support, alongside continued health and WASH interventions, and the implementation of community-based disaster risk reduction and nature-based solutions. Across all phases, recovery planning will be embedded from the start to address underlying vulnerabilities, strengthen community self-reliance, and contribute to more durable and sustainable outcomes.

This Emergency Appeal will also support and strengthen ongoing **National Society Development investments for the CVM**, in line with the IFRC's National Society Investment Framework (NSIF) which has identified the CVM as a focus National Society. National Society Development activities outlined in this Emergency Appeal will contribute to priority areas outlined in CVM's National Society Development (NSD) Plan, including strengthened volunteer management and safeguarding, improved governance and financial systems, and enhanced transparency and accountability – which are essential to institutional resilience as well as sustaining and scaling effective disaster response capacity during the current emergency. Contributions from the Emergency Appeal that support NSD-related activities will be managed and reported under the Emergency Appeal framework, while drawing on the established Capacity Building Fund (CBF) mechanisms for complementary support and tracking of capacity-related results over time.

Additional details on the sectoral planned activities, as part of the Emergency Appeal approach, can be found below.

  	<p>Integrated Assistance <i>(Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash)</i></p> <p>Providing life-saving interventions and immediate relief, combining the distribution of essential items with voucher assistance to restore livelihoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate distribution of shelter kits and essential household and hygiene items. - Multipurpose cash assistance or vouchers to enable households to meet priority needs, including for food, in a flexible and dignified manner. - Provision of voucher assistance or in-kind material support for the restoration of basic livelihoods and coping capacities.
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 	<p>Health and Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) <i>(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)</i></p> <p>Providing essential life-saving support while decreasing the risk of disease outbreaks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of emergency latrines in temporary accommodation centres and flood-affected communities to reduce public health risks. - Provision of first aid and psychological first aid to the injured and affected populations. - Health and hygiene promotion activities, including the distribution of Certeza (water treatment solution) and mosquito nets to prevent malaria, cholera, and other water- and vector-borne diseases.
   	<p>Protection and Prevention <i>(Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)</i></p> <p>Driving protection and strengthening community resilience and preparedness to reduce future flood impacts and support sustainable recovery. <u>Recovery</u> will be prioritized from the start of the operation, including through a recovery assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referrals for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). - Set up community feedback mechanisms. - Informed by enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA); implementation of community solutions such as mangrove restoration and planting in coastal and riverine areas; and strengthening of local disaster risk reduction (DRR) committees and integration of DRR education in schools, to promote long-term risk awareness and preparedness.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<p>Coordination and Partnerships</p> <p>The CVM has maintained close coordination with the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) at the national and provincial levels, and with district administrations at the provincial and district levels. The CVM participates in provincial cluster meetings and is in direct contact with government entities in each province and at the national level. The CVM has planned and is implementing its response in close coordination with the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and other relevant government partners. Anticipatory action activities were carried out by the CVM following a request from the government. The overall CVM response remains aligned with specific government priorities and requests, particularly the broader national response plan.</p> <p>CVM has activated their Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Operational Management Calls to provide regular updates to all Movement Partners in-country.</p> <p>The IFRC Country Cluster (CCD) is also in close coordination with OCHA and humanitarian clusters and attends the Inter-sectoral Cluster Technical Working Group to receive and provide regular updates to ensure coordination in the implementation of multi-sectoral</p>
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	<p>response plans aligned with government requests. IFRC also co-leads the shelter cluster in Mozambique.</p> <p>Internally, as part of the Federation-wide approach, the IFRC Secretariat coordinates inputs and support information sharing, analysis, and coordination with Participating National Societies (PNSs) and donors to support the actions of this Emergency Appeal.</p>
	<p>Shelter Cluster Coordination</p> <p>The IFRC co-leads the shelter cluster in Mozambique, ensuring multi-stakeholder coordination during the response planning, including the tracking of stock and distributions in accommodation centres and affected communities.</p>
	<p>IFRC Secretariat Services</p> <p>The IFRC Secretariat will play an important role in ensuring efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance with financial procedures and accountability for the operation, implementing mitigation measures for the identified risks. The Secretariat's support is focused on ensuring visibility and accountability through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement compliance and logistics oversight. - Communications products to maintain donor visibility and accountability. - Ongoing Movement and external stakeholder coordination. - Deployment of surge profiles, to provide technical support to the CVM, support implementation through a joint workforce, and ensure timely reporting. - Monitoring visits, and lessons-learned workshops.
	<p>National Society Strengthening</p> <p>This Emergency Appeal includes targeted capacity strengthening actions designed to reinforce and support the effective delivery of the current emergency response. The planned activities reinforce ongoing National Society Development investments for CVM, in line with the NSD plan, focusing on priority areas under the IFRC's NSIF, including volunteer management, safeguarding, governance, and financial systems. These measures are essential to mitigate operational, safeguarding and accountability risks and to ensure the safe, timely and effective delivery of assistance at scale during the ongoing emergency, while strengthening overall disaster response capacity in the longer term.</p> <p>The CVM's NSD plan focuses on strengthening its financial systems and disaster risk management (DRM) capacity to support effective emergency operations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warehousing and supply chain: warehouse management system and stock mobilisation. - Financial management: strengthening accounting, reporting, and transparency for all funds, and supporting the shift to a new online financial management system. - Mobilisation of 700 volunteers, reinforcing duty of care. - Capacity strengthening on digital tools and DRM management, including volunteer management.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 31 January 2027, the response activities to this disaster will continue under the [IFRC Mozambique Country Plan for 2026-2028](#). The IFRC's Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while continuing to ensure that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due course, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN THE COUNTRY

MOZAMBIQUE RED CROSS



The Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM) was founded over four decades ago and has been a member of the IFRC since 1989. The CVM is an integral part of the combined disaster management instruments in Mozambique. With its headquarters in Maputo, three central warehouses, 11 provincial branches, 111 district branches, 165 staff, and close to 7,000 volunteers, the CVM's core areas of operation include climate and the environment, disasters and crises, health and well-being, migration and displacement, and values, power, and inclusion.

The CVM has invested in building its capacity in assessment and response, with staff trained in eVCA and National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs). The CVM pioneered Anticipatory Action in Mozambique through the development of early action protocols (EAPs) and currently has two approved EAPs for the cyclone and floods, and a sEAP for cholera and a drought EAP under validation.

The CVM has active branches in all seven provinces targeted by this Emergency Appeal (Zambézia, Sofala, Manica, Tete, Inhambane, Gaza, and Maputo), whose capacity has been strengthened through previously existing and ongoing programmes supported by in-country PNSs. For instance, the Swedish Red Cross and CVM have an ongoing programme in Manica focusing on DRR, WASH, and Health. The Belgium Red Cross and CVM have an ongoing programme in Inhambane focusing on disaster preparedness, while the German Red Cross has supported the EAP flood activation in Zambezia and strengthening nationwide anticipatory action systems. The CVM is also undertaking the preparedness for effective response (PER) process to increase the preparation and capacity of stakeholders from the local to the national level to anticipate, mitigate, respond to, and recover from disasters.

CVM Response

Since the heavy rains began in December 2025, the CVM has engaged 12 trained disaster response teams and volunteers in evacuation support, first aid, shelter assistance, hygiene promotion, and community engagement. The CVM has been actively engaged in the response to the current flood emergency through the following actions in coordination with the government and other humanitarian partners:

- Implementation of Anticipatory Actions, reaching approximately 400,000 people with community-based early warning dissemination and direct relief to 10,000 people following the official activation by the INGD).
- Support for evacuations, in close coordination with the government and through local disaster risk management committees (CLGRDs), facilitating the safe relocation of populations from flood-prone areas.
- Rapid needs assessments and continuous coordination with the INGD and local authorities at the provincial and district levels.
- Mobilisation and pre-positioning of relief stocks for deployment to affected provinces.
- Health promotion and risk awareness activities, alongside limited immediate relief assistance to affected communities.

IFRC Membership Coordination

The IFRC supports the CVM with a focus on strategic and operational coordination, National Society Development, and humanitarian diplomacy, including the reinforcement of its auxiliary role to the public authorities. The IFRC and its membership aim to provide humanitarian assistance while simultaneously developing longer-term programming with the CVM to address the impact of food insecurity and enhance resilience.

A membership coordination mechanism is active in Mozambique, led by the National Society. Regular Emergency Operations Meetings are convened by the CVM with the participation of all PNSs, the ICRC, and IFRC, providing a consistent platform for information sharing and operational alignment. Coordination and information exchange with the ICRC are ongoing, and partners present in the country have expressed their intention to support the response.

There are four PNSs based in Mozambique that are supporting CVM projects, including the Spanish Red Cross, Belgian-Flanders Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and German Red Cross. The Italian Red Cross is also providing support despite not having a presence in the country. Under the framework of this emergency, the German Red Cross supported the rollout of the Floods EAP. Swedish RC, German RC, Belgian-Flanders RC, and Spanish RC have all mobilized funds bilaterally to support the response efforts of the CVM. These contributions are aligned with the Emergency Appeal Federation-wide approach.

Beyond emergency response support, the table below illustrates the key long-term support from PNSs, as part of the Federation-wide approach:

Name of the PNS	Type of Support
German Red Cross	Early Action Protocols, Anticipatory Action System Strengthening
Belgian Red Cross	Early Action Protocols and Long-term Projects in WASH and DRR
Swedish Red Cross	Long-term Nature-based Solutions Projects and Early Action Protocols, EW4ALL, PER, NSD
Spanish Red Cross	Community Health and GBV

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Coordination

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), through its mandate, is present in Mozambique, particularly in the northern part of the country, which has been affected by ongoing armed conflict in Cabo Delgado. This province has not currently been impacted by the floods. The ICRC is supporting the CVM in their response to the people affected in Northern Mozambique, including WASH, Healthcare, Restoring Family Links (RFL), Protection, and Emergency Assistance.

Regular RCRC Movement coordination meetings are taking place as per the existing Movement Coordination Agreement, ensuring a coordinated Movement approach to support the CVM across the country. There is no overlap in the areas where the ICRC is active and the flood-affected areas targeted by this appeal.

External Coordination

The CVM participates in provincial cluster meetings and is in direct contact with government entities in each province. The IFRC CCD is in close coordination with OCHA and clusters, and attends the Inter-sectoral Cluster Technical Working Group to receive and provide regular updates to ensure coordination in the implementation of multi-sectoral response plans aligned with government requests.

The CVM has planned and is implementing its response in close coordination with the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and other relevant government partners. Anticipatory Action activities were carried out by the CVM following a request from the government. The overall CVM response remains aligned with specific government priorities and requests, particularly the broader national response plan.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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Reference



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