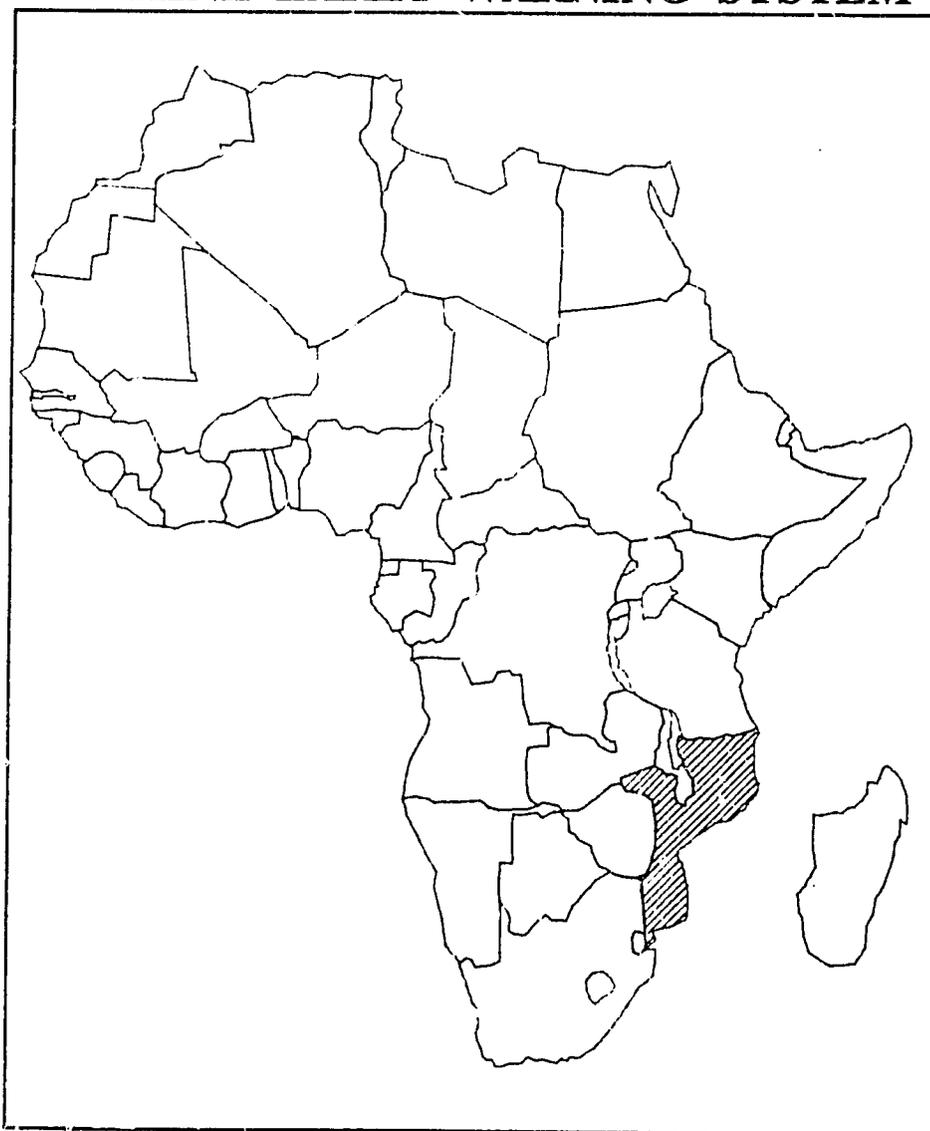


MOZAMBIQUE

The Exodus Continues

FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM



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The Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) is an Agency-wide effort coordinated by the Africa Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Its mission is to assemble, analyze and report on the complex conditions which may lead to famine in any one of the following drought-prone countries in Africa:

- Burkina
- Chad
- Ethiopia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Sudan

FEWS reflects the Africa Bureau's commitment to providing reliable and timely information to decision-makers within the Agency, within the eight countries, and among the broader donor community, so that they can take appropriate actions to avert a famine.

FEWS relies on information it obtains from a wide variety of sources including: USAID Missions, host governments, private voluntary organizations, international donor and relief agencies, and the remote sensing and academic communities. In addition, the FEWS system obtains information directly from FEWS Field Representatives currently assigned to six USAID Missions.

FEWS analyzes the information it collects, crosschecks and analyzes the data, and systematically disseminates its findings through the following publications:

- FEWS Country Reports - produced monthly during the growing season, and bimonthly during the rest of the year (for more information on FEWS publications turn to the back inside cover of this report); and
- FEWS Bulletins - produced every ten days during the growing season.

In addition, FEWS serves the USAID staff by:

- preparing FEWS Alert Memoranda for distribution to top USAID decision-makers when dictated by fast-breaking events;
- preparing Special Reports, maps, briefings, analyses, etc. upon request; and
- responding to special inquiries.

FEWS Country Reports, Bulletins, Alert Memoranda, and other special studies are prepared for USAID's Africa Bureau by Price, Williams & Associates, Inc.

The work of the FEWS Field Representatives is coordinated by Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

NOTE: This publication is a working document and should not be construed as an official pronouncement of the U. S. Agency for International Development.

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August 1988

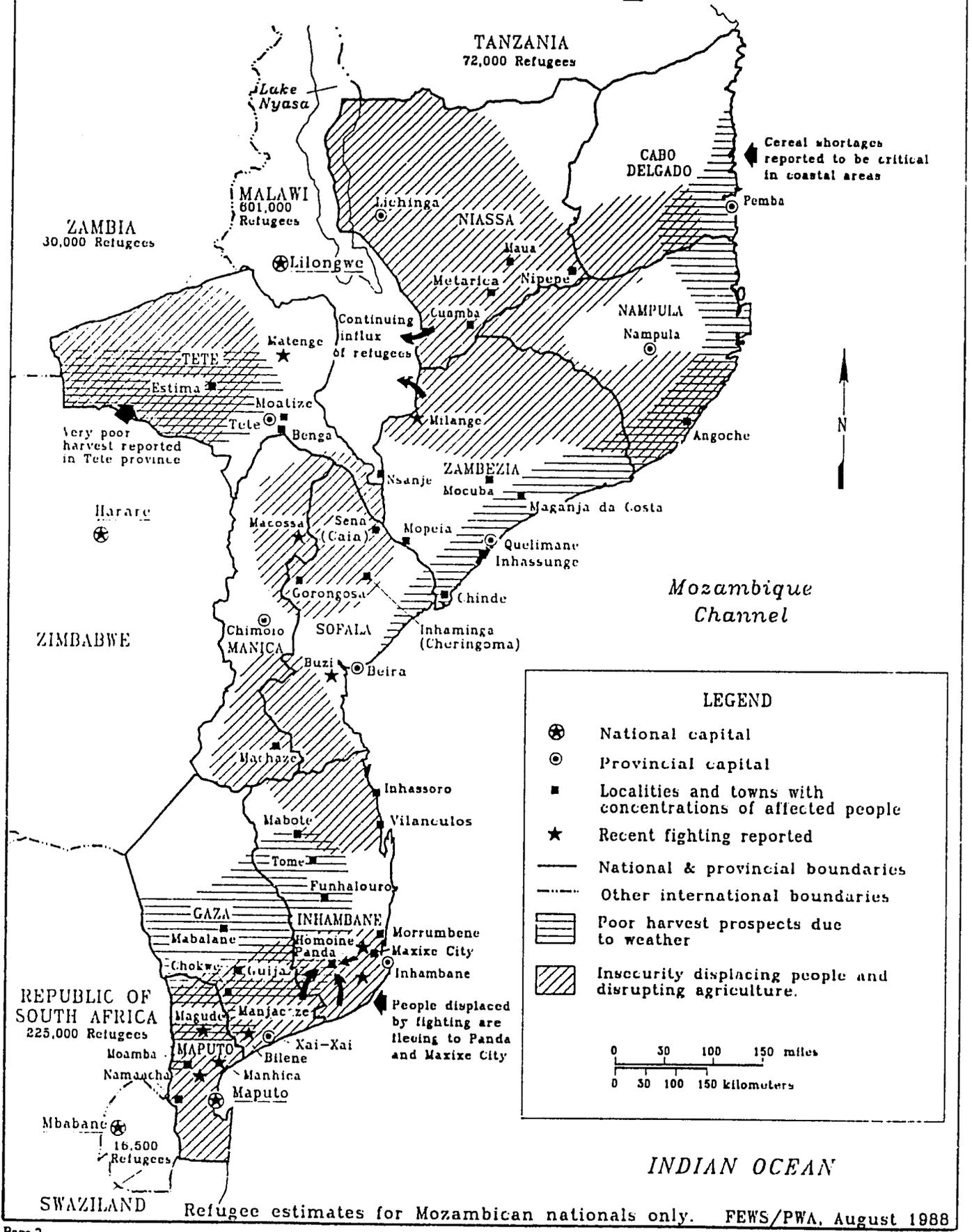
Contents

Summary	3
Populations At Risk	3
Agriculture	7
Mozambican Refugees in Malawi	7

List of Figures

Map 1 Summary Map	2
Table 1 People Requiring Food Assistance	4

Mozambique



MOZAMBIQUE

The Exodus Continues

Summary

There are 5.97 million Mozambicans who require donor food aid during the period May 1, 1988 - April 30, 1989, according to the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique (GPRM). Of this total, 2.31 million people are considered the "emergency" population (i.e., entitled to free food distributions), whereas the remaining 2.66 million people purchase donor food at the marketplace. Over the past two years, intense fighting and general insecurity have forced over 2 million Mozambicans to leave their homes and farms in search of safety. Roughly one half of these displaced people are refugees in neighboring countries, and the remainder are displaced from rural to urban areas within Mozambique. In Malawi, the refugee population increased dramatically between May and July, as 68,300 Mozambicans fled from fighting in Tete and Zambezia Provinces. According to current estimates, there are now 601,000 Mozambicans living in Malawi, and the number is expected to increase to 640,000 by the end of 1988.

Key Events & Issues

- August and September are normally the driest months of the year. Acute water shortages are likely in some localities of the arid southern provinces where rains were below normal during the last growing season.
- Poor April harvests throughout Tete and in coastal areas of Cabo Delgado provinces have led to critical food shortages.
- The GPRM is concerned about localized infestations of mealy bugs, which threaten cassava crops in Cabo Delgado and Maputo provinces.

Populations At Risk

Approximately 5.97 million Mozambicans require donor food assistance, according to a March estimate prepared by the GPRM Emergency Operations Committee (Table 1). Of this total, 2.31 million people are considered to be "affected" and 1 million people are displaced from their homes to other localities within Mozambique. The remaining 2.66 million people purchase donor food which is distributed through the market sector, in order to offset a shortfall between market requirements and domestic cereal production. Approximately 1.02 million Mozambican refugees have fled to neighboring countries, with more than one half of the refugee population located in Malawi. Refugees in neighboring countries are not included in the GPRM's estimates. The total displaced population,

Table 1: People Requiring Donor Food Assistance
(Thousands of People)

Province	Total	Total		Affected and Displaced Populations				Population Purchasing Food From The Market System				Self-Sufficient or Inaccessible	
	Population (A)	Food-Aid Population	% of (A)	Total People	% of (A)	Displaced	Affected	Total People	% of (A)	Urban	Rural	Total People	% of (A)
Maputo	876.0	672.0	76.7%	329.0	37.6%	124.0	205.0	343.0	39.2%	290.0	53.0	204.0	23.3%
Maputo City	720.0	720.0	100.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0	720.0	100.0%	720.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Gaza	1,197.0	543.3	45.4%	444.5	37.1%	65.2	379.3	98.8	8.3%	48.0	50.8	653.7	54.6%
Inhambane	1,289.5	860.5	66.7%	566.9	44.0%	61.6	505.3	293.6	22.8%	170.0	123.6	429.0	33.3%
Manica	744.0	313.5	42.1%	243.0	32.7%	74.5	168.5	70.5	9.5%	53.0	17.5	30.5	57.9%
Sofala	1,209.0	538.1	44.5%	226.6	18.7%	83.6	143.0	311.5	25.8%	246.0	65.5	670.9	55.5%
Tete	983.0	429.1	43.7%	294.0	29.9%	65.5	228.5	135.1	13.7%	75.0	60.1	553.9	56.3%
Zambezia	2,998.1	686.8	22.9%	546.1	18.2%	381.8	164.3	140.7	4.7%	115.0	25.7	2,311.3	77.1%
Niassa	613.0	262.5	42.8%	194.0	31.6%	88.0	106.0	68.5	11.2%	45.0	23.5	350.5	57.2%
Nampula	2,865.9	731.8	25.5%	400.3	14.0%	119.3	281.0	331.5	11.6%	287.7	43.8	2,134.1	74.5%
Cabo Delgado	1,104.0	211.0	19.1%	67.5	6.1%	29.5	38.0	143.5	13.0%	60.0	83.5	893.0	80.9%
Totals	14,599.5	5,968.6	40.9%	3,311.9	22.7%	1,093.0	2,218.9	2,656.7	18.2%	2,109.7	547.0	8,630.9	59.1%

Source: GPRM Ministry of Commerce, Food Security Department, March 3, 1988
Figures used for the 1988/1989 GPRM Emergency Appeal may differ slightly due to rounding.

counting both the displaced people within Mozambique and the refugees in neighboring countries, is roughly 2 million people.

People living in inaccessible areas within Mozambique are not included in the GPRM estimates. The inaccessible and self-sufficient populations are grouped into a single category by the GPRM. There are an estimated 600,000 people living in areas which are inaccessible to relief operations, and these people are considered, at least implicitly, to be self-sufficient. The verbal accounts of Mozambican refugees arriving in neighboring countries from inaccessible areas (Gersony Report, April 1988), suggest that this categorization of inaccessible with self-sufficient people probably underestimates the magnitude of the emergency situation in rural areas.

Cabo Delgado Province

A May 24th radio broadcast from Maputo reported that Cabo Delgado Province was facing serious food shortages because of the poor rains during 1987/88. The broadcast reported hunger-related deaths in several unspecified districts of the province. Total 1988 maize and rice production for the province was 1,419 metric tons (MT), or 20% of planned production, according to the broadcast.

In mid June, World Food Program (WFP) representatives visited the province to investigate the situation. Provincial authorities reported that this year's harvest was expected to yield only 40%-60% of last year's production. People living in coastal areas of the province are most affected by the cereal shortage, which is attributed to late and sporadic rains during the past rainy season and to crop damage by grasshoppers. Conversely, agriculturally rich interior highland areas of the province are reported to have produced a surplus of cereals.

The regional food imbalance can be corrected, according to the WFP, if local markets are strengthened through an increase in regional trade. One potential solution being considered is to increase the transport of goods by contracting the services of private truckers to haul grain from the interior districts to coastal areas, and to transport coastal goods such as dried fish and coconuts inland.

An apparent increase in the level of insecurity is also contributing to food shortages in the southern and central districts of Cabo Delgado. The number of displaced people has risen to 55,294, including 1,000 people who fled from Niassa Province. In Cabo Delgado Province, the displaced people are being accommodated by local villagers. Provincial health officials report an increase in child malnutrition, but the situation was not quantified.

Niassa Province

In eastern and southern areas of Niassa Province, insecurity and poor road conditions are hampering relief operations. In response, OXFAM is airlifting relief goods to people living in the otherwise inaccessible districts of Maua, Metarica, and Nipepe. The airlifts, scheduled from June through August, will transport 1,000 MT of maize, salt, sugar, soap, vegetable oil, blankets, clothes, seed, and agricultural hand tools.

Nampula Province

The Department for the Prevention and Control of Natural Calamities (DPCCN) reports that 200,000 people need 38,000 MT of corn, rice and wheat to meet food needs between May 1988 and April 1989. The harvest outlook was poor, according to the April/May DPCCN Newsletter because of late rains and a shortage of hand tools for many farmers. As no food stocks are available at the local level, officials expect that serious food shortages will continue through April 1989. The DPCCN also notes problems in logistics, citing inadequate means to transport food to the affected and displaced people.

Zambezia Province

In early June, the WFP reported severe cereal shortages throughout Zambezia Province. Insecurity continues to be a primary factor affecting Zambezia's food production, although coastal areas also experienced poor harvests because of unfavorable meteorological conditions in early 1988 (very late planting rains were followed by a tropical cyclone). In June, Medecins Sans Frontieres, a nongovernmental medical organization, reported that the incidence of child malnutrition was increasing in Mocuba District. Heavy June fighting in Milange District forced a large number of Mozambicans to flee into Malawi. Foreign news reports indicate that the GPRM regained control of the district.

Tete Province

The 1987/88 agricultural campaign is "completely lost due to the lack of rains, high temperatures and continued bandit actions," according to the April/May DPCCN Newsletter. Rains received early in the year were too late for the planting season. In addition, insecurity has forced many rural people to move constantly in search of safety, leaving their fields untended. These factors have contributed to a "critical" shortage of cereals in the province, with additional scarcities caused by delays in food shipments from Zimbabwe and Beira. The provincial DPCCN authorities expect that food shipments will be needed until the beginning of 1989, when the next rainy season may once again support local food production.

Inhambane Province

According to the DPCCN, the most critical food shortages in the province are being experienced in the remote interior districts of Funhalouro and Mabote. Food deliveries have been infrequent because insurgent activity is increasing in these areas. In southern Inhambane, fighting in nearby Homoine, Morrumbene, Inhambane, Inharrime, and Zavala districts caused 240 displaced people to flee into Panda District during the month of April. People are also fleeing into Panda District from Manjacaze District in Gaza Province. The displaced population is placing an additional burden on already strained resources in Panda, as poor rains during the past growing season resulted in a poor April harvest. The nearby town of Maxixe City has also received an increasing flow of displaced people who are fleeing rebel attacks in Morrumbene and Homoine districts.

Gaza Province

The southern half of Gaza Province has also been the target of insurgents, as fighting and associated population displacement are reported in the districts of Guija, Mabalane, Bilene, and Manjacaze districts. The DPCCN provincial authorities report a poor April harvest because of insufficient rains during the 1987/1988 growing season. According to the DPCCN, approximately 3,000 people were repatriated from South Africa to Gaza Province, and are in need of resettlement.

Maputo Province

The family farms in Maputo Province are reported to have reaped a poor harvest in April, in part due to extended dryness during the growing season, but also because insurgent activity increased during the agricultural year, forcing many farmers to flee to urban areas. The April/May DPCCN Newsletter reported an increase of some 99,000 affected and displaced people between January and May, increasing the total number of people in need of emergency assistance to 428,000. Food shipments during April and May met only 31% of the estimated population requirements, according to the DPCCN. The DPCCN has 27 trucks allocated for Maputo Province, but only 19 are operational.

To overcome shortages of labor for rural development projects and to encourage agricultural self-sufficiency, the provincial government intends to "progressively relocate" 5,000 people from the

district centers of Manhica, Marracuene, Mozamba and Boane to areas suitable for agriculture (river valleys). A total of 1,200 hectares have been reserved for this resettlement program.

Agriculture

In late May, the GPRM reported that harvests were insufficient to meet the food requirements of populations in Inhambane, Sofala, Tete, Zambezia and Cabo Delgado. Surplus production was expected in Manica and Niassa provinces. In the southern provinces of Inhambane, Gaza, and Maputo, production on family farms was expected to be inadequate to meet requirements, whereas large-scale mechanized farms were expected to produce surpluses. In early June, a somewhat different appraisal was provided by the GPRM/Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), which predicted a good harvest in northern provinces, with the exception of Cabo Delgado (the DPCCN and WFP have both reported very poor harvests in Tete Province). The central provinces of Manica and Sofala were expected to have reasonable harvests, with poor harvests predicted in the three southern provinces. In any case, AGRICOM (the national marketing parastatal) expects total domestic marketed cereal production from this year's harvest to reach 70,000 MT, an increase of 5,000 MT over last year.

The GPRM/MOA reports of mealy bug infestations near Maputo and in Cabo Delgado Province. The MOA is justifiably concerned about the impact this pest will have on cassava production, given the significant losses of cassava plants attributed to mealy bugs in neighboring Malawi. Cassava is Mozambique's second most important food crop, with over 600,000 hectares of cassava under cultivation. The GPRM is interested in employing biological controls to combat the menace, and is seeking donor assistance to finance the control measures.

Mozambican Refugees in Malawi

Recent estimates by the U.S. Bureau of Refugee Programs place the number of Mozambican refugees in Malawi at 601,000. The entire refugee population arrived in Malawi since 1986, when a major offensive by the rebels forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee from the neighboring provinces in Mozambique. Since the end of May 1988, the number of refugees has increased dramatically by 68,300 people. Current projections by the World Food Program (WFP) suggest an additional 39,000 refugees will arrive by the end of this year. By the end of 1989, the WFP expects 880,000 Mozambican refugees will be living in Malawi. The magnitude of the recent refugee influx is severely straining available relief supplies. In addition to the Mozambican refugees, the Malawian Government must provide assistance to between 800,000 and 1,000,000 Malawians whose crops have failed from drought and a mealy bug infestation.

According to a front page article in *The New York Times* (July 18), a representative of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Malawi reports that Mozambican refugees between the ages of 20 and 25 are showing up in "skeletal" conditions, indicating that they have been without sufficient food for an extended period of time. Many of the recent arrivals report they have subsisted on roots and leaves during their flight from Mozambique. The same article states that refugees were arriving at a rate of 2,000 people every day over the past two months, with many of the new arrivals suffering from a variety of diseases, including malaria, bilharzia, diarrhea, severe malnutrition, and leprosy.

The 220,000 refugees in Malawi's southern district of Nsanje constitute the single largest concentration of Mozambicans in Malawi. In fact, the Government of Malawi reports that the Mozambican population outnumbers the local population by 50,000. Food prices are skyrocketing, according to the *Times* article, as local markets that normally serve 5,000 people are now being visited by over 15,000 people. The concentration of refugees has resulted in serious environmental degradation, as local forests are being cut down for fuel and building material.

Current donor pledges and carry-over stocks from 1987 are expected to meet the 1988 food requirements of 530,000 refugees (average projected caseload for 1988). However, if the refugee population in Malawi continues to increase through the remainder of this year, as the WFP projections suggest, it is likely that additional donor food assistance will be required. The WFP is encouraging additional donor pledges to establish a reserve stockpile of 19,635 MT maize, 1,935 MT pulses and 1,935 MT groundnuts to cover the expected increases in refugee migrations through 1988. The stocks can also be used to alleviate periodic food shortages caused by delays in food shipments. In addition, ten metal storage silos (each 500 cubic meters) are needed to store the reserve stocks. Though \$160,000 has been pledged by the European Economic Community (EEC), an additional \$200,000 is needed to finance the storage containers.