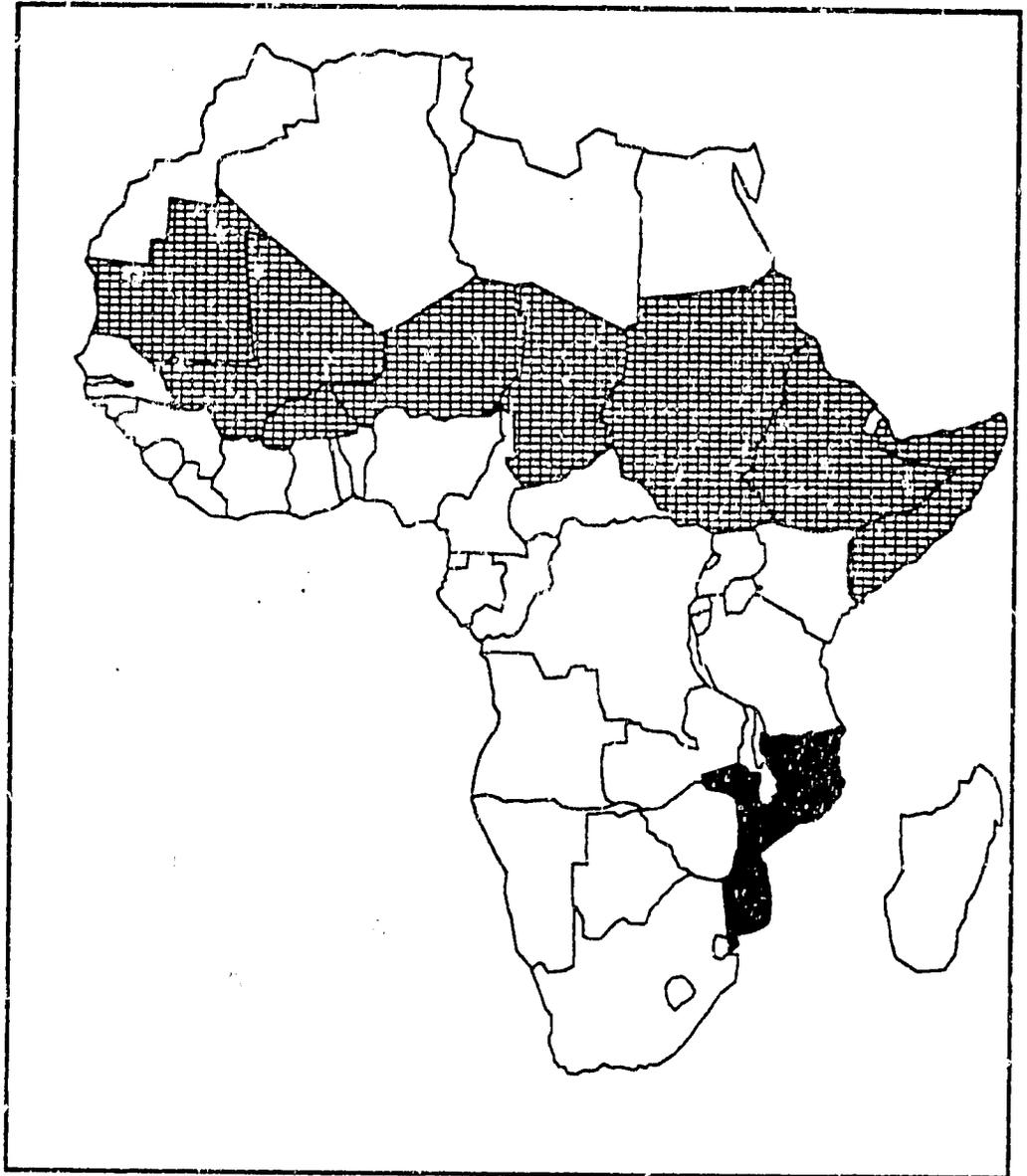


Report Number 4

September 1986

FEWS Country Report

MOZAMBIQUE

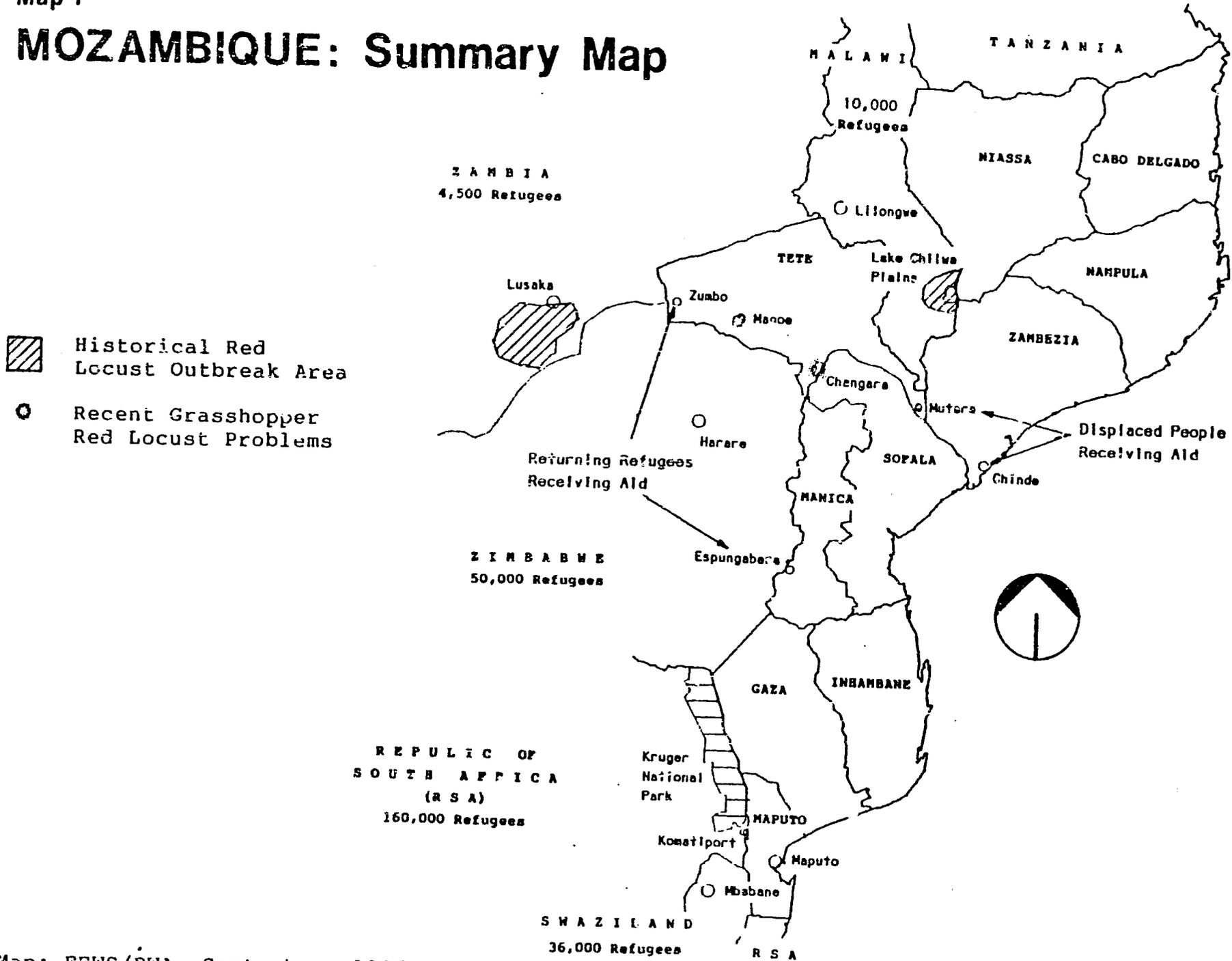


Africa Bureau
U.S. Agency
for International
Development

U.S. Agency for International Development
Room 105 SA-18
Washington, D.C. 20523

Map 1

MOZAMBIQUE: Summary Map



Map: FEWS/PWA, September, 1986

Famine Early Warning System Country Report

MOZAMBIQUE

Situation Much the Same

Prepared for the
Africa Bureau of the
U.S. Agency for
International Development

Prepared by
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August, September 1986

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INTRODUCTION

This is the third/fourth of a series of monthly reports issued by the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) on Mozambique. It is designed to provide decisionmakers with current information and analysis on existing and potential nutrition emergency situations. Each situation identified is described in terms of geographical extent and the number of people involved, or at-risk, and the proximate causes insofar as they have been discerned.

Use of the term "at-risk" to identify vulnerable populations is problematical since no generally agreed upon definition exists. Yet it is necessary to identify or "target" populations in-need or "at-risk" in order to determine appropriate forms and levels of intervention. Thus for the present, until a better usage can be found, FEWS reports will employ the term "at-risk" to mean...

...those persons lacking sufficient food, or resources to acquire sufficient food, to avert a nutritional crisis, i.e., a progressive deterioration in their health or nutritional condition below the status quo and who, as a result, require specific intervention to avoid a life-threatening situation.

Perhaps of most importance to decisionmakers, the process underlying the deteriorating situation is highlighted by the FEWS effort, hopefully with enough specificity and forewarning to permit alternative intervention strategies to be examined and implemented. Food assistance strategies are key to famine avoidance. However, other types of intervention can be of major importance both in the short-term and in the long run, including medical, transport, storage, economic development policy change, etc.

Where possible, food needs estimates are included in the FEWS reports. It is important to understand, however, that no direct relation exists between numbers of persons at-risk and the quantity of food assistance needed. This is because famines are the culmination of slow-onset disaster processes which can be complex in the extreme.

The food needs of individual populations at-risk depend upon when in the disaster process identification is made and the extent of its cumulative impact on the individuals concerned. Further, the amount of food assistance required, whether from internal or external sources, depends upon a host of considerations. Thus the food needs estimates presented periodically in FEWS reports should not be interpreted to mean food aid needs, e.g., as under PL480 or other donor programs.

FEWS is operated by AID's Office of Technical Resources in the Bureau for Africa in cooperation with numerous USG and other organizations.

SUMMARY

The estimated population at-risk in Mozambique has increased to 2,148,000 people due to earlier, prolonged flooding in Niassa Province that was just reported on September 4, 1986. In addition, the urban population of 3,000,000 remains partially dependent on food aid. As of late August, the FAO estimated food grain deficit for the May 1986 through April 1987 (86/87) food-aid year is 540,000 MT. To meet this deficit, 325,700 MT of grain has been pledged by the donor community, of which 151,000 MT have been delivered. Remaining uncovered by pledges are 214,300 MT of grain. As Mozambique moves into the planting season, locally produced food will become even more scarce. Even with good and timely rains during the upcoming rainy season, Mozambique is not likely to produce enough food to meet internal requirements. The continuing insurgency remains the primary cause of risk of nutritional crisis for the people of Mozambique.

Issues

- o The continued insurgency obstructs the disbursement of food aid to those nutritionally at-risk and threatens others with displacement or destruction of crops.
- o Only two reports of grasshopper and/or Red Locusts have been received since March from Mozambique. As this is not the growing season, current infestations will not lessen the current food supply.
- o Refugees continue to flow out of Mozambique to neighboring countries. The Republic of South Africa (RSA), Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe have organized programs to meet the needs of these people, although RSA is actively discouraging the refugees' entry. Malawi has not recognized the status 'refugee' in reference to 'visiting' Mozambicans, making it difficult for international agencies to provide relief.

Key September Events

- o According to a June plan, rice donated by Japan should be arriving in September. No USAID food aid deliveries are scheduled for this month.
- o The rainy season may start in the mid-section of the country by the end of the month.
- o In rice growing areas, the fields should be prepared for early October planting.

LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPPERS

Crop damaging grasshopper infestations were reported in Tete Province during December 1985 and January 1986. The pest situation there remained quiet until recently, when new reports of grasshoppers or Red Locusts were made for the areas around Changara and Magoe, both in Tete

Province (Map 1). The situation has been described as 'bad,' but has not been quantified. It is not known whether Changara and Magoe are the only areas that have recently experienced pest infestations or whether they are the only infested areas from which reports have been received. World Vision International (WVI), which works in Changara and Magoe, has undertaken an AGPACK project, which includes sprayers and pesticides for rural farmers. This appears to be the only control measure being taken at this time.

Red Locusts produce only one generation in a year. In the main outbreak areas, adults usually mature and begin laying eggs in November, the beginning of the rainy season. Hoppers hatch in December and January and fledging occurs in March. Adults remain immature throughout the dry season.

Mozambique has not been a source of Red Locust plagues in the past. Any current infestations in Tete Province will remain a local problem. The infestations reported this March, if of Red Locusts, were probably young adults. Young adults are the most voracious of the various locust phases, so that most of this year's damage has already been done. There will be no new locust eggs laid until October or November, which is when the rains begin in Tete Province. The hoppers should then hatch from late November through January.

Ground control of winged adult locusts, capable of flight, is difficult. Even so, it is important to kill as many as possible to prevent the next generation of eggs, thus decreasing potential crop damage next year. It will be easier to destroy egg masses or hoppers, which should appear from October through January in Mozambique, although waiting to tackle the problem until then increases the chances of an uncontrollable outbreak which might then produce gregarious, swarming locusts. A national control campaign is unlikely. Efforts such as WVI's, combined with farmer education, appears to be the only practical route.

With regard to possible swarms arriving from outside of Mozambique, the Lake Chilwa Plains in Malawi are one of two recognized outbreak areas for Red Locusts close to Mozambique (Map 1). In March of this year, there was an outbreak of Red Locusts in the Chilwa area. Fewer than four adult Red Locusts per square meter were counted, however, and this was considered to be low enough to not require treatment. In fact, the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture is more worried about possible swarms from neighboring countries (Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe,

and Zambia) than about swarms arising from the Lake Chilwa area.

POPULATIONS AT-RISK The estimated Mozambican population at-risk has increased from 1,848,000 to 2,148,000 people (Table 1 and Map 2). Added to the at-risk number are 300,000 people in Niassa Province, who are reported by the provincial governor to be suffering from food, fuel and commodity shortages following prolonged flooding. The flooding probably paralleled that seen this spring in Zambezia Province, which subsided before April. It is not clear how it has taken this long for the alarm to be sounded. The urban population of 3,000,000 people is not included in the at-risk estimate.

Table 1: Estimated Population At-Risk

Province	1986 Est. Population	Rural Pop. At-Risk	At-Risk Percentage
Cabo Delgado	1,079,000	NA	NA
Gaza	1,142,000	208,000	18%
Inhambane	1,138,000	310,000	27%
Manica	753,000	228,000	30%
Maputo	1,488,000	120,000	8%
Nampula	2,757,000	NA	NA
Niassa	593,000	300,000	51%
Sofala	1,252,000	402,000	32%
Tete	963,000	330,000	34%
Zambezia	2,935,000	250,000	9%
Total	14,100,000	2,148,000	13%

Source: DCNNC, Mozambique and Mission Cable
NA: Not Available

Over the past two months there have been reports of fighting from almost every province. In Zambezia Province, Chinde is attracting people displaced from interior villages. Red Cross is working with World Vision in Chinde to distribute food and goods. In Tete Province, the Mutara district is a collection point for displaced people arriving from contiguous districts, seeking a safe place with provisions (see Map 1).

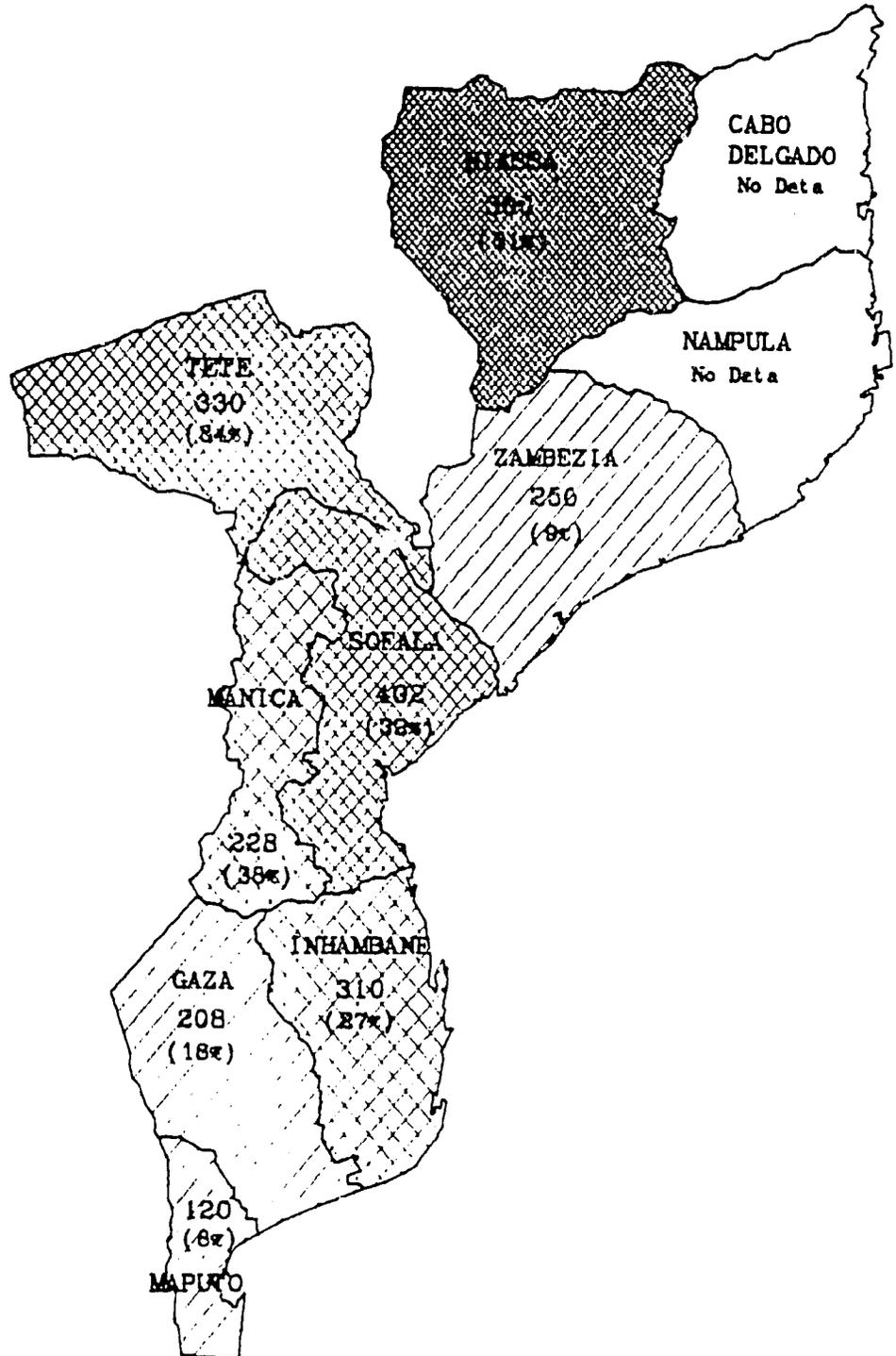
Few donors have gone to zones north of the Limpopo River, Gaza Province, to assist populations affected by insurgency and drought, due to access and transport limitations. With the improvement of airstrips to allow the airlifting of supplies in that area, the situation will improve.

Map 2

MOZAMBIQUE:

Population At-Risk (000s)

(Percentage of Province Population At-Risk)



REFUGEES

Refugee flows continue both out of and into Mozambique (Table 2). In early August, the South African Armed Forces began testing an electrified fence at Komatiport, the major crossover point from Mozambique, to prevent the entry of more Mozambicans into South Africa (RSA) via the one good road. The fence stretches from Komatiport to the start of the Mozambique border (Map 1). If the fence functions, it will force Mozambicans fleeing to the RSA to either cross the Kruger National Game Park, which runs along almost all of the Mozambique-RSA border, or to travel via Swaziland. The first route contains the threat of predators such as lions.

Mozambicans have fled into Malawi in response to fighting in Mozambique. The Government of Malawi does not recognize these people as refugees and will not allow international aid agencies into the country to work with them. An April 1986 UNHCR report put the number of Mozambican refugees in Malawi at 10,000 people. According to an August BBC broadcast, the British newspaper, The Guardian, has put the estimate of people who have fled into Malawi at 15,000 to 30,000. The Guardian also alleges that the refugees have crowded into hastily assembled camps without enough food and water. This may be an intermittent situation, as people enter Malawi in response to nearby fighting, then return home when the fighting is over.

Table 2: Mozambique Refugees in Neighboring Countries

Country	Est. Refugees
Malawi	10,000
South Africa	160,000
Swaziland	36,000
Tanzania	NA
Zambia	4,500
Zimbabwe	50,000
Total	255,500

Source: AAO/Maputo; UNHCR

NA: Not Available

At the same time that people are fleeing Mozambique, refugees are returning, evidenced by donor assistance efforts. In the Zumbo area in Tete Province, the Swedish are providing assistance to returnees with medicines, clothing and food. UNICEF provides assistance to returnees in Espungabera, Manica Province, and would like to expand operations to Manica district (Map 1).

FOOD SUPPLY

As of late August, the food grain deficit uncovered by pledges is 214,300 MT, based on FAO figures. Out of a total of 325,700 MT of cereals pledged for Food-Aid Year 1986/1987, 151,000 MT have been delivered to Mozambique (Table 3). This leaves unmet pledges of 174,700 MT to cover an estimated total requirement of 389,000 MT for the rest of the food-aid year (214,300 MT plus 174,700 MT).

The arrival of these pledges is quite timely. From July through September there are supplies of vegetables from the spring harvest to rely on, but after September these supplies normally become depleted.

In addition to the 214,300 MT figure, the Governor of Niassa Province has stated that there is a need for 10,000 MT of food aid in the aftermath of earlier flooding. The Director of the Department for Preventing and Combatting Natural Calamities (DPCCN) was to visit Niassa on September 5 to assess the situation, but there has not yet been a report of the trip results.

Table 3: 1986/1987 Food-Aid Pledges and Deliveries

Food Aid Year -- May to April	Pledges (MT)	Delivered In Country (MT)
Cereals	325,700	151,100
Milk	1,467	510
Edible Oil	2,344	1,612
Other	8,652	5,286

Source: Mission Cable

CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE

Mozambique is currently in its dry season. In southern Gaza Province tilling should begin in September and planting of rice should begin in early October, with rains expected in September. Rains are expected to arrive in Tete Province in October and November.