



DISASTER  
RELIEF

CASE REPORT  
Mozambique—Floods  
February 1975

Agency for International Development  
Washington, DC 20523

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

### **Floods—February 1975**

Flooding in the Limpopo River Valley followed after five days of continuous, heavy rains in February 1975 affecting more than 75,000 people. One death was reported and injuries were minimal.

<b>VALUE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE</b> .....	<b>\$ 225,000</b>
<b>VALUE OF ASSISTANCE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY</b> .....	<b>1,643,615</b>

During the rainy season (November-March/April) flooding occurs in the Limpopo River Valley in southern Mozambique, but the rains in February caused catastrophic conditions when the Limpopo River overflowed its banks flooding about 1,000 square kilometers of the country's most fertile land.

Crop losses of maize and beans were estimated at 70 percent resulting in a severe food shortage in the region.

### **ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE**

Following the occurrence of the disaster, assessment of emergency assistance needed for the flood victims was determined by Mozambique Provisional Government (MPG) officials and the United Nations Resident Representative. Through the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) in Geneva, an appeal was made for food, clothing, medicaments, and seed to more than 70 governments and voluntary agencies.

The MPG requested that all donor nations and organizations channel all contributions through the United Nations which was well established in Mozambique and in the best position to coordinate the aid received for the Limpopo disaster.

**Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Director acknowledges assistance received in the preparation of this and other case reports from the many public and private organizations in the United States and abroad engaged in foreign disaster relief.

The MPG was completely in charge of the relief operation including the distribution of material aid. However, the operation was hampered because of a deficient in-country transport system and the MPG was working under critical financial limitations.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY  
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT**

The Consul General in Lourenco Marques determined the floods were of disaster proportions to warrant U.S. Government assistance. He exercised his disaster relief authority on February 28, 1975, and requested that funds be provided to a designated United Nations organization for the purchase of specific relief items requested by the MPG.

Crop loss was a serious problem because food shortages had been reported in northern Mozambique as well as in the flood-stricken area. Since the spring planting season was almost over, it was necessary to replant immediately or there could be no planting until October. It was determined the U.S. Government would provide funds for the purchase of seed and air transport costs after consultation with the United Nations officials and MPG authorities.

A.I.D.'s Disaster Relief Coordination Center arranged for the transmittal of \$225,000 to UNDRO through the U.S. Mission in Geneva for the seed procurement. Three hundred tons of maize seed were purchased by UNDRO but only 140 tons reached the farmers in time for spring planting. The remaining 160 tons were planted in the fall.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

Responding to UNDRO's appeal for aid to Mozambique, the following nations and organizations contributed to the relief operation:

	<i>Value of Assistance</i>
<i>Governments</i>	
Finland .....	\$ 9,887
Germany (Federal Republic of) .....	82,300
Ireland .....	14,400
Netherlands .....	104,166
United Kingdom .....	46,403
 <i>League of Red Cross Societies</i>	
<i>Societies</i>	
Canada .....	2,217
France .....	3,051
Norway .....	1,513
Saudi Arabia (through UNDRO) .....	5,000
U.S.S.R. ....	107,918
 <i>United Nations System</i>	
<i>United Nations Disaster Relief Office</i> .....	
	20,000
<i>United Nations Emergency Children's Fund</i> .....	
	56,000
<i>World Food Program (FAO)</i> ....	1,101,500
 <i>Other Organizations</i>	
<i>Cor Unum</i> .....	8,000
<i>Lutheran World Federation</i> ....	79,220
<i>Redd Barna</i> .....	2,040
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$1,643,615</b>



*LOURENCO MARQUES*

**MOZAMBIQUE**