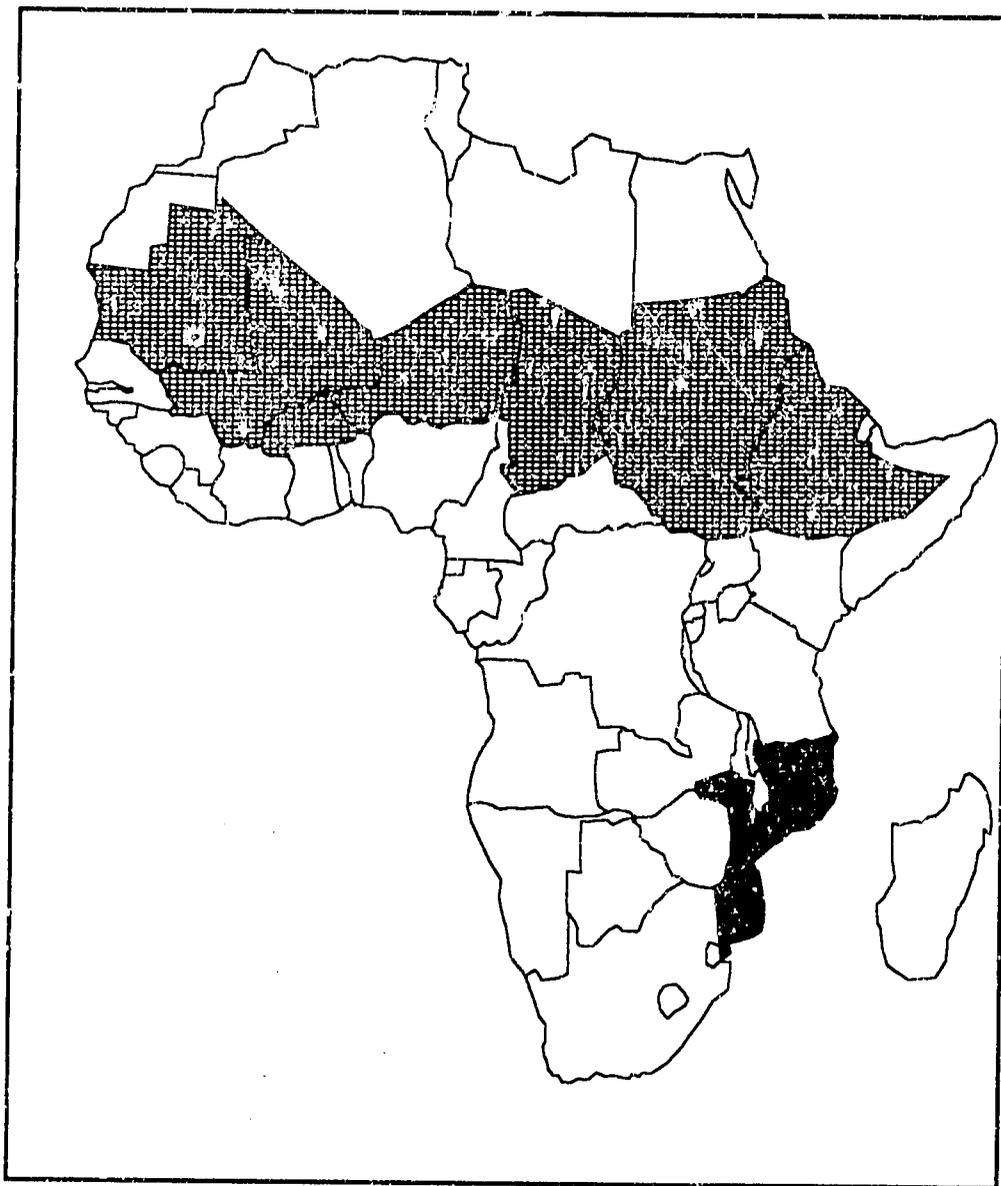


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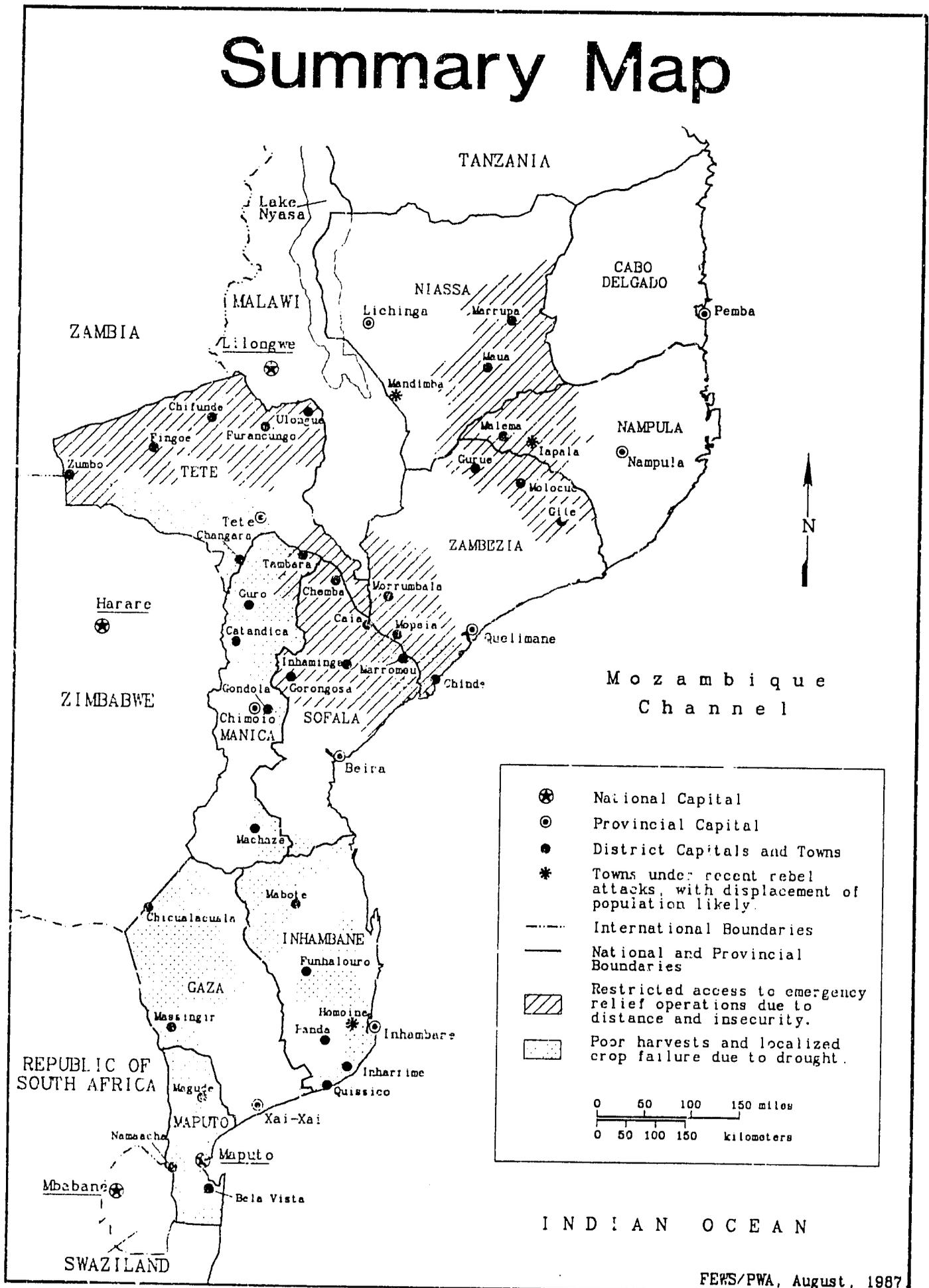
FEWS Country Report

MOZAMBIQUE



Africa Bureau
U.S. Agency
for International
Development

Summary Map



Famine Early Warning System Country Report

MOZAMBIQUE

The Dry Season Prevails

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

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INTRODUCTION

This is the fourteenth in a series of monthly reports on Mozambique issued by the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS). 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 FEWS effort highlights the process underlying the deteriorating situation, 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, estimates of food needs 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 the 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 estimates of food needs presented periodically in FEWS reports should not be interpreted to mean food aid needs, e.g., as under PL480 or other donor programs.

FEWS depends on a variety of US Government agencies, private voluntary organizations (PVO's), international relief agencies, foreign press and host government reports as sources of information used in the country reports. In particular, a debt of gratitude is owed to many individuals within various offices of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) who routinely provide valuable information, especially, the USAID Mission in Maputo, the offices of Food For Peace and Voluntary Assistance (FFP/FVA), and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Additional useful information is frequently provided by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and the Department for the Prevention and Control of Natural Calamities (DPCCN) of the People's Republic of Mozambique (GPRM), as well as nongovernmental humanitarian organizations including CARE, World Vision Relief Organization (WVRO) and OXFAM/UK which operate relief programs in Mozambique.

FEWS is operated by AID's Office of Technical Resources in the Bureau for Africa (AFR/TR) in cooperation with numerous U.S. Government and other organizations. The FEWS Country Reports are working documents of AFR/TR and should not be construed as official pronouncements of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

SUMMARY

In late June, the Emergency Operations Committee (COE), a coordinating body of representatives from the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique (GPRM), United Nations, and donor groups, estimated that 6,505,866 Mozambicans depend on international food aid, including 3,211,845 displaced and affected people in need of emergency aid, and 3,294,021 people who purchase food through commercial channels. Due to a poor 1987 cereal harvest of only 350,000 MT, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) estimates that Mozambique must import 750,000 metric tons (MT) of cereals during the current marketing year (1987/1988) to meet the 1,100,000 MT cereal demand of Mozambique's total population. As of June, the donor community had pledged 323,000 MT of cereals toward the marketing year, leaving an import requirement of 427,000 MT of cereals for the remainder of the marketing year.

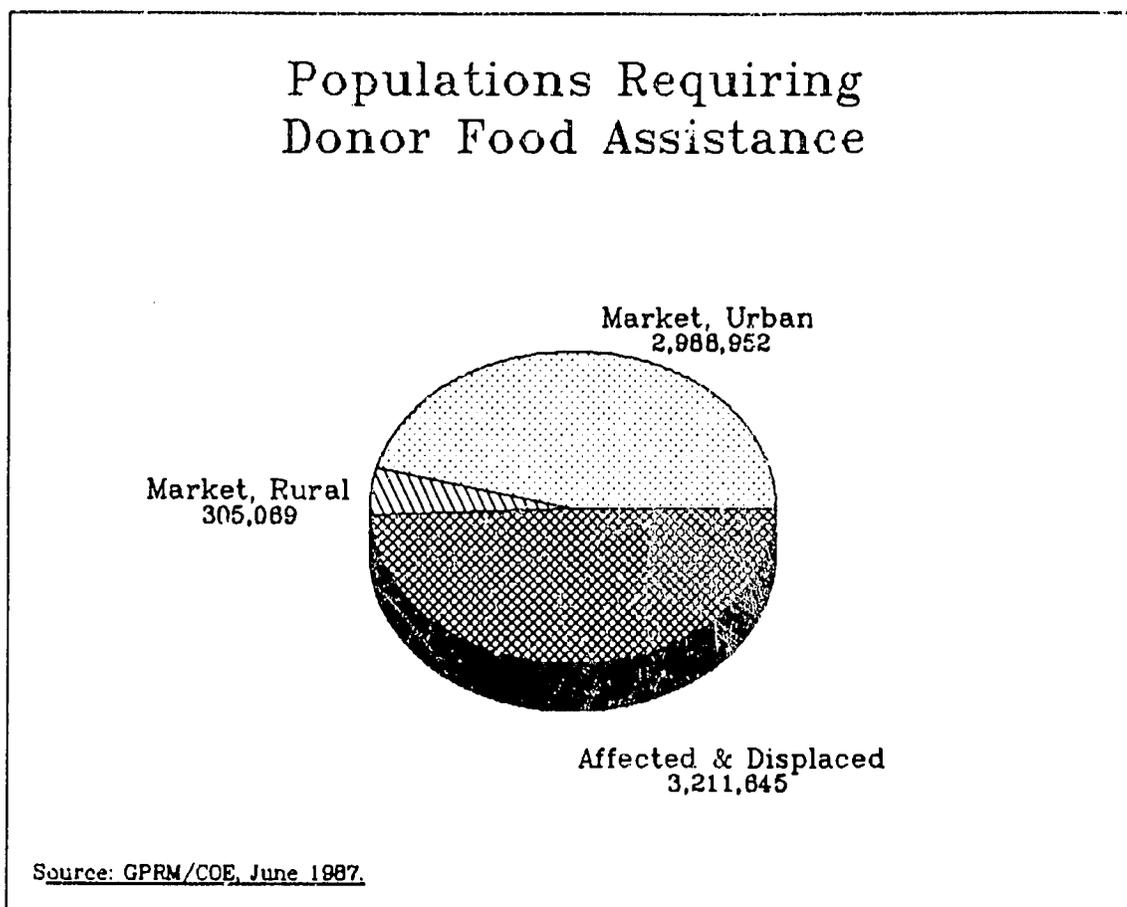
Key Indicators

- Relief agencies are relying on airlifts to transport food and medical supplies to remote interior areas of Tete, northern Sofala, Zambezia, Nampula, and Niassa Provinces, where accessibility has been restricted by a combination of distance and insecurity.
- The effects of the dry season are usually most pronounced in August and September. Water shortages could become a problem in the south, where poor rains fell during the past rainy season.

AT-RISK POPULATIONS

The Emergency Operations Committee (COE), comprised of 16 representatives from the GPRM, international donor community, and nongovernmental organizations, estimates that 6,505,866 Mozambicans currently depend on international food aid. This total includes 3,211,845 displaced and "affected" people in need of emergency aid, in addition to 3,294,021 people who purchase food through normal market channels (Chart 1). In Mozambique, domestic cereal production and commercial imports do not meet the normal market demand, so food aid is used to supply the demand. These estimates, prepared by the COE Food Assessment Working Group, suggest that the number of at-risk people within Mozambique decreased by 1.4 million (30%) since April, when 4.6 million people were at-risk. However, the apparent decline in the at-risk population

CHART 1



could reflect a difference of methodology used in preparing the estimates, with people who were termed "at-risk" now being classified as market-dependent. The COE estimates are being used by the GPRM to define current food aid requirements.

Mozambican villagers living in remote rebel-contested areas of Niassa, Nampula, Zambezia, Sofala, and Tete Provinces have been found by various relief and government organizations to be in particular need of food and medical assistance (Map 1). When threatened by fighting, many villagers hastily abandon homes and possessions, traveling up to 50 kilometers in search of safety. Displaced people arriving in secure areas frequently lack all possessions, and are in urgent need of food, clothes, blankets, and soap. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, rates of malnutrition range between 15% and 20% for recently displaced people, compared to rates of between 1% and 4% among local resident populations.

On July 7th, the Maputo Domestic Service reported nearly 500,000 people were at-risk in Sofala Province due to a combination of drought and insurgent attacks. Particularly affected are the northern districts along the Zambezia River, where practically the entire population is in need of emergency assistance. Several emergency airlifts have been launched from Beira to provide urgent assistance. In coastal areas, where many of the recently displaced people have fled, food shortages are being exacerbated by the failure of the rice crop. Rice is normally grown in the Zambezia River Delta, which includes the general area of Chinde (Zambezia Province) and Marrromeu (Sofala Province, Map 1).

On July 23rd, according to the Washington Post, nearly 400 Renamo rebels massacred 386 people, mostly civilians, in the town of Homoine, Inhambane Province (Map 1). Many of the victims were patients in the village hospital. Following the attack, nearly 3,000 people fled the area fearing the rebels would return. Although the report did not identify where the displaced people fled to, it is probable that many fled to the provincial capital, Inhambane, which is 18 miles east of Homoine.

CEREAL AVAILABILITY

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) provisionally estimates that Mozambique's 1987 cereal harvest was 350,000 MT, of which 40,000 MT will be available to meet the market demand during the marketing year (May 1, 1987 - April 30, 1988). According to UNFAO, the cereal harvest was only 63 percent of normal (Table 1). The rice harvest produced only 25 MT, which is half the production of normal years.

During the current marketing year, Mozambique requires 1.1 million MT of cereals to meet both food and non-food (seed and feed) demand for cereals. The UNFAO does not expect that Mozambique's level of stocks will change. In order to compensate for the production shortfall, Mozambique must import 750,000 MT of cereals, of which an estimated 465,000 MT are considered "exceptional needs". This roughly equates to the needs of the 3,211,845 at-risk people, who, assuming a daily per capita ration of 350 grams, require 410,300 MT of cereals to meet their needs for one year. The UNFAO anticipates that all cereal import requirements will have to be met by donor food aid, as Mozambique's weak foreign exchange position precludes the commercial import of cereals by the GPRM. As of June, donors had pledged 323,000 MT of cereals toward the current marketing year, leaving an import requirement of 427,000 MT of cereals for the remainder of the marketing year.

Table 1: CEREAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND
Marketing Year May 1, 1987 - April 30, 1988
(Thousands Of Metric Tons)

	Wheat	Rice	Coarse Grains	Total
CEREAL USES				
Food	<u>161</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>803</u>	<u>1,100</u>
Non-Food	160	125	735	1,020
Exports	1	11	68	80
Stocks	-	-	-	-
1987 PRODUCTION	<u>5</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>350</u>
IMPORTS				
Required	<u>156</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>483</u>	<u>750</u>
Exceptional	46	71	348	465
Planned & Delivered	<u>138</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>323</u>
Commercial	-	-	-	-
Donor Pledges	138	24	161	323
Delivered	8	15	24	47
IMPORT BALANCE	<u>-18</u>	<u>-87</u>	<u>-322</u>	<u>-427</u>

NORMAL (000's MT)				
Production	8	50	502	560
Imports, Total	150	90	160	400
Commercial	40	50	25	115
Food Aid	110	40	135	285
1987/88 AS % OF NORMAL				
Production (%)	63	50	64	63
Imports, Total (%)	104	123	302	188
Food Aid (%)	141	278	358	263

Source:

UNFAO "Food Supply Situation And Crop Prospects In Sub-Saharan Africa", June 1987.

"Normal production" is the level of production which would be harvested in the current year, assuming no abnormal climatic conditions, and no reductions in area planted or in the supply of agricultural inputs by civil disorders. "Normal imports" are imports required to meet domestic needs in years of "normal production". Where statistically significant trends can be established, the UNFAO determines normality using linear trends. Otherwise, "normal" is calculated as an average for a recent period of years when growing conditions were normal.

In fiscal year 1988, World Vision International (WVI), a U.S. private voluntary organization, is planning to distribute 43,000 MT maize, 5,800 MT beans, and 4,500 MT vegetable oil for the benefit of approximately 350,000 people affected by drought and insurgency in the provinces of Gaza, Manica, Tete, and Zambezia (Table 2). Individuals receiving WVI assistance will, on average, receive monthly food rations of 10 kilograms maize, 1.5 kilograms beans, and 1 kilogram vegetable oil per recipient. In addition to food aid, the WVI plan calls for the rehabilitation of family farmers in Tete and Zambezia Provinces by providing "AGPAKS" (kits containing seeds and agricultural hand tools) to displaced farmers and inhabitants of resettlement villages.

Table 2: WVI Fiscal Year 1988 Food Program
Planned Distribution, By Province and Commodity

Province	Corn		Beans		Vegetable Oil	
	MT	People	MT	People	MT	People
Gaza	4,500	37,500	1,000	55,556	500	41,667
Tete	16,000	133,333	1,500	83,333	1,500	125,000
Manica	12,000	100,000	1,500	83,333	1,500	125,000
Zambezia	10,500	87,500	1,800	100,000	1,000	83,333
Totals	43,000	358,333	5,800	322,222	4,500	375,000

NOTES:

- 1) Data as reported in a July 7, 1987, U.S. Mission cable from Maputo.
- 2) Number of recipients by province and commodity calculated using WVI planned monthly per capita ration of 10 kg corn, 1.5 kg beans, and 1 kg vegetable oil for a 12 month period.