



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

MOZAMBIQUE - Drought

Date: 1981 through 1984 and ongoing

Location: The provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Zambezi, and Tete

No. Dead: Complete figures are not available; an estimated 40,000 died in 1983, according to the Mozambique government

No. Affected: Approximately 4,750,000 people as of December 1983; nearly 1.5 million were in need of urgent assistance by the following April

Damage: Crop production had declined by 70-80% in the most seriously affected provinces after three consecutive years of drought. Heavy livestock losses resulted from a lack of pasture and water.

The Disaster

The present drought in Mozambique, described by the government as the worst to affect the country in 50 years, began to affect crop production as early as 1981. While the food shortage in the northern provinces was relieved by adequate rainfall in the 1982/83 growing season, the situation continued to deteriorate in the central and southern regions. The rural populations in the provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, and Zambezi were the most seriously affected. In parts of those provinces, insufficient rains during the critical planting period resulted in the nearly total loss of staple crops (rice, maize, cassava, sorghum) in the 1982-83 and 1983-84 seasons. Thousands of head of cattle perished from a lack of forage and water. The capital city of Maputo and environs suffered a severe water shortage due to the very low water level of the Umbeluzi River.

As the food and water shortages worsened, the incidence of disease rose markedly. A cholera epidemic in several of the drought-stricken provinces took at least 189 lives in the early months of 1983. Sick and emaciated people from the interior began moving in increasing numbers to coastal areas in search of food. Some 300,000 displaced people were eventually sheltered in government-organized camps in Gaza and Inhambane, while tens of thousands of others (mainly from Tete and Manica Provinces) had fled to Zimbabwe.

Several factors combined to exacerbate the effects of the drought. An opposition guerrilla group, the Movement of National Resistance (MNR), stepped up its attacks against agricultural targets and vital road and rail links, thus affecting food production and commercial activity and seriously hampering the delivery of relief supplies to outlying areas. A shortage of vehicles and spare parts further impeded operations. The fruitless sowing of crops depleted seed supplies, while a critical shortage of foreign exchange prevented the purchase of such agricultural inputs.

Finally, a cyclone in late January 1984 destroyed large portions of the first promising harvest in several seasons in Maputo and Gaza provinces.

By December 1983, the Government of Mozambique estimated that 4,750,000 rural people were affected by the drought, which had cost some 40,000 lives in that year alone. The number of people needing immediate relief was nearly 1.5 million by the following April.

Moreover, with virtually no rainfall in parts of southern Tete Province during the year, the food shortage had reached crisis proportions in that more northern area as well. Although Tete is potentially one of the richest agricultural areas in Mozambique and normally supplies food to less productive areas, crop output fell dramatically due to the drought, the increase in insurgent activity, the breakdown of the transportation fleet, and the dearth of agricultural tools and seeds.

Despite a positive international response, the situation in Mozambique continues to be critical. The World Food Program estimated in April 1984 that the food deficit for the next 12 months would be about 750,000 tons, with emergency feeding requirements of approximately 160,000 tons.

Action Taken by the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique (GPRM)

The GPRM launched an international appeal on January 12, 1983, for cereal donations and assistance in a long-term recovery program for the central and southern provinces. The government later extended its appeal to include seeds; medical supplies; well-drilling equipment and technical assistance for water supply projects in Maputo City and in Gaza, Inhambane, and Sofala provinces; and logistical support to transport food and other relief supplies to the affected areas. The government

periodically updated reports on food needs and estimates on the number of people affected by the drought. The GPRM also cooperated with the FAO in determining seed requirements and developed an emergency distribution plan.

The Department for the Prevention and Combat of Natural Calamities (DPCNC) coordinated the activities of the various government ministries involved in disaster relief. All food operations were centralized in the Ministry of Internal Trade. An informal government emergency team, comprised of several ministries, was later established to work with the U.N. in coordinating international assistance.

Using international donations, the Ministry of Health combated cholera and other diseases with a program which included laboratory testing, administering antibiotics, vaccinating high risk populations, and chlorinating water supplies. The government also supplied health centers with medicines and created special rehydration centers in remote areas.

The Minister of Internal Trade and the Director of Marine Transport worked closely with the UNDP/UNDRO/WFP resident coordinator in Mozambique in carrying out a program to ship food supplies from Maputo to Inhambane and thence to smaller ports in remote areas (Nova Mambone, Inhassoro, and Vilanculos). The program, which was designed to overcome the difficult logistical and security problems of delivering food to drought victims by overland routes, required the chartering of a transport vessel and a smaller landing craft. The Ministry of Transport provided navigational assistance for the landing craft. Inland transportation from ports was undertaken by the government, which also bore the costs of loading and unloading. Some 7,555 MT of emergency food were transported in the first two months of the program. The GPRM also provided distribution centers in the port areas as well as camps for displaced persons in Gaza and Inhambane provinces.

With support from external donors, the Mozambique Christian Council (MCC), representing the Protestant churches in Mozambique, had donated 8,000 MT of food by October 1983, including 391.35 tons of maize worth \$48,919. The MCC assisted the GPRM Department for the Prevention and Combat of Natural Calamities in channeling relief assistance.

The Mozambique Red Cross (MRC) was also active in the relief effort. MRC worked with LORCS to conduct a general feeding program for some 160,000 persons in Maputo, Gaza, and Inhambane Provinces. In addition, the MRC set up a station in Manjacaze, Gaza Province, to provide intensive feeding for seriously malnourished mothers and children. This station also served as a training center for volunteers and health workers. Foodstuffs provided by the MRC included 97.93 tons of beans valued at \$30,358.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

At the request of the GPRM, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires traveled to the town of Macuacua (Gaza Province) on October 6, 1983, to observe the condition of Mozambicans recently liberated from areas controlled by the anti-government MNR. Among the desperately needy recent arrivals were many severely malnourished abandoned children.

Based on his personal observations and reliable reports that similar conditions could be found in other areas of Mozambique, the Charge determined on October 11 that a disaster existed in Gaza and Inhambane provinces. He obligated \$25,000 from the Ambassador's disaster assistance authority and this sum was donated to the Mozambique Christian Council for the purchase of food and other relief supplies for the reported 10,000 uprooted and/or abandoned children in Gaza Province. The MCC was expected to use the money to buy 15 MT of powdered milk in South Africa. The Charge requested expert assistance in assessing the magnitude of the disaster and suggesting an appropriate USG response. OFDA accordingly arranged for a physician from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct an onsite nutritional and medical survey of children in the affected areas of Gaza and Inhambane. The CDC expert concluded that a potentially disastrous health and nutritional crisis existed in the two provinces. His recommendations included supplemental feeding for the most vulnerable as well as the provision of medical supplies, shelter and clothing, and improved sanitation. He also suggested continued surveillance of the situation.

In response to another request from the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, OFDA provided \$98,500 in disaster assistance funds in support of the UNDRO/WFP program to transport food by sea to isolated areas along the coast. U.S. funds were contributed toward the cost of chartering a landing craft. OFDA also approved a \$1 million grant to CARE to finance the proposed Logistical Support Unit (see below under U.S. Voluntary Agencies) and helped the Red Cross to airlift relief supplies to the interior of Manica Province with a grant of \$130,000.

A total of \$1,010,800 was obligated for use in Mozambique from the \$16 million Congressional Appropriation for Africa in FY 1984. This included a grant to CARE for the purchase of trucks (\$763,000) and a grant to World Vision International for a food distribution program in Tete Province (\$247,800). (These figures are not included in the total USG assistance as they appear in the section Disaster Relief in FY 1984 - "Special Appropriation for Inland Transport.")

In addition to the U.S. Charge's visits to Gaza, Inhambane, and Tete provinces and the CDC assessment, two representatives of A.I.D.'s Africa Bureau spent 12 days in Mozambique in December 1983 to evaluate the impact of the food emergency and study requirements for food assistance, and an OFDA disaster relief officer visited Mozambique in May 1984.

The bulk of USG assistance has taken the form of food commodities (corn, rice, wheat, and dairy products) provided by the Office of Food for Peace.

FY 1984 approvals included 7,468 MT of commodities through the WFP and 51,610 MT bilaterally. Commodity cost and ocean freight totaled \$15,339,800.

In FY 1985, the USG has provided 10,000 MT of corn through World Vision International and another 42,250 MT of corn bilaterally. The value of FY 1985 shipments (as of January 1985) was \$14,148,700.

The GPRM agreed to use the local currency generated from the sale of P.L. 480 Title II foods to expand agricultural production, especially in the private sector, or to support relief and rehabilitation activities.

Summary of USG Assistance

Ambassador's authority.....	\$25,000
Travel and administrative expenses of a CDC expert.....	\$4,400
Support for UNDRO/WFP sea transport program.....	\$98,500
Grant to CARE for logistical support unit.....	\$1,000,000
Grant to LORCS.....	\$130,000
Total OFDA assistance.....	\$1,257,900
Value of P.L. 480 Title II commodities (FY 1984).....	\$15,339,800
Value of P.L. 480 Title II commodities (FY 1985).....	\$14,148,700
TOTAL	\$30,746,400

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

CARE - established a logistical support unit (LSU) to coordinate the field distribution of emergency food and other relief supplies to the drought victims and to provide on-the-job training to Mozambique nationals for the operation of the LSU.

CWS - appealed for \$150,000 in support of the WCC appeal for \$500,000; forwarded \$68,200 directly to the Mozambique Council of Churches and \$5,000 to UNDRO.

LWR - gave \$100,000 in cash to support the Lutheran World Federation appeal (presumably included in the LWF's listed contribution).

Mennonite Central Committee - provided 8,500 tons of maize valued at \$1,742,500.

World Vision International - operated a program in Tete Province near the Zimbabwe border, providing food (from the Netherlands, initially) and medical services to 100,000 of the most seriously affected drought victims; supplied diesel fuel (12,000 liters per month for seven months, partly financed by Norway) and trucks to carry out the operation.

TOTAL \$1,815,700

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

Caritas Internationalis - 300 tons of maize, 100 tons of beans, and cash, all valued at \$108,919; additional cereals and canned food, value not reported.

EEC - \$83,340 in cash through German Caritas; technical assistance (four medical personnel and a logistics expert) for five months, rental of four vehicles, local costs related to the relief program, and cash grants through PVO's, all valued at \$1,530,000; support of German Red Cross program in Inhambane; \$1,565,217 through UNHCR and Commission Delegation for Mozambican refugees in Zimbabwe; 20,000 tons of cereal to WFP (\$3,248,000) (presumably included in WFP's listed contribution); beans (\$812,000); additional 42,000 tons of wheat, value not reported.

FAO - launched an international appeal for assistance to drought-stricken countries of Africa; developed a crop rehabilitation program for Mozambique, including seed procurement; gave seeds valued at \$500,000; sent a team to review food requirements.

ICRC - sent a mission to Mozambique in January/February 1983 to confirm seriousness of the cholera epidemic in Gaza Province.

LORCS - issued appeals for medical supplies and emergency food; provided 3,000 feeding bowls and 300 Red Cross tunics, value not reported; conducted a feeding program in Maputo, Gaza, and Nampula provinces, in cooperation with the MRC; contributed 2,548 MT of maize, 340 MT of beans, and 2.3 MT of freeze-dried products for the Manjacaze intensive feeding center for four months, value not reported.

LWF - launched an international appeal for \$391,000; donated 1,036 tons of maize worth \$320,000 and 2,000 liters of oil, value not reported; provided inland transportation costs (\$60,000) for 4,500 tons of wheat from the Danish government.

OPEC - donated 3,000 tons of cereals, value not reported.

UNDP - assisted the GPRM in a borehole project for Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, and Manica provinces; contributed \$230,000 in cash for the water supply project and planned to spend an additional \$3.2 million on water recovery projects.

UNDR0 - supported the GPRM appeal for assistance for the northern provinces in 1982 and, in January 1983, launched an international appeal for relief for the central and southern provinces; extended the appeal to include medical items, equipment and technical assistance for the Maputo water supply and rural well-drilling projects, and cash assistance for the sea-borne food delivery system; donated \$25,000 in cash; headed a U.N. interagency mission to Mozambique in January 1984 to assess the situation and identify unmet needs and measures for rehabilitation. The U.N. planned to assign a permanent representative to Tete Province to help monitor the emergency and administer U.N. assistance.

UNHCR - planned a program to assist Mozambican refugees in Zimbabwe.

UNICEF - donated medicines and medical supplies valued at \$460,000 as well as cooking utensils, value not reported; sent a transport consultant to Tete Province to work with local authorities and two experts from CARE in identifying transport needs. UNICEF also planned to provide a transportation expert for a three month period starting in January 1985 to suggest ways to rehabilitate the truck fleet.

U.N. Special Account Mozambique - provided \$101,000 in cash for the water supply project.

WCC - launched an appeal for \$500,000 to assist the Mozambique Christian Council in purchasing food and agricultural inputs and forwarded \$384,000 (as of September 1983); gave \$69,000 in medicines for cholera relief.

WFP - arranged a coastal shipping program and provided a transport expert to travel aboard the relief vessels; provided 50,820 MT of maize, 3,600 MT of pulses, and 25 MT of freeze-dried products (as of February 2, 1984), all valued at \$12,243,000; gave additional food assistance, including an intensive feeding program (\$747,800), a program for 75,000 persons in Tete Province (\$753,000), and food for Mozambican refugees in Zimbabwe (\$859,300).

WHO - prepared a list of medical requirements in cooperation with the GPRM and purchased supplies valued at \$183,486 (using cash from the Government of Finland and credited to Finland); gave 100,000 liters of oral rehydration salts for cholera treatment, with a total value of \$23,500.

Governments

Australia - 4,000 tons of rice worth \$25,496 and an additional 4,138 tons of rice, value not reported; \$25,000 in cash through UNDRO.

Austria - 14,000 tons of maize, value not reported; \$1,225,000 in cash.

Belgium - \$56,000 in cash through Socialist Solidarity Belgium for the purchase of tools and seeds (presumably included in the listed contributions of that organization); planned to send 2,000 tons of wheat, value not reported.

Canada - \$293,680 in cash through local and international voluntary agencies; 58,225 MT of food valued at \$15,270,000 (1980 to 1984).

Denmark - 7,500 tons of wheat and 100 tons of milk powder, all valued at approximately \$1,410,000, and 29,200 tons of maize, value not reported; \$23,645 in cash through LORCS.

Finland - \$181,818 in cash through WHO and \$131,580 in cash to the Finnish Red Cross; milk powder valued at \$782,609.

France - cash and in-kind assistance for the water supply project, with a total value of \$265,000; three trucks at a cost of \$104,250; 3,800 tons of cereals through WFP, 2,000 tons of wheat, 10 tons of seeds, emergency food, medicines, and tools; value not reported.

Germany, Fed. Rep. - 9,000 tons of maize (of which 3,000 tons were valued at \$525,000); \$20,000 in cash through UNDRO for the coastal shipping operation; \$72,300 in cash through the Embassy in Maputo; corn seeds worth \$38,500; \$153,850 in cash through Caritas and Deutsches Diakonisches Werk for the drought and flood disasters; \$20,770 in cash through Deutsche Welthungerhilfe; \$71,762 in cash to ICRC.

Greece - \$3,000 in cash for the coastal shipping program.

Italy - 7,000 tons of rice and 1.1 tons of medicines and tools, all valued at approximately \$2,205,000; 10,000 tons of maize worth \$5,111,821; \$20,000 in cash to UNDR0 for the coastal shipping program and an additional \$263,157 cash grant to UNDR0; \$18,750 for internal transport. Italy planned to provide another 10,000 tons of rice, value not reported.

Ireland - \$16,762 in cash through UNDR0.

Japan - 7,614 tons of rice, with a partial value of \$1,412,000.

Netherlands - 6,000 tons of wheat worth \$1,538,460; cash and in-kind assistance for the water supply project, all valued at \$1 million; 5,000 tons of flour and 10,000 tons of maize with a total value of \$3,340,000; over 20 trucks for Sofala and Manica provinces, value not reported. The Netherlands planned to provide 31,000 tons of maize in 1984 (may include the 10,000 tons listed above).

Norway - 250 tons of fish valued at \$263,890; \$67,568 in cash through UNDR0; services of a shipping expert valued at \$20,000; hardened fat for margerine worth \$633,000; support for transporting maize from Zimbabwe, valued at \$1,265,800; \$135,000 for the purchase of diesel fuel for relief operations in Tete Province; \$2,285 in cash through the Norwegian Red Cross for the transport of 500 kg of fish protein concentrate for Manica Province; \$712,510 in cash through local and international voluntary agencies.

Portugal - medicines, food, and water supply equipment, all valued at \$318,360; canned fish worth \$43,000.

Soviet Union - 10,000 tons of rice, value not reported; 500 kg of medicines and medical supplies valued at \$12,500; three cars, two motor-cycles, tents, agricultural tools, clothing and footwear, with a total value of \$280,000; domestic goods worth \$12,000,000.

Spain - 2,000 tons of wheat, value not reported.

Sweden - 8,160 tons of wheat valued at \$1,466,666; inland transportation project, including the provision of 32 trucks, spare parts, mobile workshops, and a road diesel tank unit, partially valued at \$1,746,000; follow-up program to train personnel in transport logistics and administration; seeds worth \$200,000.

Switzerland - \$23,100 in cash; 100 family tents at a cost of \$20,833; 53 tons of dairy products, valued at \$230,090, for distribution through various voluntary agencies; 50 tons of dried milk worth \$252,780.

United Kingdom - 3,000 tons of maize, value not reported, and 11,500 tons of cereals valued at \$2,238,000; protein-enriched food, transport and distribution costs, and cash for seeds, all valued at \$292,000; \$196,078 in cash for relief items for Tete Province and an additional \$196,078 for the purchase of eight trucks and spare parts for use in that province; medical supplies valued at \$92,810 for Inhambane Province; \$149,750 in cash.

Vatican - \$35,000 in cash (of which \$20,000 went to Caritas).

Vietnam - 2,000 tons of rice, value not reported.

Zimbabwe - 25,000 tons of maize valued at \$3,535,353; camps to shelter Mozambican refugees in Zimbabwe.

Voluntary Agencies

Arbeiter - Samarita Bund (Germany, Fed. Rep.) - 17.1 tons of food and relief supplies through UNDRO, value not reported.

Belgium Socialist Solidarity, Norske Folkenjelp (Norway), and Arbeiter - Samarita Bund (Germany, Fed. Rep.) - purchased jointly a truck/trailer, food, and seeds at a cost of \$170,068.

Christian Aid (U.K.) - \$41,840 in cash to Mozambique Council of Churches.

Denmark Red Cross - 3,000 tons of wheat (exchanged for maize), value not reported.

Finland Red Cross - 50 MT of dried fish, value not reported, and \$82,600 in cash.

Germany, Fed. Rep. Red Cross - 2,000 tons of maize worth \$350,000; 99,177 kg of dried fish, value not reported; a relief program (with EEC support) in Inhambane; food, medicines, tents, vehicles, etc. for the relief operation, all valued at \$1,470,180.

Norway Red Cross - dried fish valued at \$780,000; two trucks, value not reported, and \$59,700 in cash for operational costs of the trucks.

Oxfam (U.K.) - Land Rover for use of the District Medical Officer in Vilanculos, and seeds, with a total value of \$81,600; medicines, food, clothing, seeds, and another vehicle, all valued at \$171,831; training program for community health workers in Inhambane.

Sweden Red Cross - 76 tons of enriched flour valued at \$44,570; \$202,520 in cash; services of a nutritional delegate, value not reported.

Switzerland Red Cross - \$27,523 in cash; approximately 10 tons of milk powder and services of two delegates, value not reported.

United Kingdom Red Cross - \$1,517 in cash.

TOTAL \$89,556,686