

MOZAMBIQUE

THE COST OF INACTION

July 2025



OCHA

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT AND IMPACT OF FUNDING REDUCTION

Mozambique stands at the crossroads of multiple converging crises, where the consequences of delayed or insufficient action are measured not only in financial terms, but in human lives and dignity. Over the past months, the country has faced a relentless cascade of emergencies—worsening conflict in the north, recurrent and intensifying climate shocks (including cyclones and drought) and the resurgence of deadly disease outbreaks—all amid a persistent shortfall in humanitarian funding

The conflict in Cabo Delgado continues to deteriorate. In May 2025, the number of security incidents and violence affecting civilians reached the highest since 2022. Attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) have been happening in larger geographical areas and have shifted closer to main roads, disrupting movement and humanitarian aid. Since January 2025, continued violence and insecurity uprooted over 95,000 people, many of whom still live in precarious conditions with limited access to basic services and protection. Over 700,000 returnees have returned to their places of origins but are still considered in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The country is reeling from the effects of a prolonged El Niño-induced drought, which resulted in 4.89 million people projected to experience IPC Phase 3+ (crisis or worse), including about 912,000 at Emergency (IPC 4) levels, in October 2024–March 2025. The drought has pushed over 140,000 children into acute malnutrition and forced families into extreme coping strategies, including child marriage and survival sex. Between late 2024 and early 2025, Mozambique was struck by a series of powerful tropical cyclones—Chido, Dekeledi and Jude—which compounded the country's protracted humanitarian crisis. These storms brought torrential rains, flash floods, and destructive winds, affecting tens of thousands of families already grappling with food insecurity, conflict, and displacement. Infrastructure was severely damaged, while farmland and livelihoods were wiped out in some of the most vulnerable provinces.

Mozambique is grappling with a major cholera outbreak, with nearly 4,500 new cases reported between October 2024 and July 2025. Poor access to safe water, compounded by recent cyclones and weak infrastructure, has fueled the spread. In July 2025, the country also confirmed its first mpox cases.

Women and girls continue to bear the brunt of Mozambique's humanitarian crisis. Conflict and displacement have sharply increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV), including conflict-related sexual violence, while up to 75% of services for GBV prevention, mental health, and reproductive health are disrupted. Safe spaces and protection mechanisms are vanishing, deepening an already critical gender crisis. The deprioritization of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) further compounds this crisis. As of April 2025, 26% of humanitarian organizations had scaled back PSEA activities, and over 35% of dedicated staff positions were lost to funding cuts. This has weakened reporting systems, reduced survivor support, and undermined accountability—putting already vulnerable populations at even greater risk. At the same time, humanitarian access is increasingly fragile. Insecurity threatens both communities and aid workers, while local NGOs are overstretched and exposed.

As of July 2025, the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), which seeks \$352 is only 19 per cent funded, having received \$66 million. To adapt to the new funding reality, aid agencies reprioritized their response efforts, targeting only 317,000—a 71 per cent reduction from the 1.1 million people originally targeted. The reprioritized plan requires \$126 million—down 61 per cent from the original request of \$326 million. Urgent and sustained funding is essential to prevent further deterioration and address the escalating humanitarian needs that remain as acute and widespread as ever



1.3M
People in need



1.1M
People targeted



352M
2025 HNRP
requirements



\$66M
Funding received
(as of July 2025)

81%
unmet funding

PEOPLE TARGETED by cluster

| Cluster/sector | 2025 HNRP target (Conflict) | Reprioritized target (Conflict) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Camp Coordination & Camp Management | 250K | 60K |
| Education | 211K | 75K |
| Food Security & Livelihood | 737K | 218K |
| Health | 434K | 218K |
| Nutrition | 268K | 69K |
| Protection | 517K | 130K |
| General Protection | 278K | 91K |
| Child Protection | 338K | 123K |
| Gender-Based Violence | 373K | 100K |
| Housing, Land & Property | 59K | 14K |
| Shelter & NFIs | 334K | 157K |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 644K | 276K |
| Refugee Response | 25K | 25K |
| Logistics | | |

FUNDING (US\$) by cluster

| | Funding required (2025 HNRP conflict) | Funding received ¹ (as of July 2025) | % Unmet requirements |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Camp Coordination & Camp Management | 6.5M | 1.4M | 79% |
| Education | 12.7M | 0.7M | 94% |
| Food Security & Livelihood | 155.3M | 16.6M | 89% |
| Health | 16.7M | 1.0M | 94% |
| Nutrition | 16.7M | 0.2M | 99% |
| Protection | 36.7M | 5.6M | 85% |
| General Protection | 12.5M | 3.3M | 74% |
| Child Protection | 10.4M | 0.4M | 96% |
| Gender-Based Violence | 12.1M | 1.8M | 85% |
| Housing, Land & Property | 1.7M | 0.1M | 95% |
| Shelter & NFIs | 21.8M | 1.4M | 93% |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 23.9M | 2.3M | 90% |
| Refugee Response | 18.3M | 3.8M | 79% |
| Logistics | 7.6M | 0.7M | 91% |

1 <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1131/clusters> all funding references are extrapolated from FTS

WHAT IF WE FAIL?

A deadly mix of displacement, food insecurity and years of violence that have disrupted critical services such as health, water and sanitation, is threatening the lives of the most vulnerable in northern Mozambique. The situation is particularly dire for women and children caught in areas affected by conflict and insecurity. The risk of a generational crisis is growing—one that could have lasting consequences for Cabo Delgado, the wider region, and beyond. Without safe and sustained humanitarian access, scaled-up assistance, the cost in human lives will continue to rise.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Immediate, additional, and flexible funding

Scale-up of lifesaving aid and services, including cash assistance

Movement of and prepositioning of supplies

Consider partners' presence and response capacity in areas of acute needs

Cost-effective interventions

THE COST OF INACTION IS TOO HIGH

Months after the cuts took effect, available resources are rapidly depleting, and the humanitarian situation in Mozambique is poised to worsen significantly. With renewed funding, humanitarian agencies are ready to swiftly scale up operations and meet the needs identified earlier this year. The humanitarian community remains committed to addressing urgent needs and advocating for the resumption of essential aid. As we navigate these challenges, donor support is needed to sustain lives in Mozambique. Inaction will cost Mozambicans heavily, aggravate human suffering and lead to preventable loss of lives. The gains made over years of investment in humanitarian- an action will be lost. Without sufficient resources, humanitarians cannot restore and expand lifesaving assistance to those 1.1 million people who need it most as defined in the 2025 HNRP.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

If CCCM is not funded through the end of the year, over 245,000 displaced people in Cabo Delgado will face severe gaps in access to basic services and safe living conditions. Vulnerable groups, especially women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities will face heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence. Poor site planning will lead to overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and unsafe shelters. Lack of community engagement and feedback mechanisms will weaken trust and local ownership. Tensions with host communities will rise, increasing the risk of secondary displacement. The long-term cost of inaction will out-weigh the immediate investment needed for sustained CCCM support.

Education

In Cabo Delgado, 112,000 children remain out-of-school, while 220,000 face severe learning disruptions as conflict and insecurity continue to affect schools and learning initiatives. Recurrent cyclones have destroyed classrooms and materials, leaving an additional 500,000 students without safe learning spaces. Children denied access to learning face heightened risks of child recruitment, early marriage, and sexual violence, while prolonged disruption undermines psychosocial well-being, livelihoods, and social cohesion. However, severe cuts in development aid and critically low humanitarian funding have stalled education response. 145,000 students will be at risk of dropout due to insufficient teaching and learning materials; 66,000 children and youth will not access accelerated or alternative education opportunities, remaining out of school. Teacher training and psychosocial support remain unfunded. Nearly 4,000 teachers will keep having limited capacity to cope with crisis-affected learning environments and address students' educational and protection needs. Without urgent resources, Cabo Delgado faces a lost generation, deepening inequality and jeopardising long-term peace and development.

Food Security & Livelihoods

Due to limited funding, food assistance and livelihoods in Mozambique are falling critically short, leaving hundreds of thousands of people at risk of deepening hunger and economic despair. Approximately 403,000 people have received food assistance so far and, among those reached and prioritized, most are surviving on half rations (with only 39 per cent of the daily caloric needs). Beyond July, WFP will be forced to reduce the caseload to 340,000 with assistance limited to only three districts of Cabo Delgado province (Macomia, Muidumbe and Quissanga) and further to 265,000 effective from November 2025, reducing the assistance to Macomia and Quissanga. Additionally, tropical cyclones in northern provinces have left extensive cropland flooded and further depleting food reserves. Support for agriculture and livelihoods is even more dire, reaching barely 91,800 people, or 13 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries. For the remainder of the year approx. 600,000 people facing severe food insecurity in Cabo Delgado and receiving no assistance (including 235,000 enduring emergency levels - IPC Phase 4), funding shortfall isn't just a gap—it's a lifeline slipping away.

Health

A major funding shortfall is crippling national health programs and Humanitarian health response, just as people need them most. The lab sample collection program—lifeline for 250,000 people each month, mostly living with HIV and TB— and the last mile distribution of medicines to health facilities have been abruptly cut during several weeks, hence its dependence on international actors, creating drug ruptures and serious gaps in samples transportation and testing. Stock outs in the health centers remain a key challenge, especially in conflict affected districts, and family planning cuts will have a major impact on access to family planning services and commodities. Humanitarian actors and the Ministry of Health cannot cover the increasing gaps that will affect over 95 per cent of health facilities, hitting the most vulnerable hardest: the chronically ill, people with disabilities, elderly, women children, victims of violence. In conflict-hit districts like Mocimboa da Praia, Macomia and Quissanga, health services are barely functioning, facilities remain closed, mobile teams are pulling back, and health organizations are scarce. Cyclone recovery efforts remain unfinished and emergency stockpiles unreplenished, stretching capacity to respond to future crisis. Without urgent action, maternal and neonatal mortality malaria, HIV/TB, malnutrition, outbreaks and other health risks will continue to rise.

Nutrition

Over 8,000 children under five are at high risk of death from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) due to a shortage of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). 26,000 children, pregnant and lactating women are expected to face life-threatening conditions from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and related illnesses. The nutritional status of 268,000 children under five in cyclone- and conflict-affected districts is deteriorating rapidly due to disrupted community nutrition services, especially with over 300 CHWs impacted.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

End to violence
against civilians and
protection of their
rights

Protection of
humanitarian workers,
their assets and
civilian infrastructure

Earmark PSEA in
programmes

Unimpeded
humanitarian access

Protection

Over 600,000 IDPs and 700,000 returnees are still affected by the conflict. In 2025, incidents involving civilians increased, with more than 130,000 people affected by violence in May alone, including rising cases of kidnapping, civilian killings, and the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Approximately 41 per cent of displaced and returnee individuals require documentation, which provides a baseline for effective protection and assistance, affecting over half a million people. The heightened targeting of civilians, combined with funding cuts, impacts the most vulnerable groups; among those reached in 2025, only 3 per cent were elderly, and just 1.5 per cent were persons with disabilities. Further cuts threaten to reduce support to these vulnerable individuals even more.

Child Protection

Severe funding shortfalls have significantly disrupted the 2025 HNRP for Child Protection Actors, resulting in the exclusion of 7 out of 12 originally prioritized districts during reprioritization. This reduction will deprive 200,627 children and adolescents of access to a protective environment, including vital mental health and psychosocial support services, increasing risks of social instability, violence, and long-term physical and psychological harm. Approximately 34,980 children, including 52 per cent girls, survivors of violence, and GBV, will lose access to essential case management services. More than 2,700 unaccompanied and separated children will be left without protective care, while 810 children formerly associated with armed forces or groups will be denied reintegration support. Additionally, over 13,500 reported child marriage cases will remain unaddressed. These gaps threaten to undermine children's safety, dignity, and the progress for protection in a volatile context that is impacted by armed conflict and natural disasters, and ability to build resilience, and recovery opportunities across Mozambique's most vulnerable children.

Gender-based Violence

The ongoing humanitarian situation has heightened the risks faced by women and adolescent girls, yet the 2025 HNRP remains critically underfunded. Of the 373,000 people targeted for GBV services, less than 25 per cent had been reached by June, leaving over 220,000 women and girls without the support they urgently need. GBV prevention initiatives have been impacted, while the operations of GBV service facilities, including safe spaces, have been significantly affected. The cost of inaction is not only measured in preventable harm and prolonged trauma, but also in the increased strain on already overstretched services. As response capacity diminishes, survivors' trust in public systems further erodes, reinforcing a cycle of underreporting, impunity, and the normalization of violence against women and girls. GBV also has long-term impacts on social and economic productivity, undermining the resilience of communities and recovery efforts. In conflict settings, where protective systems are weakened and risks are elevated, failing to act decisively will compromise both lives and development gains.

Shelter & NFIs

Failure to fund shelter and NFI support will leave over 125,535 crisis-affected people exposed to extreme weather, disease, and unsafe living conditions. Women, children, and persons with disabilities will face increased risks of gender-based violence, exploitation, and social exclusion. Overcrowding and lack of privacy in temporary shelters will erode dignity and compromise protection. In 2025, only 12 per cent of the total response corresponds to conflict-related shelter needs, severely limiting humanitarian response capacity and with shelter funding below 10 per cent, and over 43.7 per cent crisis affected families being supported by the pipeline supplies, response capacity remains critically constrained. Furthermore, reduced funding forced reprioritization of districts and reallocation of stock, delaying aid to the most vulnerable in other districts. Delayed shelter recovery will prolong displacement and deepen psychological distress among affected families. Tensions with host communities may escalate, undermining social cohesion and stability. The longer shelter needs remain unmet, the higher the financial and humanitarian cost of future interventions - reinforcing the critical role of the Common Pipeline in enabling timely and cost-effective shelter responses.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Cabo Delgado's priority WASH districts – Quissanga, Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Mueda, Muidumbe, and Nangade – funding gaps have left 126,000 people (approx. 63,000 children) without access to safe water, 148,000 (74,000 children) without sanitation, and 196,000 (98,000 children) without hygiene services. Among them, 138,000 people (69,000 children) in cholera hotspot areas face an added layer of risk, as potential outbreaks compound the impacts of displacement and insecurity. Water trucking to remote communities in Mueda and Nangade has ceased, leaving an estimated 50,000 people to seek unsafe alternatives and exposing women and children to malnutrition and serious protection risks. With only 9 per cent of the required WASH funds available in 2025, key partners have been forced to suspend or scale down life-saving interventions including water delivery, latrine construction, and hygiene kit distribution. Without urgent investment, disease outbreaks will surge, costing more lives and resources than timely, preventive WASH action would require.

Logistics

After December 2025, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in Cabo Delgado will be running on carryover funds and cost recovery alone. Without urgent new funding, operations may cease in February 2026. Over 80 humanitarian groups rely on UNHAS to reach remote, conflict-hit areas, and losing this access would disrupt critical aid. UNHAS is essential for transporting medical supplies, personnel, and equipment to hard-to-reach communities. If grounded, humanitarian operations will stall, aid delivery will be delayed or stopped, and the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach will go unsupported.

Logistics in Mozambique is a critical last-resort mechanism that ensures the delivery of humanitarian aid where no other reliable logistics solutions exist. It provides essential services such as transport, storage, and coordination, while also facilitating information sharing and preparedness to support humanitarian actors in hard-to-reach and disaster-affected areas. Without new funding, these essential common services will be unavailable from June 2026 onwards.

HOW TO GIVE

Contribute towards Mozambique Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). Donors can contribute directly to aid organizations participating in the international humanitarian coordination mechanism in Mozambique, as identified in the HNRP.

For more details see the following links: 1) FTS: <https://fts.unocha.org/plans/1131/summary>

2) <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1267>