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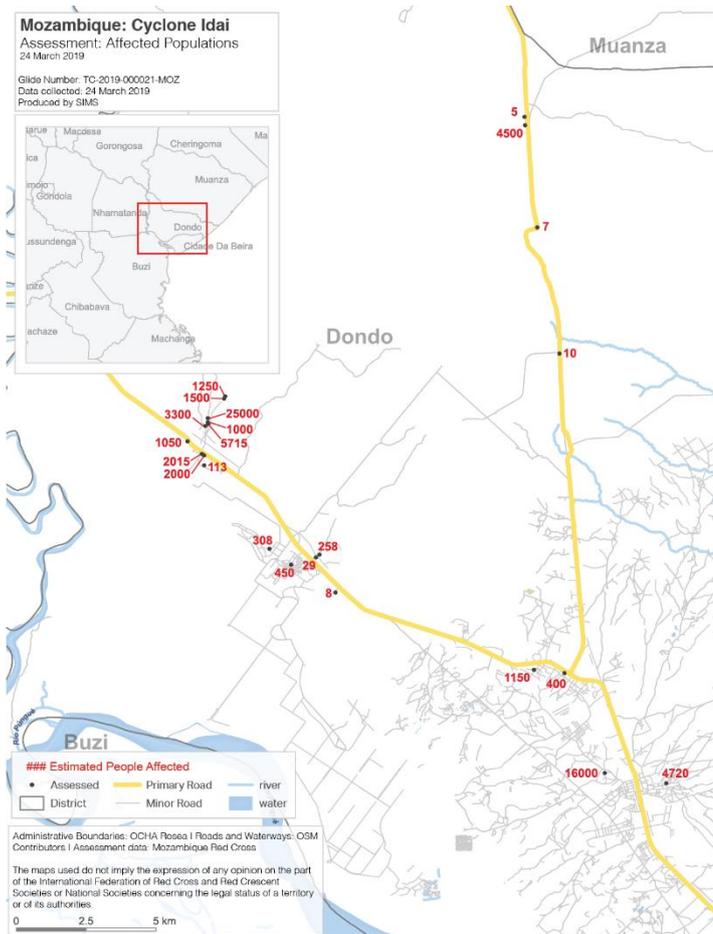UNITED NATIONS

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Initial Assessment Report
Tropical Cyclone IDAI | Mozambique | District of Dondo

25 March 2019

Mozambique: Cyclone Idai
Assessment: Affected Populations
24 March 2019

Glide Number: TC-2019-000021-MOZ
Data collected: 24 March 2019
Produced by SIMS

Estimated People Affected
- Assessed · · · · Primary Road · · · river
- District · · · · Minor Road · · · water

Administrative Boundaries: OCHA Rosea | Roads and Waterways: OSM Contributors | Assessment data: Mozambique Red Cross

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

0   2.5   5 km

OVERVIEW

Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall during the night of 14th to 15th March 2019 in the district of Dondo (nearby the city of Beira) in the Province of Sofala, in central Mozambique. The cyclone brought torrential rains and strong winds to Sofala, Zambezia, Manica, and Inhambane provinces. The cyclone had heavy impacts on the city of Beira and surrounding areas resulting in loss of communication and partial access due to roads being blocked and infrastructure such as bridges heavily damaged. In addition, initial findings report that important damage and destruction to shelter and settlements occurred, as well health and WASH facilities being largely impacted and damaged.

Dondo is a distict within Sofala province with a population close to 185,000 according to the 2017 census (Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 2017). Due to its close proximity to the Beira Emergency Operation Center and relative accessibility the first inter-agency initial assessment was conducted on 24 March targeting 24 communites. The extent of the damage is still unfolding as access to communities is slowly being regained due to the inland water extent reducing. Despite the geographic scope of the impact of TC Idai being very large, this initial assessment report provides an initial overview on one of those areas affected.

CRISIS SEVERITY AND PRIORITIES

1. Humanitarian conditions

The initial assessment indicated that there are **around 70,000 affected people across the assessed area which equals to around 38% of the total population of the district of Dondo**. This will have to be confirmed and verified with more in-depth assessments in the coming days.

A reported 4,000 people were displaced due to flooding but now have returned to their areas of origin due to the improved accessibility of roads.

The majority of communities have reported concerns and needs throughout all sectors, with **Food and WASH / Heath being identified as life threatening**. Crops have been destroyed, including stockpiles of communities and the lack of logistics access is hampering the replenishment of markets and therefore communities are lacking access to food. WASH infrastructures are being overloaded in temporary shelters and the extent of the inland muddy storm waters of Cyclone Idai contain multiple risks to human health with Cholera being foremost among these.

2. Identified priority needs/sectors

Food	WASH / Health	Shelter

Food, WASH/Health and Shelter were all identified as sectors that the communities require immidate assistance with. **Of importance was that food and WASH/health were rated as life therating problems by all communities**. The other Sectors all were reported as having signifcant issues with scores rating 3 out of 5 or higher. Over half the communities assessed reported that they had been sick with Fever, DIarreia and/or general pains in the past week following the Cyclone. Just over half of the communities who reported having individual who are sick reported that they had not received treatment. Of those who had been treated more than half had been vitsed by a doctor while the others had visted a local health post or in one case a hospital.

The area from Quelimane to Beira and inland across the border into Zimbabwe includes numerous areas which are considered under standard conditions to be high risk for cholera infections. Central Mozambique saw outbreaks of the disease in 2015 and again in 2017. Cholera is caused by the infection of water supplies with sewage which may contain the vibrio cholerae bacteria.

Flooding from Cyclone Idai has severely affected sanitation throughout the region. Areas which have seen cholera infections in the recent past may see a rapid resurgence of the bacteria. According to reports from IFRC, the first cases in the inundated area have already been detected.

These findings are in line with the inter agency rapid needs assessment in Sofala's Dondo District, that was conducted on the 20th of March 2019. The assessment team noted that displaced persons are sheltering in nearly 30 reception centers established in schools and other public buildings by local authorities. Priority needs of the displaced persons include health due to the the risk of waterborne illnesses, as well as shelter support, as displaced persons have requested shelter materials to return to their homes as soon as possible. The OCHA lead assessment team also highlighted urgent protection concerns given the crowded sleeping arrangements at the centers.

3. Priority interventions required

Kits (such as Shelter Kits)	Vouchers	Services

Kits such as shelter kits, food parcels and Hygine kits were reported the as prefferred proirty intervention (over 70% of interviewed people). With Vouchers and Services, which include access to health and WASH services listed equally by communities as the priority interventions (15% respectively).

4. Geographic scope

Here below the map of the district of Dondo, being thethe affected area in Sofala Province that was assessed by the IFRC on 24th March 2019.
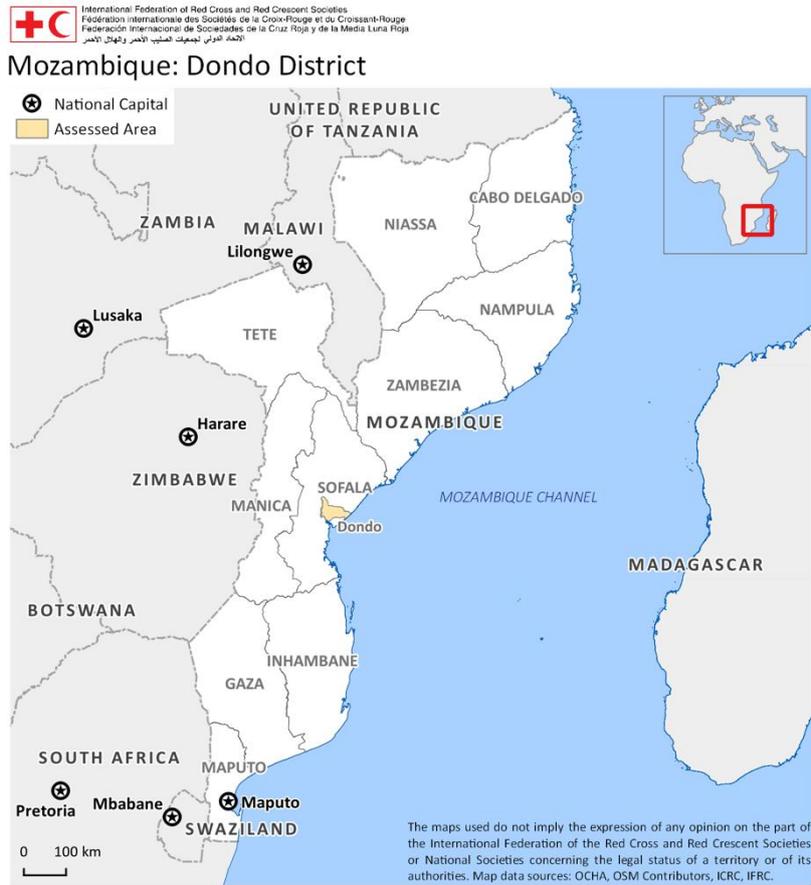
5. Affected vulnerable groups

Infants / Children	Elderly	Pregnant women

The Majority of communities listed both Infants/Children and the Elderly as the most vulnerable affected groups (over 70% of communities for each group).

Whereas Pregnant women were reported in just under 60% of the assessed communities.

Individuals with disabilites were also reported as a vulnerable group affected in just over a quarter of the communities (29%).

Preliminary findings reported by Save the Children report that among almost 100,000 displaced people have 60 per cent of those are children.

According to a report of Direct Relief published on the 22nd of March, Pregnant women in Mozambique are among the most at-risk under normal circumstances. The country's maternal mortality rate is 489 per 100,000 deliveries, which is the world's 21st highest. Among the leading causes of risk for safe deliveries is the lack of access to a skilled birth attendant, usually at a health facility. Given the scale of impact to the health infrastructure of this area women will experience reduced access and therefore higher rates of risk that complicated pregnancies may result in severe injury or death.

The same report states that as is often the case in crises, children under the age of five face some of the most severe health risks, including respiratory illnesses, diarrheal disease and other infectious diseases including cholera, malaria and measles. Mozambique's child mortality rate is among the world's highest at 72.4 per 1000.

6. Accessing information:

A third of communities received their primary communication through face to face, with another third receiving it through radio.

WFP reported on 23rd of March that 80% of electrical infrastructure in Dondo district is damaged which impacted severily the ability of communities to access information.

Translators Without Borders have highlighted the need to ensure that life-saving information is communicated to communities quickly and in a language, they are familiar with. Over 40 languages are spoken in Mozambique but only half of the population can speak Portuguese, with the statistics being lower in rural areas and among women.

RESPONSE CAPACITY & GAPS

7. National Society capacity and response

The IFRC scaled up immediately the support to the Mozambique Red Cross Society and initially deployed a team to Beira on the 16th of March 2019. International Surge deployments have been sent to Mozambique and an initial Emergency Appeal for 10 Million CHF was launched and is currently being revised.

The Mozambique Red Cross Society has mobilized almost 350 volunteers on the ground and 5 Emergency Relief Units (ERUs) as well as almost 30 Surge personnel have been deployed in support to the National Society.
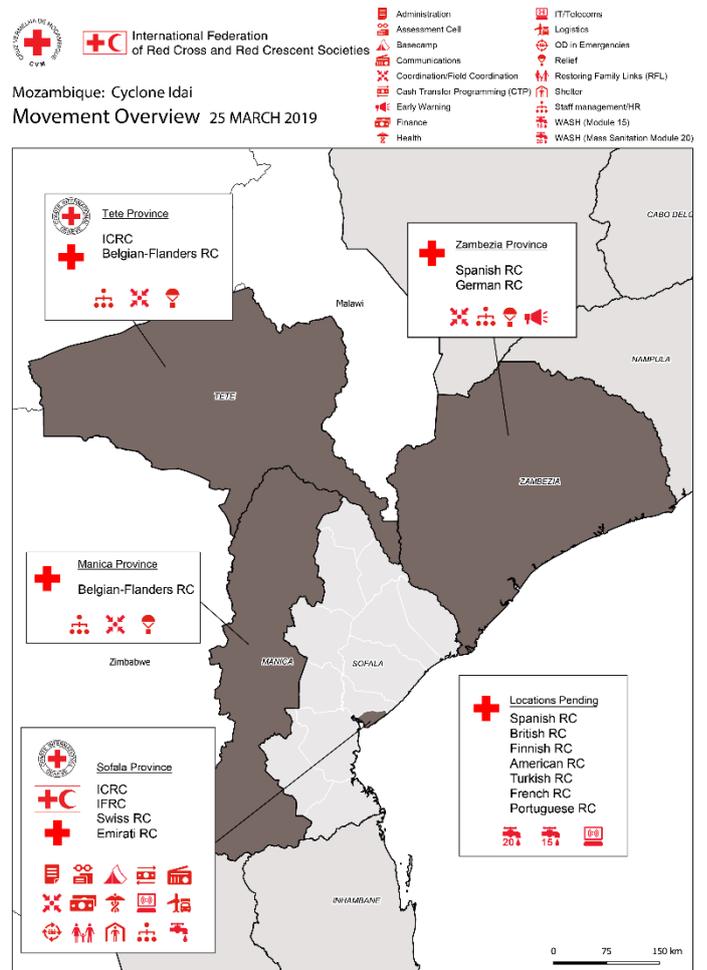
8. International and other humanitarian partner's capacity and response

On 19 March 2019, the Mozambican government declared a national emergency and has formally requested international assistance. UNDAC deployed a full fledged team to support the Government of Mozambique and the IASC Cluster system has been activated and mobilized. The following clusters have been activated for the response to Cyclone Idai:

- CCCM
- Education
- Emergency Telecommunications
- Emergency Shelter and NFIs
- Food Security and Livelihoods

- Health
- Logistics
- Nutrition
- Protection
- WASH

The international and humanitarian community capacity has scaled up with rapid emergency and response teams being deployed. However, lack of access and telecommunications is challenging the ability to assess and respond to the needs on the ground.

UNHAS and other key stakeholders are making fixed-wing plans and helicopters available to the humanitarian community to be able to assess and respond to the hard-to-reach locations and communities.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Damaged logistics infrastructure	Lack of physical access	Lack of communication channels

The strong winds of Tropical Cyclone Idai followed by massive rainfalls have created extensive damage to logistics and telecommunications infrastructure. Beira was able to be accessed by road only on 24th March 2019 as it was cut off due to high levels of inland water and damaged bridges. This is requiring a heavy lift on air operations and air assessments to better understand the needs and is impacting the ability in reaching out to those most vulnerable in a rapid and timely manner.

A lot of communities have been cut off from telecommunications and access to information for the communities is very limited.

The port city of Beira has been severely damaged leaving the population isolated without electricity and communication.

Inland water basins caused by the floods and rainfall are receeding which wil improve the overall operational constraints in the coming days.

PRE-CRISIS OVERVIEW IN AFFECTED AREAS

Mozambique has seen a pattern of deadly floods being worsened by devastating hurricanes in the past, most notably in 2000 and 2007. The strongest landfalling storm in Mozambique was Tropical Cyclone Eline, which hit the southern parts of the country in February 2000, killing 350 people and displacing 650,000 people across Southern Africa. (Reuters 15/03/2019) Other major tropical cyclones with a Category 3 intensity happened in 2006 and 2008. The last tropical cyclone with a Category 4 hit Mozambique in mid-February 2017. (Wunderground 13/03/2019) (acaps, 15/03/2019)

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Mozambique is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. The occurrence of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, drought and earthquakes frequently has a significant impact on its people and the economy

184,000	50%	50%
Total Dondo Population	Male Population	Female Population
(Censue, 2017)	(Censue, 2017)	(Censue, 2017)

For Dondo

For whole Country

54.1	64 deaths / 1,000 live births	36%
Life Expectancy at Birth, in years	Under-one mortality rate	Population living in urban areas
(CIA, 2018 est)	(CIA, 2018 est)	(CIA 2017)

Very High	12.5%	0.7 beds / 1,000 population
Degree of risk - Infectious disases	HIV/AIDS prvalence rate	Hospital bed density
(CIA, 2016)	(CIA, 2017 est)	(CIA, 2011)