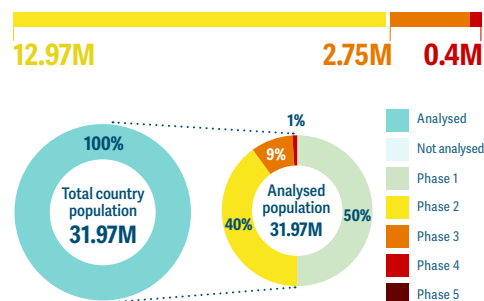


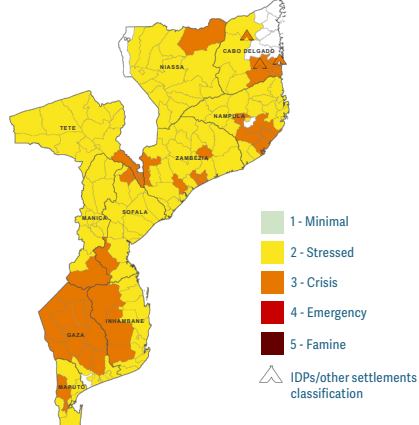
Mozambique

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022/2023

3.15M people or **10%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above, November 2022–March 2023



IPC acute food insecurity situation, November 2022–March 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Mozambique IPC TWG, March 2023.

Food crisis overview

Conflict/insecurity In November 2022–March 2023, 3.15 million people were estimated to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 10 percent of the total population. This 69 percent increase in the population in IPC Phase 3 or above since the November 2021–March 2022 lean season is partly due to a more than doubling of the analysed population, but there is nonetheless a significant shift from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Emergency (IPC Phase 4), with some 400 000 people in that phase, mainly in Cabo Delgado and Nampula (IPC, December 2021; IPC, March 2023).

The highest numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above were in the districts of Cabo Delgado, Zambézia and Nampula. Of the 150 districts analysed, 34 were classified in IPC Phase 3 and the rest in Stressed (IPC Phase 2), except for the municipality of the city of Maputo which was classified in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) (IPC, March 2023).

Acute food insecurity since 2016

Mozambique has been categorized as a major food crisis in every edition of the GRFC. Three districts of Gaza (Chibuto, Mabalane and Guijá) have consistently been classified in IPC Phase 3 since 2018. Acute food insecurity increased sharply in Cabo Delgado since 2017, when all districts were in Minimal acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 1). By 2021, most districts were in IPC Phase 3 (GRFC, April 2022).

In terms of magnitude, trends reveal that the worst year in GRFC history was 2022, with 3.15 million people in IPC Phase 3 or above. However, 2017 had the highest number of people in IPC Phase 4 – almost 1 million people (IPC, January 2021).

Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

Conflict/insecurity Since 2017, conflict in Cabo Delgado has disrupted livelihoods, caused displacement and limited access to basic social services. In 2022, violence spilled into the neighbouring province of Nampula (UN, October 2022), and persisting attacks by non-state armed groups continued to cause large population displacements.

The conflict has impacted the fisheries sector in northern Mozambique, with direct damage to infrastructure, while insecurity restricted access to resources to repair and maintain boats (FAO/Government of Mozambique, June 2022). Conflict will likely contribute to a low level of planting in the 2022/23 cropping season in affected areas (FAO-GIEWS, January 2023).

Weather extremes In early 2022, flood damage from tropical storms Ana and Dumako, and cyclone Gombe, affected 217 000 hectares of agricultural land across Nampula, Zambézia, Tete, and parts of Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Manica and Sofala provinces. They caused heavy rains upriver of the Maputo, Incomati and Umbelúzi rivers, resulting in the flooding of 11 500 hectares of agricultural land in Maputo province. Parts of southern and central Mozambique (FEWS NET, April 2022), including Tete, Manica, Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo provinces, also experienced high land temperatures and prolonged dry spells (IPC, December 2021). In the provinces of Gaza and Manica, over half of the reported acute food insecurity was due to drought or irregular rains (IPC, March 2023).

In Nampula province, maize was severely affected by the cyclones, but preliminary findings of a January 2023 study indicate that most poor households had a good cassava harvest in October–November 2022 and earned income from cashew nut sales and agricultural labour opportunities. Additionally, households reported that post-cyclone humanitarian assistance and a good harvest during the post-flood planting season contributed to minimizing food consumption gaps (FEWS NET, January 2023).

In September and October 2022, most crop-producing households reported a drop in planted area for the upcoming 2022/23 season, mainly in Cabo Delgado, Manica and Gaza (FAO, February 2023). The impact of tropical cyclone Freddy in February and March is likely to aggravate food insecurity in 2023 (OCHA, March 2023).

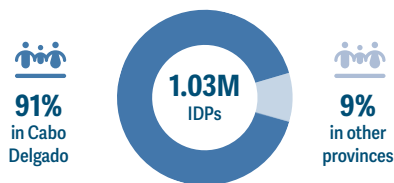
Economic shocks Food, fuel and agricultural input prices, already high due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rose further in 2022, in part due to the war in Ukraine, impacting household purchasing power. In previous years, Mozambique relied heavily on wheat supplies from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, but in 2022 an increase in imports from India helped to compensate for reduced supplies from these countries (FAO-GIEWS, January 2023). In October, food inflation declined to 20 percent from a peak of 22 percent in August 2022. The stable exchange rate has contributed to containing imported inflationary pressure, while a one-percentage point cut in value-added tax rates in December 2022 was expected to further ease pressure on food prices (FAO, December 2022). Still, annual food inflation was estimated at 14 percent in January 2023 (FEWS NET, January 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

IDPs Since 2017, armed violence has driven hundreds of thousands of families to flee their homes in Cabo Delgado. From June to November 2022, the number of internally displaced people increased by 9 percent from about 946 500 to about 1.03 million. Of the total displaced people, more than half were children under 18 years old (IOM, November 2022).

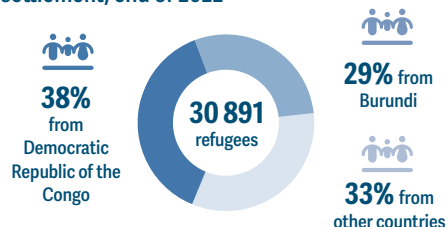
Of these, around 946 000 had fled violence in Cabo Delgado, with about 70 percent living in host communities and 30 percent in displacement sites (UNHCR, December 2022). Despite the return of some IDPs, persistent volatility in the security situation, characterized by scattered and sporadic attacks by insurgents, stopped households from resettling or fully

IDPs largely having fled violence in Cabo Delgado, end of 2022



Source: IOM, November 2022.

Refugees living mainly in Maputo and Maratane settlement, end of 2022



Source: UNHCR, 31 December 2022.

engaging in their income-generating opportunities, keeping them dependent on humanitarian food assistance (FEWS NET, November 2022). Additionally tropical cyclone Gombe displaced 736 000 people in Nampula and Zambezia provinces (OCHA, March 2022). Meanwhile, more than 129 000 people had still not returned home since tropical cyclone Idai in March 2019. Many of them continue to live in emergency shelters in central Manica and Sofala provinces (UNHCR, December 2022).

IDPs face the highest levels of acute food insecurity (FAO-GIEWS, January 2023), yet funding shortfalls hinder sufficient provision of humanitarian assistance. Due to increasing needs and limited funding, the food basket for IDPs was halved in April 2022 to 40 percent of the recommended minimum daily caloric needs (2 100 kcals) (OCHA, October 2022).

In Cabo Delgado, 45 percent of IDPs reported no access to farmland (IOM, September 2021). In Balama, around 92 percent of IDP families had no access to land,

97 percent lacked food and 91 percent struggled to access income-generating activities (IOM, October 2021).

Refugees By the end of 2022, Mozambique hosted over 30 000 refugees. More than half (53 percent) live in the Maputo area and other provinces across the country, about 34 percent in Maratane settlement in Nampula province and 11 percent in Nampula city. Maratane settlement hosts 9 135 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (67 percent) and Burundi (28 percent). Almost half are children. In October 2021, 6 percent of households in Maratane settlement had poor food consumption and 38 percent borderline food consumption (UNHCR/WFP, October 2021).

The majority of households, 78 percent, lack the necessary economic resources to cover minimum food needs. In order to cope, refugee households are more likely than their counterparts in the host community to adopt negative coping strategies to make ends meet. Agriculture is the main livelihood option for 44 percent of the population, but there are limitations to accessing land, agricultural inputs, and capital. Continued high food prices also adversely impacted food access (UNHCR/WFP, October 2021).

NUTRITION

Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, in Cabo Delgado and IDP sites, 2022



Source: SMART October, 2021.

The 2021 rapid SMART survey conducted in seven districts and four IDP sites in Cabo Delgado found a 12.7 percent combined prevalence of wasting. Around 74 700 children under 5 years were projected to be suffering from wasting in 2022 in Cabo Delgado, including 27 400 with severe

wasting. According to this SMART survey, severe wasting ranged from 1–3.8 percent across IDP and host communities (SMART, October 2021). An improvement in child wasting is projected in 2023 due to an overall improvement of food availability at the national level, in spite of localized production shortfalls due to weather extremes.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition in pregnant or lactating women is 'acceptable' (<5 percent), by MUAC (SMART, October 2021).

In 2021, stunting levels were 'very high', ranging from 30.6–67.4 percent among displaced and host communities in Cabo Delgado (SMART, October 2021).

Drivers of undernutrition

Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets Inadequate food consumption, in terms of quantity and variety, leading to nutrient intake deficits is a significant contributor to the poor nutrition situation.

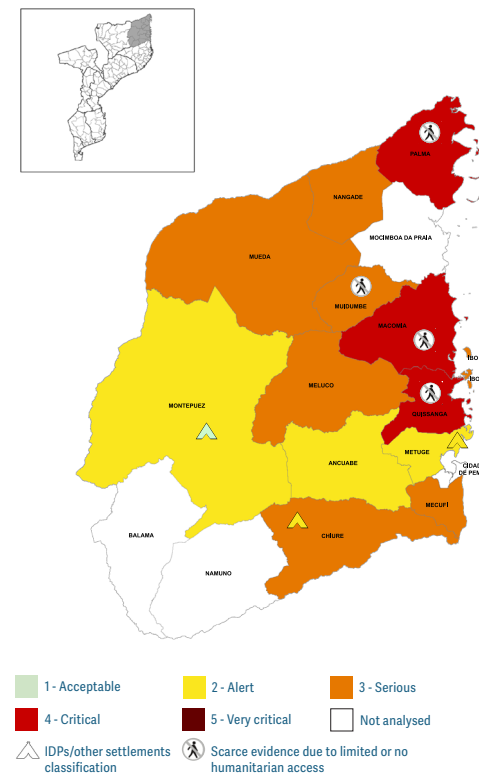
At national level, micronutrient deficiencies account for anaemia in approximately 68.2 percent of children aged 6–59 months and 47.9 percent women of reproductive age (15–49 years), indicating a severe public health problem for both (WHO, 2019).

Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices Only 41 percent of infants under 6 months were exclusively breastfed. Very few children (13 percent) aged 6–23 months consume a MAD that meets both the recommended dietary diversity and frequency thresholds (SMART, October 2021).

High prevalence of infectious diseases In Cabo Delgado and among IDP households, 20–50 percent of children reported fever and 20–25 percent had diarrhoea two weeks prior to the survey. Outbreaks of measles, cholera and acute watery diarrhoea are also common (SMART, October 2021).

Limited access to health and nutrition services Fewer than 20 percent of the targeted caseload of children with wasting were admitted for treatment in 2021, mainly due to limited access to health systems that are already under strain due to limited resources and increased demand (UNICEF, October 2021).

IPC acute malnutrition situation, October 2021–January 2022



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Source: Mozambique IPC TWG, June 2021.

Poor household environment Around 63.4 percent of the total population have access to basic drinking water (UNICEF, Global Report 2020). For Cabo Delgado and the IDP sites, limited access to quality water and sanitation and sub-optimal hygiene contribute to outbreaks of disease (UNICEF Global Report, 2020).