

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Drought and conflict contributed to high levels of acute food insecurity.

**PEAK 2024/2025 (OCTOBER 2024–MARCH 2025)**

**4.9M** people or 24% of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 105 of Mozambique's 156 districts during the lean season.

Of them, **0.2M** were IDPs in Cabo Delgado.

In total, **0.9M** were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The increased coverage of the 2024 IPC analysis partially explains the year-on-year rise in the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse). However, reduced agricultural production from the El Niño-induced drought, flooding and high food prices also contributed to the persistence of high levels of acute food insecurity in central and southern regions. Poor outcomes in the north, particularly in Cabo Delgado, were driven by protracted conflict.

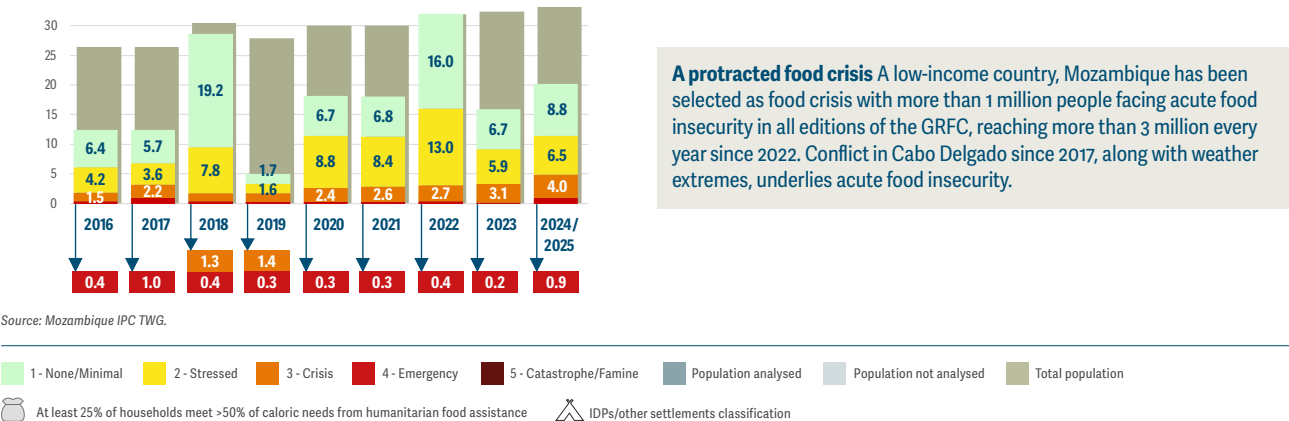
**Drivers of the food crisis 2024–2025**

- Weather extremes** The El Niño-induced drought brought rainfall shortages and above-average temperatures during the 2023–2024 agricultural season, resulting in sharp declines in production, as the country's agriculture sector is dominated by rainfed farming systems. This included a national shortfall of nearly 720 000 tonnes of maize (FAO, September 2024). Vulnerable households therefore depleted food stocks early and were market reliant at the start of the lean season (FEWS NET, October 2024).
- Conflict/insecurity** The protracted conflict in Cabo Delgado stabilized during the second half of 2024. However, small-scale intermittent attacks continued, hindering access to agricultural lands, disrupting markets and trade, and reducing food availability (FEWS NET, October 2024).
- Economic shocks** Below-average supplies of staple foods continued to apply upward pressure on prices, reducing household purchasing power. In October 2024, maize prices remained 33 percent and 60 percent above the five-year average in the southern and central regions, respectively (FEWS NET, October 2024).

Tropical Storm Filipo in March 2024 as well as Cyclone Chido in December 2024 damaged 30 000 and 28 000 hectares of cropland, respectively, in addition to critical infrastructure and livelihoods (FEWS NET, October 2024; OCHA, December 2024).

Source: Mozambique IPC TWG, January 2025.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024/25



NUTRITION CRISIS | Poor diets and diseases drove acute malnutrition in some areas, especially those affected by conflict.

**PEAK 2024 (OCTOBER 2024–MARCH 2025)**

Four out of 47 districts analysed were classified in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) in Nampula and central Zambézia provinces, up from three in 2023. Palma district in Cabo Delgado province saw a considerable improvement, from Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) in 2023 to Acceptable (IPC AMN Phase 1) in 2024.

**ACUTE MALNUTRITION BURDEN (APRIL 2024–MARCH 2025)**

**0.1M** children aged 6–59 months

0.1M MAM 0.03M SAM

**0.02M** pregnant and breastfeeding women

Source: Mozambique IPC TWG, August 2024.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

Children's diets continued to be critically poor, with fewer than 10 percent of 6–23-month-olds receiving a minimum acceptable diet. Only 13 percent of women in Zambézia and Nampula provinces met minimum dietary diversity. For IDPs reliant on humanitarian assistance, rations were reduced to 39 percent of calorific requirements every other month due to funding shortfalls (UN, December 2024).

Exclusive breastfeeding for infants under 6 months ranged from 45 to 60 percent, but declined during the agricultural season as women undertook farming work (IPC, August 2024).

Malaria, diarrhoea and dysentery prevalence was high, especially in Zambézia, Tete and Cabo Delgado, with cholera also present. Poor access to appropriate water and sanitation facilities, and conflict-damaged WASH infrastructure in the north, aggravated the spread of waterborne diseases (UNICEF, February 2024).

In most districts, vaccination coverage was suboptimal (30–60 percent), as was vitamin A supplementation (13 percent in Nicuadala). Good service coverage by humanitarian providers facilitated early case finding and treatment for acute malnutrition in Erati district and Cabo Delgado province. However, insecurity limited humanitarian access in the north (NRC, October 2024; FAO, FSP & WFP, March 2024).

