

JANUARY 2021



Photo: © UN Mozambique/Brenda Hada

CYCLONE ELOISE IMPACT*



- 262,000+ people affected (49,500+ families)
- 16,000 people displaced
- 17,000 houses impacted
- 82 health units damaged
- 400+ classrooms damaged or destroyed

In the early hours of 23 January, Cyclone Eloise – a category two storm packing winds of up to 120 km/hour, gusts of 150 km/h – made landfall in Sofala Province in central Mozambique, an area still recovering from the devastation of Cyclone Idai some two years ago.



Heavy rains in the lead-up to Cyclone Eloise had already raised rivers and basins above their alert levels, increasing the risk for significant flooding in low-lying areas, including Busi district and Beira city.

Preliminary hydrographic analysis suggests that the Limpopo river may flood as a result of the cyclone, prompting preparedness efforts in northern Gaza Province and Limpopo valley.

UNFPA PRIORITIES

- Deliver life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) interventions for Cyclone-affected women and girls, including safe deliveries, family planning, and adequate care for prevention and response to GBV (reproductive health kits)
- Ensure continuity of essential health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services (mobile brigades)
- Establish temporary safe spaces for women and girls affected by the cyclone
- Prevent COVID-19 transmission among health workers and displaced people, with a focus on women, girls, and older persons



Photo: © UNFPA Mozambique

*as of 26 January, data for Sofala, Manica, Inhambane, and Zambezia Provinces provided by Mozambique's Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction, INGD

CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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Photo: UNFPA Mozambique

Sofala Province: Responding to the urgent needs of women, girls and those most vulnerable

UNFPA pre-positioned supplies ahead of Cyclone Eloise:

- **Twenty-two (22) tents** to serve as temporary health centers and women-friendly spaces
- **Reproductive health kits** to ensure safe deliveries for a population of **90,000** over a three-month period
- **2,500 dignity kits** with essential items for vulnerable women and girls, such as soap, underwear, face masks, reusable menstruation pads, and more
- **COVID-19 infection and prevention control** supplies

UNFPA also supported the Government of Mozambique by:

- Supporting feasibility of assessments and immediate access to affected areas by providing two cars to Provincial authorities
- Leading the GBV sub-cluster at the Provincial level, including facilitating and coordinating the implementation of multi-sectoral, inter-agency GBV interventions
- Participating in health and protection assessments in provinces to determine areas of support
- Making technology and IT equipment available to the INGD for communication and mapping exercises



Photo: UNFPA Mozambique

Impact of Cyclone Eloise in other provinces

Six (6) health facilities damaged in Zambezia Province

Three (3) maternity wards affected in Chinde, Namacurra, and Luabo Districts in Zambezia province, impacting the provision of services

Two (2) shelter centers in Manica province received almost 200 Cyclone-affected individuals

“Some people who experienced Cyclone Idai say Eloise was just as bad – not quite as strong, but longer,”

- UNFPA staff member based in Beira, Sofala

CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



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Photo: UINFPA Mozambique

TROPICAL STORM CHALANE: UNFPA Response

- Supported **preparedness efforts** linked to GBV and sexual and reproductive health service provision, **350 dignity kits** to be distributed.
- **Assessed damages** to health centers, rural hospitals, and resettlement areas through a mission led by the Government and partners to the most-affected districts of Sofala province.
- **2,000 dignity kits** sent to Sofala Province, with items including soap, capulanas, menstruation pads, light, and whistle, to support the health, hygiene, and safety of women and girls.
- **15 tents (24sqm in size)**, including equipment and furniture, provided to support the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and/or serve as women-friendly spaces.
- **Equipment shipped and three vehicles** made available to the National Disasters Management Institute (INGC) and the Provincial Government (DPS).
- **100 liters of fuel** provided to rural hospitals to power operating room generators and ensure continuity of life-saving emergency surgical procedures.



Photo: UINFPA Mozambique

Situational Overview

Tropical Storm Chalane crossed central Mozambique on December 30, 2020, sustaining winds of 90km/h upon making landfall in Sofala Province.

Preliminary Damage Reports (INGD, 4 Jan)

21 health units
87 schools
25,000+ homes

- The infrastructure damage of health units/hospitals impacts the availability of maternal and sexual and reproductive health services and consultations.
- Within the province, approximately 90,000 displaced people reside in resettlement sites in Mandruzi, Estaquinha, Mutua, Savene, and Metuchira

CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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Photo: UN Mozambique

PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

- **Pre-positioning vital supplies and commodities:** tents for service continuity, reproductive health, and safe delivery kits, and personal protective equipment for health workers
- **Remote-base care:** immediate deployment of mobile health brigades to offer integrated health and protection services
- **Safe spaces:** operational to immediately provide survivor-centered services, including emergency case management, referrals, and psychosocial support
- **GBV risk mitigation:** raising awareness of available services and information on referral pathways
- **New technologies:** geo-mapping and accessibility mapping to strengthen assessments and identify areas of support
- **Community surveillance and early warning:** to build resilience among communities and those most vulnerable

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With climate change, natural disasters are likely to become more common and more severe, and as we've seen, women and girls will bear the brunt of these crises.

UNFPA works with the Government and partners to better respond to future disasters. It is only by working together, across all sectors and issue areas, that we can ensure we do not leave behind vulnerable women and girls in times of crisis.

- Andrea M. Wojnar, UNFPA Mozambique Representative



Photo: UNFPA Mozambique

Mozambique is the third most vulnerable country in Africa to disaster risks

- UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

A climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis.

During conflicts, natural disasters and public health emergencies, sexual and reproductive health needs are often overlooked – with staggering consequences.

Women do not stop giving birth, and risks of gender-based violence increase during conflicts and disasters.