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## Information bulletin

### Mozambique/Buzi: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Date of disaster</b> 11 February 2020	<b>Date of issue:</b> 24 February 2020
<b>Host National Society:</b> Mozambique Red Cross Society (Cruz Vermelha de Mozambique, CVM) was established in 1981, and officially recognised by the Government of Mozambique (GoM) in 1988. Recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the same year, it became a member of the IFRC almost one year later, in October 1989. Its actions are fully implemented by approximately 169 staff, 7,161 volunteers and 70,000 members.	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> approximately 8,700	
<b>Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> IFRC	
<b>N° of other partner organisations involved in the operation:</b> Emergency Operational Commission (COE), Civil Protection Unit (UNAPROC), National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC), thematic government secretariats, Care, IOM, OXFAM, Plan International and World Vision.	
<a href="#">Photos are available here</a>   <a href="#">Videos are available here</a>	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The **Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM)**, with the support of the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**, has determined that external assistance is not required at this moment, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time. The actions implemented to date to respond to these floods have been incorporated into actions these areas, which also are reched by the Emergency Appeal Mozambique: Cyclone Idai and Kenneth (MDRMZ014).*

## The situation

From 11 to 15 February 2020, Grudja, Estaquinha, Bandua, Guara-Guara, Vila de Buzi, Muchanesse, Munimucua and other areas in the district of Buzi, Sofala province - Mozambique were severely affected by the rising level of the water basin, which led to floods. These floods in the region caused the isolation of communities in floodplains; community members took refuge in treetops, houses and ravines waiting for rescue. In the village of Buzi, between the night of the 14 and the morning of the 15 February, the water level rose **forcing the displacement of more than 7,400 people from Buzi alone**<sup>1</sup>.

A total of 30 accommodation centres (schools, churches and other buildings) have been set up to support those displaced.



An aerial photo demonstrates the level of flooding in Buzi district, Sofala province. Source: IFRC.

<sup>1</sup> Based on Mozambique National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) data from 21 February 2020.

The priority needs in the 12 existing temporary transitory accommodation centres in Buzi that have been assessed to date are: protection structures for families exposed to sun and rain in open areas, supply of drinking water and basic sanitation, construction of sufficient latrines for the number of people in the camps, food and kitchen/ shelter kits for families, and mosquito nets for malaria prevention due to the increased number of mosquitoes after the floods.

The actual situation poses severe health risks for the population in the accommodation centres. The density of the population is significant with a precarious water and hygiene situation. The majority of the centres have insufficient latrines, and people are practising open defecation. Boreholes are polluted due to the floods and the lack of capacity to treat the water properly. In Buzi village there are many locations with stagnant and polluted water. These factors lead to an increased risk of acute watery diarrhoea and the risk of cholera. The affected population is not sleeping in mosquito nets or sleeping in damaged ones since many lost their nets during the flood or were not able to take them along during the evacuations. The persons who do possess mosquito nets in good conditions lack space to put these. As a result of these factors and the stagnant water, there is an increased risk of malaria.

The need for special attention to psychosocial issues was noted for the population that suffered from the trauma of the disaster and presented difficulties in sleeping and/or sudden fears and anxiety when



The state, with CVM assistance, rescued people from their flood-affected homes. Source: IFRC.

recalling the episodes experienced. Attention was also drawn to the high number of children present in transit camps, many of them of school age who are momentarily unable to maintain their study routines. There is a particular need as well to provide support for children under five who are vulnerable to diseases. Finally, the prevalence of disabled people, elderly people and pregnant and/or breastfeeding women who require special attention have been observed in transitory accommodation centres.

There is a need to include protective measures in all activities, as Mozambique is a country with significant rates of sexual violence and child abuse. The accommodation centres do not have any lights so the toilets could be a dangerous place for women and children at night. There are no spaces for children or pregnant women.

Regarding the needs for shelter, the main priority is the Ring accommodation centres which have no physical structures to accommodate people. Until 21 February, the only access to Buzi village was

through the Buzi river. While access is improving, it remains complicated and many communities can be reached only by boat.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Mozambique Red Cross has been taking a leading role in helping communities respond. Since the onset of the floods, they have been conducting search and rescue efforts alongside local authorities, providing emergency first aid and referrals, giving emergency relief to families, as well as sharing critical disease prevention messages and psychosocial support in accommodation centres.

CVM has approximately 220 Red Cross volunteers spread throughout the district of Buzi. In the village of Buzi specifically, there are 57 volunteers of which 20 are trained in CBHFA and First Aid that have promoted disease prevention campaigns in temporary transit centres. In addition, the CVM Buzi district branch has a remarkable synergy of cooperation with the local government being traditionally recognised as a leading partner in responding to emergencies in the region. The IFRC has a strong presence in the province since the Idai Cyclone affected the country in March 2019.

Following an inclusive and community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach, the National Society, with the support of the IFRC, to date has implemented the following activities:



CVM used its boats to assist with search and rescue actions. Source: IFRC.



### Shelter

- **Distribution of shelter items for 227 households** in Muchanessa and Guara-Guara including: 2 tarpaulins, 1 shelter tools kits, 1 kitchen set, 2 mosquito nets, 1 chlorine, 1 bucket, and 2 sleeping mats.
- **Provision of large tarpaulins in accommodation centres Ring I and Ring II to protect approximately 700 people** from the weather.
- Assessment of damaged homes in the Buzi village. So far, **132 houses have been assessed** in the Macurungo neighbourhood that will need repair.
- Upcoming Plans
- Establish **working groups with local authorities** and partners to perform a mapping and technical analysis of shelter damage.
- Distribute **mosquito nets for 116 households** in the community of Munamicua.



### Health and Psychosocial Support

- **Search and rescue:** Over **185 people were rescued** by Red Cross volunteer teams, in close partnership with public authorities. Some of those rescued had spent more than 24 hours clinging to trees in heavily flooded areas. [Watch this video on rescue efforts for more.](#)
- **1,583 people reached with community health mobilization activities** by 20 CVM volunteers trained in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), which started in the first day following the floods.
- **Sensibilisation campaigns** on prevention, symptoms and treatment of malaria and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and hygiene promotion through **170 household visits, and 70 presentations** in accommodation centres.
- **Psychosocial support** for the people in accommodation centres, including 124 children.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Water treatment** in collaboration with community volunteers: 143 bottles of chorine distributed and **28,340 liters of water treated**.
- **Construction of 16 latrines** (Muchanesse 9, Compania de Buzi 4, Secretaria 3), including **handwashing stations**.
- **Construction of 8 showers** (Muchanesse 6, Compania de Buzi 2).
- **14 clean-up campaigns** of accommodation centres.

### *Upcoming Plans*

- Repair 2 water pumps and construct additional 8 latrines and 6 showers.
- Support government in logistics and materials (squatting plats and cutting sticks).



## Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

- Induction with 20 volunteers about **child protection** (in emergencies or/and the aftermath).
- **Identification of vulnerable cases** in Muchenessa.



## Logistics

- Provision of **two boats** for local government to perform **rescue, relief and rescue** activities.
- IFRC vehicles were made available to facilitate necessary **transportation for the different humanitarian actors** in Buzi village.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.