

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MOZAMBIQUE: MUNITIONS EXPLOSION

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Situation

An explosion occurred at an ammunition storage site in Mozambique's capital city of Maputo (Magoanine Residential Area, District Municipality 5, near the international airport) on 22 March at around 15:00. The event lasted for approximately 4 hours. This type of event has occurred before, with similar explosions in September 1985, a second in January 2007 (with 2 people injured), and a third in 22 March 2007. The most recent reports indicate at least some 80 people died, with hundreds injured.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Mozambique Red Cross (CVM)¹ volunteers arrived immediately at the Maputo City Provincial Branch and 3 teams were established, under the direct coordination of the respective Provincial Secretary. The national society provided a total of 6 vehicles (one an ambulance) to support the response operation. The persons affected (injured people and casualties) were found in 9 residential areas that were near the explosions.

The CVM evacuated 16 dead persons and 28 injured people from the residential areas and transported them to health facilities. 26 volunteers took part in the rescue operations and transportation of dead bodies. It has not yet been possible to obtain the total number of injured people or the number of casualties. Volunteers who were deployed at Maputo Central Hospital were registering individuals.

The respective branch Deputy President, Director of Programmes, DM Coordinator, Logistics Coordinator, Community Work Coordinator and a driver from the national headquarters provided support to the operation and volunteers. The Logistics Coordinator provided stretchers, body bags, bibs and participated in the evacuation of the victims, while another team made up of Maputo City Branch Deputy President, Director of Programmes, Community Work Coordinator and DM Coordinator went to the field to monitor the situation and then went to Maputo Central Hospital where they contacted the Head of the Emergency Unit, who praised the work undertaken by CVM volunteers in rescuing and transporting victims to the health facilities.

Ten volunteers were also deployed at the Central Hospital to provide support, while the Provincial Secretary, the DMC and a driver were on standby at the provincial branch office overnight to respond to any further needs.

Constraints encountered by the teams:

- Ø Of the 5 vehicles that were used, only 2 had been prepared to be used as ambulances, the remaining vehicles were improvised and therefore they were not equipped with sirens. Nevertheless, the Provincial Branch used megaphones, vehicle lights and hooters in order to get priority on the roads;
- Ø Lack of security/safety: dispersed explosive devices, vehicles of public transport with dead bodies and explosive devices to be removed;
- Ø Rescuing activities done “under fire”;
- Ø Shocking scenes: removal of dead bodies / mutilated and widely spread human organs.

Lessons learned:

- Ø Real preparedness of volunteers;
- Ø Similar to the previous emergency situations, solidarity was obvious particularly in the transportation of victims (injured people and deaths) to the health facilities, provision of means of transport (private and public, among other forms of volunteerism that were expressed by the civil society in general);
- Ø Need for flashlights (it was extremely difficult to locate the victims because the affected areas were dark);
- Ø Need for flags to be hoisted in the vehicles (in the event of lack of ambulances);

Summary of evacuations conducted to the health facilities (HF)

	# deaths	# of injuries	HF	# of volunteers involved	Remarks
Team 1	3	6 of which 5 are serious injuries.	HCM	6	2 patients were evacuated from Macamo General Hospital to Maputo Central Hospital
Team 2	0	1 serious injuries	HCM	2	
Team 3		8 of which 6 are serious injuries	HCM (6) serious injuries at Chamanculo General Hospital(1	5	1 person was taken to CVM Maptuo City Branch for psycho-social support

¹ In Portuguese: Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique

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			serious and minor injuries) 1		
Team 4 (private ambulance)	9	5 serious injuries	Maputo Central Hospital	7	
Team 5	4	6 serious injuries e 2 fainting	Mavalane General Hospital (8) Macamo General Hospital (1)	6	
Team 6					
TOTAL	16 deaths	28 injuries		26 volunteers	

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