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## Information bulletin #2

# Mozambique: Tropical Storm Eloise

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Date of disaster</b> 23 January 2021	<b>Date of issue:</b> 25 January 2021
<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 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) almost one year later in October 1989. Its actions are implemented by approximately 170 staff, 5,500 volunteers and 70,000 members.	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> Estimated 176,475 people (as of 25 January 2021)	
<b>Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> IFRC, Spanish Red Cross, Belgium-Flanders Red Cross, German Red Cross, PIROI (French Red Cross)	
<b>N° of other partner organisations involved in the operation:</b> National Disaster Management Institute (INGD), Civil Protection Unit (UNAPROC), UN Agencies, CARE International, IOM, OXFAM, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision.	

*This bulletin reflects the current situation and details available as of 25 of January 2021. The **Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM)**, with the support of the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and its members**, is already responding to this humanitarian emergency while continuing to support the national authorities in assessing the extent of the damage.*

## The situation



*CVM Staff assessing the damage of Cyclone Eloise, 23 January 2021 Source: CVM*

Tropical Storm Eloise made landfall in the first hours of 23 of January, 20km south of the Beira City in Sofala Province, bringing winds of 140km/h and wind gusts of over 160km/h as well as extreme and widespread rainfall in many districts in Sofala (in Beira city – 250mm in 24h), South of Manica, North of Inhambane and Eastern Gaza.

Latest assessments conducted on the 25 of January, confirmed that **176,475 people were affected** (35,684 families), and **8,363 are currently displaced in 28 accommodation centres** (26 in Sofala and 2 in Manica). Over 5,000 people have been evacuated in the last 72 hours by search and rescue teams.

In respect to infrastructure damage, a total of 8,863 private houses and shelters have suffered damages, including 2,435 destroyed completely. 187 public buildings (26 health units and 161 school rooms) have been partially or totally damaged. Power and communication infrastructure was disrupted across several districts, which is delaying the consolidation of the information. The flooded areas continue to expand around the Zambezi, Pungue and Buzi basins and have caused 37 road cuts and an area of over 142,000 croplands to be lost.

Information received indicate that the most affected districts are Dondo, Nhamatanda, Buzi and Muanza in the Sofala Province; as well as Mossurize and Machaze in the Southern Manica Province, and the most pressing humanitarian needs are related with food assistance, non-food items (NFIs) (mosquito nets, jerrycans, mattresses, blankets), hygiene items, clean water and chlorine, latrines, Protective Personal Equipment (PPEs) and COVID-19 mitigation and awareness sessions, malaria and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) prevention, psychosocial support (PSS) and shelter repairs.



*Needs assessment in accommodation centre in Beira, 23 January 2021  
Source: CVM*

The Province of Sofala and the entire Zambezi Basin was already experiencing significant flooding as a result of heavy rainfall since 15 January, with the districts of Beira (Bairros Mungassa, Ndunda I and II), Buzi, Muanza, Caia, Dondo, Marromeu and Nhamatanda being the hardest hit. Discharge of water from Chicamba dam and the Mavuzi reservoir had also affected residents in Buzi (Vila Sede, Guara-Guara, Ampara, Grudja, Estaquinha, Inhamuchindo, and Bândua).

The accumulated precipitation over a 3-day period will be above 150mm in the Pungue, Save and Buzi Rivers, and 200mm in the Limpopo River Basin. Taking into account the January rainfall, the Global Flood Awareness System (Glofas) predicts 20-year return period floods in the Limpopo basin. This will lead to increased damage in urban infrastructure - especially in the most impoverished and vulnerable urban areas - and agriculture fields in the rural areas, destroying crops that are a lifeline for the majority of the population.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Ahead of the landfall, Mozambique Red Cross staff and volunteers shared early warning messages with communities in the path of the cyclone in order to minimise the impact. As a result, many families were moved to safer areas, where they are receiving support from our teams. Mozambique Red Cross (CVM) volunteers are now engaged in search and rescue activities in affected areas.

CVM started to provide assistance to people evacuated to accommodation centres, even before the disaster, supplying mosquito nets, chlorine, and facilitating cholera, malaria and COVID-19 prevention activities.

On the 24 January, the IFRC released a CHF 359,689 disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to provide immediate assistance to 5,000 people. This humanitarian support consists of provision of shelter kits and NFIs (tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats), WASH (including installation of water treatment units and emergency latrines and handwashing points) as well as Health materials (mosquito nets, PPEs,) disease prevention awareness sessions and psychosocial First Aid. The DREF funds will also increase assessment and operational bandwidth of the National Society.

## Collaboration from Movement Partners

- Spanish Red Cross is considering activating the “crisis modifier” with the support of ECHO
- Belgium-Flanders Red Cross is supporting the National Society with the dispatchment of humanitarian goods to Beira
- German Red Cross offered a test activation of the floods Early Action Protocol (EAP) for 500 families. If the situation worsens the GRC will activate emergency funds from its own financial resources.
- PIROI - French Red Cross Centre for Disaster Management – has offered to dispatch 2,000 Shelter Kits and NFIs from its contingency stock in La Reunion, via French Army airplane on the 26 and 27 of January.

## International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The National Society has confirmed needs are severe in the impacted areas, and the number of population affected continues to grow. Eloise struck areas that have been devastated by previous cyclones, including Cyclone Idai. In addition, this is the second time for central Mozambique to be hit by a storm this season: Tropical Storm Chalane hit the country in December 2020. Considering this, the COVID-19 risks the displaced populations are facing and the imminent flooding in different areas of the country the **IFRC will join CVM in a call for international partners assistance via an Emergency Appeal.**

In the meantime, the IFRC has activated its regional surge team and deployed a Logistics, Operations and Communications staff to the area.

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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.