



UNITED NATIONS

Mozambique Humanitarian Country Team

SITUATION REPORT Nº 11 – MOZAMBIQUE – 10 March 2008

SPECIAL EDITION ON CYCLONE “JOKWE”

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Mozambique Government has declared a Red Alert as tropical cyclone “Jokwe” fustigated northern Mozambique Nampula Province leaving a trail of destruction as at least 7 people are killed, several injured and thousands left without shelter as their homes were destroyed.
- Government National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC), UN Agencies and other humanitarian partners are already in the Cyclone affected areas conducting a rapid needs assessment and providing humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

The information contained in this report has been gathered by the Office of Resident Coordinator on behalf of the Mozambican Humanitarian Country Team from the Clusters and other sources including the Government of Mozambique.

Situation Overview

On Saturday March 9, a tropical cyclone hit northern and central Mozambique, killing at least 7 people, and leaving a trail of destruction in its path. Thousands of homes have been partially or totally destroyed, one hundred year old trees uprooted and power line infrastructure severely damaged leaving several towns and villages without electricity.

Current tropical cyclone “Jokwe” status today March 10, 2008:

The storm is still currently active and it is on the Mozambique Channel

- Current position: 20.30 South et 39.60 East
- Basin: SWIndian
- Strength: Cyclone with Saffir Simpson category 2
- Maximum sustained wind speed: 70 Kt, 129 km/h, 36 m/s

Cyclone Jokwe lashed central Mozambique before hitting the northern coastal province of Nampula, travelling with winds of up to 200km/h. These winds are currently 130km/h.

The risk of renewed flooding is small because the rains are hitting coastal areas and flowing into the ocean.

The overall track of Jokwe will be towards the south for at least another two to three days. This would be an open-water path. Afterwards, an eastward turn that could affect southwestern Madagascar could eventually take place.

The government declared a Red Alert, the highest level, in the Provinces of Nampula, Zambézia and Sofala on the coastal areas of Districts of Maganja da Costa, Pebane, Moma, Angoche, Mogovolas, Mogincual, Mossuril and Nacala, where medium rainfall has been registered with winds of 50 to 100 km/h; and a lesser, Yellow Alert in the central provinces, specifically in the districts of Inhassunge and Chinde, Marromeu, Chiringoma and Dondo, amid fears the storm will cause more damage.

Northern Nampula province is worst-hit, including historic Mozambique Island, the first capital of Mozambique.

INGC authorities fear that the situation in central areas already hit by flooding could be worsened as the storm moves south. By yesterday, the Cyclone was still sustaining winds of 200kms/h but today it has slowed to 130kwms/h.

As of today, cyclone Jokwe is moving in a south-westerly direction toward the inland districts of Nampula, and is expected to hit the central province of Zambézia, bringing with it moderate rain.

PRELIMINARY NUMBERS

The casualties reported are the following: **Total of people who died due to the cyclone: 7**

Mogincual – 4 deaths
Angoche – 1 death
Moma – 1 death
Monapo – 1 death

Total of people injured as a consequence of the cyclone: 6

Ilha de Moçambique: 3 people injured
Mossuril: 1 people injured
Mogincual: 2 people injured

Houses partially destroyed: 1089

Houses totally destroyed: 9058

Mossuril: 175	429
Angoche: 617	6809
Nacala Porto: 70	104
Moma: 96	117
Mongicual:	1599
Ilha de Moçambique: 131;	

Schools destroyed: 12

Last month Cyclone Ivan battered parts of Madagascar, off the coast from Mozambique, but lost intensity before it reached the mainland.

Humanitarian Response

The government (INGC) is still assessing the extent of damage. Today March 10, disaster-relief teams flew to the storm-hit areas to assist provincial authorities assessing the damage.

WFP personnel have been dispatched to the cyclone affected areas. Similarly, UNICEF sent three (3) Officers to the cyclone affected areas (a Chief of water and sanitation; an education specialist and a Social policy, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer). IOM and UN-HABITAT Officers have also been dispatched to the cyclone affected areas and will join the INGC in conducting the rapid assessments.

IOM will be doing a rapid assessment looking at shelter and NFI (Non-food items). UNICEF is already sending plastic sheeting materials to cover the houses that lost roof and water purification products.

Electricity is already reestablished in Ilha de Moçambique.

CENOE has also announced that the INGC is already sending additional quantities of plastic sheeting and providing food items to affected populations.

It is expected that with the rapid assessment it will be possible to establish more clearly the extent of the damage as well as the needs for an adequate response.

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