

Partners:



# Rapid Assessment Snapshot

## Tropical Cyclone IDAI | Mozambique | Dondo District – East

09 April 2019

### OVERVIEW

Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall during the night of 14th to 15th March 2019 along the coast of Dondo district (nearby the city of Beira) in the Province of Sofala, in central Mozambique.. The cyclone had heavy impacts on the city of Dondo as reported in the Initial Rapid Assessment Report, published on 25 March. The focus of this assessment was on relatively inaccessible coastal areas which had received minimal response and had not yet been properly assessed.

Dondo district is within Sofala province and has a population close to 185,000 according to the 2017 census (Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 2017). The extent of the damage across the district is currently being compiled and a district profile will be released on Friday 12 April.

A rapid assessment team made up of Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique (CVM) volunteers, IFRC logistics and assessment experts and the INGC Assessment Coordinator conducted the assessment in two locations. 2 interviews were conducted with local leaders using the inter-agency Mozambique Rapid Assessment form. The first was an interview with a community leader of Chinamacondo, providing an overview of the eastern part of the district. The second was with a community health worker in a small fishing community in Sengo. Transportation was by helicopter so aerial assessment could also be conducted of the arterial transportation routes and conditions on the coastline.

### CRISIS SEVERITY AND PRIORITIES

#### 1. Humanitarian conditions

The initial assessment of Dondo, conducted on 20 March, indicated that there are **around 70,000 affected people across the assessed area which equals to around 38% of the total population of the district of Dondo**. This is being confirmed and verified with a district-wide Rapid Assessment in the coming days.

The majority of communities have reported concerns and needs throughout all sectors, with **Food and WASH / Health being identified as life threatening**. Crops have been destroyed, including stockpiles of communities and the lack of logistics access is hampering the replenishment of markets and therefore communities are lacking access to food. WASH infrastructures are being overloaded in temporary shelters and the extent of the inland muddy storm waters of Cyclone Idai contain multiple risks to human health with Cholera being foremost among these.



Photo: Chinamacondo District Office, 08 April

## 2. Identified priority needs/sectors

Food Security and Livelihoods

Shelter

WASH / Health

### Food Security and Livelihoods

Cropland, mainly consisting of rice paddies, has been **completely destroyed** by a combination of wind damage and flooding. Respondents identified that rice is the only crop for the majority of the population. As rice has only one annual harvest, the loss of the crop will have food security and nutrition livelihoods potentially for the next 12 months.

In Chinamacondo, some families are reported as having cattle, goats, sheep and pigs. Less than 25% of livestock were reported as being lost during the cyclone. In coastal vilages, access to livestock was considerably less prevalent.

Coastal vilagers rely heavily on fishing for calorific intake as well as for livelihoods, aith any excess being sold to market. Coastal vilagers reported damage to and lost fishing boats and fishing equipment, including nets. In terms of reported needs, the coastal vilage reported a need for means to better preserve fish, including salt.

### Shelter

Approximately 1,500 are reportedly living in public buildings around the Chinamacondo area, according to the Posto leader. People were reported to be sleeping outside in both of the locations. Most houses were reported damaged in both locations, with many being reported as being destroyed. The figures reported need further investigation but it was apparent from aerial and drone observations of the area that roof damages was widespread and extensive.

A lack of materials was reported as a key concern for respondents. The presence of an undamaged school in Chinamacondo which was recently built UNDP demonstrated the potential impact of improved construction / shelter training to accompany any shelter intervention. Coastal vilagers reported that they would benefit from some technical guidance to ensure that roofs were built back better, with cyclone prevention lashings providing increased durability and resilience.

### WASH / Health

**Access to potable water has been severely impacted** by the cyclone. In the coastal vilage of Sengo, it was reported by the community health worker that nobody regularly treated water before consumption. The picture was only slightly less concerning in Chinamacondo. Where water treatment was practiced, certeza is the most common method. In Sengo, it was reported that the main source of water was surface water from nearby streams.

Both communities reported that households were resorting to open defecation, however this was also the case prior to the cyclone hitting. A lack of access to soap and ash was reported in both locations, but is particularly acute in Sengo.

Cholera was confirmed by respondents in the community of Chinamacondo, although this could not be verified with WHO / MoH data at time of writing. In total, there have been 444 cases in Dondo district with 2 deaths from 27 March to 08 April 2019. Both communities reported instances of AWD and acute respiratory disease. There is also widespread damage to health infrastructure, however reportedly there are two Cholera Treatment Centres working in the area. Medical materials such as balsamo, diclofinac, bisacodin, and anti-malarial supplies were reportedly absent.

### Other sectors

Protection concerns around gender-based violence were reported. It would be prudent to ensure that any intervention in this geographic area mainstreamed protection issues as a key concern.

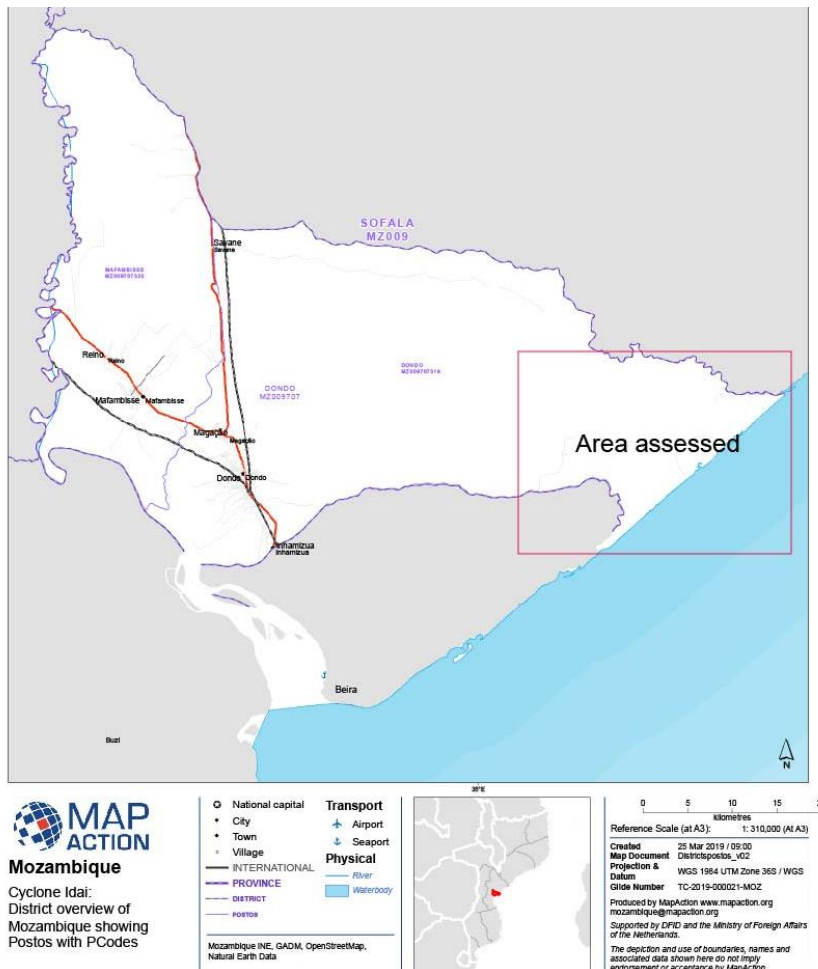
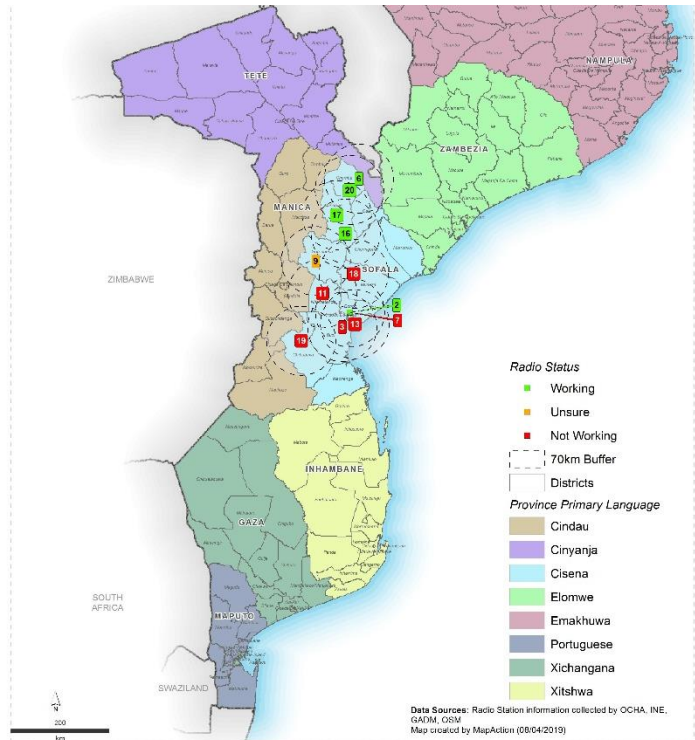
Education has been impacted by the cyclone, however it is unclear to what extent the reported issues (e.g. lack of educational materials and teachers) pre-date cyclone Idai.

These findings are broadly in line with the inter agency rapid needs assessment in the western part of Dondo District, Sofala Province, conducted on the 20th of March 2019. The assessment team noted at that time that displaced persons are sheltering in nearly 30 reception centres established in schools and other public buildings by local authorities. Priority needs of the displaced persons include health due to the the risk of waterborne illnesses, as well as shelter support, as displaced persons have requested shelter materials to return to their homes as soon as possible.

### 3. Accessing information:

According to the respondents, clear information has been provided to local leaders but it is not flowing well to rural communities.

Translators Without Borders have highlighted the need to ensure that life-saving information is communicated to communities quickly and in a language, they are familiar with. Over 40 languages are spoken in Mozambique but only half of the population can speak Portuguese, with the statistics being lower in rural areas and among women. The primary language other than Portuguese in Dondo district is Cisená. According to analysis by the Communicating with Communities working group and MapAction, the communities are within range of functioning radio stations.



# OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Road access possible for 10MT trucks

Hampered access by sea

Patchy mobile network coverage

## **Chimagongo: (S:190 36'52.7 | E: 350 12' 56.7)**

Site is accessible with pickup (team spotted one pickup on the site which had arrived that same day from Beira) and small trucks (probably max. 10 ton trucks). Chimagongo is 10 km distance towards Beira. Dirt road from coast to Chimagongo is 10 km and mostly smooth with several damaged sections (e.g. washed out or partially blocked by fallen trees).

## **Sengo (S:190 34'13.8 | E: 350 15' 05.8)**

Site accessible with pickup (team spotted one pickup on the site which was headed for Beira) and small trucks (probably max. 10 ton trucks). Several people reported that there are two stuck trucks blocking the dirt road towards Beira (approx. 25 km from Chinamacondo towards Beira). Pickups and small trucks should be able to bypass the stuck trucks.

### **Aerial assessment of fishing villages further north:**

The team spotted many fishing villages further north from Sengo. No road access could be spotted and it appears that the main means of transportation for these communities is by boat on sea and via inland water channels. The dirt road seems to end a few kilometres north from Sengo.

There was no visible or reported built port infrastructure. Access by sea might be possible but the team didn't spot any artificial harbours. Access is therefore possible by sea only with beach landing vessels. There appear to be no issues with mangroves and fishing boats were landing regularly using this method. Sea conditions would need to be verified before departure. There seem to be several sheltered natural harbours (river mouths) that could potentially be used by small vessels for disembarking and/or landing vessels.

The strong winds of Tropical Cyclone Idai followed by massive rainfalls have created extensive damage to logistics and telecommunications infrastructure. A lot of communities have been cut off from telecommunications and access to information for remote communities is very limited. In Chinamacondo it is possible to communicate using Movitel network coverage in certain areas but villages outside this population centre do not have access to mobile communications.



Photo: Sengo Medical Outpost, 08 April