

EMERGENCIES

M

ozambique is a country prone to natural disasters, chronic vulnerability and persistent humanitarian conditions. The country is still rebuilding after more than a decade

of civil war that decimated the infrastructure of basic social services. The rapidly escalating AIDS epidemic is weakening national capacities and negating the rate of development. Mozambique is also threatened by natural disasters including seasonal floods, cyclones and prolonged droughts, which disrupt livelihoods and basic services, exhaust coping mechanisms and exacerbate vulnerabilities, especially for women and children.

UNICEF Mozambique's humanitarian action in 2007 was dominated by the response to floods in the Zambezi River Valley and the simultaneous impact of Cyclone Favio, between early February and late April. On 4 February 2007, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) declared a red alert calling for the evacuation of the communities along the Zambezi River. An estimated 285,000 people were affected, and 163,000 out of these were displaced. On 22 February 2007, Mozambique suffered the brunt of yet another natural disaster, when Cyclone Favio made landfall in Vilanculos, in the coastal province of Inhambane. An estimated 150,000 people were affected by the cyclone, and essential infrastructures as well as health centers and educational facilities in affected areas were severely damaged.

In light of current humanitarian reform movements, a Humanitarian Country Team was convened for Mozambique to initiate the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) Cluster Approach in response to the developing flood emergency.

Within the framework of the Cluster Approach, UNICEF was designated Cluster Lead for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as well as Nutrition, and it shared leadership of the Education and Protection Clusters with the Save the Children Alliance.

UNICEF was also an active participant in the Health, Logistics, Emergency Telecommunications and Shelter Clusters.

Funding in 2007

Total emergency resources in 2007 amounted to a total of US\$ 8,978,494, including US\$ 5,210,900 Humanitarian Action Report funds and US\$ 2,667,518 received through the Central Response Emergency Fund.



©WFP

Key Results in 2007

Partners in the programme helped achieve the following results:

Zambezi flood response:

- 21,507 families sheltered in accommodation centres were provided with access to water and sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion activities.

- Over 32,000 children under age five in accommodation centres received health screening and treatment.

- 6,000 vulnerable families (approx 30,000 people) in accommodation centres received emergency household kits.

- 45,000 children in accommodation centres and host communities were supported to resume schooling with minimal delays.

- 900 families (4,500 people) in accommodation centres received plastic sheeting for shelter.

Cyclone Favio response:

- 20,000 families were provided with cholera prevention and basic hygiene information.

- 6,000 families received water supplies and benefited from water trucking and treatment.

- 75 schools were provided with education supplies and school rehabilitation materials benefiting 40,000 learners.

- 23,500 families were provided with 45,000 LLINs and access to basic health services.

- 35,000 people were provided with materials for shelter and 1,000 families were provided with emergency household kits.

The Way Forward

In 2008, focus will continue to be placed on addressing chronic vulnerability and the humanitarian conditions emerging from frequent natural disasters in the country. This will be carried out through the continued mainstreaming of emergency preparedness and response interventions into routine programme activities and the provision of technical support to strengthen national capacity for effective preparedness and response at both the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF will continue to support the Cluster Approach focusing on sectors where UNICEF has lead or co-lead responsibilities, facilitate information sharing within clusters and the Government, and contribute to the updating of the Inter-agency Contingency Plan.

UNICEF will also continue to closely collaborate with the INGC, which is the governmental body responsible for the overall coordination of national emergency preparedness and response efforts. Technical support will be provided to INGC national and provincial authorities in strengthening early warning and early action capacities as well as the ability to effectively monitor and evaluate emergency preparedness and response efforts. In addition, line Ministries will be supported in contingency planning and preparedness activities, pre-positioning of supplies and communication materials, and training of staff in advance of, and during, crisis situations.