

MOZAMBIQUE 446

News reports & clippings

21 March 2019 pm

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What happened last time?

Mozambique The Great Flood Of 2000

Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000

Both available for download, free, on <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

(large files: 28 Mb and 78 Mb)

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Maps:

Edinburgh University satellite flood maps: bit.ly/MozCyclone4 and bit.ly/MozCyclone2

NEW: WFP roads blocked: <http://bit.ly/MozCyclone6>

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To Donate: UK Disasters Emergency Committee (joint NGO) Cyclone Idai appeal:

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/cyclone#/>

Good film of BBC Africa editor Fergal Keane flying over Buzi, with pictures of people in the football stadium stands above water level and on roofs. <http://bit.ly/MozCyclone7>

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Climate Change Disaster?

Cyclone Idai cannot be blamed on climate change, but the scale of the disaster probably can be. Climate change is predicted to intensify climatic events, making extreme events worse - both droughts and heavy rain and floods will be more severe. In particular, global warming will not increase the number of cyclones, but will make them more intense. In the Mozambique Channel, this is because the sea water is getting warmer which gives the storms more energy.

Mozambique normally sees one or two cyclones a year and they normally come north up the Mozambique Channel. Storms are only named when they become strong, and those that come up the Channel are usually already named.

What became Idai was an ordinary rainy season tropical depression which passed over Zambezia into Malawi, then did a u-turn and returned to the Mozambique Channel. Unusual, but not unprecedented. It then sat in the Mozambique Channel for nearly a week, sucking up warm water and energy, becoming a category 3 cyclone. That appears to be unprecedented off the coast of Mozambique, and was probably caused by the warmer sea caused by global warming. South African and other scientists are now running models to see what caused the unexpected formation of a cyclone, and may be able to see if climate change was the cause.

There is an excellent article on Cyclone Idai by Matt McGrath, BBC Environment correspondent: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47638588>

36,000 in accommodation centres; devastation in Beira

There are 36,000 people in 96 accommodation centres and about 40,000 people have been rescued, Rita Almeida, press spokesperson of the government disasters agency, said this morning.

But no one really knows the full scale of the disaster. Accommodation centres are housing 65,000 people, Land and Environment Minister Celso Correia, who represents the Council of Ministers in Sofala, told the press in Beira today. More centres are opening to house many more people. He estimates that at least 180,000 people are affected and that 2867 classrooms and 39 health units have been destroyed. Nearly 400,000 hectares of crops have been lost. (*O Pais*).

Flood levels are predicted to fall slowly in the Pungue and Buzi rivers over the next few days, as rain slows, according to today's government hydrology bulletin.

"There is total devastation," Beira Mayor Daviz Simango told Bristol link in a telephone conversation today. "The majority of public buildings are damaged; we will have to begin again." He listed the main needs as food, water, sanitation and zinc roofing sheets to replace those blown off so many houses. Beira is still cut off with no road access (see <http://bit.ly/MozCyclone6>) and no electricity, even in hospitals.

O Pais estimates that 80% of the economic infrastructure of Beira has been destroyed. Food is short and prices are doubling or quadrupling.

President Filipe Nyusi on Wednesday flew over parts of Tete and Manica and said life was beginning to return to normal, in sharp contrast to Sofala, "where there are still people clinging onto trees, without food and without water", and Beira, where "The city is destroyed. "I overflowed Sussundenga district [Manica], notably the Dombe area, and saw that those who had been surrounded by water are now out of danger", he said.

The main road out of Beira, the EN6, was being rehabilitated by a Chinese company, and the company is rushing repair washed out sections. The road from Beira to Zimbabwe is being rehabilitated at a cost of \$410 mn and was supposed to resist flooding, even at this level, according to Public Works Minister Joao Machatine. The Pungue River floods every year, but it appears that too few culverts were used to carry water under the road and the bridges were not strong enough. (@Verdade)

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Background reading

Special reports

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - Pt - CIP - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroina>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasEng

Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasPt

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

Special report on four poverty surveys: bit.ly/MozPoverty

2018 Constitution - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

Minimum wage and exchange rates 1996-2018 -- <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

\$2bn secret debt - in English

Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz-full>

Kroll report summary - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>

Key points of Mozambique parliament report - Nov 2016 - <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>

Following the donor-designed path to Mozambique's \$2.2 bn debt - <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

In Portuguese:

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete) bit.ly/MozAR-debt

Eight books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014)

Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)

Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)

Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000 (2001)

Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)

Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996)

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)

Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013)

Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (2010)

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? (2008) (free in Portuguese)

Beggar Your Neighbours: Apartheid Power in Southern Africa (1986)

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