

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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"Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000": <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

Difficult access slows Kenneth relief effort

INGC today reports 41 deaths and 20,000 people in 38 accommodation centres, little different than Monday. But election officials reported 60 dead just in Mucojo administrative post near the sea in Macomia district.

Relief efforts are also being delayed because of concerns about security. Macomia and further north are have been affected by the insurgency, and there is debate about whether aid workers should travel without military escort.

Food and other supplies have reached Macomia, but it is still impossible to drive beyond Macomia town, as roads are washed out. The road north from Macomia to Chai remains cut, but pedestrians can cross the flooded gaps. On the road between Macomia and Mucojo, a group of people, including the administrator of Macomia, tried to cross the six places where the water cut through but the failed as water levels are above people's heads.

Historic Ibo Island has been reached and TVM has a film of the massive destruction, on bit.ly/MozCyclone29

Lack of funding brings clashes over hasty return of Idai displaced

People displaced by cyclone Idai are being returned to their home areas too quickly, according to UN and other aid workers in Sofala. People are told to return and to relocate to new land when there are no tents and latrines, and resettlement land has not been cleared. In some places, people are just given a hoe and told to clear the land.

The Mozambique government wants people out of Beira and other urban areas, and returned to their homes as quickly as possible. But UN agencies have received only 24% of the money needed for their humanitarian response plan, according to the latest figures released by OCHA on 22 April.

On 8 April there were 161,000 people in 164 accommodation centres but by 22 April this as down to 73,000 in 65 centres. There are even fewer centres and half that number of people now. UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch in a Geneva briefing on 22 April said that the remaining people would be moved by 1 May, noting in particular that hundreds of people were being moved from Beira to an accommodation centre in Guara Guara in Buzi.

The hasty moves mean no one knows how many people are in a camp, and new arrivals receive goods randomly - one family gets a pot while another just gets a bucket. Tents, water and utensils are in limited supply. There is a shortage of more than 1000 tents.

Government has pushed to close accommodation centres that are in schools and public buildings, especially after a demonstration at Amilcar Cabral Commercial School in Beira by parents who wanted the refugees moved and the school reopened for classes. On 5 April government said it wanted the displaced out of schools and into tented transit camps. A few days later, as camps were being built, government said it wanted people out of tented camps and back to areas of origin - either to old areas or new plots for resettlement. This shifts in strategy added to poor coordination and inefficiencies.

Initially UN agencies went along with the hasty return, in part because of their own lack of funding. But there is growing concern that haste is leading to poor coordination and poor conditions.

Babar Baloch told the Geneva press conference that the 700 people sent to Guara Guara on 20-21 April "were assigned emergency tents provided by UNHCR and by INGC. The settlement is equipped with potable water and latrines, and the national government – with the support of the UN World Food Programme – is providing food. The families will stay in Guara Guara for up to three days and will receive a plot of land (20 x 30 meters), a kit of materials to clean the land and build their new houses, and seeds to start farming."

But the reality on the ground at Guara Guara was that there were already many people in the camp and hundreds of people have been living in the secondary school, without tents, since the cyclone. Giving tents and food to the newcomers created tensions. There is also a resettlement area which extends far inland from the camp and lacks services. Here, people are building their own latrines following a Unicef model, with supervision. Those who are farthest away from the tented camp have to walk 30 minutes to get water from the tented camp.

Elsewhere, at the resettlement site at Mandruzi near Dondo 100 household were already at the site when 40 more families arrived and had to sleep in the open. At least 75 plots have been allocated, but not yet cleared due to the lack of the clearing tools and workforce. The population is mostly composed of single women or widows and young children from Samora Machel accommodation centre. There is a lack of water, toilets, shelter kits to clear the plots. mosquito nets and sleeping matts. There are no learning spaces for children. The site is guarded by the 26 military and 12 police officers, only 3 of whom are women.

In its 19 April report, INGC that 4229 plots for resettlement were available in Manica, Sofala and Zambézia, of which 2478 had been allocated. At that time, 761 plots were available in Buzi and 189 in Nhamatanda.

Idai was a category 3 (190 km/h winds) cyclone which hit Beira on 15 March and triggered torrential rains in Mozambique and Zimbabwe that caused major flooding in the following week. OCHA is the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Reports are on <https://reliefweb.int> INGC is that national disasters agency (Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades) <https://www.facebook.com/INGC.Mocambique/>

INGC's final report on Idai on 19 April said that 603 people had been killed, 1642 people injured, and that 3504 classrooms and 93 health facilities had been destroyed. But Deutsche Welle (30 April) reports that residents of Nhamatanda district are finding many decomposing bodies that have been washed down the Pungue River. "Even now, there are bodies in the bends of the rivers that have not been buried," said Paulo Chimica, head of the accommodation centre in Muda-Nunes. "There are times when we come across human skeletons. Sometimes we, as leaders at the centres, mobilise people to bury the remains." In other cases, "government authorities are told about the discovery of new bodies, they pick them up and bury them."

Nelito Jone, a Nhamatanda resident, told DW "when we go to low-lying areas in search of ears of corn, fruits, vegetables and other foods we always find remains. And because of the remains, there's always a bad smell."

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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

Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

Election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

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)

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)

Two more will be available shortly to download:

Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986)

Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000

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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Mozambique media websites, Portuguese:

Notícias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O País: www.opais.co.mz

@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>

Carlos Serra Diário de um sociologo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

Mozambique media websites, English:

Club of Mozambique: <http://clubofmozambique.com/>

Zitamar: <http://zitamar.com/>

Macauhub English: <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/>

AIM Reports: www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news

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