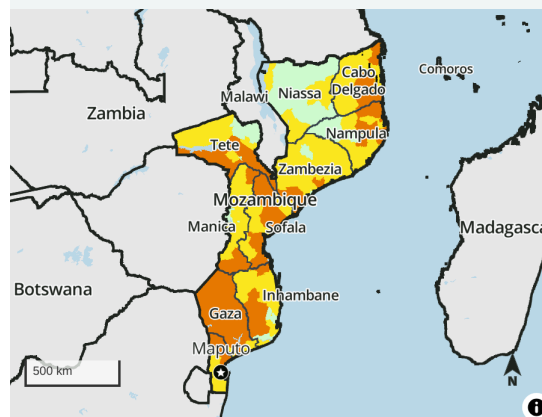


Crisis (IPC Phase 3) persists into harvest period in the center and south, driven by flooding

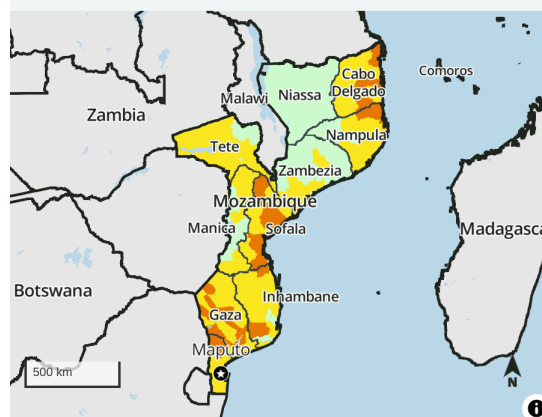
Key Messages

- From February to May 2026, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in flood- and dryness-affected areas of southern and central Mozambique due to crop losses and below-average purchasing power, with some improvement likely between April and May as harvests begin. **Flood** damage, poor harvests, limited seeds, degraded soils, and weak labor opportunities are constraining livelihood recovery. A dry spell during critical development stages and above-average food prices, further reduce households' purchasing power. Households receiving **food assistance** are expected to face **Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!)** outcomes. From June to September, post-flood cultivation is likely to improve access to food, but most affected areas will be in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)**.
- From February to September, **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** outcomes are expected in parts of Cabo Delgado Province and parts of Nampula Province due to ongoing **attacks** by **non-state armed groups (NSAG)**, driving displacement, restricting movement, and disrupting livelihood activities. Insecurity limits access to land, agricultural inputs, and markets, sustaining below-average production and income. In areas receiving regular food assistance, **Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!)** outcomes are expected to persist, while in areas less affected by conflict, the main harvest starting in April will likely support **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** and **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)** outcomes.
- Areas of highest concern include conflict-affected parts of Cabo Delgado, parts of Nampula, and flood-affected southern and central areas. **NSAG attacks** continue to drive displacement, disrupt livelihoods, damage infrastructure, and limit humanitarian access, while **flooding in central and southern areas caused major crop losses**, reduced food availability, increased food prices, further worsening food insecurity.
- FEWS NET estimates that **3.5-3.99 million people will need humanitarian food assistance during the peak of the February-March 2026 lean season**. Needs are driven by January 2026 floods in areas of the southern and central regions, ongoing displacement from conflict in Cabo Delgado and parts of Nampula, and consecutive poor harvests in semi-arid areas.

Projected area-level acute food insecurity outcomes, February - May 2026



Projected area-level acute food insecurity outcomes, June - September 2026



IPC 3.1 acute food insecurity classification

Sub-national level data

1: Minimal	3: Crisis	5: Famine
2: Stressed	4: Emergency	

Symbols

! Would likely be at least one phase worse without current or planned humanitarian food assistance

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. For full disclosure, see endnotes.

Source: FEWS NET

The analysis in this report is based on information available as of February 26, 2026.



FEWS NET is a United States Government-funded activity. The content of this report does not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Government.

FEWS NET Mozambique

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Food security context

Mozambique faces persistent food insecurity despite its high agricultural potential. The country is highly vulnerable to **extreme weather events** – cyclones, floods, droughts, and dry spells – that disrupt food production, income, and employment. Over the past three years, **cyclones Filipo, Chido, Dikeledi, Jude, and Gezani**, compounded by the **2024 El Niño-induced drought**, have severely affected livelihoods, particularly among poor households, limiting recovery and maintaining high vulnerability to weather shocks. In January 2026, **prolonged heavy rainfall** caused severe **flooding** in southern and central regions, **affecting over 700,000 people**, damaging 440,000 hectares of farmland, killing livestock, and disrupting livelihoods in Maputo, Gaza, and Sofala. **Most poor households face increased risk of acute food insecurity during shocks** as structural constraints – including food consumption gaps, inadequate primary healthcare, restricted access to clean water, and recurrent disease outbreaks – further undermine food security outcomes.

Agriculture is the major economic sector in Mozambique, dominated by subsistence and small-scale rainfed farming (typically 1-2 hectares). Over **70 percent** of the population relies on farming as a main source of food and income. Smallholder farmers have poor purchasing power to access improved inputs and technology, leading to persistently low crop productivity that is also highly susceptible to extreme weather events. Regular post-harvest losses average **around 30 percent of production**, driven largely by inadequate storage and drying facilities.

Mozambique's primary harvest season generally runs from April to June. The second season, mainly vegetable cultivation, occurs in low-lying areas of central and southern Mozambique, relying on residual moisture or irrigation. Planting begins around March-April, with harvests from June to October. Key agricultural activities include main-season land preparation and planting (October-December) and weeding (February-March). The October-March peak lean season is marked by depleted food stocks, reduced income-earning opportunities, and rising food prices, with gaps partially filled by the main harvest in April-May. Households often cope by reducing meal sizes, eating less preferred foods, or relying on wild foods. The lean season is also associated with a seasonal increase in acute malnutrition.

Urban poverty in Mozambique is increasing due to rapid rural-to-urban migration, limited formal job creation, and the expansion of informal settlements that lack adequate services and infrastructure. Cities such as Maputo, Beira, and Nampula have grown quickly, but economic growth has not generated sufficient stable employment, leaving many households dependent on low-paying informal work. At the same time, the high cost of living in urban areas – particularly for food, rent, and transport – reduces purchasing power. Weak urban planning and limited municipal capacity have constrained service delivery, while economic shocks, weather-related disasters, and conflict-driven displacement have further increased household vulnerability to food insecurity and livelihood disruptions. As a result, urbanization without corresponding economic transformation has led to rising poverty and inequality in Mozambique's cities.

Conflict has affected parts of Cabo Delgado Province in the north since 2017 due to an insurgency led by Islamist militant groups, often referred to as Al-Shabaab. At the peak of the conflict in 2021/22, over a million people were displaced, infrastructure was destroyed, and local economies contracted. Agricultural activities were severely disrupted, and the area planted declined sharply. Many farmers remain unable to access farmlands, markets, or income-earning opportunities, limiting their ability to produce food or earn income. In late 2025, an escalation in attacks by NSAGs triggered new waves of displacement, increasing the number of people reliant on humanitarian assistance. At the same time, recurrent weather shocks have further expanded humanitarian needs, while reduced funding from international donors has constrained the overall response capacity.

Learn more

Follow these links for additional information:

- Latest [Mozambique Food Security Outlook: October 2025 to May 2026](#)
- Latest [Mozambique Key Message Update: January 2026](#)

- Overview of [FEWS NET's scenario development methodology](#)
- FEWS NET's approach to estimating the [population in need](#)
- Overview of the [IPC and IPC-compatible analysis](#)
- FEWS NET's approach to [humanitarian food assistance analysis](#)

Current anomalies in food security conditions as of February 2026

Floods: In January 2026, heavy rainfall associated with a [regional low-pressure system](#) caused severe flooding in southern and parts of central Mozambique, with Gaza Province receiving [over 500 mm between January 10 and 19](#); nearly a year's rainfall in just 10 days. This, combined with strong upstream flows from neighboring countries, resulted in severe flooding affecting large areas of the southern region and parts of the central region. The Mozambican government estimates that approximately [40 percent of Gaza Province](#) was inundated by flood waters, comparable to the [historic 2000 floods](#) (Figure 1).

By early February 2026, the [National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction \(INGD\)](#) reported that over 720,000 people had been affected, including more than 100,000 living in temporary accommodation centers. The floods damaged approximately 441,000 hectares of agricultural land – about half of which was completely lost – and resulted in the deaths of over 212,000 livestock. Key crop losses included maize and beans at vegetative and flowering stages, as well as rice, vegetables, cassava, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, and fruit trees, compounded by the destruction of household food stocks. Flood impacts also severely reduced income sources, including livestock sales, agricultural labor, charcoal production, and casual work, started to resume in February, but the availability of these activities is below average. Severe flooding in January destroyed standing crops at both vegetative and reproductive stages. In low-lying locations, floodwater destroyed seasonal foods (e.g., cassava leaves, sweet potato leaves, vegetables, and seasonal fruits), typically food sources during the peak lean season for poor households.

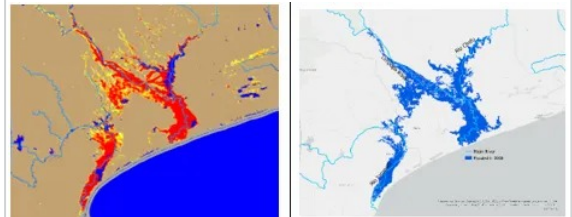
Dry spells: Following the mid-January floods, southern and central Mozambique experienced over 20 days, till mid-February, of intense heat with [little to no rainfall](#). The prolonged dry spell from late January through February has compounded the impacts of the floods, and together these shocks are expected to undermine the initially favorable outlook for the main agricultural season. Even if rainfall resumes, crop recovery from water stress will be limited. However, in previously flooded areas, households with access to short-cycle seeds are expected to replant as waters recede, taking advantage of residual soil moisture.

Conflict: The conflict situation in Cabo Delgado and northern Nampula remains volatile due to persistent insecurity and sporadic NSAG attacks, which continue to drive displacement, disrupt livelihood activities, and constrain humanitarian access. The newly displaced persons (IDPs) are facing particularly difficult conditions: they lack the means to work, are traumatized, and remain fearful, [which limits their ability to engage in typical livelihoods](#) such as farming, fishing, and other income-generating activities. International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) in early 2025 reported [over 600,000 displaced people](#) across Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa; numbers are likely to persist or increase following intensified attacks in late 2025.

Staple food prices: In the Maputo reference market, maize grain prices increased by 11 percent between December 2025 and January 2026 and remained 55 percent above the five-year average, though below last year's levels. Rice prices were stable month-on-month but remained more than 50 percent above the five-year average and slightly below last year's level. Elevated prices reflect cumulative shocks over recent years, including the [2024 El Niño-](#)

Figure 1

Satellite comparison of flooding in 2026 using VIIRS-derived data (left) and in 2000 using Landsat satellite-derived data (right)



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

induced drought and a number of successive cyclones in the last three years. While prices in central and northern areas are relatively lower, conflict-affected parts of Cabo Delgado continue to experience disrupted markets and above-average prices, constraining access for poor households. In January 2025, Mozambique recorded a **monthly inflation rate** of 1.26 percent, with food inflation reaching 3.29 percent. Price increases were noted for key food items, including coconut, lettuce, kale, tomato, onion, and dried fish, as well as charcoal.

Humanitarian food assistance

As of January 2026, in the context of conflict, Food Security Cluster (FSC) partners reported reaching 305,000 people with monthly food assistance – about 40 percent of the planned target – primarily in Cabo Delgado. In response to flooding in central and southern Mozambique, FSC partners had assisted 117,000 as of February 25, 2026. Most assistance has been delivered in nearly 100 accommodation centers hosting close to 100,000 displaced people. IDP’s are receiving support to restart livelihood activities from humanitarian partners and local authorities, in collaboration with INGD. However, humanitarian operations continue to face access constraints due to damaged infrastructure, insecurity, and limited resources.

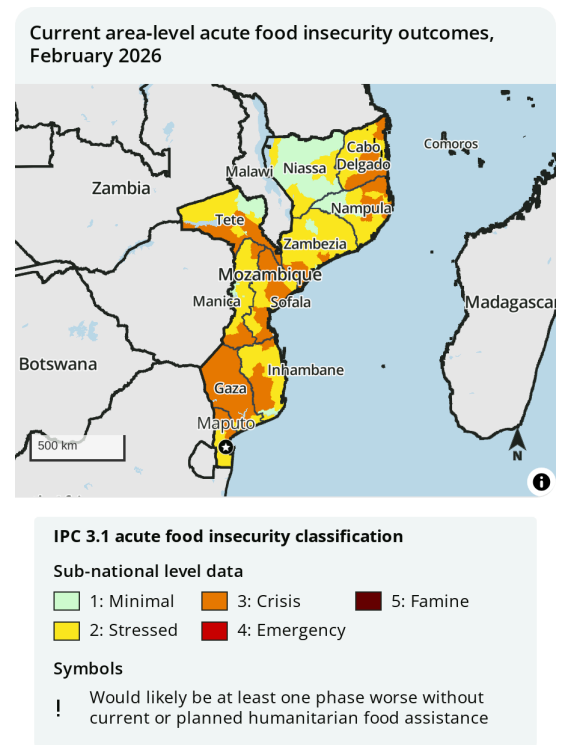
Current acute food insecurity outcomes as of February 2026

Southern and Central regions

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes persist in February 2026 for many flood-affected districts in southern and parts of the central regions of Mozambique, sharply reducing current sources of food and income. Due to depleted food stocks and limited availability of seasonal foods, poor households are market dependent amid above-average staple food prices. However, income-earning opportunities remain below average due to flooding impacts – including reduced agricultural labor; limited opportunities for land preparation and planting; constrained petty trade due to market disruptions; reduced sale of livestock and livestock products; fewer casual labor opportunities; and limited natural resource-based activities such as firewood and charcoal sales – limiting household purchasing power. Households are engaging in coping strategies, including reduced meal size or frequency, prioritizing feeding children, and relying on community support; however, food consumption gaps remain.

Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes remain in areas with access to income through casual labor linked to post-flood recovery activities, such as clearing debris, rehabilitating homes, and preparing fields for replanting. However, earnings are insufficient to cover both food and essential non-food needs. Flood-displaced households residing in accommodation centers and receiving regular humanitarian food assistance are likely **Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!)**.

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes persist in semi-arid districts of the southern and central regions that have experienced two consecutive years of below-average harvest. Poor households exhausted their food stocks atypically early and remain highly dependent on markets for food. However, income from available opportunities, including labor, remains below average due to limited liquidity among better-off households, reducing demand for goods and labor. Livestock sales – typically an important coping strategy – are increasingly constrained by depleted herd sizes following repeated distress sales and weak local demand. Households are intensifying reliance on forest-based income sources such as charcoal and firewood sales, traditional beverages, and the sale of construction materials. However, access to markets for forest products is limited, particularly in remote areas, and further constrained by flood-related infrastructure damage. Above-average prices of staple foods, particularly maize grain



FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. For full disclosure, see endnotes.
Source: FEWS NET

and rice, continue to erode purchasing power. Poor households without livestock or reliable income sources are increasingly employing consumption-based coping strategies, including reducing meal frequency and size, prioritizing feeding children, increasing reliance on wild foods, and seeking food support from relatives.

Northern region

In conflict-affected northern Mozambique, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes persist in much of Cabo Delgado and parts of northern Nampula due to continued displacement and disrupted livelihood activities limiting access to food and income. Insecurity continues to constrain household engagement in agriculture, fishing, and other typical income-generating activities, while market access remains restricted in several locations. In conflict-affected areas and inaccessible locations, households face constraints on movement and livelihood engagement, with reports of families spending nights in forests for safety and returning home during the day, limiting food access and employment opportunities. Poor households are employing coping strategies such as reducing meal size and frequency, prioritizing feeding children, relying on less preferred and wild foods, seeking support from relatives, and increasing engagement in petty trade.

In the districts of Muidumbe, Nangade, Macomia, and Quissanga, **Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!)** outcomes are ongoing, as food assistance is mitigating food consumption deficits. In relatively less conflict-affected areas, **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes prevail, as many households have partially rebuilt their livelihoods, including engaging in the ongoing agricultural season and petty trade; however, they remain market-dependent during the ongoing lean season and continue prioritizing food purchases over essential non-food needs. In areas less affected by conflict, such as Montepuez, Balama, Mueda, **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes prevail, as most poor households meet their minimum food, but not non-food, needs, while much of Niassa and western Nampula face – **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)** outcomes.

Urban areas

In urban areas, **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes persist among most poor households due to limited income-earning opportunities and poor purchasing power. Urban households are highly market-dependent, and above-average prices of staple foods continue to limit their ability to meet essential non-food needs.

Poor households – particularly child-headed, elderly, or widows without adequate social support – face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. Urban areas are experiencing food access constraints and limited income-earning opportunities, partly due to the **lingering economic impacts of post-election demonstrations** that disrupted small and medium-sized businesses. As many businesses reduced operations or closed, formal job opportunities declined, forcing poor households to rely more heavily on informal services and petty trade to meet their basic needs. Increased competition for limited resources or employment has further suppressed earnings, limiting households' ability to access food amid elevated food prices.

Key assumptions about atypical food security conditions underpinning the most likely scenario through September 2026

The February to September 2026 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

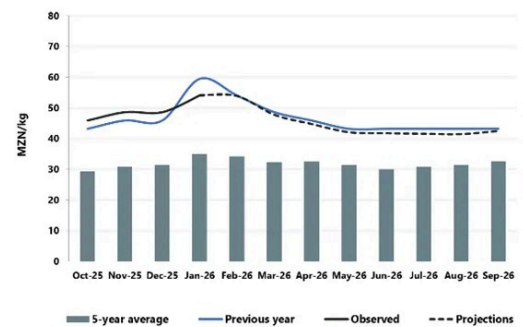
- **Average rainfall** from February to April is most likely across much of Mozambique, except the north, where above-average rainfall is likely. Despite drier conditions, localized flooding remains possible through March in central and southern regions, as well as in the north, while an above-average number of tropical cyclones and storms is forecast for the season.
- Temperatures are expected to be above average across much of the country from March to August 2026, with parts of southern Mozambique likely to experience average temperatures between March and May.
- The first-round pre-harvest forecast for the 2025/26 agricultural season indicates average production at the national level. Regionally, the north and center are expected to produce average yields, while the south is projected to experience below-average production. In southern and some central areas affected by dry spells,

reduced residual soil moisture is likely to constrain second-season cultivation, resulting in below-average second-season harvests.

- Violence intensity is expected to fluctuate in Cabo Delgado and neighboring northern Nampula provinces, driving displacement, hindering household livelihood activities. In resettlement areas, households will try to recover as authorities and humanitarian partners provide land and essential support for agricultural activities.
- Starting in February, many flood-affected households will gradually return home as waters recede. Those who have lost their homes or remain flooded may stay longer in accommodation centers, where they will receive humanitarian assistance.
- Pasture and cattle body conditions are expected to remain average across the country. However, flood-affected areas may experience pasture shortages, which are likely to gradually improve after the waters recede. Reduced herd sizes due to livestock drowning are anticipated, and the body condition of surviving animals may temporarily worsen due to delayed pasture regrowth.
- Average agricultural labor opportunities are expected to persist in the central and northern regions through September. However, in conflict-affected areas, opportunities are likely to remain below average due to continued insecurity and disruption to normal livelihood activities. In flood-affected areas, labor availability is anticipated to be below average until early March, as flooded fields remain unsuitable for cultivation and affected households face limited access to seeds. From mid-March to September, labor opportunities are expected to gradually improve during the second season harvest.
- The second season harvest is expected to be average in central and northern regions due to favorable moisture. In the flood-affected southern areas, poor households may struggle to access seeds, limiting post-flood planting. Severe flooding has caused soil degradation and structural damage, such as prolonged waterlogging and nutrient loss. These issues are likely to delay planting and reduce yields, particularly for households with limited resources.
- Annual headline inflation is expected to remain moderate, **averaging approximately 5-7 percent**, with prices contained by exchange rate stability. Seasonal food price increases during the lean season, localized supply disruptions due to flooding and conflict, and **likely MZN depreciation** are expected to exert upward pressure on prices. Although inflation may temporarily stabilize following the main harvest (April-June), it is expected to remain above recent levels, reducing purchasing power for poor households reliant on markets.
- Increased imports of maize and fresh produce with South Africa is expected to be above average, driven by below-average availability in southern Mozambique.
- In Maputo, maize prices are expected to remain stable, following similar trends as last year but it remains above the five year-average through September 2026 (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Maputo maize grain prices and projections (MZN/kg)



Source: FEWS NET, MADER/SIMA data

Humanitarian food assistance

WFP, which accounted for 93 percent of food assistance under the 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan, requires 98 million USD to sustain planned operations over the next six months. Without additional funding, the number of beneficiaries in Cabo Delgado is projected to decline from 420,000 to 265,000 by March 2026. Government estimates indicate that **approximately 103 million USD is needed** to close current funding gaps and respond to urgent flood-related humanitarian needs.

Projected acute food insecurity outcomes through September 2026

Southern and Central regions

From February to May 2026, many poor households in flood- and dryness-affected areas of southern and central Mozambique are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. Following two consecutive years of below-average production and an anticipated below-average 2026 harvest, household food stocks and income will remain below average. Agricultural and non-agricultural income sources—including petty trade and the sale of forest products—will be limited by weak demand, while livestock sales will be constrained by small herd sizes and low purchasing power. Above-average staple food prices will further erode household purchasing capacity. Households are expected to rely on consumption-based coping strategies such as reducing meal size and frequency, consuming less preferred foods, prioritizing children’s consumption, increasing charcoal and firewood sales, gathering wild foods, and seeking temporary labor migration. Despite these efforts, many households will likely experience food consumption gaps consistent with Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The small harvest at the end of the lean season in April/May, is expected to support some improvement in household food consumption and seasonal price stabilization, but will remain insufficient to change Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes.

Flood-displaced households receiving regular humanitarian assistance are expected to face **Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!)**, while in less-affected areas, the April-May main harvest is likely to improve access to own-produced food and market supply, supporting improvements in food security to **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** and **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)** outcomes.

From June to September 2026, improvement in food availability is expected as households access second-season and post-flood production, allowing for improvement from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Minimal (IPC Phase 1). Overall, food consumption and purchasing power are expected to remain below average due to the anticipated below-average harvest following flood-related crop damage, limited access to seeds, and reduced food and income sources. As a result, recovery is likely to be slow, with household access to food and income from own production remaining constrained. Although seasonal price decreases will likely improve food access for poor households, staple prices are expected to remain above five-year averages due to low supply and sustained demand. Income-earning opportunities will remain constrained by reduced livestock holdings, weak purchasing power, and competition in informal markets. However, many poor households will remain market-dependent with below-average purchasing power, continuing to face **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** outcomes, while flood-displaced households receiving regular assistance are expected to be **Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!)**.

Northern areas

From February to May 2026, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in parts of Cabo Delgado and parts of northern Nampula due to sporadic NSAG attacks, which drive displacement, disrupt livelihoods, and restrict access to food and income. Agricultural production will be well below average as insecurity limits access to land, inputs, and labor. Many households prioritize safety over livelihood activities, reducing their capacity to produce food and earn income. Newly displaced households and those with limited assistance will face food consumption gaps. In highly insecure areas, movement restrictions may force households to adopt protective behaviors, such as temporarily relocating to forests at night, further constraining food and income access as households employ negative coping strategies.

In areas receiving regular humanitarian food assistance, including the districts of Muidumbe, Nangade, Macomia, and Quissanga, **Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!)** outcomes are expected to persist, supported by the expected average main harvest in April/May. In areas less affected by conflict, **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes are expected through April,

as households remain market-dependent during the peak lean season. The harvest starting in April/May is expected to improve access to own-produced food and increase market supply, supporting an improvement in acute food security, with many households improving to **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)** or **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes**.

From June to September, **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** outcomes will persist in conflict-affected areas due to continued insecurity, limited movement, and restricted access to food and income. In less affected areas, improved own production and market supply will support better food consumption, though **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes will remain prevalent, with some households improving to **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)**.

Urban areas

In urban areas, **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** outcomes are expected among poor households due to above-average living costs, sustained food price inflation, and below-average income-earning opportunities. Households rely almost entirely on market purchases, and above-average staple prices continue to constrain essential non-food spending. Rising rural-to-urban migration is intensifying competition for income, while limited access to foreign currency and economic disruptions are causing business closures and increased unemployment. Households – headed by elderly persons, women, or children without adequate social support – are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity outcomes.

Annex 1: Key sources of evidence used in this analysis

Evidence	Source	Data format	Food security element of analysis
Mozambique livelihood zones and profiles	FEWS NET	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Typical sources of food and income by livelihood zone
Weather and flood forecast	NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, USGS, the Climate Hazards Center at the University of California Santa Barbara, and NASA	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Forecast on the agroclimatic situation in Mozambique during the scenario period
Geospatial data, satellite image products, and derived data products	Geospatial data, satellite image products, and derived data products	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Permanent monitoring of the agroclimatic situation based on satellite images
Conflict analysis and forecasts	ACLED, Control Risks Seerist, Signal Room, ACAPS; 360Mozambique	Quantitative	Analysis and information on the conflict in Cabo Delgado
Humanitarian food assistance distribution plans	Mozambique Food Security Cluster (FSC) , ◇ WFP	Quantitative	Levels of humanitarian food assistance in September and plans for the scenario period of this Outlook
Fundamentals and integrated technical analysis for the projection of maize grain prices in the southern, central and northern areas	FEWS NET	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Current behavior of maize grain prices and projections for the next eight months across three reference markets: the south (Maputo city, Maputo province), the central zone (Mutarara in Tete province), and the north (Montepuez in Cabo Delgado province).

Evidence	Source	Data format	Food security element of analysis
Field information on food security conditions in selected areas of the country	Key informant interviews with local extension officers, humanitarian implementing partners, and community leaders	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Gain insights from local sources regarding food security issues, focusing on access to food, income generation, production levels, food reserves, and coping strategies.
February 2026 FEWS NET Seasonal Forecast Review	NOAA	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Forecast on the agroclimatic situation in Mozambique during the scenario period
Climate shocks (cyclones, heavy rains, El Nino induced drought)	OCHA; Reliefweb; OCHA; Worlddata.info Weather.com	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Impacts on the livelihoods of affected households. Evidence of heavy rainfall and impacts on affected households and emergency needs
The prevalence of stunting among children under the age of five in Mozambique	National Library of Medicine (NLM)	Quantitative	Understanding chronic malnutrition helps us identify issues related to food access, clean water, sanitation, and health care. These factors are essential for distinguishing between acute and endemic situations.
Impacts of post-election protests in Mozambique	MZNews, 360Mozambique	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Helps with food security analysis, particularly in urban areas
Flood impacts	National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD)	Quantitative	Households' livelihoods
Displacement and farmers' participation in conflict-affected areas.	Club of Mozambique; FAO	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Analysis and information on the conflict in Cabo Delgado
Macroeconomic indicators of Mozambique	National Institute of Statistics (INE); Club of Mozambique; 360mozambique.com	Quantitative	Food access
Post-harvest losses in Mozambique	IFDC	Quantitative	An element that helps to understand the rural context with regard to the conditions of conservation of food reserves

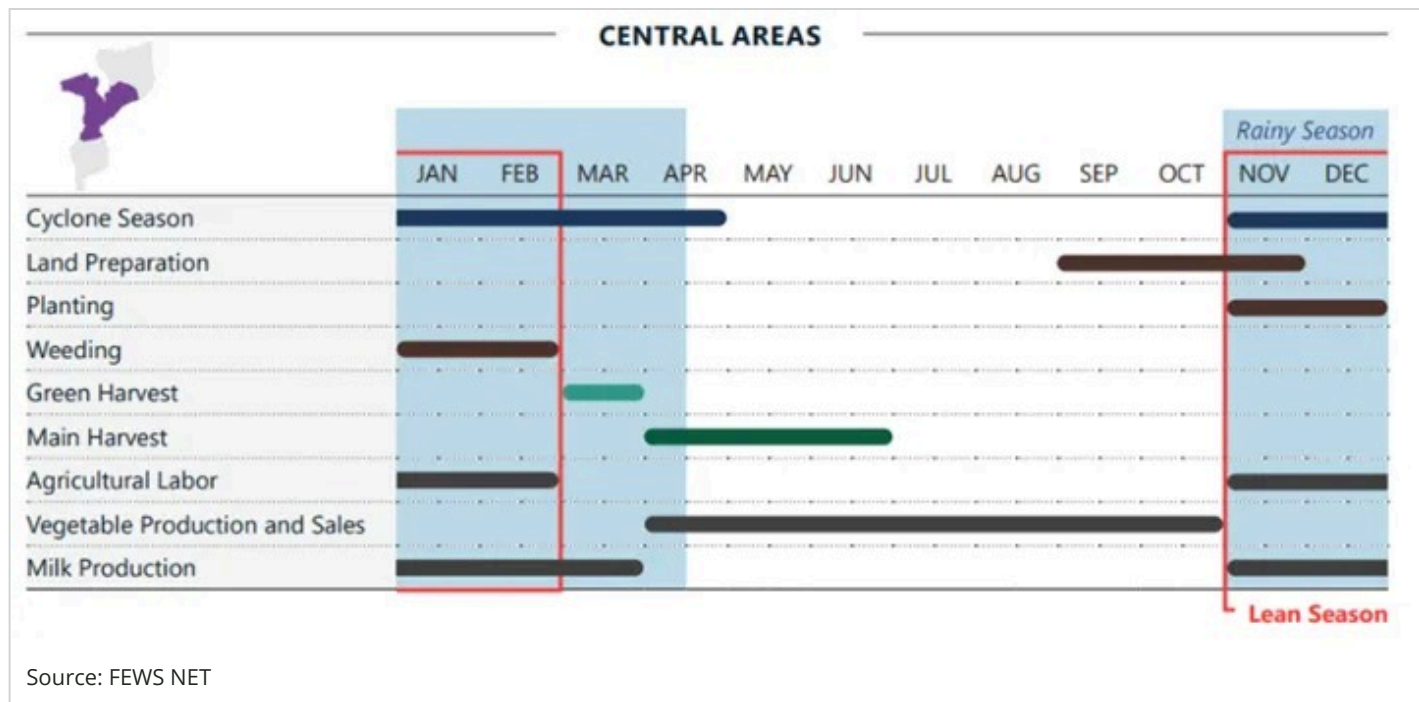
Annex 2: FEWS NET's analytical approach explained

Early warning of acute food insecurity outcomes requires forecasting months in advance to provide decision makers with sufficient time to budget, plan, and respond to expected humanitarian crises. However, due to the complex and variable factors that influence acute food insecurity, definitive predictions are impossible. **Scenario Development** is a methodology that allows FEWS NET to meet decision makers' needs by developing a "most likely" scenario of the future.

FEWS NET's scenario development process applies the Disaster Risk Reduction framework and a livelihoods-based lens to assess acute food insecurity outcomes. A household's risk of acute food insecurity depends not only on hazards (such as drought) but also the household's vulnerability to these hazards (e.g., the level of dependence on rainfed crop production for food and income) and coping capacity (which considers both the household's ability to cope with a given hazard and the use of negative coping strategies that harm future capacity). To evaluate these factors, FEWS NET bases this analysis on a strong foundational understanding of local livelihoods. FEWS NET's scenario development process also accounts for the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework; the Four Dimensions of Food Security; and UNICEF's Nutrition Conceptual Framework, and is closely aligned with the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) analytical framework.

- **How does FEWS NET analyze current acute food insecurity outcomes?** FEWS NET assesses the extent to which households can meet their minimum caloric needs. This analysis converges evidence of current food security conditions with available direct evidence of household-level food consumption and livelihood change. FEWS NET also considers available area-level evidence of nutritional status and mortality, focusing on whether these reflect the physiological impacts of acute food insecurity. FEWS NET uses the globally recognized five-phase [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) scale](#) to classify current acute food insecurity outcomes, and the analysis is IPC-compatible. In addition, **FEWS NET applies the "!" symbol** to designate areas where the mapped IPC Phase would likely be at least one IPC Phase worse without the effects of ongoing humanitarian food assistance.
- **How does FEWS NET develop key assumptions underpinning the most likely scenario?** A key step in FEWS NET's scenario development process is the development of evidence-based assumptions about factors that affect food security. These include hazards and anomalies in food security conditions that will impact the evolution of household food and income during the projection period, as well as factors that may affect nutritional status. FEWS NET also develops assumptions about factors expected to behave normally. Together, these assumptions form the foundation of the "most likely" scenario.
- **How does FEWS NET analyze projected acute food insecurity outcomes?** Using the key assumptions that underpin the "most likely" scenario, FEWS NET projects acute food insecurity outcomes by assessing the evolution of households' ability to meet their minimum caloric needs over time. FEWS NET converges expectations of the likely trajectory of household-level food consumption and livelihood change with area-level nutritional status and mortality. FEWS NET then classifies acute food insecurity outcomes using the IPC scale. Lastly, FEWS NET applies the "!" symbol to designate any areas where the mapped IPC Phase would likely be at least one IPC Phase worse without the effects of planned – and likely to be funded and delivered – food assistance.
- **How does FEWS NET analyze humanitarian food assistance?** Humanitarian food assistance – defined as emergency food assistance (in-kind, cash, or voucher) – may play a key role in mitigating the severity of acute food insecurity outcomes. FEWS NET analysts always incorporate available information on food assistance, with the caveat that such information can vary significantly across geographies and over time. In line with IPC protocols, FEWS NET uses the best available information to assess where food assistance is "significant" (defined by at least 25 percent of households in a given area receiving at least 25 percent of their caloric requirements through food assistance). In addition, FEWS NET conducts deeper analysis of the likely impacts of food assistance on the severity of outcomes, as detailed in FEWS NET's guidance on [Integrating Humanitarian Food Assistance into Scenario Development](#).

Annex 3: Seasonal calendar



Annex 4: Events that would likely change projected acute food insecurity outcomes

While FEWS NET’s projections are considered the “most likely” scenario, there is always a **degree of uncertainty** in the assumptions that underpin the scenario. This means food security conditions and their impacts on acute food security may evolve differently than projected. FEWS NET issues monthly updates to its projections, but decision makers need advance information about this uncertainty and an explanation of why things may turn out differently than projected. As such, the final step in FEWS NET’s scenario development process is to briefly identify key events that would result in a **credible alternative scenario** and significantly change the projected outcomes. FEWS NET only considers scenarios that have a reasonable chance of occurrence.

National

Tropical Cyclones and/or floods impacting high-production areas



Likely impact on acute food insecurity outcomes: Depending on the scale and frequency, tropical cyclones or flooding could cause a major disruption to agricultural production through damage to standing crops and livestock, disruptions to livelihood activities, and destruction of infrastructure. The impact would be particularly severe if the hazard occurs between reproductive and maturation stages of crop development, when potential for recovery or replanting is constrained. The main concern revolves around poor households that have experienced two to three consecutive below-average harvests. These households would likely face another poor harvest, further limiting access to own-produced food, labor opportunities, and income-earning capacity. Households will face difficulties recovering, likely remaining in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** or experiencing only a short-lived improvement before potentially returning to **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** well ahead of the lean season beyond the projection period.

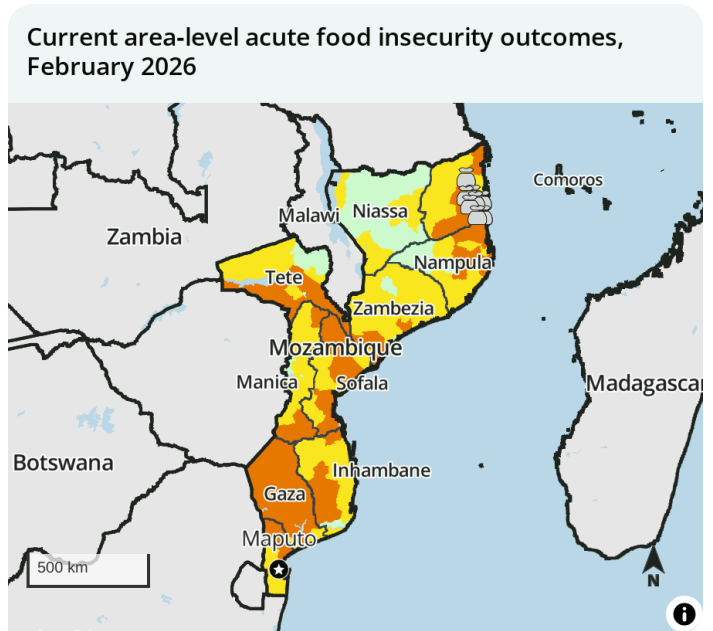
Flooded areas in the southern region

Large-scale distribution of short-cycle seeds for the second season, combined with improved agroclimatic conditions

Likely impact on acute food insecurity outcomes: Second season or post-flood planting could occur on a larger scale than anticipated, potentially leading to favorable harvests from June onwards. Under these conditions, many flood-affected households that lost their crops in January could benefit from good second-season harvests of maize, beans, and various vegetables. Increased availability of own-produced food would improve household access above projected levels, resulting in a general improvement in food security. Consequently, many households initially expected to remain in Crisis (**IPC Phase 3**) could improve to **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** or **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)**.






Annex 5: Projected acute food insecurity outcomes and areas receiving significant levels of humanitarian food assistance

Each of these maps adheres to IPC v3.1 humanitarian assistance mapping protocols and flags where significant levels of humanitarian assistance are being/are expected to be provided.  indicates that at least 25 percent of households receive on average 25-50 percent of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance (HFA).  indicates that at least 25 percent of households receive on average over 50 percent of caloric needs through HFA. This mapping protocol differs from the (!) protocol used in the maps at the top of the report. The use of (!) indicates areas that would likely be at least one phase worse in the absence of current or programmed humanitarian assistance.





IPC 3.1 acute food insecurity classification

Sub-national level data

-  1: Minimal
-  3: Crisis
-  5: Famine
-  2: Stressed
-  4: Emergency

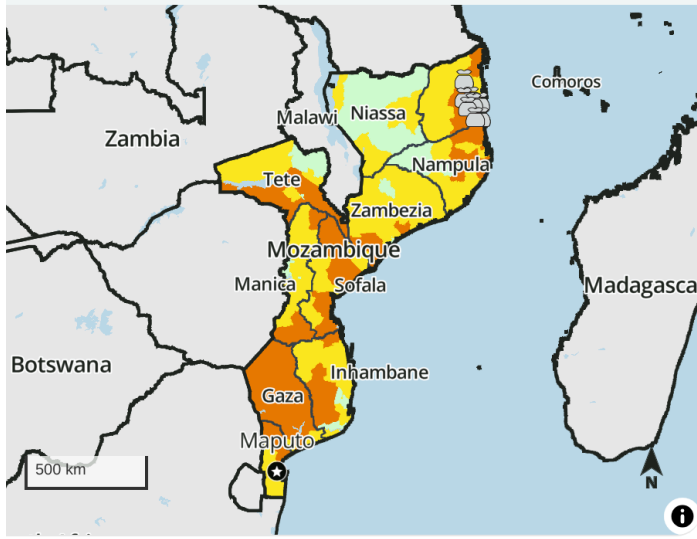
Symbols

-  $\geq 25\%$ of households met 25-50% of their kcal needs through HFA
-  $\geq 25\%$ of households met $>50\%$ of their kcal needs through HFA

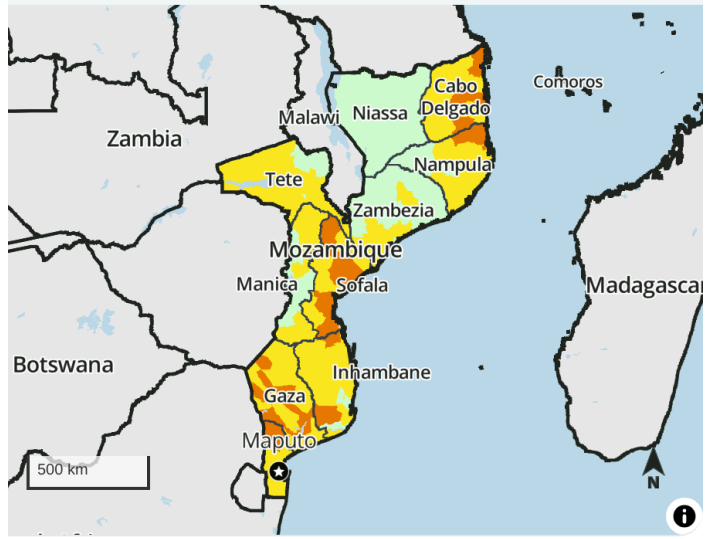
FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. For full disclosure, see endnotes.

Source: FEWS NET

Projected area-level acute food insecurity outcomes, February - May 2026



Projected area-level acute food insecurity outcomes, June - September 2026



IPC 3.1 acute food insecurity classification

Sub-national level data

- 1: Minimal 3: Crisis 5: Famine
- 2: Stressed 4: Emergency

Symbols

- >=25% of households met 25-50% of their kcal needs through HFA
- >=25% of households met >50% of their kcal needs through HFA

IPC 3.1 acute food insecurity classification

Sub-national level data

- 1: Minimal 3: Crisis 5: Famine
- 2: Stressed 4: Emergency

Symbols

- >=25% of households met 25-50% of their kcal needs through HFA
- >=25% of households met >50% of their kcal needs through HFA

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. For full disclosure, see endnotes.

Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. For full disclosure, see endnotes.

Source: FEWS NET

Recommended citation: FEWS NET. Mozambique Food Security Outlook February - September 2026: Crisis (IPC Phase 3) persists into harvest period in the center and south, driven by flooding, 2026.

* FEWS NET classification is **IPC-compatible** with limited exceptions. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners. As of IPC 3.0, the IPC no longer assesses the impact of food assistance on classification and thus no longer maps the (!). However, FEWS NET continues to produce food security maps inclusive of the (!) as well as maps compatible with IPC 3.0/3.1, which include the mapping of food security assistance bags. In rare cases, FEWS NET classification is IPC-aligned but not IPC-compatible. IPC-aligned analysis is evidence-based but some types of evidence required for IPC-compatibility were not available.

Food Security Outlook

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. Learn more [here](#).