



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

**CYCLONE IDAI JOINT RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT, CHIBABAVA DISTRICT, SOFALA PROVINCE,
MOZAMBIQUE**

Medair, MTI, FH Association

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Methodology

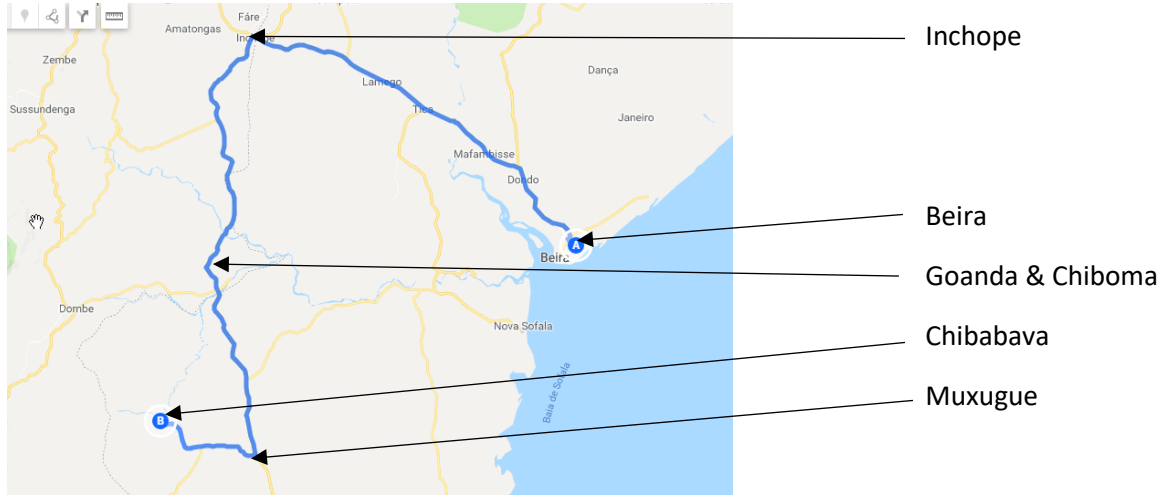
FHA have existing development programs across Mozambique, and as such have a network of staff across affected areas. Chibabava district was selected as an area which was known to be affected by both the cyclone and the flooding, but as yet under-served by humanitarian actors.

The team used a mixture of key informant interviews, observations, technical inspections and focus group discussions in affected areas to gather the data that informs this report.

Travel

- No major changes to the observation on the route between Beira and Nhamathanda in the previous joint RNA. (See Annex 1).
- Some humanitarian aid being delivered in Tica and Nhamathanda.
- Beyond Nhamathanda, the N6 travels through areas which show little visible damage of the cyclone and no flooding. There was a landslide on a mountain in the area (roughly -19.23767, 34.093409) which had temporarily blocked the road but has now been cleared. It was not reported to have caused damage to residential areas.
- Inchope market (-19.210321, 33.932692) is functioning and reported to use supply routes via Chimoio. These have never been disrupted and therefore prices have remained stable throughout the crisis.
- The road had a number of traffic police check points, but NGO vehicles were never stopped. The check points seemed to focus mainly on checking minibuses.
- At Inchope the team moved from the N6 to travel south on the N1. This road crosses two major rivers – Revue (-19.765556, 33.84535) and Buzi (-19.932027, 33.826184). Both of these have large road bridges crossing them which remain un-damaged. Both rivers are reported to have flooded in the crisis, but are now at a low level.
- There were several petrol stations along the route, the team re-fueled at Muxugue town (-20.385749, 33.93677) only, so cannot comment on operability of other stations.
- To reach Chibabava town the team departed the N1 at Muxugue town and took the R521 followed by an un-numbered road (junction -20.365968, 33.77532). Most of this was unmade but in good condition. The majority of this section of road is wide enough for two cars to pass, although does go down to single-lane in places. Road is suitable for truck access.
- Chibabava town (-20.2923, 33.650358) lies at the end of this road, situated on the banks of the Buzi river.

- Total travel time from Beira to Chibabava town is 8 hours, including brief stops.
- Cell coverage is mostly good, with a few short breaks in service.
- Both the N1 and N6 are single lane apart from the section of the N6 close to Beira.



Chibabava Town (-20.2923, 33.650358)

Chibabava town is well developed with paved roads and concrete houses. The town sits high above the Buzi, and so had not flooded in the residential areas. The team met with a group of key informants in the local health department building: David (Health Director), Lucas Ernesto (Administrative Representative), Thomas Aroujo (District Secretary). Discussion focused on needs in the wider district (all KI's were working at district level), as well as needs in Chibabava town. The KI's requested that the team visit Goanda town in order to assess needs more fully in the impacted area.

Chibabava Town: The town has 7,000 residents. The main issue in Chibabava was water-related. The town is usually pumping water from the river, which then goes through a treatment plant before being pumped to taps around the town. The pump and intake were damaged in the flooding and are no longer operating. There is also no power with which to operate the plant. This has resulted in residents walking long distances down to the river to collect water in jerry cans to use at home. There are two major issues with this – the safety of collecting the water when having to walk long distances and collect from a river infested with crocodiles, and the safety of the actual water which is not treated. The team visited the river bank in the evening to observe the collection of water, and noted that water collection is primarily carried out by women, who are exposed to additional risk traveling to the river at dusk. As the assessment team included a technical WASH expert, a quick assessment of the water pumping system was carried out. It was determined that the repair needs are fairly minimal, although this would need a fuller technical survey to confirm.

Chibabava District: The KI's explained that in the district there are 5 schools being used to accommodate IDPs from the flooding in the area.

School Name	Number of IDP HHs	Number of IDPs
Mukundomore	142	710

Goanda (now empty, data from previous days)	9	34
Goanda-Majaka	403	2,014
Gerome	241	1,205
Chiqwacha	93	465
TOTAL (excluding Goanda)	879	4,394

These schools all fall in the Goanda area of the district. It was reported that 4 out of 5 schools remain inaccessible due to flooding, and that no services have been provided [in place] to the IDPs sheltering in them.

The district officials stated that their main needs for the area are:

- Fuel for generators (5,000 litres)
- Mosquito nets (2,214, one net for every two IDPs)
- Chlorine (150kg)
- Certeza (300 bottle)
- Shelter repairs

The health system in the district consists of 1 main hospital in Muxugue, 2 health centres (Chibabava and Magunde) and 10 health posts (some with maternity wards). The health director confirmed that the government is re-stocking clinic supplies, and all but one clinic have not experienced any interruption in services. One clinic is only accessible by boat (even during the dry season), and since the flooding they have not been able to access the clinic due to a shortage of boats and prevalence of crocodiles. There are reports of extensive damage to some health structures, but all centres are open and functioning, with all staff working (*note: this is not 100% clear and has not been checked*). Due to the lack of electricity since the crisis and storm damage to solar panels, centres are using generators, and there is a risk that the government will not be able to fund this for an extended period of time.

Goanda Town (-19.848863, 33.793537)

In Goanda town the team met with Pedro Philippe (Chef de Poste), Jean Ernesto (Director of the Health Centre), Adrino (Agricultural Department Manager). During this interview it was confirmed that there are 4 schools still hosting IDPs in the area, and that 1 school has emptied. The interviewees had not yet managed to reach the schools due to the flooding, and were not aware of any assistance provided beyond a small amount of food. KIs mentioned that INGC conducted a food distribution of 5 kg of rice per household, but recipients were required to walk out from the school(s) to the distribution site along the N1. It is unclear which of the schools were served via this distribution

Goanda Health Centre: a brief assessment of Goanda health centre was carried out. There were 3 clinic staff present – a triage staff, a nurse and a pharmacist. The pharmacy was well stocked and organized. There was one treatment room, one delivery ward (4 beds), and one general medical ward (1 bed). There was a reported small increase (10%) in diarrhea and malaria cases, but this was anecdotal only – the team did not check records. The building had not sustained any damage.

IDPs Hosted in Schools: The team agreed with the Chef de Poste and Agricultural Manager to look at the routes to the schools hosting IDPs to see if the assessment Land Cruisers could access any of the schools.

The schools are accessed from both sides of the N6. Three out of four schools are on the side of the river the N6 lies on, the fourth is on the opposite side of the Buzi river and can only be accessed by boat.

The team first tried to access Goanda-Majaka and Gerome schools but the track leading east from the N6 (-19.822822, 33.815701) was too wet to drive on still. One motorbike passed but no other vehicles. The first school lies approximately 10km down the track. The team enquired as to whether motorbikes are for hire in the area and were told that there are none available. This track was reported to be the one in the best condition of those leading to the schools on this side of the river.

The school in Chiqwasha (west from the N6, on the far side of the river) was determined to still be inaccessible due to a lack of boats. The boats that used to connect the sides of the river were washed away in the flood and the only boats available locally now are small wooden canoes, which are not appropriate for crossing a river that is infested with crocodiles. It was determined that it was not possible to access the schools within this assessment.

Anecdotally, in discussions, it was stated that flood waters are still high in the villages which residents had left to shelter in the schools, and so they are still not able to return home. No services have been provided except some food from the government which some IDPs walked long distances to collect and take back to the schools. It was noted that some IDPs hosted in the schools were also walking long distances to visit the health centre in Goanda.

However, there was one school locally which IDPs had already left, and the team were able to visit a village where IDPs had now returned having sheltered in the local school for some time.

Chiboma Village (-19.922513, 33.833385)

In Chiboma village the assessment team undertook observations and held key informant interviews with the local leader (Thomas Mushava) and the local INGC representatives, as well as a focus group discussion with residents.

Chiboma lies on the banks of the river Buzi. There are 1,759 households, of which 169 were directly impacted by the crisis). Homes are made of mud and straw, income comes primarily from agriculture and animal husbandry, roads are unmade and there is no water or electricity system. The local residents do not speak Portuguese, but rather a local dialect called Chindau.

15 days prior to the cyclone local INGC representatives carried out early warning activities, ensuring residents were aware of the impending storm. However, it was not clear at this stage that this was a particularly aggressive storm and residents were reluctant to move despite the INGC representatives encouraging temporary relocations. The residents stated that the cyclone lasted for 3 days and the flooding for 7 days. Those living in the lower areas climbed trees to escape the floods, stringing mosquito nets up in the branches to hold children. The community carried out their own search and rescue operation using local canoes. Those displaced either stayed with friends and neighbours or moved to the school for shelter. No lives were lost and injuries sustained were minimal. No humanitarian aid has reached the community, and this was the first assessment to be done.

The community affected stated that they have lost their crops of corn and peanuts, animals such as chickens and goats were lost, homes were swept away along with possessions. They have seen an increase in diarrhea and malaria but are able to receive treatment in nearby Goanda for this. All

residents have returned from the school as no assistance was being offered. There are signs of households starting to re-build shelter structures, but it is clear from observation that many residents will struggle to recover from this shock without humanitarian assistance.

During discussions, many village residents joined the conversation in order to explain their situation. There was no sign of anger or frustration, and the team was thanked for coming all the way to the village. This was the first assessment team to visit the area. Women stated that they fear another cyclone will come and rumours are spreading in the community. They asked for a more effective early warning system in the future.

Residents stated their primary needs as:

- Food
- Shelter
- Mosquito nets
- Blankets, kitchen sets and other NFIs
- Seeds for re-planting – particularly corn and vegetable seeds
- Livestock replacement (chickens and goats)

The team did not observe latrines in use, but residents stated that those households affected are now sharing pit latrines with their neighbours who were not affected. Water continues to be carried from the river and boiled before use.

Recommendations:

The assessment recommends a number of follow up actions:

- Immediate assistance to the village of Chiboma in the form of shelter and NFI kits, and planting kits.
- Immediate assessment of further small settlements along the bank of the Buzi in the Goanda area east and west of the N1.
- Support to the town of Chibabava in repair of the water pump to enable clean water to be pumped to the town again.
- Continued assessment of the routes in to the 4 schools that remain inaccessible, to ensure that humanitarian aid is able to reach those communities as soon as possible. Consider the use of motorbikes, hiring a barge, and walking in.
- Provision of cholera prevention kits to communities reporting rises in cases of acute watery diarrhea.

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