



## Context

According to the World Meteorological Organization, the 2023–2024 El Niño was one of the five strongest on record.<sup>1</sup> Though it has returned to neutral conditions, its consequences will continue to impact the population for the coming months. In the southern and central regions of Mozambique, the El Niño event brought well below-average October 2023–February 2024 rainfall, bringing above normal temperatures until May 2024, while northern Mozambique has experienced average to above-average rainfall. By disrupting rainfall and temperature patterns, El Niño has severely impacted agriculture and rural livelihoods in the Southern Africa region, as well as in Mozambique.

According to the latest Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Food Security Outlook (February–September 2024), Crisis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phase 3) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected through September 2024.<sup>2</sup> Some areas where populations face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions may worsen to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) around August due to the expected rapid depletion of the imminent below-average harvest, limited access to income, and above-average food prices.

Average to below-average rainfall, mainly due to the negative effects of El Niño, in central and southern parts of the country was expected to negatively impact the 2023/2024 agricultural season, resulting in below-average harvests and impacting the availability and price of grains and seeds in the region, according to FEWS NET. Poor households in southern and central Mozambique are likely to remain dependent on market purchases in the post-harvest period to supplement their 2024 harvest.

The failure of the agricultural season may also lead to increased migration both within the country and across borders. The impact on reduced staple grains production is having a significant impact on the region, where many countries depend on imports for their maize and staple food minimum requirements. South African wholesale prices of white maize grain increased by 33 percent between January (start of the drought) and March 2024, while yellow maize prices rose by 15 percent over the same period. In some vulnerable areas of Mozambique, many smallholder farming households deplete their own food reserves even in years of good harvest. It is imperative to act now to protect and restore the assets of drought-affected communities by engaging in productive and protective livelihood activities.

**With over 80 percent of Mozambicans relying on agriculture for food and income, supporting agricultural livelihoods is critical. Providing vulnerable households with at scale and urgent assistance will help mitigate the impact of El Niño, ensuring they can produce and access nutritious food and earn income to support their families and communities.**

# Mozambique

## Mitigating and responding to the impact of El Niño on agriculture and food security

Urgent call for assistance



To assist  
**1 050 000 people**  
**(210 000 households)**



FAO requires  
**USD 41.2 million**



Period  
**July 2024–June 2025**

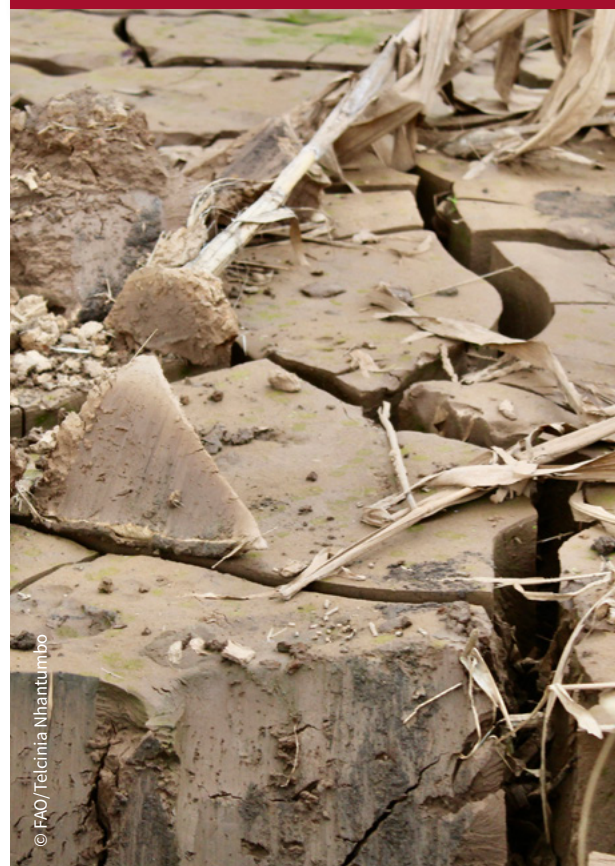


Targeted areas  
**Manica, Sofala, Tete,  
Zambezia, Gaza and  
Inhambane provinces**



**1.8 million** people in high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) in all districts characterized by drought severity level 1 and 2:

- **1.1 million** people targeted for assistance by the Food Security Cluster
  - ▶ 297 000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and drought severity level 1
  - ▶ 807 000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and drought severity level 1
- **810 000** people additionally in IPC Phase 3 and above and drought severity level 2 in Gaza, Maputo, Niassa, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia provinces



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## Objectives

- ▶ Mitigate the impact of El Niño-induced climate extremes on the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable households.
- ▶ Improve vulnerable households' access to diversified and nutritious food.

## Response

### Main season (October–December 2024)

- Distribute and promote the use of drought-tolerant crop seeds (e.g. sorghum, millet).
- Promote water-harvesting and conservation practices.
- Support community seed production and conservation.
- Intensify and scale up conservation agriculture practices.
- Implement livestock restocking, supplementary feeding, and monitor and control interventions to sustain and improve livestock health and productivity.
- Scale up smallholder farmers' access to improved grain storage facilities, post-harvest technologies and equipment, and water harvesting and management techniques.

### Second agricultural season (March–June 2025)

- Support vegetable production in lowlands and the application of climate-smart practices.
- Promote water-harvesting and water conservation practices (e.g. drip irrigation).
- Open swallow wells in river beds for vegetable production.
- Support the multiplication of seeds of non-commercial crops (e.g. cowpea) in areas with access to irrigation and community seed production and conservation.
- Promote local production and conservation of fodder.
- Promote short-time income-generating activities (e.g. poultry production).
- Promote and improve post-harvest management.
- Intensify vector control in cattle.
- Intensify and scale up conservation agriculture practices.

### Institutional support (July 2024–June 2025)

- Assist government in providing timely and reliable information on food security and nutrition situation.
- Conduct seed and crop assessments.
- Support vaccination campaigns for cattle.
- Assist in the dissemination of good practices.

## Notes

- 1 **WMO**. 2024. *El Niño weakens but impacts continue*. In: *World Meteorological Organization*. [Cited 23 April 2024]. <https://wmo.int/media/news/el-nino-weakens-impacts-continue>
- 2 **FEWSNET**. 2024. *Mozambique Food Security Outlook, February–September 2024: Humanitarian needs likely to remain high through September 2024 due to El Niño and conflict*. Maputo, Mozambique. <https://fewsn.net/southern-africa/mozambique/food-security-outlook/february-2024>



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