**THE DANISH EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

**ALERT NOTE**

**Section A: Basic information**

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| Organisation: | SustainableEnergy (VedvarendeEnergi) Denmark  Livaningo Mozambique |
| Title of alert: | El Nino drouth relief in Mozambique |
| Type of crisis: | Slow onset humanitarian crisis |

**Section C: Slow onset humanitarian crisis**

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| *c.1 Where is the crisis?* Drought in southern Mozambique worsened by the El Niño phenomenon, affecting the Provinces of Gaza and Inhambane. *c.2 What is the nature of the crisis?* The central and southern regions of Mozambique have been hit by El Niño since Oct. 2023. According to the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum, the phenomenon is characterized by below-normal rainfall during the period from Oct. to Dec. This is confirmed by the National Meteorological Institute (INAM). INAM confirmed that the South of Mozambique is already registering below-average rainfall and this will prevail until April 2024. Furthermore, according to the World Meteorological Org., the phenomenon will continue until April 2024, which means that next year will be much warmer than 2023. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MITADER) stated that the dry conditions and an increase in temperatures in the agricultural areas are expected to impact around 70% of the agricultural activities. As observed in some districts in Maputo and Gaza the irregular rainfall is limiting agricultural practices. Though some farmers have cropped, there strong indication (confirmed by MITADER) that they will not yield this season. Farmers in Inhambane expected that they during the current farming season would recover their subsistence and livelihoods that had been destroyed by cyclone Freddy in 2022. However, El Niño will keep or push people further into a vulnerable and food insecurity situation. As of now in Maputo and Inhambane most people do not eat three meals per day.[[1]](#footnote-1) El Niño is also affecting people’s income as agricultural is their main source of income. Moreover, the increase in food prices decrease thier purchasing power and market access, just as wages for agricultural labour in the affated areas are likely to be lower than normal since middle and wealthy families will have lower-than-normal cash following below-normal crop sales from the 2023 harvest. *c.3* *What information do you have about the situation?* According to the National Institute of Disaster Management in Maputo and Inhambane, more than 2 million people are experiencing food insecurity as an outcome of El Niño. Based on the assessment carried out in Oct., most smallholder farmers did not start to crop because of the absence of rain. In an interview with the district agricultural department in Chibuto and Magude Districts in Gaza and Maputo respectively it was explained that smallholder farmers have made many attempts to sow seeds and some have exhausted their seeds reserves. This means that even if there is a little rain ahead most of them will lack seeds and rely on the market or donation. Data generated by Livaningo indicate that cereal and needs legumes are 34,804 tons and 6,694 tons in Chibuto District in Gaza. The National Institute of Disaster Management has relied on assistance, support, and assistance from partners such as WFP, and Mozambican Christan Counsel in assisting around 14,605 people. There is a continue need for food assistance, agricultural inputs, knowledge, skills, and equipment to promote self-employment and community empowerment.[[2]](#footnote-2) The reality in Chibuto is just a snapshot picture of what is also required in other districts. The rural economy in Mozambique is made through agricultural and other natural resources-based activities by smallholder farmers. Unless there is technical and financial support to recover livelihood assets and foster local development actions, El Niño phenomenon will worsen the vulnerability situation of most of the people who depend on natural resources in Gaza and Maputo Province. *c.3.1 Provide as strong as possible evidence of why there is a change in the current slow onset crisis. Describe also when the change occurred* In Mozambique, the first warnings about the impact of El-Nino were disseminated by the National Meteorology Ins. in July 2023, since then the authorities have been disseminating information and highlighting the country's need to prepare for drought in the central and southern regions and for above-normal rainfall in the north. Since this prediction there has been changes on how progressively it affects people. People are already experiencing droughts in some districts in Gaza and Maputo and the situation is progressively getting worse. It is important to recall that in 2016, El Nino phenomenon reduced the production of around 25 million farmers in Mozambique, and for the current 2023/2024 agricultural season, rainfall levels are expected to be below 60% of normal levels, with emphasis on the provinces of Gaza and Inhambane. These facts have prompt gov. institutions to seek early actions as strategies to minimise the expected effects. *c.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?* DERF can make a big difference in minimizing the effects of the drought, especially in Gaza and Inhambane. This support can focus on six-month anticipatory actions (considering the peak of the rainy season from Nov. to April) given the drought situation, water conservation practices and sustainable harvesting practices can be incorporated; as well as ensuring clean water consumption, on the other hand, the increase in drought-resistant seeds and assistance to small producers in smart agricultural initiatives can be considered. *c.4 Are you already responding to this emergency?* Livaningo has a strong presence in the areas described above, with technical staff trained to support the climate needs. In Gaza, Livaningo is monitoring the situation and Livaningo’s field staff assist agricultural associations in agroecology and other sustainable practices that can be disseminated to more peasants. Livaningo has also created environmental risk management in designated communities that have supported the dissemination of information to communities. |

1. [Crise alimentar afeta milhares de pessoas em Inhambane – DW – 04/07/2022](https://www.dw.com/pt-002/crise-alimentar-afeta-milhares-de-pessoas-em-inhambane/a-62350663) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Additional information: <https://reliefweb.int/report/madagascar/southern-africa-el-nino-positive-indian-ocean-dipole-forecast-and-humanitarian-impact-october-2023>; <https://fews.net/southern-africa/mozambique/food-security-outlook/october-2023>; <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.shtml?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email>; <https://fews.net/southern-africa/alert/november-2023>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/seasonal-precipitation-predictions-desert-locust-summerwinterspring-breeding-areas-november-2023-april-2024>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/after-historic-drought-somalia-now-braces-el-nino-rains-least-million-people-high-risk-flooding>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/fsnwg-special-report-el-nino-and-positive-indian-ocean-dipole-have-significant-multi-sectoral-impacts-east-africa-11-october-2023>; <https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20230725_ACAPS_Thematic_report_El_Nino_overview_anticipated_humanitarian_impact_in_2023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)