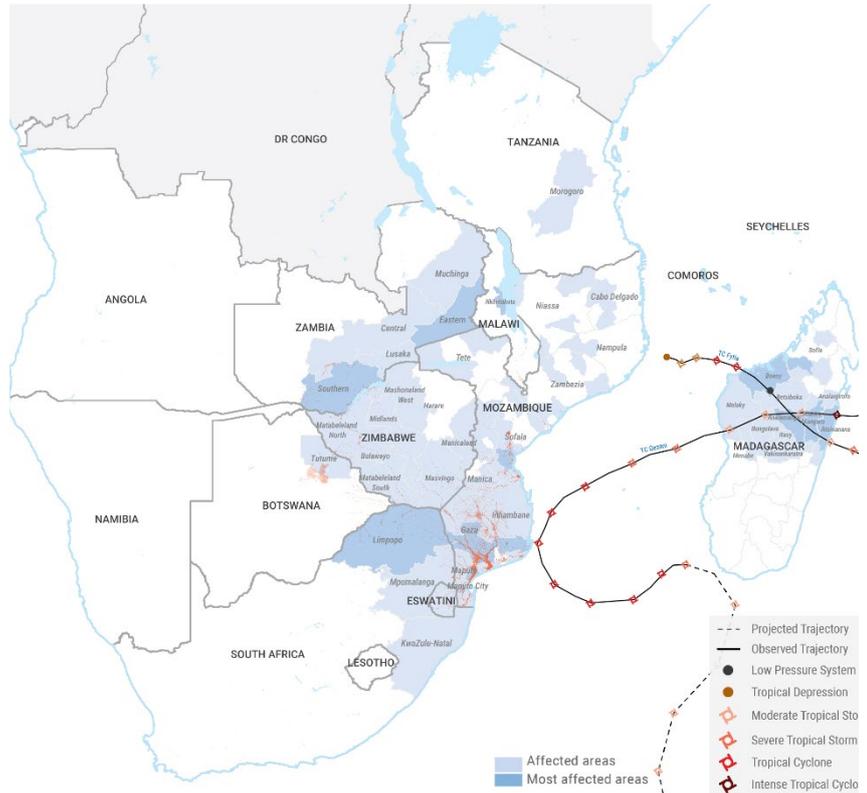


HIGHLIGHTS

- Since mid-December 2025, heavy rainfall and cyclones across Southern Africa have affected an estimated 1.5 million people, with over 300 deaths and more than 170,000 people displaced, primarily in Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa and Zambia.
- Successive cyclones in Madagascar alone — Tropical Cyclone Fytia and Intense Tropical Cyclone Gezani — have affected over 681,000 people, including approximately 475,000 in need of humanitarian assistance, causing widespread damage to housing and critical infrastructure.
- In Mozambique, flooding has affected approximately 723,000 people, damaged over 171,000 houses and 229 health facilities, and destroyed 717,000 hectares of farmland, exacerbating food insecurity and disease risks.
- South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe have reported fatalities, displacement and extensive infrastructure damage, including to schools, health facilities, bridges and dams, with cholera outbreaks recorded in Zambia and heightened public health risks across the region.
- Agricultural losses across multiple countries, following earlier El Niño–related drought conditions, are compounding food insecurity and undermining livelihoods, with long-term implications for recovery and resilience.
- Governments are leading response efforts, supported by SADC, UN agencies and humanitarian partners, while CERF and other donors have mobilized emergency funding, including anticipatory action allocations for Cyclone Gezani.
- Humanitarian operations face major constraints due to access disruptions, damaged infrastructure, continued rainfall, disease risks and significant funding gaps, underscoring the need for sustained regional coordination and additional international support.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since mid-December 2025, heavy and sustained rainfall across several countries in Southern Africa has triggered widespread flooding. An estimated 1.5 million people have been affected, with more than 300 deaths reported, primarily in Mozambique, Madagascar, South Africa and Zambia. Over 170,000 people have been displaced, and extensive damage has been recorded to homes, schools, health facilities, roads and bridges, disrupting access to essential services and markets. Agricultural losses are compounding food insecurity in communities already weakened by El Niño–related drought. Floodwaters and overcrowded temporary sites have heightened the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, including cholera and malaria. In February,

successive cyclones in Madagascar caused additional casualties, displacement and significant damage to housing and critical infrastructure, particularly in eastern regions.

In **Angola**, Huíla Province reportedly experienced heavy rains accompanied by strong winds during the week of 9 February, causing floods and damage in several municipalities. The Civil Protection and Firefighters organization is still assessing the extent of the damage as rainfall is expected to continue.

In **Madagascar**, Tropical Cyclone Fytia made landfall on 31 January, killing at least 12 people, displacing more than 31,000 and affecting over 200,000 people across nine regions. Ten days later, Intense Tropical Cyclone Gezani made landfall near Toamasina with winds of up to 250 km/h, causing more than 50 deaths and affecting over 478,000 people. Overall, an estimated 681,290 people have been affected by the two cyclones, of whom approximately 475,000 are in need of humanitarian assistance. Read more on this on [Madagascar: Humanitarian impact of Tropical Cyclone Fytia Flash Update No. 3 \(06 February 2026\)](#) and [Madagascar: Humanitarian impact of Tropical Cyclone Gezani Flash Update No. 2 \(13 February 2026\)](#)



An aerial view shows widespread flooding and devastation across communities in Madagascar following Cyclone Gezani. © BNGRC

In **Mozambique**, an estimated **723,000** people have been affected by flooding across southern and central Mozambique, particularly in Gaza, Maputo, and Sofala provinces, following heavy and persistent rainfall since mid-December, as of 6 February. Most affected people remain outside temporary accommodation centres, while 77 centres are currently hosting around 77,000 people. Extensive infrastructure damage reported, with over 171,000 houses flooded or destroyed, 229 health facilities damaged, and 355 schools affected. Damage to health facilities and water systems has significantly increased the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, including cholera and malaria. At the same time, the loss of 717,000 hectares of farmland, just as communities were preparing to harvest, will have significant medium and long-term consequences, for the food security of communities affected. Although Cyclone Gezani did not make landfall in Mozambique, communities experienced its impact. As of 14 February, approximately 500 people were affected in Inhambane Province, around 1,200 houses, 8 health units, and 200 schools were partially damaged.

South Africa declared a national state of disaster on 17 January due to life-threatening floods in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces following rainfall equivalent to six months of average levels. The floods have affected nearly 20,000 people, resulting in 39 confirmed fatalities, 150 injuries, and over 1,000 people displaced to evacuation centres. More than 3,900 families have been affected, with significant damage to infrastructure, including 385 roads and bridges, 78 schools, and 138 health facilities.

In **Malawi**, rainfall is expected to continue across most parts of the country due to the influence of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone. A peak in rainfall is anticipated in parts of the Shire Valley in the southern region, including Nsanje and Chikwawa districts. Tropical Cyclone Gezani did not have an immediate impact on Malawi, however, relevant departments continue to monitor the system.

In **Zambia**, flooding since December 2025 has affected more than 250,000 people and displaced over 1,300 people across multiple districts in the Eastern and Southern provinces, as of 3 February, according to the National Disaster Management Authority. More than 29,300 hectares of crops were washed away and over 190 classrooms were damaged, affecting approximately 1,000 students. Of 190 dams, 12 are in critical condition and 34 have been breached, all requiring urgent rehabilitation at an estimated cost of K20 million (approximately

US\$1.1 million). Nationwide, 211 bridges are reported to be in critical condition and in need of urgent attention. In Lundazi, the water treatment plant was submerged by floodwaters, disrupting access to safe water for approximately 40,000 residents. With water, sanitation and waste management services damaged or destroyed, families face an increased risk of waterborne diseases. A cholera outbreak has affected 19 districts across Northern, Western, Lusaka, Southern, North-Western and Copperbelt provinces, with 785 cases, including 14 deaths, recorded as of 2 February.

In **Zimbabwe**, heavy rains from 13 to 24 January caused dam spillages, river overflows and flash floods, **prompting** the Department of Civil Protection to request Zimbabwe Red Cross Society support for life-saving assistance. Since January, at least 123 deaths and multiple injuries have been reported. Around 8,315 families (41,575 people) have been affected, and more than 200 schools and 15 health facilities were damaged, according to government reports as of 20 February. Several major dams are full or overflowing, increasing downstream risk, and with more rainfall forecast, conditions are likely to deteriorate highlighting urgent needs for access repairs, early warning, and anticipatory action to protect lives, livelihoods and education, **IFRC reported**. Meanwhile, Tropical Cyclone Gezani drew moisture away from Zimbabwe, contributing to dry conditions in western areas. However, it is expected to bring rainfall to parts of country between 15 and 17 February, according to the Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe (MSD) on 12 February.

Forecasts

The Mozambique Channel basin is expected to remain meteorologically active with significant rainfall over eastern and northern Madagascar (generally 100–200 mm, locally higher in windward areas), with additional moderate to heavy accumulations across central and northern Mozambique (approximately 50–150 mm), extending to southern Tanzania, southern Malawi, and parts of eastern South Africa and Eswatini over the next 3–5 days, according to the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) report released on 12 February. These projections sustain elevated flood risk in already saturated catchments in Madagascar and central and southern Mozambique, with potential downstream effects and localized flooding in adjacent Member States. In a context of cumulative seasonal impacts, even moderate additional rainfall may re-elevate river levels, disrupt infrastructure, and intensify secondary humanitarian pressures, reinforcing the need for sustained regional monitoring and operational readiness.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

National authorities across the region are leading response efforts to widespread flooding, supported by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners. Governments have activated national and local-level disaster management structures, undertaking search and rescue operations, evacuations, establishment of temporary shelters and initial relief distributions, with some countries declaring states of disaster to mobilize contingency funding.

SADC deployed an Emergency Response Team (ERT) to support national authorities in Mozambique and Madagascar, reinforcing government-led coordination, early recovery planning, ongoing needs monitoring. United Nations agencies are supporting inter-agency assessments, coordination mechanisms and sectoral response, including food assistance, shelter, health, WASH, protection and logistics. National and international NGOs and Red Cross societies are complementing these efforts by delivering life-saving assistance, managing displacement sites and restoring essential services.

Donors have mobilized financial support through multiple funding mechanisms, although significant gaps remain. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated US\$4.5 million to Mozambique and US\$3 million to Madagascar in pre-arranged financing for anticipatory action to support vulnerable communities at high risk from Cyclone Gezani. CERF also released US\$2 million for the Cyclone Fytia response in Madagascar and US\$5 million to support flood response efforts in Mozambique. In addition, US\$1.46 million was allocated from the Start Fund to support early response activities.

In **Madagascar**, the Government, through the National Bureau for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC), continues to lead the response. Immediate priorities include multisectoral assistance to displaced people, support to households who have lost their homes, restoration of health and nutrition services, urgent WASH interventions and the rapid resumption of schooling. Rehabilitation of damaged roads, drainage of stagnant water and strengthened protection services are also key priorities. To reinforce coordination and information management, OCHA's Regional Office has deployed two officers and is providing additional remote support. The Southern African Development Community and the European Union have also deployed emergency response teams. Humanitarian partners are supporting assessments, coordination and sectoral response across food, shelter, health, WASH, protection and logistics. Several donors, private companies, civil societies and Member States have demonstrated solidarity with the people of Madagascar and expressed their willingness to provide urgently needed financial resources. As assessments continue amid an overstretched response operation, humanitarian needs are likely to increase, underscoring the need for additional resources, flexible funding and sustained international support. Read more on the response: on [Madagascar: Humanitarian impact of Tropical Cyclone Fytia Flash Update No. 3 \(06 February 2026\)](#) and [Madagascar: Humanitarian impact of Tropical Cyclone Gezani Flash Update No. 2 \(13 February 2026\)](#)

In **Mozambique**, the Government of Mozambique continues to provide strategic and operational leadership during the response. The United Nations and humanitarian partners are working hand in hand with national and local authorities to reinforce national systems, strengthen coordination and support the delivery of life-saving assistance. Read more on the response: [Mozambique 2026 Flood Humanitarian Response - as of 16 February 2026](#)

In **South Africa**, the declaration of a national state of disaster on 17 January due to floods enabled national-level coordination of response efforts. The South African Red Cross Society has supported Government-led response operations across KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, providing life-saving assistance to thousands of people. Through an International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [allocation](#) of CHF 498,850 (approximately US\$649,000), the IFRC will provide immediate relief and early recovery support to around 2,000 vulnerable families (10,000 people) affected by the floods in Limpopo and Mpumalanga (1,000 families in each province). The assistance will focus on protection services, ready-to-eat meals, essential household items, flexible cash assistance for priority needs, including food, health care and basic essentials, and strengthened health and WASH prevention and hygiene promotion to reduce disease risks over a six-month period.

In **Zambia**, response efforts have focused on preparedness and immediate relief. Preparedness measures have included the dissemination of early warning information and agro-bulletin advisories to farmers, activation of the National Emergency Operations Centre, and the pre-positioning of food and non-food items for affected communities. The Road Development Agency has installed six temporary bridges in affected areas, with two more under construction, while drainage works in Lusaka are ongoing. As of the end of January, response activities included the distribution of WASH supplies, and food assistance alongside a cholera vaccination campaign conducted in January. Government-led evacuations are continuing, and a camp has been established in Monze District. As of end-January, the site had 16 tents and faced a shortfall of 58 tents, which were to be sourced from Livingstone District. In addition, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) is developing a support model for households whose homes have been destroyed by flooding. According to the National Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan, K128.8 million (approximately US\$5.37 million) is required to support preparedness, anticipatory actions and response activities. To date, K67 million (approximately US\$2.79 million) has been secured, leaving a funding gap of K61.8 million (approximately US\$2.58 million). Meanwhile, the Government of Zambia, through the DMMU, has donated 550 metric tons of food to Mozambique following severe flooding that has impacted several provinces.

In **Zimbabwe** the Red Cross Society through IFRC-DREF [allocation](#) of CHF 374,996 (approximately US\$488,000) aims to support a total of 10,000 people affected by floods in the country with lifesaving and relief

activities, including shelter, multi-purpose cash assistance, Health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Community Engagement and Accountability and Protection, Gender and Inclusion, for a period of four months.

HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES AND GAPS

Humanitarian response to flooding and the impacts of cyclones across Southern Africa continues to face significant operational challenges. Access constraints remain a major impediment, with damaged roads, bridges and critical infrastructure limiting partners' ability to reach affected communities and disrupting supply chains. In Madagascar, damage to roads, bridges and communication infrastructure in Atsinanana Region, particularly in and around Toamasina, has restricted access to some affected communities and slowed the delivery of assistance. Debris and residual flooding continue to hamper assessments and relief distribution. Across the region, saturated river basins, waterlogging and continued rainfall in some areas are prolonging displacement and further complicating logistics, particularly in remote and low-lying areas. Limited pre-positioned stocks and power disruptions are also slowing the scale-up of assistance. Public health risks are increasing, including the threat of cholera and other waterborne diseases due to contaminated water sources, overcrowded displacement sites and damaged sanitation systems. Funding shortfalls are constraining both immediate life-saving response and early recovery efforts, including the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure and the restoration of livelihoods. With multiple countries affected simultaneously, national capacities and regional surge mechanisms are being stretched, underscoring the need for additional resources, flexible funding and sustained international support.

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