

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

624 30 March 2023 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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In this issue

Climate

+ **Climate crisis Freddy killed 500 in Malawi**

+ **165 dead in Mozambique**

+ **Freddy is the new normal**

Other news

+ **Pascoal Mocumbi dies**

+ **Is Frelimo really afraid of a coup?**

Climate crisis Cyclone Freddy killed 500 in unprepared Malawi

Cyclone Freddy "demonstrates that climate change issues are real and we are standing right in the path of it," said Malawi President Lazarus Chakwere. The climate crisis has the potential to keep "a nation like Malawi in perpetual poverty", he added.

Cyclone Freddy hit Quelimane and then southern Malawi on 13 March, with torrential rain. This is not normal for Malawi, and in Blantyre houses are built on hillsides which turned to mud. Houses slid down the hillside, killing several hundred.

Government reports 511 dead, 533 still missing, 1724 injured, and 564,29 people in 577 emergency centres - half of which are still only accessible by air because many roads are flooded or washed out. Rain and flood has washed away 120,000 ha of crops and 200,000 animals have been killed. Road damage has cut off food to markets, with prices jumping to unaffordable levels. Where possible school have reopened but more than 400 schools are still being used to house displaced people, and many others were damaged. (government <https://bit.ly/40pd5WM> and UN OCHA <https://bit.ly/42NnFZc>)

Mozambique is more accustomed to cyclones, but death and damage are huge

In Mozambique 165 people were killed and 120,000 people have been displaced. In Zambézia many areas are still flooded and people who fled by canoe cannot yet return. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of crops are underwater, and saltwater carried inland by the cyclone will damage fertile land after the flooding has subsided.

But Zitamar (24 March) in Quelimane notes that "lessons have been learnt since Idai in 2019. Accurate forecasting and an effective early warning system, both of which were lacking four years ago, saved countless lives." People in the low-lying city returned quickly and began rebuilding.

Parts of Quelimane still do not have running water. There is now a major cholera outbreak. Mozambique has received 1.7 million doses of vaccines against cholera, a disease that has so far killed 85 people among 17,646 cases diagnosed. According to the head of the surveillance department in the Ministry of Health, Domingos Guihole, the vaccines are destined for the central cities of Quelimane, Chimoio and Beira, and Marromeu district, on the south bank of the Zambezi.

Flash flooding washed out many roads and bridges, cutting the railway at three points: The two coal exports routes were cut at Doa in Tete on the Beira line (see photo) which will take at least two more weeks to repair, and near the Malawi border on the Nacala line. The third cut is on the line from Cuamba to Lichinga. 20,000 km of roads have been affected, 4000 critically.



Electricity will only be restored to all of Quelimane next week. It will take much longer to reach Macuse; on that line 150 pylons were knocked down. The chairperson of the EDM Board of Directors, Marcelino Alberto, estimates damage to the electricity system by Freddy at \$10 mn.

Freddy is the new normal, and Mozambique and Malawi must prepare - at high cost

Scientists at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on 21 March delivered a final warning: global temperatures are now 1.1^o above pre-industrial levels and the change to climate is already clear and damaging. To keep below 1.5^o to prevent catastrophic damage requires massive emission cuts, which now seem unlikely. The *Economist* (8 Nov 2022) has already accepted that we are going to 2^oC, which is also the planning number that fossil fuel companies are using.



The damage 2°C will do to Mozambique is hard to contemplate, but this year has shown us what 1.1°C does. The **new normal** is super cyclones plus the combination of rainbombs, and drought - which all seem linked to the rising temperature of the water in the Mozambique Channel.

Cyclones: Freddy was the fourth of a new type of cyclone, following Cyclone Gombe on 12 February 2021; Cyclone Idai, 13 March 2019, one of the worst cyclones to affect Africa; and Cyclone Delfina, New Year's eve 31 December 2002. Until these four, this pattern had never happened before. All four crossed the Mozambique Channel from Madagascar and went inland into Mozambique, turned around, went back into the Mozambique Channel, turned around again and headed toward Mozambique. But they slowed down picking up more water and energy, finally hitting Mozambique with a powerful punch of torrential rains and high winds.

The other new normal is much more irregular rainfall patterns. First is "rainbombs" - very heavy rain from tropical storms picking up water from the Mozambique Channel, and dropping an incredible 300 mm of rain in a single day. The flooding in Maputo province and city was due to a rainbomb on the Mozambique-Eswatini-South Africa border area on 9-10 February. These are the new normal, but infrastructure is not designed to handle 300 mm of rain in a day. Dams, rivers, bridges, culverts under roads, and drains simply cannot take that much water in a day, and flooding is inevitable. By the time Freddy got to Malawi on 14 March it was only a tropical storm, but it had so much water from dawdling over the Mozambique Channel that it was a rainbomb over Blantyre. Not only were roads and drains unable to cope, but houses were built on hillsides that resisted all "normal" rain simply washed away with the mud and occupants.

The final piece of the triangle is drought. Total rainfall does not change much, but if a lot falls as rainbombs then there are periods with no rain - drought. Malawi is short of food already because it had drought in some maize zones.

Mozambique and its neighbours need billions of dollars to just to adapt to 1.1° - the new normal. Everything around us needs to be adapted, strengthened, able to handle more rain and wind. Agriculture will need to survive irregular rain and wind. Money from the gas in the next decade will not even pay part of that cost, and in a decade when we have passed 1.5° more billions will be needed.

If the Cabo Delgado gas goes ahead, it will not just be the war, but TotalEnergies and ExxonMobil deciding that the new target is 2°C and they will be able to sell all of Mozambique's gas. To keep up with that, almost everything we see and know will have to change. New forms of farming. Higher roads and bigger drains. Boane will have stronger houses built on 1 metre high blocks so that flood waters can pass underneath. Gas money is a decade off, and this has to be done before there is substantial income. Who will pay?

But what has happened in February and March in Boane, Matola, Quelimane and Blantyre is the new normal, and must be planned for and rebuilt for.

Respected Frelimo leader Pascoal Mocumbi dies

One of the founders of Frelimo, Pascoal Mocumbi, died 25 March at the age of 81, after a long illness. In 1980 he became Minister of Health, in 1987 Foreign Minister and Prime Minister from 1994 to 2004.

In the colonial era he went to Lisbon to study medicine but his political activities forced him to flee to France. In 1962 he was part of the meeting in Tanzania which created Frelimo, was named to the central committee, and was permanent representative in Algeria 1965-7. The was an important post because of the strong support of Algeria for the Mozambique independence struggle.

He went to Switzerland to finish his medical training, and only returned to Mozambique in 1975, after independence. He held senior medical posts until he was named minister. He always promoted health development in Mozambique and the rest of Africa, with a range of projects with

WHO and other agencies. He was of the first Frelimo generation that really believed the priority was development of the country and all its people.

Personal view

Is Frelimo really afraid of a youth-led coup? Should it be?

The Frelimo leadership keeps suggesting it is afraid of a youth-led coup. This was the reason given by the police for attacking peaceful youth walking in the funeral cortege of the rapper Asagaia on 14 March and homage processions in various cities, some authorized by local authorities, on 18 March. Social media postings circulating suggested that young people use the Mozambique-Senegal football match at Zimpeto stadium on Tuesday (28 March) to pay homage to Asagaia.

So hundreds of police, including heavily armed riot police and the canine squad were sent to the stadium. A large group of soldiers were there in Mozambique football shirts. The mobilisation was announced on Monday by Lionel Muchina, Maputo police spokesperson, at a press conference at the football federation headquarters. "Any political, party, or religious demonstration is forbidden, because the football spirit does not allow such demonstrations," he said.



Armoured cars and soldiers in football shirts at Zimpeto. (CDD photos)

For several years the police have banned demonstrations by civil society, so the ban is not new - although it is illegal and unconstitutional.

Asagaia became a spokesperson for some youth with songs like "People in Power" and "Selling the Country" which stressed the plight of young people while the elite grew wealthy. Indeed, some argue that the civil war in Cabo Delgado is, in part, young people who feel marginalised and excluded from the money and jobs linked to gas, rubies, graphite and other resources.

Is the Frelimo elite right to fear the Mozambican youth? Some in the leadership act as if they think it is better to repress young people than give them jobs. Speaking to the UN Security at the end of Mozambique's month as rotating president, Filipe Nyusi called for yet another fund for to create

local jobs. The EU, World Bank, and others proposed a \$2.5 bn fund to do that, but insisted it be controlled locally. The government rejected this, and said it had to be controlled by the Frelimo elite in Maputo. Which would add to the problem of youth marginalisation, rather than solve it.

Should Frelimo fear its own increasingly restive youth? Can it keep the lid on? Or should it offer them jobs and a share of the wealth and decision-making? *jh*

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Elections

CIP Mozambique Elections Bulletin is published by Centro de Integridade Pública (CIP

<https://www.cipmoz.org>; <https://cipeleicoes.org/eng/cip@cipmoz.org>).

To subscribe or unsubscribe: <https://bit.ly/MozBul-sub> Past election newsletters are on <https://bit.ly/CIP-EI>

Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData> Election data: <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

Important external links

Books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

Flood, cyclone and weather: weather <https://www.inam.gov.mz/>

rainfall https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao_Manha.pdf

Daily flood and monthly dry season reports - <https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2023>

Cyclone trackers, <https://bit.ly/Reunion-cyclone>, <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

(which uses z time which is UCT - Coordinated Universal Time) and <https://www.cyclocane.com/>

Two LSE working papers - World Bank questions its Mozambique 'success' where oligarchs brought high inequality, poverty and corruption - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-208c> and **How the IMF and World Bank caused a resource curse and civil war in Mozambique** - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-209>

Minimum wage & exchange rate charts, tables 1996-2022 <https://bit.ly/MozMinWage2022>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <https://bit.ly/MozNews2023> and <https://bit.ly/MozNews2022>

My Mozambique archive: <http://bit.ly/Mozamb>

TSU_Tabela-Salarial-Unica - law, decrees, points system (2 Mb) <https://bit.ly/Moz-TSU>

Cabo Delgado

Cabo Ligado weekly report on civil war <https://www.cabolidado.com/>

Archive with reports, detailed maps, and census data <https://bit.ly/Moz-CDg>

Special reports on the war

Evolution of the war: global vs local. 27 Feb 2020 <http://bit.ly/CDelgadoOrigins>

Religion is shaping Cabo Delgado civil war. 30 April 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoReligion>

Intensifying argument over roots of war. 28 June 2020 <https://bit.ly/Moz-492>

Are the drums of war silencing any hope of peace? 26 July 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-496>

A history of violence presages the insurgency. 13 August 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-498>

Military & economic intervention. 3 Sept 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoIntervene>

Cabo-Delgado-Free-for-all. 20 Apr 2022. <https://bit.ly/Moz-593>

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - 2018 - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - CIP- 2018 - <http://bit.ly/HeroinaPT>

2001 first article- *Metical* - English and Portuguese <https://bit.ly/MozHeroin2001>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasEng

Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasPt

Background reading

Special reports

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

Special report on four poverty surveys: bit.ly/MozPoverty

\$2bn secret debt - in English

Secret debt trial (Aug-Oct 2021) press reports <https://bit.ly/Moz-secret-debt>

Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz>

Kroll report summary - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>

Key points of Mozambique parliament report - Nov 2016 - <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>

Following the donor-designed path to Mozambique's \$2.2 bn debt - <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

In Portuguese:

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete) bit.ly/MozAR-debt

2018 Constitution - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

Eleven books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013) <https://bit.ly/Zim-takes-land>

Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014) is on <https://bit.ly/Chickens-Beer>

Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)

Civil War Civil Peace (2006): <https://bit.ly/Civil-War-Civil-Peace>

Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)

Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000 (2001)

Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)

Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996) <https://bit.ly/Peace-wo-Profit>

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991) <https://bit.ly/Shots-Moz>

Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)

Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (2010)

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? (2008) (free in Portuguese)

Beggar Your Neighbours: Apartheid Power in Southern Africa (1986)

Mozambique media websites, English:

Club of Mozambique (free): <http://clubofmozambique.com/>

Zitamar (paywall): <http://zitamar.com/>

Mozambique media websites, Portuguese (all with partial paywall):

Notícias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O País: www.opais.co.mz

@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>

Carta de Moçambique <https://cartamz.com>

Mozambique think tanks and pressure groups, Portuguese:

Centro de Integridade Pública: CIP <https://cipmoz.org/>

Observatório do Meio Rural: OMR <https://omrmz.org/>

Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos: IESE <https://www.iese.ac.mz/>

Centro Para Democracia e Desenvolvimento CDD <https://cddmoz.org/> (some CDD in English)

Also CDD now controls Fórum de Monitoria do Orçamento - FMO (main debt group) <http://www.fmo.org.mz>
and RMDDH - Rede Moçambicana dos Defensores dos Direitos Humanos (a human rights group).

To subscribe to all CDD publications: <http://eepurl.com/qO9l6v> (English or Portuguese).

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