Tropical Cyclone Gombe in Mozambique

Information Bulletin

The situation

On 7 March 2022, the National Institute of Meteorology (INAM) issued an alert about the formation of a storm system off the coast of Madagascar. By 8 March, the system had been classified as Tropical Storm Gombe, which is expected further strengthen and make landfall in Mozambique on 11 March 2022.

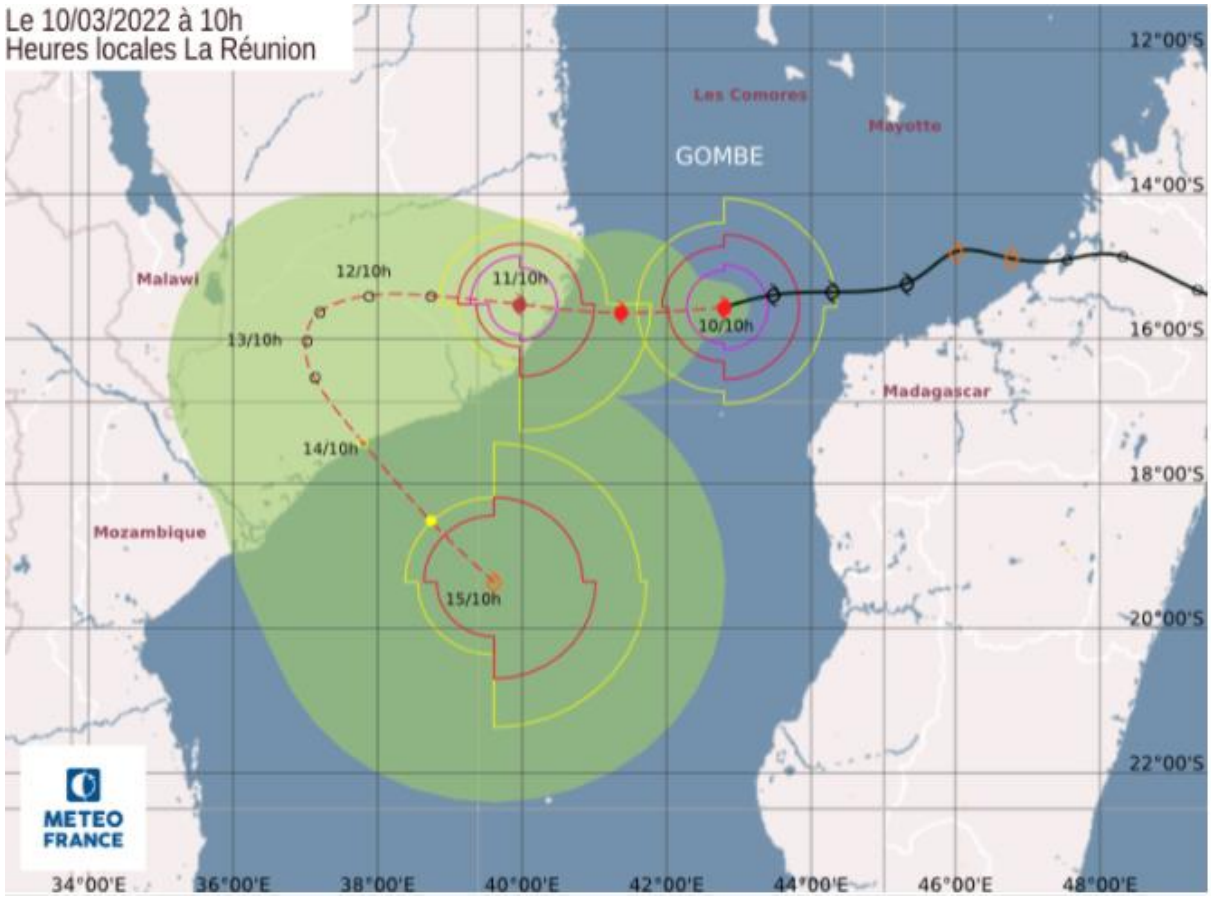


Figure 1: Meteo France prediction for TC Gombe as of 10 March 2022

According to INAM, the storm is expected to hit Mozambique as a Category 2 Tropical Cyclone with winds up to 160km/h and bring rainfall of 200mm in 24 hours. The epicentre will hit Mossuril District, central Nampula, the same province that TS Ana hit just over a month ago. Very strong winds and high rainfall are expected to affect people across Nampula, Zambezia, Tete, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa Provinces. GDACS estimates that 30,000 people will be impacted by wind speeds for a category 1 storm. TC Gombe is predicted to exit in Zambezia province and re-enter the Mozambican channel. This means that the storm could bring heavy rainfall across these central coastal areas for several days. The National Delegation of Hydraulic Resource Management (DNGRH) sent a moderate to high alert on 8 March for the Licungo and Zambezi River basins, as well as the coastal areas of Zambezia, Nampula and Cabo Delgado Provinces. Flooding is expected to affect downstream areas two to three days after landfall. We anticipate many more vulnerable families will be impacted by floods in the coming days. The Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS) estimates that approximately 55,000 people will be exposed to floods after TC Gombe.

TC Gombe is expected to impact primarily the province of Nampula, the most populated and one of the poorest, and the province of Zambezia, the second most populated and the most affected by the two previous tropical storms to hit Mozambique, raising serious concerns of the impact on increasingly

vulnerable households, with already damaged or destroyed houses. It is expected that the cyclone will exacerbate the current shelter, WASH, health and food security needs post TS Ana, especially as cholera cases continue to rise in Caia and Zambezia and crops are destroyed near the end of the growing season. It is predicted that TC Gombe could surpass the impact of TS Ana.

Mozambican Red Cross, IFRC and Partner's action

The Mozambican Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique, CVM) and the IFRC held their first internal taskforce meetings on 9 March 2022 to map the personnel, vehicles, and stocks available to respond in Nampula, Niassa, Tete, and Zambezia Provinces as they coordinate with the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD) for early warning messaging and response. There are 106 Mozambican Red Cross volunteers in Nampula, 180 in Zambezia and 48 in Tete that are trained and ready to respond to the emergency.

Unfortunately, the disaster preparedness stocks are low in country due to the recurring weather events that have impacted Mozambique since January (The current stocks available can reach up to 500 households and are divided between Nampula and the main warehouse at the headquarters in Maputo). Early Action Protocols (EAP) for floods are also in place to reach an additional 1,500 households as part of the Forecast-based Action initiative.



CVM and IFRC colleagues supporting with Rapid Needs Assessments in Nampula

The Mozambican Red Cross has dispatched three technical staff in advance of the storm, and IFRC has their Disaster Management Coordinator based in Nampula to respond and will send a Communication Delegate for additional support. Additional surge is also being considered with the National Society.

The Mozambican Red Cross requests urgent support to meet immediate needs of these vulnerable populations that are repeatedly hit by disasters. The Emergency Appeal for Floods and Cyclones 2021/22 is only 21% funded, which is the main constraint in responding and supporting vulnerable households.

Membership Coordination

Mozambican Red Cross and the IFRC are coordinating with the five Partner National Societies currently present in-country, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) providing long-term support to the Mozambican Red Cross. They are the Spanish Red Cross (SRC), German Red Cross (GRC), Belgian Red Cross-Flanders (BRC-FL), French Red Cross, and the Italian Red Cross. The German Red Cross is prepared to assist through the tri-party agreement if the EAP for floods is activated. The Belgium Red Cross-Flanders has a presence in Nampula and is prepared to support CVM through that project. Other partner National Societies continue to monitor the situation.

Shelter Cluster Coordination

The IFRC Shelter Cluster coordination team – full time coordinator and part-time information manager - has engaged in the humanitarian response to TS Ana since the beginning of February, and has been since coordinating with government, OCHA and partner organizations in defining critical needs and priorities for emergency shelter assistance, considering the scarce resources available. The shelter cluster partner organisations, along with all active clusters and partners, are engaged in preparedness, prepositioning the scarce stocks available in country and mobilising staff and resources to assist the INGD to assess damage for TC Gombe.

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- Franciscah Cherotich Kilel, **Grants Management and Donor Relations Coordinator,** Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Email: franciscah.kilel@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit: RISHI Ramrakha, **Africa Operations and Logistics Manager,** Africa Regional Office, Tel: +254 733 888 022**;** Email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.