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Between 31 January and 10 February 2026, torrential rains severely affected the provinces of Maputo, Gaza, and Sofala, causing large-scale flooding, destruction of infrastructure, and forced displacement. Hundreds of people lost their lives and thousands were left homeless, facing conditions of extreme vulnerability. Rising river levels, combined with critically damaged access roads, isolated entire communities and hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance during the initial hours of the emergency.

In response to this situation, Platform DECIDE mobilised 27 volunteers and initiated a direct field intervention in the districts of Boane, Marracuene, and Buzi. The response included rescue operations in coordination with local authorities, the establishment of a community-based reporting and emergency request mechanism through a WhatsApp-organised database, as well as immediate humanitarian assistance actions.

For three consecutive weeks, community kitchens were implemented, hygiene and baby kits were distributed, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, and water purifiers were delivered. In total, it is estimated that more than 1,800 people were directly assisted as part of this emergency response.

Of the total assisted population, approximately 55% were women, highlighting the disproportionate impact of the crisis on them. Children represented around 48% of beneficiaries, reflecting the high exposure of minors in disaster contexts. It is estimated that 6% were elderly persons and 5% were persons with disabilities — groups particularly vulnerable in situations of displacement and loss of shelter. Additionally, approximately 35% of the supported households were female-headed, indicating significant socio-economic vulnerability.

In the District of Boane, specifically in Matola-Rio, the intervention included support to the All Nations Orphanage, where 72 children, including 8 newborn babies, were in a critical situation following the partial collapse of the centre's roof. Complete baby kits, hygiene kits, and infant food supplies were distributed, along with essential food products. Meals were also prepared through the community kitchen for those in urgent need.

In Malongotiva, in the District of Marracuene, several families received mosquito nets, including nets adapted for newborn babies, in an improvised structure exposed to a high malaria risk due to the absence of doors and windows.

In the District of Buzi, in the Macurungo neighbourhood and in the Guara-Guara resettlement area, more than 560 people benefited from the community kitchen. Additionally, 200 families received mosquito nets, tarpaulins, and water purifiers during a critical phase of transition and reconstruction. Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers constituted the majority of beneficiaries in these areas.

Despite the immediate response, urgent needs persist, particularly the need to reinforce food assistance beyond flour and rice. It is also a priority to ensure the provision of complementary food items ("caril") to diversify and strengthen the diet of affected families.

It is equally urgent to secure milk for infants, given their extreme nutritional vulnerability, as well as other infant products and appropriate nutritional supplements.

Furthermore, school materials are required to support the educational reintegration of affected children, construction materials are needed to enable safe resettlement of displaced families, and the distribution of agricultural seeds is essential to mitigate the risk of food insecurity in the coming months.

It is important to highlight that some areas continue to require reinforced support, particularly in Sofala Province, with emphasis on the district of Nhamatanda, in the locality of Nhamboca, as well as the district of Machanga, which remained isolated for two weeks as a result of the floods.

Platform DECIDE reaffirms its commitment to the protection of life, human dignity, and the strengthening of community resilience. We will continue to act in defense of human rights and in response to emergencies affecting the most vulnerable communities in the country.