

Floods in Mozambique- February 2007

General Information on the event: Mozambique: The National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) declared Red Alert on 4th February for the Zambezi river basin. Small-scale evacuations started in communities closest to the river in Caia. Officials have been urging people to move to higher ground. The National Water Directorate (DNA) and INGC anticipate the displacement of between 50,000 and 300,000 people. Other rivers in Northern Mozambique may also overflow in the coming days. Mutarara is cut off completely by road. There are plans in place by INGC for potential evacuation of 300,000 people. *Source: WFP*

Respond Activities

Respond is currently involved in the provision of rapid crisis maps to support humanitarian relief logistics in Mozambique.

As severe flooding in Mozambique was hampering efforts to distribute food in the region, in particular at Muturara and Caia along the Zambezi River, the World Food Programme (WFP) requested UNOSAT to facilitate activation of the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" via UNOOSA as co-operating body. The International Charter aims at providing a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to those affected by natural or man-made disasters through Authorised Users- please see <http://www.disasterscharter.org/disasters/>.

UNOSAT requested that derived flood information from satellite imagery and image analysis should be undertaken by Respond. As a result, Respond-partner DLR - in co-ordination with UNOSAT, as project manager of this Charter call, is producing an overview map of the whole region, as well as specific pre and post flood extent map analysis of Muturara and Caia.

The mapping will include information about the flood extent, urban and rural settlements, logistical information such as road infrastructure, airports, etc and how these maybe affected by the flooding. The information will be extracted from a variety of sources including newly acquired optical and radar satellite data (such as SPOT, FORMOSAT, RADARSAT and ASAR) and archived satellite imagery, as well as from existing vector based geospatial information. The map products will be generated as digital maps on the scale of approx. 1:200,000 for regional overviews and 1:25,000 – 1:50,000 for the detailed flood analysis maps.

The completed maps will be available on this site from the 14th February 2007. For further information, please contact Helen Stannard by email helen.stannard@infoterra-global.com or by telephone +44 (0)1252 362055