



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

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EU allocates €3 million in humanitarian aid to help the flood-affected population of Mozambique

The European Commission is allocating €3 million humanitarian aid to help the most vulnerable people affected by the heavy rains which have battered several Southern African countries. Mozambique, the country hardest hit by the floods, has seen more than 250,000 people, mostly women and children, affected by the crisis. An estimated 190,000 of those have been uprooted from their homes due to floods.

"There is an urgent need for shelter and food supplies for the flood-struck people of Mozambique. Tents and plastic sheeting have been provided so far but the majority of people are still living in the open and we need to provide them with an immediate help," said Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response.

The most critical situation is in the Limpopo valley, province of Gaza but it is deteriorating in other parts of the country, especially in the province of Zambezia, with growing numbers of people that needed to be evacuated to the safe areas.

Access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities will be a priority for the new funding to help the flood affected people. Since the cholera outbreaks are endemic in Mozambique and the Gaza Region has a high rate of HIV and AIDS affected people the support will also focus on health and protection.

Background

Intensive rains in South Africa and other countries neighbouring Mozambique increased the water outflow in the main river basins in Gaza province, namely the Limpopo and Incomati basins, resulting in serious floods in Chokwe and Guija districts.

The number of people affected by the continued rains and subsequent flooding are likely to increase; more rains are predicted in the central and northern parts of the country where the main river basin (Zambezi, Shire and Punguoe) are already well above the alert levels.

For more information

The European Commission's humanitarian aid and civil protection:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/sub_saharian/southern-africa_en.htm

Commissioner Georgieva's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/georgieva/index_en.htm

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