



Severe flooding devastates Mozambique

Greetings from Mozambique! This year got off to a challenging start, as the rainy season brought on severe flooding in mid-January in Mozambique, especially concentrated in Gaza Province where MSLI works. The flooding was caused by heavy rainfall throughout southern Africa, which led to unmanageable rises in the Limpopo River and its tributaries, which burst their banks and flooded surrounding areas, resulting in the worst flooding in the area since 2002. The MSLI team living in Chokwe had mere hours to evacuate, but thankfully everybody made it safely to higher ground in time.



Communities in Gaza Province were completely submerged following the floods in January.



The low-lying areas in the Limpopo River basin were completely inundated, leaving many communities stranded.

In the news

The following news articles provide more information about the disastrous flooding that affected the region:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/29/world/africa/mozambique-south-africa-flood.html>
- <https://clubofmozambique.com/news/flooding-worsens-in-southern-mozambique-aim-report/>
- <https://apnews.com/article/south-africa-mozambique-flooding-weather-1e22c38611b1c8aba3ce4f9cf37ab9df>

After a couple of weeks, the worst of the floodwaters receded, but there were substantial damages throughout the region. Households, schools, health facilities, and critical infrastructure were damaged or destroyed, isolating communities and disrupting food supplies, markets, and essential services. In particular, many roads were washed away or severely broken, making it hard to reach the communities MSLI works in.

Children were among the hardest hit by this emergency. In Gaza Province, many children were already living on the edge of hunger, and the flooding has pushed families beyond their coping capacity. With the destruction of crops and livestock, families' ability to feed themselves has been severely compromised.



Roads, including the national highway, were severely damaged by the floods.

A big setback – delaying the start of the school year

On January 27th, the government of Mozambique announced that the start of the 2026 school year was to be postponed from February 2nd to March 2nd. This meant that MSII was unable to start our regular school feeding operations until March 2nd, as we rely on close partnership with the schools to facilitate food storage, preparation, and serving to the children.

Bridging the gap – MSII provides take-home rations for kids and families

MSII was very concerned about the state of child hunger during this 4-week delay in the start of the school year. With the generous support of our donors, we organized a relief effort to provide take-home food rations to children in the communities where we provide the school meals program. These rations helped provide a bridge for children and their families, helping provide some support while we worked to get the school lunch program back up and running.



Students received take-home rations to help address the immediate crisis of hunger following the floods.



The take-home rations consisted of key staples like maize meal and beans, similar to what MSLI provides in school meals.

Serving school lunches once again!

On March 2nd, MSLI successfully began serving school meals once again, right on the first day of the school year. While access to some schools is still quite challenging due to damaged roads and lingering waters, the MSLI team worked hard to deliver food to all the schools, and our school cooks started preparing meals right on March 2nd as planned. Thankfully, students are now back and in school, and with your support, we are ensuring that they have the nutrition they need to grow and learn. This is a reminder of how school lunch programs can play an important role as a safety net, both in "normal" times, as well as following natural disasters. It's a simple solution, with a big impact. Thank you for your support!



Students enjoying school lunches once again - a big incentive for coming back to school!



Even in the hardest of times, school lunches provide a critical safety net to children.



Roads to many communities are still affected by the flooding, creating extra challenges for the MSLI team to reach schools and deliver meals.

How to support

If you're able to make a gift to support MSLI's work in Mozambique, we would be most grateful. Each and every donation goes directly to supporting children, providing essential nutrition to students, preschool education to young kids, and mentorship for adolescents – all part of our approach to breaking the cycle of poverty in Mozambique. Thank you for being part of our journey!

Donate directly on our website –

<https://www.mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org/donate>

If you'd like to **donate with a credit or debit card**, [you can do so here and just select the "Donate with a Debit or Credit Card" option.](#)

If you're **in the U.S.**, you can make a check out to "Mozambique School Lunch Initiative" and send to:

Mozambique School Lunch Initiative
44521 SE 166th St
North Bend, WA 98045

If you're **in Mozambique**, reach out to Ahuti Kumar for the best ways to donate locally! ahuti@mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org

A huge thanks to all of our supporters!



With your support, we can serve even more children in 2026!

Learn more: <https://www.mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative.org/>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mozambiqueschoollunchinitiative/>

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