SEASONAL OUTLOOK
SOUTHERN AFRICA

hace & Southern Africa Climate Engagement Team

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES

December to February (DJF) 2024/25

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Highlights

Review of the recent season

- Severe drought has affected the region, driven by back-to-back climate shocks. The lingering effects of the 2023/24 El Niño event led to the worst mid-season dry spell in >100 years and the lowest mid-season rainfall in >40 years, with significant damaging impacts on agriculture, food insecurity and subsequently on malnutrition.
- Infectious disease outbreaks, e.g. cholera in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi and measles in Zambia and Namibia, are exacerbated by drought-related water scarcity, malnutrition and displacement.
- There are >700K internally displaced people region-wide, and significant conflict ongoing in Cabo Delgado.

Forecasts for December 2024 – Feb 2025

- This Southwest Indian Ocean Cyclone Season is forecasted to be slightly above average, with northern Madagascar, Mozambique and nearby small islands (e.g. Comoros and Mauritius) at an increased risk.
- Rainfall is likely to be average for most of the region this DJF, with slightly above average rainfall in parts of South Africa and Northern Mozambique, Malawi, Northern Madagascar and slightly below average rainfall in Namibia.
- Above average temperatures are highly likely for the entire region, increasing the risk of heatwaves over DJF.
- As the lean season begins for most of the region in November, IPC3+ (crisis) levels of food insecurity is projected to remain for over 20 million people across the region. The situation may even worsen in some parts of Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and southern Malawi, lasting until the harvest comes in March/April.

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER (SON) CLIMATE REVIEW

- **Drought, heat and El Niño:** The 2023/24 El Niño event led to weather extremes, especially drought, which has had lingering ongoing effects in the Southern African region [Relief Web], long after El Niño conditions returned to Neutral in March 2024. This drought led to Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe all declaring a state of emergency. Reduced rainfall and persistent heat increased evapotranspiration, reduced soil moisture and destroyed vegetation, with significantly dryer and hotter than usual conditions over the past 12-months compared to the annual average and again over the last 3-month (Sept-Nov) compared to historical Sept-Nov averages [NCEI]. This October, ongoing drought in particular affected western parts of the region (Namibia, South Africa and Madagascar), whilst eastern parts of Zambia and northern Malawi were slightly wetter [CSC-SADC]. Prolonged drought leaves the ground dry and hard, increasing the risk of subsequent floods if heavy rains come, due to the reduced ability of the dry earth to absorb water.

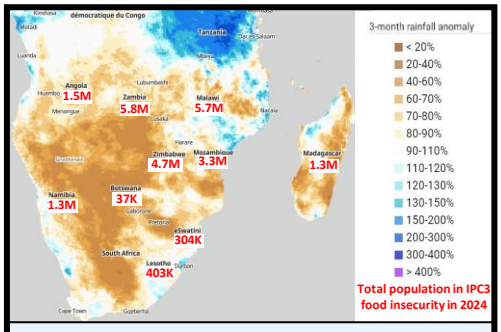

Figure 1: SADC 3-month Rainfall Anomaly (Sept-Nov) [PRISM WFP] and number of people affected by IPC3+ crisis levels of food insecurity in [WHO]

- **Agriculture and Malnutrition:** An estimated 2M children are malnourished and 1.1M are affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in 2024 in the region, with a sharp increase in children <5 affected by wasting in Zimbabwe and Malawi [OCHA]. Over 22M people are experiencing acute food insecurity which has already reached crisis (IPC3) levels [Relief Web]. Recurring climate shocks have worsened crop failure in the Southern African region with the lowest rainfall during the mid-season in the past 40 years. Prolonged drought conditions are still affecting agricultural production during the lean season, which started in October, coupled with below-average rainfall [SARDC]. La Niña conditions have not yet been declared, but the associated high rainfall often correlates with higher cereal production in the region [WFP]. Whilst higher rainfall increases the risk of floods following recent drought, it also brings an opportunity for agricultural recovery.
- **Cyclone Season begins in the South-West Indian Ocean Basin:** Last year's Cyclone Season (2023/24) was initially forecasted to be below average due to El Niño, however, despite it's late onset of activity it developed into an above average activity season with 10 Tropical Storms and 7 cyclones, but minimal damage/mortality as most occured with poleward tracks [MeteoFrance]. So far over the beginning of the 2024/25 cyclone season, as of early December there have been 2 Tropical Storms and 1 cyclone (Bheki) which caused some minimal damage in Mauritius. La Niña has not yet formed, but if it does it increases the likelihood of this cyclone season being above average.
- **Health and outbreaks:** Droughts have significant health impacts, mainly via reduced water access for sanitation, and via malnutrition. Drought also increase the risk in the medium term of some water- and vector-borne infectious diseases due to changes in human/vector behaviour and increasing underlying vulnerability [Stanke et al]. El Niño years are known to bring and increased risk of cholera in parts of Southern Africa (Northern Mozambique, Malawi, Eastern Zambia and South Africa) [Moore et al]. Drought related malnutrition and poverty increases the risk of Konzo (paralysis from cyanide intoxication from dry unprocessed cassava) [Baguma et al]. There is concerning evidence that droughts also reduce vaccine coverage across sub-Saharan Africa [Nagata et al]. The region continues to experience multiple outbreaks with over 66k cases of cholera and 4.6k cases of measles in 2024. Furthermore, m-pox cases were recently detected in Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the necessary acute response may divert resources away from other chronic issues such as HIV, GBV and mental health [WHO]

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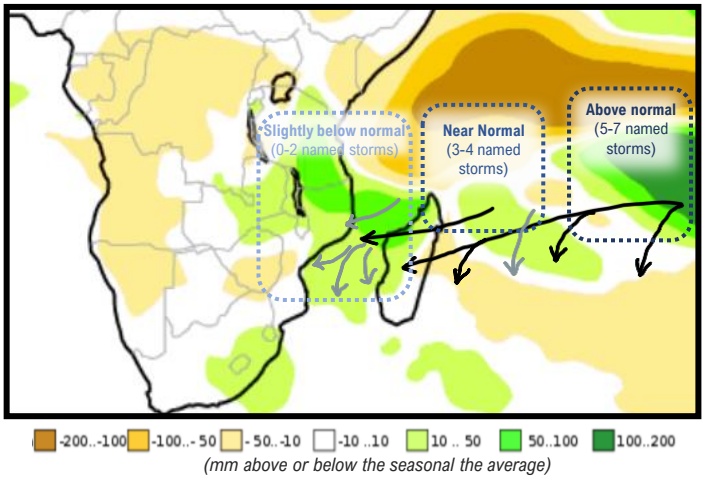
CLIMATE FORECAST FROM DECEMBER TO FEBURARY (DJF)

Figure 2: Ensemble mean anomaly of precipitation for DJF, for the Southern Africa Region [CS3], with SW Indian Ocean Tropical Cyclone distribution for the 2024/25 season [Meteo-France].



Arrows show forecasted most likely SW Indian Ocean Tropical Cyclone distribution for the season 2024/25 from Meteo-France. **Black arrows** indicate more likely trajectory, and grey arrows indicate (less) likely trajectory types. The likely number of storm formations per area illustrates possible distribution of activity and the 3 areas that storms are likely to arise from.

Rainfall Forecast

- Most of Southern Africa will see average rainfall (white, **Fig 2**).
- The northern half of Mozambique and the northwestern coastal areas of Madagascar to receive about +10 to +100mm more rainfall than the average (pale green, **Fig 2**)
- Malawi, Eswatini, Lesotho, northeast Zambia and the southeastern coast of South Africa will see slightly above average rainfall (+10 to +50mm extra). Parts of northern Namibia and most of Angola will likely see below average rainfall (-10 to -50mm below average) (darker green, **Fig 2**).

Temperature Forecast

The entire region will see above average temperatures, around +0.2-0.5ºC hotter in coastal areas, and +0.5-1ºC inland [CS3].

Cyclone Forecast

- A slightly above average number of cyclones are projected for this 2024/25 season, partly due to higher sea surface temperatures due to climate change.
- This seasons activity could worsen further if strong La Niña conditions develop, however this is unlikely.
- We expect **9-13 named storms** (usual is 10) and **4-7 of these will reach tropical cyclone intensity** (usual is 5) [MeteoFrance]
- The likliest tracks (black arrows) and likely tracks (grey arrows) for these cyclones are across madagascar and mozabique.

EXPECTED IMPACTS ON HEALTH & NUTRITION

Stronger stroms; more floods: Global warming increases sea-surface temperatures, increasing the energy of storms. For every 1°C increase in temperature, the atmosphere can hold ~7% more moisture. Therefore, warmer conditions make storms wetter, leading to higher risk of subsequent floods. Africa has experienced 4x as many storms and >2x as many cyclones in the 2000s compared to the 1970s, and their distribution of landfall is getting wider north and south [ACSS]. Floods are more likely if heavy rain falls in areas affected by recent El Niño-related drought, as compacted soil and dry/dead vegetation prevent water absorption, leading to increased runoff.

Heatwaves: The DJF season brings the highest temperatures, humidity and risk of deadly heatwaves to the region [Roffe et al; CKP].

Infectious disease outbreaks: In general, the above average rainfall in some regions, and the highten cyclone season forecasted is likely to brings with it an incresed risk of outbreaks in the short-term aftermath, as well as delayed impacts due to afectation to WASH infrastructure, stagnant water and displacement. Thus, recent cholera outbreaks in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe could be exacerbated by high rainfall. The ongoing malaria outbreak in Madagascar are also likely to worsen as the rainy season begins, especially where above average rainfall is forecasted. Concerningly, there have been recent outbreaks of dysentry and anthrax in Zimbabwe and measles in Zambia, climate shocks can worsen these outbreaks. Rift Valley Fever outbreaks are most likely over the rainy season in southern africa, peaking in Jan/Feb [Pienaar et al; Glancey et al]. Cyclones and flood damages can also disrupt impacts through disruption of care of people living with chronic conditions like HIV, diabetes and hypertension [MSF].

Pollution & NCDs: Peak air-pollution exposure for most Southern African cities (e.g. Harare, Lusaka, Johannesburg, Antananarivo [IQair]) occurs from June-Oct, exacerbating chronic lung diseases (like COPD, Asthma) and increasing respiratory infections. Whilst exposure to air particulate matter usually drops over DJF, pollution exposure via water and food can remain high (especially where mining and oil exploration are ongoing), as rainwaters bring particulate matter from the air and soil into water and agricultural cycles. Bioaccumulation of pollution (especially heavy metals like lead, arsenic and mercury) increases the risk of many cancers and other chronic health issues.

Conflict and displacement: Conflict in Cabo Delgado has now been ongoing for >7 years. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced, with violence, malnutrition, infectious disease outbreaks, lack of access to healthcare and mental health impacts all ongoing issues.

Food Insecurity: The DJF season is forecast to bring little change to the severity or distribution of regional food insecurity, with most of Zimbabwe, southern Malawi and Mozambique set to remain at IPC3 (Crisis) levels, due to lingering impacts of the El-Niño related drought, food price inflation and conflict in Cabo Delgado. Stressed and Crisis (IPC2/3) outcomes remain likely across southern Madagascar over the lean season, with 1-1.5M people in need [FEWSNET].

Pests: Above-average temperatures over the summer rainy season increses humidity and provides favourable conditions for multiple crop pests such as Fall Armyworm, African Bollworm and Mealybugs especially over DJF when many crops are flowering or are immature, vulnerable and fragile [SUN, GrainSA]. Quelea birds (especially the red-billed) can also flock and Aphids can spread viruses.

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Calendar Bar Key: *(This represents historical data, and is not a forecast for this specific season)*

The blue bars represent average rainfall from 0 to >310mm per month [CKP]. Red bars represent monthly 'Temperature & Humidity Based Heat & Population Risk Category' (Heat Risk) for the climate projections for 2020-39 (scenario SSP1-1.9) [CKP]. This multi-model ensemble shows seasonality and geographic distribution of heat risk from various factors, weighted by population at risk. For each country, we have chosen a specifc state where MSF projects are located and where heat stress is likely to affect many people; Gauteng, SA; Maputo, MZB; Hhohho, ESW; Vatovavy Fitovinany, MAD; Southern Region, MLW; Harare, ZIM; Eastern State, ZAM, National Average, LSO. We recommend the use of ERA5 for more localy specific data.

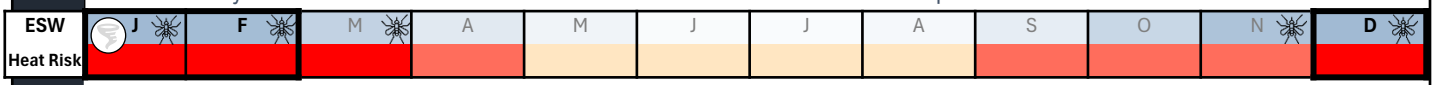
Cyclone and tropical storm risk is displayed with different coloured cyclone symbols based on the recorded number of hurricanes that have been recorded on EMDAT for that country per month from 1900 to 2023. Out of a recorded total of 110 storms/cyclones, pale grey represents 1-3, **darker grey represents 4-8**, and **black represents 9-22** tropical storms or cyclones making landfall that month.

Mosquito symbols represent historical monthly malaria peaks [from PMI, EMDAT and peer-reviewed publications]. Malaria is endemic across most of Southern Africa, and epidemics also occur outside the seasonal peaks, particularly as a result of atypical weather. This could potentially (with caution!) be used as a rough indicator of other mosquito-borne diseases like arboviruses, however many other factors like immunity and mosquito types are important.

The contaminated water symbol indicates periods of high cholera risk [from Perez-Saez et al, other peer-reviewed publications or EMDAT]. This seasonality could be used (with caution!) as an approximate indicator for other waterborne diseases, bearing in mind that many other factors modify the epidemic risk.

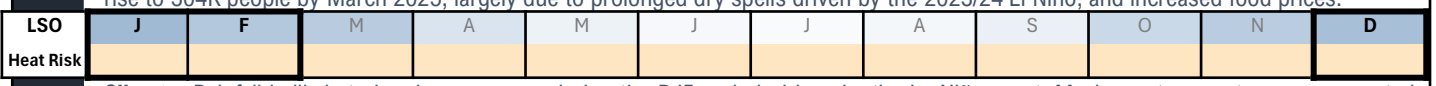
South Africa

Climate: In September, an unusually late snowstorm affected the south-east of the country, causing 2 deaths. The Dec-Feb Season is expected to bring above-average rainfall to northeastern South Africa, while normal to slightly below-average rainfall is anticipated in provinces such as the Free State, Northern Cape and North West. Temperatures are likely to be above-normal nation-wide, especially in the Eastern and Western Cape. **Health**: With disruptive rains, severe thunderstorms, hail and strong winds seen from Sept-Nov, an extension of flood related health risks could continue into the DJF season [SAWS]. Given the likelihood of a relatively hot DJF season, young children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly who are particularly vulnerable to dehydration. In Limpopo, malaria outbreak risk is highest from Oct-April and peaks in Jan [Kim et al]. 25 Mpox cases and 12 cholera cases were reported in 2024. Cholera outbreak risk historically is highest from Jan-June [Perez-saez et al]. **Nutrition**: The rains at the start of the Sept-Nov season have not caused much damage to wheat, canola and barley winter crops, however maize production, the country's major staple, is the lowest in six years. **Pests**: Foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in the North East has required vaccination of thousands of livestock.



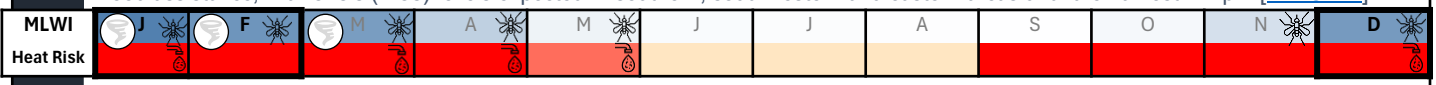
Eswatini

Climate: Eswatini experienced temperatures around 36°C-40°C during the Sept-Nov period, leading to low soil moisture which may make the region susceptible to flooding over the rainy season. The DJF period is likely to bring above average rainfall, ranging from 300mm for areas in the Lowveld to 500mm for some areas in the Highveld [Swazimet]. Cyclone Filipo caused strong winds and heavy rainfall over the southern part of Eswatini in March 2024 [WorldData, ReliefWeb]. **Health**: Climate change and drought is having a negative impact on HIV services in Eswatini [Mkhatshwa et al]. Eswatini is prone to malaria outbreaks throughout the year in the lowveld area and incidence is highest in the east [Dlamini et al], from Nov-April, peaking in Jan [Nkya et al]. Cholera outbreaks risk increases during the rainy season. **Nutrition**: From June to Sept, 234K people faced crisis level (IPC 3) acute food insecurity [IPC], projected to rise to 304K people by March 2025, largely due to prolonged dry spells driven by the 2023/24 El Niño, and increased food prices.



Lesotho

Climate: Rainfall is likely to be above average during the DJF period, driven by the La Niña event. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 25-28°C [Weather25]. December is typically the hottest month and receives the highest level of precipitation, averaging around 120mm [Weather Atlas]. Cyclones risk is low with <1% chance of landfall over 10 years [Think Hazard]. **Health**: Outbreak risk of Shigellosis, Anthrax and Measles is considered high over coming months [WHO]. There has been no cholera cases since July 2023 and Lesotho was declared malaria-free in 2012 [WHO]. **Nutrition**: The upcoming DJF period is the lean season, which starts in December and peaks in Feb/March, during which >400K people (27% of the population) will likely be in need of humanitarian food assistance, with Crisis (IPC3) levels expected in southern, southwestern and eastern areas until the harvest in April [FEWSNET].



Malawi

Climate: For this Dec-Feb period, rainfall across most of Malawi is expected to range from normal to above normal. While normal precipitation could offer some relief from the El-Niño-induced drought, the hardened earth has reduced water absorbtion capcity and this can lead to floods if there is heavy rain. Heatwaves are possible with above-average temperatures forcast [ACAPS]. **Health**: Ten suspected cholera cases were reported in Chitipa, Kapenda Health Centre [WHO], occurring just a couple of months after Malawi declared the end of the protracted two-year outbreak (the worse in the countries history with over 1,700 deaths) that was exacerbated by cyclone Freddy in 2023 [WHO]. Cholera outbreak risk typically is highest during the rainy season from December to April [Perez-saez et al]. There has also been several reported measles cases from Mkuchinga Jwambone Health Center [WHO]. Malaria transmission is highest from Nov-April [PMI]. Viral conjunctivitis, schistosomiasis, measles, AWD/cholera and malaria are considered high risk over coming months, especially in IDP camps [WHO]. **Nutrition**: Malawi experienced severe dry spells induced by El-Niño during a critical crop development period in areas that had not yet recovered from flooding and waterlogging in 2023. This resulted in significant crop and livestock losses, with 44% of the country's corn crop failing or seeing significant damage, directly impacting 2M households [WHO]. 4-5M people are forecast to need humanitarian food assistance over coming months, predominantly in the south [FEWSNET]. **Pests**: From Sept-Nov a severe fall armyworm outbreak affected most districts including Lilongwe and Blantyre, especially maize, sorghum, and millet. As the cropping season begins, infestations are expected to rise [USAID].

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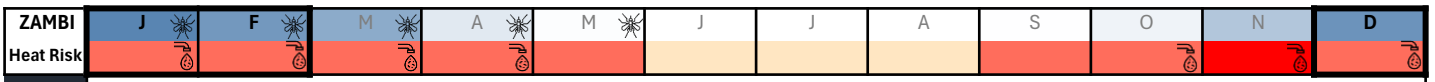
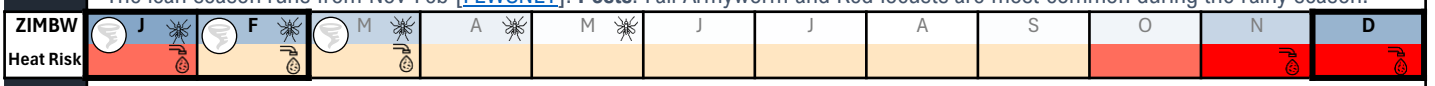


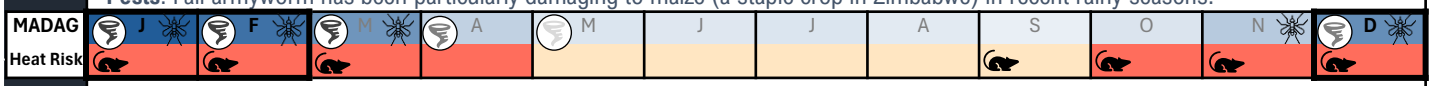
Zambia

Climate: Zambia is still grappling with the aftermath of severe, prolonged drought. Hard dry earth is at an increased risk of flooding if there is subsequent heavy rain due to reduced ability to absorb water. The 2024/25 DJF rainfall period is likely to bring average rainfall to the west whilst there is a small chance of slightly above-average rainfall for the east. Temperatures are expected to be above-average. **Health**: The risk of malaria is highest from Dec-May [PMI]. The 2023/24 cholera epidemic in Zambia was worst in 20 years, with >22k cases, made worse by droughts and subsequent heavy rain [Katuele et al]. Peak cholera risk in Lusaka is from Oct-April [Fernández et al] and Anthrax risk peaks in November [WHO]. Zambia has also had a recent M-pox case and >4K suspected measles cases since in 2024, compounded by high underlying malnutrition rates [WHO]. **Nutrition**: The El Niño-induced dry spell devastated agriculture and pushed millions into food insecurity. Government reports indicate that nearly half of the 2.2M hectares of maize crop was destroyed and the Zambian army was drafted in to help with banana planting and to help plant drought resistant crops [Kalemba]. The lean season runs from Nov-Feb [FEWSNET]. **Pests**: Fall Armyworm and Red locusts are most common during the rainy season.



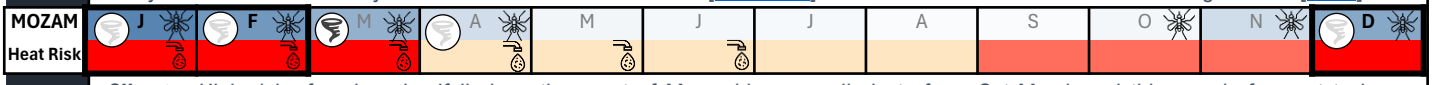
Zimbabwe

Climate: The DJF season is most likely to bring average rainfall to Zimbabwe. There is a very small chance of below average rainfall for the southern part of the country, but this is unlikely. Temperatures are likely to be above average. **Health**: After an 18-month outbreak of cholera, Zimbabwe declared the end of this in July 2024 after a total of >34k cases and 715 deaths. This was exacerbated by El Niño related drought, poor WASH conditions and the global cholera vaccine shortage. Peak cholera outbreak risk historically occurs form November to March [Perez-saez et al]. Malaria transmission occurs year-round, but increases with the rains from Nov-May and usually peaks around April/May [PMI]. **Nutrition**: Zimbabwe was one of the first countries in the region to declare a national drought disaster in April 2024. Drought conditions linked to El Niño, including below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures, resulted in reduced crop production, with national maize harvests approximately 60% below the ten-year average. This has left around 7.6M people facing severe food insecurity by the end of 2024 [USAID]. The drought has also contributed to widespread malnutrition, with nearly 5% of children <5 experiencing wasting. Concerningly the lean season (from Nov to Feb) is likely to be more severe than usual [FEWSNET] **Pests**: Fall armyworm has been particularly damaging to maize (a staple crop in Zimbabwe) in recent rainy seasons.



Madagascar

Climate: The cyclone season in Madagascar typically peaks from Dec-May and this season is forcast to have above-average activity. Early 2024 saw heavy rain and flooding in central and northeastern Madagascar, causing displacement, loss of homes, and infrastructure damage, whilst the south saw drought and significant malnutrition. The DJF season is predicted to bring above-average rainfall along the northwest coastal areas. The south is predicted to see average rainfall, whilst the northeast coast is may see slightly below-average rainfall. **Health**: A significant malaria outbreak in early 2024 led to >1.5M malaria cases and 212 deaths [WHO]. Peak malaria risk usually is from Oct-May. Heavy rain makes roads become muddy, flooded, and unusable, reducing access for health workers and patients [MSF]. Bubonic plage outbreaks (caused by the bacteria *yersinia pestis* and spread by rats and fleas, shown by the rat symbol) are more common over the rainy season [Kreppel et al, Andriambahiny et al]. **Nutrition**: Weather shocks including erratic rainfall and pest infestations resulted in localized reduced yields in the 2024 maize, root, and tuber harvests and an atypically early depletion of food stocks for affected households. The lean season for the north and centre of the country runs from Jan-April, whilst in the southern tip it has already begun in November and will last to March, during which an estimated 1-1.5M people will need humanitarian food assistance [FEWSNET]. **Pests**: In west Madagascar, erratic rainfall and heat triggered locust swarms, and Fall Armyworm outbreaks mainly concentrated in the Grand South [FEWSNET]. The locust threat increases over coming months [WHO].



Mozambique

Climate: High risk of cyclone landfall along the coast of Mozambique usually lasts from Oct-March and this year is forecast to have above average cyclone activity. The upcoming DJF season is forecast to bring above average rainfall for most of Mozambique, especially the northern half of the country and the coastal and border regions with Malawi and Tanzania, increasing the chance of floods. **Health**: Recent measles outbreaks in Cabo Delgado and Nissa caused at least 18 deaths, and in 2023, there were over 370K unvaccinated children. The ongoing cholera outbreak in Nissa caused >18 deaths and 8K cases. Cholera outbreak risk historically rises as the rainy season begins and peaks from Dec-April but is not uniform across the country: the highest risk occurs in Jan/Feb in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Manica, Niassa and Sofala and from April-June in Zambézia, Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane and Tete [Perez-saez et al]. Malaria can occur all year round, causing ~22K deaths/year, mostly during the rainy season, with risk rising from Oct-Dec and lasting until March/April [PMI]. ENSO is a dominant factor on Mozambique rainfall and the primary driver of malaria in the south. If La Niña conditions form over coming months, then Malaria risk will rise above average [Harp et al]. The risk of diarrhoeal disease also peaks from Feb-April as WASH conditions are affected by the rainy cyclone season. **Nutrition**: The lean season is staggered whereby it runs from Oct-Jan in the south, Nov-Feb in the centre and Dec-March in the north [FEWSNET]. Rainfall shortages over the last 12 months and above average temperatures have resulted in drought in central and southern provinces of Mozambique, impacting agricultural production for vulnerable communities. As a result, around 2.8M people are facing crisis (IPC3) levels of food insecurity, including 510K people in IPC4 (emergency) levels from April-September 2024. **Pests**: In Mozambique, maize crop pests such as Downy mildew, maize streak virus and stemborers are all more common in the rainy season from Oct-March, and high rainfall in the early part of the warm season increased the likelihood of outbreaks of the multimammate rat in the subsequent months [Segeren et al].

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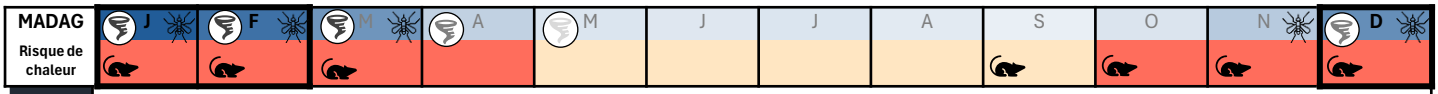
Français (Madagasikara) + Português (Moçambique)



Madagasikara

Climat: La saison des cyclones à Madagascar atteint généralement son apogée de décembre à mai et cette saison devrait avoir une activité supérieure à la moyenne. Au début de l'année 2024, le centre et le nord-est de Madagascar ont connu de fortes pluies et des inondations qui ont provoqué des déplacements de population, des pertes d'habitations et des dommages aux infrastructures, tandis que le sud a connu une sécheresse et une malnutrition importante. La saison DJF devrait apporter des précipitations supérieures à la moyenne le long des zones côtières du nord-ouest. Le sud devrait connaître des précipitations moyennes, tandis que la côte nord-est pourrait connaître des précipitations légèrement inférieures à la moyenne. **Santé**: Une importante épidémie de paludisme au début de l'année 2024 a entraîné plus de 1,5 million de cas de paludisme et 212 décès [OMS]. Le pic de risque de paludisme se situe généralement entre octobre et mai. Les fortes pluies rendent les routes boueuses, inondées et inutilisables, ce qui réduit l'accès des travailleurs de la santé et des patients [MSF]. Les épidémies de peste bubonique (causée par la bactérie yersinia pestis et propagée par les rats et les puces, comme le symbol rat) sont plus fréquentes pendant la saison des pluies [Kreppel et al, Andriambahiny et al]. **Nutrition** : Les chocs météorologiques, notamment les précipitations irrégulières et les infestations de ravageurs, ont entraîné une réduction localisée des rendements des récoltes de maïs, de racines et de tubercules de 2024, ainsi qu'un épuisement précoce et atypique des stocks alimentaires pour les ménages touchés. La période de soudure dans le nord et le centre du pays s'étend de janvier à avril, tandis qu'à l'extrémité sud, elle a déjà commencé en novembre et durera jusqu'en mars, période pendant laquelle on estime que 1 à 1,5 million de personnes auront besoin d'une aide alimentaire humanitaire [FEWSNET]. **Ravageurs**: Dans l'ouest de Madagascar, les précipitations irrégulières et la chaleur ont déclenché des essaims de criquets, et des foyers de chenilles légionnaires d'automne principalement concentrés dans le Grand Sud [FEWSNET]. La menace acridienne augmente au cours des prochains mois [OMS].

Moçambique

Clima: O risco elevado de ciclones ao longo da costa de Moçambique dura, historicamente, de outubro a março. Prevê-se que a próxima estação DJF traga precipitação acima da média para a maior parte de Moçambique, especialmente a metade norte do país e as regiões costeiras e fronteiriças com o Malawi e a Tanzânia, aumentando a probabilidade de cheias. **Saúde**: Os recentes surtos de sarampo em Cabo Delgado e Niassa causaram pelo menos 18 mortes, e o atual surto de cólera em Niassa causou mais de 18 mortes e 8.000 casos. Em Moçambique, o risco de surto de cólera aumenta historicamente com o início da estação das chuvas e geralmente atinge o seu pico de dezembro a abril [Perez-saez et al]. A malária pode ocorrer durante todo o ano, mas os surtos são mais comuns durante a estação das chuvas, com o risco de surto a começar a aumentar em outubro, atingindo um pico acentuado em dezembro e prolongando-se até março/abril [PMI]. O ENSO é um fator dominante na precipitação em Moçambique e o principal fator de malária na parte sul do país. Se as condições do fenómeno La Niña se formarem nos próximos meses, o risco de paludismo será superior à média [Harp et al]. O risco de doenças diarreicas também atinge um pico entre fevereiro e abril, uma vez que as condições de WASH são afectadas pela estação chuvosa dos ciclones. **Nutrição**: A escassez de chuvas nos últimos 6 meses e as temperaturas superiores à média resultaram em seca nas províncias do centro e sul de Moçambique, afectando a produção agrícola das comunidades vulneráveis. Como resultado, cerca de 2,8 milhões de pessoas enfrentam insegurança alimentar (IPC 3+), incluindo 510.151 pessoas em IPC4 (emergência) entre abril e setembro de 2024. A época de escassez de alimentos é escalonada, decorrendo de outubro a janeiro no sul, de novembro a fevereiro no centro e de dezembro a março no norte [FEWSNET]. **Pragas**: Em Moçambique, as pragas das culturas de milho, como o míldio, o vírus da estria do milho e a broca do caule, são todas mais comuns na estação das chuvas, de outubro a março, e a elevada precipitação no início da estação quente aumentou a probabilidade de surtos da ratazana multimamata nos meses seguintes [Segeren et al].

DISCLAIMER: Although climate forecasts can provide predictive health information, other factors (conflicts, population movements, socio-economic conditions, politics, immunity and vaccination) modulate disease transmission and must always be taken into account. What's more, the impact of weather conditions can be felt long after a meteorological event has occurred.