

In 2024, the worst mid-season dry spell in over 100 years, floods, cyclones, disease outbreaks, economic shocks and conflict drove humanitarian needs across Southern Africa. An estimated 22 million people needed urgent humanitarian assistance.

Southern Africa experienced the impacts of a strong **El Niño event** which caused the worst drought on record for the region, as well as flooding in Tanzania. These factors have led to **severe food insecurity**, with some 45 million people highly food insecure. Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe declared states of national disaster due to the drought. Food insecurity caused widespread **malnutrition** among young children. More than 4 million children under age 5 required treatment for stunting.

Water scarcity and reduced access to safe water, due to the effects of climate shocks and other factors, increased the risks of waterborne **diseases**. In 2024, the region experienced the deadliest cholera outbreak of the past decade, with an estimated 70,838 cases reported, including 1,403 related deaths. Mpox, measles and other disease outbreaks were also reported.

Four **tropical storms/cyclones** caused destruction, deaths, displaced thousands and affected some 610,000 people. In January 2024, Tropical Cyclone Belah hit Mauritius; in March, Severe Tropical Storm Filipo impacted Mozambique, while Tropical Cyclone Gamane hit Madagascar. Finally, Tropical Cyclone Chido in December affected Madagascar, the Comoros, Mozambique, and Malawi.

Climate shocks and hazards, economic shocks across the region and hostilities in northern Mozambique continued to trigger **displacement**. The region hosts 778,000 internally displaced people and 676,000 refugees.

Given the severity of the situation, humanitarian partners ramped up **response, advocacy, and resource mobilization**, including the implementation of life-saving activities and Anticipatory Action programmes. A series of Flash Appeals, including for Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, were launched to respond to such crises, in support of government efforts and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional appeal. However, funding shortages continued to affect response capacity.

KEY FIGURES FOR THE REGION

44.7M
SEVERELY FOOD-INSECURE PEOPLE¹

504k
MALNUTRITION CASELOAD²

778k
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE³

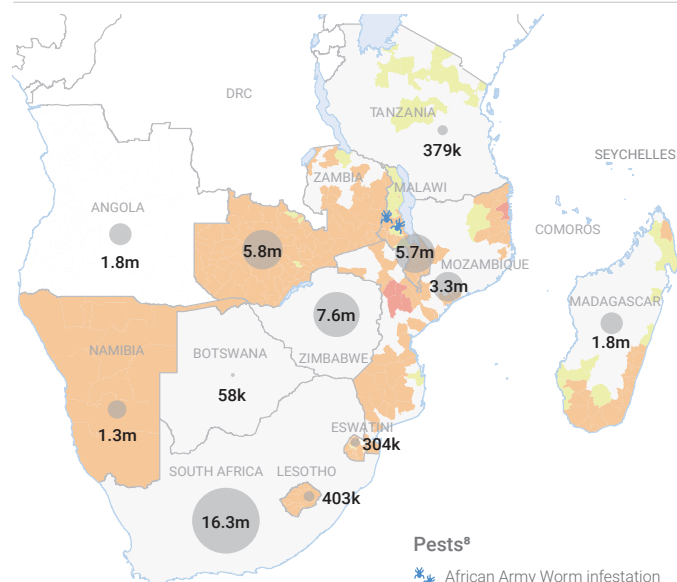
676k
REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS⁴

71k
CHOLERA CASES (AS OF 20 JAN 2025)⁵

4.5k
MEASLES CASES (JAN - DEC 2024)⁶

610k
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CYCLONES⁷

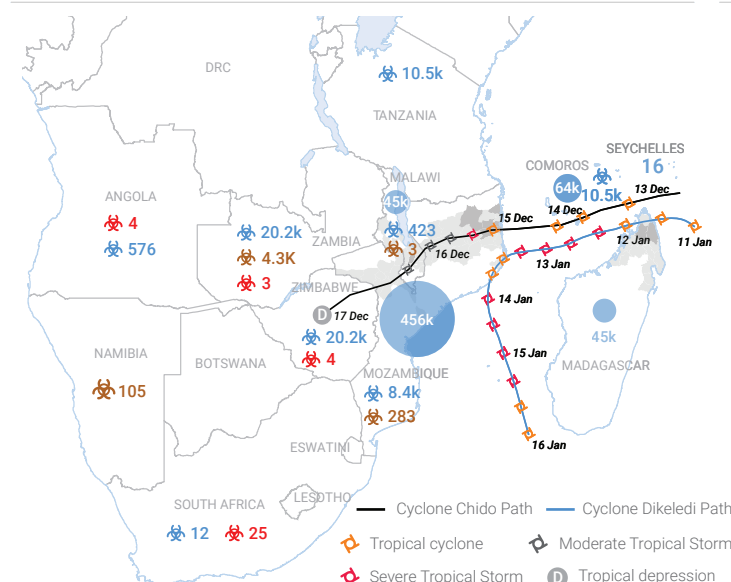
FOOD INSECURITY / PESTS



IPC Food Insecurity Phase



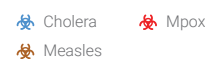
CYCLONE IMPACT⁹ / DISEASE OUTBREAKS¹⁰



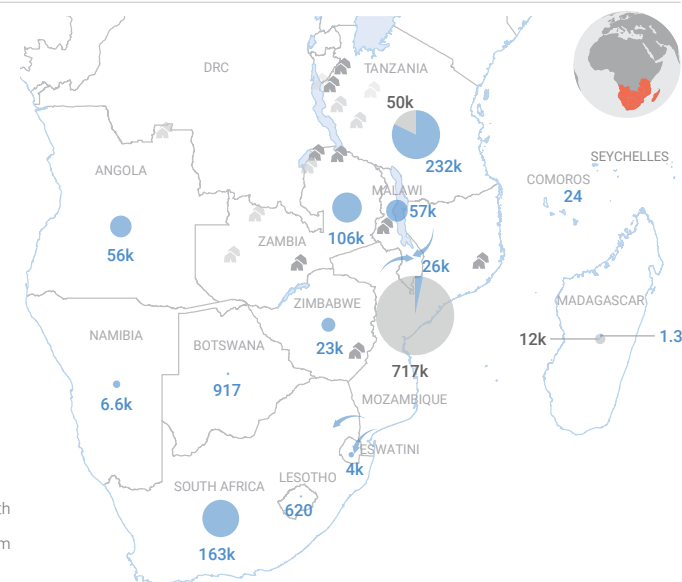
Cyclone impacts



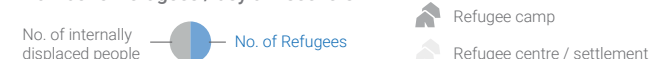
Diseases



DISPLACEMENT



Number of refugees / asylum seekers



Sources: 1 - Figures based on IPC (Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia) and SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee - RVAC (Angola, Botswana, South Africa & Zimbabwe); 2 - IPC, SADC RVAC; 3 - IOM DTM / IDMC. This figure includes: Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia & Zimbabwe; 4 - UNHCR. This figure includes: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe; 5 - WHO Global Cholera and Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) Dashboard; 6 - WHO Weekly Bulletin on Outbreak and Emergencies: Week 52: 23 to 29 December 2024; 7 - DTM, MapAction, OCHA; 8 - Malawi Ministry of Agriculture; 9 - Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS); 10 - Mpox cases: WHO 2022-24 Mpox (Monkeypox) Outbreak Global Trends.

The administrative boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Creation date: 21 Jan 2025 Feedback: ocharosea@un.org Feedback: ocharosea@un.org Twitter: @unocha_rosea www.unocha.org/rosea www.reliefweb.int