

DateSeptember - October
1987**Location**Kati and Kita
administrative *cercles***No. Dead**

137

No. Affected

290

The Disaster

An outbreak of yellow fever on the outskirts of Bamako produced 137 deaths out of 290 cases, 80% of whom were under 15 years old. Despite initial concern from the government and donors that the epidemic would spread into the capital, it remained confined to rural areas.

Action Taken by the Government of the Republic of Mali (GRM)

Following an appeal for international donations on Oct. 3, the GRM and UNICEF launched a mass immunization program. Vaccination teams labored in the targeted areas of Kati and Kita *cercles* and Bamako city, reaching 1,233,000 people. By the middle of October, the campaign's second phase--targeting 726,000--had begun within 100 km. of the capital in Bafollabe, Kemieba, Diema, and parts of Kolokami, Koulikoro, Kangaba, and Diola.

Assistance Provided by the U.S. Government

After Chargé John H. Lewis's disaster declaration of Oct. 9, the USG reviewed a request by UNICEF for 50 automated immunization guns of the ped-o-jet brand. For reasons of availability, OFDA bought 10 of these devices plus spare parts from DOD for \$20,212. The purchase was shipped via commercial airliner from a DOD depot in Mechanicsburg, Pa., to Bamako where UNICEF delivered it to Mali's National Immunization Center. OFDA covered freight charges, which amounted to \$1,121. USAID/Bamako also made available five vehicles from the pesticide testing program to the Ministry of Health. Counterpart funds went toward logistical (vehicle operation and maintenance) and field support for vaccination teams.

TOTAL \$21,333

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community**International Organizations**

EC - contributed \$180,379 for medical supplies.

UNDP - gave \$18,987 for operational costs.

UNICEF - provided 900,000 doses of vaccine, 10,000 liters of fuel, and 1,000,000 vaccination cards.

WHO - donated technical assistance and 300,000 doses of vaccine.

Governments

Canada - donated \$166,666 in logistics and equipment.

China, People's Rep. - pledged \$15,000.

France - gave 500,000 doses of vaccine.

Germany, Fed. Rep. - furnished 500,000 doses of vaccine and \$26,178 worth of fuel.

Iran - provided \$3,164.

Italy - gave 500,000 doses of vaccine.

Netherlands - supplied 300,000 doses of vaccine and technical assistance.

Switzerland - contributed 300,000 doses of vaccine, operational costs and technical assistance.

TOTAL \$410,374

Date

October
- November 1987

Location

Major towns in 7
regions along the
Senegal
River basin

No. Dead

35

No. Affected

213 cases

The Disaster

Seven regions along the Senegal River in Mauritania faced a serious outbreak of yellow fever during the fall months of 1987. In October, it was estimated that almost two million people required vaccination. Health authorities had reported 213 cases and 35 deaths by Nov. 3. The epidemic originally spread to Mauritania from Mali (see *Mali-Epidemic*) and particularly affected the area north of Rosso.

Action Taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (GIRM)

On Oct. 29, 1987, the GIRM convoked the donor community to issue an urgent plea for emergency aid. Immediately thereafter, the Ministry of Health (MOH) began a vaccination program in the capital of Nouakchott and in the regions of Guidimaka and Trarza, using 103,000 doses acquired by the GIRM and 250,000 doses from the program was to inoculate 1.38 million inhabitants of Nouakchott and the Senegal River valley, a region in which 80% of Mauritania's population live. Partially as a result of the epidemic, the Mauritanian border with Senegal was temporarily closed.

Assistance Provided by the U.S. Government

Charge d'affaires John Vincent determined that the yellow fever epidemic constituted a disaster and exercised his authority releasing emergency funds on Oct. 29, 1987. OFDA agreed to a USAID/Nouakchott request for vaccine and investigated various sources of supply. Because a UNICEF procurement had depleted available stocks, OFDA was unable to make a purchase at the Pasteur Institutes of Dakar or Paris and Connaught Laboratories in Pennsylvania. OFDA therefore bought 140,000 doses of vaccine from the Oswaldo Cruz Laboratories in Brazil with U.S. consular and USAID/Brasilia country representatives handling the arrangements. An initial 40,000 doses were sent on Nov. 11 from Rio de Janeiro by commercial flight, arriving in Nouakchott via Paris the following day. On Nov. 13, USG authorities in Rio de Janeiro shipped a

second tranche of 100,000 doses by airliner that USAID/Nouakchott officials received Nov. 15. Because only 2,500 doses of the first shipment arrived undamaged, Oswaldo Cruz Laboratories provided 37,500 more doses which arrived in Mauritania on June 12. The vaccines were kept before use in cold storage in an MOH/USAID health project warehouse. Purchase and transport of the 40,000 doses amounted to \$6,900, and the second shipment of 100,000 doses cost \$16,705.

TOTAL

\$23,605

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

UNICEF - donated vaccine and technical assistance.

WHO - provided vaccine and technical assistance.

Date
1988**Location**

Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Zambezia, Tete, Nampula, and Niassa provinces

No. Dead

100,000 in 1987-88 (official U.S. State Department estimate)

No. Affected

6,000,000 dependent on food aid, including 3,400,000 at-risk

No. Displaced

1,200,000 displaced in country, plus more than 1,000,000 refugees

The Disaster

In recent years the renegade guerrilla organization RENAMO has intensified its campaign of terror against the civilian population of Mozambique. In the early months of 1988, the U.S. State Department commissioned refugee consultant Robert Gersony to investigate the mounting refugee crisis in southern Africa. Mr. Gersony visited camps in Mozambique and four neighboring countries and interviewed refugees who had fled from the civil strife. Refugees told of being taken prisoner and forced to work for RENAMO. There were several cases of children being abducted and forced to participate in atrocities against Mozambican civilians. Many refugees told of being beaten, raped, or mutilated by RENAMO guerrillas and seeing family members murdered. In his report released in April of 1988, Mr. Gersony estimated that at least 100,000 Mozambicans had been killed by RENAMO over a two-year period. Furthermore, UNICEF extrapolated that over 88,000 children under the age of five died of starvation or disease in 1988.

Approximately 6 million Mozambicans, out of the entire population of 14.7 million, were dependent on donor food aid in 1988. This included almost 1.2 million *deslocados* who abandoned their land and moved into government protected camps. Another 2.2 million Mozambicans in rural areas were unable to grow enough food due to frequent attacks by RENAMO and the lingering effects of drought. In addition, 2.6 million urban dwellers were affected by commercial food shortages. Nationwide the number of orphaned and abandoned children was estimated at 250,000 and 55% of all children suffered from some degree of malnutrition. Approximately 600,000 persons were believed to be inaccessible in RENAMO-held territory and an additional 380,000 were accessible only by air. Many of these villagers subsisted on cassava, roots, and edible plants and suffered from severe malnutrition.

These figures do not even include more than 1 million Mozambicans who left their country and moved into refugee camps in Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, and South Africa. At the height of the exodus, in May and June

1988, approximately 140,000 refugees crossed over into Malawi to escape from the fighting between RENAMO and government forces. Many of these refugees walked for two or three weeks and arrived in Malawi malnourished and with little or no clothing. By the end of the year, small numbers of refugees began trickling back across the borders. For the most part, however, displaced Mozambicans received better assistance and protection in the refugee camps than in the returnee camps inside Mozambique.

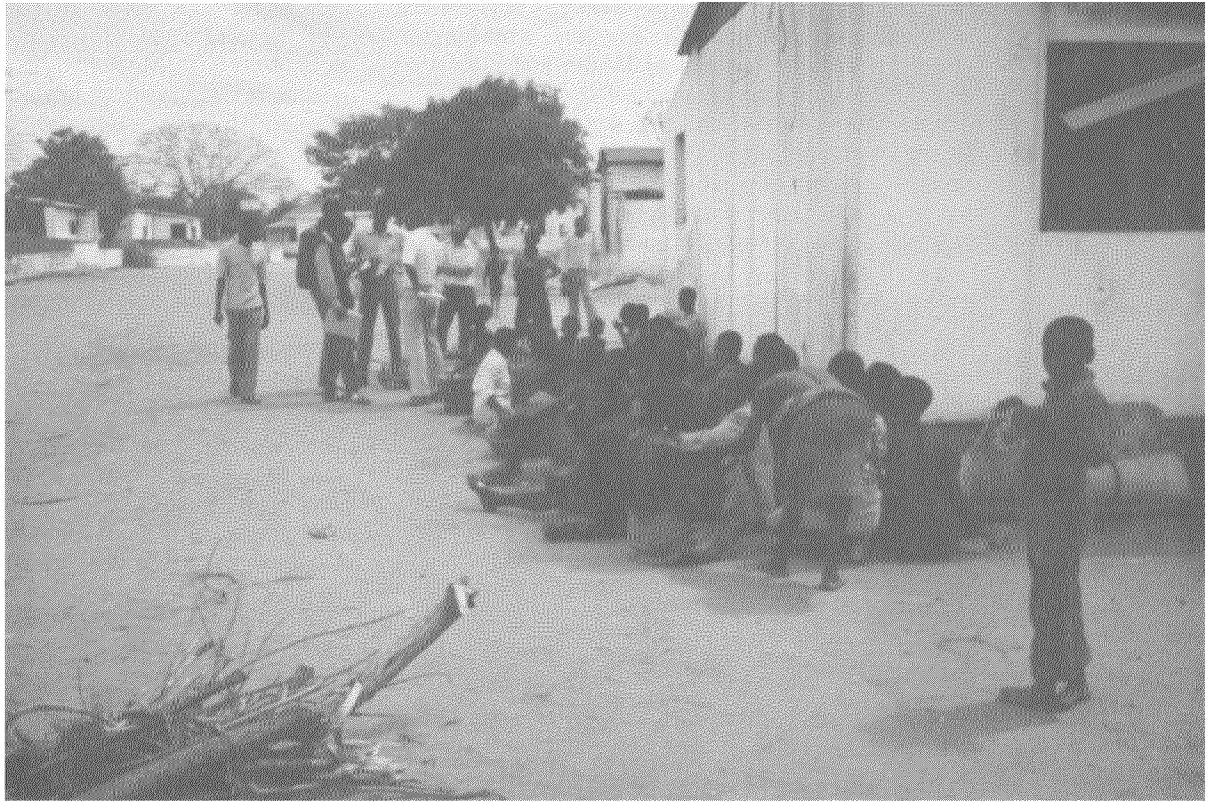
Years of civil strife have taken their toll on the economy and infrastructure of Mozambique. Between 1980 and 1988, RENAMO had destroyed thousands of rural health clinics, schools, and agricultural projects. Guerrillas also ambushed and looted truck convoys delivering food to displaced persons camps. During 1988, 37 trucks were destroyed and 20 drivers were killed in RENAMO attacks. In May and June of 1988, joint Mozambican and Zimbabwean military forces launched a major counter-offensive against guerrilla strongholds. By the end of the year, over 3,000 RENAMO guerrillas surrendered to benefit from the government's offer of amnesty. Despite these developments, RENAMO continued to carry out hit-and-run attacks in all 10 provinces.

Action Taken by The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique (GPRM) and Non-Governmental Organizations

The GPRM's National Executive Commission for the Emergency (CENE) continued to serve as the central government agency responsible for coordinating the relief activities of other government departments, non-governmental organizations and international donors. CENE officials met with international donors on a regular basis to discuss problems and respond to emergency needs. The Department for the Prevention and Combat of Natural Calamities (DPCCN) performed the actual transportation of donated food to the most seriously affected at the district level. Virtually every means of transportation were used to deliver food to these affected areas. Barges and other vessels brought food to delivery points along the coast. Trains were

employed to transport food and other relief supplies into the interior, although tracks were frequently sabotaged by RENAMO. The national airline, LAM, provided some of its planes for donor-funded relief airlifts to otherwise inaccessible areas. However, most of the food was delivered by military escorted truck convoys. During 1988, DPCCN delivered over 115,000 MT of food, although some districts remained inaccessible because they were under RENAMO control.

of food by coastal barge. Two non-governmental organizations were also involved in relief operations. The Mozambican Red Cross Society worked in collaboration with ICRC and LRCS on emergency assistance programs. The Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM) provided clothes, blankets, seeds, and handtools to affected and displaced persons throughout the country.



Mozambican displaced persons camp

Photos by William Garvelink, OFDA

Other government agencies and non-governmental organizations were also involved in the emergency relief effort. The Ministry of Commerce and handled the distribution of food to people affected by commercial food shortages and AGRICOM, an agricultural parastatal, distributed seeds and handtools to farmers. Navique, the GPRM shipping agency, assisted WFP with the delivery

Assistance Provided by the U.S. Government

For the fifth consecutive year the U.S. Government provided humanitarian assistance to Mozambique. On Dec. 31, 1987, U.S. Ambassador Melissa Wells determined that the ongoing food emergency continued to warrant USG assistance.