Summary

- Between 16 and 28 February 2018, there were 42 critical incidents in Mozambique, resulting in 84 deaths and 1,233 arrests. Human & Social crises accounted for 42.86% of the total incident pool, largely as a result of ongoing adverse weather conditions. Criminality followed with 28.57% of incidents during the reporting period.

- President Filipe Nyusi met RENAMO leader, Afonso Dhlakama, to discuss disarmament and other military concerns. Details of the meeting have not yet been made public as negotiations remain ongoing. This is a positive step for Mozambique’s reconciliation efforts, with resolution likely to achieved this year.

- Inclement weather, particularly affecting the northern provinces since the beginning of the current rainy season in October 2017, has so far resulted in 50 deaths. Storms have destroyed thousands of houses as well as socio-economic infrastructure, such as health centers, power and water systems, and transportation networks. As of the time of writing, hostile weather is beginning to impact upon southern regions, with flooding reported in Maputo, Matola and Beira.

- Despite the heavy rains, Mozambique’s disaster management agency CTGC issued an Orange Alert due to southern Mozambique’s severe drought. CTGC announced increased restrictions on water supply to Maputo and Matola following a 20% reduction on the supply from the treatment and pumping station on the Umbeluzi River. Water cuts could reach as high as 40%.

- On 19 February, 16 people were killed in Maputo when a garbage pile collapsed due to heavy rain, burying seven houses.

- At least 47 people have died from malaria in Nampula province since the beginning of the year. The victims were among 184,778 malaria cases recorded in the province since January, a situation that has worsened due to heavy rainfall.

- Mozambique’s security environment improved over the reporting period, with no major military campaigns or terror attacks conducted. This comes largely as a result of the truce between RENAMO and the Mozambican military being maintained. Authorities also managed to secure restive areas of Cabo Delgado province that have been prone to terrorism. It is likely that the recent severe weather has also played a role in reducing violence levels.

- Criminality and general unrest however remained high. Most notably, there were two kidnapping cases involving foreign nationals over the past two weeks. Violent unrest also continued in the Limpopo district of Gaza province in response to an alleged wave of human and organ trafficking.
Significant Events: 16 - 28 February 2018

Mozambique Bi-Weekly Summary


Gaza: 23 February 2018: Three suicide cases reported in Gaza within a month.

Gaza: 15 February 2018: Violent unrest in Gaza over alleged human and organ trafficking.

Nationwide: 27 February 2018: Police intensify anti-crime and border control campaigns. Over 1,000 arrests made in one week.

Maputo: 21 February 2018: Indian businessman missing in Mozambique in a likely kidnapping case.

Maputo: 16 February 2018: Chinese expatriate kidnapped in Boane and released five days later.

Sofala: 19 February 2018: The Mozambican President and the leader of RENAMO met in Gorongosa to negotiate disarmament and other military issues.

Maputo: 21 February 2018: Indian businessman missing in Mozambique in a likely kidnapping case.
Mozambique President and opposition leader meet to negotiate disarmament and other military issues

On 19 February, President Filipe Nyusi met Afonso Dhlakama to discuss the disarmament, demobilization and integration (DDR) of RENAMO fighters into the country's security services. The meeting took place in Vunduzi, Sofala province. Speaking to the media, President Nyusi said, "DDR will bring an end to military hostilities and open a new era for effective and lasting peace." In his statement, Nyusi also announced that details on the progress of negotiations would be made public in due course.

Nampula: Nampula braces for a second round of mayoral election

The Mozambican government announced that Nampula's highly anticipated second round in the mayoral by-election will take place on 14 March. Following the first round of voting on 24 January, a second round is required as none of the five candidates obtained 50% of the votes. This has forced a run-off between the two candidates with the most votes – Amisse Cololo, of the ruling FRELIMO Party (who took 44.5% of the votes in the first round), and Paulo Vahanle, of the opposition RENAMO movement (who took 40.3% of the votes).

Nampula: Think tank says low Nampula first-round election turnout was due to poor campaigning and disorganization

Low turnout in Nampula for the first round of the mayoral by-election was due to several factors, according to the 13 February report published by the Social and Economic Studies Institute (IESE). Most significant were divisions within the opposition MDM party, unsuccessful campaign messages and general disorganization. Additionally, the murder of the previous Nampula mayor, who was a member of MDM, likely had a demotivating affect on citizens voting. With regard to campaigning, the report noted that all parties based their campaigns on improving rubbish collection, while most voters live in suburban neighborhoods that do not have any rubbish collection. Surveys showed that voters’ priorities are roads and water. The report also cited that poor organization characterized the electoral management bodies and had an important role in abstention.

Portugal delivers ten vessels to Mozambique, updates joint security protocol

The Portuguese Defense Minister, Azeredo Lopes, was in Maputo this week to sign a new defense protocol with his Mozambican counterpart, Atanásio Mtumuke. The agreement will run until 2021 and is more comprehensive than previous protocols concerning military training and exchange programs signed with Mozambique since 1988. Under the new agreement, provision is being made for joint participation of both countries’ armed forces in peace and humanitarian missions. During his trip, the Portuguese Defense Minister will deliver ten vessels to the Mozambican Navy.
Human & Social

Death and destruction in Mozambique during ongoing rainy season

Inclement weather in Mozambique, particularly affecting the northern provinces, has caused 50 deaths since the beginning of the rainy season in October 2017. Over 130,000 people have also been affected. According to the National Disaster Management Institute (INGC), storms have destroyed 7,268 houses and damaged a further 14,493. Furthermore, 17 health units and four water supply systems were also damaged. Despite heavy storms in Maputo city, authorities stated that the rainfall in southern Mozambique was not abnormal for this time of year. Torrential rains in Maputo caused part of the gigantic rubbish dump in Hulene neighborhood to collapse, claiming 16 lives. In early March, moderate rain is expected in the south, as are heavy rains in parts of Nampula, Sofala and Manica provinces, where some areas could expect up to 300 millimeters of rain in one week.

At the time of writing, there has been further rain recorded in Maputo, Matola and Beira, with reports of flooding underway. According to forecasts, conditions are set to worsen.

Schools have also been affected by severe weather, with 201 classrooms destroyed and 465 damaged, leaving thousands of children unable to finish the school year.

Orange Alert over drought in southern Mozambique

On 14 February, Mozambique’s Disaster Management Technical Commission (CTGC) issued an orange alert, only one step below the maximum state of disaster readiness. This move was prompted by severe drought in southern Mozambique, particularly in the Umbeluzi Basin in Maputo province. CTGC stated that it issued the orange alert to ensure only minimum quantities of water were made available for human consumption in Maputo, Matola and Boane until the next rainy season. The use of Umbeluzi water for irrigated agriculture has already been banned, with serious consequences for the banana plantations in the Unebluzi Valley.

Cabo Delgado: Woman whipped in Cabo Delgado for her political views

A woman was publicly whipped in Mocímboa da Praia on the orders of neighborhood leaders for criticizing politicians. VOA news reported that the woman was sentenced by neighborhood authorities to receive five lashes in public. A video circulated on social media showing her punishment.

Maputo: Collapsed pile of garbage kills 16 in Maputo, municipality admits fault

Sixteen people died in Maputo on 19 February when a 15-metre pile of garbage collapsed due to heavy rain, burying seven houses. Seven of the victims were children. The collapse occurred in the impoverished neighborhood of Hulene. The houses which were crushed had been built illegally, with authorities previously requesting residents to abandon them. Authorities offered shelter to 22 people who lost their homes and 22 other families whose homes were flooded by the heavy rain.

Meanwhile, Maputo’s municipal government said it will assume all...
responsibilities for the collapse.

**Nampula: Incidences of Malaria in Nampula increase in current rainy season, death toll rises**

According to provincial health officials, at least 47 people have died in Nampula province since the beginning of the year. Provincial health spokesperson, Azarias Gimo, said the casualties were among 184,778 malaria cases recorded in the province since January. This is a negligible increase on the number of deaths recorded during the same period in 2017, when the disease killed 46 people out of 154,518 diagnosed cases. The worst affected districts were Nampula, Ilha de Moçambique, Murrupula, Mossuril, Mucate, Lalaua and Monapo. Medical officials have distributed over 3.5 million mosquito nets since 2016 under the government’s malaria prevention and control program.

**Maputo: Rail traffic disrupted by floods and landslides**

Metrobus train networks were unable to run in Maputo and Matola on 20 February because of heavy rains that caused landslides across railway lines. The rains, which also affected Mozambique Ports and Railways (CFM) trains on the Infulene-Maputo line, disrupted the journeys of nearly 15,000 passengers to Maputo Central Station. To minimize the impact, Metrobus activated contingency plans and transported passengers using its fleet of 100 buses.

**Maputo: Human rights group observes ongoing risk for albinos in Mozambique**

Approximately 30,000 albinos are discriminated against and marginalized by Mozambican society, Amnesty International’s annual report has stated. Many are also at risk of death. According to the report, incidents reported against albinos increased during 2017, with at least 13 killed. Most murders occurred in Mozambique’s poorest central and northern provinces, and were motivated by superstitions related to the magical powers of people with albinism.

**Gaza: Concerns over suicides in Gaza**

New cases of suicide in Gaza have begun to concern authorities. In mid-February, a man hung himself in Bilenè district, the third case in less than a month. The 47-year-old victim was found dead in his house in the Nhiampse neighborhood. It is not yet know why the man committed suicide but investigations are currently underway. On 12 February, a 51-year-old man hung himself in a cemetery in Xai-Xai city, allegedly due to relationship problems, and, prior to that, a 55-year-old man was found dead in the Marian Nguabi cemetery on 26 January.

**Security: Criminality**

**Manica: Employment scams in Manica and Zambezia**

Hundreds of victims have been scammed by fake job offers in Manica, central Mozambique. Ten arrests of suspected fraudsters have so far been made by the police. One of the scams involves promising people jobs with high wages in the civil service, in exchange for money. Others guarantee immediate admission to teacher training institutes or to the health sector. Most of the victims are young graduates seeking employment.

In Zambezia, a man was arrested by police in Morrumbala district. He was accused of committing fraud and illegally using the name of an American aid agency. The scheme reportedly earned the suspect and his accomplices thousands of meticais, while they also ran up debts of 17 million meticais. According to the authorities, the suspect used the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a front for non-existent employment vacancies, charging candidates to apply. He was arrested in Quelimane while conducting an alleged ‘USAID’ interview.

**Gaza: Unrest in Gaza over alleged human and organ trafficking**

Violence was observed for a successive reporting period in Limpopo district, Gaza province, with lynching and road blocks
reported in protest of an alleged wave of human and organ trafficking. Unrest began last month in the Zongoene and Chicumbane administrative posts, with violent demonstrations that, in addition to lynching, resulted in the ransacking of suspected individuals’ homes. Police intervened to stabilize the region, reinforcing security in high-risk areas to prevent the violence from spreading. According to Feliciano Chongo, Gaza’s Provincial Commander, the unrest is linked with a campaign of disinformation by people whose motives are unclear, and that their claims of human organ trafficking are unfounded.

**Tete: Man arrested in Tete for trying to sell his child**

A 50-year-old man was jailed for allegedly attempting to sell his six-year-old son in Tete province. In May last year, a couple was also arrested in Tete for attempting to sell their albino son, while in October, another arrest was made of a man trying to sell a 13-year-old girl. The most recent case occurred on 11 February in Tete city’s Matundo neighborhood. Police authorities accused the man of human trafficking.

**Maputo: Foreign national kidnapped in Boane and released five days later**

A Chinese woman was kidnapped in the Boane district of Maputo and released five days later, after a ransom was paid. On 16 February a gang of unidentified individuals, armed with guns and currently at large, abducted the expatriate who manages a brick factory in Boane. The victim claimed she was not subjected to ill treatment during her time in captivity.

**Maputo: Police intensify anti-crime and border control campaigns**

The Mozambican police (PRM) have been intensifying their anti-crime campaign, arresting 1,215 people for various alleged offenses in only one week. Some 995 of the arrests were for illegal border crossings. The PRM spokesman, Inácio Dina, stated that, overall, there was a slight decrease in crime statistics, with 22 fewer crimes than in the same period last year. 59% of the total were property crimes while 30% were crimes against individuals. Police also recovered 14 firearms from criminals over the same period.

**Sofala: Tons of illegal fish and prawns seized in Sofala**

The Mozambican fisheries authorities seized approximately eight tons of fish and prawns that were caught illegally during the closed season in the waters of Dondo and Muanza districts, Sofala province. The closed season runs from 31 December to 31 March.

**Manica: Police arrest pastor who held children captive**

The Mozambican police (PRM) detained an alleged religious leader who was holding a group of 17 boys, aged between 9 and 16, in his home in the central Mozambican city of Chimoio. The children reportedly took part in religious rituals.

**Tete: Police arrest foreign nationals in Tete for attempted bribery**

Mozambican police arrested two Malawian citizens at the Biri-Biri frontier post, in Tsangano district, Tete province, for attempting to bribe police officers. The Tete provincial police command stated that the suspects were attempting to smuggle undeclared goods into Malawi. In order to cross the border without disruption, they offered members of the Frontier Guard a bribe of 2,000 meticais and 950 South African rands (equivalent to a total of approximately USD 115). The Guards however rejected the bribe and instead arrested the two individuals.
Economy
Mozambique Bi-Weekly Summary

Economy

GDP grew 3.7% in 2017 according to government data
According to figures released by the government, Mozambique’s economy grew by 3.7% in 2017. Council of Ministers spokeswoman, Ana Comana, stated that the rate was above the average for sub-Saharan Africa, but below the 5.5% initially forecast by the executive branch. The 3.7% figure is however close to that forecast by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December and above the World Bank’s December forecast of 3.1%.

Mozambique to privatize airport management
The Mozambican government announced that it will privatize airport management, granting nine national airports to private companies. The purpose of privatizing the sector is to improve services and attract more customers. Emanuel Chaves, president of the directors’ board of Mozambique Airlines (LAM), stated that competition among operators will dictate the setting of custom tariffs. He admitted that the custom tariffs of services provided by LAM is high, and that many customers have complained about it.

Mozambique to clear portion of its private sector debt
The government will repay 17% of the state’s debt to private sector suppliers this year. Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Maria Isaltina Lucas, stated that the debt, whose value she did not specify, resulted from goods and services supplied to the state, and that the government has decided to allocate a portion of the annual budget to gradually pay off its suppliers.

Labor authorities suspend six illegal Moza Banco foreign employees
The Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MITESS) suspended six Portuguese nationals from the right to work in Mozambique on the grounds that their employment contracts did not comply with labor legislation. The six employees worked at one of the branches of Moza Banco in Maputo city.

Bank of Mozambique reinforces rules requiring foreign exchange operations to be performed by national banks
The Bank of Mozambique issued new rules and procedures, which reinforce the obligation to use the national banking system in foreign exchange operations. The national banking system will also be needed for both making and receiving payments from abroad, among other elements.

OIL & GAS FOCUS:
Norway looks for oil and gas deals in Mozambique
Norway, a major producer of hydrocarbons, is looking to increase its operations in Mozambique. A 40-strong business delegation led by Ingvil Smines Gjedde, Deputy Minister of Oil and Energy of the Kingdom of Norway, visited Mozambique looking to increase business activities in the Southern African country with focus on hydrocarbons and the sustainable management of natural resources. The Norwegian delegation took part in a workshop...
directed by the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Max Tonela, and the Norwegian deputy minister of petroleum and energy. Norway has financed the construction of the Cuamba and Lichinga Mini-Hydropower Plants in Niassa Province, electrification projects in five central and northern provinces, and the construction of the interconnection line between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, among others. It has also trained oil sector personnel.

Anadarko to sell Mozambican LNG to French power company

Anadarko entered into a long-term LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with French electricity firm, Électricité de France (EDF), for the supply of 1.2 million tons per annum (MTPA) for a term of 15 years. The Anadarko-operated Mozambique LNG project will be Mozambique’s first onshore LNG development, initially consisting of two LNG trains with total nameplate capacity of 12.88 MTPA to support the development of the Golfinho/Atum fields located entirely within Offshore Area 1. Anadarko Moçambique Área 1, Lda, a wholly owned subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, operates Offshore Area 1 with a 26.5% working interest. Co-venturers include ENH Rovuma Área Um, S.A. (15%), Mitsui E&P Mozambique Area1 Ltd. (20%), ONGC Videsh Ltd. (10%), Beas Rovuma Energy Mozambique Limited (10%), BPRL Ventures Mozambique B.V. (10%), and PTTEP Mozambique Area 1 Limited (8.5%).
**Political/Security:**
The latest Dhlakama-Nyusi meeting is an important step toward stabilizing Mozambique. Although numerous critics have castigated the negotiations for their lack of transparency, claiming they demonstrate a move away from democracy, reconciliation between the government and RENAMO will significantly improve the country’s security environment.

There are however a couple of areas of concern. The first is the potential for violence from opponents of the peace process, albeit marginal. Secondly, there is an ongoing threat of Islamist militancy from groups that have recently emerged in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. The latter is of particular concern to Mozambique as it has the potential to negatively affect foreign investments that are being committed in the gas sector.

**Social/Human:**
The rainy season will continue to affect local populations with flooding and heavy rains. The government will struggle to offer assistance due to a weakened medical infrastructure.

The spread of disease, accelerated by adverse weather conditions, such as malaria, will also continue to cause casualties and place a further strain on the public healthcare system.

**Economy:**
The Mozambican economy has both demonstrated positive and negative aspects. With regard to its improved outlook, investments assured by major oil and gas companies will soon begin to be implemented into northern Mozambique, creating employment and regional economic growth. The overall economy however still suffers from malpractices and corruption, and will require major political input to reignite growth.

While Mozambique’s upcoming negotiations with foreign lenders over its debt, as well as its pledge to repay 17% of its national debt, are important positive steps, they are not wholly sufficient in restoring the country’s economic potential.
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