

2025 CLIMATE AND HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES FOR MOZAMBIQUE

This document summarises key priority areas of focus for Mozambique, supported by evidence from the 2025 Global Report of the Lancet Countdown.

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL HEAT-HEALTH ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

1 To safeguard vulnerable populations from intensifying heat risks, the government must develop and implement a National Heat-Health Action Plan. Dedicated resources are needed to scale up targeted adaptation measures, such as forecast-based heat alerts, occupational safety standards, and public awareness campaigns, while ensuring coordination across sectors including health, agriculture, and labour.

Extreme heat increasingly threatens health, particularly among children and older adults. In 2024, people in Mozambique were exposed to 18.7 heatwave days each, on average. Of these, 15.5 (83%) would not have been expected to occur without climate change. **(Indicator 1.1.1)**. Prolonged exposure raises risks of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and cardiovascular illness, while also limiting physical activity and overall wellbeing. Individuals in 2024 experienced 200 additional hours of extreme heat stress risk during moderate exercise compared with 1990–1999 **(Indicator 1.1.2)**. Between 2012–2021, an estimated 2,597 deaths annually were attributable to heat, a 63% increase from 1990–1999 **(Indicator 1.1.5)**.

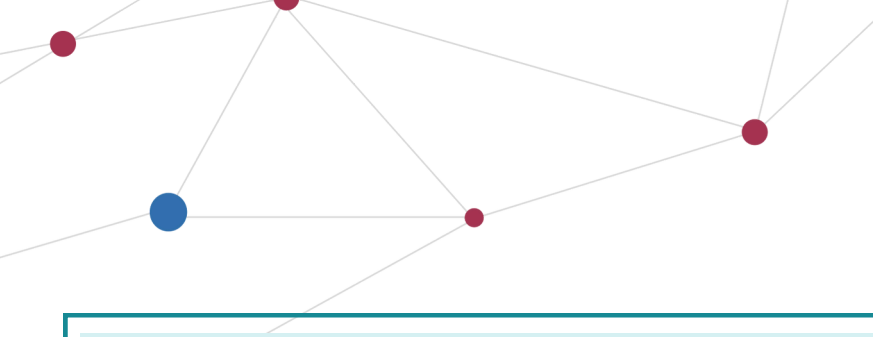
Heat exposure also undermines labour capacity, affecting people's livelihoods, and affecting the economic conditions on which health depends. In 2024, Mozambique lost 3.67 billion potential labour hours, 157% more than in 1990–1999 **(Indicator 1.1.3)**. Losses were greatest in agriculture (92%), followed by construction (5%), services (2%), and manufacturing (1%).

Mozambique has strengthened its early warning systems through the World Meteorological Organization's "Early Warnings for All" initiative, improving forecasting and community preparedness for cyclones, floods, and droughts.¹ Building on this progress, a National Heat-Health Action Plan integrated within existing adaptation frameworks should include forecast-based heat alerts, health-worker training, and community outreach to protect vulnerable groups, ensuring timely responses to rising heat risks and other climate extremes. Prioritising health facilities in climate-vulnerable areas for solar-powered cooling, reliable communication systems, and emergency medical response will safeguard lives and strengthen resilience.

STRENGTHEN CLIMATE-INFORMED SURVEILLANCE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

2 To anticipate and prevent outbreaks, climate-informed infectious disease surveillance must be strengthened and forecasting tools integrated into public health systems. Dedicated investment in climate-health data integration, early-warning systems, and public awareness campaigns targeting at-risk communities will improve preparedness and reduce disease burdens.

Climate change is lengthening the transmission seasons and expanding the ecological range of infectious diseases in Mozambique. Compared with 1951–1960, the average R_0 for dengue transmission by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes increased by 7%, and by *Aedes albopictus* rose by 40%, crossing the epidemic threshold from below 1 to above 1 **(Indicator 1.3.1)**.



This suggests a growing risk of dengue outbreaks in areas previously unsuitable for sustained transmission. Similarly, malaria transmission suitability is rising in highland regions that were historically lower-risk. Between 1951–1960 and 2015–2024, these areas experienced an additional two weeks of suitable conditions for *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* transmission (**Indicator 1.3.2**). The estimated number of vibriosis cases has also increased, growing by 96% between 1990–1999 and 2024 (**Indicator 1.3.6**), and resulting in higher exposure to water-borne pathogens linked to warming seas and floods.

Embedding infectious disease forecasting into Mozambique's early warning and health information systems, supported by real-time climate and epidemiological data sharing between health, meteorological, and agriculture agencies, will enable earlier detection and response to outbreaks. Scaling vector-control programmes, such as larval source management and insecticide-treated net distribution, and improving community communication channels through radio and mobile alerts can further strengthen prevention. Together, these measures will protect vulnerable populations, reduce health system strain, and build lasting resilience to climate-sensitive diseases.

ACCELERATE THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION AND REDUCE BIOMASS DEPENDENCE

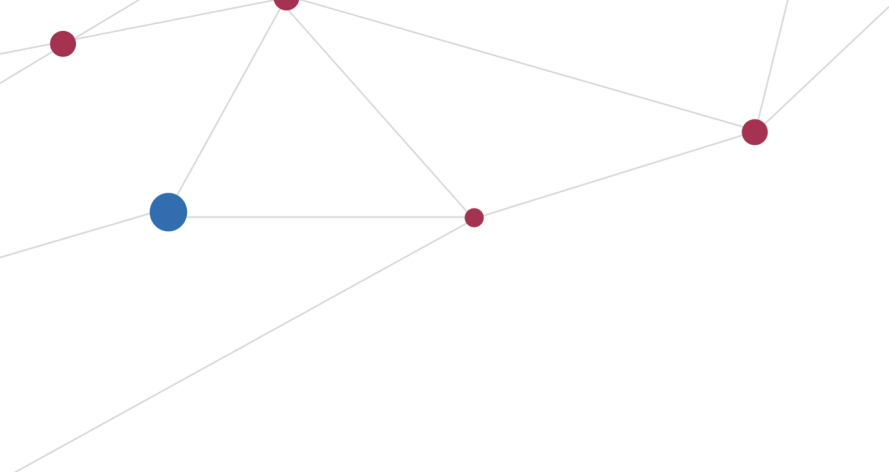
3 Mozambique can accelerate its clean energy transition to reduce reliance on polluting biomass and fossil fuels, protect health, and advance sustainable development. Implementing and monitoring the national Energy Transition Strategy announced at COP28 will be critical to expanding access to modern, renewable energy sources while reducing household exposure to harmful indoor air pollution.

Most households in Mozambique continue to depend on biomass for cooking and heating, driving deforestation and respiratory illness from smoke exposure. In 2022, 96.4% of household energy came from biomass, while only 2.7% came from electricity (**Indicator 3.1.2**). Renewable energy accounted for just 0.05% of total energy supply, and coal contributed 0.07% (**Indicator 3.1.1**). Despite the low baseline, Mozambique's CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion rose by 23.9% between 2016–2022, reaching 7,795 kilotonnes (**Indicator 3.1.1**), highlighting the growing urgency for structural reform in the energy sector.

The Energy Transition Strategy² provides a strong foundation for this shift, but implementation needs to be accelerated and equitably financed. Expanding investment in decentralised solar and mini-grid systems, promoting clean cooking technologies, and strengthening regulatory and institutional capacity will reduce emissions, improve air quality, and enhance energy security. Alongside this, upskilling local workers and supporting domestic clean-energy enterprises will generate green jobs, build technical capacity, and reduce dependence on external contractors, ensuring that the transition delivers long-term social and economic benefits.

Accelerating Action

By strengthening public health systems and early warning capacities for extreme heat and climate-sensitive infectious diseases, while accelerating investment in clean energy and technology, Mozambique can cut emissions, improve air quality, and protect workers, especially in agriculture, from worsening heat and pollution. This integrated approach delivers broad co-benefits for health, productivity, and sustainable development.



References

1. <https://wmo.int/media/news/mozambique-takes-strides-towards-early-warnings-all>
2. <https://www.get-transform.eu/mozambique-publishes-just-energy-transition-strategy/>

Contributors

This document was written by Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi, Zakari Ali, Wendy Geza, and Getrude Njokwe (University of Pretoria) from the Lancet Countdown Africa Centre.

Review on behalf of the Lancet Countdown was provided by Mahnoor Saeed, MPP and Elise Digga, MPH.



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