MOZAMBIQUE

LANCET COUNTDOWN ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
DATA SHEET 2026

Health and Climate Change in Mozambique

The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change tracks the connections between health and climate change. In its tenth iteration, the 2026 Global Report shows that the health impacts of climate change have escalated, and frequently accelerated, in the decade since the Paris Agreement came into force.

This document draws on findings from the 2026 Lancet Countdown Global Report to present key insights for Mozambique.

Increasing heat exposure is affecting vulnerable populations and workers in Mozambique, contributing to heat-related mortality and substantial losses in labour capacity and livelihoods, particularly in agriculture.

Extreme drought has become considerably more widespread, threatening water security, food production and livelihoods

Environmental conditions have become increasingly favourable for dengue and Vibrio transmission in Mozambique, posing additional risks to health.

Household air pollution contributes to substantial premature mortality in Mozambique, while electricity accounts for a very small share of household energy use and remains absent from road transport. Expanding electrification powered by renewable electricity can reduce harmful air pollution and protect health.

Heat and Health

Exposure to high temperatures increases the risk of heat-related illness and mortality. Vulnerable groups, including older adults, young children, pregnant women and those with pre-existing conditions, face the greatest risks. Heat can also reduce people's capacity to work, with consequences for income, food security and livelihoods.

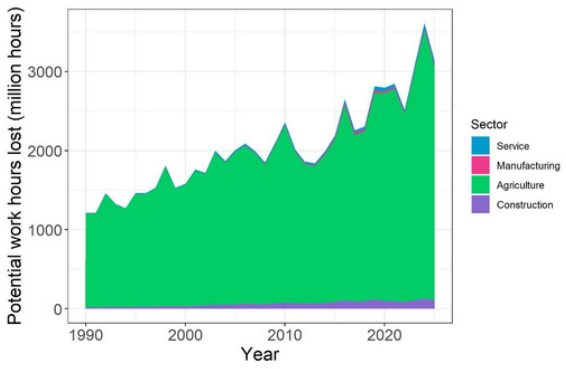
90% of the heatwave days that people in Mozambique were exposed to on average were directly attributable to climate change between 2021 and 2025.
Children under one year of age and adults over 65 in Mozambique experienced an average of approximately eight to nine heatwave days annually between 2021 and 2025, around five to six additional days per year compared with 1986–2005. This represents an increase of approximately 200% for both groups. (Indicator 1.1.1)

The average annual monetised value of heat-related mortality among people aged over 65 in Mozambique was approximately US$480 million between 2021 and 2025, equivalent to approximately 27,800 average annual incomes. This was a 216% increase compared with 2000–2004. (Indicator 4.1.2)

Heat exposure caused an average annual loss of 2.8 billion potential labour hours in Mozambique between 2016 and 2025, 96% higher than the annual average in the 1990s. However, potential labour hours lost per worker increased by only 4.2% over the same period, indicating that growth in the exposed workforce contributed substantially to the increase in total losses. Agriculture accounted for approximately 94% of these losses. (Indicator 1.1.3)

Heat-related labour capacity reduction in Mozambique caused an estimated potential earnings loss of US$844 million in 2025, equivalent to 3.4% of national GDP. Agriculture accounted for approximately 86% of these losses. (Indicator 4.1.3)

Annual potential work hours lost, disaggregated by economic sector. Mozambique, 1990 to 2025.



LANCET COUNTDOWN: HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

Drought

Extreme drought can threaten water availability, food production and livelihoods, increasing risks of malnutrition and water-related disease.

An average of 46% of Mozambique's land area experienced at least one month of extreme drought annually between 2021 and 2025, compared with 15% in 1981–1990. (Indicator 1.2.2)

TREE COVER LOSS

Loss of tree cover can reduce ecosystem services that support health, including local temperature regulation, water regulation and soil protection.

In 2024, Mozambique lost approximately 298,600 hectares of tree cover, 19% more than in 2016. Permanent agriculture accounted for 76% of this loss, followed by shifting cultivation at 22%. (Indicator 3.4)

Climate-Sensitive Infectious Diseases

Changes in temperature, rainfall and coastal conditions can increase the environmental suitability for mosquito-borne and waterborne disease transmission. Strengthening climate-informed disease surveillance is important for anticipating changes in where and when infections may occur.

The transmission potential (R_0) of dengue spread by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes in Mozambique increased by 0.17 and 0.46, respectively, between 2016–2025 and 1951–1960. For *Aedes albopictus*, R_0 rose from below to above 1, indicating environmental conditions increasingly suitable for sustained transmission. (Indicator 1.3.1)

The length of Mozambique's coastline with conditions suitable for *Vibrio* transmission increased by 44% compared with 1982–1991, reaching approximately 828 km in 2025. Estimated vibriosis cases averaged approximately 2,000 annually between 2016 and 2025, 165% higher than the historical baseline. (Indicator 1.3.6)

Climatic suitability for West Nile virus transmission in Mozambique increased by 2.1% between 2016–2025 and 1951–1960. (Indicator 1.3.3)

Energy Transition and Health

The use of polluting household and transport fuels contributes to harmful air pollution, increasing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and premature mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Mozambique's annual mean concentration of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) was 16 μg/m³, more than three times the WHO annual guideline of 5 μg/m³. Expanding household and road transport electrification powered by renewable electricity can improve air quality, protect health and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Household air pollution from the use of polluting fuels was associated with approximately 19,500 deaths in Mozambique in 2023, 12% higher than in 2016. (Indicator 3.2.2)

In 2023, electricity accounted for only 2.6% of household energy use in Mozambique. (Indicator 3.1.2)

In 2023, no electricity use was recorded in Mozambique's road transport sector. (Indicator 3.1.3)

Romanello M, Walawender M, Israelsson J et al. The 2026 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: A decade of escalating health harms and a decisive moment for all. The Lancet 2026; published online October 2026. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(26)01779-4
World Health Organization. Health and environment scorecard: Mozambique. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025.

The Lancet Countdown was established in partnership with Wellcome. For further information, visit lancetcountdown.org