

Mozambique: Cyclones and Storms

February 23, 2007

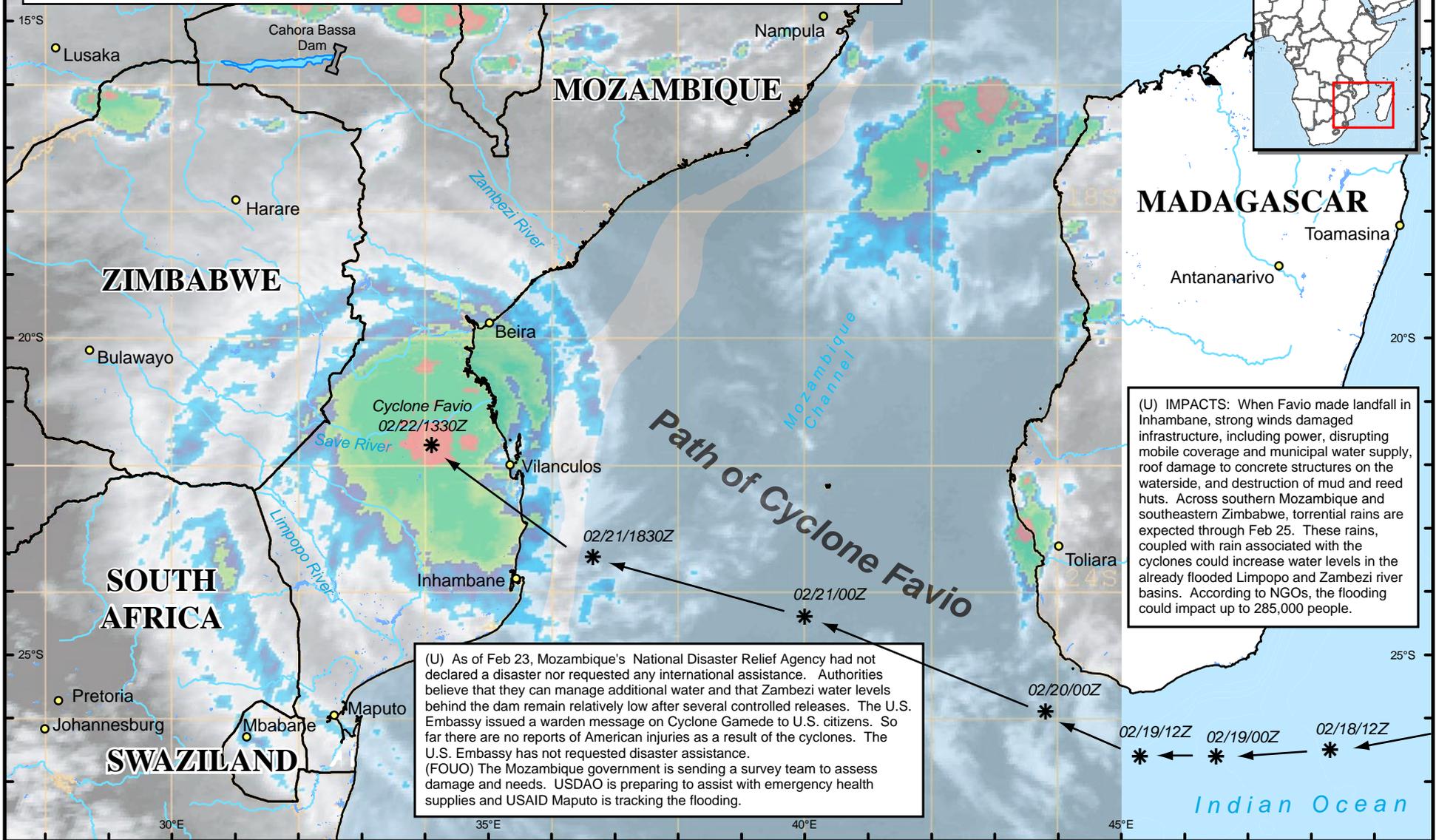
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(U) SITUATION REPORT: Three storms are heading towards Mozambique: 1) Cyclone Favio is a category 4 storm with winds of 144 mph and made landfall near Vilanculos during the night of Feb 21. 2) Cyclone Gamede has winds of 52 mph and is expected to make landfall further north. 3) An as-yet-named storm is expected to follow on the heels of the two cyclones. The storms could hit at least one of Mozambique's three largest cities -- Maputo (1 million), Beira (300,000), Nampula (200,000).



Radar image acquired
Feb 22 1330Z

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(U) IMPACTS: When Favio made landfall in Inhambane, strong winds damaged infrastructure, including power, disrupting mobile coverage and municipal water supply, roof damage to concrete structures on the waterside, and destruction of mud and reed huts. Across southern Mozambique and southeastern Zimbabwe, torrential rains are expected through Feb 25. These rains, coupled with rain associated with the cyclones could increase water levels in the already flooded Limpopo and Zambezi river basins. According to NGOs, the flooding could impact up to 285,000 people.

(U) As of Feb 23, Mozambique's National Disaster Relief Agency had not declared a disaster nor requested any international assistance. Authorities believe that they can manage additional water and that Zambezi water levels behind the dam remain relatively low after several controlled releases. The U.S. Embassy issued a warden message on Cyclone Gamede to U.S. citizens. So far there are no reports of American injuries as a result of the cyclones. The U.S. Embassy has not requested disaster assistance. (FOUO) The Mozambique government is sending a survey team to assess damage and needs. USDAO is preparing to assist with emergency health supplies and USAID Maputo is tracking the flooding.

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Sources: Radar from Meteosat 7 (Meteo France); Cyclone path on main map from NOAA, path in inset map from Pacific Disaster Center.