The government has denied claims by the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) on 11 May that it captured the southern border town of Namaacha on 5 May, along with the port of Machanga in central Sofala province. However, a report by the official Agencia de

Informação de Mocambique (AIM) says some 250,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in central Zambezia province because of rebel activity. The report says the government is having to divert food aid intended for other areas to the province, including 2,500 tonnes of maize

donated by Australia. The UN's World Food Programme is considering further aid.