

**Mozambique: 19,000 people seek refuge following "armed bandit" attack on Zambezia (Text)**  
Following the armed bandit attack on Zambezia Province's Ile District on 16th February, 19,000 people sought refuge in Mocuba and Alto Molocue. More than 6,000 of these people have reported to Alto Molocue authorities. In the Mugeba administrative post in Mucuba District, the number of people who fled from Ile has risen to 4,000. Further north, in Gurue, there were 600 people by Friday [24th March]. The situation in Alto Molocue is extremely alarming, with 22 people killed by famine in less than 15 days. Children were the primary victims.

During the flight from Ile to Alto Molocue, which are separated by 180 km, dozens of people died. Conditions of people from Ile District are really deplorable, in view of shortages of food, medicine and clothing. An average of four people die daily. On 1st March, the Alto Molocue branch of the Department for the Prevention of and Combat Against Natural Disasters only had 35 bags of grain and 10 bags of beans to supply the local residents. (*Maputo home service in Portuguese 1400 gmt 2 Apr 89*)