

More relief on the way to Maputo

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THE European Economic Community has decided upon two new emergency rehabilitation programmes worth a total of \$1,2 million, for the strife-ridden and starving provinces of Tete and Zambezia in Mozambique.

According to an EEC spokesman in Harare this week, the programme for Tete province (worth \$460 000) was to be taken by the British Non-Governmental Organisation, World Vision, through Zimbabwe.

The target was to supply 15 000 displaced peasant families in the province with seeds, tools and extension services. The Zambezia programme, worth \$740 000 on its own, was to be handled by another British NGO, Oxfam, from elsewhere.

This is the third assistance to Tete province in 1987 financed by the EEC and executed from Zimbabwe," the spokesman said. "The first was the procurement and transport of 6 000 tonnes of maize.

"The second was for the procurement and transport of \$1.56 million worth of food (groundnuts, beans, milk-powder etc), blankets and medicines, through Zimbabwe Freedom From Hunger."

Tete and Zambezia provinces are among the worst hit by MNR bandit activity in Mozambique with 33 per cent of Tete's population of 874 000 adversely affected — according to a recent US Embassy report from Maputo — with thousands displaced.

Some 25 percent of Zambezia's 2.9 million provincial population are in trouble, with more than 250 000 being displaced. Intense bandit activity has rendered Zambezia — traditionally the "bread-basket" of Mozambique — a "food deficit battleground", with many thousands of victims at risk. — Harare Correspondent.