

UN body invests R3,5 m to upgrade Moz roads

MAPUTO. — The United Nations' World Food Programme has invested about R3,5 million in opening, clearing and repairing roads in war-ravaged Mozambique.

WFP operations director Mr Philip Clarke said in a statement yesterday the work being done mainly in the Sofala province was helping to clear unexpected mines discovered while removing dirt to the side of roads.

He said 148 km of the Macossa-Maringue road was being levelled. Water

drainage was being built and three bridges rehabilitated.

When finished, the road would allow the WFP to continue its airlift to deliver food aid to about 15 000 people living in rebel RENAMO headquarters at Maringue and to transport food more cheaply by truck.

The Gorongosa-Casa Banana road had almost been completed up to the Nhandugus River, where a large bridge and three smaller ones would be built.

Repairs to 180 km of the Inhamingo-Dondo road would begin on Monday, and work would start on the final leg of the road between Nhandugue River and Casa Banana once it had been cleared of mines.

Mr Clarke said the WFP was "very much involved" in the opening and mine clearance of the Beira-Inhaminga road in 1992 after Inhaminga's population of 50 000 had been cut off from the outside world for eight years.

— Sapa.