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Mozambique: statistics on food aid pledged and received in 1991-92 crop year (ME/1328 B/8 - Text)

Maputo, 12th March: Less than 50% of the food aid requested from donors by the Mozambican authorities for the crop year 1991-92 has arrived in the country, according to statistics released at a Maputo press conference addressed by Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso Wednesday [11th March]. The crop year runs from 1st May to 30th April the following year.

Of the 259,000 tonnes of maize requested for free distribution to people displaced from their homes by the war waged through Renamo [MNR] bandits, donors had pledged 225,956 tonnes (87%), but only 167,503 tonnes (65%) [agency parentheses] has actually arrived in the country.

As for the grain requested for distribution through the normal market system, principally in the urban areas, donors proved more willing to supply wheat and rice, eaten largely by the wealthier, more westernised strata of Mozambican society, rather than maize, which is the staple food of the poor.

Of the 54,000 tonnes of rice requested, 94% was pledged, though only 42% has so far arrived. Donors promised to supply 113,000 tonnes of wheat - 84% of the 134,000 tonnes requested - and so far over 80,000 tonnes has arrived. But when it came to maize for market sales, there was a major shortfall. The government had requested 302,355 tonnes, but donors only pledged 70% of this and to date just 115,609 tonnes (38%) has arrived in Mozambique.

The figures for arrivals include food pledged for the 1990-91 appeal, but which only arrived in Mozambique after 1st May 1991.

As for foodstuffs other than grains, the response was very disappointing. While 96% of the 29,000 tonnes of beans requested for emergency relief was (?pledged), only 48% has arrived. For the market sector, Mozambique had requested over 76,000 tonnes of beans. Donors have so far provided the derisory quantity of 2,682 tonnes, or just three per cent. As for the 10,600 tonnes of sugar requested, not a single gram has even been promised. (PANA/KNA in English 0634 gmt 12 Mar 92)