

200 000 could die of hunger in Mozambique

BEIRA. — War and drought have put more than 200 000 people in danger of starvation in central Mozambique.

Mr Antonia Januario, co-ordinator of the Emergency Commission in central Sofala province, said yesterday tens of thousands of people are setting out on foot in hopes of reaching urban centres to receive humanitarian aid.

Food shortages are severe and will get worse because of a regional drought that has destroyed most crops.

Drought is affecting several southern African countries, including the traditional food-exporting countries of Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Mozambique is in a particularly perilous position because of the 15-year-old civil war that has already left about half the population in need of donated food.

Mr Januario said that in northern Sofala province, anti-government rebels had cut off all overland routes and people needed food to be flown in or dropped from aircraft. — Sapa-AP.