Mozambique

Mozambique hosts approximately 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, while 709,529 people remain displaced internally due to violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups and the devastating impact of the climate crisis – with Mozambique being one of the most adversely affected countries in the world. The double landfall of Tropical Cyclone Freddy in February and April 2023, a year following the devastating Tropical Cyclone Gombe, affected over one million people, destroyed infrastructure, and displaced some 184,000** people.

UNHCR and partners work closely with a range of stakeholders, including the Government, to provide lifesaving protection services and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, IDP returnees, as well as host communities, while harnessing opportunities to invest in and build resilience among communities and facilitate sustainable solutions to displacement. In the past year, 632,408* people have returned to their areas of origin, many of whom lack services and live in poor conditions.

UNHCR stresses that all refugee and IDP return movements should occur in an informed, safe, voluntary, and dignified manner. At the same time, UNHCR supports the inclusion of all refugees and IDPs in national services and systems, including national data systems and climate-related contingency planning and response. Simultaneously, UNHCR is scaling up engagement with development and peace-building actors to support the inclusion of displaced and returned populations by expanding their respective programming.

KEY FIGURES

709,529* Internally Displaced Persons
582,764 (79%) IDP's in northern Mozambique due to the ongoing conflict.
126,305 (21%) climate related IDPs following the impacts of extreme weather events.
45% of IDPs living in relocation sites, 55% living in host communities.
80% of IDPs are women and children.

632,408* returnees, many in IDP-like situations with poor living conditions and a lack of access to basic services

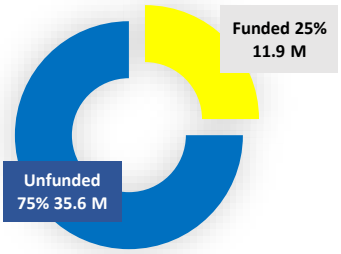
Approximately **25,000**** refugees and asylum-seekers

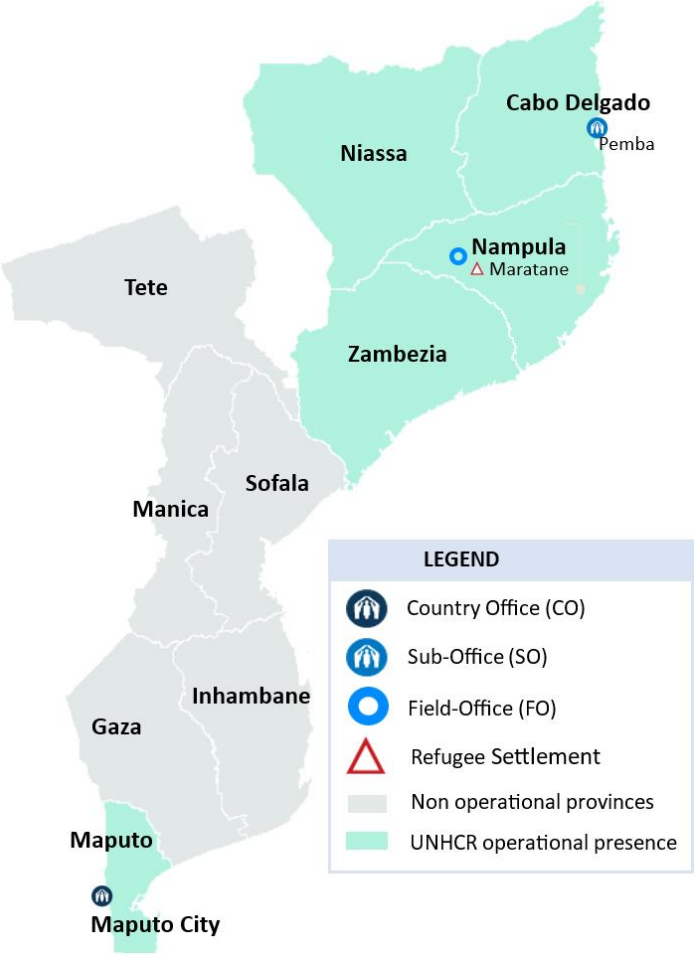
* Displacement figures: Mobility Tracking Assessment Report 20, January 2024, IOM
** According to UNHCR preliminary data from the verification exercise in Mozambique October 2023.
*** Tropical Cyclone Freddy Flash Update No. 12, 28 April 2023, UNOCHA

USD 49.3 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2024

FUNDING (as of 30 April 2024)





Staff: 131
73 National Staff
57 International Staff
Offices: 3
1 Country Office in Maputo – 45 staff
1 Sub Office in Pemba – 48 staff
1 Field Office in Nampula – 38 staff

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | April 2024

Protection and Solutions

- UNHCR's **protection monitoring activities** are critical for identifying protection risks and trends and referring people with heightened needs to specialized services. In April, protection monitoring interviews were conducted with 632 households from IDP sites, host communities, and return locations across several districts in Cabo Delgado.
- Possessing **civil documentation** is crucial, enabling forcibly displaced people to access services, including healthcare and education, as well as enhancing their freedom of movement. In April, UNHCR in collaboration with partner the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM) and governmental authorities, a total of 811 individuals were supported in reclaiming lost or destroyed civil documentation, including birth certificates and national IDs. In Namapa, Nampula, 570 IDPs were issued with civil documentation including birth certificates and ID cards.
- **ID issuance for refugees and asylum seekers:** UNHCR, in collaboration with the Mozambican government, initiated the production and distribution of new identification cards for refugees and asylum seekers in the Maratane refugee settlement. This initiative is targeting 7,024 individuals aged five and above residing in the settlement. The production of ID cards ended in April with 97% of IDs printed and 90% distributed. This activity marks significant progress in providing vital documentation to refugee and asylum seeker populations. In April, the Government of Mozambique and UNHCR conducted a joint workshop in Maputo which brought together officials from the immigration and police departments to raise awareness on refugee protection in Mozambique, present the new refugee and asylum seeker ID cards, and design recommendations to strengthen coordination between the government refugee, immigration, and police departments.
- On 07 April, to celebrate **Mozambique Women's Day,** UNHCR, in collaboration with the government, organized a theatre session in Cabo Delgado aimed at addressing intimate partner violence and its impact on women's economic development. Furthermore, an Artisan and Gastronomic Fair showcased products made by survivors of GBV from Palma. In Nampula, celebrations were held at the Corrane IDP settlement. With over 1,500 participants including community leaders, representatives from partner organizations, and UN agencies. The event featured a march, cultural performances, and the inauguration of a community centre, facilitated by partners to address the multifaceted protection needs of the displaced population.

National Mozambican's Women's Day celebration at the Corrane IDP Settlement, Nampula targeting both IDPs and host community. ©UNHCR/ Rumbani Msiska

UNHCR supported a local arts and crafts fair under the Mozambican Woman Day celebrations in Cabo Delgado ©UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

- In April, UNHCR reached 402 individuals through protection awareness campaigns and provided **Psychosocial Support (PSS)** to 344 IDPs with specific needs, including elderly people at risk and people with disabilities in Cabo Delgado. UNHCR also identified 18 individuals for the provision of integrated physical rehabilitation and psychosocial services. Training on the provision of integrated physical rehabilitation and psychosocial services for people with disabilities was provided for 13 community mobilizers.
- Following the **significant displacement** of populations in Cabo Delgado and Nampula at the end of February, various protection risks were identified by UNHCR in the affected areas, including lack of access to adequate services, lack of documentation, and neglect of vulnerable groups. UNHCR activities continued in Chiure District throughout the month of April, including PSEA training for community leaders as well as a community awareness-raising session on PSEA and reporting mechanisms. These initiatives aim to empower the community and enhance the safety and well-being of all residents. Local communities were also informed about how to access services, with many indicating that this was the first time they had heard of PSEA prevention and response mechanisms.

UNHCR Protection Focus group discussion with displaced populations in Chiure, Cabo Delgado © UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

- **Training for Linha Verde Operators**: UNHCR facilitated a training session on Housing, Land & Property (HLP) rights for Affected Populations for Linha Verde operators. The training enhanced the capacity of the operators on ways to identify, provide counselling and refer cases of HLP violations to specialized services.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV)** remains a critical challenge affecting refugees, IDPs and host communities. UNHCR Mozambique works with the government and partners to address GBV issues. In Cabo Delgado, 13 individuals received GBV-specialized MHPSS training, and 50 individuals received training on GBV protection and PSEA; this included activists, Government counterparts, and community members. 24 people at risk were supported with case management in Pemba and Montepuez districts. Furthermore, 7,071 individuals benefitted from community engagement activities and 652 individuals benefitted from specific GBV activities carried out in several protection centres in Pemba and Montepuez.

Education

- Through the Instant Network Schools (INS) program, 700 books for the Akelius language program were received and distributed throughout INS schools in Nampula. Furthermore, new districts in Nampula were visited to discuss the opening of additional INS centres and volunteers from Vodafone assisted in the installation of new equipment in several sites and districts, including in the secondary school in the Corrane IDP site. In addition, in Maratane Refugee Settlement, 256 teachers from the Maratane Secondary School were trained on utilizing INS equipment and resources to enhance teaching methodologies with technology.

INS at Maratane Secondary School © UNHCR

Camp Coordination and Camp management (CCCM), Shelter, Infrastructure, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- In April, UNHCR, through its CCCM partners, provided camp management support in 11 displacement sites in Cabo Delgado, where 59,757 IDPs reside. Furthermore, UNHCR trained 25 individuals (IDPs and staff from local partners) on site management, coordination, and information management. UNHCR also rehabilitated the community centre in the Ntele site in Montepuez.
- In Nampula, 80 resilient shelters, that are better equipped to withstand extreme weather events, were completed in the Maratane Refugee settlement, which benefitted 400 refugees.
- In response to the crisis in southern Cabo Delgado, UNHCR distributed 300 CRI kits to new arrivals at the Megaruma IDP site in Chiure district, reaching 1,316 individuals. In Erati, Nampula, 468 HHs (1,503 individuals) received CRIs. The CRI kits include essential items such as blankets, mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and buckets.

UNHCR CRI Distribution in Erati District, Nampula © UNHCR

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- With funding from GIZ, and the assistance of UNHCR, 118 individuals (IDPs and host community) were enrolled in April in TVET programs at the Institute of Professional Training and Labor Studies Alberto

Cassimo (IFPELAC) in Pemba. This program not only imparts valuable skills but also enhances employability and fosters sustainable livelihoods.

- In April UNHCR attended the Nampula Business Forum and showcased its livelihood and agricultural initiatives in collaboration with female refugees from Maratane.
- With funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB), UNHCR conducted training sessions in the Metuge, Mecufi, and Pemba districts in Cabo Delgado. Eighty beneficiaries in Metuge and Mecufi, comprising of both men and women, graduated from training programs covering life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and protection, with a focus on the fisheries sector. This initiative aims to equip participants with the necessary tools for sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience.

UNHCR at the Nampula Business Forum ©UNHCR/Rumbani Msiska

Coordination

- UNHCR chairs the Protection Cluster and is an active member of both the Shelter and CCCM clusters.
- In addition, UNHCR co-chairs the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) working group (with World Vision), co-chairs the PSEA working group (with the IOM), and co-chairs the Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) area of responsibility (AoR) of the Protection Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).
- UNHCR also chairs the UN Solution Working Group and the UN Solutions Technical Group (with the IOM).
- In Cabo Delgado UNHCR co-chairs the CE/AAP WG (with Save the Children).

Partnerships

- UNHCR Mozambique has scaled up its partnerships with development actors to mobilize their support in displacement settings, achieving the inclusion of refugees and IDPs into development actors' programmes in areas of climate financing, energy provision, and access to services, among others as well as throughout the Common Country Assessment (CCA) process, which informs the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), in short, also known as the UN Country Framework. UNHCR is an active member of all four Strategic Priority groups of the UNSDCF and the Programme Management Team (PMT) that serves as a think-tank and advisor to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for the implementation of the Country Framework.
- UNHCR works with 21 partners**,** including government partners and international and national NGOs.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION | UNHCR Mozambique 2024

UNHCR Mozambique has rolled out a new Multi-Year Strategy for the years 2024 to 2026. Through this strategy, UNHCR is working with the Government of Mozambique, its various line ministries at national, provincial, and local levels as well as development actors to find opportunities to sustainably address the vulnerabilities of forcibly displaced people, build resilience among affected communities and to facilitate durable solutions. This strategic shift will allow UNHCR to provide more sustainable and effective support, for the short, medium, and the long term.

In 2024, UNHCR Mozambique will continue to

- Address the protection and assistance needs and support sustainable solutions for internally displaced people in the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa, as well as the communities that host them.
- Address the protection and assistance needs and support sustainable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, as well as the communities that host them; and cross-cutting UNHCR's entire response.
- Support preparedness and response efforts to natural hazards, including cyclones, flooding and drought. Through this engagement, UNHCR will continue to adopt an age, gender and diversity approach while maintaining a focus on accountability to affected populations (AAP).

UNHCR will also continue to focus on reinforcing its operational presence and coordination leadership in protection, while supporting areas of shelter/NFI and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) through operational response, technical expertise and active participation in coordination fora; continue and strengthen protection advocacy; strengthen development partnerships to amplify and reinforce protection mainstreaming and address the needs of the people we serve sustainably; and, remain proactive in climate related preparedness activities, such as pre-positioning of CRIs, capacity building of the Government and partners, sensitization of communities on the importance of preparedness.

Find UNHCR's Global Appeal for 2024 here.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous support of donors who have contributed to UNHCR Mozambique and to UNHCR programmes globally in 2023 and 2024.

African Development Bank Group | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | CERF | Denmark | Finland | France | Germany | Giuliana Lagetto | Ireland | Italy | Japan | The Netherlands | Norway | Private donors | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | Vodafone Foundation

Contacts

Damien Mc Sweeney, Senior External Relations Officer, mcsweene@unhcr.org, UNHCR, Maputo, Mozambique

Andrés van Niekerk, External Relations Officer, vannieka@unhcr.org, UNHCR, Maputo, Mozambique

For more information on UNHCR's programme in Mozambique:

UNHCR Mozambique Operational Data Portal | Protection Cluster – Mozambique | Global Focus | Twitter | Facebook