

# Mozambique

Mozambique hosts approximately 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, while 850,599 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 March 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 months, 571,468\* 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

**850,599\*** Internally Displaced Persons  
668,939 (79%) IDP's in northern Mozambique due to the ongoing conflict.  
181,660 (21%) climate related IDPs following the impacts of extreme weather events.  
45% of IDPs living in relocation sites, 55% living in host communities.  
51% of IDPs are women and children.

**571,468\*** 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

\* [Mozambique Mobility Tracking Assessment Report \(August 2023, IOM\)](#)

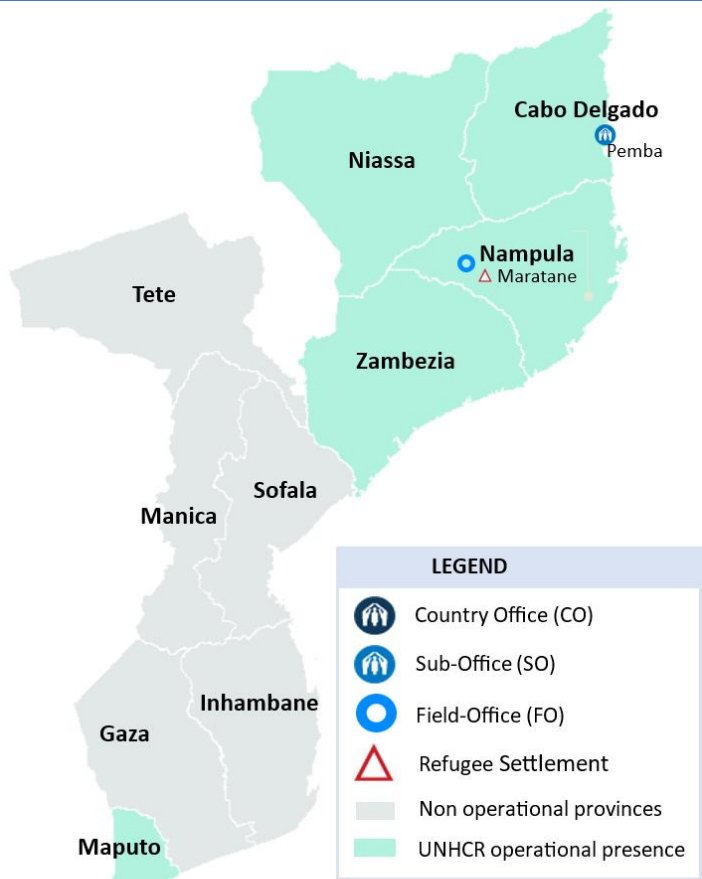
\*\* According to UNHCR preliminary data from the verification exercise in Mozambique October 2023.

\*\*\* [Tropical Cyclone Freddy Flash Update No. 12, 28 March 2023, UNOCHA](#)

## USD 47.5 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2023

FUNDING (as of 15 December 2023)



**Staff: 131**

**72 National Staff**

**59 International Staff**

**Offices: 3**

**1 Country Office in Maputo – 46 staff**

**1 Sub Office in Pemba – 47 staff**

**1 Field Office in Nampula – 38 staff**

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS | November 2023

### Protection

- UNHCR's protection monitoring activities are critical to identify protection risks and trends to make referrals for people with heightened needs to specialized services. In November, protection monitoring interviews were conducted with 2,278 displaced and returned families in 21 displacement sites, host communities, and return locations across five districts of Cabo Delgado (Mueda, Montepuez, Metuge, Palma, and Mecufi). In 2023, so far 26,462 families have been interviewed.

- Gender-based violence remains a critical challenge affecting refugees, IDPs and host communities. UNHCR Mozambique has worked with the government and partners to address GBV issues. In November, UNHCR organised and launched the 16-Days of Activism campaign against gender-based violence in several parts of the country including Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Zambezia and Niassa provinces. The theme of the campaign was "Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls". The focus of the



**Launch of 16-Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in November 2023**  
 ©UNHCR Mozambique.

campaign was to create awareness, challenge harmful norms, foster support for survivors and break the cycle of violence. Government and partners from various sectors, including protection, health, and livelihood, actively participated in diverse activities, demonstrating commitment to ending violence and empowering women and girls. In Pemba, UNHCR and partners also organised a workshop on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). More than 130 people from several institutions participated in the workshop. Alongside partners, UNHCR also conducted a GBV case management training for 35 public servants.

- UNHCR and partners provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 1,345 (661 men and 684 women) IDPs with specific needs, including elderly people at risk and people with disabilities in Cabo Delgado, bringing the total to 7,902 people supported in 2023. Furthermore, 23 beneficiaries were trained on the repair of assistive devices and were provided with a tool kit.

- Possessing civil documentation is crucial, enabling forcibly displaced people to access services, including healthcare and education, as well as enhancing their freedom of movement. Working closely with Government authorities and the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM), UNHCR assisted 544 people in Pemba, Cabo Delgado province in obtaining civil documentation. 22 legal awareness-raising sessions were provided to the beneficiaries. 18 people received additional legal counselling and/or representation from UCM's on-site lawyers. In 2023, so far, 7,799 people have been assisted in acquiring their civil documentation in Cabo Delgado.



**UNHCR Representative, engaging with People with Disabilities (PWD) in Corrane IDP site, Nampula.** ©UNHCR Mozambique.

## Public Health

- In November, in Maratane refugee settlement, Nampula, community health volunteers continued with sensitisation activities aimed at containing cholera, malaria and TB spread, prevention and control, reaching 4,765 refugees and people from host communities. In addition, 2,384 women and girls received soap and sanitary napkins there.
- In Nampula, UNHCR obtained a list of 191 refugees scheduled for weekly medical examinations. Twenty-five refugees will travel to Maputo every week for medical purposes with a maximum duration stay of seven days. 30 refugees and asylum seekers were provided with health counselling services, while others were referred to treatment centres. Furthermore, a blood donation fair was conducted in Maratane where 49 individuals donated blood and complementary food distributions were held to 100 beneficiaries (58 refugee and 42 host community) with chronic illnesses associated with acute malnutrition.

## Education

- In November, the 15 students who were selected to participate in the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI program) signed their contracts and registered in the DAFI online platform. In Mozambique, 76 students have been selected since the beginning of the program, with 53 currently enrolled in a university program. A new call for applications for DAFI for the additional slots was released. The [DAFI scholarship programme](#) is a UNHCR initiative that offers qualified refugee and returnee students the possibility to earn an undergraduate degree in their country of asylum or home country.
- In Maratane Refugee settlement in Nampula, the construction of five classrooms at the UNHCR supported primary school were completed.



Completion of the construction of five classrooms in Maratane Refugee settlement / ©UNHCR Mozambique.

## Shelter, infrastructure, and core relief items (CRIs)

- In November, UNHCR and partners completed the construction of 109 shelters in the Corrane IDP site in Nampula, and 70 shelter repair kits were distributed in the Maratane and Corrane settlements. In Cabo Delgado, the construction of 134 shelters and the upgrade of 90 transitional shelters was completed. So far, 1,747 families have been supported with shelter interventions in Cabo Delgado in 2023.
- In the Cabo Delgado province, 1,148 CRI kits consisting of essential items such as blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and buckets, were distributed to 1,044 families in the Nicuapa IDP site.

## Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)

- UNHCR, through its CCCM partners, provide camp management support in 10 displacement sites in Cabo Delgado, (seven in the Mueda district and three in Montepuez district) where 59,678 IDPs reside.
- UNHCR provided a two-day camp management training in Mueda targeting officials from the District Service Department of Planning and Infrastructure (SDPI) and Solidarités International (SI). 20 People were trained in the areas of enhancing community participation, humanitarian principles, service mapping, site-planning and improvement standards, information management, and effective coordination. Similarly, during the same period, UNHCR CCCM teams trained 76 community representatives in the Montepuez district, focusing on enhancing community engagement and participation. In Montepuez, UNHCR repaired the community centre and protection hub in the Ntele site.

## Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- In Pemba, Cabo Delgado province, UNHCR trained 50 young people (30 IDPs and 20 from host community) on business management, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and the formation of savings groups.
- In Nampula, 20 women were provided with technical skills on artisanal soap making under the AfDB funded project in livelihood inclusion, implemented by UNHCR. The group produces organic and scented soaps with a production capacity of 200 bars of soap per day. UNHCR for refugees right to work and support them in becoming resilient and achieving self-reliance.



Training on producing artisanal soap in Maratane refugee settlement / 2023 ©UNHCR Mozambique.

## 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).

## Events

- In Maputo, from 22-24 November, in collaboration with the Mozambican government and the San Remo Institute for Humanitarian Law, UNHCR organized a successful three-day workshop on the domestication of the Kampala Convention. The workshop's main aim was to reflect on approaches to strengthen and incorporate the Kampala



UNHCR workshop on the domestication of the Kampala convention ©UNHCR/Guilherme Chirinda

Convention's provisions into the national legal and policy framework on internal displacement in Mozambique. The workshop was attended by government dignitaries, donors, NGOs, UN-agencies, and the UN Resident Coordinator.

- On 28 November, UNHCR organized a financial inclusion workshop in Maputo to facilitate building a shared vision and collaborative approach to inclusive finance for forcibly displaced persons. As well as provide an opportunity to collectively review and affirm proposed actions to address identified gaps in increasing access to financial services, creating market



The Economic and Financial Inclusion Workshop in the Context of Forced Displacement / @UNHCR/Guilherme Chirinda

linkages, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and build better resilience for vulnerable populations. It was also an opportunity to collectively identify partnerships essential for the realization of the desired strategic outcomes aimed at sustainable inclusion in national and provincial financial inclusion planning.

## 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.

- In November, UNHCR welcomed a German delegation led by the German Ambassador to Cabo Delgado where they visited a clinic offering free legal advice and access to civil documentation to IDPs and host communities, a lifeline activity offered under the Nexus Norte project, implemented by UNHCR and partner GIZ in collaboration with the Government of Mozambique



German Delegation visiting civil documentation clinic in Cabo Delgado / 2023 ©UNHCR Mozambique.

- As a result of the Call for Expression of Interest (CEoI), in line with the 2024 – 2026 Multi-Year Strategy (MYS) as well as the localization agenda, which was launched via the United Nations Partner Portal in September 2023, the Implementing Partnerships Management Committee (IPMC) recommended the selection of partners for 2024. Therefore, in 2024 UNHCR will engage with twenty-one partners compared to twenty-five partners in 2023.



### STRATEGIC DIRECTION | UNHCR Mozambique 2023

In 2023, UNHCR Mozambique continues to (i) 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; (ii) 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, (iii) support preparedness and response efforts to natural hazards, including cyclones, flooding and drought. Through this engagement, UNHCR continues to adopt an [age, gender and diversity](#) approach while maintaining a focus on [accountability to affected populations](#) (AAP). UNHCR focuses 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 2023 [here](#).

**UNHCR is grateful for the generous support of donors who have contributed to UNHCR Mozambique and to UNHCR programmes globally in 2022 and 2023.**

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**For more information on UNHCR’s programme in Mozambique:**

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