



Gender Based Violence Response

Cabo Delgado, Northern Mozambique


Gender Based Violence (GBV) is an alarming concern in Cabo Delgado. Women and girls are at risk of multiple forms of GBV before, during, and after being forcibly displaced in both IDP sites and urban areas.


UNHCR works with the government and NGO service providers, displaced and host communities, partners, and coordination mechanisms **to respond and prevent GBV in Northern Mozambique**


UNHCR is taking an **integrated approach to respond to the multiple needs of GBV survivors** together with government and national organizations, including improving access and quality of care service.


KEY ACHIEVEMENTS


JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2022


 **61,496** people reached by GBV and MHPSS prevention and response awareness campaigns


 **118,310** forcibly displaced people can access GBV services established by UNHCR and partners


 **853** partners, government staff, and community volunteers trained on GBV prevention and response

 **300** trained community volunteers providing awareness and referrals to GBV services

 **100%** of GBV survivors who approach UNHCR are supported with psychosocial counselling

 **34** service providers trained on GBV Case Management including government services

 **11** local GBV referral pathways linking survivors to services established

 **10** mobile safe spaces providing integrated GBV, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services

UNHCR Mozambique / Sub-Office Pemba



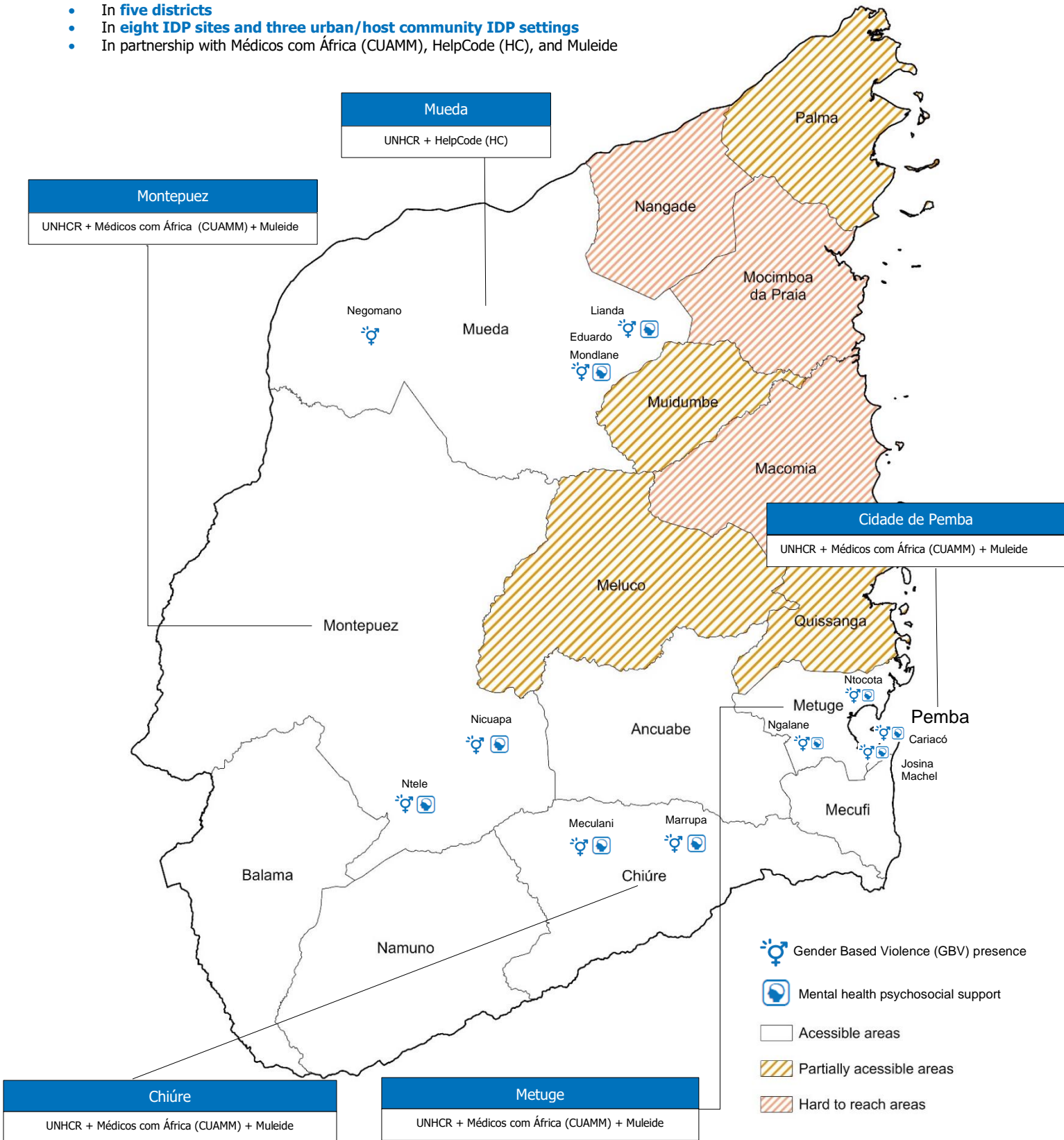
Focus group discussions with displaced families returning to Palma, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

In September, **UNHCR and partner HelpCode conducted a GBV rapid mission aimed at improving basic GBV response and risk reduction in Palma.** The mission included GBV service mapping and the preparation of GBV referral pathways, that have been developed and shared with the GBV AoR; two GBV safety audits in different neighborhoods of Palma city; and a training on GBV core concepts and PSEA for **27** staff from government institutions and NGOs involved in the humanitarian response in the district.

The **main protection needs in Palma** are related to basic safety and access to services of people returning to respond to critical protection needs and reduce risks including access to documentation, comprehensive GBV services and risk mitigation activities targeting women and girls, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for traumatized individuals who suffered and/or witnessed extreme violence.

UNHCR conducts GBV interventions:

- In **five districts**
- In **eight IDP sites and three urban/host community IDP settings**
- In partnership with Médicos com África (CUAMM), HelpCode (HC), and Muleide



Overview

GBV is a major protection concern in the displacement context of Cabo Delgado. Displaced women and girls are at risk of multiple forms of GBV including sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, abduction, intimate partner violence, and spiralling rates of child marriage¹.

IDP and host community locations lack basic safety and assistance, leaving women and girls, many of whom have experienced conflict related GBV, exposed to ongoing GBV risks. Sexual violence whilst collecting water and firewood, sexual and physical assault in homes due to inadequate shelter, and risks of GBV perpetrated by armed actors were identified as key concerns through UNHCR GBV Safety Audits².

Adolescent girls are at heightened risk of GBV and have been identified as the most vulnerable group. Risks of GBV towards girls are escalating, including harmful traditional practises such as child marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation, abduction, and high rates of early pregnancy. According to UNHCR GBV incident data, girls are more likely to report sexual violence than other types of GBV³. Yet, girls feel they are insufficiently included in humanitarian programmes, unrepresented in decision making, and lack access to GBV services, activities, and safe spaces adapted to their specific protection needs.

Sexual exploitation is a significant risk, particularly in urban areas due to lack of assistance for displaced persons coupled with existing risks. Highly vulnerable groups such as single women head of households, women and girls with disabilities, adolescent girls, and sex workers are at particular risk. **Women and girls have been kidnapped and sexually assaulted by Non-State Armed Groups** and are exposed to GBV during their abduction. Following their release or escape, they face discrimination within the community and lack of access to survivor-centred support.

UNHCR's GBV Strategy

UNHCR's GBV strategy for Cabo Delgado aims at reducing the risk of GBV for displaced and host communities and ensuring that all survivors have adequate and timely access to quality services. It includes:

1. Working with agencies providing support services, displaced persons, host communities, and local authorities to **respond to GBV through improving access to quality and holistic GBV services** for survivors. This includes the provision of integrated GBV case management, MHPSS, and legal services through GBV mobile teams in safe spaces. Areas targeted include IDP sites, hard-to-reach locations and urban displacement settings.
2. Implementing **community led GBV activities** that help **prevent GBV through addressing gender inequality, discrimination and unequal power relations** with men, women, boys, and girls. The activities include awareness-raising sessions led by trained community volunteers as well as scaling-up structured gender discussion groups, life-skills, and integrated economic empowerment programming.



UNHCR is assessing GBV risks and response needs in hard to reach and return locations such as Palma, to promote safety from GBV in all durable solutions options

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¹ For more information consult [A rapid assessment of the gender-based violence \(GBV\) situation and response in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique](#) by UNHCR and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), December 2021.

² [UNHCR & HelpCode GBV Safety Audit – Lyanda IDP site, Mueda District, Cabo Delgado, Northern Mozambique](#), June 2022

³ [UNHCR Mozambique Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) Incidents Trends Analysis - Cabo Delgado | July – December 2021](#)

3. **Identifying GBV risks across all sectors and develop capacities that ensure prompt action is taken to mitigate risks.** This includes conducting Safety Audits to identify GBV risks and mitigate them through community-based and sector level responses. UNHCR is providing training to mainstream GBV prevention and response across different sectors.
4. **Conducting GBV assessments and protection monitoring to ensure that GBV gaps and risks, including sexual exploitation and abuse, are identified, and progress is tracked to inform advocacy and programming.** This includes the safe and ethical collection and sharing of GBV incident trends data through UNHCR’s case management services, as well rapid GBV assessment missions in hard-to-reach locations.
5. **Developing the capacity of local authorities, NGOs, and local women-led organizations, to ensure they have the knowledge and skills needed to promote gender equality and to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV.** This includes the provision of training on GBV case management coaching programs, and a learning package focusing on enhancing the capacity of UNHCR, partners, and government community volunteers’ to conduct GBV community engagement activities and support survivor disclosure.

Gaps and Challenges

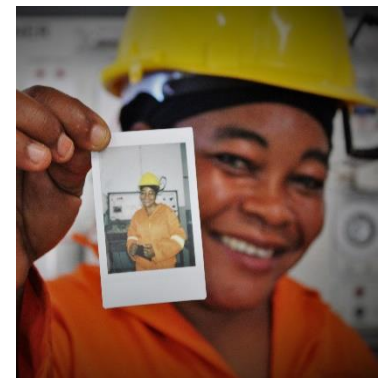
- ✦ Despite the overwhelming GBV needs identified, **due to limited funding and human resources for GBV activities, essential services lack capacity to respond to the emergency needs of GBV survivors.** UNHCR is leading the provision of holistic GBV services in safe spaces (case management, psychosocial support, and legal services). However, **additional funding is required** to enable more survivors to access crucial services. With additional funding, UNHCR is able to scale up rapidly existing quality GBV service models.
- ✦ To complement existing community awareness initiatives, **additional structured and tailored approaches to GBV prevention are required especially those targeting adolescent girls.** More involvement for community approaches is also needed for men and boys to address harmful gender norms.
- ✦ **There is a need for stronger integration with development partners on GBV prevention and response.** UNHCR is providing technical capacity building to government and local women-led organizations, supporting displaced women and girls’ inclusion in decision making, and integrated GBV and women’s economic empowerment approaches, for more durable solutions.
- ✦ **Longer term and institutional capacity-building for GBV services is required to provide access to quality services in a sustainable way.** UNHCR requires additional resources to conduct more in-depth and regular GBV capacity building, particularly to GBV service providers, to build internal technical capacity within government and local organisations.

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Integrated livelihoods and psychosocial support is needed for displaced women to reduce risks and empower communities

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