Mozambique

Mozambique hosts over 32,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, while more than one million 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.

This context, paired with lingering effects of COVID-19, has resulted in the further disenfranchisement of already vulnerable populations. 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.

UNHCR stresses that all refugee and IDP return movements should take place 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 ultimately support the inclusion of displaced populations through the expansion of their respective programming.

POPULATION FIGURES

834,304 internally displaced people in northern Mozambique due to ongoing conflict* and **420,200** IDP returnees

1,187,265 people affected by the double landfall of Tropical Cyclone Freddy, including **184,000** people displaced **

736,015 people affected in Nampula and Zambezia provinces by Tropical Cyclone Gombe in 2022,*** **129,327** people have remained displaced internally in central Mozambique following cyclone Idai in March 2019.

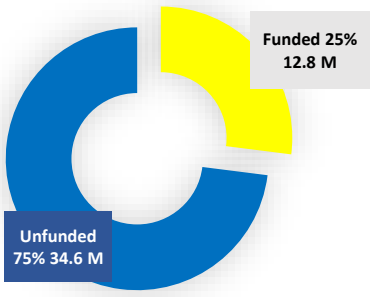
32,132 refugees and asylum-seekers****

* Mobility Tracking Assessment (DTM), Round 18, April 2023, IOM
** Tropical Cyclone Freddy Flash Update No. 12, 28 March 2023, UNOCHA
*** Tropical Cyclone Gombe Flash Update No. 6, March 2022, UNOCHA
**** According to UNHCR data

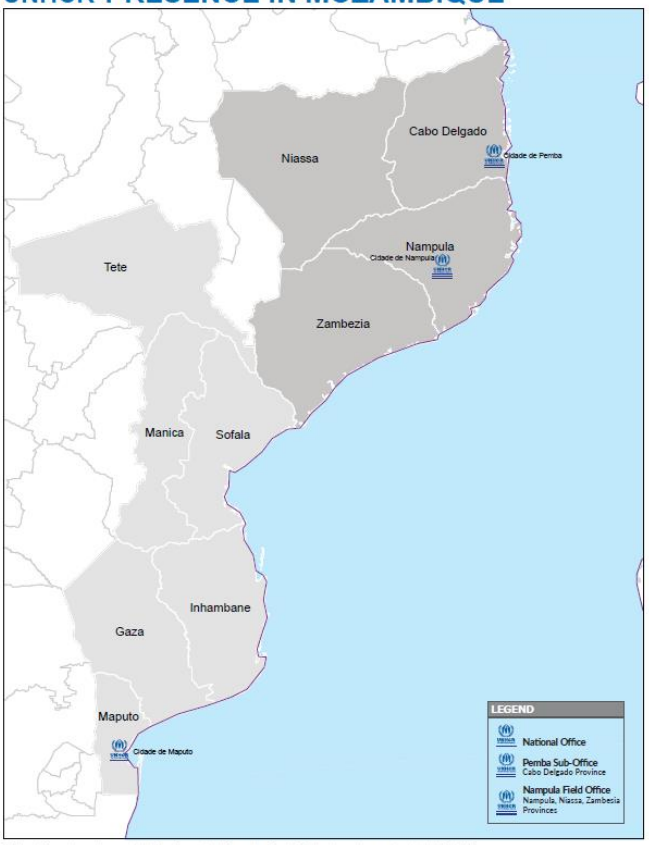
USD 47.4 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2023

FUNDING (as of 23 May 2023)



UNHCR PRESENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Creation date: 01 August 2022 Sources: UNHCR Feedback: mcsweene@unhcr.org

Staff: 130
72 National Staff
58 International Staff
Offices: 3
1 Country Office in Maputo – 48 staff
1 Field Office in Nampula – 36 staff
1 Field Office in Pemba – 46 staff

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | MAY 2023

Protection and solutions

- UNHCR's protection monitoring activities are critical to identifying protection risks and trends and making referrals for people with heightened needs to specialized services. In May 2023, UNHCR, through partner HelpCode, carried out protection monitoring interviews with 4,504 displaced and IDP returnee families in 14 sites across four districts of Cabo Delgado.
- Possessing civil documentation is crucial, enabling displaced people to access services, including healthcare and education as well as enhancing their freedom of movement. During May 2023, UNHCR through its partner the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM), assisted 3,282 people to acquire civil documentation in Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces.

National ID card delivery ceremony in Namialo District, Nampula Province. ©UNHCR/Emanuel Chambal

- In Mueda and Montepuez, Cabo Delgado, UNHCR, through partner Humanity and Inclusion, provided assistive devices (e.g., crutches and wheelchairs) to 55 people with disabilities, improving their mobility and enhancing their quality of life.
- Various capacity strengthening initiatives took place over the course of May, including training to 83 community mobilizers on access to legal services for survivors of GBV, and training sessions for 18 members of various humanitarian organizations on ways to better support people with disabilities.
- Resettlement is an important durable solution and protection tool whereby refugees are transferred from a country in which they sought protection to a third country that has agreed to admit them with permanent residence status. During May 2023, 19 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) departed for resettlement from Mozambique to the United States.
- The Mozambique Leave No One Behind analysis is a national process to identify the most vulnerable groups in the country and barriers they face. UNHCR supported the process by facilitating consultations with refugees, IDPs and host communities in Nampula and Cabo Delgado, ensuring their inclusion in the analysis and to bring to light vulnerabilities faced by these populations and demonstrating how displacement compounds vulnerability. The analysis will inform national and provincial debates and policy response for the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- UNDP's Immediate Stabilization and Recovery Programme in Cabo Delgado seeks to reinforce the Government's efforts to lay the foundations for peace and development in the region. UNHCR and the Protection Cluster supported the evaluation exercise of the programme by providing an overview of the protection situation in the province to UNDP.

Education

- UNHCR has taken steps to expand access to higher education for refugees and asylum-seekers in Mozambique. The DAFI scholarship programme offers qualified refugee and returnee students the possibility to earn an undergraduate degree in their country of asylum or home country as returnees. The 2023 DAFI Call for Applications was launched nationwide, with applications open from 12 May to 2 June. Currently there are 44 students enrolled in the DAFI programme.
- UNHCR continues to support the primary and secondary schools in Maratane Refugee Settlement. During May 2023, UNHCR donated 3,000 school uniforms to the children in the Primary School there.

Public health

- UNHCR supports refugees and members of the host community in Maratane Refugee Settlement with targeted health and nutrition support. Following the second nutritional assessment for admission into UNHCR's complimentary food programme, 94 people from refugee and host communities with chronic illnesses were identified and admitted into the programme.

Shelter, infrastructure, and core relief items (CRIs)

- During May 2023, UNHCR, through partner AVSI, continued the distribution of shelter repair materials to 250 selected families in Montepuez to rehabilitate their damaged shelters. In addition, through partner SDPI, UNHCR upgraded 25 transitional shelters from grass thatch to corrugated galvanized iron sheets to make them more durable.
- Between 24 and 31 May 2023, core relief items (CRIs) were distributed to 1,178 families (approximately 5,890 individuals) in Nicoadala, Namacurra and Mocuba districts, Zambezia province. CRIs consist of blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, buckets, among other items.
- In Maratane Refugee Settlement, 493 shelter kits were distributed to families in need during May.

CRI distribution in Zambezia Province. ©UNHCR/Emanuel Chambal

Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)

- UNHCR currently supports 11 IDP sites in Cabo Delgado, eight in Mueda (Chilindi, Eduardo Mondlane, Mpeme, Nandimba, Namatil, Naschitenge and Lianda) and three in Montepuez (Nicuapa, Ntele and Massingiri). UNHCR regularly carries out head counts in the IDP sites that it manages to obtain accurate and reliable disaggregated data for the population living there. During May, UNHCR and its partner carried out a headcount in Namatil IDP site, verifying the presence of 388 families residing in the site. A total of 9,212 families have been verified residing in seven of the eight sites supported by UNHCR so far in Mueda.
- During May 2023, UNHCR carried out capacity strengthening activities by organizing training targeting government official and partners on various topics including coordination, GBV mainstreaming in site management, community participation, site standards and humanitarian principles.

Livelihoods and economic inclusion

- UNHCR, through partner AVSI, funded start-up businesses for 27 young people who graduated from a business training programme. Among the start-ups was a hair salon, an electrical installation business, mobile account services, and a snack bar.
- UNHCR continued to provide support to farmers' associations. For instance, beneficiaries from the Farmer's Field School programme, supporting farmers' associations, had a successful harvest period resulting in over 630kg of peanut, cowpea, and maize crops. Communal financial services for farmers' associations Savings and Loan Groups continued, with accumulated savings reaching sufficient levels to enable the provision of micro-loans to members of the associations.
- UNHCR facilitates linkages to markets for refugee small business owners in Nampula province. One such small business owner now sells her handmade crafts to an artisan shop in Nampula city, and another is responsible for supplying chickens to restaurants in the Maratane Refugee Settlement.

Elizabeth, a resident of Maratane Refugee Settlement and skilled carpet maker, benefits from a market linkage opportunity. © UNHCR/Adelina Ntinabo

Coordination and partnerships

- UNHCR chairs the Protection Cluster and the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) working group, and co-chairs the PSEA working group with IOM and the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) area of responsibility (AoR) of the Protection Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). More information on people reached and activities of Protection Cluster partners can be found here.
- UNHCR works with 21 partners, including government partners and international and national NGOs. In addition, one UN2UN Transfer Agreement with WFP was concluded in 2023 to operate a complaints and response mechanism.
- 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, 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.

Global Trends

- UNHCR's recently released Global Trends Report 2022 highlighting that by the end of 2022, a total of 15 countries globally hosted over one million IDPs, with Mozambique among them (p.23).

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; continued and strengthened protection advocacy; strengthening 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 the pre-positioning of CRIs, capacity building of the Government and partners, as well as the 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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