

Northern Mozambique Situation


September 2021


More than **745,000** people have been **forced to flee** their homes in northern Mozambique due to violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups. UNHCR reiterates concern for the protection and humanitarian needs of displaced people and host communities.

Despite advances by Mozambican and allied military forces, **returns of displaced families** to areas of origin **should only take place when all security conditions are met**, and **services restored** to enable a sustainable and dignified re-integration of IDPs in line with accepted standards.


UNHCR, local authorities and partners continue working together to address the most urgent needs of displaced and host communities in Cabo Delgado and other provinces. **Additional Funding is urgently required to scale up protection activities**


KEY ACHIEVEMENTS JAN – SEP 2021


 **12,044** people from displaced and host communities received legal assistance


 **5,174** people from displaced and host community received IDs and birth certificates


 **9,000** families/ **44,000** people received Core Relief Items


 **10,000** people reached by GBV prevention and response awareness campaigns

 **418** partner and government staff and community volunteers trained on GBV prevention and response

 **82** persons with disabilities received assistance devices, including wheelchairs, crutches and shoulder crutches

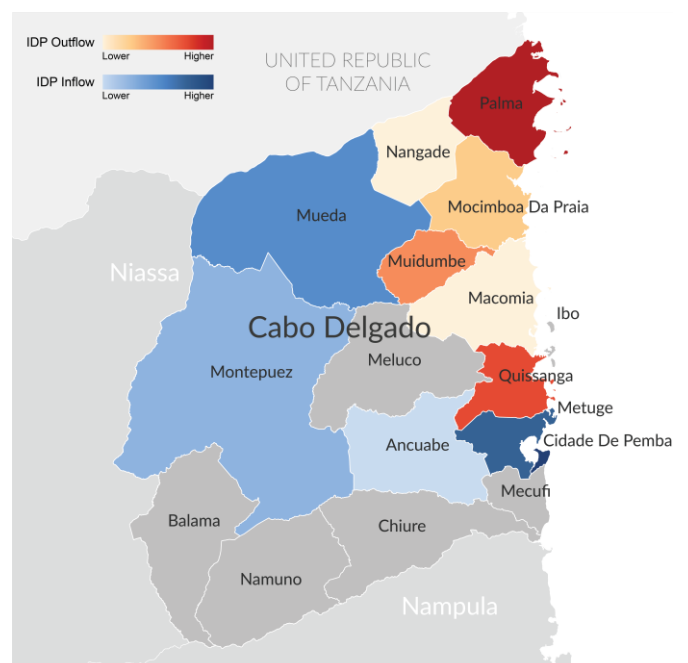
 **68** Protection Focal Points trained and **59** Protection Focal Points undergoing training

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

 **321** activists trained in dissemination awareness to address protection from sexual exploitation and abuse



UNHCR and UCM Mobile legal clinic providing legal assistance and access to civil documentation in Pemba, Cabo Delgado.
©UNHCR/ Martim Pereira



Activities



Protection

- **Refoulement of Mozambican asylum seekers from Tanzania:** A total of 57 Mozambican asylum seekers were refouled from Tanzania last month over the Negomano border point, including 30 on 8 Sept. (ten men, seven women and 13 children) and 27 (four men, 12 women and 11 children) who were forcibly returned on 30 Sept. The number of Mozambican families seeking refuge has decreased significantly compared to previous months due to the increased presence of Tanzanian security forces monitoring irregular entry points, as well as Mozambican and allied forces' operations to curtailing non-state armed groups' activities in Palma district. Since September 2020, Mozambican border authorities registered 11,263 forcibly returned asylum seekers from Tanzania, including 10,395 so far this year.
- **Welcoming new Protection Focal Points (PFP) in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** In September 2021, 16 new PFP candidates (8 women and 8 men) were selected in Metuge district. Since the beginning of 2021 a total of 59 PFP candidates (28 women and 31 men) have been interviewed and selected throughout Cabo Delgado, and UNHCR is now training them to be able to begin their functions as PFPs. Currently, UNHCR counts with 68 operational PFPs (37 women and 31 men) in Cabo Delgado working in the most affected districts of Chiure, Metuge, and Montepuez.
- **Youth engagement activities in Metuge district, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR with Caritas conducted two youth engagement activities in Metuge district with 29 youth (14 girls and 15 boys). During these activities, the youth compared life in their places of origin to life as displaced persons, discussing the associated challenges and identifying potential solutions. From the beginning of 2021 through September, 230 youth (124 girls and 106 boys) have participated in these outreach activities throughout Cabo Delgado province.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and fraud alleged in Cabo Delgado aid distributions:** UNHCR conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) among community volunteers and midwives with national and international NGOs and government GBV services in Pemba as part of the ongoing GBV response survey. The main GBV risks identified in Pemba include sexual exploitation of women and children, child labour and risk of sexual abuse; trafficking and sexual slavery. Meanwhile, specialized health-care services, case management and access to mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) are understaffed. UNHCR advocates for additional partners and government support to scale-up specialized GBV-MHPSS in Pemba.
- **GBV learning session for newly recruited activists from Doctors with Africa CUAMM, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR conducted a GBV core concepts and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training for 42 activists (23 women and 19 men) from displaced and host communities in the districts of Montepuez and Chiure, who have been recently recruited by UNHCR's partner CUAMM. The training aimed at equipping CUAMM's activists with tools and knowledge to support and refer GBV survivors using a survivor-centred approach. During the training, the activists raised concerns on the frequent occurrence of child marriages within displaced and host communities.
- **Focus Group Discussions to assess PSEA risks in Corrane IDP site, Nampula:** Following a request of the national PSEA network UNHCR undertook a series of focus group discussions to assess PSEA risks at the Corrane IDP site in collaboration with SPAS (Provincial Social Affairs Services of Nampula) involving separate FGDs with women and men.



Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- **Distribution of food and core relief items in Balama district, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR, with partner CARITAS, and the Serviços Distritais de Planeamento e Infraestruturas distributed food, and household items to 724 families/ 2,746 people (1,423 women and 1,312 men) in Empire and Mavala/Angalia IDP sites in Balama, Cabo Delgado. UNHCR trained partner Caritas enumerators involved in the ongoing post distribution monitoring exercise which in September surveyed around 900 families who have received UNHCR's CRIs, collecting information on the utility and on the quality of the distribution process and items.
- **Distribution of core relief items in Niassa Province:** UNHCR distributed CRIs to 97 families in Malica and Utendele IDP sites in Lichinga and Marrupa districts, respectively. During the distribution, UNHCR met with Marrupa's District Administrator, who welcomed UNHCR's support and requested further assistance for displaced communities from Cabo Delgado currently hosted in Niassa province.



Coordination

- **Protection Cluster Paper on principled returns:** The Protection Cluster prepared a [paper](#) on principled returns following recent interest in options the 745,000 IDPs¹ face if peace and security is restored in Cabo Delgado Province. The paper notes that under no circumstances should IDPs be encouraged or compelled to return (or accept any other durable solutions) to areas where their life, safety, liberty or health would be at risk.
- **Establishment of Durable Solutions Working Group:** Upon request of the HC/RC, a Durable Solutions Working Group was established by the Protection Cluster with initial membership of UNHCR, UNDP, OCHA and IOM. The DSWG aims to ensure that a rights-based approach to durable solutions is applied throughout the return process in close collaboration with the Government at all levels.
- **Scoping missions by African Development Bank and GIZ:** Delegations from the African Development Bank and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) were on the ground in late September meeting relevant stakeholders in Pemba and Nampula, through joint missions facilitated by UNHCR. During the meetings, the Government of Mozambique highlighted the importance of investments and development in newly reopened areas, with proposals focusing on youth and women.
- **Humanitarian access to Palma, Cabo Delgado:** The UN team in Cabo Delgado conducted a rapid security assessment mission to the main town of Palma District (Palma Sede) and nearby areas on 6 September. The security report concluded that humanitarian missions can take place in neighbourhoods in Palma including Afungi, Palma Sede, Quitunda, Quionga without military escorts.

Financial information

UNHCR's financial requirements for the [refugee and IDP activities in Mozambique](#) in 2021 total **US\$ 25.7 million of which 65 percent has been covered as of end of September**. UNHCR is grateful to donors including Denmark (US\$766,800), ECHO (US\$1.6 million), Sweden (US \$840,000), and the United States of America (US\$7.2 million).

CONTACTS

- Peter Kessler, UNHCR Senior External Relations Officer, Maputo, Mozambique, kessler@unhcr.org
- Juliana Ghazi, UNHCR External Relations Officer, Maputo, Mozambique, ghazi@unhcr.org
- Martim Gray Pereira, UNHCR Associate Reporting Officer, Pemba, Mozambique, pereirma@unhcr.org

¹ IOM/DTM Mozambique – [Baseline Assessment Round 13 \(September 2021\). Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa, Zambezia and Sofala Provinces.](#)