

# Community-Based Protection Response

## Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique

UNHCR’s protection response relies on **supporting the government with service and assistance provision** to displaced and host communities, while **strengthening and empowering community structures** and social dynamics.

UNHCR conducts **regular protection monitoring exercises to assess the main needs** of displaced families and those hosting them **to plan and tailor interventions**. As of December 2021, UNHCR and partners **surveyed 11,856 families**, of which 1,543 reported protection incidents.

UNHCR and partners **identified and assessed 294 people with disabilities** in Pemba, Metuge, and other districts **to receive disability assistance devices** such as wheelchairs, crutches, and prostheses.

### DISPLACEMENT TRENDS – DECEMBER 2021

 **735,000** displaced people in northern Mozambique

 **59** per cent are children, **19** per cent are women, **17** per cent are men, and **5** per cent are the elderly.

 **10,395** Mozambican asylum seekers *refouled* from Tanzania in 2021

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021

 **17,031** people from displaced and host communities received legal assistance, of which **10,161** received civil documentation

 **230** youth engaged in human rights, peaceful coexistence and recreational activities

 **84** assistance devices distributed to people with disabilities and **210** identified and assessed to receive them.

 **153** Protection Focal Points working with displaced and host communities, disseminating protection messages and referring vulnerable cases



Regional Statelessness Workshop in Pemba, Cabo Delgado  
© UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

From 3 to 5 December, UNHCR and partner Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM) conducted a regional workshop in Cabo Delgado, to share good practices on statelessness prevention and reduction with the aim of establishing a regional platform for continued collaboration.

*“We must join efforts on a local, national, regional and global level to find solutions to address the root causes of statelessness”* said UCM Dean Ms. Bianca Gerente (PhD) during the opening ceremony.

The training was attended by 35 participants from the local authorities, UN agencies and NGOs from the Southern Africa region. Virtual and in-person speakers included representatives from Lawyers for Human Rights South Africa, Save the Children South Africa, UCM, and UNHCR. The Government of Mozambique was represented by four district administrators, the Provincial Prosecutor's Office, and the Provincial Civil Identification Services.

## Overview

**Violence in Cabo Delgado began in 2017. It triggered a protection crisis.** Displaced and host communities are exposed to multiple risks and in urgent need of protection and humanitarian assistance and services. [Protection monitoring reports](#) indicate that displaced families experienced and/or witnessed multiple protection incidents and faced various traumatic risks before, during and after fleeing violence, including killings, separation of families, kidnapping, child recruitment, extortion, rape, and other forms of gender-based violence. The most vulnerable are unaccompanied and separated children; older people; persons with disabilities and medical conditions; and survivors of torture and abuse, including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Tensions between local and host communities are on the rise due to limited resources available, such as land, water, food, and shelter.



Photo: displaced family in Chiure District, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

**It is urgent to ensure an adequate response that addresses the immediate, medium, and long-term needs of families forced to flee. It is equally important to support communities hosting them to ensure social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.**

## UNHCR's Community Based Protection (CBP) strategy

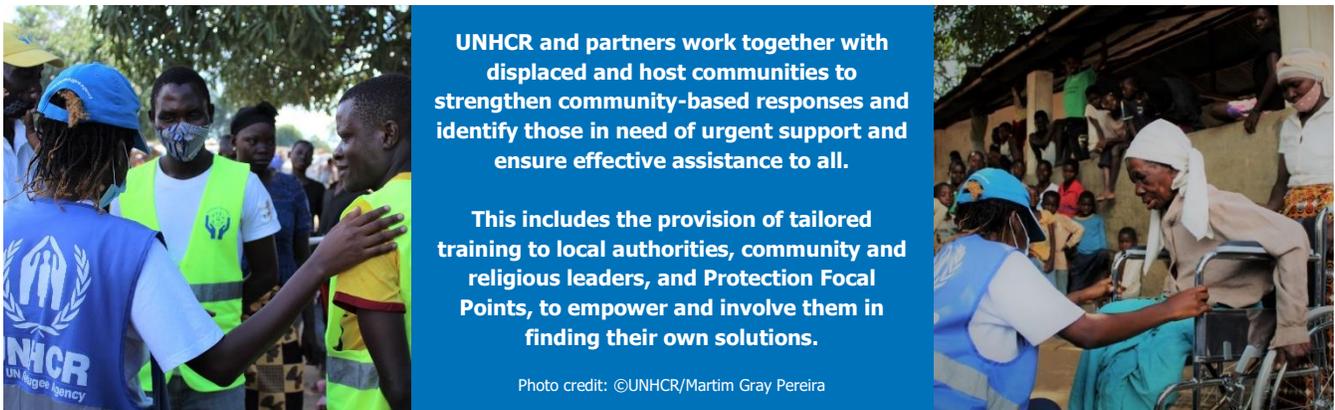
UNHCR works together with partners<sup>1</sup>, local authorities, Protection Focal Points, displaced and host communities, UN agencies, NGOs and different coordination clusters, to address the needs of families forced to flee and those hosting them. The main components of UNHCR's CBP strategy consist of:

- 1. Expanding and strengthening UNHCR's protection presence**, including in high-risk and hard-to-reach areas, through regular protection monitoring, assessments, case management and referrals.
- 2.**
- 3. Facilitating access to documentation** through the UNHCR/UCM mobile legal clinics; public legal education; and awareness campaigns/information dissemination on the importance of civil documentation.
- 4. Strengthening community-based protection** through community engagement; establishing community-based structures and implementing feedback and response mechanisms.
- 5. Strengthening data and information management** in areas of general legal protection; child and youth protection; protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities; and prevention of statelessness.
- 6. Implementing community-based targeted approaches** to enhance the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- 7. Enhancing partnerships and coordination mechanisms** with displaced and host communities, local authorities, UN, NGOs, and civil society.

<sup>1</sup> Association of International Voluntary Service (AVSI), Caritas, HelpCode, Humanity and Inclusion, and UCM

## Gaps and Challenges

-  **Limited capacity of existing services to assist vulnerable groups** such as unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, older persons, and GBV survivors.
-  **Limited presence** of experienced **protection partners** in Cabo Delgado.
-  **Reduced funding** available to scale-up protection activities and service delivery.
-  **Volatile security situation and inability to access some hard-to-reach areas** with ongoing military operations in areas hosting forcibly displaced communities.
-  **Challenges in deploying international staff** to Cabo Delgado related to visa/migration processes.



**Special thanks to** Denmark, European Union, France, Sweden, United States of America **for their contributions to UNHCR's operations in Mozambique**, and to Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Netherlands, Private donors, Switzerland, and Spain for their **unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's operations worldwide**

### Contacts

Juliana Ghazi, External Relations Officer, [ghazi@unhcr.org](mailto:ghazi@unhcr.org)

Martim Gray Pereira, Associate Reporting Officer, [pereirma@unhcr.org](mailto:pereirma@unhcr.org)