

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, and **strengthening and empowering community structures** and social dynamics, while prioritizing **accountability to affected populations**.


UNHCR conducts **regular protection monitoring and assessments** together with partners and protection focal points from displaced and host communities **to assess the main needs** of displaced families and those hosting them **to plan and tailor interventions**.

In April, through the established **complaints and feedback mechanisms** and **protection monitoring exercises**, total number of **1,239** incidents and **441** persons with specific needs were identified and referred for services and assistance.


DISPLACEMENT TRENDS:


 **784,000** displaced people in northern Mozambique (according to [IOM/DTM round 15](#)).


 **49** per cent are children, **28** per cent are women, **23** per cent are men


 **11,654** Mozambican asylum seekers forcibly returned/ *refouled* from Tanzania since September 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: JANUARY 2021 – APRIL 2022

 **22,308** people from displaced and host communities received legal assistance, of which **14,607** received civil documentation

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

 **206** assistance devices distributed to people with disabilities in IDP and host communities

 **130** Protection Focal Points working with displaced and host communities, disseminating protection messages and referring vulnerable cases for services and assistance



UNHCR and UCM providing support to displaced and host communities in accessing documentation Pemba, Cabo Delgado © UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

Between March and April, **UNHCR and partner Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM) assisted a total of 3,412 people accessing civil documentation** (1,028 women, 967 men, 749 girls, and 668 boys) from displaced and host communities in Ancuabe, Montepuez and Pemba.

While fleeing violence in Cabo Delgado several families lost their documents, becoming **exposed to several protection risks** such as restrictions of movement and challenges in accessing basic services and formal employment.

Access to civil documentation is critical to ensure displaced communities are protected and can have freedom of movement, access health and education services, and a formal job. Access to documentation is also a powerful tool to prevent statelessness.

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, are traumatized, and faced various risks before, during and after fleeing violence, including killings, separation of families, forced recruitment of adults and children, extortion, rape, and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV). 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 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.



Displaced family in Pemba District, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

It is urgent to ensure an adequate response to address the immediate, medium, and long-term needs of families forced to flee. It is equally important to support host communities to ensure effective social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

UNHCR's Community-based protection (CBP) strategy

UNHCR works together with partners¹, 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. Facilitating access to documentation** through mobile legal clinics; public legal education; and awareness campaigns/information dissemination on the importance of civil documentation.
- 3. Strengthening community-based protection** through community engagement and **establishing community-based structures** and **implementing feedback and response mechanisms**.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Implementing community-based targeted approaches** to enhance the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- 6. Enhancing partnerships and coordination mechanisms** with displaced and host communities, local authorities, UN, NGOs, and civil society.

¹ Association of International Voluntary Service (AVSI), HelpCode, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), 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 NGO staff** to Cabo Delgado related to visa/migration processes.



UNHCR and partners work together with displaced and host communities to strengthen community-based responses.

This includes the provision of tailored training to local authorities, community and religious leaders, and Protection Focal Points, to empower them in finding their own solutions.

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