

Mozambique

Mozambique hosts more than **30,000 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 – where Mozambique is one of the most adversely affected countries in the world. As the rainy and cyclone season approaches, UNHCR is taking steps to ensure that adequate preparedness and response measures are in place to mitigate the impact of climate related hazards on refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs.

This context, paired with lingering effects of COVID-19, has resulted in 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** for 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. At the same time, 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 OF CONCERN

946,508 internally displaced in northern Mozambique due to conflict*, as well as a further **83,000** new displacements in June attacks** and **12,000** in September attacks in Nampula

736,015 people affected in Nampula and Zambezia provinces by Tropical Cyclone Gombe,*** while **129,327** people remain internally displaced in Sofala province following Tropical Cyclone Idai in March 2019.

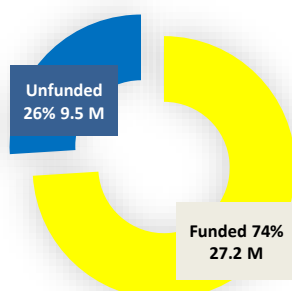
30,690 refugees and asylum-seekers****

* Displacement Tracking Mechanism, Round 16, June 2022, IOM
 ** Mozambique: Displacement influx in Cabo Delgado and Nampula, 25 July 2022, UNOCHA
 *** Tropical Cyclone Gombe Flash Update No.6, March 2022, UNOCHA
 **** According to UNHCR data

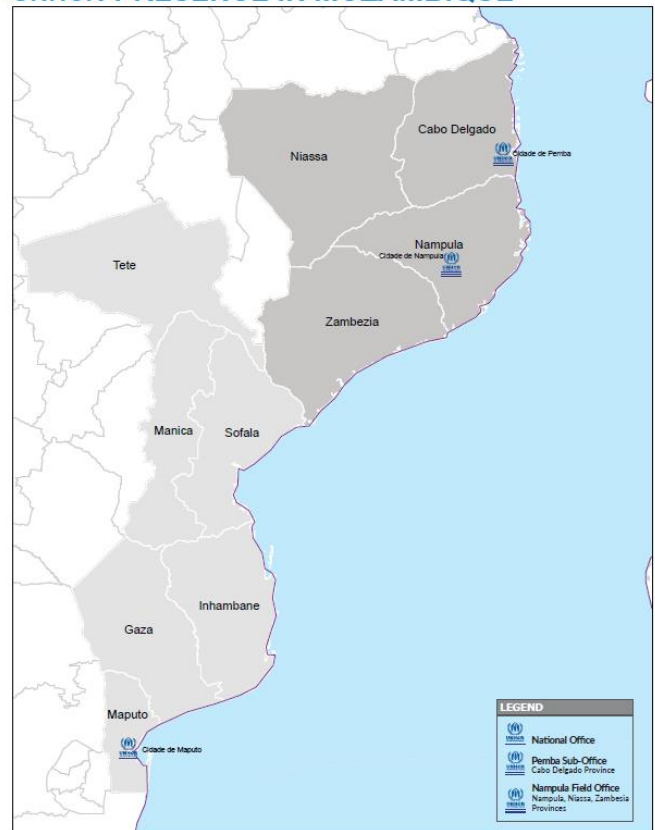
USD 36.7 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2022

FUNDING (AS OF 29 December 2022)



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: 03 August 2022. Sources: UNHCR Feedback; mcswiseme@unhcr.org

Staff: 121

69 National Staff

52 International Staff

Offices: 3

1 Country Office in Maputo – 42 staff

1 Sub-Office in Pamba – 44 staff

1 Field Office in Nampula – 35 staff

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | DECEMBER 2022

Protection

- UNHCR and partner HelpCode continued carrying out [protection monitoring interviews](#) to identify protection risks and trends and refer individuals with heightened needs to specialized services in several districts in Cabo Delgado. In December, 867 displaced families were interviewed, reporting nearly 370 incidents, with over [27,000](#) families interviewed in 2022 as a whole. In December, protection monitoring was rolled out in Nampula in partnership with Action Aid, with [652](#) IDP households interviewed.
- Possessing [civil documentation](#) is critical, enabling displaced people to access services, including healthcare and education and enhancing their freedom of movement. This year, in Cabo Delgado, in collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, over [8,600](#) people from displaced and host communities were supported in obtaining documentation. While in Nampula, [7,400](#) people were supported in obtaining identification cards and over [2,800](#) supported in Zambezia province.
- UNHCR supports refugees and asylum-seekers in their pursuit for sustainable solutions to displacement. On 28 December 2022, the last [voluntary repatriation](#) movement took place from Maputo to Kigali, Rwanda. In 2022, 221 individuals were supported by UNHCR to voluntarily return to their home countries and a further 24 individuals departed for [resettlement](#) to Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States.
- UNHCR periodically carries out refugee/asylum seeker [verification exercises](#) to ensure that important bio-data is updated and accurately reflected in UNHCR's data systems. A verification exercise which started on 14 November in Maputo concluded on 23 December, with 9,812 individuals verified. The exercise will resume over January and February 2023 to cover the remainder of the country.
- In December, UNHCR started implementing the 'interoperability project' to issue [biometric passports to refugees](#) and asylum-seekers through the government system. This important development ends a dilemma, where refugees and asylum-seekers were unable to travel outside of Mozambique since 2017, aside from when departing for resettlement. UNHCR has submitted a list of the most urgent passport requests for the next stage of mass production.
- From 05 - 07 December, UNHCR and its partner co-facilitated a [workshop on statelessness in Cabo Delgado](#) with key officials from seven government entities. The workshop aimed to raise awareness on legal frameworks and examine specific risks on statelessness in the Mozambican context.
- From 08 - 09 December in Nampula, UNHCR engaged 160 refugees and asylum-seekers and 288 IDPs in [focus group discussions](#) on topics including civil documentation, climate change, social cohesion, and community life to understand their views and ensure that they are included in programming decisions.
- For more information on UNHCR's response in northern Mozambique, click [here](#).



Meeting with legal actors and community members to discuss access to legal services. Montepuez district, Cabo Delgado. Photo: UNHCR/Adriana Conrado

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. In December, sixteen new refugee students were selected to receive a DAFI scholarship in 2023.
- In response to under-resourced classrooms, the [Instant Network Schools \(INS\)](#) was developed in several countries across Africa to provide a holistic solution to transform an existing classroom into a multi-media hub for learning. In Mozambique, UNHCR has implemented the INS programme with support from the Vodafone Foundation since 2021. Over [61,000](#) students (48 per cent female) have benefitted from the establishment of INS centres. In December, 108 students benefitted from a language learning application made available by UNHCR and partner Akelius in Maratane refugee settlement to improve skills in Portuguese and English languages.

Shelter and core relief items (CRIs)

- **Construction of shelters** in Montepuez and Mueda districts in Cabo Delgado remain ongoing. As of November, **99** shelters had been completed in Chimoio IDP site and **85** in Ntele IDP site, Montepuez, while an additional **390** shelters have been completed in Mueda district.
- In Maratane Refugee settlement, **150 emergency shelter kits** were delivered to families living there.
- **Core relief items (CRIs)**, including kitchen sets, blankets, buckets, mosquito nets, plastic tarpaulins and blankets, support people in meeting their basic needs while in displacement. In Montepuez, Metuge and Balama districts, and in Lianda IDP site in Mueda, Cabo Delgado, over **17,000** IDPs received CRIs in December. In Maratane Refugee Settlement, in response to the damage caused by strong winds at the end of November, **7,832** individuals were provided with core relief items, including sleeping mats, mosquito nets, blankets and kitchen sets.

CCCM

- UNHCR Mozambique's camp coordination and camp management activities aim at facilitating a **safe and dignified environment** for displaced people and the communities that host them. During December, several site development activities commenced in Montepuez and Mueda districts of Cabo Delgado, including the construction of a road linking Ntele IDP site to the main road and the construction of a waiting area at Montepuez General Hospital. Several infrastructure projects were completed in December, including the construction of latrines and the fencing work at the community centres in Massingiri, Ntele and Nicuala IDP sites; the construction of two community centres in Lianda and Mpeme IDP sites and two in Nandimba and Eduardo Mondlane IDP sites; and the construction of a market facility and sports area in Lianda IDP site.

Public health

- The fourth **polio vaccination campaign** in Maratane, carried out by UNHCR in partnership with the Ministry of Health and community health workers, took place in December with 900 children vaccinated against the disease. With this recent vaccination campaign, 80 per cent of children in Maratane are now fully vaccinated.

Livelihoods and economic inclusion

- In December in Maratane Refugee Settlement, Corrane IDP site and in Nacala, 241 refugee and host community students graduated from **various vocational education courses** at the Alberto Cassimo institute of vocational training and labour studies (IFPELAC). All graduates of programmes in food processing, vehicle mechanics, electricity installation, civil locksmithing and welding, and tailoring received business start-up kits from the national institute of employment (INEP).
- Under the project **Enhancing Private Sector Engagement and Access to Markets in fragile contexts hosting forcibly displaced persons** financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), several activities took place in December. Among activities include an 18-day training on business management and entrepreneurship, composed of three modules, benefitting **140** people; a four-day training in smart agriculture and climate change in Maratane targeting representatives from **40** farmers' associations as well as five government officials from the District Service of Economic Activities (SDAE) and the Provincial Agricultural Service (SPA); a joint culinary fair and football final championship league at Maratane settlement, to raise awareness on food and nutritional security where there were some **1,200** participants, including spectators; an inauguration of cleaning days and environmental activism campaigns aimed at raising collective action on environmental preservation and climate change adaptability practises; and five farmers associations had the opportunity to participate in the Nampula city market fair to sell their produce.



IFPELAC graduates for masonry, Corrane IDP site, Nampula.
 Photo: UNHCR/Adelina Abella Ntinabo

Partnerships and Coordination

- In Mozambique, UNHCR chairs the Protection Cluster and the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) working group, and co-chairs the PSEA working group. More information on people reached and activities of protection cluster partners can be found [here](#).
- UNHCR Mozambique works with 22 partners nationwide, including government partners and international and national NGOs. In addition, two UN to UN Transfer Agreements with OHCHR and WFP were concluded in 2022 to support the protection cluster and operate a complaints and response mechanism, respectively.
- 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) and informed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ([UNSDCF](#)). 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 UNSDCF.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION | UNHCR Mozambique 2023

In 2023, UNHCR Mozambique will (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 protection throughout UNHCR's entire response, (iii) support [preparedness and response efforts to natural hazards](#), including cyclones, flooding and drought. Through this engagement, UNHCR adopts an [age, gender and diversity](#) approach while maintaining a focus on [accountability to affected populations](#) (AAP). UNHCR will focus 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; continue and strengthen protection advocacy; strengthen development partnerships to amplify and reinforce protection mainstreaming and address the needs of UNHCR's people sustainably; and, remain proactive in climate related preparedness activities such as pre-positioning CRIs, capacity building of the Government and partners, and sensitization of communities on the importance of preparedness. For more details, please refer to [UNHCR 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

African Development Bank Group | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | CERF | Denmark | France | Germany | Giuliana Lagetto | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | Vodafone Foundation

Contacts

Damien Mc Sweeney, Senior External Relations Officer, mcsweene@unhcr.org, UNHCR, Maputo, Mozambique
Stephanie Ferry, External Relations Officer, ferry@unhcr.org, UNHCR, Maputo, Mozambique

For more information on UNHCR's programme in Mozambique:

[UNHCR Mozambique Operational Data Portal](#) | [Protection Cluster – Mozambique](#) | [Global Focus](#) | [Twitter](#)