Mozambique

Mozambique hosts approximately 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, while 709,529 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.

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. In the past months, 632,408* people have returned to their areas of origin, many of whom lack services and live in poor conditions.

UNHCR stresses that all refugee and IDP return movements should occur 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 support the inclusion of displaced and returned populations by expanding their respective programming.

KEY FIGURES

709,529* Internally Displaced Persons
582,764 (79%) IDP's in northern Mozambique due to the ongoing conflict.
126,305 (21%) climate related IDPs following the impacts of extreme weather events.
45% of IDPs living in relocation sites, 55% living in host communities.
80% of IDPs are women and children.

632,408* returnees, many in IDP-like situations with poor living conditions and a lack of access to basic services

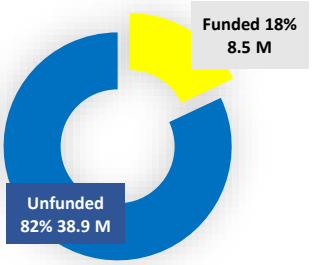
Approximately **25,000**** refugees and asylum-seekers

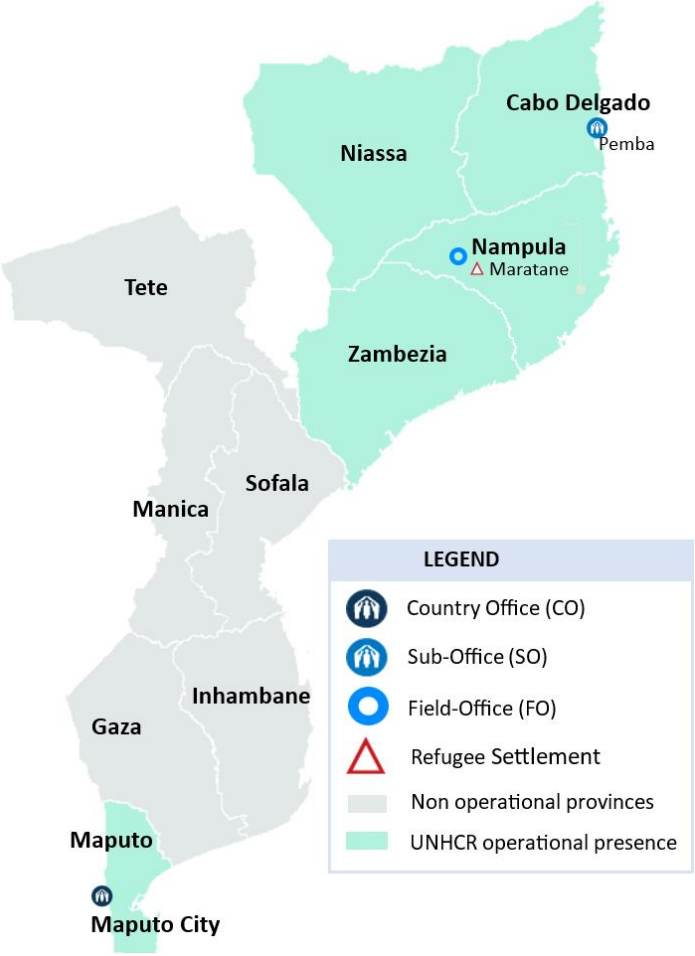
* Displacement figures: Mobility Tracking Assessment Report 20, January 2024, IOM
** According to UNHCR preliminary data from the verification exercise in Mozambique October 2023.
*** Tropical Cyclone Freddy Flash Update No. 12, 28 March 2023, UNOCHA

USD 49.3 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2024

FUNDING (as of 29 February 2024)





Staff: 134
75 National Staff
59 International Staff
Offices: 3
1 Country Office in Maputo – 49 staff
1 Sub Office in Pemba – 48 staff
1 Field Office in Nampula – 37 staff

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | January & February 2024

Protection

- UNHCR's **protection monitoring activities** are critical to identify protection risks and trends to make referrals for people with heightened needs to specialized services. In February, protection monitoring interviews were conducted with 480 households from IDP sites, host communities, and return locations across Nangade and Muidumbe districts in Cabo Delgado.
- Possessing **civil documentation** is crucial, enabling forcibly displaced people to access services, including healthcare and education, as well as enhancing their freedom of movement. In January and February, UNHCR in collaboration with partner the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM) and governmental authorities, a total of 216 individuals (comprising of 47 women, 40 men, 71 girls, and 58 boys) were supported in reclaiming lost or destroyed civil documentation, including birth certificates and national IDs. In addition, 42 individuals received personalized legal counselling and representation, including cases concerning housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, as well as child protection.

Focus group discussion at the GBV friendly space in Mpeme, Cabo Delgado © UNHCR/ Isadora Zoni

Focus group discussions with freshly displaced IDP women at Eduardo Mondlane site © UNHCR/ Isadora Zoni

- **Gender-based violence (GBV)** remains a critical challenge affecting refugees, IDPs and host communities. UNHCR Mozambique works with the government and partners to address GBV issues. In January and February, 116 individuals received GBV-specialized MHPSS training in Cabo Delgado, and 130 individuals received training on GBV protection and Prevention Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). These included activists, Government counterparts, and community members. In the Mueda, Palma, Pemba and Montepuez districts in Cabo Delgado, 113 people at risk were supported with case management. In the Maratane Refugee settlement in Nampula, comprehensive GBV training was held in February, engaging 35 participants, including implementing partner staff, motivators, volunteers, and members of the women's support network. The training aimed to deepen understanding of GBV and equip participants with the necessary skills to effectively respond to GBV cases and mitigate potential risks.
- In January and February, UNHCR engaged 52 protection focal points (PFPs) and community mobilizers across the Montepuez district (Ntele, Nicuapa, and Massingiri), as well as in the Pemba district in Cabo Delgado. Through sensitization efforts, a total of 640 IDPs were reached. Additionally, 29 youths (10 men and 19 women) benefited from small-scale subsistence activities as part of the Income Generating Activities (IGA) Community Engagement Initiative, aimed at fostering inclusion and resilience within the community while improving access to complaints and feedback mechanisms in Pemba.
- UNHCR and partners provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 210 IDPs with specific needs, including elderly people at risk and people with disabilities in Cabo Delgado. UNHCR also identified 18 individuals for the provision of integrated physical rehabilitation and psychosocial services. Training on the provision of integrated physical rehabilitation and psychosocial services for people with disabilities was provided for 69 community mobilizers in the districts of Mueda and Mocimboa da Praia.

- In collaboration with the Mozambican government, UNHCR also initiated the production and distribution of **new identification cards for refugees and asylum seekers** in the Maratane refugee settlement in Nampula. This initiative targets 7,024 individuals aged five and above residing in the settlement. As of 29 February, 2,621 ID cards had been printed, with 2,137 successfully distributed.

The first family to receive new ID cards in Maratane settlement. ©Kennedy Muzee/UNHCR

- Following the significant displacement of populations in Cabo Delgado and Nampula at the end of February, UNHCR participated in rapid-needs assessments, conducted awareness campaigns on GBV/PSEA and protection messaging at transit centres, and prepared to distribute core relief items and carry out protection activities including in civil documentation, prevention, and response to GBV, and support to persons with specific needs.

Education

- In February, 256 teachers at the secondary school in the Maratane Refugee settlement, underwent training on utilizing Instant Network Schools equipment (including tablets) and resources to enhance teaching methodologies with technology. Fifteen INS coaches also received comprehensive training on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), code of conduct, as well as other crucial areas such as emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and productivity.

Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), Shelter, Infrastructure, and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- UNHCR, through its CCCM partners, provided camp management support in 11 displacement sites in Cabo Delgado, where 59,757 IDPs reside.
- In January and February, UNHCR and partners completed the construction of 150 durable shelters in the Corrane IDP site in Nampula. Furthermore, 80 shelter kits to beneficiaries in Corrane and Maratane settlements were distributed.
- In Niassa province, 448 CRI kits consisting of essential items such as blankets, mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and buckets, were distributed to Malawian households affected by Cyclone Freddy, now residing in Mecanhelas District.

CRI Distribution in Niassa ©UNHCR Moz

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- In January and February, five new farmers' field school demonstration camps were established in five different communities in the Maratane Refugee settlement in Nampula, benefiting 102 beneficiaries. Participants learned innovative agricultural techniques including intercropping, compass planting, line sowing, biopesticide utilization for pest control, organic fertilization, heap cultivation for legumes like peanuts, and cultivation techniques for crops such as cucumbers, tomatoes, and onions.
- With funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB), UNHCR conducted training sessions in the Metuge, Mecufi, and Pemba districts in Cabo Delgado. Eighty beneficiaries in Metuge and Mecufi,

comprising both men and women, graduated from training programs covering life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and protection, with a focus on the fisheries sector. This initiative aims to equip participants with the necessary tools for sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience.

- With funding from GIZ, a total of 116 individuals (IDPs and host community) were enrolled in TVET programs at the Institute of Professional Training and Labor Studies Alberto Cassimo (IFPELAC) in Pemba. This program not only teaches valuable skills but also enhances employability and fosters sustainable livelihoods.

Fisheries training graduation in Mecufi © UNHCR

Master class to kick of the TVET training at IFPELAC © UNHCR

Coordination

- UNHCR chairs the Protection Cluster and is an active member of both the Shelter and CCCM clusters.
- In addition, UNHCR co-chairs the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) working group (with World Vision), co-chairs the PSEA working group (with the IOM), and co-chairs the Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) area of responsibility (AoR) of the Protection Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).
- UNHCR also chairs the UN Solution Working Group, and the UN solutions technical group (with the IOM).
- In Cabo Delgado UNHCR co-chairs the CE/AAP WG (with Save the Children).

Partnerships

- 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, and 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.
- UNHCR works with 21 partners**,** including government partners and international and national NGOs.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION | UNHCR Mozambique 2024

UNHCR Mozambique has rolled out a new Multi-Year Strategy for the years 2024 to 2026. Through this strategy, UNHCR is working with the Government of Mozambique, its various line ministries at national, provincial, and local levels as well as development actors to find opportunities to sustainably address the vulnerabilities of forcibly displaced people, build resilience among affected communities and to facilitate durable solutions. This strategic shift will allow UNHCR to provide more sustainable and effective support, for the short, medium, and the long term.

In 2024, UNHCR Mozambique will continue to

- 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.
- 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.
- Support preparedness and response efforts to natural hazards, including cyclones, flooding and drought. Through this engagement, UNHCR will continue to adopt an age, gender and diversity approach while maintaining a focus on accountability to affected populations (AAP).

UNHCR will also continue to 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 the people we serve sustainably; and, remain proactive in climate related preparedness activities, such as pre-positioning of CRIs, capacity building of the Government and partners, sensitization of communities on the importance of preparedness.

Find UNHCR's Global Appeal for 2024 here.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous support of donors who have contributed to UNHCR Mozambique and to UNHCR programmes globally in 2023 and 2024.

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For more information on UNHCR's programme in Mozambique:

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