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

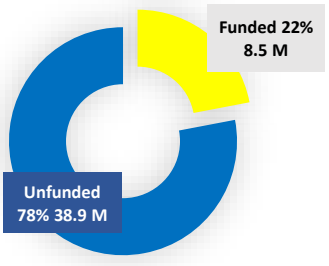
Approximately **25,000**** refugees and asylum-seekers

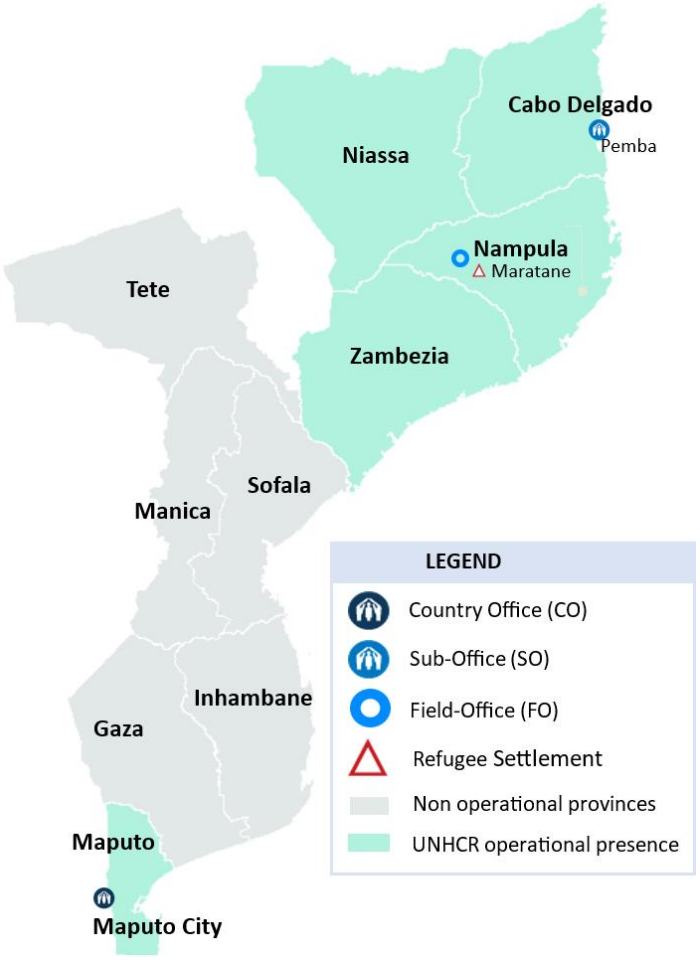
* Displacement figures: Mobility Tracking Assessment Report 20, January 2024, IOM
** According to UNHCR preliminary data from the verification exercise in Mozambique October 2023.
*** Tropical Cyclone Freddy Flash Update No. 12, 28 March 2023, UNOCHA

USD 49.3 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2024

FUNDING (as of 31 March 2024)





Staff: 130
73 National Staff
57 International Staff
Offices: 3
1 Country Office in Maputo – 44 staff
1 Sub Office in Pemba – 48 staff
1 Field Office in Nampula – 38 staff

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | March 2024

Visit of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees & UNSG Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement

- On a joint visit to Mozambique, the UN High Commissioner (HC) for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser (SA) on Solutions to Internal Displacement, Robert Piper, called for a renewed international commitment to finding solutions for displaced people in Mozambique. The HC and SA visited Maputo and Cabo Delgado provinces. In meetings with the Mozambican President, and other high-level government officials, the UN Country Team and Development partners, the HC and the SA acknowledged Mozambique's challenges and praised the government's efforts in supporting displaced populations, while also encouraging the government to lead the transition from humanitarian to development while ensuring humanitarian needs are still addressed.

The HC, SA, President INGD, UNHCR Regional Director & UNHCR Representative Mozambique in Lianda IDP settlement, Mueda, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Guilherme Chirinda

- The visit emphasized that urgent international commitment is needed in Mozambique to transition from short-term aid to long-term development, requiring continued collaboration between the UN, the Mozambican government, and international partners. The HC also emphasized that additional funding is crucial in 2024 and ensured that UNHCR is planning to strengthen its protection efforts in Mozambique to uphold the rights of displaced populations.

The High Commissioner meets with Refugees in Pemba, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Guilherme Chirinda

The HC & SA visits UNHCR/Government Civil Documentation project in Pemba, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Guilherme Chirinda

Protection

UNHCR team with Matronas and community leaders in Chiure ©UNHCR/Placido Monteiro

- Following the significant displacement of populations in Cabo Delgado and Nampula at the end of February, various **protection risks** were identified by UNHCR in the affected areas, including lack of access to adequate services, lack of documentation, and neglect of vulnerable groups. UNHCR continues to strategically position assistance in collaboration with various humanitarian clusters to address the identified humanitarian needs. UNHCR activities continued in Chiure District throughout the month of March, including comprehensive GBV prevention and response, addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable populations such as Persons with Disabilities and the elderly, the establishment of community Protection Focal Points, provision of MHPSS, facilitation of civil documentation, provision of legal assistance, and advocacy for Housing, Land, and Property rights.
- UNHCR's **protection monitoring activities** are critical for identifying protection risks and trends and referring people with heightened needs to specialized services. In March, protection monitoring interviews were conducted with 636 households from IDP sites, host communities, and return locations across several 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 March, UNHCR in collaboration with partner the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM) and governmental authorities, a total of 1,161 individuals were supported in reclaiming lost or destroyed civil documentation, including birth certificates and national IDs. In addition, 73 individuals received personalized legal counseling and representation, including cases concerning housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, as well as child protection.
- In collaboration with the Mozambican government, UNHCR initiated the production and distribution of new **identification cards for refugees and asylum seekers** in the Maratane refugee settlement. This initiative targets 7,024 individuals aged five and above residing in the settlement. At the end of March, over 6,000 ID cards had been distributed. This marks significant progress in providing vital documentation to refugee and asylum seeker populations.
- In collaboration with the Mozambican government, UNHCR facilitated the **voluntary repatriation** of seven (four female, three male) Burundian asylum seekers to Burundi at the end of March. Five were residing in the Maratane Refugee settlement, and the other two were residing in Maputo.
- **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 Cabo Delgado, 19 individuals received GBV-specialized MHPSS training, and 105 individuals received training on GBV protection and PSEA; this included activists, Government counterparts, and community members. 22 people at risk were supported with case management in Mueda, Palma, Pemba and Montepuez districts. Furthermore, 652 individuals benefitted from GBV activities carried out in several protection centres in Pemba and Montepuez.

- In March, UNHCR engaged 31 **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 496 IDPs were reached. These activities enhance inclusion and resilience within the community while enhancing access to complaint and feedback mechanisms in Pemba.
- UNHCR and partners provided **Psychosocial Support (PSS)** to 392 IDPs with specific needs, including elderly people at risk and people with disabilities in Cabo Delgado. UNHCR also identified 20 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 63 community mobilizers in the districts of Mueda and Mocimboa da Praia. In addition, During the reporting period, 136 people with disabilities and/or elderly were trained on perma-garden activities in Mueda District.
- **International Women's Day (IWD)** celebrations were held in the Maratane Refugee Settlement and the Corrane IDP settlement in Nampula and were attended by Government representatives, INAR, UNHCR, partners, refugee and IDP leaderships and refugee, IDP and host communities. IWD was also celebrated in Cabo Delgado, where UNHCR, alongside partners and government counterparts', organized various activities, including a wreath-laying ceremony and exhibitions on family planning, legal counselling, cervical cancer screening, and tools for women's rights promotion and protection.

Celebrating #IWD2024 in Maratane Refugee Settlement, Nampula ©UNHCR Kazi Afroja Ali Rainy

Mrs. Maria Neto, the wife of the Secretary of State in Nampula, inaugurated the Multipurpose Community Center in the Corrane IDP Site to assist victims of #Gender-Based Violence (#GBV). ©UNHCR Kazi Afroja Ali Rainy

Exhibitions on family planning, legal counselling, cervical cancer screening in Cabo Delgado ©UNHCR Isadora Zoni

Health

- In March, UNHCR supported refugees and host community members in the Maratane refugee settlement, Nampula province, with targeted health and nutrition support. In March, the general **distribution of soap and food** (with WFP) in the Maratane Refugee Settlement was resumed. 89% of the 7,880 initially planned beneficiaries were assisted with soap for the next three months and food for the next two months. A total of 121 individuals also benefited from a complementary food distribution program. This program targeted individuals aged five years and above who were diagnosed with acute malnutrition due to chronic illnesses.
- On 15 March, a blood donation fair was held in the Maratane Refugee settlement. Seventy blood donors participated and donated blood, all participants received a general health check-up.

Education

- In March, 10 students who had been selected for the DAFI program were officially admitted. The **DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme** is a UNHCR initiative that offers qualified refugee and returnee students the possibility to earn an undergraduate degree in their country of asylum or home country.

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

- In March, UNHCR, through its CCCM partners, provided camp management support in 11 displacement sites in Cabo Delgado, where 59,757 IDPs reside. Furthermore, cleaning tools were handed over to the Community Management Committee in Massingiri IDP site in Montepuez – After the material was distributed, all streets, the community centre and the football field were cleaned.
- In response to the crisis in southern Cabo Delgado, UNHCR **distributed 1,376 CRI kits** in Chiure district and to new arrivals in Lianda IDP site in Mueda district, reaching a total of 6,252 individuals. These efforts are crucial in providing immediate relief and support to those displaced by the conflict, ensuring that the basic needs of the affected populations are met during these challenging times. The CRI kits include essential items such as blankets, mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and buckets.

UNHCR CRI distribution in the Chiure district and to new arrivals in Lianda IDP site in Mueda district ©UNHCR Ednah Mutesi

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- With funding from GIZ, and assistance of UNHCR, 116 individuals (IDPs and host community) were enrolled in March in **TVET programs** at the Institute of Professional Training and Labor Studies Alberto

Cassimo (IFPELAC) in Pemba. This program not only imparts valuable skills but also enhances employability and fosters sustainable livelihoods.

- 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 of 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.

UNHCR under the livelihood project funded by the AfDB trained women from displaced and host communities in Sustainable Fishing and Protection in Pemba, Cabo Delgado @UNHCR Mozambique

- In March 2024, the first business training cycle started with 50 young people (25 men and 25 women) of which 26 were IDPs from the Cariaco and Natite neighbourhoods in Pemba. The initiative aims to promote economic independence and sustainability through capacity building in diverse ventures like grocery shops, agriculture, clothing sales, e-payment services, taxi services, boutiques, and the retailing of various products. The initiative reflects UNHCR's commitment to empowering youth, particularly women, in fostering community resilience amidst displacement challenges. In total, 130 young people, comprising of IDPs and host community members, will benefit from the initiative.

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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