Mozambique

September/October 2024

Mozambique hosts approximately 25,000** refugees and asylum-seekers, while 716,878* 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 April 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 year, 610,981* 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 POPULATION FIGURES

716,878* Internally Displaced Persons
577,545 IDP's in northern Mozambique due to the ongoing conflict.
139,333 climate related IDPs following the impacts of extreme weather events in southern and central Mozambique.
40% of IDPs living in relocation sites, 60% living in host communities.
81% of IDPs are women and children.

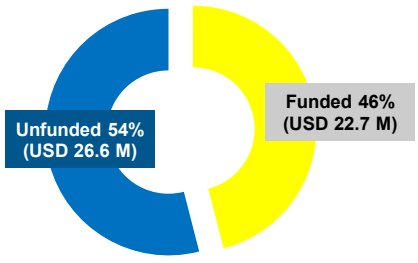
610,981* returnees (610,732 conflict and 249 climate displaced), many in poor living conditions and lacking access to basic services

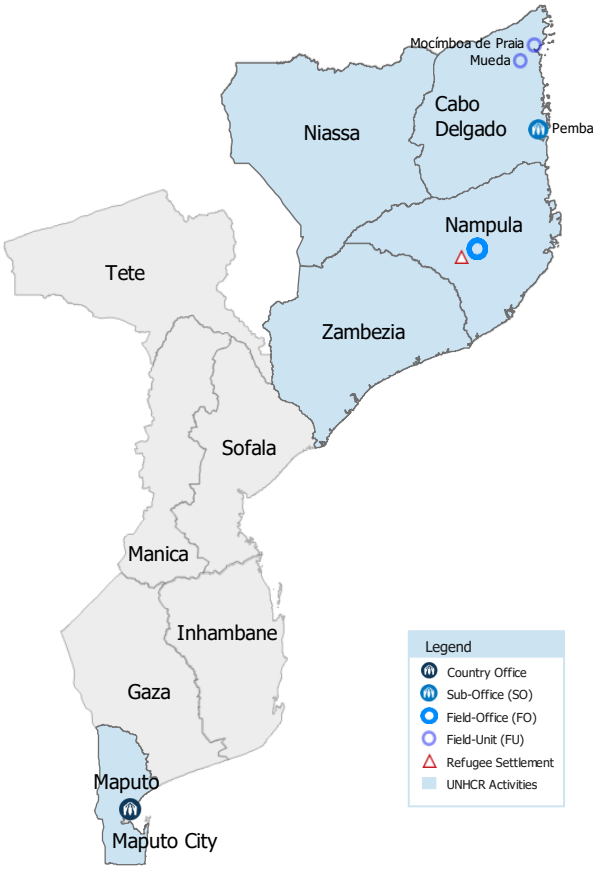
Approximately **25,000**** refugees and asylum-seekers

* Displacement figures: Mobility Tracking Assessment Report 21, July 2024, IOM. Central and Southern Mozambique and Northern Mozambique.
** According to UNHCR preliminary data from the verification exercise in Mozambique in October 2023.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS 2024 (AS OF 31 OCTOBER)

USD 49.3 M





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Achievements

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Focus group discussion during the safety audit in Meculane site, Chiure district. © UNHCR/ Mozambique

PROTECTION & SOLUTIONS

Legal Protection

- Possessing **civil documentation** is crucial, enabling IDPs to access services, including healthcare and education, as well as enhancing their freedom of movement. In Pemba and Chiure districts, Cabo Delgado province, 7,237 individuals received birth certificates and ID cards, including 666 internally displaced persons and 1,611 host community members, in September and October. Since launching civil documentation support in 2020 in Cabo Delgado, UNHCR and its partners have contributed significantly to closing the documentation gap, reducing the percentage of individuals without documentation from 60% to 41% in 2024.
- In Cabo Delgado, 368 individuals accessed **legal assistance**, one of the most critical protection needs of displaced persons, embracing awareness-raising, counseling, and representation to safeguard their basic rights and prevent various forms of violence. Notably, 92 individuals participated in awareness-raising sessions on legal protection, covering topics such as legal aid, child rights, and gender-based violence (GBV).

- **Housing, Land, and Property Awareness Sessions**: UNHCR, in collaboration with the Provincial Farmer's Union (UPC), conducted Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) awareness sessions in Chiure district, Cabo Delgado province, reaching 299 individuals. The sessions aimed to provide displaced persons with essential knowledge about their rights and responsibilities regarding land and property. Given the frequent emergence of disputes over land ownership and access in displacement contexts, UNHCR continues to advocate for and support the HLP rights of displaced persons.

Community-Based Protection / Social Cohesion

- **Protection awareness sessions** are a key component of UNHCR's community-based protection approach, whereby forcibly displaced persons are informed about their rights and access to necessary support. In September and October, 6,955 individuals were reached through protection awareness sessions in Cabo Delgado and Nampula. These sessions covered essential themes, including human rights, social inclusion, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and the increasing risks affecting people of concern, such as explosive ordnance risk. A total of approximately 37,710 individuals have been informed this year as a key protection measure.
- In September and October, 3,942 individuals received **protection assistance through door-to-door visits**, bringing the total for 2024 to over 13,786. Additionally, 2,442 individuals at risk, including persons with disabilities, were supported through the provision of mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) and referrals made upon needs identified during the visits. Among them were approximately 223 displaced persons with specific needs, with UNHCR collaborating with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) for better disability inclusion. To date, over 4,668 persons at risk and persons with disabilities have been reached this year.
- **Youth Engagement in Community Activities:** From July to September, 207 young people (114 women and 93 men) participated in community activities in Pemba district to foster peaceful coexistence, social cohesion, and community resilience. Organized by UNHCR and AVSI Foundation, the activities focused on conflict mitigation and relationship building to strengthen community connections and support.

GBV / MHPSS / PSEA

- **Mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS)** is crucial to address the emotional, psychological, and social impacts of gender-based violence (GBV). It particularly helps survivors cope with trauma, rebuild their sense of safety, and support their overall well-being. Those who have experienced GBV are provided with specialized counselling, therapy, support groups, and other interventions that are sensitive to their unique needs. In September and October, 92 at-risk

individuals received MHPSS support and case management, with a total of 941 individuals supported with GBV-specialized MHPSS in 2024.

- **Training on GBV Protection and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):** 29 individuals from public institutions such as the Prosecutor's Office, Social Service, Mozambique Republic Police, the health sector, as well as NGOs participated in training on gender-based violence protection and PSEA in September and October, bringing the total to 592 individuals trained in 2024.
- **GBV Survivor Care in Protection Center:** 4,271 individuals benefited from activities in protection centers during the period, with a total of 16,138 individuals reached in 2024. These centers provide a safe and confidential space for gender-based violence survivors to receive holistic care tailored to their needs. UNHCR GBV Unit continued to observe the case supervision process and evaluated ongoing cases to ensure affected individuals received necessary assistance.
- **GBV Awareness-Raising Activities:** 20,443 individuals participated in awareness-raising activities in September and October, totaling 92,822 individuals reached this year. These initiatives aim to raise awareness among communities on GBV prevention, protection mechanisms, and the importance of gender equality. Through collaboration with partners and engagement with local stakeholders, these activities work to strengthen community-based protection and foster an environment where vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, are empowered and supported.
- **Dignity Kits Distribution:** UNHCR, distributed 450 dignity kits to survivors of gender-based violence in the Chiure district. The kits contain essential items designed to support the health, dignity, and well-being of affected individuals to meet their cultural and gender-specific needs. This initiative aims to provide support to help them rebuild their lives with dignity.

Beneficiaries with their kits during the dignity kits distribution, Chiure district. © Helpcode

- **Safety Audits:** UNHCR and Helpcode conducted four safety audits in different sites of Chiure District, engaging with community members to identify protection concerns, with a specific focus on gender-based violence (GBV). While participants reported ongoing physical and psychological violence, many women noted a decrease in sexual violence, crediting improved reporting mechanisms. Based on the insights gathered regarding vulnerabilities, UNHCR continues to develop targeted interventions to address the GBV issues, in collaboration with local authorities.

Protection Monitoring / Data Collection

- UNHCR conducted **protection monitoring** to identify protection-related risks, trends, and needs, collecting data across displacement and return areas in Cabo Delgado. Through 6,234 household interviews, 98 focus group discussions, and 24 key informant interviews, the monitoring identified the highest needs in safety and security and access to documentation, mostly related to legal and physical protection. It also revealed ongoing risks such as high exposure to safety incidents, harmful coping mechanisms, gender disparity, and land tenure insecurity. This monitoring reiterates the urgent need for targeted interventions to address protection gaps and support vulnerable populations.
- **Community Consultations on Durable Solutions:** UNHCR conducted community consultations with displaced persons and returnees in northern Mozambique, in partnership with Helpcode and in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD). The objectives were to engage affected people in achieving durable solutions, focusing on their intentions regarding durable solutions, challenges to local integration and reintegration, and information and communication needs. The consultations revealed that many displaced people intend to stay locally due to challenges in returning home, while returnees face difficulties reintegrating despite harsh conditions. Furthermore, information gaps, especially among women, further hinder informed decision-making. UNHCR will continue to address identified issues with the government actors in the development of policies and programs on durable solutions.

Law & Policy

- **Support to the development of the National Durable Solutions Action Plan:** UNHCR continued to collaborate with Durable Solutions actors, including the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD), to ensure that the government's Action Plan for the Management of Internal Displacement integrates protection and solutions across its activities. Once developed, this Action Plan will serve as the blueprint for government-led and development-funded Durable Solutions initiatives moving forward.

SHELTER, CAMP COORDINATION AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS

- **Shelter Construction:** In partnership with the Government of Mozambique, 7 new resilient shelters were finalized in the Montepuez district in Cabo Delgado in September, with a total of 50 shelters completed in 2024, benefitting 250 individuals so far. The shelters are constructed to be more durable during the rainy season than traditional shelters which are covered by tarpaulins. Notably, the shelters are built using locally sourced materials and engaging community input during construction, contributing to the resilience of the community.

Finalized shelter upgrade in Nicuapa site (Montepuez) © UNHCR/ Mozambique

- **Site Management and Support Services**: 61,180 individuals received site management and support services across 11 displacement sites in Cabo Delgado, with the coverage remaining stable since January 2024. These services, coordinated by UNHCR, include the establishment and maintenance of infrastructure such as shelters, latrines, and water points, ensuring safe and dignified living conditions for internally displaced persons. They also involve regular site monitoring, community mobilization, and engagement with displaced populations to identify and address protection risks, as well as referral to specialized services such as healthcare, education, and psychosocial support.
- **Community Spaces Access:** In September and October, 9,559 individuals accessed community spaces within the sites—safe areas designed for activities that promote social cohesion, mental health, and well-being—bringing the total for 2024 to 24,896. These spaces are critical for delivering information, conducting awareness-raising sessions, and offering psychosocial support, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. It also includes regular community engagement meetings with the site management committees.

LIVELIHOODS, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- **Enhancing Economic Opportunities with Technical and Vocational Education:** With funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in collaboration with the German Development Agency (GIZ), 120 individuals are participating in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs at the Institute of Professional Training and Labor Studies Alberto Cassimo (IFPELAC). Recent successes include the completion of Cooking (19 individuals) and Carpentry (17 individuals) courses, with ongoing training in Masonry, Plumbing, and Electrical courses. Participants also completed three-month internships with companies in Pemba, and three graduates successfully secured employment.
- **Empowering Young Entrepreneurs:** As a part of the initiatives to empower young entrepreneurs in Pemba, UNHCR launched training programs for 200 young people (142 women and 58 men) in September, including 136 IDPs and 64 members of the host community. Funded by GIZ, the German development agency, the program focusses on fostering entrepreneurial skills and enhancing economic opportunities for both IDPs and host community members.
- **Business Development and Entrepreneurship Training:** On 16 October, UNHCR attended a business development and entrepreneurship training in Corrane. The training targets 200 beneficiaries who were identified for income generation activities and covers modules on concepts of entrepreneurship and business development, market analysis, and financial literacy. Classes are organized in groups of 25 beneficiaries, with Livaningo delivering four courses to ensure all beneficiaries are covered.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Beneficiaries of a livelihoods TVET project by GIZ and UNHCR with implementing partner IFPELAC. © UNHCR/ Sonja Hovelmann

PROTECTION & SOLUTIONS

Civil Documentation

- In September and October, a total of 320 ID cards were distributed to refugees and asylum seekers, while 426 newborns were registered, across Maratane and Nampula city. As registration and identification are key to facilitating access to basic assistance and protection, UNHCR is collaborating closely with government authorities to ensure that persons of concern have valid legal status. UNHCR and National Institute for Refugee Assistance (INAR) have intensified efforts to disseminate information through various communication channels, to reach the community and encourage them to seek the necessary support to secure valid legal status.

GBV / MHPSS / PSEA

- On 5 September, UNHCR Community-Based Protection Team facilitated a training session on referral pathways during an event in Maratane organized by the government's Social Action Agency (SPAS). The training aimed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively assist survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). A total of 22 participants attended the session, representing the Ministry of Health, refugee supporting organizations, the

women's group, and the young social cohesion group. The training covered general concepts of GBV, encouraged experience-sharing among participants, and provided information on available services to support survivors. Participants also learned about their roles in delivering appropriate assistance to survivors.

SHELTER, CAMP COORDINATION AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS

- In September and October, 45 durable and climate-resilient shelters were completed and handed over to beneficiaries in and around the Maratane Refugee settlement, including to refugees and members of the host community, with a total of 610 shelters completed for 2024.

LIVELIHOODS, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- **Technical and Vocational Training:** A total of 216 students graduated from the first cycle of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) course at the Institute of Professional Training and Labor Studies Alberto Cassimo (IFPELAC) in Nampula. Following this cycle, 309 students (58 refugees, 165 IDPs, and 86 host community members enrolled in the second cycle, which began in September and will conclude in December.

HEALTH

- **Food/Soap Distribution:** In September and October, UNHCR, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), provided food and soap to 7,277 refugees and asylum seekers in the Maratane settlement. Additionally, UNHCR supported the complementary food distribution for 88 children aged 5 or older suffering from malnutrition, conducted by the government's Social Action Agency (SPAS) with assistance from the Maratane Health Center.
- **Capacity Building for Health Center Personnel:** A training session on the National Health Information System was conducted for personnel at Maratane Health Centre. This initiative is crucial for integrating refugees in the settlement into the national health services and systems. With technical support from Nampula District Health Services, participants were trained on data collection tools and the process of uploading health data into the health information system.

EDUCATION

- **Teacher Training on Instant Network Schools Technology:** As part of the Instant Network Schools (INS) program, a teacher training session was conducted to enhance lesson creation and delivery using INS technology. In September, a total of 39 teachers completed the program, acquiring necessary skills needed to effectively use INS equipment, including both hardware and software components.

Instant Network Schools (INS) Program is a joint initiative by UNHCR and Vodafone Foundation to provide young refugees, host communities, and their teachers with access to quality, connected education. The program transforms existing classrooms into multimedia learning hubs equipped with digital devices including tablets, laptops, projectors, and speakers. Launched in 2021, the program has significantly increased ICT (Information and Communications Technology) literacy of students and teachers with improved motivation and academic performance by students. UNHCR and Vodafone Foundation work c0osely with the Ministry of Education to ensure the program's long-term sustainability to 2025 and beyond.

- **Handover of New Classroom Blocks at Maratane Refugee Settlement:** On 10 September, UNHCR officially handed over five classroom blocks to Government of Mozambique at Maratane refugee settlement. The new facilities will benefit approximately 550 students, including refugees and members of the host community.

Photo left: UNHCR Head of Nampula Field Office handing over keys for the five classroom blocks to the District Administrator. © UNHCR/ Rumbani Msiska
Photo right: District Administrator Ms. Irene Maria Mega cutting a ribbon to officially launch the five classroom blocks. © UNHCR/ Rumbani Msiska

CLIMATE ACTION FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Climate Action and Response in UNHCR Mozambique
Mozambique is among the most severely affected countries by climate-related hazards, such as cyclones, tropical storms, floods, and droughts. In 2022 alone, over 736,000 people were impacted by Cyclone Gombe. As displaced populations, such as refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDP), are highly exposed and vulnerable to climate-related shocks, UNHCR is committed to supporting their inclusion in national systems, including data collection, climate-related contingency planning, and responses. More details on UNHCR's approach to climate action can be found here: Focus Area Strategic Plan for Climate Action 2024-2030 | UNHCR.

- **Mainstreaming Protection in Drought Response:** In September, UNHCR facilitated a session on protection mainstreaming during a joint workshop organized by the National Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (INGD) in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP). The session, attended by local government officials including District Administrators and Provincial Delegates from provinces with high displaced populations, covered the impact of drought on vulnerable populations, associated risks, and the key elements of protection mainstreaming to effectively address protection needs. It also improved participants' understanding of the importance of providing safe, dignified, and transparent assistance in the context of El Niño.
- **Training on Protection Mainstreaming for Natural Disasters:** In October, UNHCR and National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) organized a three-day training at Corrane settlement to strengthen disaster risk reduction and mainstream protection in the context of climate-related natural hazards. The training was attended by 18 members of Local Disaster Risk Reduction Committee to enhance their capacity to prepare for and respond effectively to natural disasters. Following the training, the committee members conducted a simulation exercise of establishing a temporary accommodation center in scenarios of floods and cyclones, involving 452 individuals.
- **Development of Early Warning Action Plan:** UNHCR participated in the development of an Early Warning Action Plan during a four-day workshop organized by the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD). The plan aims to improve stakeholders' capacity of to prepare for natural disasters by facilitating advance actions and pre-positioning resources for effective response. Recognizing the high vulnerability to cyclones and flooding in Nampula, Mogincual, and Angoche districts, which have significant displaced populations, UNHCR initiated disseminating early warning messages and raising awareness through community-based outreach mechanisms and community radio.

Coordination and Partnerships

	National level	Sub-national level
Coordinates	■ UNHCR co-leads and coordinates the **Protection Cluster (with Helpcode as co-coordinator).**	■ UNHCR coordinates the Cabo Delgado **Protection Cluster** (with Helpcode as co-coordinator). ■ Co-coordinates the Cabo Delgado **Housing, Land, and Property** Area of Responsibility (HLP AoR) (with NRC as co-coordinator).
(Co-)chairs	■ Chairs the **Accountability to Affected Populations and Community Engagement** (CE/AAP) Working Group (with World Vision and UNICEF as co-chairs). ■ Co-chairs the **Solutions Working Group** and **Technical Solutions Working Group** (with IOM and UNDP as co-chairs and INGD as Chair).	■ Chairs the **CE/AAP Working Group** (with UNICEF as co-chair) ■ Chairs the **Disability Working Group** (with FAMOD and HI as co-chairs). ■ Co-chairs the Cabo Delgado **Solutions Working Group** (with IOM and UNDP as co-chairs and INGD as chair) ■ Chairs the **Nampula Protection Working Group.**

■ UNHCR has 21 agreements with 16 partners across the country: 5 national NGOs, 5 international NGOs, 10 government partners, and 1 UN-UN agreement.

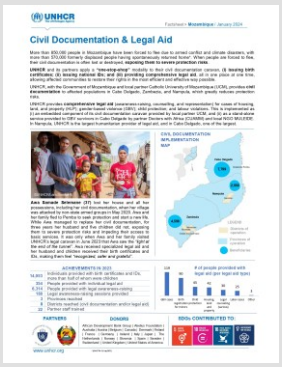
Financial Information

Find UNHCR's Global Appeal for 2025 here.

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

Publications

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL UPDATE



CIVIL DOCUMENTATION FACTSHEET

PROTECTION ANALYSIS UPDATE JANUARY 2024

CONTACT UNHCR MOZAMBIQUE EXTERNAL RELATIONS

For questions or comments, contact mozmaextrels@unhcr.org.

LINKS

Global Focus | Protection Cluster – Mozambique | X (Twitter) | Facebook