Mozambique

Mozambique hosts approximately 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, while 850,599 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, 571,468 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

2 million* people in critical need of assistance and protection

850,599** Internally Displaced Persons

- 668,939 (79%) IDP's in northern Mozambique due to the ongoing conflict.
- 181,660 (21%) climate related IDPs following the impacts of extreme weather events.
- 45% of IDPs living in relocation sites, 55% living in host communities.
- 51% of IDPs are women and children.

571,468** returnees, many in IDP-like situations with poor living conditions and a lack of access to basic services

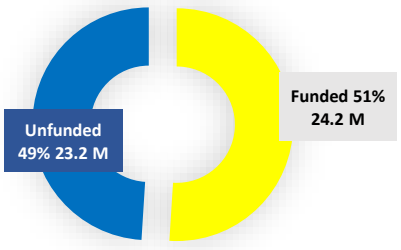
Approximately **25,000***** refugees and asylum-seekers

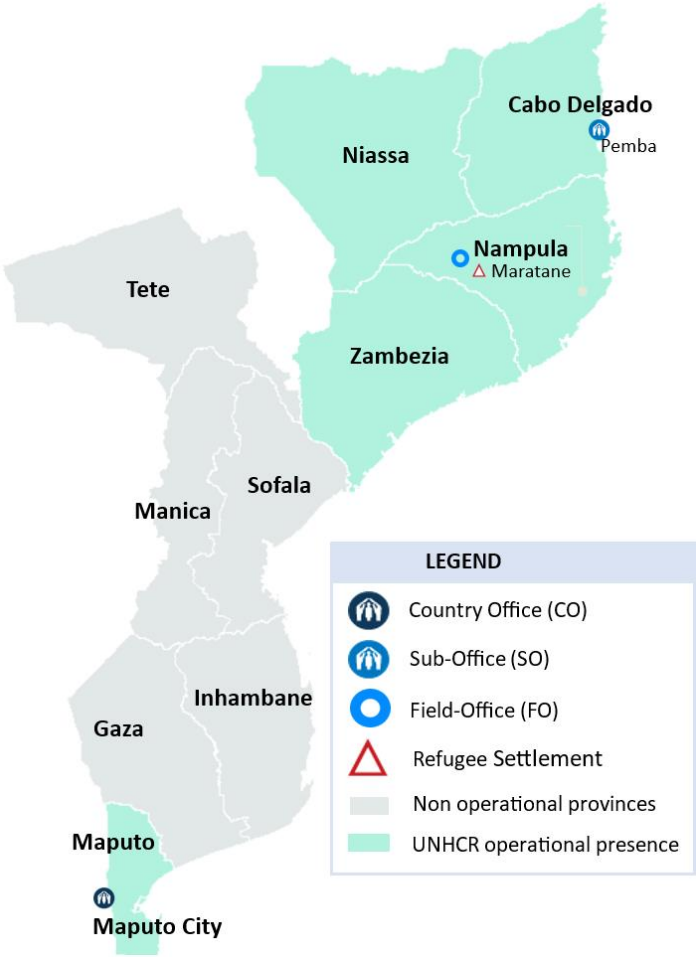
* According to Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 (February 2023, OCHA)
** Mozambique Mobility Tracking Assessment Report (August 2023, IOM)
*** According to UNHCR data, figure based on preliminary data from the verification exercise in Mozambique October 2023.

USD 47.5 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2023

FUNDING (as of 4 October 2023)





Staff: 129
70 National Staff
59 International Staff
Offices: 3
1 Country Office in Maputo – 46 staff
1 Sub Office in Pemba – 46 staff
1 Field Office in Nampula – 37 staff

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | September 2023

Protection

- UNHCR's protection monitoring activities are critical to identify protection risks and trends so as to make referrals for people with heightened needs to specialized services. In September, protecting monitoring interviews were conducted with 1,943 displaced and returned families in 21 displacement sites, host communities, and return locations across five districts of Cabo Delgado (Mueda, Montepuez, Metuge, Palma, and Mecufi). A total of 23,078 families have been interviewed so far in 2023. In addition, 95 focus group discussions with 1,521 IDPs, returnees and host community members were held in the month of September.
- Possessing civil documentation is crucial, enabling forcibly displaced people to access services, including healthcare and education, as well as enhancing their freedom of movement. Working closely with Government authorities and the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM), UNHCR assisted 334 people in Pemba, Cabo Delgado province in obtaining civil documentation, specifically birth certificates and national IDs. So far in 2023, UNHCR and UCM have assisted 6,547 people in acquiring their civil documentation in Cabo Delgado. In Nampula, 1,545 birth registrations were completed and 837 IDs were issued.
- UNHCR and partners provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 470 IDPs with specific needs, including elderly people at risk and people with disabilities in Cabo Delgado.
- In collaboration with IOM, UNHC organized a four-day training in Meconta and Nampula districts in Nampula province, focusing on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). 158 community members participated in the training. Furthermore, in collaboration with the INGD, 20 participants were trained in PSEA in the context of disaster risk reduction (DRR) from the Maratane Host Community.

PSEA Training for DRR in Maratane refugee settlement ©UNHCR/Julian C Ramirez

- In Cabo Delgado, UNHCR provided its bimonthly GBV technical support training to 30 protection focal points, building their capacity to identify and respond to cases of GBV and Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and ensuring a survivor-centred approach. In Mocimboa de Praia, UNHCR mapped GBV services and carried out a GBV safety audit through focus group discussions with 210 returnees.

Public Health

- UNHCR continues to support refugees and host community members in the Maratane refugee settlement, Nampula province, with targeted health and nutrition support. In September, eight cleaning campaigns were held in markets, water points, and the Health Center at Maratane, focusing on cholera and diarrhea disease prevention. The cleaning campaigns were accompanied by health sensitization key messages. 2,733 individuals (1,036 men and 1,697 women) were reached with these key health messages.

Cleaning Campaigns in Maratane. ©UNHCR/Agnes Madziwa

Shelter, infrastructure, and core relief items (CRIs)

- In September, UNHCR and partners completed the construction of 300 transitional shelters in the Lianda site in Cabo Delgado. Furthermore, 21 transitional shelters were repaired, bringing the total number of repaired shelters this year to 248. At the Corrane IDP site in Nampula, UNHCR distributed 44 shelters to the Corrane host community.
- In Cabo Delgado province, 1,196 CRI kits, consisting of essential items such as blankets, mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and buckets, were distributed to displaced families in the Ntele IDP site in the Montepuez district.

Shelter Construction in Cabo Delgado ©L. Bommers/UNHCR

Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)

- UNHCR, through its CCCM partners, provided camp management support in 10 displacement sites, seven in the Mueda district and three in Montepuez district, where 59,673 IDPs reside.
- UNHCR completed the construction of a market space in Ntele site, Montepuez, which was handed over to the local community and which is being used on a daily basis by both the IDP and host communities.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- In September, a UNHCR technical field monitoring team visited a host community farmers association in Maratane settlement. The association showcased significant progress in its socio-economic endeavours as capacity-building training in conservation agriculture and business entrepreneurship significantly diversified the income sources of the members of the association.
- UNHCR, in close coordination with the Mozambican blue economy development fund ProAzul, launched training activities on sustainable fishery and entrepreneurship, with 80 people receiving training in the Metuge and Mecufi districts in Cabo Delgado. The project is part of the UNHCR's African Development Bank (AfDB) international programme "Enhancing private sector engagement and capacity building in fragile context" focused on inclusive economic growth in countries hosting forcibly displaced persons. It involves people along the fishery value chain and provides a large range of business and entrepreneurship skills.

Group training during the sustainable fisheries training programme in Cabo Delgado ©L. Bommers/UNHCR

Coordination

- UNHCR chairs the Protection Cluster and 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

- From 14-15 September 2023 UNHCR held the Third Quarterly Meeting with Partners to take stock of annual programme implementation, to discuss challenges and to deliberate, jointly, on the way forward. During the meeting UNHCR's new Representative for Mozambique acknowledged the presence of the Nampula District Administrator, the Nampula provincial Delegates of INAR and IFPELAC and the national Head of the Protection Department, INAR and thanked all partners for their participation in the third quarterly meeting with partners for 2023. UNHCR highlighted that the MYS 2024-2026 is a strategic shift to allow for provision of more sustainable and effective support and in the implementation of the MYS, UNHCR will collaborate with the Government of Mozambique, its various line ministries at national, provincial, and local levels, as well as with development actors, refugees, displaced persons, and their host communities, to achieve protection and solutions for displaced persons in Mozambique.

Opening Remarks by UNHCR Representative at the partners meeting ©Guilherme Chirinda/UNHCR

- 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. In addition, one UN2UN Transfer Agreement with WFP was concluded in 2023 to operate a complaints and response mechanisms.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION | UNHCR Mozambique 2023

In 2023, UNHCR Mozambique continues to (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 UNHCR's entire response, (iii) support preparedness and response efforts to natural hazards, including cyclones, flooding and drought. Through this engagement, UNHCR continues to adopt an age, gender and diversity approach while maintaining a focus on accountability to affected populations (AAP). UNHCR focuses 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 2023 here.

EVENTS

From 04 – 06 September, the first countrywide Code of Conduct Dialogue Session (CoCDS) and All-Staff retreat in a number of years began in Beira, Sofala Province. It brought together for the first time all UNHCR colleagues from Nampula, Pemba and Maputo, and colleagues from the Ethics office, including their director, and the Regional Bureau. The theme was "Values in Action – Trust & Collaboration. During the sessions staff engaged on various topics such as good work environment, mental health, duty of care and staff well-being.

UNHCR Colleagues from all offices throughout Mozambique in Beira ©Guilherme Chirinda/UNHCR

UNHCR is grateful for the generous support of donors who have contributed to UNHCR Mozambique and to UNHCR programmes globally in 2022 and 2023

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For more information on UNHCR's programme in Mozambique:

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