UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Mozambique
Operational Update

July-September 2025

Inlauene Alberto takes part in women's safe space activities supported by UNHCR in Pemba. A grandmother and primary caregiver to her granddaughter born with a disability, Inlauene receives psychosocial support and joins crocheting activities for income generation with other women in the centre. © UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

Population Figures

609,243
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)
- Conflict-related: 461,237
- Climate-related: 148,006

701,462
Returnees to district of origin, many of them with specific needs

23,958
Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Source: IOM/DTM Mobility Tracking Assessment round 22 (May 2025), UNHCR registration as of September 2025

KEY RESULTS (January-September 2025)

297,066
persons were reached and empowered with **essential protection services**.

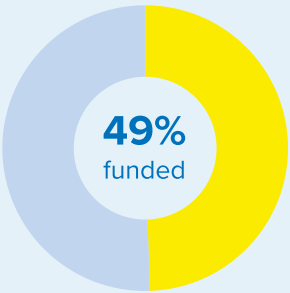
15,887
persons **obtained identity documents,** enabling access to services and enhancing freedom of movement.

60,376
persons were supported and empowered to **prevent and respond to gender-based violence**.

16,769
persons **received essential items** to help meet their basic needs, including blankets, mosquito net and hygiene supplies.

FUNDING

As of 30 September 2025



Funded
Funding gap

UNHCR appealed for **USD 42.7 million** for its 2025 programme, of which **USD 21.6 million** is still required to continue supporting forcibly displaced populations.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Since 2017, around **1.3 million people** have been displaced internally due to the ongoing conflict in northern Mozambique where non-state armed groups (NSAGs) carry out repeated attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure. As of March 2025, **over 461,000 people in northern Mozambique remain displaced due to the conflict, while an estimated 701,000 IDPs have returned to their district of origin.** Among those who have returned, many remain displaced within these districts or face significant obstacles to rebuild their lives, including to access essential protection services.

The third quarter of 2025 witnessed a continued escalation and geographic expansion of violence across northern Mozambique. The renewed wave of insecurity from late July led to the displacement of over 46,000 people within just over a week, primarily in Chiúre and Ancuabe districts. By September, conflict-related incidents had been reported across wide areas of Cabo Delgado, with renewed attacks in Mocímboa da Praia displacing more than 23,000 people. Violence also extended into Nampula, further constraining humanitarian access and placing additional pressure on host communities.

Mozambique remains one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, with around 148,000 people displaced due to climate-related events. Over a million people were affected during the 2024-2025 cyclone season, where many of the hardest-hit areas were already hosting large numbers of IDPs uprooted by conflict. The climate crisis continues to strain local capacities and deepen protection risks for displacement-affected communities.

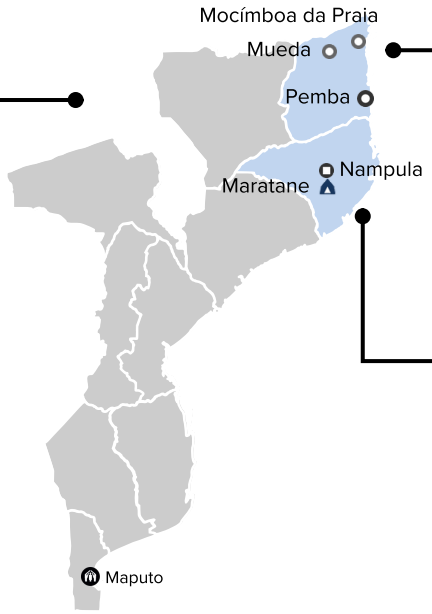
Mozambique also continues to host approximately 24,000 refugees and asylum seekers primarily from Central and Eastern African countries, many of whom have lived in protracted displacement for over a decade.

UNHCR's response in Mozambique is anchored in four interlinked priorities aimed at addressing immediate protection needs while advancing long-term solutions for displaced populations:

1. **Protection and solutions data and analysis:** Deliver comprehensive, accurate and actionable protection and solutions data and analysis to inform evidence-based advocacy, policy and programming.
2. **Operational protection and solutions response:** Prevent and respond to urgent and protracted protection needs, as well as support pathways to solutions.
3. **Support to national systems:** Support the Government to enhance access to national services for forcibly displaced people as well as to assess, prevent and provide quality responses to protection needs.
4. **Inclusion, development and solutions:** Play a catalytic role to advance durable solutions for forcibly displaced people by building partnerships, ensuring protection considerations are fully integrated in solutions analysis, programming, planning and advocacy efforts of others.

These priorities are implemented in close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Government of Mozambique, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, development partners, and host communities, to ensure a coordinated and sustainable response.

UNHCR AND PARTNER PRESENCE



Country-wide

INAR [G]
WFP

Cabo Delgado

ADPP
AVSI
CUAMM
Dimongo
GCR
Helpcode
Humanity & Inclusion
IFPELAC [G]
INGD [G]
IPAJ [G]
SDPI [G]
UCM

Nampula

ActionAid
Cemirde
Humanity & Inclusion
INAR [G]
INEFP [G]
INGD [G]
Livaningo
Ministry of Education [G]
Ministry of Health [G]
SPAS [G]
UCM

LEGEND

- Country Office
- Sub-Office
- Field Office
- Field Unit
- Refugee Settlement
- [G] Government Partner

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

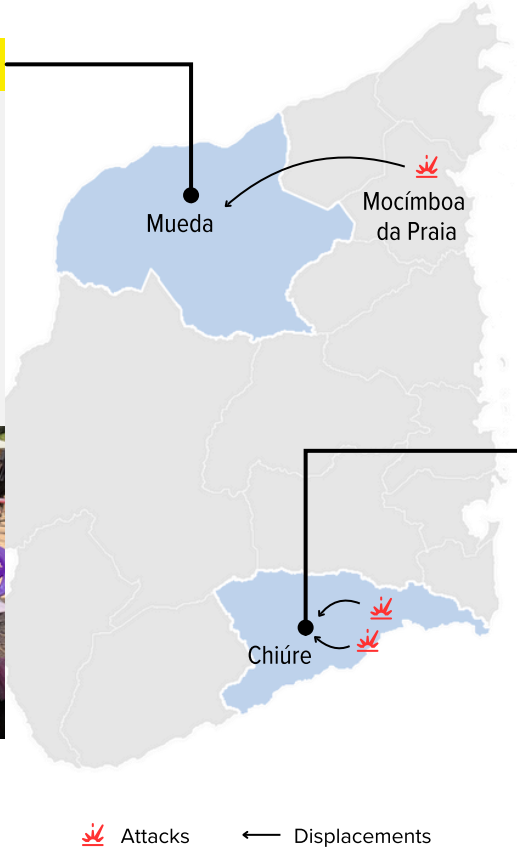
EMERGENCY RESPONSE (As of September 2025)

Following violent attacks across Cabo Delgado, UNHCR has scaled up its protection response to safeguard the rights and well-being of affected populations.

MUEDA

UNHCR and partners stepped up support in Mueda, where approximately 20,000 people– mainly from Mocímboa da Praia– were displaced in September, coordinating with the Government to receive new arrivals.

Protection Desk in Mueda © UNHCR/ Karen Matimbe



GBV/PSEA awareness session at Megaruma site, Chiúre © UNHCR/ Isadora Zoni

CHIÚRE

UNHCR supported displaced persons in Chiúre where a large number of persons remain displaced following the displacement of approximately 57,000 individuals since late July, focusing on urgent protection and psychosocial needs.

Coordination

UNHCR, through Protection Cluster, mobilised partners in Mueda and Chiúre to ensure that basic protection services reached the families newly arrived to the sites.

Protection Desks

Protection Desks were operational in Mueda, Chiúre Sede, Megarruma and Manigane in collaboration with Helpcode to connect individuals sheltering at transit centres to available protection services and information sharing according to their needs.

People with specific needs

UNHCR, through its partner GCR, expanded the ongoing MHPSS activities to support families recently displaced, GBV survivors and persons at risks, aiming to mitigate trauma and promote resilience. UNHCR also distributed assistive devices with its partner Humanity & Inclusion to persons with disabilities across five IDP sites.

Gender-based violence (GBV)

UNHCR conducted GBV and PSEA awareness sessions at Micone, Namisir and Megarruma transit sites. UNHCR continued the protection activities for GBV survivors and persons with specific needs, including case management and mental health and psychosocial support.

Community-based protection

UNHCR also facilitated community-based protection activities led by AVSI, including sensitisation sessions and social cohesion activities in Chiúre intended to ease tensions between IDPs and host communities.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Following violent attacks in Chiúre, UNHCR mobilised a rapid response for newly displaced persons hosted in transit centres in Chiúre.
© UNHCR/ Isadora Zoni

1. Protection and Solutions

Civil Documentation and Legal Aid

Civil documentation
Civil documentation is a critical protection tool for forcibly displaced persons, enabling access to essential services such as healthcare, social security, banking, formal employment, and school. It also enhances freedom of movement and reduces protection risks. However, documentation is often lost or left behind during displacement. Between July and September, UNHCR, in partnership with the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM), supported the Government in issuing 8,194 civil documents—including birth certificates and ID cards—to displaced individuals across Cabo Delgado and Nampula, bringing the total number of documents issued this year to 15,887.

Legal aid
Legal aid is a vital component of a comprehensive protection response, ensuring that displaced people can access justice and assert their rights. UNHCR integrates legal support into its broader protection strategy by providing awareness-raising sessions, legal counseling, and representation on key issues such as housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, and labour rights. In partnership with the Institute of Legal Sponsorship and Assistance (IPAJ) and Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM), UNHCR supported more than 3,000 individuals in Cabo Delgado and Nampula with legal aid between July and September, bringing the total number of people assisted in 2025 to over 4,600.

Community-Based Protection and Social Cohesion

Protection awareness
Protection awareness sessions are a cornerstone of UNHCR's community-based protection approach, empowering forcibly displaced people with knowledge of their rights and tools to access vital support. From July to September, UNHCR reached over 5,000 individuals every month in Cabo Delgado and Nampula through targeted sessions focused on understanding rights, available services and key protection messages. Particularly in September, an awareness session focused on children's rights reached 119 children from refugee families in Maratane Refugee Settlement, aiming to prevent abuse and rights violations while fostering positive relationships between children, parents and communities.

Persons with specific needs
UNHCR and partners supported more than 700 individuals in Cabo Delgado and Nampula with targeted protection support, including persons with disabilities and those at heightened risk. Support included assistive devices, mental health and psychosocial support services and individual follow-up, bringing the total number of people assisted in 2025 to over 10,000. This effort was further strengthened by the inauguration of the Maratane Rehabilitation Center in August, supported by Humanity & Inclusion (HI), the Ministry of Health and UNHCR, enhancing access to integrated rehabilitation services in a safe and appropriate environment for persons with specific needs.

Community engagement
UNHCR engages community members through community protection structures to strengthen their protection capacities and promote community-based protection. Among these structures, community activists play a critical role in identifying immediate protection risks and facilitating access to essential protection services. As of September 2025, 73 community activists, trained by UNHCR and its partners, are active across Cabo Delgado and Nampula, harnessing their capacities to strengthen community-led protection and enhance frontline response in remote and high-risk areas particularly.

Community Feedback Mechanism
As part of the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) approach, UNHCR empowers and enables communities to provide feedback and request information through the Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFMs), with UNHCR in turn taking action on the feedback received and informing the community. Between July and September, more than 5,000 individuals in Cabo Delgado accessed the mechanism through various available channels, including community activists. These systems ensure UNHCR and partner's programming and services remain community-informed, playing a vital role in improving accountability, responsiveness, and trust in humanitarian services.

Social cohesion
UNHCR implements social cohesion initiatives aimed at promoting interaction and building trust between displaced persons and host communities. In September, UNHCR promoted social cohesion in Chiúre district where thousands of people have been displaced since late July, by facilitating recreational activities led by the community youth. These activities provided safe spaces for recreation, empowerment and community bonding—fostering social inclusion, reducing isolation and promoting mental well-being among the internally displaced persons.

GBV and PSEA

GBV survivor care and empowerment
UNHCR supports survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) by providing holistic care tailored to individual needs and facilitating access to economic empowerment opportunities. Between July and September, UNHCR and its partners reached more than 1,500 individuals every month across Cabo Delgado and Nampula through activities in safe spaces, ensuring access to protection services, psychosocial support and livelihood programmes, bringing the total number of people reached in 2025 to over 11,000. This effort was further strengthened by the launch of new safe spaces—Integrated Service Centre in Chiúre, Cabo Delgado and Rehabilitation Centre in Mutava Rex, Nampula—offering a safe and confidential space for GBV survivors to access essential services centred on survivor's needs.

Individual case management for GBV survivor © UNHCR/ Isadora Zoni

Mental health and psychosocial support
Addressing the emotional, psychological and social impacts of GBV is essential for the recovery of survivors. Between July and September, UNHCR provided specialised mental health and psychosocial support to more than 1,000 survivors and individuals at risk in Cabo Delgado and Nampula, bringing the yearly total of the supported people to over 1,800. These services supported individuals in coping with trauma, restoring a sense of safety and improving their overall well-being—contributing to long-term healing and resilience.

GBV awareness-raising activities
UNHCR strengthens the prevention of and response to gender-based violence by raising awareness and promoting gender equality within communities. Between July and September, more than 30,000 individuals were reached through awareness-raising sessions held in diverse locations across Cabo Delgado and Nampula, including the IDP site in Chiúre and Mueda with a massive arrival of newly displaced persons, bringing the total number of people reached in 2025 to over 60,000. Particularly in September, the Girl Shine programme, a GBV prevention initiative, involved 120 persons in Maratane Refugee Settlement and Corrane IDP Site, including adolescent girls and their caregivers, equipping families with knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to GBV while also promoting gender equality.

Protection Cluster

Emergency protection responses to new displacement
The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, coordinates responses for populations affected by conflict and climate-related shocks, including during emergencies. Between July and September, the Cluster mobilised partners and coordinated emergency response activities, such as psychosocial support, family reunification services, assistance to persons with disabilities and GBV/PSEA awareness and response for newly displaced populations across Chiúre, Ancuabe, Muidumbe, Erati and Mueda districts. This coordination enabled early access to the fields, improved timely collection and circulation of information and supported the identification of critical operational gaps during the displacement response.

Data and Analysis

Protection Monitoring
UNHCR's protection monitoring engages affected communities to assess their protection needs and risks, providing a key evidence base that informs UNHCR's programming, supports the broader humanitarian response, and strengthens advocacy efforts. In August and September, 792 households in Cabo Delgado were interviewed, bringing the total number of households consulted in 2025 to 10,272, representing the views of approximately 49,777 individuals.

National Household Budget Survey
UNHCR, World Bank and the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC) support the 2025 National Household Budget Survey (IOF2025). Led by Mozambique's National Institute for Statistics (INE), the survey, for the first time, includes a nationally representative sample of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and IDP returnees—an important milestone toward more inclusive national data. In July, UNHCR provided technical support in refining the survey questionnaire to ensure the needs of IDPs are accurately captured and facilitated focus group discussions in Mocímboa da Praia with returnees and Pemba with IDPs, covering topics such as GBV, civil documentation, livelihoods, and access to services.

Focus group discussion with IDPs in Pemba to test the questions on status identification for the government led household budget survey © UNHCR

Durable Solutions

Voluntary repatriation
Voluntary repatriation—the free and voluntary return to one's country of origin in safety and dignity—is a key solution that enables forcibly displaced people to rebuild their lives. UNHCR, in coordination with the National Institute for Refugee Support (INAR) and Provincial Social Action Services (SPAS), continued mobilising, sharing information and registering individuals for voluntary repatriation. In September, for example, more than 2,500 refugees and asylum seekers in Maratane Refugee Settlement received information on the voluntary repatriation programme. Based on assessment of the situation in countries of origin, UNHCR provided appropriate reception and reintegration support for refugees who expressed a willingness to return. As of September, progress was made with the return of 41 individuals: 32 to Burundi, 4 to Rwanda and 5 to Somalia.

Community Consultations on Durable Solutions
UNHCR released the Community Consultations on Durable Solutions report under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF) project, in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Risk Management (INGD), local authorities and Helpcode. The report presents findings from consultations conducted in the first half year of 2025 (January–June) with 9,480 households, including 6,204 internally displaced households and 3,276 households who had returned to their districts of origin, across Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia, reflecting the intentions of internally displaced persons and returnees regarding durable solutions, as well as the challenges and information and communication needs.

A Burundian refugee family departed for their country of origin in July © UNHCR

2. Livelihoods, Community Empowerment and Self Reliance

Technical and Vocational Education (TVET)
UNHCR supports displaced persons in bridging the gap between education and employment, enabling them to support their families and contribute to host communities. Between July and September, 192 individuals in Cabo Delgado, including 55 displaced persons, received technical and vocational education and training programmes at the Institute of Professional Training and Labour Studies Alberto Cassimo (IFPELAC). In Nampula, 50 candidates were selected for the next training cycle in carpentry, tailoring and locksmithing. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in partnership with the German Development Agency (GIZ), this initiative aligns with industry and labour market needs, equipping participants with valuable, marketable skills.

Entrepreneurship Program
To promote economic independence and entrepreneurial skills, UNHCR reached 390 individuals (130 in Pemba, 60 in Mocímboa da Praia and 200 in Mueda), targeting youth in Cabo Delgado. In Pemba and Mocímboa da Praia, in partnership with SEPPA Foundation and supported by the German Development Agency (GIZ), programme participants received funding to start diverse enterprises. In Mueda, in collaboration with ADPP, 200 IDPs and host community members participated in entrepreneurship activities of identifying sites for collective enterprises and drafting business plans—empowering youth to build long-term self-reliance and economic resilience.

Cash-based assistance
UNHCR provides cash-based assistance wherever markets and services are accessible. Between July and September, 128 individuals in Cabo Delgado received cash assistance to invest in income-generating activities based on the developed business plans, bringing the total number of people assisted in 2025 to 306. In September, UNHCR and its partner AVSI foundation distributed mobile phones and SIM cards for 450 persons in Cabo Delgado to facilitate further cash-based assistances.

Climate-resilient farming
UNHCR continues to support farmers in vulnerable areas to build resilience against risks such as extreme weather conditions and market shocks. In August, UNHCR, through its partner AVSI Foundation, trained 457 producers in Chiúre in dry-season farming techniques through the 11 Farmer Field School sessions. In Mueda, UNHCR and its partner ADPP reached 100 individuals through climate-resilient farming with use of organic pesticides—contributing to environmentally sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion in Mueda. In Nampula, UNHCR supported members of refugee farmer producer groups to participate in the Agroecological Products Exhibition Fair, which took place on 6 August, and promote their products and create market access opportunities.

Support for financial inclusions
UNHCR promotes the financial inclusion of IDP returnees, empowering them to strengthen self-reliance. In July, considering that a bank account is essential for refugees and asylum-seekers to formalise a business and access a range of financial services, UNHCR, in collaboration with Livaningo and Standard Bank in Nampula, organised a financial inclusion initiative. Held at Maratane Refugee Settlement, the initiative engaged more than 140 individuals from refugees and host communities, with 34 participants taking the step of requesting to open bank accounts.

Thirteen producer committees now manage 12.5 hectares of farmland as part of the Farmer Field School sessions in Chiúre
© UNHCR

3. Health

Primary health care services
UNHCR continues to support the inclusion of displaced persons in national public health programmes. As of September 2025, primary health care services for refugees and asylum seekers remain operational at Maratane Health Center.

Hygiene supplies distribution
Access to adequate hygiene is essential for preventing diseases and supporting overall well-being. In August and September, UNHCR distributed hygiene kits—including soap and sanitary napkins—to 2,202 women and girls of reproductive age in Maratane Refugee Settlement, representing approximately 90% of the eligible populations. These efforts supported the restoration of dignity and promoted health and well-being of displaced persons.

Water distribution
UNHCR continued to ensuring access to safe water for displaced populations. In September, more than 7,555 persons, including refugees and asylum seekers, in Maratane Refugee Settlement were provided with access to potable water for drinking, cooking and washing. The water supply system in the settlement has been expanded, increasing capacity to 89 per cent of the required distribution level, a significant improvement compared to last year.

4. Education

Enhancing a digital learning space
In collaboration with Vodafone, UNHCR has expanded computer-assisted learning opportunities for students from forcibly displaced families across Nampula. By September, supplementary laptops and desktop computers had been delivered to 14 schools—including Anchilo, Maratane, Meconta, Nacavala, and Namialo secondary schools—under the Instant Network Schools (INS) initiative. This investment is strengthening schools' data management systems and enhancing the educational infrastructure available to refugee and host community students across the region.

LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

UNHCR exercises leadership and coordination responsibilities in areas related to displaced population, in line with its mandated accountabilities. In 2025, UNHCR continues to bring together diverse humanitarian and government actors to ensure a coordinated protection response for forcibly displaced people.

LEGEND
- (Co-)Coordinate
- (Co-)Chair

Cabo Delgado

- Protection Cluster
- Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility
- Community Engagement and Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group
- Disability Working Group
- Solutions Working Group

Nampula

- Protection Working Group

PUBLICATIONS AND UPDATES

Country
Briefing note: Violence flares anew in northern Mozambique, forcing 22,000 to flee in a week

Country
Report: Community Consultations on Durable Solutions (January-June 2025)

Social media
Video: The crisis in northern Mozambique is far from over

Regional
Sustainable Responses for Refugees in Southern Africa (August 2025)

UNHCR is grateful for the generous support of donors who have contributed to UNHCR Mozambique in 2025

and the support of the following private sector partners

For more information,
Contact: UNHCR Mozambique External Engagement Unit: mozmaextrels@unhcr.org
Visit: UNHCR | Protection Cluster - Mozambique | X (Twitter) | Facebook