Mozambique

Flooding in central and southern regions: Impact and Critical Needs

30 January 2026

Flooded village in Chibuto district, Gaza province © UNHCR/ Karen Matimbe

Key Figures

As of 29 January 2026

(Source: INGD, OCHA)

700,006 persons affected by flooding (**165,533** households)

392,000+ persons displaced

100 temporary accommodation centres

Situation Overview

Heavy rainfall and flooding across central and southern Mozambique have triggered large-scale displacement, affecting approximately 700,000 people, including at least 392,000 displaced individuals, exposing them to severe protection risks. Across all affected provinces, around 100,000 people are currently sheltering in 100 temporary accommodation centres. The situation remains highly fluid, with further displacement anticipated as rains continue. Many affected people are sheltering in temporary accommodation centres or awaiting evacuation, placing acute pressure on already overstretched local services and emergency response capacities.

The rapid onset and scale of displacement, combined with overcrowded temporary accommodation centres, breakdown of public services and disrupted social support networks, have heightened protection risks. These include increased exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), family separation, psycho-social distress and trauma, lack of civil documentation, and barriers to accessing essential services, with women and girls, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities disproportionately affected. This flooding emergency compounds the already severe, conflict-driven displacement in the north, which has significantly depleted humanitarian stocks. Local authorities warn that heavy rainfall and upstream river inflows are expected to continue in the coming week, increasing the likelihood of further flooding and displacement.

UNHCR Financial Requirements

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL PEOPLE TARGETED
US $2,265,559	255,000

Sector/interventions	Amount required (US$)	People targeted
Rapid Protection Assessments	58,088	24,000
Assistance and MHPSS to people with specific needs	923,046	19,000
GBV prevention and response	404,963	59,000
Mobile Protection Teams and Protection Desks	171,753	100,000
Protection and PSEA awareness-raising	54,401	100,000
Cash and Core Relief Items (CRIs) for protection	550,000	10,000 (households)
Building Government capacity to lead the protection response	103,308	1,000 (government officials)

For the wider Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan addressing the floods response, please see HNRP addendum.

GBV awareness-raising session at the accommodation centre Unidade Primary School, Chibuto district. © UNHCR/ Joaquim Ngoca

UNHCR Response

Based on its protection mandate, UNHCR immediately deployed protection experts—including through the Protection Cluster, in line with its lead role—to affected areas and accommodation centres. UNHCR is supporting the Government-led response by providing technical leadership and coordination, and by ensuring a protection-centred approach that prioritizes the most vulnerable. The proposed initiatives will build the capacity of the Government to fully lead the protection response, contribute to preventing and mitigating protection risks, address protection needs, prevent people from engaging in harmful coping mechanisms, improve accountability to affected people (AAP) and ensure that the most vulnerable are prioritized as humanitarian access and operational capacity gradually expand.

Rapid Protection Assessments

In the aftermath of flooding, UNHCR is intensifying protection assessment in flood-affected areas and accommodation centres to identify protection needs and risks, enabling informed decision-making for humanitarian and government interventions and targeted advocacy with duty bearers. Findings and recommendations will be shared through the Protection Cluster and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to inform targeting, prioritization and protection mainstreaming across the emergency response.

With US $58,088, UNHCR can conduct these assessments to reach 24,000 individuals. Reaching 24,000 individuals will provide a statistically representative snapshot of protection risks and needs across flood-affected areas and accommodation centres, strengthening the evidence base for targeted, system-wide response and advocacy.

Assistance and MHPSS to people with specific needs

Vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, older people, and women and girls, face heightened protection risks due to overcrowded and dangerous conditions at accommodation centres, loss of livelihoods and resources, fragmented family and social support networks, and limited access to basic services. These factors increase exposure to exploitation, abuse and harmful coping mechanisms.

People with disabilities are particularly impacted by the lack of assistive devices and caregiving support, while older persons struggle to access basic services and medical care. These groups and others also suffer trauma from loss of life, property, livelihoods, family unity and social support systems caused by the floods, generating widespread need for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS).

With US $923,046, UNHCR can support 19,000 individuals with specific needs by providing MHPSS, assistive devices (wheelchairs, crutches, etc.), rehabilitation services and referral to specialized services, helping to restore the dignity, resilience and self-sufficiency of the most vulnerable.

GBV prevention and response

The flood emergency has significantly heightened the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) due to displacement, overcrowded shelters, economic hardship, engagement in harmful coping mechanisms and weakened protection systems. Women and girls face heightened vulnerability in unsafe environments, while disrupted access to support services leaves survivors without vital assistance.

Resource scarcity and stress further escalate risks, including sexual violence, exploitation and intimate partner violence. Those who survive GBV, as well as those at risk, often suffer acute trauma and anxiety, with a need for immediate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. Their needs often extend beyond MHPSS and require continued follow up, necessitating ongoing individual case management.

With US $404,963, UNHCR can provide essential support to 59,000 individuals, including GBV survivors and women and girls at risk, through GBV case management, MHPSS and GBV awareness-raising.

Mobile Protection Teams and Protection Desks

Flood-affected populations face heightened protection risks, including family separation, loss of documentation, barriers to accessing services, increased exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and acute psychosocial distress. Through these Mobile Protection Teams and Protection Desks, UNHCR provides clear information on protection risks and connection to essential services, operates confidential Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms (CFMs) to enable affected people to safely report concerns and SEA, and delivers psychological first aid and immediate protection counselling in line with survivor-centred principles.

With US $171,753, UNHCR can assist 100,000 individuals by establishing and operating Mobile Protection Teams and Protection Desks in accommodation centres.

Protection and PSEA awareness-raising

Limited awareness of available services and weakened accountability mechanisms during emergency response operations continue to elevate protection risks for flood-affected communities. In response, UNHCR conducts community-based awareness sessions on available protection services, rights, accountability mechanisms and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

With US $54,401, UNHCR can provide protection awareness-raising and support activities for 100,000 affected individuals in flood-affected areas and accommodation centres. UNHCR will also be able to deliver concise emergency PSEA briefings for humanitarian and government personnel engaged in the flood response, as well as deploy temporary PSEA field surge capacity to support partners.

Cash and Core Relief Items (CRIs) for protection

Cash-based interventions (CBIs) enable flood-affected households with specific needs to meet their protection needs in a dignified and flexible manner while supporting local markets. Core Relief Items (CRIs) will complement cash assistance for households with specific needs who have lost their belongings, providing essential, life-sustaining items that further mitigate protection risks.

With US $550,000, UNHCR can support 10,000 flood-affected households with specific needs residing in accommodation centres and surrounding areas through a mix of CBIs and CRIs, facilitating access to protection services, mitigating protection risks, reducing harmful coping mechanisms, and restoring dignity among the most vulnerable.

Building Government capacity to lead the protection response

The flood emergency is placing sustained demands on national and local response systems, generating a critical need to further strengthen government capacity to consistently integrate protection and Accountability to Affected People (AAP) standards into the current and future emergency responses.

With US $103,308, UNHCR can build the Government's capacity through the provision of practical protection guidance, including protection checklists and AAP guidelines for accommodation centres. Targeted protection capacity-building sessions will be able to strengthen the identification, prevention, mitigation and response to key protection risks, including gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), child protection concerns, rights violations and risks linked to displacement.

UNHCR staff placing PSEA posters at Chibuto Secondary School © UNHCR/ Karen Matimbe

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