

Cabo Delgado Situation

15 December 2020 - 15 January 2021

There are **530,000 internally displaced people (IDPs)** in the Provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa Provinces, almost five times the number registered in March 2020.
(Source: OCHA, 2021)

The **main needs and challenges faced by displaced communities** continue to be related to lack of shelter facilities, access to basic services and fear of being persecuted in the areas they are relocating to, which creates a highly volatile protection environment in Cabo Delgado as well as in neighbouring provinces.

The **security situation in Cabo Delgado remains volatile** with ongoing military operations in several parts of the province. The districts of Quissanga, Macomia, Meluco, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe and Nangade remain inaccessible due to heavy presence of NSAGs and ongoing police/military operations.



Map: Estimated IDP presence and movement (Data source: DTM)

Situation update

■ Cabo Delgado faces an ongoing situation of violence by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) since October 2017. The nature and scope of violence has steadily increased over time with the NSAGs claiming towns, such as Quissanga and Mocimboa da Praia in March 2020. Since then, various instances of serious human rights abuses including arbitrary killings and arrests, kidnappings, human trafficking and violence against children (rape, early marriages) have been recorded in several parts of Cabo Delgado province, with the majority being in central and northern districts of the province. As of January 2021, an estimated number of 530,000 individuals have been displaced by violence, seeking safety in several parts of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and provinces.

■ On 18 December 2020, the UN and partners launched the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) of a total of UD\$ 254 million to provide urgently needed assistance and protection to 1.1 million people affected by violence and insecurity in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa in 2021.

■ The security situation in Cabo Delgado remains volatile with ongoing military operations in certain parts of the province, including in areas near Mueda, Muidumbe and Mocimboa da Praia due to the active presence of NSAGs in these districts. During the reporting period, there was also a significant escalation of attacks conducted by NSAGs in Palma, Nangade and Macomia districts, including armed assaults in the Afungi Peninsula.

- The districts of Quissanga, Macomia, Meluco, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe and Nangade remain inaccessible to UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors due to the abovementioned security reasons associated with the heavy presence of NSAGs and ongoing police/military operations. There has also been a significant increase in the number of IDPs – approximately 100,000 new displaced individuals since November 2020 – as a result of ongoing violence in the Province.
- UNHCR has been continuously working with partners and the Government, in both Cabo Delgado and Nampula, to identify and implement projects to address the most pressing humanitarian needs of IDPs and host communities. UNHCR’s main objectives for 2021 are the following: (1) to identify, mitigate and respond to protection risks of the affected populations; (2) to support the resilience of affected communities; (3) to expand community-based protection mechanisms, so as to ensure that affected communities are empowered to address their own protection concerns; and (4) to strengthen public institutions to respond directly to the needs of IDPs in Cabo Delgado.

Highlights

Tropical Storm Chalane: Tropical Storm Chalane made landfall in Beira, central Mozambique around 3 AM on 30 December with an approaching speed of 60 knots (111 km/hrs). Although the tropical storm did not affect Cabo Delgado Province directly, consensus already existed among protection actors that Chalane could exacerbate protection issues that had been left lingering among those displaced by Tropical Cyclone Idai as well as protection concerns related to COVID-19. A protection assessment was carried out on 6, 7 and 8 January in five IDP locations in three districts badly hit by the storm. Preliminary findings indicate the following: issues with lack of civil documentation; lack of support with housing, land and property; lack of more individualized income generating activities for the IDPs; among others issues that already existed prior to Tropical Storm Chalane, and have been exacerbated since the storm made landfall in Mozambique.

Joint mission to Negomano border: During a joint mission of UNHCR, UNICEF and NRC led by OCHA to Mueda and Negomano between 16 and 20 December, UNHCR conducted a rapid protection assessment in Negomano, at the border with Tanzania, to interview IDPs from the group of 375 Mozambican asylum-seekers who were forcibly returned (“refouled”) from Tanzania in October 2020. The mission could not take place earlier due to the insecurity situation in Mueda and Negomano. Following the protection assessment, this group of Mozambican citizens refouled from Tanzania benefited from a distribution of food and core relief items (CRIs)). During the distribution, each family received one tarpaulin, two sleeping mats, two mosquito nets, and two blankets provided by UNHCR, which was supplemented by kitchen sets and clothes from IOM.

Needs and gaps

The main needs and challenges faced by displaced communities continue to be related to lack of shelter facilities, access to basic services and fear of being persecuted in the areas they are relocating to, which creates a highly volatile protection environment in Cabo Delgado as well as in neighbouring provinces. Increased protection monitoring is needed, especially in hard-to-reach areas, to assist individuals settled there, who are often the most vulnerable groups.

UNHCR has been conducting visits to several IDP sites to assess the situation of those who have been relocated by the Government, stressing the guidelines developed by the Protection Cluster for the voluntary relocation of IDPs, and the need to ensure their dignity and safety, as well as the sustainable integration of IDPs in new areas and ensure their access to basic services. During recent visits to Ancuabe and Chiure IDPs sites, the following gaps were observed: lack of latrines, no water, no lighting, IDPs who are separated from their relatives, among others. It has also been observed that a high number of women heads of household must walk long distances to collect firewood and materials to build their own houses. These identified gaps have been shared with respective Cluster Coordinators, and appropriate action is being taken.

Working in partnership

In its role as Protection Cluster lead in Mozambique, UNHCR has been building up its presence in both Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces to strengthen coordination in these areas, as well as to participate in inter-agency efforts with UN partners and international and local organizations in support of the government's response to the IDP situation.

Response update

- UNHCR this year will continue to distribute CRIs that will assist up to 32,000 households, including IDPs and members of host communities. As of January 2021, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs for 7,956 newly arrived heads of households in the 25 de Junho site (Metuge District, Cabo Delgado), as well as for 8,942 heads of households from displaced communities in Nampula.
- A prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) network was established in Cabo Delgado in December 2020, led by UNHCR and co-led by Save the Children. This strengthening of PSEA coordination in Cabo Delgado is essential for enhancing SEA complaints mechanisms and reporting across organizations, as well as ensuring common messaging and capacity building for prevention purposes.
- A scale-up of UNHCR's involvement in camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) activities is ongoing. On 6 January, UNHCR visited three IDP temporary sites in Metuge to assess potential CCCM interventions required. The preliminary findings indicate that IDPs hosted in temporary sites in Nangua and 25 de Junho should be relocated to different locations as these sites are prone to flooding, in addition to the fact that 25 de Junho is currently overpopulated.
- UNHCR and its partner Catholic University launched a legal assistance project in Pemba. The legal clinic of the Catholic University started providing legal counselling and legal assistance through mobile services targeting 20,000 people from the IDPs and host communities in Pemba. This project aims at facilitating access to legal documentation and birth registration certificates as part of the protection strategy to prevent statelessness.
- Ongoing livelihoods assessments are being conducted in Cabo Delgado. UNHCR initiated a market and value chain assessment to identify relevant and viable sectors that can offer livelihoods opportunities for IDPs in Cabo Delgado. Multiple meetings took place with the private sector, line ministries and humanitarian actors, and field visits to areas hosting IDPs took place.

Financial information

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Emergency Response to the Cabo Delgado Situation in 2020-2021 total **US\$ 19.2 million**. As of January 2021, **39 per cent** of these needs have been funded. UNHCR is grateful to donors who have supported UNHCR's response, including the United States of America (US\$ 4.9 million), Japan (US\$ 900,000),

ECHO (US\$ 1.4 million) and Central Emergency Response Fund (US\$ 1.1 million). UNHCR is urgently appealing for additional funds to implement key priorities for its emergency operation in northern Mozambique in 2020-2021.

[Flexible financial support](#) greatly facilitates UNHCR being able to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and enable the fullest possible implementation of programmes. It enables UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved. UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions. Additional financial and operational information is available on the Global Focus website (reporting.unhcr.org).

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