

# Cabo Delgado Situation

**November 2020**

**355,000** internally displaced people (IDPs) in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces since October 2017.  
*(OCHA situation report, 30 October 2020)*

UNHCR leads the national **Protection Cluster** in Maputo, the provincial Protection Cluster in Cabo Delgado and the Protection Working Group in Nampula Province.

**Protection focal points** have been identified in displaced communities and are working with UNHCR to deliver protection and assistance to displaced populations.

## Situation update

- Cabo Delgado Province in north-eastern Mozambique has faced a 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 human rights abuses, including kidnappings, human trafficking and violence against children (e.g. rape, early marriages) have been recorded.
- In September 2020, NSAGs attacked villages in Macomia District, as well as Vamizi and Mecungo islands in the Quirimbas Archipelago, destroying the huts of local populations and fishermen, burning vehicles and destroying houses.
- In October and November 2020, NSAGs conducted attacks in Palma and Muidumbe Districts, causing a new wave of displaced people fleeing violence and seeking safety in neighbouring districts, such as Mueda, Montepuez and Metuge. The attacks are locally interpreted as retaliation for the deaths of the 270 insurgents claimed by the Government in October 2020.
- As of 15 November, an estimated 355,000 individuals have been displaced by violence, seeking safety in several parts of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia Provinces, including some 14,000 individuals who arrived at Paquitequete Beach, Pemba from mid-October until mid-November, escaping the attacks in and around Ibo islands, Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia and Quissanga Districts. On 1 November, a boat carrying 74 people fleeing the violence in Matemo sank in the Indian Ocean between the islands of Ibo and Matemo, north of Pemba, due to high waves. 32 people were rescued by a passing sailboat, while 42 were considered dead.
- UNHCR remains deeply concerned by the violence and other human rights abuses committed against civilians by NSAGs, particularly against women and children, who account for the majority of IDPs. Armed groups are increasingly kidnapping women and children during attacks, with reported cases of forced marriages as well as reports of extreme brutality unleashed on civilians, as per the recent attacks in Muidumbe District.
- This context has contributed to an increasing gap in access to basic services and critical resources in areas of displacement. Humanitarian actors are striving to respond to the growing needs, amidst limited access to the most affected areas due to the deteriorating security environment. Additionally, further restrictions are expected due to the upcoming rainy season (November to April).



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

## Needs and gaps

The main needs and challenges faced by displaced communities are currently 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 the Cabo Delgado province as well as in the neighbouring ones.

**Protection:** The most pressing issues are violence and human rights abuses towards civilians, including kidnapping of women and children by armed groups with reported cases of forced marriages. In the locations of displacement, there are issues with overcrowding in homes hosting IDPs, which increases vulnerability of IDPs and the risk of abuse, particularly for women and children, resulting in negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex and early marriages. It also raises the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Further, a significant number of individuals have remained in the affected areas due to vulnerabilities, such as the elderly and individuals with physical disabilities who may not be able to travel, lack of alternative places to stay or lack of funds to move elsewhere. In this context, there is a need for:

- Increased protection monitoring, especially in hard to reach areas to assist individuals settled there, often the most vulnerable groups.
- Strengthened referral mechanisms and available services, as well as developing responses where gaps are identified.

### **Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Shelter:**

- Basic household items are a high priority in order to assist displaced families and host families in need. There is also urgent need for improved housing conditions and basic shelter materials. As many have been sharing homes for an extended period, it is necessary to address this, particularly under the COVID-19 situation.

### **Livelihoods:**

- The lack of livelihood opportunities and access to land for farming are key needs, as well as seeds and tools for IDPs who are staying in safer areas. During a multisectoral assessment for IDP sites in Cabo Delgado, the availability of land for farming was one of the main priorities presented by UN Agencies.

### **Social Cohesion:**

- While engaging with community leaders, UNHCR also expressed concern over the peaceful coexistence between host communities and displaced populations, pointing out to the importance of establishing communication with both communities before, during and after relocation takes place.

## 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 better lead in areas of its responsibility, 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. UNHCR's main protection partner in the IDP response is CARE.

## Response update

- UNHCR has been actively working with the Government and partners, in both Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces, to identify and implement projects to address the most pressing humanitarian needs for IDPs and host communities. With the aim of increasing response capacity on the ground, UNHCR is deploying additional staff to Mozambique to support the IDP emergency response. Fourteen staff have already arrived in Mozambique and additional staff are expected in the coming weeks.
- Between September and November 2020, progress has been made in the relocation site of Ngalane (Metuge District) considered as the pilot relocation site in Cabo Delgado. The site is planned to accommodate 415 IDP families and scaled-up interventions are being planned as the response evolves. UNHCR has set up a protection desk in Metuge, which will provide services such as individual counselling, referrals for basic services, psychosocial support and case management in child protection and gender-based violence (GBV).
- UNHCR is distributing CRIs that will assist up to 30,000 of the most vulnerable individuals, including IDPs and members of host communities. As of November, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs for 7,956 newly arrived individuals in the 25 de Junho site (Metuge District, Cabo Delgado), as well as 8,942 CRIs for displaced individuals in Nampula. A total of 16,898 beneficiaries have received CRIs since the beginning of the emergency.
- Relocation sites for IDPs have been identified by the Government of Mozambique. UNHCR, together with other UN Agencies and NGOs, have been conducting multiple assessments at the areas, as well as planning communication with both the host communities living in those areas and IDPs to be relocated there.
- UNHCR has also conducted training for 17 Protection Focal Points (PPFs) in Metuge about basic protection and referral pathways so that they may support counselling, identification and referrals of people with specific needs, as well as dissemination of information about services and organization of community-based activities.



Protection Focal Points (PPFs) and UNHCR staff during distribution ceremony of visibility items to PFPs, in Metuge, Cabo Delgado.  
© UN Mozambique/ H. Cardoso

- UNHCR has organized awareness sessions on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) prevention and response for 30 frontline NGO workers from organizations working with newly arrived IDPs at Paquitequete Beach in Pemba. During the session, UNHCR seized the occasion to emphasize the principles of mandatory reporting, confidentiality and survivor-centred approaches as well as key messages regarding adherence to the UN “zero tolerance” policy and that all humanitarian aid services are free of charge.
- UNHCR carried out a mission to Niassa Province from 09-12 November. During the mission, different meetings were organized with relevant government authorities and stakeholders such as the local head of the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC), the Governor of Niassa Province and the Secretary of State. All authorities welcomed UNHCR and requested UNHCR to reinforce its presence in the province in order to support the Government’s response to the IDP emergency influx.
- The relocation of IDPs from the accommodation centres in Namialo to Corrane commenced on 4 November and 48 families have since been relocated. INGC reported that 250 families have been relocated from Namialo to Corrane as of 22 November. During the official opening of the centre, UNHCR was present and took the opportunity to talk with families that arrived at the site the day before the official opening. UNHCR also assessed the conditions and services in the relocation site.
- UNHCR donated shelter materials (300 bamboos, 150 stakes, 10 kg of burnt wire and 200 metres of rope) to the INGC to set up a reception structure for new arrivals at Paquitequete Beach. UNHCR also advised on crowd management and queue formation including fast-track for people with specific needs.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR donated 850 cloth face masks made by refugees in Nampula to the Provincial Department of the Ministry of Gender, Child Protection and Social Affairs in Cabo Delgado. The Provincial authorities distributed them to IDP and host communities in Pemba and Metuge during COVID-19 prevention sessions.

## 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 13 November 2020, **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 which have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions. Additional financial and operational information is available on the Global Focus website ([reporting.unhcr.org](https://reporting.unhcr.org)).

### CONTACTS

- Samuel Chakwera, UNHCR Representative, Maputo, Mozambique, [chakwera@unhcr.org](mailto:chakwera@unhcr.org)
- Francesca Fontanini, UNHCR Senior External Relations Officer, Maputo, Mozambique, [fontanin@unhcr.org](mailto:fontanin@unhcr.org)