

## Mozambique

Mozambique hosts more than **29,000** refugees and asylum-seekers, while more than one million people remain displaced internally due to violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups and the devastating impacts of climate change, including cyclical extreme weather events. Mozambique is among the most adversely affected countries globally by climate related hazards such as cyclones, tropical storms, floods and drought. Over **736,000** people have been impacted by **Cyclone Gombe** alone and nearly **130,000** people were displaced as a result.

UNHCR scales up its multi-actor approach to **climate action** into regular programming and partnerships, working closely with a range of stakeholders, including the Government, humanitarian and development actors to ensure that the protection and participation of forcibly displaced people and their hosts are at the centre of anticipation, preparedness and response, both regarding humanitarian life-saving action and when building solutions and resilience for future shocks.

Displaced populations are disproportionately exposed and vulnerable to climate-related shocks. UNHCR supports the **inclusion of all refugees and IDPs in national services and systems**, including in national data systems and climate related contingency planning and responses. At the same time, UNHCR is scaling-up its engagement with development and peace-building actors to ultimately achieve the inclusion of displaced populations, including IDPs and refugees through the expansion of their respective programming.

### KEY FIGURES

**736,015** people affected in Nampula and Zambezia provinces by Tropical Cyclone Gombe, including **63** deaths\*

**129,327** people displaced internally in central Mozambique due to the impact of extreme weather events, including cyclones and heavy rains\*\*

**141,854** houses partially or totally destroyed due to Cyclone Gombe, along with **69** health centres, **21** water systems, **2,265** classrooms, **91,177** hectares of crops, and **1.24** km of roads\*

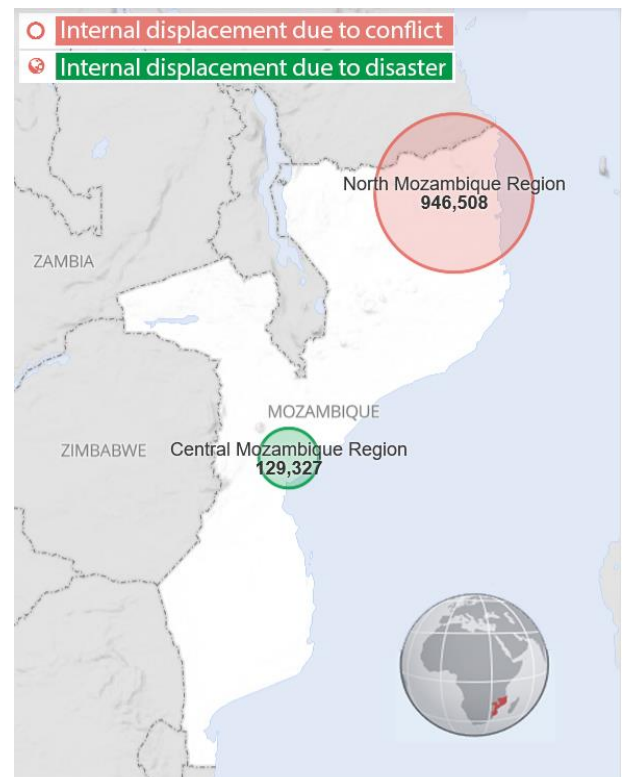
**80%** of refugees and asylum-seekers living in Maratane Refugee Settlement were in urgent need of safe shelter following Cyclone Gombe\*\*

**62,866** people benefitting from core relief items and shelter support from UNHCR and partners

**9,626** people supported in obtaining legal documentation lost during displacement

**18** local community committees for disaster risk reduction trained, enhancing resilience of communities

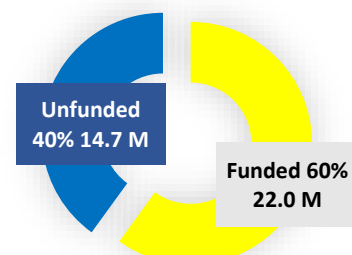
\* Tropical Cyclone Gombe Flash Update No.6, March 2022, UNOCHA  
 \*\* According to UNHCR data



## USD 36.7 M

requested for Mozambique operation in 2022

**FUNDING (as of 18 Oct. 2022)**



## Overview: Climate action and response

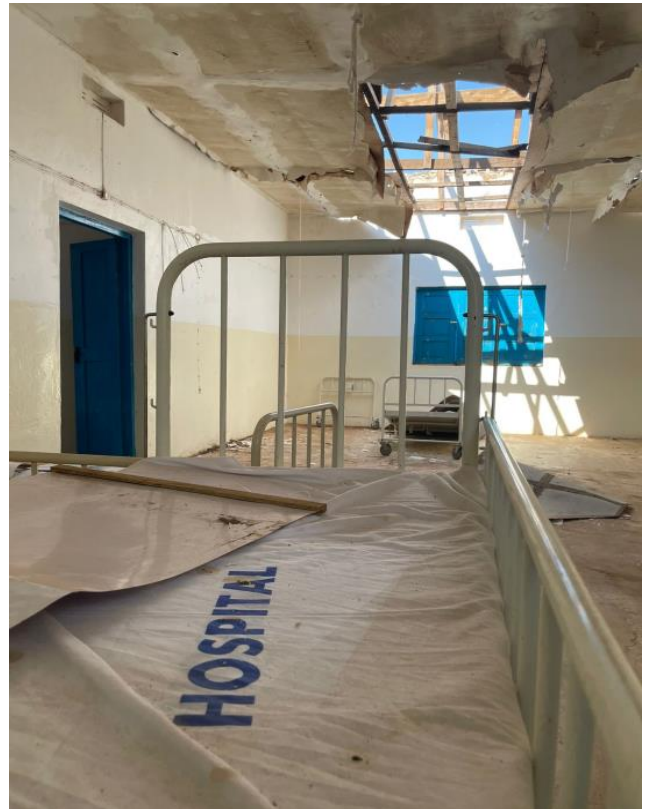
The climate crisis is amplifying vulnerability, driving displacement and making life harder for those forced to flee. While these populations are disproportionately exposed and vulnerable to climate-related shocks, they often have the fewest resources and support to adapt in the face of an increasingly hostile environment. As sustainable development goal 13 – **take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts** – gains steam globally, UNHCR is making concerted efforts to ensure that **no one is left behind** by the devastating effects of the climate crisis.

### Preparedness and contingency planning

- Collective preparedness is a life-saving and operational necessity for an effective response when a disaster hits. In addition to addressing current needs, UNHCR maintains a **contingency stock of 5,500 core relief items (CRIs)**, with the capacity to reach around 30,000 people, in a strategically located warehouse in Nampula province. This enables a quick local response in the event of disaster such as cyclones.
- Through concerted advocacy efforts with the National Disasters Management Institute (INGD) at provincial level, UNHCR achieved the **inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in government contingency planning**, ensuring that these groups are represented in official data and subsequent national responses.
- UNHCR and partners support the INGD in **the operationalization of the Policy and Strategy for the Management of Displaced People** by implementing a three-year Action Plan focused on mobilizing and fostering collaboration among government bodies and key stakeholders in the adoption of disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures, responding to emergencies and disasters, and ensuring **protection and assistance to people displaced across the country**.

### Shelter, infrastructure and core relief items (CRIs)

- When disaster strikes, such as Cyclone Gombe in March 2022, shelters and basic household items are often quickly destroyed or lost. UNHCR supports refugees and IDPs with shelter, core relief items such as blankets, kitchen sets, water buckets and solar lights, and the rebuilding of critical infrastructure to enable people to get back on their feet quickly. So far in 2022, **51,406** people, including those affected by conflict and extreme weather events, have benefitted from **CRI support** from UNHCR and partners.
- UNHCR's **shelter programme uses locally sourced materials to build durable and resilient shelters**, while embedding a training component, ensuring that communities are able to replicate designs and undertake repairs as needed. Following Cyclone Gombe, UNHCR and partners carried out an assessment to determine the extent of shelter damage. In 2022, UNHCR is providing **shelter repair kits to 6,560 refugees and IDPs** (1,312 families) whose shelter had been damaged during Cyclone Gombe. Shelter repair kits consist of items such as timber, nails, bamboo and wooden poles, door and window latches and hinges, and padlocks. In addition, UNHCR and partners are constructing **980 durable and resilient shelters** in Maratane and Corrane, to benefit **4,900 people**.
- Cyclone Gombe destroyed **key infrastructure** in central Mozambique, including schools, roads and health facilities. In Maratane, UNHCR is rebuilding five classrooms to ensure adequate learning spaces for students, rehabilitating a livelihoods skill centre, a food distribution centre and a tuberculosis and psychiatric room in the hospital, constructing one transit centre and repairing four warehouses. In Corrane, UNHCR is rehabilitating a maternity facility at the district hospital.



*Hospital near Corrane IDP settlement destroyed during Cyclone Gombe Photo: UNHCR/Annasophia Heintze*

### Legal and civil documentation

- When fleeing conflict or disaster, people often leave everything behind. This includes legal and civil documentation, which is critical to be able to access services and humanitarian assistance. UNHCR and partners support IDPs and refugees obtain documents, including those lost during displacement.
- In 2022, UNHCR, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior has supported **9,626 people obtain legal documentation**.

### Capacity development and community engagement in disaster risk reduction

- Communities play a critical role in disaster risk reduction efforts. In 2022, UNHCR, in cooperation with INGD, is providing training to **18 local community groups**, comprised of around 15-20 people per group, on disaster risk reduction, protection mainstreaming, and identifying vulnerable groups. Local community groups are instrumental in disseminating key messages on prevention and mitigation measure in the face of disasters.
- At the request of the Government, in 2022, UNHCR provided **150 protection training sessions to technical experts** from the Government to ensure that protection considerations were mainstreamed in disaster risk reduction responses. In 2023, additional trainings are envisaged.
- UNHCR is working with INGD to **mainstream protection** in their manual for disaster risk reduction training, adding a dedicated protection annex to the manual.

### Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- Cyclical extreme weather events destroy crops every year. To mitigate the impact this has on peoples' food security and income, UNHCR works with development actors, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), to increase **climate-smart farming practices** and further **diversification of job opportunities**. Working closely with the national technical and vocational education training institute (IFPELAC), UNHCR and partners offer a range of trainings and certifications beyond the agricultural sector.
- In response to people affected by extreme weather events, UNHCR provided 435 smallholder farmers in Maratane and surrounding areas with **agricultural kits to restore livelihoods**. In addition, 22 farmer associations have received support including tools, equipment, seeds and fertilizers.



*IDP woman reaping vegetables in the drops around her house in Corrane IDP site, Photo: UNHCR*

### Coordination

- UNHCR, as a member of the UN Country Team in Mozambique, contributes to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#) (UNSDCF) by supporting the inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs in all planning and response. For example, the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs are reflected throughout the Common Country Assessment. UNHCR is an active member of all four Strategic Priority Groups, including **SP3 on climate resilience and sustainable use of natural resources**, which is reflected in UNHCR's programme. UNHCR contributes specifically through its institutional expertise on protection and forced displacement, extensive field presence on the ground and close engagement with communities.
- In Mozambique, UNHCR leads the **Protection Cluster**. Through a dedicated coordination capacity, the Cluster can leverage the presence of national and international partners to ensure protection remains central in both preparedness and response. The Protection Cluster has prepared and shared **robust messaging**, for example, preparedness messaging prior to cyclone landfall has been projected on the radio and disseminated among communities. The Protection Cluster has led **protection mainstreaming trainings** with authorities and developed a **rapid tool** to identify basic elements that can be improved on the spot in transit centres. In addition, the Protection Cluster has been instrumental in keeping relevant stakeholders, including authorities and donors, informed on protection risks identified on the ground through briefings and various flash reports. Please see [here](#) for more information on climate induced displacement.



## Southern Africa Regional Roundtable: A people-centred approach to preparedness and responses in climate emergencies

- On 4 November 2022, UNHCR and the National Disasters Management Institute (INGD) co-hosted a [Southern Africa regional roundtable](#) in Nampula, Mozambique. The roundtable included participants from the Government, refugee and IDP communities, humanitarian and development actors as well as international and civil society organizations to discuss the nexus between emergency preparedness and response to climate-related hazards, forced displacement and development in Mozambique. The roundtable was an opportunity to [share experiences and lessons learned with other countries in the region facing similar challenges as Mozambique](#) and identify opportunities to broaden and deepen cooperation between humanitarian and development actors, as well as host countries, towards facilitating a more resilient climate emergency preparedness and response.
- Several [key messages](#) reverberated throughout the event.
  - ❖ The importance of adopting a [people-centred approach](#) at all stages of anticipation, preparation and response to the climate crisis.
  - ❖ The necessity of including forcibly displaced communities so as to “[leave no one behind, and reach those most left behind first](#),” appreciating the role and contribution of forcibly displaced communities as champions to the response.
  - ❖ The [critical role women play](#) in the response to the climate crisis.
- Best practices and recommendations shared during the event will be taken up by UNHCR’s Special Advisor on Climate Action at the COP27 in Egypt as well as at the [UNHCR Global High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#) in Geneva in December 2022. This year’s Global Dialogue will focus on the theme of development cooperation aimed at advancing protection, inclusion and solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless persons as well as host communities.



Secretary of State for Nampula, Mr. Mety Gondola, and UNHCR’s Special Advisor on Climate Action, Mr. Andrew Harper, addressing participants during the roundtable on a people-centred approach in climate emergencies in Nampula on 4 November 2022. Photo: UNHCR/Damien Mc Sweeney

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

African Development Bank Group | Belgium | Canada | CERF | Denmark | France | Germany | Giuliana Lagetto | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America | Vodafone Foundation

#### Contacts

Damien Mc Sweeney, Senior External Relations Officer, [mcsweene@unhcr.org](mailto:mcsweene@unhcr.org), UNHCR, Maputo, Mozambique  
 Stephanie Ferry, External Relations Officer, [ferry@unhcr.org](mailto:ferry@unhcr.org), UNHCR, Maputo, Mozambique

#### For more information on UNHCR’s programme in Mozambique:

[UNHCR Mozambique Operational Data Portal](#) | [Protection Cluster - Mozambique](#) | [Global Focus](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Reliefweb](#)