

Community-Based Protection Response

Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique

UNHCR's protection response **supports** the government **with services and assistance** for **displaced people and host communities** while simultaneously **strengthening and empowering** community structures. UNHCR conducts **regular protection monitoring**

exercises to assess the main needs of displaced families and those hosting them **to plan interventions.** In October, **UNHCR and partner Caritas surveyed 1,500** families, out of which over 300 reported protection incidents, complaints, or vulnerabilities requiring follow-up.

Additional funding is urgently required to scale-up protection activities to address the urgent needs of displaced and host communities in the **short, medium, and long-term**, particularly groups and persons with heightened vulnerabilities.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS - OCTOBER 2021

 **745,000** displaced people in northern Mozambique

 **52** per cent of those displaced are children and **27** per cent are women

 **10,395** Mozambican asylum seekers forcibly returned/*refouled* from Tanzania in 2021

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS JANUARY – OCTOBER 2021

 **13,032** people from displaced and host communities received legal assistance, of which **6,162** received civil documentation

 **230** youth engaged in human rights education and recreational activities

 **84** assistance devices distributed to people with disabilities

 **140** Protection Focal Points trained and selected to receive training.



Newly trained Protection Focal Points in Pemba District
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UNHCR and partners work together with Protection Focal Points (PFPs) to disseminate protection messages and support and refer people with heightened vulnerabilities to services and assistance, such as unaccompanied and separated children, GBV survivors, people with disabilities, the elderly, and separated families.

In October, UNHCR and partners provided training on protection and GBV core concepts, referral mechanisms, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to 43 newly selected PFPs from displaced and host communities in the districts of Metuge and Pemba.

"My main motivation to be a PFP is to gain experience in protection and to be an active key player in making a difference in my community and help those in dire need"

- a newly trained PFP after completing induction

Overview

Violence in Cabo Delgado erupted in 2017, creating a massive protection crisis.

Displaced people and host communities are exposed to multiple risks and in urgent need of protection and humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR's protection monitoring reports indicate that displaced families experienced and/or witnessed multiple protection incidents and faced various traumatic risks before, during and after fleeing violence, including killings, separation of families, kidnapping, child recruitment, extortion, rape and other forms of gender-based violence.

The most vulnerable people are unaccompanied and separated children; the elderly; persons with disabilities and medical conditions; survivors of torture and abuse, including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Tensions between host communities and IDP populations have increased due to limited resources available, such as land, water, food and shelter.



Photo: displaced family in Montepuez District, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

It is urgent to ensure an adequate response that addresses the immediate, medium, and long-term needs of families forced to flee so they live in dignity and are protected from exploitation, discrimination and abuse. It is equally important to support communities hosting them to ensure social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

UNHCR's Community Based Protection (CBP) strategy

UNHCR works together with partners *Association of International Voluntary Service (AVSI)*, *Caritas*, *HelpCode*, *Humanity and Inclusion*, and *UCM*, as well as local authorities, Protection Focal Points, displaced and host communities, UN agencies, NGOs and different coordination clusters to address the needs of families forced to flee and those hosting them. The main components of UNHCR's CBP strategy consist of:

1. **Expanding and strengthening UNHCR's protection presence**, including in hard-to-reach areas, through regular protection monitoring, assessments, case management and referrals.
2. **Strengthening data and information management** in areas of general legal protection; child and youth protection; protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities; and prevention of statelessness.
3. **Facilitating access to documentation** through the UNHCR/UCM mobile legal clinics; public legal education; and through awareness campaign/information dissemination on the importance of civil documentation.
4. **Strengthening community-based protection** through community engagement; establishing community-based structures, and implementing feedback and response mechanisms.
5. **Implementing community-based targeted approaches** to enhance the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, youth, and persons with disabilities.
6. **Enhancing partnerships and coordination mechanisms** with displaced and host communities, local authorities, UN, NGOs, and civil society.

Gaps and Challenges

- ⌚ **Limited capacity of existing services to assist vulnerable groups** such as unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, older persons, and GBV survivors.
- ⌚ **Limited presence** of experienced **protection organizations** in Cabo Delgado.
- ⌚ **Reduced funding** available to scale-up protection activities.
- ⌚ **Volatile security situation and inability to access hard-to-reach areas** with ongoing military operations in areas hosting vulnerable displaced communities.
- ⌚ **Challenges in deploying international staff** to Cabo Delgado related to visa/migration processes.



UNHCR and partners work together with displaced and host communities to strengthen community-based responses and identify those in need of urgent support and ensure effective assistance to all those in need.

This includes the provision of tailored training to local authorities, community and religious leaders, and Protection Focal Points, to empower and involve them in finding solutions themselves.

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Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for earmarked donor contributions to the Mozambique Operation

Denmark | European Union | France | Sweden | United States of America

UNHCR is also grateful for unearmarked donor contributions

Belgium | Canada | Germany | Ireland | Norway | Netherlands | Private donors | Switzerland | Spain

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