

Cabo Delgado Situation

2 – 15 April 2021

As of 15 April, **over 20,000¹ people from Palma are forcibly displaced**, in the aftermath of Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) attacks on 24 March. They fled to the districts of Nangade, Mueda, Montepuez and Pemba by land, foot, air and sea.

This is in addition to the nearly **700,000 already displaced in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala and Zambezia** as a result of violence and insecurity in Cabo Delgado.

UNHCR received reports that **several families from Palma attempted to seek asylum in Tanzania due to the proximity to the border and were forcibly returned to Mozambique.**

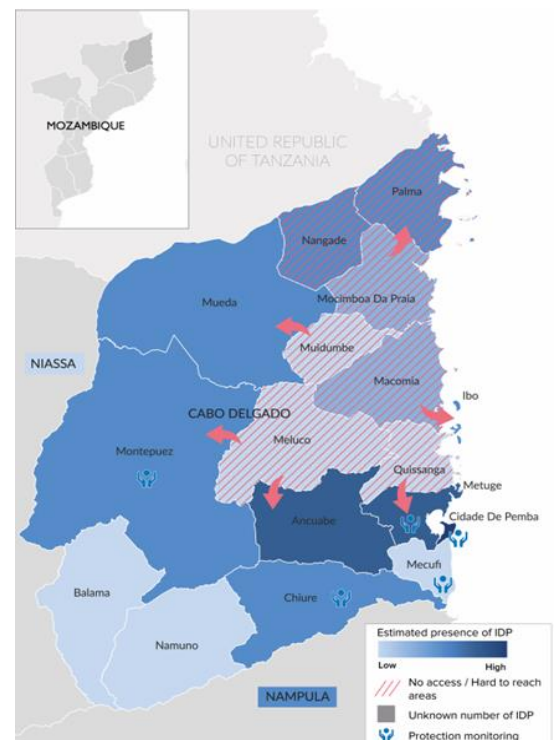
Situation update

- **Displacement trends following attacks in Palma, Cabo Delgado:**

Displaced families are fleeing to the districts of Mueda (33 per cent), Nangade (26 per cent), Pemba (19 per cent), Montepuez (17 per cent), and Chiure (3 per cent), and the majority (74 per cent) are hosted by local communities. Within this recent displacement, 43 per cent are children and 262 unaccompanied children have been identified as of 15 April. (Source: IOM/DMT)

- **Reports of several families from Palma attempting to seek asylum in Tanzania due to the proximity to the border:**

UNHCR was informed that over 1,000 Mozambican asylum seekers crossed the border to Tanzania and were forcibly returned to Mozambique through the border point in Negomano. UNHCR urges neighbouring countries to respect the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees and the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Follow up missions to assess the situation of forcibly returned Mozambicans are currently ongoing, as well as advocacy efforts with the local authorities in both countries.



Response update

¹ IOM Disaster Tracking Matrix (DTM) ETT Report: No. 54/ 27 March - 15 April 2021 17:00h



Maria (in yellow) was separated from her husband and father following the attacks in Palma and is currently accommodated with her daughters at the temporary center in Pemba. Maria is volunteering at the center to assist the identification of vulnerable women and refer them to follow up services and assistance ([find out more about Maria's story in this article and video](#)).

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■ **Coordination assistance in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR ensured coordination between service providers at the seaport, airport and temporary centers, including the transportation and registration of displaced families; the distribution of food and Core Relief Items (CRIs); and the provision of tents for protection services such as mental health and psychosocial support. UNHCR is also coordinating the protection and service delivery response at the sports center and the school that are currently being used as temporary centers. Those coordination efforts aim at identifying gaps, improving coverage of essential services, avoiding duplication, and establishing referral pathways between different service providers for vulnerable cases. The people temporarily hosted at the transit center represent a reduced portion of the over 3,000 people who arrived in Pemba from Palma, as these families did not have friends nor relatives in town to stay with upon arrival. The numbers of displaced people hosted at the center fluctuated and reached a maximum of 250 individuals, majority women and children. Most have been relocated to other districts or provinces where they had family members or friends. As of 15 April, some 100 people are still living at the centre.

■ **Distribution of CRIs in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** As of 15 April, UNHCR distributed sleeping mats and blankets to over 150 families arriving in Pemba without family or relatives in the city and accommodated in temporary centers.

■ **Community Engagement and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR established a Community Engagement Group (CEG) at the transit center composed of internally displaced persons (five women and five men) to improve the provision of information, awareness messages, community consultations, and involve the community in the management of essential services' provision and safety of the center. The CEG is regularly liaising with UNHCR and each member of the group acts as focal point for different sectors such as protection, child protection, gender-based violence, health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

- **Women’s day activity in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** on 7 April, UNHCR conducted activities for women and adolescent girls at the transit y center to celebrate the Women’s Day in Mozambique. UNHCR distributed *capulanas* (Mozambican traditional cloth) to 90 women and girls and conducted recreational activities (beauty and crafts) at UNHCR’s protection tent.
- **Roll out of new Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) materials at Transit Center in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** On 8 April, UNHCR rolled out new PSEA awareness materials at the transit center in Pemba. The materials were designed along with displaced families hosted at the center and are focused on key PSEA messages, particularly regarding sexual favours in exchange of humanitarian assistance and services, and on the policies against sexual relations with children and sex workers. The new tools also include different SEA reporting mechanisms, such as the *Linha Verde* or *Fala Criança* hotlines (child friendly reporting lines).
- **Emergency Protection Response in Montepuez District, Cabo Delgado:** As of 15 April, Montepuez is hosting over 3,300 IDPs from Palma, in addition to close to 65,500 as of February 2021. During the three-day mission to Montepuez, UNHCR: **(i) established a referral pathway system** to be used by humanitarian organizations and government services for rapid case referral of protection cases including GBV survivors, unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, elderly, and separated families; **(ii) delivered an Emergency Protection and Case Referral Training** to 25 staff) from humanitarian organizations and local government to improve coordination between protection services responding on the ground and improving access to services; **(iii) coordinated the protection response** with different organizations part of the Protection Cluster, which resulted in the identification and referral of ten protection cases, including unaccompanied and separated children, severe health concerns, persons with disabilities and in need of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); **(iv) met with ten Protection Focal Points** working in different IDP sites in Montepuez to discuss the needs of new arrivals from Palma and share PSEA Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to improve access to reporting mechanisms and mitigate SEA risks; and **(v) conducted a rapid protection needs assessment in Ntele IDP site**, where there is limited assistance available and reduced response capacity to new arrivals, especially to vulnerable individuals, exposing them to protection risks, including Gender Based Violence and SEA, as several families do not have shelter and are sleeping on open air. In Ntele, UNHCR observed a large number of persons with disabilities in urgent need of assistance, cases of unaccompanied and separated children, and significant MHPSS needs due to conflict-related trauma.
- **Protection risks and concerns of displaced families in Cabo Delgado:** With the suspension of organized evacuations by air and sea from Palma since 2 April, thousands of families who remain in Palma and neighbouring districts are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR is concerned with reports of families prevented from seeking asylum and/or being forcibly returned from Tanzania and urges neighbouring countries to respect access to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. For displaced families arriving in Pemba and Montepuez, the main protection concerns are related to (i) individuals without support networks of relatives/friends to assist them; (ii) the separation of families during large screenings at the port; (iii) adequate identification and assistance to unaccompanied and separated children; (iv) underreported and limited identification of survivors of Gender Based Violence; (v) individuals with heightened vulnerabilities, disabilities, health conditions, and trauma; (vi) vulnerable population groups such as single women head of household, pregnant women, and the elderly; and (vii) potential risks of SEA.
- **Protection Desks in Ntocota and Ngalane sites in Metuge District, Cabo Delgado:** On 9 April, UNHCR conducted community consultations in Ntocota and Ngalane to obtain feedback and inputs of different community members regarding the structural design, activities, service provision and location of UNHCR

Protection Desks. The community feedback was obtained through four separate focus group discussions with a total of 31 people in each site (women and adolescent boys' and girls' groups). The consultations included interactive activities such as community clocks to map different groups and assess their availability to participate in activities; ranking information and topics for discussions and sessions; reviewing potential activities in protection desks; and discussing potential barriers in accessing protection services.

- **Joint protection monitoring exercise in Memba district, Nampula:** From 5 to 7 April, UNHCR, jointly with the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD acronym in Portuguese), conducted a protection monitoring exercise to Memba to monitor the situation of displaced communities and visit the planned relocation sites in the district. As of April 2021, there are a total of 9,270 IDPs in Memba district - all are living with host community families. Meanwhile, the Government identified two relocation sites. UNHCR recommended conducting an intentions survey prior to the relocation of IDPs to ensure that relocations are voluntary, as well as delivering trainings and capacity building sessions targeting the local authorities on the areas of protection and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM). Both recommendations were welcomed by the administrator and are expected to be rolled out soon.
- **Disability Inclusion Working Group (DIWG), Cabo Delgado:** on 13 April, the DIWG, under the Protection Cluster, held its first meeting to develop the DIWG strategy for 2021 and the identification of disability focal points in different districts in Cabo Delgado. The DIWG is composed by organizations that are part of the Protection Cluster and other sectors such as shelter, CCCM, and Health.

Working in partnership

As Protection Cluster lead in Mozambique, UNHCR has built up its presence in both Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces to strengthen coordination of Protection interventions, as well as participating in inter-agency efforts with UN partners, international and local organizations in support of the government's response to the IDP situation. **UNHCR co-leads the Community Engagement/ Accountability to Affected Populations (CE/AAP) Working Group**, and has been collaborating with other humanitarian actors to improve effective case referrals via the interagency helpline *Linha Verde*, and to ensure compliance with the principles of data protection and confidentiality when handling complaints and feedback. **As main lead of Cabo Delgado's Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network**, UNHCR has been strengthening SEA complaints mechanisms and reporting across organizations, as well as ensuring common messaging and capacity building for prevention purposes.

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 February 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\$ 4.5 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. **In addition to that, the Mozambique operation's 2021 overall financial requirements are critically underfunded, with only 12% funded as of 6 April.**

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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