



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



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Mozambique: Urgent funding requirements

Cabo Delgado Situation 2020 – 2021

November 2020



ESTIMATED
355,000
PEOPLE INTERNALLY
DISPLACED
(Source: DTM)



UNHCR WILL REACH
300,000
PEOPLE WITH
PROTECTION AND
RELIEF ITEMS



UNHCR REQUIRES
\$19.2 M
FOR THE RESPONSE
IN NORTHERN
MOZAMBIQUE IN
2020-2021

Overview

The violent insurgency that began in October 2017 in Cabo Delgado, the north-eastern province of Mozambique, has affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. More than 2,000 civilians have been killed and an estimated 355,000 people have been displaced from their homes and communities. The situation has intensified in recent months, with increased attacks by non-state armed groups claiming affiliation with the Islamic State, along with a scale-up of the Government's military response. UNHCR is deeply concerned by the violence and other acts committed against civilians, particularly against women and children, who account for most internally displaced people (IDPs) in the country.

IDPs have largely fled to urban areas within Cabo Delgado or to neighbouring provinces in northern Mozambique, namely Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia, where most stay with relatives and friends. Others have sought safety in the bush, while a significant number have remained in affected areas of Cabo Delgado due to vulnerabilities. This includes older people and people with physical disabilities who cannot travel, or those who do not have alternative places to stay or lack funds to move elsewhere. As the situation intensifies, UNHCR has stepped-up its response in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces, with a focus on protection activities and distribution of relief items to the most vulnerable.

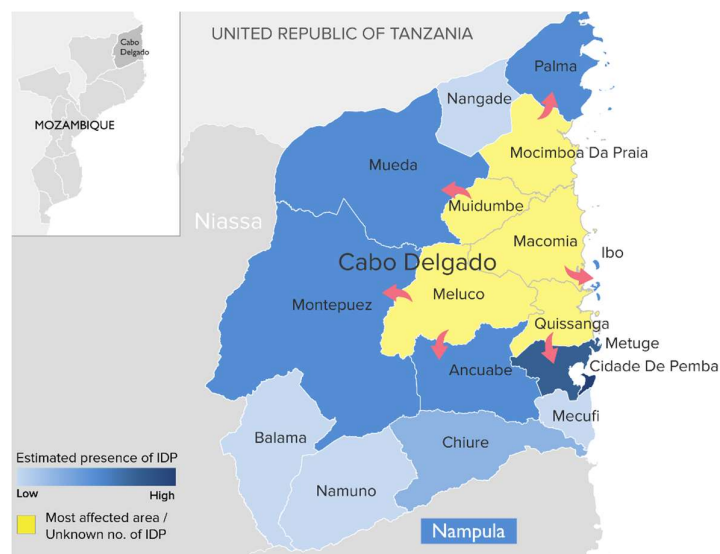
Timely support is vital

The situation in Cabo Delgado is a **protection crisis**, with widespread reports of human rights abuses. Violence has directly targeted civilians, who have been killed and maimed, had houses looted and burned, and had agricultural land destroyed. People have been chased from their homes with few possessions – in most cases without basic identity documents. Women and girls have been abducted, forced into marriage, raped, and subjected to other forms of sexual violence – highlighted by the increase in teenage pregnancies in the affected districts, as well as by concerning reports of forced marriages. There are also reports of children being forcibly recruited into armed groups.

As the conflict intensifies, there is a trend of multiple displacements, whereby families who fled their homes, walking for many days, face new attacks and violence in the places they had sought safety. This has resulted in a growing number of IDPs arriving in neighbouring provinces such as Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia. IDPs have also tried to seek safety on islands off the coast of Cabo Delgado but have faced attacks and other dangers along the way and remain in precarious situations. The devastation in Cabo Delgado has been vast. Over 3,000 structures, primarily homes, but also shops, banks, infrastructure and public facilities have been looted, damaged or destroyed. An estimated 90 percent of IDPs are hosted by relatives or friends.

Many communities hosting IDPs are still recovering from the aftermath of Cyclone Kenneth in April 2019 and have limited resources to share. There are issues of overcrowding, as sometimes 20 to 30 people share one common space, creating health concerns particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the capacity of local authorities to receive and host displaced people is limited, noting as well that approximately 52 per cent of registered refugees and asylum-seekers in Mozambique reside in the areas now affected by conflict and internal displacement. Three years since the first reported attack, there is little indication of a change to the trend of violence and displacement, and the need to host IDPs will persist and grow, amidst a scarcity of resources.

In this context, there is a need for increased monitoring and further action to address the many protection and human rights concerns. This includes scale-up of case management, support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and provision of psychosocial support to victims of trauma. Core relief items (CRIs) including shelter support are also a high priority to ensure safety and reduce protection risks for displaced people and families.



“We walked for two days, without anything to eat, asking for help wherever we stopped. Sometimes we had to run because we were too afraid to get caught in new attacks.”

40-year old woman who fled attacks in Mocimboa da Paria with her husband, children and grandchildren.

UNHCR is responding to the emergency

UNHCR has had a continuous operational presence in Cabo Delgado since November 2019, with an office established in Pemba to be closer to affected communities and strengthen delivery of assistance. UNHCR also has a long-established presence in Nampula Province, where the largest number of IDPs outside of Cabo Delgado are hosted. In August 2020, UNHCR declared an internal Level 2 Emergency for Mozambique, resulting in the deployment of additional capacity to meet growing humanitarian needs. Under this expanded programme, **UNHCR is targeting 300,000 people** in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring IDP-hosting provinces with protection and material assistance. This includes IDPs as well as the most impacted members of host communities.

UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster response in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring IDP-hosting provinces and is working with partners to increase humanitarian protection presence in affected areas. This includes establishing networks of Protection Focal Points to identify and map protection needs and to provide appropriate follow-up services. UNHCR is supporting capacity building by rolling out training and new tools to strengthen response to protection issues, especially GBV. Moving forward, UNHCR will continue to lead on protection monitoring, referral and response activities and will reinforce engagement with communities to ensure they are consulted and have a say in plans that impact them. Special attention and efforts will be made to ensure individuals at heightened protection risk, including young children, women, elderly people, people with specific needs and people with disabilities will be supported and will have improved access to protection, assistance and solutions.

UNHCR is also distributing CRIs, so far reaching 6,500 people with plans to assist 30,000 by the end of 2020, including families newly displaced by fresh waves of attacks. CRI assistance includes plastic sheets, tents, sleeping mats, cooking utensils, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, solar lamps and buckets. Since resources are limited, distribution of relief items is closely linked to the protection strategy, where vulnerable individuals and people with specific needs are prioritized for assistance.

As the situation in Cabo Delgado continues to deteriorate, UNHCR is preparing for a longer-term response in northern Mozambique. It is critical that UNHCR receives adequate funding to maintain and further strengthen its work in the interest of displaced people and those affected by the violence.



UNHCR staff distributes core relief items to a displaced woman in Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique. ©UNHCR/ D. de Souza

Financial requirements

UNHCR's new 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, Japan, European Union and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). UNHCR is urgently appealing for additional funds to implement key priorities for its emergency operation in northern Mozambique in 2020 – 2021.

Activities 2020 - 2021	US\$
Provision of core relief items and shelter support	6,095,587
Protection from the effects of armed conflict	947,665
Gender-based violence reduction and response services	690,842
Camp coordination and camp management	856,421
Support to people with specific needs, and people with disabilities	638,466
Child protection services	497,443
Livelihoods support	615,909
Operational costs and staffing*	8,872,169
Total	19,214,502

**NB: The provision of protection services requires significant investment in staffing.*



UNHCR Protection Officer speaks with displaced women in Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique. ©UNHCR/ D. de Souza

The importance of flexible funding

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. They enable 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).

