

Cabo Delgado Situation

03 to 16 February 2021

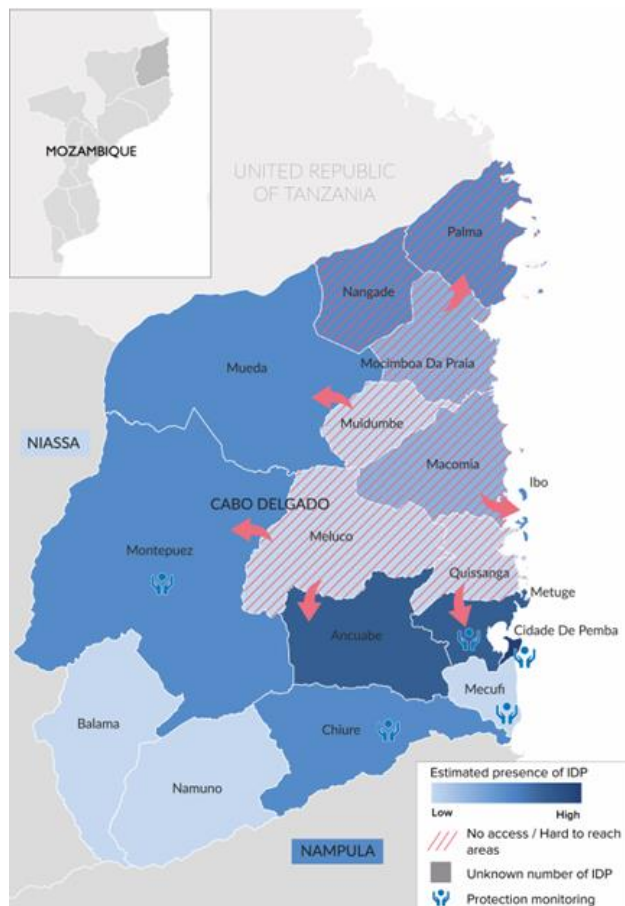
As of 16 February, there are **530,000 internally displaced people (IDPs)** in the Provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa, almost five times the number registered in March 2020.

(Source: OCHA)

In Cabo Delgado, UNHCR operations continue in Pemba, Ancuabe, Chiure, Metuge and Montepuez districts. However, Quissanga, Macomia, Meluco, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe and Nangade remain inaccessible due to conflict and insecurity.

Compared to recent months, **armed attacks conducted by NSAGs reduced in number and intensity during the reporting period.** However, the security situation in Cabo Delgado remains volatile and is not expected to improve significantly in the near future.

Situation update



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

- Cabo Delgado faces an ongoing conflict with extreme violence perpetrated 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. Since then, various instances of serious human rights abuses including arbitrary killings and detentions, kidnappings, human trafficking and violence against children (rape, early marriages) have been recorded across Cabo Delgado Province, particularly in central and northern districts. As of 16 February 2021, an estimated 530,000 individuals have been internally displaced by violence, seeking safety in several parts of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa Provinces.

- UNHCR operations in Cabo Delgado continue in the districts of Pemba, Ancuabe, Chiure, Montepuez and Metuge. The districts of Quissanga, Macomia, Meluco, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe and Nangade remain inaccessible to humanitarians due to the heavy presence of NSAGs and ongoing police/military operations. Other districts of Cabo Delgado such as Ancuabe, Mueda and Palma are accessible despite logistical challenges and unstable security. In Nampula Province, UNHCR operations continue without significant access constraints, although still in the initial stages of the response.

- UNHCR has been continuously working with the government, local authorities and partners, in both Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces, to identify and implement projects that respond to the most pressing

humanitarian needs of IDPs and host communities. UNHCR’s main objectives for 2021 are (i) to identify, mitigate and respond to protection risks of the affected populations; (ii) to support the resilience of affected communities through delivering urgent core-relief items; (iii) to expand community-based protection mechanisms, empowering affected communities to address their own protection concerns; and (iv) to strengthen public institutions’ capacity to respond directly to the needs of IDPs in Cabo Delgado.

Highlights



Adela Santo Samaki, 70 years old, her daughter and granddaughter, and seven other family members fled from Muidumbe district in October 2020. They are currently hosted in Nicuapa Site, in Montepuez. © UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

Security situation: Compared to last months, armed attacks conducted by NSAGs reduced in number and intensity during the reporting period, according to media and government sources. However, the security situation in Cabo Delgado remains volatile and is not expected to improve significantly in the near future. Access to the districts indicated above remains challenging, as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance in hard-to-reach areas, both due to insecurity and ongoing rainy season.

Relocation of IDPs: Areas for the accommodation of IDP families continue to be established in several districts of Cabo Delgado Province by the Government since October 2020, due to crowded situation in urban areas. These sites host families in need who have been relocated from other sites due to tensions with the host communities, poor living conditions, lack of water and hygiene services. Opportunities for local integration have been explored as a durable solution.

Informal sites: New informal sites hosting IDPs have been recently identified, receiving spontaneous new arrivals. UNHCR’s assessments of some of these sites indicate that conditions in these areas are very poor, as compared to

sites receiving support from humanitarian partners and the local government. Major needs include proper shelter, latrines and clean water, as well as services for the most vulnerable.

COVID-19: The increased number of individuals affected by COVID-19 in Mozambique represents a serious threat to IDPs and host communities, especially in overcrowded IDP sites, as well as to the capacity of humanitarian partners to provide effective and timely assistance to affected families.

Rainy season: The ongoing rainy season has negatively impacted the quality of road infrastructure, resulting in challenges for UNHCR and humanitarian actors to reach certain areas, such as Mueda. The rainy season has also impacted IDP families in areas hardest hit by rainfall and flooding, especially in the area of shelter. There is an urgent need of plastic sheets and shelter materials to provide protection.

Needs and gaps

The situation in Cabo Delgado has resulted in both urgent needs for recently displaced IDPs as well as ongoing needs for those affected by the conflict for a longer period. Although new sites have been established by the Government, approximately 90 per cent of displaced populations are still hosted by local families, with the city of Pemba alone hosting 144,000 IDPs, which represents almost half of the population in the provincial capital. UNHCR has been engaging with these communities by providing support to address their immediate needs, and to identify individuals with heightened vulnerabilities and facilitate their access to basic services in the areas of protection, mental health and psychosocial support, education, health, food security, shelter, water, hygiene and sanitation.

Fear of persecution and tensions with host communities in the areas where IDPs are being relocated have also created potential for a volatile protection environment for IDPs in Cabo Delgado and in neighbouring Provinces. Some of the tensions between displaced and host communities are fuelled by scarce availability of resources, including water, therefore, it is critical to assist both displaced and host communities and promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. At present, the reduced operational capacity of humanitarian organizations in Cabo Delgado is a main constraint to the ongoing emergency response as there is a limited number of humanitarian actors operating in the province compared to the unfolding humanitarian crisis. UNHCR continues to scale up protection and shelter activities as well as to identify partners on the ground and to support the local authorities in assisting displaced populations.

Working in partnership

As Protection Cluster lead in Mozambique, UNHCR has been building up its presence in both Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces to strengthen coordination of Protection interventions since November 2019, 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 collaborates 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 the lead of Cabo Delgado 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.

Response update

- **Relocation site:** UNHCR keeps also monitoring several sites where IDPs have been relocated by the Government and continues to advocate for adherence to the guidelines developed by the Protection Cluster to ensure the voluntary nature of the relocation of IDPs, and in dignity and in safety. UNHCR is also advocating for a sustainable integration of IDPs into new areas where they can access basic services.
- **Protection Monitoring exercises in Cabo Delgado:** During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted several protection monitoring exercises in Balama, Metuge, and Montepuez Districts in Cabo Delgado, to assess and identify IDPs protection risks and find ways of addressing these challenges together with local authorities, displaced and host communities, and humanitarian actors. An age, gender and diversity (AGD) focus group discussions (FGD) approach was adopted. The main findings pointed out to limited availability of services and poor conditions in several IDP sites, leading to increasing protection risks, highly congested sites and urgent need for effective and timely distribution of shelter materials (tarpaulins).
- **Legal Support to IDPs in Pemba:** As of 16 February, UNHCR's partner, the Legal Clinic of the Catholic University of Mozambique, provided legal counselling and support in accessing documentation, including birth certificates and IDs to some 8,000 IDPs in Pemba who lost their documents while fleeing violence within Cabo Delgado, or never had documentation in the first place.
- **GBV Service Mapping in Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR conducted a GBV service mapping of the existing government health and police services in the city. The service mapping aims to assess the quality of services, capacity building needs and to establish referral pathways to these essential services for GBV cases identified by UNHCR and partners.
- **Exploring livelihoods opportunities for women in Cabo Delgado:** during a Focus Group Discussion (FDG) with ten (10) women from both the IDP and host community in Pemba, UNHCR took note of livelihoods needs and capacities to develop a joint livelihoods-GBV strategy. The preliminary findings of the FDGs indicate that IDPs require urgent support to reengage in economic opportunities, to promote income generating activities, stimulate their resilience, and prevent survival sex and exploitation and abuse.
- **Distribution of bicycles to Protection Focal Points (PFPs) in Metuge:** UNHCR handed over 12 bicycles to PFPs in Ntokota, Tratará, Saul 2 and Kuaia relocation sites in Metuge district. The distribution of bicycles aims at (i) facilitating the transport of PFPs; (ii) reducing the distance between PFPs and the communities; (iii) dissemination of protection key messages; (iv) and identification and referral of protection cases more efficiently.
- **Monitoring mission to Corrane, Nampula:** A rapid multi-functional monitoring visit took place in Corrane IDP site, the only formal IDP site in the province, where IDPs identified basic needs as their main needs. Majority of them are requesting kitchen sets, sleeping mats and mattresses. The Government indicates there are some 64,000 IDPs hosted in Nampula, out of which 2,484 individuals live in Corrane. The living conditions of most IDPs in Nampula are dire, with most sleeping on wet floor.

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\$ 4.9 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 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 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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