

Cabo Delgado August 2020

250,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cabo Delgado Province since October 2017
(OCHA, July 2020)

6,500 vulnerable IDPs and host community members have received Core Relief Items from UNHCR

UNHCR co-leads the provincial **Protection Cluster** in Cabo Delgado and leads the Protection Working Group in Nampula Province

Situation update

- Attacks by armed groups claiming affiliation with the Islamic State (IS) are impacting a growing number of civilians in northern Mozambique. The affected area, still recovering from the impacts of Cyclone Kenneth in April 2019, and heavy rains in December 2019 and January 2020, is under increasing pressure to support families affected and displaced by the violence.
- Civilians have also been badly affected by targeted destruction of houses and crops, as well as infrastructural damages. Many families have been forced to leave their places of origin with little or no resources, resulting in a need of basic necessities, such as cooking utensils, sleeping mats, shelter supplies and documentation. So far, the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been hosted by relatives and friends in more stable areas.
- UNHCR is deeply concerned by the violence and other violations committed against civilians by armed groups, particularly against women and children, who account for the majority of IDPs. Armed groups are increasingly kidnapping women and children during the attacks, with reported cases of forced marriages. Children, many of whom are at risk of being separated from their relatives on the way to safer areas, are also greatly affected. Psychological trauma due to the experienced violence is also one of the main issues affecting IDPs.
- This context has also contributed to an increasing gap in access to basic services and critical resources in areas of displacement. Humanitarian actors are striving to provide adequate response to the growing needs in a geographical area that has expanded recently with the arrival of IDPs to the neighbouring Nampula and Niassa Provinces. Due to COVID-19, the capacity of the response on the ground has also been limited in terms of activities and staff.
- Access to some of the most affected areas is limited because of insecurity and it is likely to face further restrictions due to the upcoming rainy season (November to April). There has recently been infrastructural damage to some of the roads that lead to the affected districts in the North of Cabo Delgado. These limitations may also reduce accessibility for IDPs to move to safer areas in the South of the province, particularly for those with specific needs.



Map: UNHCR operational presence in Mozambique

Response update

- UNHCR co-leads the provincial Protection Cluster with the Department of Gender, Children and Social Action (DPGCAS), the provincial entity responsible for Protection matters. UNHCR also leads the Protection Working Group in Nampula Province, which was recently activated to address the arrival of IDPs from Cabo Delgado.
- UNHCR has established a Field Unit in Pemba to support the response and it has increased its footprint in the province by working with partners, local government and others.
- UNHCR is distributing Core Relief Items (CRIs) that will assist up to 15,000 of the most vulnerable individuals, including IDPs and members of host communities. The distribution of CRIs has already started as part of a multi-stakeholder response plan, targeting vulnerable IDP and host community families.



UNHCR staff distribute aid to internally displaced persons who have fled to Pemba, the provincial capital, to escape attacks in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province. © UNHCR/Deiliany Souza

- UNHCR has established a partnership with CARE to identify and map the main protection needs among vulnerable populations, as well as to provide specific response to vulnerable cases. This will allow a coordinated and planned response not only for UNHCR, but also for all humanitarian actors working in the response.
- UNHCR and the Protection Cluster have engaged in the multi-sectoral assessment of IDPs and members of the host community in preparation for the possible relocation of approximately 2,000 families in Metuge District; this activity should allow the observance of basic international standards, assuring the informed dignified and voluntary character of the process.
- UNHCR has also directly engaged with a number of partners to develop capacity-building in key protection issues, such as Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and collaborates with other active Clusters in Cabo Delgado to mainstream protection in the IDP response.

Needs and gaps

Protection: The situation is in many ways a protection crisis that requires an intensive overall response. The most pressing issues are violence and violation towards civilians, including kidnapping of women and children by armed groups with reported cases of forced marriage. There are also issues with overcrowding in homes hosting IDPs, which increases vulnerability of IDPs and the risk of abuse, particularly for women and children, resulting in issues such as survival sex and early marriages. It also raises the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Further, a significant number of individuals have remained in the affected areas due to vulnerabilities, such as the elderly and individuals with physical disabilities who may not be able to travel, lack of alternative places to stay or lack of funds to move elsewhere. In this context, there is a need for:

- Increased response capacity to address the many protection issues identified in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces hosting IDPs.
- Strengthened referral mechanisms and available services, as well as developing responses where gaps are identified.

Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Shelter:

- Basic household items are a high priority in order to assist displaced families and host families in need. There is also urgent need for improved housing conditions and basic shelter materials. As many have been sharing homes for an extended period, it is necessary to address this, particularly under COVID-19 situation.

Livelihoods:

- The lack of livelihood opportunities and access to land for farming are key needs, as well as tools and seeds for IDPs who are staying in safer areas.

Partnership

- Many UN agencies and NGOs began operating or increased their activities in Cabo Delgado in the aftermath of Cyclone Kenneth. In its role as Protection Cluster lead in Mozambique, UNHCR has been building up its presence in the North-East of the country to better lead in areas of its responsibility, as well as to participate in inter-agency efforts with UN partners and international and local organizations in support of the government's response for IDPs.

Financial information

UNHCR's current financial requirements of **US\$ 9.7 million** for the Mozambique operation are 52 per cent funded. Financial requirements for the IDP operation in Mozambique may increase as the situation in Cabo Delgado evolves.

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to the Mozambique operation through earmarked and softly earmarked funds, including United States of America (US\$ 2.5 million), Central Emergency Response Fund (US\$ 350,000), Spain (US\$ 230,000), and WFP (US\$ 200,000). From these earmarked contributions, the United States of America has earmarked US\$ 2 million and CERF US\$ 350,000 to UNHCR's IDP response in Cabo Delgado.

UNHCR is also grateful to donors who have provided other softly earmarked funding and unearmarked funding for UNHCR's global programme. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees, the internally displaced, stateless persons and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

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