Northern Mozambique Situation

10 – 25 July 2021

Since January 2021, 10,000 Mozambicans have been refouled from Tanzania.

As of July, according to IOM’s Emergency Tracking Tool some 100,000 people have been on the move from Palma due to ongoing attacks and insecurity fostered by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in that district. IOM’s Data Tracking Mechanism as of April notes 732,000 persons are displaced in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia as a result of violence and armed conflict in Cabo Delgado.

Situation update

- Joint Communique by ACHPR and UNHCR on Mozambique’s displacement crisis and forced returns from Tanzania: After several reports of forced returns of Mozambicans seeking refuge in Tanzania, a Joint Communiqué by the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR), the Special Rapporteur on refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants in Africa, Ms. Maya Sahli Fadel, and UNHCR regarding Mozambique’s displacement crisis and forced returns from Tanzania, was issued on 15 July. The three parties appealed for those fleeing the conflict in Cabo Delgado to have access to territory and asylum as some 10,000 Mozambicans have been refouled from Tanzania since January 2021.

Response update

- UNHCR Representative visits Cabo Delgado, 21–24 July: The UNHCR Representative with the Senior Emergency Coordinator visited Montepuez to observe the distribution of core-relief items (CRIs) at Mirate IDP site and the temporary Protection Desks. The Representative also visited Josina Machel neighbourhood in Pemba city to see UNHCR’s joint legal project with its partner the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM). While in Cabo Delgado, the Representative met with the Provincial Governor; the Provincial Director for Gender, Child and Social Action; Montepuez Administrator; partner staff from Caritas and UCM; OCHA and the acting DHC.

- Joint legal project with UCM in Pemba, Cabo Delgado: In partnership with UCM, as of end-July the mobile legal clinics assisted 13,460 internally displaced persons (4,627 women, 2,801 men, 3,382 girls, and 2,650 boys) from Quissanga, Muidumbe, Macomia and Mocimboa de Praia, who received birth certificates and/or ID cards. The project is to be extended to cover other districts, such as Metuge and Montepuez.
Core-Relief Items Distribution in Montepuez, Cabo Delgado: UNHCR and Caritas distributed CRIs at three IDP sites in Montepuez district over 22-24 July. In total, 1,503 households representing 5,245 individuals received CRIs in Mirate, Mararange and Ujama sites. The household CRI packages contained two blankets, one tarpaulin, a kitchen set, two sleeping mats, one jerry can, one bucket, two mosquito nets and a solar lantern.

UK High Commissioner and Irish Ambassador conduct field visit to Ngalane, Metuge, Cabo Delgado: UNHCR facilitated a visit to Ngalane IDP site in Metuge with the UK High Commissioner and Irish Ambassador on 16 July to showcase the work UNHCR has been leading on the response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). During the visit, the UK High Commissioner and Irish Ambassador observed women Protection Focal Points (PFPs) conducting a PSEA awareness raising session for 57 people (30 women, 15 men, 5 girls and 7 boys), with discussions on PSEA policy, persons of concerns’ rights and how to report cases, including the Linha Verde inter-agency complaints and feedback mechanism.

Training for UNHCR partners in Pemba, Cabo Delgado: UNHCR organized a four-day protection induction training for partners, with 37 partner-agency staff representing CARITAS, Catholic University of Mozambique and CUAMM. Topics covered during the training included UNHCR’s protection mandate, operational context in Cabo Delgado, protection approaches and principles including data protection policy, AAP, child protection, inclusion of persons with disability, GBV core concepts, PSEA and how to report case in line with UNHCR and the PSEA Network guidelines.

Accommodation Site Assessment in Metuge, Cabo Delgado: In coordination with the CCCM Cluster, the Protection Cluster participated in the assessment of three new proposed sites in Metuge District. The new areas (Unidade, Pulo and Milamba) were visited by representatives of different sectors, in coordination with of Metuge-district officials; the final report will assess the conditions in the proposed areas, as well as possible constraints that may limit the endorsement and support from humanitarian actors.

Internally displaced persons receiving legal assistance through the joint legal project between UNHCR and UCM, in Pemba, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Juliana Ghazi
Household shelter assessment at Corrane IDP Site, Nampula: During the reporting period, the shelter unit, in collaboration with INGD, UN-HABITAT and architectural students from Unilurio university undertook a comprehensive household level shelter assessment at Corrane IDP site, which currently hosts 987 families (4,106 individuals). The assessment aimed to profile shelter needs at the site, ahead of the implementation of the transitional shelter activities, targeting approximately 300 households.

Mission to Zambezia province: UNHCR carried out a multi-functional mission to Zambezia province to assess the situation of both refugees and IDPs in Zambezia province over 20-23 July. The team met with the Secretary of State, the Provincial Governor, INGD, and implementing actors, such as CARITAS. UNHCR informed the local authorities about its plans for the province and strategic lines of engagement, such as distribution of CRIs and capacity building, particularly on Protection and CCCM, which were welcomed.

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) as well as the Disability Inclusion Working Groups, collaborating with other humanitarian agencies to improve effective case referrals via the inter-agency helpline *Linha Verde*, and to ensure compliance with the principles of data protection and confidentiality when handling complaints and feedback. As co-lead, with Save the Children, 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. UNHCR’s Shelter and CCCM staff continue to actively support its respective clusters.

Financial information

UNHCR’s financial requirements for the Emergency Response to the Cabo Delgado Situation in 2021 total US$ 24.5 million. As of end of July 2021, only 28 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$ 2.7 million), ECHO (US$ 1.6 million), Sweden ($840,000) and Denmark ($766,800). UNHCR is urgently appealing for additional funds to implement key priorities for its emergency operation in northern Mozambique in 2021. Overall, UNHCR’s refugee and IDP activities in Mozambique are only 55 percent funded as of 21 July.

Flexible financial support greatly facilitates UNHCR capacity to quickly engage its emergency response, bolster neglected or under-resourced crises, and enable the fullest possible implementation of programmes as well as 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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