

# Cabo Delgado Situation

16 January 2020 – 02 February 2021

As of 02 February, there are over **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, 2021)

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

The number of displaced families increases daily due to continuous deterioration of the security situation in Cabo Delgado. Reports indicate **ongoing movement of IDPs from affected areas**, such as Palma and Mocimboa da Praia, to safer areas.

## 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 in March 2020. 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 02 February 2021, some 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 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 the Province of Nampula, there are no

security constraints; however, UNHCR Field office in Nampula still experiences logistical challenges in reaching the IDPs there, as majority of them are being hosted by the host communities. There is only one operational IDP site in Nampula province, the Corrane IDP site. The province of Niassa does not have a permanent presence of UNHCR at the moment and is covered by Field Office Nampula.

- UNHCR continues working with the government, local authorities and with 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

**Security situation:** The continuous deterioration of the security situation in Cabo Delgado has resulted in a daily increase in the number of displaced families. Access to some of the most affected areas remains difficult, either due to poor infrastructure or due to the actions of the NSAGs and police/military operations. Recent reports indicate a continuous movement of individuals to safer areas both within and outside of Cabo Delgado.

**Relocation of IDPs:** Areas for the accommodation of IDP families continue to be established in several districts of Cabo Delgado Province. These sites will accommodate families in need who have been relocated from other sites due to tensions with the host communities, poor accommodation, food insecurity water and hygiene conditions and may provide opportunities for local integration as a durable solution. Meanwhile, approximately 90 per cent of IDPs continue to be hosted by local families.

**Informal sites:** New informal sites hosting IDPs recently identified have been receiving spontaneous new arrivals. UNHCR's assessments of these sites indicate that conditions are very poor, as compared to sites receiving support from humanitarian partners and the local government. Needs in the informal sites include proper shelter, latrines and clean water, as well as services for people with specific needs.

**COVID-19:** The increased number of individuals affected by COVID-19 in Mozambique is a serious threat to IDPs, host communities, and 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 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.

**Cholera cases in Ntocota, Metuge district:** As of 27 January, 23 cases of cholera have been registered in Ntocota, Mecufi District, Cabo Delgado, which led to spontaneous relocation of 60 IDP families to temporary sites in Pemba. UNHCR has been advocating for the importance of ensuring protection mainstreaming in all active clusters in Cabo Delgado, with a specific focus on WASH and Health during the heightened risk of cholera.

## 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. Despite significant focus amongst humanitarian and government assistance programmes on establishing new sites to accommodate IDPs, approximately 90 per cent are still hosted by local families and friends, and more than 100,000 are living in the urban areas of Pemba. UNHCR has been engaging with these communities by providing support for their immediate needs, however there is still much to be

done. For example, identifying individuals with heightened vulnerability and facilitating their access to basic services represents one of the key needs.

Vulnerable and traumatized individuals, including children and victims of gender-based violence, are in particular need of basic services in the areas of education, health, food security, water, hygiene and sanitation. As the situation continues to deteriorate, and families become displaced on a daily basis, UNHCR remains deeply concerned by the situation of people in hard-to-reach areas. Securing humanitarian access to these areas is a top priority in order to ensure assistance reaches those in need.

Key needs and challenges continue to be related to lack of shelter facilities and lack of access to basic services. Fear of persecution and tension with host communities in the areas where IDPs are being relocated has also created potential for a volatile protection environment for IDPs in Cabo Delgado and in neighbouring Provinces. At present, the reduced capacity of humanitarian organizations in Cabo Delgado is a main constraint to the ongoing emergency response. To address this challenge, UNHCR is scaling up protection and shelter activities, identifying partners on the ground and supporting the local authorities in assisting displaced populations.

UNHCR has been monitoring several sites to where IDPs have been relocated by the Government and continuing to advocate for adherence to the guidelines developed by the Protection Cluster to ensure the voluntary nature of the relocation of IDPs, in dignity and in safety. UNHCR is also advocating for a sustainable integration of IDPs into new areas where they can access basic services. During recent visits to Ancuabe and Chiure IDPs sites in Cabo Delgado Province, UNHCR noted several gaps and challenges, including lack of latrines, water and lighting, as well as separation of IDP families. It has also been observed that a high number of women heads of household walk long distances to collect firewood and materials to build shelters. These identified gaps have been shared with respective Cluster Coordinators, for appropriate action.

During a recent field visit to Corrane IDP site, Nampula Province, UNHCR also identified similar needs to the ones observed in IDP sites in Cabo Delgado. Lack of adequate shelter, water points, proper lighting and food has been reported to the Clusters accordingly. Due to the absence of community-based structures in the site, the flow of information is weak, and stakeholders' response lacks the coordination and consultation that allows protection risks being effectively mitigated. UNHCR is liaising with relevant response partners to address the issues identified.

## 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, 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 crisis.

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. Also, 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.

UNHCR has also been strengthening its presence and engagement with other Clusters. UNHCR contributed to the 2021 Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) strategy targeting 530,000 IDPs, ensuring due consideration for site planning, development and maintenance, information management and coordination, site governance, community engagement and capacity building. UNHCR has also joined the Health and WASH Clusters,

bringing to the fore the urgent need to improve health services and WASH conditions in areas hosting IDPs – this is critical in order to mitigate protection risks, for example water shortages resulting in tensions with host communities. In addition, UNHCR has been working together with other partners to scale up child protection activities in Cabo Delgado, mainly in the areas of case management, information management, mental health and psychosocial support for children at risk, civil registration support and access to justice at community level.

## Response update

- Protection Monitoring in Metuge: On 19 January, UNHCR conducted a mission to five different IDP sites in Metuge District: Nuampala, Tratara, Saul 2, Kuaia, and Centro Agrario. The objective of the mission was to understand the intention of some IDPs to return to their places of origin despite the fragile security situation, as well as to monitor and identify protection risks of IDPs relocated to Tratara.
- Protection Focal Points (PFPs): UNHCR continues to work closely with 37 PFPs in Metuge and Chiure, receiving direct feedback on protection risks and challenges faced by IDPs. This is a core component of UNHCR's community-based protection (CBP) strategy in Cabo Delgado. During the past week, PFPs reported that the main challenges faced by IDPs in Nangua and Ngalane were the lack of shelter materials (tarpaulins); exposure to the rainy season; the risk of contracting infectious and communicable diseases such as cholera, malaria, diarrhoea; and food insecurity. A protection monitoring mission to Nangua and Ngalane is scheduled for the coming week to address the ongoing challenges, which currently force IDPs to adopt negative coping mechanisms, including spontaneous movement to different sites, return to areas of origin despite the worsening security situation, and SEA.
- Legal Support to IDPs in Pemba: As of 02 February, UNHCR's partner, the Legal Clinic of Mozambique's Catholic University, provided legal counselling and support for accessing documentation to 7,550 IDPs in Pemba's Josina Machel neighbourhood. The Legal Clinic is following up with the Ministry of Justice about issuing birth certificates to 7,403 IDPs who either lost their documents while fleeing violence within Cabo Delgado, or who never owned documentation. Currently 92 IDPs are waiting for their ID cards to be issued by the Ministry of Interior.

## 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 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](https://reporting.unhcr.org)).

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