

Cabo Delgado Situation

16 February – 3 March 2021

As of end of December here are some **670,000 internally displaced people (IDPs)** in the Provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa, as a result of violence in Cabo Delgado (Source: OCHA, 2021)

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.

The number of displaced families increases daily due to continuous deterioration of the security situation in Cabo Delgado. Security 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: IOM/DTM

■ Since October 2017, Cabo Delgado Province faces an ongoing conflict with extreme violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups (NSAGs). The nature and scope of violence has steadily increased over time with the NSAGs claiming towns, such as Quissanga and Mocimboa da Praia in 2020. Since then, various instances of serious human rights abuses including arbitrary killings and detentions, kidnapping, human trafficking and violence against children (rape, early marriages) have been recorded across the Province, particularly in central and northern districts. According to OCHA, as of 3 March 2021, some 670,000 people have been internally displaced by violence, seeking safety in several parts of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa. Out of this figure, more than 600,000 are internally displaced within Cabo Delgado.

■ UNHCR operation in Cabo Delgado continues 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.

Highlights

COVID-19: It has been challenging to implement COVID-19 preventive measures in Cabo Delgado due to the limited capacity and funding from the government and humanitarian organizations in responding to the growing humanitarian needs. One of the main constraints in preventing COVID-19 cases is the fact that several sites in the

province are currently overcrowded, making physical distance a significant challenge, coupled with the lack of facemasks and limited access to soap and water for handwashing. The Protection, Shelter and NFI, CCCM, WASH, and Health clusters are putting efforts in place to improve the existing IDP sites, including complying with physical distancing, increasing the size of shelters, distributing buckets and Jerry cans, and improving access to water. The same measures are being implemented in the relocation sites being currently developed across Cabo Delgado Province in coordination with the local authorities. Displaced and host communities, as well as the local authorities, continue requesting additional support in COVID-19 prevention and response activities in light of the growing cases registered in Mozambique and particularly in Cabo Delgado.

Rainy season: The ongoing rainy season continues to impact the quality of road infrastructure, resulting in challenges for humanitarian actors to reach certain areas, such as Mueda. IDP families have been also hardest hit by rainfall and flooding, particularly in the Districts of Chiure, Metuge, Pemba, which host over to 290,000 IDPs. Moreover, the rainy season also represents additional challenges in the areas of shelter and health, and there is an urgent need of plastic sheets and other shelter materials to provide protection from the heavy rains experienced in the first two weeks of February.

Needs and gaps

Key needs and challenges faced by IDPs and host communities in relocation sites continue to be related to lack of shelter facilities and access to basic services. Vulnerable and traumatized individuals, including children and survivors of gender-based violence, are in particular need of basic services in the areas of protection, mental health and psychosocial support, education, health, food security, water, hygiene and sanitation.

As the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, UNHCR remains deeply concerned by the situation of displaced communities in hard-to-reach areas. Securing humanitarian access to these areas is a top priority in order to ensure assistance reaches those in need. Other than that, UNHCR has been scaling up protection and shelter activities, as well as identifying new partners and supporting local authorities to effectively deliver the assistance that persons of concern need.

During recent protection monitoring missions to Balama, Chiure, Metuge, and Montepuez Districts in Cabo Delgado Province, UNHCR noted several gaps and challenges, such as the need to provide mental health services and safe spaces for women and children; assist in the reunification of separated families; stimulate livelihoods activities as part of recovery processes; food insecurity; and lack of shelter materials, latrines, water and lighting. These gaps will be addressed within Cluster framework for appropriate action. During a recent field visit to Corane IDP site, Nampula Province, UNHCR identified similar needs and same approach will be implemented to find solutions.

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) 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. As main lead 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 has been strengthening its presence and engagement with other Clusters. UNHCR contributed to the 2021 Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) strategy targeting 600,000 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 IDP hosting areas– 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



Veronica, 30 years-old, fled from violence in Muidumbe and currently hosted in Mapupulo IDP site in Cabo Delgado. *"The biggest challenge for girls is early marriage. Once they marry young, they don't go to school and become fully dependent on their husbands. When we identify such cases in the community, we try to persuade girls to wait until they grow up and encourage them to complete their studies instead".* ©UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

- **UNHCR has been monitoring ten sites where IDPs have been relocated by the Government** in the districts of Ancuabe, Balama, Chiure, Metuge and Montepuez, as well as Corrane IDP site in Nampula Province, and continues 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.
- **Identification of GBV risks in Marrupa IDP site, Chiure District, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR conducted a safety audit in Marrupa IDP site, Chiure, through focus group discussions, community mapping and a safety walk with women, men, girls and boys in the community. The results of the safety audit highlighted significant

GBV risks related to lack of lighting, absence of locks on toilets and shelters, distance to essential services and unsafe routes, lack of privacy inside shelters, and physical and psychological violence towards women and girls as part of broader IDP-host community tensions. The community identified adolescent girls as being the most at risk. The results also demonstrated an overwhelming lack of access to specialized services for GBV survivors, as well as the need to mainstreaming GBV risk reduction measures across all sectors. UNHCR is working with different coordination mechanisms in Cabo Delgado to address these risks with the relevant response actors.

■ **GBV service mapping and capacity assessment in Montepuez, Cabo Delgado:** On 18 and 19 February, UNHCR conducted service mapping and capacity assessment with the GBV focal points in the hospital, police and social services (Acção Social) to identify capacity building needs and develop referral pathways for GBV survivors. Posters on the *Linha Verde* SEA reporting mechanisms were provided to Government services and two NGOs working in the field, to raise awareness on PSEA and to explain how to report SEA cases. Safety Walks were conducted in two IDP sites (Mapupulo and Nicuapa) with women community members and the protection team of Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) to identify GBV risks, in particular for women and girls. UNHCR works with different coordination mechanisms in Cabo Delgado to address these risks with the relevant response actors.

■ **Protection Monitoring Exercises in Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR conducted eight protection monitoring exercises in Chiure and Metuge Districts in Cabo Delgado, to assess and identify protection risks and find ways of addressing these challenges together with local authorities, displaced and host communities, and humanitarian actors. It has been observed that the district Administration is currently registering all school aged displaced children and enrolling them in the education system. In Chiure, the existing child protection committees which is composed by 15 individuals in several villages, will extend their services to IDP sites. The protection monitoring exercises included age, gender and diversity (AGD) focus group discussions (FGD) with IDPs, and the main findings pointed out (i) GBV risks for women and girls due to poor lighting at night and absence of locks in shelters; (ii) lack of latrines, which leads to open defecation in the bush and consequently additional GBV and public health risks; (iii) limited access to water, that results in tensions with the host communities and hampers hygiene and COVID-19 preventive measures; (iv) and poor access to health services due to limited and distant health services available at/from IDP sites. Additionally, IDPs requested urgent support with (v) tarpaulins for shelters and to protect them from the ongoing rainy season; (vi) solar lamps; (vii) core relief items, including kitchen sets, buckets, jerry cans, and mosquito nets; and food.

■ **Disability Working Group (WG) in Cabo Delgado:** The Protection Cluster has established a Disability Working Group (WG) in Cabo Delgado. UNHCR will co-share the WG with “Amici di Raoul Follereau” (AIFO) and Humanity and Inclusion (HI) for an initial period of six months, supporting the implementation of the capacity building process. The need for improved response in supporting individuals with disabilities was one of the main findings of the data collected by the Protection Monitoring in 2020.

■ **Training of additional Protection Focal Points (PFPs) in Metuge District, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR delivered a four-day protection training to 14 new PFPs from Ngalane, Nangua and 25 de Junho IDPs sites in Metuge, including two members of the host community in Ngalane. Further training will be provided on GVB and PSEA to improve access to support and risk reduction, including on specific types of GBV risks identified in Cabo Delgado such as early marriage, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence with a focus on timely access to clinical care. The 14 PFPs will join 37 PFPs already working in Protection Desks in the north of Cabo Delgado, disseminating key protection messages and identifying and referring vulnerable cases to relevant services and partners. In total, UNHCR’s PFPs will be present in Ngalane, Ntokota, Saul 2, Kuaia, Manono, 25 de Junho, Nangua, Nuamapala and Centro Agrario sites in Metuge. The training included capacity building on GBV core

concepts, survivor-centered approach, referral of GBV survivors for support, PSEA principles and policy, and reporting mechanisms for SEA cases in line with UNHCR's policy.

- **PSEA Network in Cabo Delgado:** On 24 February, UNHCR co-led the PSEA Network Cabo Delgado meeting focusing on the need to improve risk reduction of SEA in distributions of food and non-food items in the Province. Participants agreed to develop a joint plan for SEA risk reduction specific for distributions.

- **Protection Monitoring Exercise and shelter interventions in Corane IDP Site:** UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring exercise in Corane IDP site and held focus group discussions with women between 20 and 38 years old from Mocímboa da Praia, in Cabo Delgado, to assess their protection needs. Training was provided to ten enumerators that will be undertaking data collection for the upcoming shelter assessment at the IDP site. The shelter assessment will target some 600 households currently residing at Corane IDP site and aims at identifying (i) specific shelter and NFI needs which require urgent intervention, (ii) key challenges and coping strategies adapted by displaced people and (iii) tailor shelter programs provided by UNHCR and partners in the shelter cluster.

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\$ 4.5 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).

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