

Cabo Delgado Situation

15 – 28 May 2021

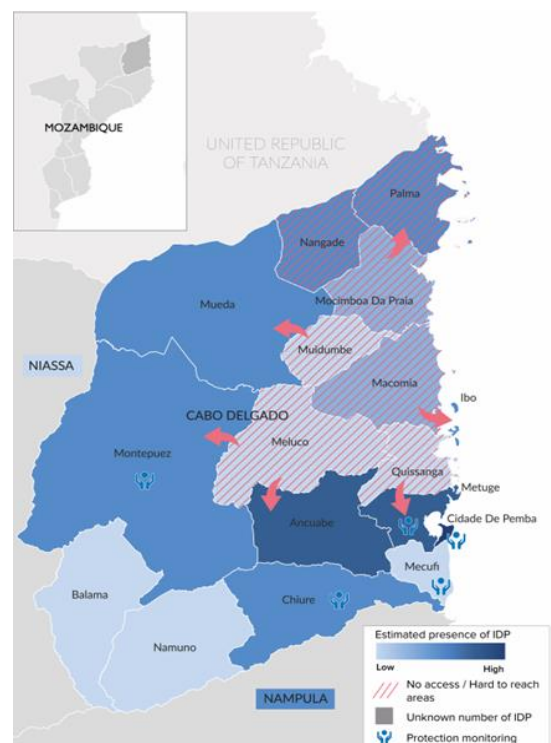
UNHCR continues to receive concerning reports of systematic forced return of Mozambican families from Tanzania. UNHCR urges neighboring countries to respect access to asylum for those fleeing widespread violence and armed conflict in northern Mozambique.

As of 28 May, some **62,000¹** people from Palma were forcibly displaced in the aftermath of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) attacks in March. Families continue fleeing insecurity mainly to the districts of Mueda, Nangade, Montepuez and Pemba by land, air and sea.

Before Palma attacks, some **700,000** persons were already displaced in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala and Zambezia as a result of violence and insecurity in Cabo Delgado. The humanitarian situation continues deteriorating and urgent assistance is needed to address the needs of those fleeing violence.

Situation update

- **In May 2021, almost 3,800 Mozambicans have been forcibly returned from Tanzania through Negomano border point, according to Mozambican border authorities.** UNHCR is currently engaging with local authorities in Mueda district to ensure that information is timely shared regarding refoulement and ensure adequate follow up and provision of assistance. Most of those forcibly returned families are spontaneously travelling to other districts in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa, as Mueda is perceived as an unsafe location. On 25 May, UNHCR assessed the current situation of refouled Mozambicans in Negomano and conducted a verification exercise prior distribution of Core Relief Items in the area. UNHCR interviewed 68 people, including persons with specific needs, survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV), elderly persons and pregnant women, as well as one woman who delivered a child while being forcibly returned to Mozambique, receiving no medical aid or support. In Mueda Sede, UNHCR interviewed 26 refouled Mozambicans who confirmed the systematic and recurrent refoulement, as well as protection concerns previously reported such as the separation of families, and the lack of humanitarian assistance. Most of the interviewees reported having fled violence in northern districts of Cabo Delgado, particularly Palma and Muidumbe, into Tanzania, and confirmed frequent abductions of community members by NSAGs in their areas of origin.



Map: Estimated IDP presence and movement
Data source: IOM/DTM

¹ IOM Disaster Tracking Matrix (DTM) [Palma Crisis Report | 94 \(27 March - 28 May 2021\)](#)

Response update



Verification of displaced families in Mueda, Cabo Delgado, for distribution of Core Relief Items ©UNHCR/Alessandro Pasta

- **Planning distributions of Core Relief Items (CRIs) in Cabo Delgado and Nampula:** From 21 to 28 May, UNHCR partook on an interagency mission to Mueda district, in Cabo Delgado, together with OCHA and IOM, to plan the distribution of CRIs in Mueda District. During the mission, the three agencies verified lists for CRIs distribution containing a total of 2,000 displaced families from different neighbourhoods in Mueda, Ngapa and Negomano. In Mueda, humanitarian organizations are planning to reach 10,000 people in need of assistance. UNHCR has been equally engaged in planning and preparing the upcoming CRI distribution in Corrane Nampula's IDP site, which will include tarpaulins, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, and solar lamps. It is the first distribution in Corrane through direct implementation, targeting all 787 families (3,225 individuals living in this site).

- **Exploring durable solutions for IDPs from Palma hosted at the transit center in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** On 24 May, the Protection Cluster Coordinator, together with Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and OCHA, met with Pemba Administrator to discuss potential solutions for IDPs from Palma hosted at the Transit Center. Following the Protection Rapid Intention Survey conducted in April 2021, all displaced families expressed their will to leave the center but lacked either financial means, transport or are waiting for permission from the authorities. During the meeting, the Protection cluster stressed that (i) the transit center should remain operational as a temporary solution for vulnerable families/individuals unable to find accommodation in Pemba upon arrival; (ii) the local authorities should prioritize the relocation of persons with specific needs; (iii) although some families hosted at the center wish to return to Palma, humanitarian organizations are not endorsing the return to the area due to security concerns; (iv) considering the interest of families hosted at the center in relocating to Montepuez, additional advocacy efforts to engage humanitarian and developments organizations in the district should take place to ensure the adequate provision of assistance. Following this meeting, the local district Administrator in Pemba, in close coordination with the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) Nampula, relocated 17 displaced families/ 78 individuals to Nampula Province

from Pemba's Transit Center. Out of the 17 families, eight were transferred to Corrane IDP site and the others joined their relatives in urban areas in Nampula and Namialo. At present, government reports indicate that Nampula Province hosts 64,432 IDPs (14,631 families).

- **Protection monitoring at transit center in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** On 26 May, UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring exercise at the transit center, currently accommodating some 300 displaced people from Palma, as well as a PSEA awareness raising session for 53 people on sexual exploitation and abuse and reporting mechanisms. UNHCR also conducted intention consultations with IDPs in the transit center and liaised with local authorities at the center regarding their relocation process.
- **Distribution of facemasks to displaced and host community children in Ancuabe, Cabo Delgado, made by refugees in Nampula:** UNHCR distributed cloth facemasks handmade by refugees, to 200 children from the host and displaced community nearby Nanjua B IDP site in Ancuabe District, Cabo Delgado as part of COVID-19 prevention measures. The distribution was conducted following an assessment of two local community schools for which UNHCR provided tarpaulins in March 2021. During the assessment, host and displaced community shared their concerns about lack of facemasks for children attending schools.
- **GBV training of Protection Focal Points (PFPs) in Montepuez, Cabo Delgado:** On 27 May, UNHCR delivered a GBV training to PFPs in Montepuez (women and men) to reinforce the community capacity in responding and preventing GBV impacting displaced women and girls in sites hosting displaced families across Cabo Delgado. The training also focused on the use of newly adapted UNHCR GBV community volunteers training tools to improve reporting and referral mechanisms for assistance and support. The next module part of UNHCR's community GBV training package will focus on intimate partner violence as it represents one of the main types of case referral by PFPs.
- **Presentation of SEA case trends in Cabo Delgado:** On 26 May, UNHCR, as chair of the PSEA Network in Cabo Delgado, presented its quarterly SEA case trends to the PSEA Network. The SEA case trends are analyzed through SEA complaints received through the PSEA Network and serves to identify risks and ways of improving PSEA response and coordination among humanitarian actors. According to the trends, most cases reported are related to sexual favour requests by community leaders in exchange of including displaced individuals in food distribution lists, which represents a major SEA concern in Cabo Delgado. To address this situation, UNHCR is working closely with the national PSEA Government Engagement Strategy to improve and strengthen the prevention and response of SEA incidents perpetrated by community leaders, while simultaneously increasing PSEA awareness raising efforts with displaced communities to improve reporting of such cases.
- **Meeting with Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC) in Pemba, Cabo Delgado:** UNHCR Head of Office (HoO) in Pemba met with the recently appointed DHC for Cabo Delgado to discuss UNHCR's ongoing activities in the protection and humanitarian response in the province. During the meeting, the HoO stressed the criticality of mainstreaming protection across all sectors and clusters operating in Cabo Delgado and having protection as a central component of the overall response to forcibly displaced persons. The HoO also highlighted the importance of conducting missions in hard to reach areas to deliver assistance to isolated populations in dire need, as well as conducting border monitoring missions related to the ongoing and systematic refoulement of Mozambicans from Tanzania. The HoO reaffirmed UNHCR's protection lead-response through the Protection Cluster, and active engagement in the response to new arrivals from Palma; working with displaced and host communities in sites hosting displaced families through PFPs and Protection Desks; providing legal assistance and access to legal documentation to allow access to basic services, prevent harassment by authorities and mitigate the risk of statelessness; responding to and preventing GBV incidents; leading the PSEA Network;

distributing NFIs and shelter materials; and scaling up livelihoods and CCCM activities. The DHC expressed appreciation of UNHCR's work and recognized the cruciality of scaling up the protection activities in Cabo Delgado.

■ **Mission of UNHCR Deputy Director of the Department for Resilience and Solutions (DRS), Global CCCM Cluster Coordinator, and Senior Regional Development Officer to Mozambique:** from 15 to 23 May, the Deputy Director for DRS, Mamadou Dian Balde, the CCCM Global Cluster Coordinator, Dher Hayo, and the Senior Development Officer from the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa, Gloria Muhoro, travelled to Cabo Delgado, Maputo and Nampula to engage with the local authorities, donors, humanitarian organizations, development actors, internally displaced communities and refugees to seek development opportunities; promote long term solutions and stimulate the resilience of IDPs; and enhance CCCM coordination between UNHCR and other organizations. This high-level mission also included a revision of UNHCR strategic/scale up plan for Mozambique in 2021.

■ **Promoting the responsible use of media as a protection tool in Cabo Delgado:** On 20 May, UNHCR delivered a presentation to the Protection Cluster to promote the responsible use of media as a protection tool and to stimulate a favourable protection environment for displaced communities through communication. The presentation aimed at preventing protection concerns resulting in the production of communication products by humanitarian organizations and media professionals without informed consent, which may result in potential discrimination, harassment and violence against displaced individuals and families by local and displaced communities. The presentation complements the Media Guidelines developed by UNHCR and the Protection Cluster shared in March 2021 with humanitarian actors working in Cabo Delgado.

■ **UNHCR and INGD Coordination in Nampula:** UNHCR HoO in Nampula met with the head of INGD to ensure effective coordination in the provision of assistance to displaced families in the Province with local authorities. During the meeting, UNHCR described ongoing activities and scale up plans in the areas of protection, CCCM, shelter and livelihoods. INGD welcomed the scale up of initiatives and requested UNHCR to provide assistance and increased cooperation in the areas of information management and capacity building.

■ **Protection Working Group (PWG) in Nampula:** On 28 May, UNHCR led the monthly PWG meeting. During the meeting, UNHCR provided an update on protection monitoring exercises conducted in Corrane during the month of May. The main findings during focus group discussions with IDPs were: (i) lack of documentation for IDPs represents a significant constraint for the freedom of movement; (ii) shortage of medicines for Malaria, which is the main morbidity cause in Corrane; (iii) displaced communities feel unsafe to express ideas and opinions due to fear of retaliation; and (iv) the absence of community structures in the site as an added challenge in addressing concerns through community based approaches. Regarding documentation, UNICEF shared that there is an ongoing project to provide civil documentation to IDPs in Corrane together with World Vision. As for the shortage of medicines, follow up actions are taking place with the Health Cluster.

■ **CCCM Cluster Coordination in Cabo Delgado and Nampula:** On 28 May, UNHCR participated in the CCCM cluster review of the current gaps and priority needs, including the need to strengthen community mobilization and participation in IDP sites and capacity building initiatives. UNHCR confirmed the scale-up of CCM activities in Montepuez and Mueda districts, as well as in urban areas in Pemba and Nampula. The identification of partners is still ongoing.

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.

Financial information

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. *In addition to that, the Mozambique operation’s 2021 overall funding requirements are critically underfunded, with only 27% funded as of 28 May.*

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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