



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CABO DELGADO – MOZAMBIQUE

Cabo Delgado currently has over 730,000 displaced people, in need of humanitarian assistance. Displacement has been exacerbated since March 2021 by continued attacks by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) in communities in Palma district. More recently, clashes between the NSAG and local forces were reported in Muidumbe district; as a result, community members, including women and children were reported missing, and others killed. According to International Organization for Migration (IOM) there is continued movement of people to Ibo, Pemba, Mueda, Montepuez, Nangade, Ancuabe, and Chiure by boat, bus, and foot, respectively.

Civilians have been exposed to human rights abuses. Women and girls are at risk of gender-based violence including sexual violence, and abduction. In focus group discussions held with women and girls, sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, child marriage and abductions were raised as major concerns as families struggle to cope with the current displacement situations.

Gender Based Violence has been exacerbated by:

1- Insecurity i.e., Continued attacks to rural villages results in lack of access to communities in the districts of Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe, Palma, and Quissanga due to the increased presence of the NSAG. Attacks by the NSAG also directly results in destruction of property, abduction of civilians, exposing women and children to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as limiting their access to humanitarian assistance.

2- Health facilities have been destroyed in the attacks, and health workers have left some other areas due to insecurity. In other areas social and government services are not being provided to affected communities due to continued disruptions and fear of the NSAG; and yet these are key entry points for survivors to access psychosocial support, case management and clinical management of rape.

3- There is insufficient presence of International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) with specific expertise in GBV Programming, and support to strengthen national organizations, including women led entities, is needed. According to the mapping produced by the GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) ,between April and June 2021, there is limited presence of experienced INGOs to strengthen the GBV prevention, response, and mitigation programs in Cabo Delgado.



Photo: Helvisney Cardoso/UN Mozambique

The following needs are required to improve access to GBV-specific services for displaced communities in Cabo Delgado:

- Donors and International aid agencies are being called on to prioritize funding for GBV Programming in Cabo Delgado to support scale up of case management and multi sectoral services delivery i.e., health, Mental health and psychosocial support, safety and Security and legal assistance for survivors of GBV in host and displaced communities.
- International Non-Governmental Organizations with expertise in GBV and Protection programming are encouraged to consider operational presence in Cabo Delgado to support the scale-up of GBV Specific services for women, girls, men and boys in both host and displaced communities, and to promote humanitarian principles and enhance protection by presence.
- Government of Mozambique should continue supporting the respect to the rights of civilian populations and increase access for protection actors to deliver life-saving services, restore a protective environment for civilian populations and ensure International Humanitarian Law compliance for both State and Non-state armed groups.

The GBV AoR will prioritise access to life-saving gender- based violence services in accessible and partially accessible districts, strengthen capacity of national, international and women led agencies to deliver quality services, advocate for increased funding to GBV AoR partners and lobby for more operational presence of INGOs in Cabo Delgado.

A strong partnership with the Government of Mozambique, National and International Non-governmental agencies as well as women-led organizations is encouraged.

Communities must be accessible, and agencies should be available, accountable and with quality to deliver assistance safely, restore a protective environment for civilian populations and ensure compliance to Do No Harm principle.



Photo: Helvisney Cardoso/UN Mozambique

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