

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOON BRIEFING BY STEPHANE DUJARRIC
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MOZAMBIQUE

Going south to Mozambique: Today, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said that it continues to work around the clock to assist thousands of people in Cabo Delgado province. A recent attack by insurgents on the coastal town of Palma has forced at least 11,000 people to leave their homes, with thousands more reportedly trapped in the area.

UNHCR says its teams in Pemba have received worrying reports that more than 1,000 displaced people were prevented from crossing the border into Tanzania. They are following up on these reports and have called on Mozambique's neighbours to provide access to territory and to asylum procedures for people escaping violence and seeking protection.

The agency, with its partners, has distributed relief items, including blankets and sleeping mats.

WFP, for its part, said today said that the UN agencies were still struggling to access Palma. Both food assistance and evacuation flights remained suspended owing to the deteriorating security situation. We continue to appeal for access to the affected area and is working to pre-position food in the neighbouring districts of Montepuez and Mueda.

WFP warned that hunger is continuing to rise in Palma as many people's livelihoods have been interrupted by the fighting. Some of those who arrived in Pemba from Palma have told WFP that they have not eaten for weeks.