



Urgent needs in Mozambique

Cabo Delgado situation | 7 May 2021

Figures at a glance



713,000

IDPs IN NORTHERN
MOZAMBIQUE

39,000

NEW IDP ARRIVALS
FOLLOWING ATTACKS IN
PALMA SINCE MARCH 2021

70%

OF THOSE NEWLY DISPLACED
ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

\$13.5 million

URGENT FUNDING
REQUIREMENTS FOR UNHCR's
IDP RESPONSE IN 2021

Key figures as of 5 May 2021

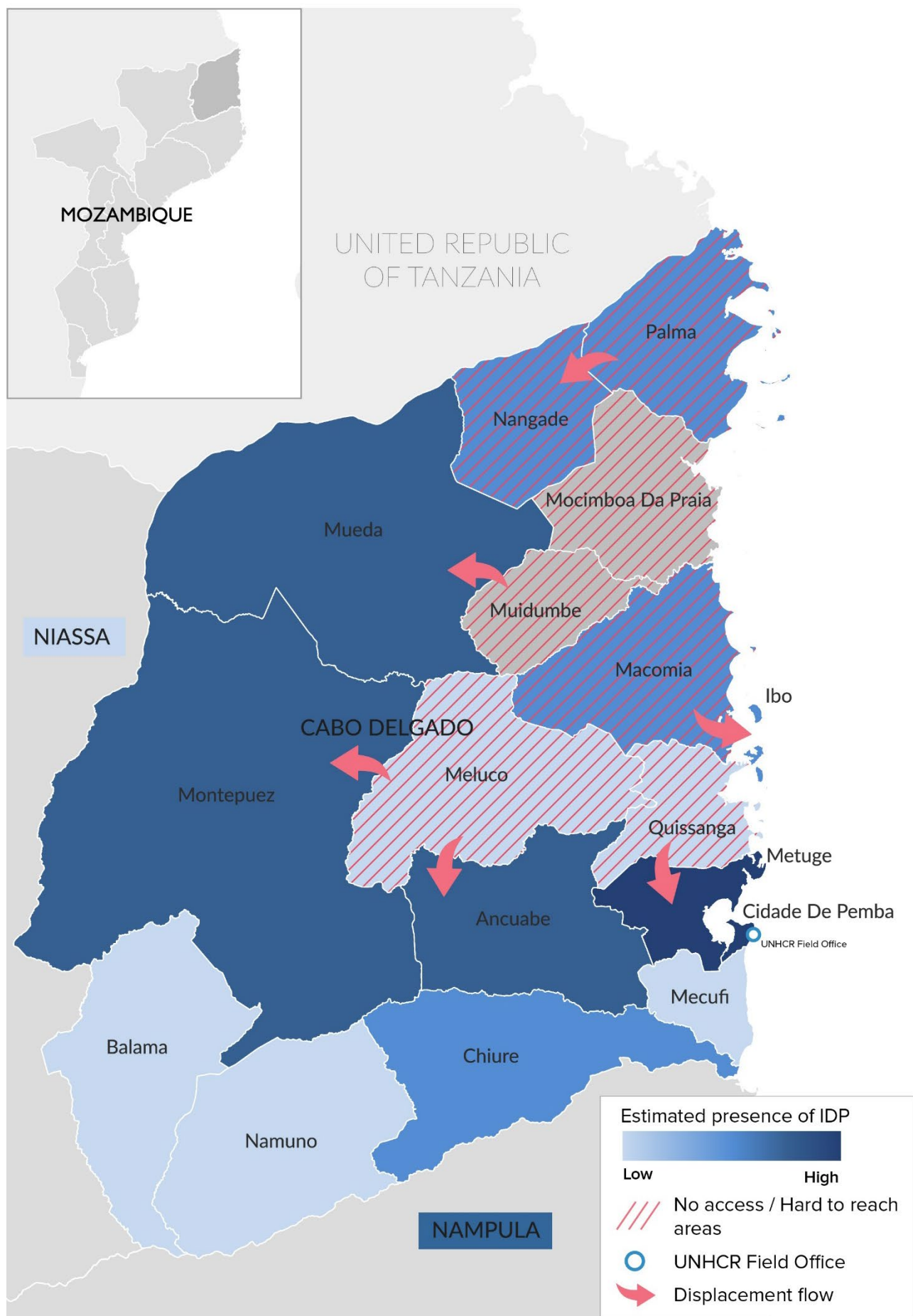
Overview

The situation in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province is a massive, yet largely invisible, humanitarian crisis driven by non-state armed groups in the context of an already fragile situation of chronic under-development, frequent flooding and recurrent disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

An estimated 713,000 people have now been internally displaced in northern Mozambique since 2017 with the vast majority, 674,000 people, displaced within Cabo Delgado itself. A recent wave of violence at the end of March 2021 saw more than 39,000 people flee the district of Palma, most of whom are accommodated in the local community or in transit centres and sites for IDPs. Thousands more are still trapped in Palma or are still in flight. Among those newly displaced, more than 70% are women and children.

People are desperately in need of food, shelter, water, and education, and seriously exposed to protection-related risks such as gender-based violence and forced recruitment of children. As part of a coordinated inter-agency response, UNHCR is providing IDPs with life-saving assistance but urgently needs more support. So as to scale up life-saving protection and assistance for IDPs in northern Mozambique, UNHCR is urgently appealing for \$13.5 million.

Above: A displaced mother fetches water with her children in Intele IDP site in Montepuez District, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira



UNHCR's response to date

UNHCR has been delivering protection and basic assistance for IDPs and affected host communities since November 2019.

Programming has focused on assessing protection risks and supporting referral and response activities, including for gender-based violence, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), child protection and access to documentation.

In 2020, UNHCR reached more than 10,000 IDP families (50,000 individuals) through household-level protection monitoring. That helped identify persons at heightened risk requiring specialized assistance, and providing them with core relief and shelter items, as well as protection services.

To address the critical issue of IDPs losing their identity documents while fleeing or having their documentation destroyed during attacks, UNHCR launched a pilot project in December 2020 to provide legal counselling and assistance to IDPs and host communities, reaching more than 7,500 individuals in the first two months.

Further core relief item assistance in 2021 is planned to reach 30,000 families (150,000 individuals) including those displaced in the

recent wave of violence in Palma. Among those targeted in 2021, UNHCR already provided core relief items for more than 800 families (4,000 individuals) through shelter/NFI Cluster by the end of March.

As lead of the Protection Cluster in Mozambique including Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces, the PSEA Network and the Disabilities Working Group, UNHCR provides capacity building on IDP protection for key actors by training and rolling out tools to strengthen prevention and response activities. Some 300 people including IDPs, people from host communities, humanitarian actors and Government officials have been trained in PSEA, gender-based violence prevention and response, and general protection to disseminate key messages, mitigate risks of PSEA, and to support communities running complaint mechanisms. Community volunteers are also being trained to identify and map protection risks, needs, and referral pathways for appropriate support and services. Through this programme, UNHCR has in place 71 protection focal points across three districts: Montepuez, Chiure and Metuge.



© UNHCR/Martim Gray

Forcibly displaced Mozambican families recover from heavy rain and flooding at the 25 de Junho IDP Site in the district of Metuge, Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique.

Urgent needs

The situation in Cabo Delgado is a protection and humanitarian crisis, with widespread reports of human rights abuses fueled by an escalating violence by non-state armed groups. Thousands of civilians have been killed or injured, houses have been looted and burned, and agricultural land destroyed. Women and girls have been abducted, forced into marriage, raped, and subjected to other forms of sexual violence, highlighting the urgency of bringing gender-based violence prevention and response to the forefront. There are also reports of children being forcibly recruited into armed groups.

The latest wave of displacement has uprooted thousands of families who arrive exhausted, traumatized and with very little belongings. The violent attacks in Palma are the latest in a series of attacks that have already displaced nearly 713,000 people within Cabo Delgado, and to Niassa, Nampula, Sofala and Zambesia provinces. The vast majority—almost 90%—are living in overcrowded accommodation with host communities whose scarce resources are being exhausted, while others are staying in IDPs sites set up by the Government outside urban areas.

Displacement trends are expected to increase, with further waves of violence in Cabo Delgado driving more people from their homes. Humanitarian needs are therefore expected to keep growing, as IDPs are unable to safely return to their areas of origin.

In this context, increased monitoring and further action to address protection issues and human rights concerns is needed. This includes scaling up case management, support to survivors of gender-based violence and providing psychosocial support to victims of trauma, especially for children and women who are the largest population groups within the displaced communities. Core relief items, including shelter support will also be prioritized to ensure safety and reduce protection risks for displaced people and families.

Fostering livelihood opportunities and professional skill training for IDPs and host communities represents an important part of UNHCR's response. This will enable displaced populations to rebuild their lives if and when they are able to return in safety and dignity, and will strengthen social cohesion with the host communities who shelter the majority of the newly displaced.



UNHCR and partners set up posters to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse at a sports centre in Pemba that is temporarily hosting displaced families fleeing violence.

Strategic priorities and planned activities

The rapidly deteriorating security situation and the growing number of IDPs continue to increase demand for humanitarian support, especially protection services, core relief items, shelter and access to livelihoods opportunities. It is critical that UNHCR receives adequate funding to increase and further strengthen its work to assist the hundreds of thousands of IDPs affected by the violence in northern Mozambique. UNHCR's key operational response priorities for new and existing IDPs include:



Protection

- Support identification and family reunification for separated and unaccompanied children.
- Set up legal mobile clinics to issue 7,500 new/renewed national identity cards and family attestations.
- Deploy protection teams and set up 10 protection desks in the districts of Metuge, Ancuabe, Chiure and Montepuez to strengthen access to information on assistance programmes and services, monitor the response and identify needs and gaps.
- Conduct gender-based violence prevention and response, and provide PSEA training to over 80 people from Government authorities, humanitarian partners, IDPs and host communities.



Community mobilization and self-reliance

- Provide community outreach through the engagement of displaced and host community volunteers to identify protection risks and conduct awareness sessions in urban areas and IDP sites.
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns targeting people of concern to facilitate their access to their rights.
- Provide livelihood opportunities and professional skill trainings to IDPs and host community members in collaboration with development partners.



Psychosocial support

- Provide psychosocial support, including to separated and unaccompanied children as well as older persons.



Shelter, infrastructure and site management

- Distribute emergency shelter kits and provide technical guidance to over 3,000

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