

Community-Based Protection Response

Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique


UNHCR’s protection response relies on **supporting the government with service and assistance provision** to displaced and host communities, and **strengthening and empowering community structures** and social dynamics, while prioritizing **accountability to affected populations**.


UNHCR conducts **regular protection monitoring exercises** together with partners and protection focal points from displaced and host communities **to assess the main needs** of displaced families and those hosting them **to plan and tailor interventions**.

In February, **978 households were surveyed** during protection monitoring exercises. Since September 2021, UNHCR and partners interviewed **13,717 households** who reported **1,566 protection incidents** in Cabo Delgado.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS – FEBRUARY 2022


 **784,000** displaced people in northern Mozambique


 **49** per cent are children, **28** per cent are women, **23** per cent are men


 **11,468** Mozambican asylum seekers forcibly returned/ *refouled* from Tanzania since September 2020


KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

JANUARY 2021 – FEBRUARY 2022

 **18,037** people from displaced and host communities received legal assistance, of which **11,167** received civil documentation

 **230** youth engaged in human rights, peaceful coexistence and recreational activities

 **206** assistance devices distributed to people with disabilities in IDP and host communities

 **153** Protection Focal Points working with displaced and host communities, disseminating protection messages and referring around **4,000** vulnerable cases for services and assistance



Distribution of assistance devices in Metuge District, Cabo Delgado
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UNHCR and partner Humanity and Inclusion (HI) **distributed assistance devices to 122 people living with disabilities** in Metuge and Pemba districts among displaced and host communities. In total, **35 wheelchairs, 70 crutches, and 35 white canes** were distributed in Cabo Delgado.

People living with disabilities represent one of the most vulnerable groups within displaced communities due to the mobility challenges faced during and after fleeing violence. The distribution of assistance devices aims at improving the mobility of people living with disabilities, increasing their independence, and promoting their integration in society to reduce their vulnerability.

According to protection monitoring reports, around **15 per cent** of all internally displaced people in Cabo Delgado **are living with a disability**.

Overview

Violence in Cabo Delgado began in 2017. It triggered a protection crisis. Displaced and host communities are exposed to multiple risks and in urgent need of protection and humanitarian assistance and services. [Protection monitoring reports](#) indicate that displaced families experienced and/or witnessed multiple protection incidents, are traumatized, and faced various risks before, during and after fleeing violence, including killings, separation of families, forced recruitment of adults and children, extortion, rape, and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV). The most vulnerable are unaccompanied and separated children; older people; persons with disabilities and medical conditions; and survivors of torture and abuse, including survivors of GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Tensions between local and host communities are on the rise due to limited resources available, such as land, water, food, and shelter.



Displaced family in Metuge District, Cabo Delgado. ©UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

It is urgent to ensure an adequate response to address the immediate, medium, and long-term needs of families forced to flee. It is equally important to support host communities to ensure effective social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.






UNHCR's Community-based protection (CBP) strategy

UNHCR works together with partners¹, local authorities, Protection Focal Points, displaced and host communities, UN agencies, NGOs and different coordination clusters, to address the needs of families forced to flee and those hosting them. The main components of UNHCR's CBP strategy consist of:

- 1. Expanding and strengthening UNHCR's protection presence**, including in high-risk and hard-to-reach areas, through regular protection monitoring, assessments, case management and referrals.
- 2. Facilitating access to documentation** through mobile legal clinics; public legal education; and awareness campaigns/information dissemination on the importance of civil documentation.
- 3. Strengthening community-based protection** through community engagement and **establishing community-based structures and implementing feedback and response mechanisms.**
- 4. Strengthening data and information management** in areas of general legal protection; child and youth protection; protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities; and prevention of statelessness.
- 5. Implementing community-based targeted approaches** to enhance the protection of unaccompanied and separated children, youth, and persons with disabilities.
- 6. Enhancing partnerships and coordination mechanisms** with displaced and host communities, local authorities, UN, NGOs, and civil society.

¹ Association of International Voluntary Service (AVSI), HelpCode, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), and Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM)

Gaps and Challenges

-  **Limited capacity of existing services to assist vulnerable groups** such as unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, older persons, and GBV survivors.
-  **Limited presence** of experienced **protection partners** in Cabo Delgado.
-  **Reduced funding** available to scale-up protection activities and service delivery.
-  **Volatile security situation and inability to access some hard-to-reach areas** with ongoing military operations in areas hosting forcibly displaced communities.
-  **Challenges in deploying international NGO staff** to Cabo Delgado related to visa/migration processes.



UNHCR and partners work together with displaced and host communities to strengthen community-based responses.

This includes the provision of tailored training to local authorities, community and religious leaders, and Protection Focal Points, to empower them in finding their own solutions.

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