

Mozambique

Mozambique hosts more than **31,000 refugees and asylum-seekers**, while **more than one million people remain displaced internally** due to violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups and the devastating impact of the climate crisis – where Mozambique is one of the most adversely affected countries in the world. The double landfall of **Tropical Cyclone Freddy** in February and March 2023 has devastated the country, destroying infrastructure and displacing some **184,000** people. Subsequent flooding has furthermore increased the risk of cholera.

This context, paired with lingering effects of COVID-19, has resulted in further disenfranchisement of already vulnerable populations. UNHCR and partners work closely with a range of stakeholders, including the Government, to provide **lifesaving protection services and assistance** to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, IDP returnees as well as host communities, while harnessing opportunities to invest in and build resilience among communities and facilitate sustainable solutions to displacement.

UNHCR stresses that all refugee and IDP return movements should take place in an informed, safe, voluntary and dignified manner. At the same time, UNHCR supports the **inclusion of all refugees and IDPs in national services and systems**, including national data systems and climate related contingency planning and response. At the same time, UNHCR is scaling-up engagement with development and peace-building actors to ultimately support the inclusion of displaced populations through the expansion of their respective programming.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

1,028,743 internally displaced people in northern Mozambique due to ongoing conflict*

1,187,265 people affected by the double landfall of Tropical Cyclone Freddy, including **184,000** people displaced **

736,015 people affected in Nampula and Zambezia provinces by Tropical Cyclone Gombe in 2022,*** **129,327** people have remained displaced internally in central Mozambique following cyclone Idai in March 2019.

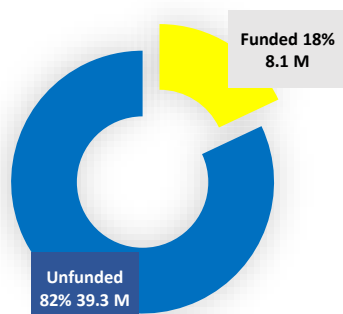
31,853 refugees and asylum-seekers****

* [Displacement Tracking Mechanism, Round 17, November 2022, IOM](#)
 ** [Tropical Cyclone Freddy Flash Update No. 12, 28 March 2023, UNOCHA](#)
 *** [Tropical Cyclone Gombe Flash Update No. 6, March 2022, UNOCHA](#)
 **** According to UNHCR data

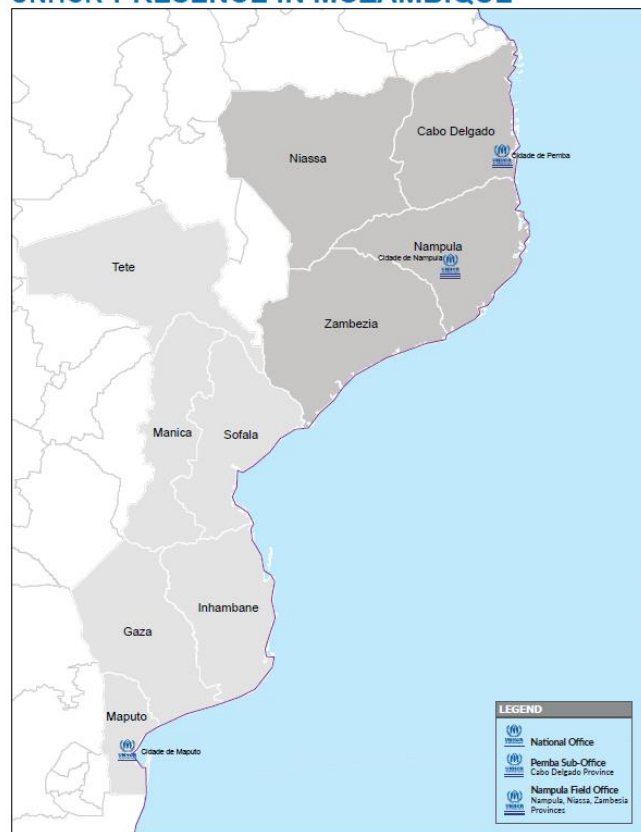
USD 47.4 M

Requested for the Mozambique operation in 2023

FUNDING (as of 28 March 2023)



UNHCR PRESENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Creation date: 03 August 2022. Sources: UNHCR Feedback; mcswisne@unhcr.org

Staff: 131
71 National Staff
60 International Staff
Offices: 3
1 Country Office in Maputo – 49 staff
1 Field Office in Nampula – 35 staff
1 Field Office in Pemba – 47 staff

KEY HIGHLIGHTS | MARCH 2023

Response to Extreme Weather Events

- As of 27 March 2023, over **1 million people** have been affected, including 173 deaths and some **184,000 people displaced**, by the double landfall of Tropical Cyclone Freddy that devastated the country first making landfall in Inhambane province in February and then again in Zambezia province in March 2023, also affecting other provinces including Sofala, Tete, Manica and Niassa.
- UNHCR remains on the ground to deliver **lifesaving protection and assistance** to displaced people and the communities that host them. Over the course of the crisis, UNHCR has deployed 11 staff to Zambezia and Sofala provinces to bolster the response to Freddy. In coordination with local authorities and partners, UNHCR has carried out protection monitoring and assessments in accommodation centres and disseminated protection messaging among affected communities. Main needs identified during assessments include psycho-social support, food and potable water, seeds and tools, school materials for children, hygiene kits and civil documentation.
- Communities play a critical role in **disaster risk reduction (DRR)** efforts. In March, UNHCR, in cooperation with INGD provided training to three newly created local committees on DRR on protection principles, protection mainstreaming and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. These committees aim to strengthen communities' resilience and preparedness in the event of an extreme weather event.
- On 30 March 2023 the **Addendum to the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)** was launched in Mozambique to complement the efforts of the Government in assisting people most affected by cholera, floods and cyclone Freddy. The HRP Addendum addresses the most immediate and critical needs of 815,000 people in southern and central Mozambique, impacted by the compounding effects of the triple crisis between March and September 2023.



A woman uses a mosquito net to cover the vacant space left by a fallen wall due to Cyclone Freddy. ©UNHCR/Guilherme Chirinda



Meet Tomásia Zacarias. His home was totally destroyed in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Freddy that devastated the country in February and March 2023. Despite his great loss, Tomásia is presiding over the UNHCR Safe Space at the IDP resettlement centre in Gogodane, helping others in need who too have suffered loss. ©UNHCR/Francisco Cabo.

To donate to UNHCR's response to Cyclone Freddy, please follow this [link](#).

Protection

- UNHCR's [protection monitoring](#) activities are critical to identifying protection risks and trends and making referrals for people with heightened needs to specialized services. In March 2023, UNHCR, through partner HelpCode, carried out protection monitoring interviews with 3,101 displaced and IDP returnee families in 11 sites across four districts of Cabo Delgado.
- Possessing [civil documentation](#) is crucial, enabling displaced people to access services, including healthcare and education and enhancing their freedom of movement. During March 2023, UNHCR through its partner the Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM), assisted 746 people to re-acquire lost or destroyed civil documentation in Cabo Delgado, while in Nampula, 2,413 people were assisted with enrolment in the national registration system to obtain civil documents.
- UNHCR, through its partner AVSI, provided [psycho-social support](#) through home visits to 85 people, 60 of whom had disabilities, in the Pemba and Metuge districts in Cabo Delgado. The visiting psychologists provided psycho-social and occupational therapy sessions, while taking the opportunity to also deliver key messages on the rights of people with disabilities and older people.
- During March 2023, UNHCR conducted a two-day training on accountability to affected populations (AAP) in Nampula. Some 47 people from 15 organizations participated in the workshop. In Montepuez and Pemba, Cabo Delgado, 66 volunteer activists in IDP sites received training on first aid and psycho-social support. The skills gained will assist the volunteers in supporting survivors of gender-based violence on mental health and first aid care.
- To mark [International Women's Day](#) on 8 March, UNHCR with partner CUAMM mobilized 60 people to participate in activities around the thematic of empowerment through access to technology. This included cultural activities such as singing and dancing, the projection of films about the history of women in the world of technology, and debates and lectures on gender-based violence.



Women getting ready for International Women's Day celebrations in Eduardo Mondlane IDP site. ©UNHCR/Colleen Roberts

Education

- In response to under-resourced classrooms, the [Instant Network Schools \(INS\)](#) was developed in several countries across Africa to provide a holistic solution to transforming an existing classroom into a multi-media hub for learning. In Mozambique, the INS programme has been implemented since 2021. In March this year, several trainings took place, including on digital awareness aimed at sensitizing students on risks related to the internet, attended by 1,138 students; 'Digital Discovery,' an introductory course to the digital world, attended by 1,917 students; and a journalism course attended by 613 students. In addition, three new classrooms at Nampaco Secondary School in Nampula have been completed. As part of the extension of the INS project into 2023, four schools were identified as potential new locations.

Public health

- Recent flooding following the double landfall of Cyclone Freddy has increased the [risk of cholera](#) at a time when the country was already struggling to contain an outbreak since September 2022. As of 27 March 2023, the cumulative number of people affected by cholera stood at 19,094 across eight provinces, including 173 deaths recorded, among which 157 alone were in Zambezia.
- In response, UNHCR has taken steps to sensitize communities on [cholera prevention and control](#), including good hygienic practices and water conservation. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials (e.g., posters, pamphlets, and booklets) have also been distributed to facilitate community engagement activities and the wide reach of information.

Shelter and core relief items (CRIs)

- UNHCR, and partner AVSI, distributed **core relief items (CRIs)** to 763 newly arrived families in Montepuez district, Cabo Delgado, reaching over 1,800 people. The CRIs are composed of blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, plastic sheets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and solar lamps.
- In Montepuez and Mueda districts, Cabo Delgado, UNHCR through partner AVSI, supported 260 families in *mudding* their shelters with *matope* (red soil mixed with water) – this practice reinforces the shelters, making them stronger and more resilient.
- Through partner Caritas, UNHCR distributed 250 **emergency shelter kits** in Maratane Refugee Settlement during the period in review.



Emergency shelter kits distribution, Maratane. ©UNHCR/Emmanuel Chambel

Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)

- UNHCR currently supports 11 IDP sites in Cabo Delgado: Eight in Mueda (Chilindi, Eduardo Mondlane, Mpeme, Nandimba, Namatil, Naschitenge and Lianda) and three in Montepuez (Nicuapa, Ntele and Massingiri). During March this year, three community mobilization teams were deployed in Massingiri, Nicuapa and Ntele IDP sites to disseminate messages on referrals and available services at the sites. Further in March 2023, 29 community representatives were provided with tools to clear bushes around the football pitch, allowing for the resumption of recreational football events to be held.

Livelihoods and economic inclusion

- In March 2023, beneficiaries from the 2022 livelihoods activity – Farmer's Field School programme, reaped the rewards of their hard work during the previous season. After months of careful tending, the tomatoes, cashews and cucumbers planted in 2022 were ready for harvest.
- In Cabo Delgado, the UNHCR supported **technical and vocational training** centre, IFPELAC, launched a new cohort of 100 students who will follow courses on cooking, plumbing, painting, masonry and cooling and refrigeration. In Nampula province, eight new courses were selected for 2023, benefitting some 300 young people at the IFPELAC centres in Maratane, Corrane, Nacala and Nampula City. The course topics include computer network systems, hairdressing, plumbing and water supply, tailoring and embroidery, among others.
- The construction of a **community greenhouse** in Maratane Refugee Settlement began on 16 March 2023 and is in the final stages of completion. The greenhouse will be operated by an agricultural association made up of 20 members, and will encompass climate-responsive, feed-the-community and agri-business objectives.



Farmer's Field School beneficiaries, members of the Futuro Melhor Farmers' Association, enjoying their harvest. ©UNHCR/Adelina Abella Ntinabo

Partnerships and Coordination

- UNHCR chairs the Protection Cluster and the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) working group, and co-chairs the PSEA working group with IOM. More information on people reached and activities of protection cluster partners can be found [here](#).
- The Housing, Land and Property (HLP) area of responsibility (AoR) of the Protection Cluster was re-launched in Cabo Delgado with the first meeting held in March 2023 where more than 30 organizations participated. The AoR is co-lead by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNHCR and provides a

platform in which HLP issues in Cabo Delgado can be discussed. The AoR fills an important gap in not only coordinating activities of partners, but also identifying and prioritizing HLP challenges in Cabo Delgado, such as land allocation for IDPs and land re-acquirement when IDPs return to their districts of origin.

- UNHCR works with 21 partners, including government partners and international and national NGOs. In addition, one UN2UN Transfer Agreement with WFP was concluded in 2023 to operate a complaints and response mechanism.
- UNHCR Mozambique has [scaled-up its partnerships with development actors](#) to mobilize their support in displacement settings, achieving the inclusion of refugees and IDPs into development actors' programmes in areas of climate financing, energy provision, access to services, among others as well as throughout the Common Country Assessment (CCA) process, which informs the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ([UNSDCF](#)), in short, also known as the UN Country Framework. UNHCR is an active member of all four Strategic Priority groups of the UNSDCF and the Programme Management Team (PMT) that serves as a think-tank and advisor to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for the implementation of the Country Framework.



March workshop between UNHCR, and GIZ in Nampula to establish practical ways to working together more efficiently ©UNHCR/Stephanie Ferry

STRATEGIC DIRECTION | UNHCR Mozambique 2023

In 2023, UNHCR Mozambique will (i) [address the protection and assistance needs and support sustainable solutions for internally displaced people](#) in the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa, as well as the communities that host them; (ii) [address the protection and assistance needs and support sustainable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers](#), as well as the communities that host them; and cross-cutting UNHCR's entire response, (iii) support [preparedness and response efforts to natural hazards](#), including cyclones, flooding and drought. Through this engagement, UNHCR adopts an [age, gender and diversity](#) approach while maintaining a focus on [accountability to affected populations](#) (AAP). UNHCR will focus on reinforcing its operational presence and coordination leadership in protection, while supporting areas of shelter/NFI and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) through operational response, technical expertise and active participation in coordination fora; continue and strengthen protection advocacy; strengthen development partnerships to amplify and reinforce protection mainstreaming and address the needs of the people we serve sustainably; and, remain proactive in climate related preparedness activities, such as pre-positioning of CRIs, capacity building of the Government and partners, sensitization of communities on the importance of preparedness. [Find UNHCR's Global Appeal for 2023 here.](#)

UNHCR is grateful for the generous support of donors who have contributed to UNHCR Mozambique and to UNHCR programmes globally in 2022 and 2023

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For more information on UNHCR's programme in Mozambique:

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