

ICRC HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

IN MOZAMBIQUE

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Mozambique faces several humanitarian challenges and an increasing cost of living even as the country recovers from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conflict is affecting thousands of families, and a recent escalation drastically increased the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from 730 000 to 950 500 by the end of June, according to the United Nations Office for Migration (IOM). The effects of climate change increased the vulnerability of the population, causing displacement of many and the destruction of homes, healthcare centres and agricultural fields.

To respond to the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, we provided emergency assistance and sustainable programs to displaced people – many of them displaced several times – and the host communities. The displacement led to a rapid increase of population in host towns and villages, straining infrastructure and basic services.

To ensure that the urgent needs of these families are met, we improved access to healthcare, clean water and livelihoods. In collaboration with Mozambican Red Cross (CVM), we provided essential household utensils, including tarpaulins for shelter. We developed an urban water distribution system in Montepuez, and reinforced health services by inaugurating six health centers in areas that received a vast influx of people. We supported the vaccination against COVID-19 of 1 million people in areas affected by conflict and also 3 districts that were difficult to reach in the Central provinces. Our teams also carried out visits to five prisons, while finalizing a health and sanitation assessment to inform future actions in favor of people deprived of liberty. Moreover, we continued to help to locate and reunite families separated by the conflict and maintained a protection helpline to help them.

To improve knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL), which seeks to protect civilian people during armed conflicts, we engaged with the Mozambican and other defense and security forces, the judiciary and academic circles, including the recently created National Commission of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.



PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Distributed 6000 kits of essential household items (including buckets, kitchen utensils, soap, sleeping mats, nets, blankets and tarpaulins for shelter) to the newly displaced from Ancuabe;
- Distributed essential household items to 4236 families (21,180 individuals) in 14 locations;
- Provided social protection to 2905 displaced families in Pemba, Metuge, Montepuez and Chimoio districts to cover urgent basic needs and to start up small businesses;
- Provided social protection to seven families in vulnerable conditions (4 in Ibo Island and 3 Mapupulo IDP camp);
- Provided an assortment of vegetable seeds (lettuce, beet, onion, tomatoes, etc.), fertilizer, and farming tools to displaced persons;
- Supported farming families with ground preparation, seedlings transplanting, and reinstallation of the irrigation network.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- Rehabilitated six healthcare centres in Pemba (Muxara, Mahate and Ingonane) and Montepuez (Nihula, Napai and Namueto). The health facilities supported by ICRC have attended 187,395 patients, 16,715 antenatal care consultations and conducted 3,740 deliveries;

- Supported the national vaccination campaign against Covid-19 reaching a number of 1 430 285 people in central region and Cabo Delgado (1 dose, fully vaccinated and boosters) of whom 645,235 were fully vaccinated the end of the first semester 2022.
- Supported authorities to vaccinate 757,886 children under the age of five in response to a polio outbreak;
- Trained 200 CVM volunteers to sensitize communities about the COVID-19 vaccination;
- Trained 47 first aiders;
- Provided Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MPHSS) at health facilities and for community members.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- Built 32 handpumps and washing areas in Ibo and Montepuez, which improved access to water for 10 000 people;
- Installed solar pumps and completed the construction of water distribution systems launched in 2021, serving 10 000 people in Montepuez IDP camps.
- Created and strengthened community committees to manage and maintain the water supply system.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES SEPARATED BY ARMED CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

- Trained CVM volunteers to work on the Restoring Family Links program;
- Expanded the Restoring Family Links program to different conflict-affected zones.



VISITING PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

- Visited 8 places of detention in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Manica Provinces to support authorities in improving detention conditions;
- Supported the Mozambique prison service (SERNAP)'s participation in the Workshop on Prison Infrastructure in Africa that took place in Nairobi and at the World Conference on Health in Detention that took place in Geneva.



PROMOTING COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

- Collaboration with national authorities in the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Commission of Human Rights and IHL;
- Introduced IHL in the curricula of the Judiciary's mandatory training programs;
- Disseminated IHL to the legislative, judiciary, executive, and academic circles.



ENGAGEMENT WITH ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES

- Conducted a dissemination to police officials on the ICRC mandate and the international rules and standards for policing;
- Implemented the Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence on the dissemination of IHL and its practical application in military operations;
- Conducted a Training of Training program for 31 Mozambique Armed Forces (FADM) officers;
- Engaged with International Military Forces deployed in Mozambique to integrate protection of civilians and the rules of war into support relationships;
- Promoted the introduction, dissemination and implementation of IHL principles in FADM and International Military Forces to over 400 troops since the beginning of 2022;
- Invited FADM to the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) and Partner Military Operations (PMO) workshop, a key ICRC event

- allowing FADM to interact with other international armed forces;
- Conducted more than 24 hours of different sessions with FADM using the ICRC Simulation and Virtual Reality Tools (VRT), an innovative tool for training military practitioners on the rules of war.

WORKING WITH THE MOZAMBIQUE RED CROSS SOCIETY (CVM)

- Conducted regular capacity building trainings to volunteers in different areas (health, assistance, water and rehabilitation, Restoring Family Links);
- Supported the recruitment and coaching of CVM technicians in health, disaster management, and communication;
- Supported CVM Communication setup, carried out joint disseminations in communities and trained volunteers in communication.
- Provided visibility items and material support to increase the operationalization of the NS.



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MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral, and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to assist as well as protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. The ICRC endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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