

ICRC HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN MOZAMBIQUE

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022



Another year of armed conflict in northern Mozambique contributed significantly to the multiple humanitarian challenges the country is facing due to the impact on affected communities. Around 1.5 million people are estimated to need humanitarian assistance and 950,000 people are internally displaced due to armed violence, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Families seeking security, livelihoods and essential services have been displaced several times, increasing their vulnerability. Many have also been traumatized by the violence.

Public infrastructure was either damaged or abandoned during the conflict, or overloaded by flows of displaced people in search of refuge. In the second half of 2022, tens of thousands of people started the return process to their villages of origin. Many are currently living in basic conditions, sleeping under tarpaulins or in the open air, and without access to livelihoods and basic services, such as healthcare and clean water.

During 2022, we provided emergency assistance and sustainable programmes to displaced people and host communities to respond to the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. To help meet their urgent needs, we provided access to healthcare, potable water and livelihoods in collaboration with the Mozambican Red Cross (CVM). We reinforced the health services with the expansion and rehabilitation of six health centres and developed an urban water distribution system in Montepuez. We provided essential household utensils and farming and fishing equipment, as well as supported the vaccination against Covid-19 of 1.6 million people in areas affected by conflict in the north and in hard-to-reach districts in the centre of the country. Our teams also carried out periodic visits to six prisons, continued to help to locate and reunite families separated by the conflict, and maintained a protection helpline to support them.

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



IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- Rehabilitated six healthcare centres in Pemba (Muxara, Mahate and Ingonane) and Montepuez (Nihula, Napai and Namueto) and the first phase of Ibo Hospital. The health facilities supported by the ICRC have attended 424,742 patients, 16,715 antenatal care consultations and conducted 3,740 deliveries.
- Supported the national vaccination campaign against Covid-19 reaching 1,615,430 people in the 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 148 first aiders.
- Trained psychiatric technicians and psychologists on Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS). ICRC gender-based violence focal points supported health facilities in Montepuez and in Pemba.
- Trained Health committee members in MHPSS in Montepuez, Pemba, Metuge and Ibo.
- Trained CVM volunteers in MHPSS in Montepuez and in Ibo.



PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Provided fishing kits to 1,800 households (800 men and 1,000 women) in Ibo district.
- Distributed agro kits comprising of seeds and tools to 5,000 farming households in Montepuez district to support own production of food.
- Distributed essential household items (buckets, kitchen utensils, soap, sleeping mats, nets, blankets and tarpaulins for shelter) to 6,227 households (mainly internally displaced people) in Montepuez, Ibo, and Metuge districts.
- Provided cash assistance as a social protection support to 4,522 vulnerable families in Pemba, Metuge, Montepuez and Chimoio districts to cover their urgent basic needs.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- Built 32 handpumps and washing areas in Ibo and Montepuez, which improved access to water for 15,000 people.
- Installed solar pumps and completed the construction of water distribution systems launched in 2021, serving 15,000 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 programme.
- Expanded the Restoring Family Links programme to different conflict-affected zones.



VISITING PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF FREEDOM

- Visited six places of detention in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Manica Provinces to support authorities in improving detention conditions.
- Supported Mizeze prison farm in Cabo Delgado through provision of an assortment of vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and farming tools to support the production of at least 5,000 kg of vegetables to diversify the diets of the detainees.
- Supported the Mozambique prison service (SERNAP) to participate 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)

- Collaborated with national authorities in the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Commission of Human Rights and IHL.
- Introduced IHL into the curricula of the judiciary's mandatory training programmes.
- Disseminated IHL to the legislative, judicial and executive branches, and academic circles.



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ENGAGEMENT WITH ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES

- Promoted the introduction, dissemination and implementation of IHL principles to over 700 participants from the Mozambican Armed Forces (FADM) and international military forces.
- Disseminated ICRC's mandate, history, fundamental principles and modus operandi to 230 participants during Mozambique's National Police Force (PRM) first Pedagogical Techniques course in Moamba.
- Invited the PRM to the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Police Operations (SWIRPO).
- 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 Trainers programme for 74 FADM officers.
- Engaged with International Military Forces deployed in Mozambique to integrate the protection of civilians and the rules of war into support relationships.
- Supported FADM participation in the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO).
- Disseminated IHL to 35 Law Enforcement officers of the UIR (Rapid Intervention Unit), that are engaged in the theatre of operations.



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WORKING WITH THE MOZAMBICAN RED CROSS (CVM)

- Organized and supported Movement Induction, Safer Access and First Aid trainings for 118 CVM volunteers.
- Conducted regular technical capacity building to volunteers in the areas of health, assistance, water and rehabilitation and 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 skills.
- Provided visibility items and material support, salaries and running costs for CVM in Pemba and at HQ to increase the operationalization of the CVM.
- Supported CVM District and Provincial Assemblies and the CVM General Assembly to strengthen CVM governance.



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- Supported the CVM emergency response for internally displaced people in Nampula (Erati and Memba) in September with means of transport, means of communication, volunteers' incentives and accommodation.
- Constructed and equipped a CVM office building in Montepuez.



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.

International Committee of the Red Cross
Mozambique Delegation
Rua Dona Maria II, 138
Bairro Sommerschild
Maputo, Mozambique
T +258 84 418 4071
maputo@icrc.org www.icrc.org/pt
© ICRC, January 2023

Pemba Sub-delegation
Bairro Alto Gingone, Expansão II
Pemba, Cabo Delgado
T +258 27 220 295
pemba@icrc.org www.icrc.org/pt



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