

ICRC HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN MOZAMBIQUE

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021



D. Lucas/ICRC



S. Mata/ICRC

Mozambique faces a triple humanitarian crisis: exposure to armed conflict, persistent threats from climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. The recent attacks in Niassa in December 2021 once again forced thousands of people to leave their homes for safer areas, just as the rainy season was about to begin. The rise in COVID-19 cases in the country and the region is also a cause for concern.

In response to the crisis in Mozambique, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is scaling up its activities in the country by setting up an independent delegation in the capital Maputo and a sub-delegation in Pemba, Cabo Delgado. Our focus is to strengthen capacities jointly with the Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM) to continue to assist and protect people in need.

We continue to distribute much-needed emergency relief provisions and provide livelihood support to displaced and host communities in regions affected by the conflict in northern Mozambique, while remaining flexible and quick in our response. In addition to assistance and improved access to basic needs such as health care and water, one of our key priorities is putting people separated by the conflict in contact with their relatives.

Our main activities in 2021 are summarized below. The highlights of the year include provision of emergency relief to 67,000 people, support to nine health centers including the infrastructure extension of seven of them, benefiting over 223,000 people from both the displaced and host communities, and the construction of water handpumps, new boreholes and urban network extensions to improve access to water for over 44,000 people in Cabo Delgado, including on the Quirimbas Archipelago. We have also resumed our visits to places of detention in Cabo Delgado and stepped up our training workshops in international humanitarian law (IHL) with government armed forces involved in combat in the northernmost province.



M. Assane/CRIC



PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Provided tarpaulins and essential household items to 30,890 displaced people in Pemba, Metuge, Mueda, Montepuez and Ibo Island
- Provided seeds and tools to 15,000 displaced people and members of host families
- Distributed fishing equipment to 7,500 displaced people and host families in Matemo
- Provided cash transfers to 2,900 members of the most vulnerable displaced families in Pemba, Montepuez and Ibo Island to buy basic supplies and start a small business
- Distributed school kits to 10,990 returnees and displaced people in 13 schools across the Central Provinces, and donated furniture to two schools, benefiting 672 students
- Provided seeds, tools and irrigation equipment to the prison farm in Mizeze to improve and diversify the diet of detainees



IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Renovated and expanded the Mahate health centre in Pemba, benefiting 25,848 people
- Rebuilt the Muxara and Ingonane health centres in Pemba, benefiting 36,615 and 36,554 people, respectively

- Constructed new outpatient consultation buildings in Namweto, Nihuhula and Napai health centres in Montepuez, benefiting 83,253 people
- Started construction on a new district hospital (benefiting 40,892 people, the entire population in the Archipelago) on Ibo Island with outpatient consultation rooms, a laboratory, inpatient wards, a new maternity ward and an operating theatre
- Donated medicines and other medical supplies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, equipment and furniture to nine health facilities in Cabo Delgado
- Trained health-care providers and health managers in three districts of Cabo Delgado
- Facilitated awareness-raising sessions on preventable health conditions and diseases such as diarrhea, malaria and COVID-19 in nine health committees in Cabo Delgado
- Supported the Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Manica, Sofala and Cabo Delgado provinces



IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- Repaired and restored to working order 21 handpumps and washing areas in the urban and peri-urban areas of Montepuez, serving more than 6,000 people
- Repaired and restored to working order seven handpumps and washing areas on Matemo Island and four on Quirambo Island in Ibo district, serving the entire population of both islands, an estimated 13,000 people



M. Camaroti/CRIC

- Partnered with the Mozambique Red Cross Society to train and support 12 community water committees in Montepuez, four on Matemo Island and two on Quirambo Island, to properly manage and maintain the repaired handpumps and to promote good hygiene practices in the communities
- Drilled ten new boreholes for displaced people in Montepuez district, which will be equipped with autonomous solar pumping, storage and distribution systems, benefiting 10,000 people
- Working with the national water supply company Investment Fund and Water Supply Assets (FIPAG) to strengthen urban water systems in Cabo Delgado. So far, we have drilled two boreholes to increase the water supply of the Montepuez urban water system and are in the process of extending the water supply network to one of the unserved areas of the city, benefiting 15,000 people. We expect 80,000 people (including 15,000 displaced people) in the city to benefit by the end of the programme

SUPPORTING FAMILIES SEPARATED BY ARMED CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

- Together with the Mozambican Red Cross Society, maintained a telephone helpline (answering 3,396 calls) and provided protection services to the displaced in Pemba, Montepuez and Ibo as well as the resident population with relatives in areas affected by the conflict
- Initiated 2,343 tracing requests enquiries and arranged 190 phone calls together with the National Society



- Facilitated 1,262 phone calls for people who have fled the ongoing armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region and taken shelter in the Maratane refugee camp in Nampula
- Resumed its detention visits to three permanent places of detention under the responsibility of the National Prison Service (SERNAP) in Cabo Delgado and expanded its detention programme to two additional prisons, in Nampula and Manica provinces.

PROMOTING COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

- Based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC, we organized training sessions on the Fundamental Principles of IHL for over 500 soldiers of the Mozambique Armed Defense Forces
- Organized a forensic training programme on the management of dead bodies for 20 members of the Rapid Intervention Unit (Police) in Pemba
- Trained 67 officers from different police stations in Pemba in basic humanitarian principles related to the use of force and firearms
- Participation of high-ranking Mozambican officers for the first time in the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) workshop organized by the ICRC worldwide
- Facilitated a train of trainers programme in IHL for over 50 teachers from the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Mozambique in Nampula and Joaquim Chissano University in Maputo

- Facilitated a IHL training to 20 students of the Human Rights Master Program, from the Faculty of Law of Eduardo Mondlane University, in Maputo Province
- As part of an MoU with the Legal and Judicial Training Center (CFJJ), we organized several seminars across the country for close to 150 senior members of the judiciary
- Facilitated several seminars on the implementation of the Kampala Convention for 23 judges in Manica Province and 14 members of Instituto Nacional de Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres (INGD), the national institute for disaster management
- Organized a seminar for 25 members of the National Directorate of Constitutional Affairs on the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by Mozambique
- Donated computers, printers and smartphones to the main office in Maputo and the branch office in Cabo Delgado
- Donated 800 caps, 500 t-shirts and 299 aprons for Red Cross volunteers, so they can be easily identified
- Donated 30 bicycles and one Landcruiser for Red Cross volunteers in Cabo Delgado
- Organized several capacity-building training sessions (e.g. on COVID-19 prevention, first aid and technical and financial skills) for over 150 permanent staff members and volunteers
- Jointly organized an IHL training session for 25 management staff members of the CVM
- The ICRC supported the commemorations of the 40 years of CVM

WORKING WITH THE MOZAMBIQUE RED CROSS SOCIETY (CVM)

- Provided 500 kits with essential household items to CVM in Cabo Delgado to further build its emergency stock
- Donated rain protection boots and jackets to 130 Red Cross volunteers in Cabo Delgado




MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also 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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