UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Mozambique
Response to Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi: Critical Needs

30 January 2025

Destroyed houses in Mecufi district, Cabo Delgado.
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Key Figures
As of 30 January 2025

737,305
cyclone affected population

30,000
people reached with UNHCR's interventions

US$ 7,991,000
needed to reach 362,000 additional people

Situation Overview

Cyclone Chido, a powerful Category 4 storm, made landfall early on 15 December 2024, 30km south of Pemba, wreaking havoc across Mozambique's northern coastal provinces of Nampula and Cabo Delgado. The storm brought devastating winds, with gusts reaching up to 80 kilometres per hour, along with severe thunderstorms and torrential rainfall exceeding 250 mm in just 24 hours. Cyclone Chido marked the onset of Mozambique's annual rainy season – and the beginning of a particularly intense weather cycle – that usually lasts from November until March and is historically linked to heightened risks of cyclones and widespread flooding, worsening conditions for already vulnerable communities. Following Chido, Tropical Cyclone Dikeledi made landfall in Nampula on 13 January affecting over 283,000 people. The threat of additional cyclones this season remains, underscoring the importance of continued preparedness efforts.

Cyclone Chido has affected over 453,000 people according to government figures, with Cabo Delgado and Nampula being the hardest-hit provinces, impacting 272,832 and 175,169 people respectively. Many of these districts also host large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have already been uprooted by conflict. This compounded crisis highlights the extreme challenges IDPs face as they struggle to recover from both conflict and climate shocks.

Financial Requirements[1]

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL PEOPLE TARGETED
US $7,991,000	362,000

Sector/ interventions	Amount required (US$)	People targeted
Preparedness and early warning	972,000	41,000
Civil documentation and legal aid	931,000	96,000
Protection monitoring	460,000	29,000
Assistance to people with disabilities	647,000	12,000
Community engagement	289,000	66,000
Prevention and response to gender-based violence	1,681,000	59,000
Housing, land and property	651,000	40,000
Shelter and core relief items	2,360,000	19,000

[1] Financial requirements are in line with UNHCR's 2025 EXCOM approved budget.

UNHCR Response

Unloading core relief items for distribution in Cabo Delgado.
© UNHCR/ Isadora Zoni

In the first 48 hours after Chido made landfall, UNHCR supported **2,600 individuals at the largest accommodation centre** in Pemba, and is one of the first agencies on the ground responding to Dikeledi. UNHCR has supported more than **30,000 people with protection interventions** for the most vulnerable such as coordinating the protection response, providing mental health support, supporting case management for GBV survivors, and the **provision of core relief items**. With **US $7,991,000**, UNHCR seeks to scale up its response to address the immediate needs, assisting an additional **362,000 people** in the **most affected districts in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa provinces.**

Preparedness and early warning

PEOPLE TARGETED
41,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $972,000

Cyclone Chido, followed by Tropical Cyclone Dikeledi just a month later, marks the beginning of what is shaping up to be a particularly severe weather cycle. With the potential for more cyclones this season, ongoing preparedness is critical to help communities withstand the impact of future extreme weather events. With US $972,000, UNHCR can enhance early warning systems by expanding community radio coverage in high-risk areas and strengthening the capacity of Local Disaster Risk Reduction Committees, reaching 41,000 people and building resilience against further climate shocks.

Civil documentation & legal aid

PEOPLE TARGETED
96,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $931,000

Families affected by the cyclones have lost vital civil documents—a common consequence of climate emergencies, where essential documents are often destroyed or left behind. This loss significantly hinders access to critical assistance, essential services, and legal protection, while also restricting freedom of movement. With US $931,000, UNHCR can assist 75,000 individuals by providing civil documentation, including national IDs and birth certificates, and deliver legal aid to 21,000 people.

Protection monitoring

PEOPLE TARGETED
29,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $460,000

In the aftermath of Cyclone Chido, UNHCR is intensifying protection monitoring to assess immediate needs and risks, enabling informed decision-making for humanitarian interventions, targeted advocacy with duty bearers, and timely identification and referral of individuals with specific needs. With US $460,000, UNHCR can expand these efforts to reach 29,000 individuals.

Assistance to people with specific needs

PEOPLE TARGETED
12,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $647,000

Vulnerable groups - including people with disabilities, older people, women-headed and children-headed households - face heightened risks due to limited resources, property loss, and lack of support systems, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Persons with disabilities are particularly impacted by the lack of assistive devices and caregiving support, while older persons struggle to access basic services and medical care. The destruction of infrastructure has worsened mobility challenges, further isolating these groups from essential services and assistance. With US $647,000, UNHCR can support 12,000 individuals with specific needs by providing referrals, assistive devices, and rehabilitation, helping to restore their dignity and resilience.

Shelter and core relief items (CRIs)

PEOPLE TARGETED
19,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $2,630,000

The cyclones have left over 150,000 houses in Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces fully or partially destroyed, displacing families and leaving them without shelter. With US $2,360,000, UNHCR can provide durable, weather-resistant shelters for 500 people, helping them rebuild with greater resilience to future climate shocks. Additionally, 18,500 people can receive essential CRIs, such as kitchen sets, mosquito nets, blankets, tarpaulins, and buckets, ensuring their basic needs are met and restoring a sense of security and dignity.

GBV prevention and response

PEOPLE TARGETED
59,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $1,681,000

Before Cyclone Chido, intimate partner violence and sexual violence were already prevalent in many of the affected areas. Climate emergencies like this significantly heighten the risk of GBV due to displacement, overcrowded shelters, economic hardship, and weakened protection systems. Women and girls face heightened vulnerability in unsafe environments, while disrupted access to support services leaves survivors without vital assistance. Resource scarcity and stress further escalate risks, including sexual violence, exploitation, and intimate partner violence. With US $1,681,000, UNHCR can provide essential support to 59,000 individuals, including survivors and women and girls at risk, through GBV case management, metal health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and awareness raising.

Community engagement

PEOPLE TARGETED
66,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $289,000

The cyclones have severely disrupted community-based protection and support structures, rendering mechanisms like protection desks, safe spaces, and community committees non-functional. This has created a significant gap in localized response capacity, leaving affected populations—particularly those already vulnerable to protection risks and in hard-to-reach areas—without accessible ways to report concerns or seek assistance. With US $289,000, UNHCR can reach 66,000 individuals by enhancing community engagement through the expansion of mobile protection desks. These efforts will provide critical information, raise awareness, identify and refer vulnerable cases, and establish robust complaints and feedback mechanisms, ensuring no one is left behind.

Housing, land and property

PEOPLE TARGETED
40,000

FUNDING REQUIRED
US $651,000

The cyclones have devastated property and infrastructure, leaving people without homes and destroying livelihoods. In the aftermath of such climate emergencies, effective management of housing, land, and property (HLP) rights is vital to ensure that affected populations can secure their homes and rebuild their livelihoods. With US $651,000, UNHCR can support 40,000 individuals through HLP awareness raising, due diligence processes, and the recovery of title deeds (DUATs), enabling families to reclaim stability and begin rebuilding their lives.

Amina and her destroyed house.
© UNHCR/ Isadora Zoni

“I don't even know where to begin.”

Amina, a teacher in Mecufi district, Cabo Delgado, is staying just outside the secondary school, which was turned into an accommodation site. Amina's house was destroyed and she barely made it out alive as the metal sheets were blown and the structure collapsed. Amina says that it is not easy for her to pick up the pieces of her life, alone and at 60 years of age.

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