

P R E S S E M I T T E I L U N G

Violence hits previously safe district in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, forcing nearly 10,000 people to flee

Pemba, 14 June 2022 - A new wave of violence has uprooted thousands of people in Cabo Delgado province in northern Mozambique, with violent attacks hitting Ancuabe district between 2 and 9 June. The incidents triggered the displacement of [nearly 10,000 people](#), and it is estimated that [at least four people were beheaded in the attacks](#), the first of their kind in this district.

Ancuabe had previously been considered safe from violence and is hosting substantial numbers of families who have already been displaced from other districts. Ancuabe is less than a 2-hour drive from Pemba city, one of the region's hubs.

Displaced people were witness to killings, beheadings, rape, houses being burned and abductions, and reported the kidnapping of several boys. Women and children make up 85 per cent of those forced from their homes or shelters and include pregnant women as well as unaccompanied and separated children.

Many of the 10,000 people displaced in the past week were already living in camps and have now moved to emergency and communal shelters in Chiure, Metuge and Pemba districts. Conditions are dire and families have been left without adequate access to shelter, toilets, clothes and food.

The attacks have also impacted humanitarian operations supporting previously displaced families, including those by Save the Children, whose activities were interrupted by the deteriorating security situation.

The number of children displaced by the conflict in Cabo Delgado has now increased from 370,000 to [over 400,000](#), according to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. In response to the latest displacements, Secretariat of State in Cabo Delgado has raised the possibility of reopening the Desportivo Transit Centre, in the city of Pemba, which served as a reception point for displaced people during the peak of violence last year.

Save the Children's Country Director in Mozambique, Brechtje van Lith, said:

"Despite efforts to bring peace to Cabo Delgado, violence continues. This new wave of attacks and displacement is particularly concerning as it affects children who were already uprooted and are witnessing fighting for the second time.

"The children were only just getting their lives back together, and now they are again forced to flee with just the clothes on their backs, seeking refuge with their families in transit centres in Pemba and the neighboring districts.

"These attacks represent a major setback and have forced the humanitarian actors in the area to shift their activities to respond to the most urgent needs of children and their families in the places where they are now living."

Save the Children is a major responder to the crisis in Cabo Delgado, reaching about 302,000 people, including nearly 174,000 children in 2021. Internally displaced people, host communities and families have been supported with life-saving and life-sustaining support, through child protection, education,

health, nutrition, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene interventions, as well as humanitarian and peace building programs. Save the Children implements in Pemba, Metuge, Chiure, Montepuez, Mueda and Palma districts.

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Über Save the Children

Im Nachkriegsjahr 1919 gründete die britische Sozialreformerin und Kinderrechtlerin Eglantyne Jebb Save the Children, um Kinder in Deutschland und Österreich vor dem Hungertod zu retten. Heute ist die inzwischen größte unabhängige Kinderrechtsorganisation der Welt in rund 120 Ländern tätig. Save the Children setzt sich ein für Kinder in Kriegen, Konflikten und Katastrophen. Für eine Welt, die die Rechte der Kinder achtet, in der alle Kinder gesund und sicher leben und frei und selbstbestimmt aufwachsen und lernen können – seit über 100 Jahren.