Highlights

- The situation in Palma district remains volatile and residents continue seeking refuge in neighboring districts.
- Mueda and Nangade districts are the main destination of the newly displaced, hosting 57% of the new IDPs.
- UNICEF has supported more than 20,000 people displaced from Palma with WASH interventions.
- UNICEF dispatched 25 community health worker kits sufficient to address the need of 6,250 patients and four tents for temporary clinics in districts receiving IDPs from Palma.
- UNICEF provided 18,500 leaner kits to provincial education authorities of which 38 per cent will be provided to districts receiving Palma IDPs.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since the attacks carried out in Palma town on 24 March 2021 by non-state armed groups (NSAG), the movement and displacement of the affected population to other districts continues. According to the Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) as of 27 April managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), nearly 36,000 people arrived from Palma, of which 43% are children; 79% of IDPs are living within the host communities. Within the IDP population, IOM identified 454 unaccompanied/separated children, most in Nangade district followed by Montepuez and Pemba city. The top three destination of IDPs are Mueda, Nangade, and Montepuez.

The situation in Palma is still volatile although government security forces (GSF) are present on the ground. The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), reports of shootings in Palma town continue and the situation remains fluid. The majority of homes, shops, and vehicles are largely abandoned, and food prices are rising. On 22 April 2021, a security assessment to inform humanitarian assistance was carried out in Afungi Base, near Palma by a UN interagency mission.

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1 Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) – Palma Crisis (Report)
composed of humanitarian and security personnel. The assessment was conducted inside the perimeter of the Afungi compound, and included interactions with the GSF and the community leaders. UN joint missions to hard-to-reach areas such as Mueda and Negomano—near the border with Tanzania—were also conducted to assess the needs of IDPs on the move from Palma and to provide immediate assistance. Efforts to gain access to Quitunda, near the Afungi based, Mueda, and other hard-to-reach areas continues with both regular assistance and smaller rapid response packages for people on the move.

From April 9-15, UNICEF’s Emergency Director, Manuel Fontaine, visited Mozambique traveling to IDP sites in Montepuez, Metuge and Pemba Districts of Cabo Delgado. Mr. Fontaine, with the UNICEF Mozambique Representative, talked to groups of men, women, adolescents, new arrivals from the late-March fighting in Palma, host families, and community leaders. He also held meetings with local and national government officials, partners, CSOs, and members of the diplomatic community.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**Health & Nutrition**

UNICEF conducted a joint assessment to Ancuabe and Chiure Districts and identified areas receiving IDPs from Palma as well as the need for maternal and child health services including prevention and management of common childhood disease including malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection and the availability of temporary clinics for delivery of essential health services.

UNICEF dispatched 25 community health worker kits sufficient to address the needs of 6,250 sick patients as well as four tents to be used as temporary clinics.

UNICEF staff and partners supported the prepositioning of lifesaving supplies including ready-to-use therapeutic foods, tents, therapeutic milks (F75 and F100) and screening tapes at health facilities, IDPs camps and transit points in five districts of Cabo Delgado to ensure quality identification and care of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in districts with IDPs arriving from Palma.

UNICEF and partners are also providing support in temporary spaces for screening and referral of malnutrition and promotion of improved health practices linked to infant and young child feeding, health seeking and WASH practices.

In the Centro Desportivo Pemba transit centre for IDPs arriving from Palma, 71 children under five years and seven pregnant and breastfeeding woman (PLW) were screened for acute malnutrition; one child with SAM was referred for treatment to a UNICEF-supported outpatient treatment facility. UNICEF’s partner AVSI Foundation supported set up of a temporary outpatient care unit at the transit centre for nutrition screenings and treatment of uncomplicated SAM cases. To date, 23 cooking demonstrations using enriched porridge were performed at the transit centre reaching 46 displaced mothers (11 of whom were pregnant) and 60 children.

In late April 2021, UNICEF participated in an interagency mission to Mueda and Negomano where women and children were screened for malnutrition during the joint distribution of NFI's, health medicines and nutrition supplies.
WASH
In response to the Palma crisis and resulting outflows of displaced, UNICEF together with partners scaled up critical life-saving WASH services to vulnerable and at-risk populations in Pemba, Montepuez and Mueda Districts. Through a multi-sectoral response, UNICEF has supported more than 4,000 families in the Pemba transit centre, and new arrivals in Montepuez and Mueda Districts through the distribution of family hygiene and dignity kits, hygiene promotion and awareness sessions, installation of emergency latrines, bathing spaces, hand washing facilities and provision of safe drinking water. Provincial and district WASH Cluster coordination is being strengthened with regular meetings and information sharing. There are ongoing assessments by WASH Cluster partners in Mueda, Montepuez and Macomia districts to better understand and quantify WASH needs and gaps and to prioritize interventions and support resource mobilization. Regular WASH activities supporting IDPs in Metuge, Ancuabe and Chiure transit and relocation sites with family WASH facilities and community engagement continue in parallel with the ongoing cholera and COVID-19 response and prevention activities in cooperation with health cluster partners.

Child Protection
UNICEF is providing immediate child protection support to children and adolescents arriving from Palma. A priority child protection concern is for unaccompanied and separated children. For these children, UNICEF supports partners to support each child through child-centered case management and to start family tracing and reunification activities. UNICEF acts in the best interests of the child, and whether the child is supported by an institution or foster family, case management work links each child with needed support and services including the provision of psychosocial support to children, through age-appropriate, didactic, recreational activities and counselling. As a result of our intervention, 76 children (36 boys and 40 girls) affected by the conflict, from Palma, were registered and provided with psychosocial support through didactic and recreational activities at various locations. In addition, a specific room was rehabilitated at the Centro Desportivo transit site and one psychologist allocated to provide specialized mental health and psychosocial support to higher-needs children and adults, including counseling for complex cases.

Eighteen unaccompanied children (8 girls), were identified and registered, for whom active family tracing was conducted in close collaboration with Social Welfare Department. As a result, 13 children were safely reunified with their families. Between 16-22 April 2021, the Cabo Delgado Child Protection coordination Area of Responsibility (CPAoR) coordinator participated in a mission to Mueda and Negomano—both considered hard-to-reach areas—to monitor community needs, across IDP populations and host communities. The CPIE team monitored support to children in three transit centers: Clube Desportivo Transit Centre, Eduardo Mondlane Transit Centre and Negomano tent camp. In the three sites there are approximately 525 families and 280 children. In Negomano, 17 UASC from recent fighting in Palma were identified and registered, for whom active family tracing has begun in close collaboration with Social Welfare Department.

In addition, a training was provided to displaced communities and IDP community focal points on principles and activities of protection and child protection.

Education
UNICEF, in conjunction with Education in Emergencies Cluster members, developed a response plan to assist 18,500 children in Cabo Delgado through Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and basic teacher and learning materials. Supplies will be allocated particularly to districts with significant numbers of IDPs in host families; Montepuez, Mueda, Nangade and Pemba. UNICEF provided already over 3930 learners’ kits, 85 school-in-a-box kits, and seven chalk boards and, based on an agreed distribution plan with the Provincial Education Directorate (DPE), will continue to distribute a total of 18,487 learners’ kits, 289 school-in-a-box kits and 35 chalkboards to all districts except Mocimboa da Praia and Palma where education services are suspended. Thirty-eight per cent of
UNICEF’s learners’ kits will go to districts hosting new IDPs from Palma. 149 TLS will be set up in the province, and trainings to provincial and district education staff have already been organized, including for 78 local community members. UNICEF is also ensuring education response at Centro Desportivo in Pemba, through an implementing partners using 3 ECD Kits. The Provincial Education in Emergency focal point was trained in psycho-social support (PSS) and specifically on the referral of children who need professional support. UNICEF is co-sharing an Education Cluster Working Group on PSS established to accelerate and harmonize the response to PSS well-being needs in Education Sector.

Communications for Development (C4D)
The UNICEF C4D team expanded the partnership with the Instituto the Comunicação Social (ICS) in order to increase the dissemination of life-saving messages through multimedia mobile units in host communities and resettlement camps, the establishment of listening areas in resettlement camps, and the rehabilitation of a community radio in the district of Ancuabe. In addition, the C4D team initiated a cycle of training on community engagement and interpersonal communication for frontline workers of partners conducting activities at the community level. The initiative aims to harmonized knowledge and skills of frontline workers engaged in the response. UNICEF has also reached IDPs and host communities affected by, or at risk of, cholera, COVID-19 and other health issues. In March, 71,669 people were received messages on life-saving practices.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy
UNICEF leads the WASH, Education in Emergencies, and Nutrition Clusters and the Child Protection sub-cluster or Area of Responsibility. All are scaling up coordination activities in Pemba to promote and ensure a well-planned response that identifies and quickly works to address gaps while ensuring a quality standard in line with global technical standards as well as UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Through the clusters, UNICEF and partners are participating in missions to hard-to-reach areas to conduct rapid assessments and provide urgently needed assistance. UNICEF is currently working with IOM and WFP to develop a mechanism to rapidly provide small response packages to people on the move.

Supply and Logistics
Access for agencies and delivery contractors in Cabo Delgado is challenged by the security situation. Private transporters with whom UNICEF holds agreements are reluctant to go to several areas due to the volatile and insecure environment. In particular, UNICEF relies on the UN Humanitarian Air Service to reach Ibo, Mueda and Palma Districts, when possible. It is critically important that UNHAS retain and expand available services for both passengers and cargo.

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