

A SNAPSHOT OF THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN THE NORTH OF MOZAMBIQUE



UNICEF/Mozambique/2022/Ricardo Franco

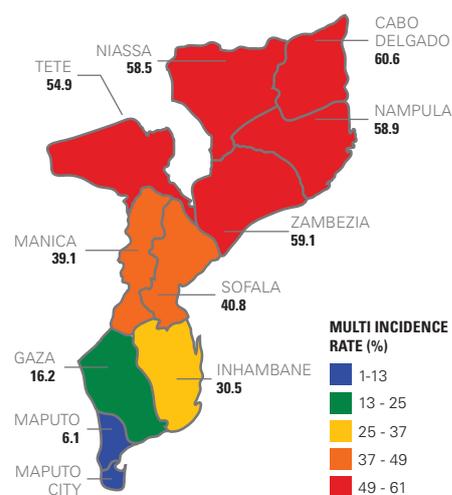
This short overview provides general facts on child and adolescent health, nutrition, WASH, education, protection and social well-being in Mozambique, with a particular focus on Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa in the North.

Mozambique Overview



- **Ranking of Mozambique on the 2020 Human Development Index:** 181 of 189 countries
- **Population living in extreme poverty (2014):** 62 per cent, earning less than US \$1.90 per day
- **Projected increase in population living in extreme poverty due to the COVID-19 pandemic:** 1.4 million more people, bringing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to 66.6 per cent
- **Multidimensional poverty of children:** 46 per cent (see diagram for breakdown by province)
- **Projected size of the child population by 2050:** 28 million (up from 16.7 million in the 2017 Census)
- **Largest killer of under-five children:** Malnutrition
- **Violence against children:** More than one in five females (21.1 per cent) and males (23.2 per cent) aged 13-17 years experienced physical violence in the past 12 months (INVIC 2019)

Multidimensional poverty



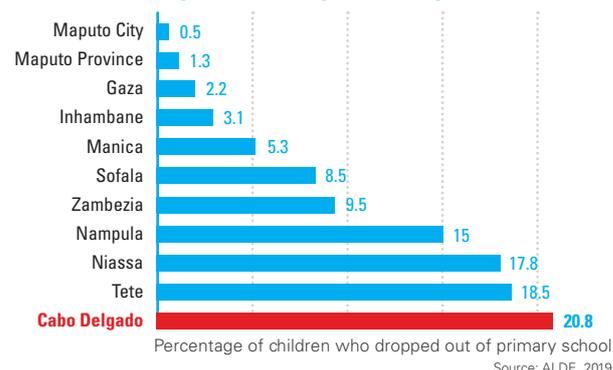
North Overview

Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula provinces are impacted by three simultaneous crises: natural disasters; COVID-19 and outbreaks of diseases such as polio and cholera; and armed conflict. These shocks seriously impact human development and increase the disparities and vulnerabilities children and their families face, even in comparison to the southern parts of the country where many children also face multiple deprivations.

The highest levels of stunting—a condition which results from chronic malnutrition—are seen in the North, with one in two children affected, and correlate with the large number of households with inadequate access to water and sanitation. These children are likely to suffer from irreversible physical, mental and social development loss, impacting significantly on school achievement and economic productivity. The northern provinces also register the highest levels of food insecurity, with Cabo Delgado hosting 50 percent of the country’s food insecure population. Major causes of food insecurity include conflict and lack of access to land, rainfall irregularities and shortages, increasing food prices and COVID-19-related restrictions.

More than 70 per cent of children and adolescents in the North do not complete primary school. Adolescents between 13 and 17 years living in the North have the lowest attendance rates and have very limited alternative learning opportunities. The northmost provinces register the highest dropout rates, and girls become more likely to drop out as they get older¹. Only 3.5 per cent of 3-5-year-olds have access to pre-school or early learning services. For children with disabilities, even without factoring in displacement and conflict, more than 64 per cent do not attend school.

School dropout rate by province (percentage)



Impact of the conflict on basic social services in Cabo Delgado:

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49 per cent of health facilities and **50 per cent** of WASH infrastructure are not functional.
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219 schools have been affected; **46** of which were destroyed.
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Over 2,000 teachers and more than **300,000 school-age children** have been displaced, only **18 per cent** of them have been integrated into existing education services.
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 The influx of displaced populations is putting pressure on already strained existing services. In the districts of Ibo and Metuge, the total population has more than doubled.
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 There are **51 relocation sites**, nevertheless, **72 percent** of IDPs live with family and friends in host communities.

By April 2022, armed violence had reportedly claimed 3,885² lives. Civilians, especially women and children, are victims of grave human rights violations, including killings, maiming, abductions, the recruitment and use of children by armed groups and conflict related sexual violence. Reports show that a large number of children have been abducted, potentially for recruitment purposes to serve as fighters or used by the NSAGs. An estimated 440,190 children are in need of psychosocial support. More than 3,200 (IOM DTM) children have been separated from their families, putting them at greater risk of sexual abuse, trafficking and other violations. Reports of gender-based violence (GBV) continue to be received, while response services, particularly those for child and adolescent survivors, remain extremely limited with minimal availability of care and support.

Below is a list of key social and economic indicators, highlighting the disparity between the northern provinces and the rest of the country.

Indicator	National	Cabo Delgado	Nampula	Niassa
Population (2021)	30.8 million	2.6 million	6.3 million	2.1 million
Child population (aged 0–18 years) (Census 2017)	16,724,820	1,412,966	3,566,455	1,203,872
Youth population (aged 19–24 years) (Census 2017)	3,443,846	262,545	662,402	221,044
Displaced population ³ (49 per cent are children)	784,319	702,735	76,568	3,552
Birth registration (under 5 years) (SitAN)	49%	60.3%	43.5%	39.5%
Monetary child poverty (SITAN)	49%	50.5%	58.7%	64%
Multidimensional child poverty (SitAN)	46%	60.6%	58.9%	58.5%
Chronic malnutrition (SitAn—IOf2019)	38%	45%	46.7%	43.3%
Infant mortality ratio (# deaths per 1,000 live births) (Census 2017)	67.3	75.8	68.3	65.9
Immunization coverage 12-23 months, (IMASIDA 2015)	65.8%	86.2%	52.1%	78.0%
Access to safe water source (% of population aged 0-17 years) (Census 2017)	55.8%	42.9%	40.2%	37.6%
Access to improved sanitation (Census 2017)	49.6%	22.7%	23.4%	26.1%
Primary school attendance rates (net) (MINEDH)	91%	61%	72%	74%
Secondary school enrolment	23.9%	13.3 %	20%	20%
Child marriage (aged 12 -17 years) (INVIC 2019 & Census 2017 for provinces)	41.1% F; 11.4% M	22.8% F, 4% M	22.3% F, 4% M	21% F, 3.6% M
Mental health as a percentage of “disabilities” for children 0-17 years old (Child Atlas 2017)	NA	12.3%	11.9 %	9%

¹UNICEF, Longitudinal Assessment of School Dropout 2019
²https://www.cabodelgado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-28-march-3-april-2022
³IOM IDP Baseline Assessment Round 15 - February 2022.