CUAMM’S RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN CABO DELGADO

THE CRISIS

Since the beginning of 2020 the situation in the province of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, has rapidly escalated as a result of conflicts, insecurity and violence, leaving an estimated 1.3 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection in 2021. The province, hit by cyclone Kenneth in April 2019, is now experiencing attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). Reports of violations against civilians, including killings, beheadings and kidnappings, increased in 2020. The number of people displaced by the crisis more than quadrupled from March (over 110,400) to November 2020 (nearly 530,000), with children accounting for an estimated 45% of people displaced1.

Today the area is affected by three emergencies:
1. The crisis faced by the Internally Displaced People (IDPs), who live in precarious conditions in various Southern districts of the Province due to cyclone Kenneth and the attacks of the NSAGs, where access to basic services, among them healthcare services, is limited;
2. The growing instability caused by the attacks, killings, kidnappings and looting of NSAGs;

Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Education services across Cabo Delgado have been significantly hampered. 36% of health facilities in the province have been destroyed or damaged and there are no functional health facilities (HFs) in the districts hardest-hit by conflict (Mocimboa da Praia, Macomia, Muidumbe and Quissanga). This has reduced capacity to detect and respond to disease outbreaks, including cholera, measles and COVID-19, and to provide essential care, such as access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights services (SRHR), immunization activities, access to anti-retroviral (ARVs), treatment for tuberculosis (TB) and chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes. About 176,000 people have lost access to their primary water source which is a major concern and heightens the risk of disease outbreaks: 45% of HFs in Cabo Delgado lack access to water and 85% of schools lack adequate hygiene facilities2.
CUAMM is present in the province of Cabo Delgado since 2014 and today is assisting vulnerable communities through diverse interventions on maternal and child health, HIV, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), COVID-19 prevention as well as ensuring access to basic healthcare services to IDPs.

**Districts of Montepuez and Balama**

Through the “Mothers and children first. 1000 days” project, CUAMM is strengthening services in Montepuez hospital, Balama health center and other more peripheral health facilities where it guarantees assistance and care for childbirth and newborns in their first 1000 days of life. In addition, CUAMM supports mobile outreach clinics for ANC/PNC, vaccinations, tests and treatment of malaria, HIV and TB.

**Districts of Montepuez, Balama, Chiure and Ancuabe**

CUAMM has trained 200 community actors in charge of identifying and referring adolescents and youth, especially among the migrants-IDPs, miners and sex workers populations, to the nearest health facility for HIV testing and treatment. Community actors are also trained to raise awareness among traditional leaders (community judges, teachers, village leaders) on the reduction of the stigma around HIV and on conflicts resolution as well as peace and social cohesion.

**Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**

Districts of Chiure, Pemba, Montepuez

CUAMM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, is strengthening NCDs services especially for diabetes and hypertension. Focus of the project is to ensure continuity through technical assistance, training to health cadres and distribution of equipment, consumables and registers.

**Support to the IDPs**

Districts of Ancuabe, Chiure, Mecufi, Metuge, Pemba

CUAMM is implementing an emergency response intervention that includes:

1. Providing emergency hygiene kits (soap, bowls, fabric masks, etc.)
2. Organizing integrated mobile health clinics (Brigadas Moveis Integradas), through the support to local authorities, to address the humanitarian health situation in targeted districts including the IDPs camps.
3. Establishing new health facilities within the IDPs camps by providing tenders as well as health posts with basic equipment, drugs, and WASH kits.

**COVID-19**

Districts of Pemba, Metuge, Mecufi, Chiure, Ancuabe, Montepuez

CUAMM is supporting the local health system to protect the local health staff, providing trainings on correct behavioral procedures. Triage tents have been set up, which are also used, when needed, for cholera patients. In addition, awareness raising campaigns have been organized in recent months through radio, TV and community activities, in compliance with the MoH prevention regulations.