

The sample below illustrates the final product. If you wish to see the original Word document with edits in tracked changes, please email alice@crealitygroup.org.

Health system on the frontline: the Cabo Delgado conflict

- The [conflict in Cabo Delgado](#) has been persisting since October 2015, with the rate of violent events peaking in the summer of 2022.
- Health facilities, along with schools and other civilian infrastructure, have been targeted extensively as part of a campaign against the state of Mozambique.
- In December 2022, the majority of health facilities in northern Cabo Delgado remained either partially or fully damaged, with the majority non-functioning, contrary to the Government's statements in August 2022 of their reopening.
- The districts of Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe, and Quissanga have only one partially functioning facility per district, each catering to an average of 109,000 people.

An active conflict

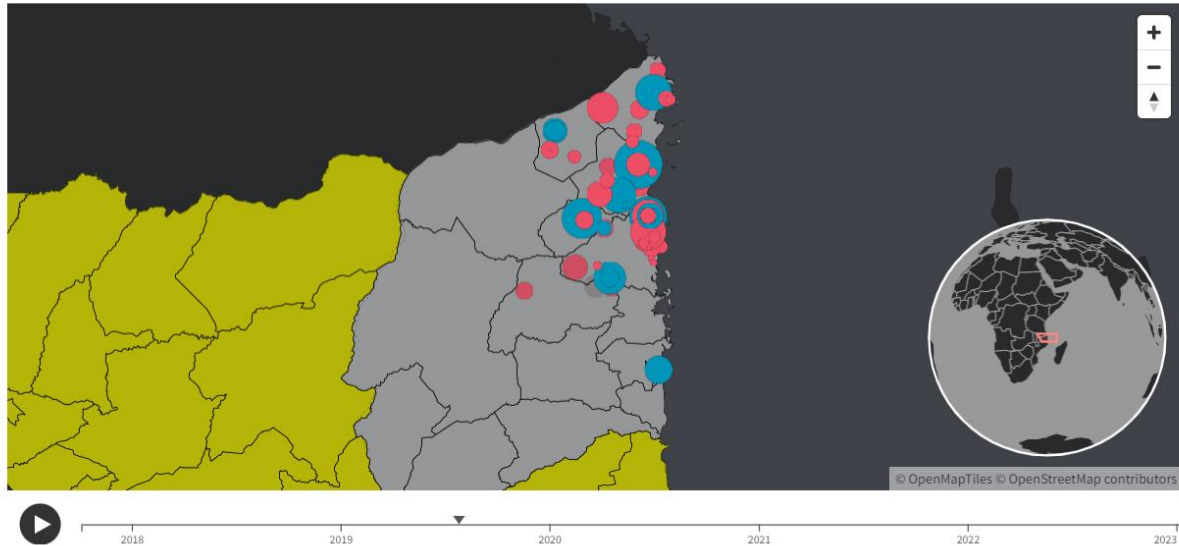
Mozambican security forces have been fighting militant Islamists from Ansar al-Sunna and the Islamic State in Cabo Delgado since the end of 2017. This is part of a current Islamist uprising aiming to set up an Islamic state in the area. Since the start of the conflict, [the insurgency has displaced nearly one million people in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa provinces](#).

[Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project](#) (ACLED) data shows a steady and continuous number of violent events by Islamist militia groups targeting civilians and the different military and police forces active in Mozambique. The interactive graph below shows the number of people killed in these events – most of them in the north and along the coast of Cabo Delgado.

Visualizing the conflict in Cabo Delgado

ACLED data for Mozambique shows that the majority of **battles** and **violence against civilians** events were concentrated in the north and along the coast of Cabo Delgado province. The size of the bubble represents the total number of victims in that event.

Province ■ Cabo Delgado ■ Other provinces



Source: [Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\)](#).

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/12172468/> (full resolution)

An extensive field research in the province by the [Institute for Security Studies and the Judicial Training Institute of Mozambique](#) provided some insights into the origin and nature of the insurgency. The attacks on civilian infrastructure are part of a campaign against the state of Mozambique to set up an Islamic state in the region. The Islamist assailants in Cabo Delgado, [as per Eric Morier-Genoud](#) in *The Conversation*, “told local people they would not hurt them, that their fight was with the state and the police. They explained that they rejected state health and education facilities and refused to pay taxes. They also called on people to remove their children from Western-style schools.”

Health centres and hospitals under attack

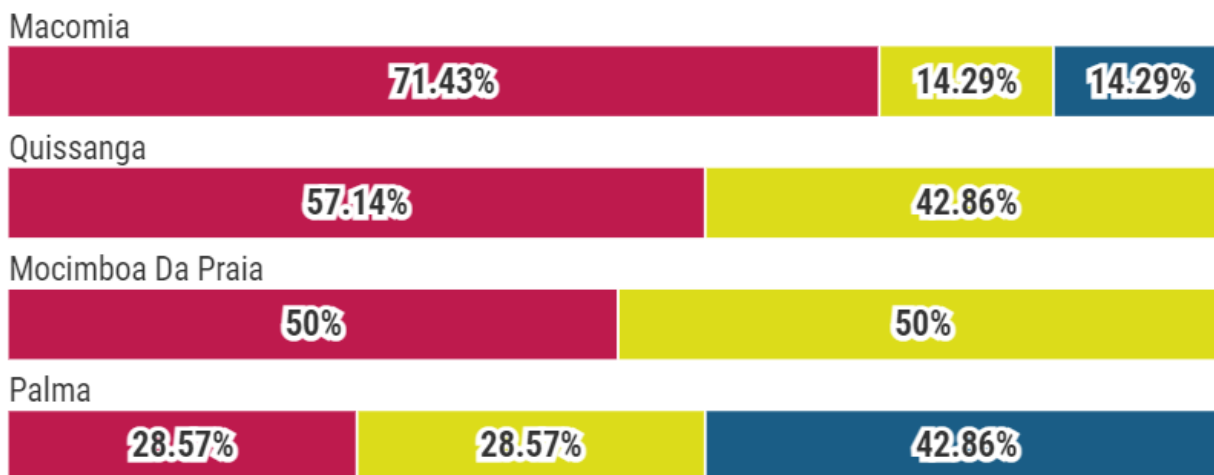
Armed groups have targeted hospitals and health centres multiple times, with attacks ranging from [the destruction of buildings](#) to [the looting of medicine and health supplies](#).

As seen on the interactive map of health facilities in Cabo Delgado province below, the conflict has mostly damaged health facilities in the north and along the coast of the province. The most affected districts in terms of number of people involved and damaged facilities are Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe, Palma, and Quissanga.

[...]

In Macomia, Quissanga and Mocimboa Da Praia over 50% of the health facilities have been fully damaged

Damages of the health facility: ■ Fully damaged ■ Partially damaged ■ Not damaged



[...]

According to the latest [Annuary of Statistics published in 2020](#) by the [Instituto Nacional De Estatistica](#), the combined population of Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Muidumbe, and Quissanga is 435,642, or 17.3% of the total Cabo Delgado population. According to HeRAMS data, there are only four partially working health facilities out of a total of 29 in these districts. This is roughly equivalent to one health unit for every 109,000 people. The interactive map below shows the status of the facilities in the province.

[...]

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/12214564/> (full resolution)

Hospitals and health units are undergoing reconstruction or repairs as part of the Cabo Delgado Reconstruction Plan, an investment programme by the Mozambican Government to rebuild roads, telecommunication infrastructure, health facilities, and schools in the conflict-affected province. That said, Secretary of State for Cabo Delgado António Supeia [has admitted delays in the plan](#).

What's in store for the future?

The [latest monthly report from Cabo Ligado](#), a conflict observatory on the Cabo Delgado insurgency started by ACLED, says that fighting is still continuing in Macomia and Muidumbe districts. Displaced people have also been returning to Mocimboa da Praia over the past month. Even though the Government keeps telling a positive story about the insurgency, there are more military forces in Cabo Delgado, especially Rwandan forces. According to the report, analysts observe that “[m]any local and

international analysts that Cabo Ligado has spoken to believe we are far from the end of this conflict and its associated humanitarian crises". They add, "Despite improved security in some key locations, large areas of Nangade, Muidumbe, and Macomia districts remain ungovernable".

[...]

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/12215143/>

The ACAPS INFORM Severity Index shows the severity of the conflict escalating in the beginning of 2021, before peaking in March 2021 when the coastal city of Palma was under attack. The capture of the city brought international attention to the conflict, with [wide coverage](#) from global news organisations. The index has remained consistent since.