

## MOZAMBIQUE

***In Cabo Delgado province, over 100 educational facilities were damaged or destroyed due to armed conflict during the reporting period. In addition, GCPEA identified sporadic reports of attacks on school teachers in Cabo Delgado province. In Manica and Sofala provinces, an armed opposition group threatened or attacked schools and schoolteachers in 2020.***

### **Context**

During the 2020-2021 reporting period, armed conflict escalated in Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado province, and continued in central Manica and Sofala provinces, where armed groups attacked civilians and engaged in hostilities with state armed forces, police, and private security contractors.<sup>1045</sup>

A non-state armed group, known locally as "Al-Shabab"<sup>1046</sup> or Al-Sunna wa Jama'a (ASWJ), which was reportedly affiliated with Islamic State (IS), began attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure in Cabo Delgado province in 2017 and increased its activity in 2019 and 2020, according to the UN and other international organizations.<sup>1047</sup> In 2020, Cabo Delgado experienced its deadliest year of conflict, with 1,600 fatalities, three times more than in 2019, according to ACLED.<sup>1048</sup> "Al-Shabab" violently captured the town of Mocímboa da Praia in August 2020; the government regained control of the town one year later.<sup>1049</sup> Human Rights Watch reported in 2021 that the armed group had abducted and used hundreds of women and children, using boys<sup>1050</sup> and sexually abusing or enslaving girls.<sup>1051</sup> Amnesty International reported that in efforts to combat insurgents, Mozambican security forces harassed, tortured, or killed civilians accused of cooperating with the non-state armed group, and that a government-contracted security company conducted aerial attacks which affected civilians.<sup>1052</sup>

In 2021, the UN reported that more than 744,900 people were internally displaced in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala and Zambezia provinces due to insecurity,<sup>1053</sup> and that 1.6 million people required humanitarian assistance, around half of whom were children.<sup>1054</sup> Mozambique continued to experience extreme weather events which further compounded the humanitarian situation.<sup>1055</sup>

In addition, the Renamo Military Junta, a splinter group from the Renamo armed opposition group, continued to perpetrate attacks on civilians in 2020, despite a peace agreement between the government and Renamo in 2019, according to Human Rights Watch and international media.<sup>1056</sup> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported that, at the end of 2020, the Renamo Military Junta had closed its bases in Sofala and that the leader had announced a ceasefire.<sup>1057</sup>

In 2021 alone, the government reported that over 120,000 students had been affected by violence in Cabo Delgado province.<sup>1058</sup> In March 2021, education authorities in Cabo Delgado announced that, as a result of violent attacks, 214 schools were non-operational and would remain closed during the academic year.<sup>1059</sup> In October 2020, school closures due to armed violence reportedly affected around 5,000 students and 131 teachers in Manica province.<sup>1060</sup> In addition to conflict, education in northern and central Mozambique was affected by both Covid-19 and natural disasters during the reporting period. The government closed schools in March 2020 due to the pandemic; schools reopened in March 2021.<sup>1061</sup>

Mozambique was not profiled in *Education under Attack 2020* so no comparison can be made with previous reporting periods.

### **Attacks on schools**

In the 2020-2021 reporting period, GCPEA identified reports of over 100 incidents in which schools were damaged or destroyed in Mozambique, primarily in Cabo Delgado province. GCPEA identified two reported incidents of attack on schools in Cabo Delgado in 2019<sup>1062</sup> and one incident in 2018.<sup>1063</sup>

In 2020, GCPEA identified at least 19 reported incidents of attacks on schools.<sup>1064</sup> In addition, in 2020, the government began reporting data on the number of schools damaged and destroyed since the beginning of the conflict; in February 2020, the governor of Cabo Delgado province reported that 76 schools had been destroyed, affecting 16,760 students

and 285 teachers,<sup>1065</sup> although GCPEA could not determine how many of these incidents occurred in 2020. In most incidents of attacks on schools identified by GCPEA, attackers either alleged or verified to be part of the “Al-Shabab” armed group set fire to schools. Furthermore, Amnesty International reported in February 2021 that private security forces, working for the Mozambican government and using armed helicopters, had indiscriminately attacked civilian infrastructure between March and June 2020, including schools and hospitals, according to interviews conducted on the ground.<sup>1066</sup> Examples of reported attacks included:

- On January 29, 2020, gunmen allegedly burned four schools, including the Agrarian Institute of Bilibiza, in Bilibiza, Quissanga district, Cabo Delgado province, according to *Club of Mozambique*, *Reuters*, and *Deutsche Welle*.<sup>1067</sup> While 11 students and seven teachers were present at the Agrarian Institute at the time of attack, none were harmed. The Institute, which served 400 students, was run by the Agha Khan Foundation and was the only technical high school in Cabo Delgado.<sup>1068</sup>
- Amnesty International reported that on March 25, 2020, an armed group attacked Quissanga city, Quissanga district, Cabo Delgado province. The group burned a school, along with at least 386 other structures.<sup>1069</sup>
- Amnesty International and *All Africa* media reported that an armed group attacked Macomia town, Macomia district, Cabo Delgado province, on May 28, 2020. *All Africa* reported that the primary and technical schools were burned down, and an eyewitness informed Amnesty International that an unspecified number of schools were destroyed, and that all schools in the town were closed due to Covid-19 and the conflict.<sup>1070</sup>
- *Club of Mozambique* reported that on June 27, 2020, a school was burned during armed clashes in Mocimboa da Praia, Cabo Delgado province.<sup>1071</sup> Amnesty International also reported that an armed group attacked Mocimboa da Praia on June 27, 2020, and targeted government infrastructure.<sup>1072</sup>

According to UN reporting, at least 220 schools were attacked in Cabo Delgado by early 2021, although it remained unclear whether all these attacks occurred in the reporting period.<sup>1073</sup> Similarly, the Cabo Delgado Provincial Department of Education reported in March 2021 that 46 schools, or a total of 104 classrooms, had been destroyed due to attacks.<sup>1074</sup> Later, in April 2021, the government, as cited in local media, reported that 375 schools had been destroyed due to conflict.<sup>1075</sup> As these reports may have contained incidents from earlier reporting periods or could have included other types of damage during conflict such as being used as IDP shelter, they were not included in the total number of attacks. Given the escalation of conflict in 2020, however, it is likely that many attacks took place during the reporting period.

In addition, in Manica and Sofala provinces, *Deutsche Welle* reported that in January 2020, a member of the Renamo Military Junta threatened to attack the education system when students resumed school after vacation in February 2020. The militia member made the threat in retaliation against government forces, claiming that Mozambique Defence and Security Forces had abducted his family in December 2019.<sup>1076</sup>

GCPEA did not identify any incident reports of attacks on schools in 2021.

### **Attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel**

In 2020-2021, GCPEA identified occasional attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel, in both Sofala and Cabo Delgado provinces. In some instances, armed groups attacked teachers because of their association with the government.<sup>1077</sup>

In 2020, Mozambique’s National Teachers’ Organization reported that more than 750 teachers from primary and secondary schools in Cabo Delgado province had fled from their posts to Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado, to avoid attacks by armed groups.<sup>1078</sup> The organization did not state whether the teachers had received direct threats or were fleeing general insecurity. Education authorities in the province of Cabo Delgado reported in March 2021 that seven teachers had been killed<sup>1079</sup> and, as of June 2021, 2,074 had been displaced as a result of terrorist attacks since the conflict began,<sup>1080</sup> likely due to generalized violence.

In 2020, GCPEA collected two incidents of attacks on teachers:

- *Moçambique Media Online* reported that on June 14, 2020, the body of the director of Marrongamissi II Primary School was found in Chizizira town, Búzi district, Sofala province. The report claimed that the Renamo Military Junta had abducted the teacher in May 2020.<sup>1081</sup>

- Local media sources reported that on either October 31 or November 1, 2020, members of a non-state armed group killed a school teacher in Muidumbe district. The teacher had recently escaped a surge of violence in the area, according to the reports. The article also noted that the Matambalale Primary school where he worked had been attacked on an unspecified date.<sup>1082</sup>

In 2021, GCPEA identified anecdotal evidence that teachers had received threats of violence in Cabo Delgado. For example, in July 2021, displaced teachers from Macomia district, Cabo Delgado province, voiced concerns about their safety and protested against government orders to return to school. Teachers told *Deutsche Welle* that they could not work effectively while “living in fear of being beheaded” and that they would be exposed like “shields of war.”<sup>1083</sup> The Ministry of Education reported that eight teachers had been killed in Cabo Delgado province within the context of armed conflict in 2021, although GCPEA was unable to verify whether these deaths were in relation to their status as educators.<sup>1084</sup>

### Attacks on higher education

During the 2020-2021 reporting period, GCPEA identified sporadic reports of attacks on higher education. General insecurity in Cabo Delgado province limited the academic activities of higher education students and staff during the reporting period according to *World University News* in October 2020, although armed groups reportedly had not targeted university students and academics at the time of writing.<sup>1085</sup>

In 2020, GCPEA received a report that a teacher training college in Bilibiza, Quissanga district, Cabo Delgado province, was attacked on January 29, 2020.<sup>1086</sup> According to *Reuters*, an armed group torched the college’s building, but no students or staff were harmed.<sup>1087</sup>

At the time of writing GCPEA had not identified any attacks on higher education in 2021.

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<sup>1045</sup> Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2021: Events of 2020*, Mozambique chapter. Timothy Lay and Jasmine Opperman, “MOZAMBIQUE: No end in sight for the Cabo Delgado insurgency,” in Elliot Baynum, Roudabeh Kishi, Sogand Afkari, and Sam Jones (eds), *Ten Conflicts to Worry About in 2021* (Wisconsin: ACLED, February 2021), pp. 30-31.

<sup>1046</sup> The group has no affiliation with the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab.

<sup>1047</sup> OCHA, “Humanitarian Response Plan Mozambique Abridged Version,” OCHA, December 2020, p. 5; Andrea Carboni, “CDT SPOTLIGHT: ESCALATION IN MOZAMBIQUE,” ACLED, April 30, 2020. International Crisis Group, “Stemming the Insurrection in Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado - Africa Report No. 303,” ICG, June 11, 2021, pp. 1, 9. United Nations, “Children ‘indoctrinated’ to fight for insurgents in Mozambique: UNICEF,” UN News, October 5, 2021. Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2021: Events of 2020*, Mozambique chapter. Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2022: Events of 2021*, Mozambique chapter.

<sup>1048</sup> Timothy Lay and Jasmine Opperman, “Mozambique: No end in sight for the Cabo Delgado insurgency,” in Elliot Baynum, Roudabeh Kishi, Sogand Afkari, and Sam Jones (eds), *Ten Conflicts to Worry About in 2021* (Wisconsin: ACLED, February 2021), pp. 30-31.

<sup>1049</sup> Zenaida Machado, “Mozambique Government Retakes Key Town from Militants,” Human Rights Watch Dispatch, August 10, 2021.

<sup>1050</sup> “Mozambique: ISIS-linked Group Using Child Soldiers,” Human Rights Watch news release, September 29, 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/29/mozambique-isis-linked-group-using-child-soldiers> (accessed December 22, 2021).

<sup>1051</sup> “Mozambique: Hundreds of Women, Girls Abducted,” Human Rights Watch news release, December 7, 2021.

<sup>1052</sup> Amnesty International, *“What I Saw Is Death”: War Crimes in Mozambique’s Forgotten Cape*, (London: Amnesty International, February 2021).

<sup>1053</sup> International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix, Mozambique, Round 13 – September 30, 2021.

<sup>1054</sup> UNICEF, “Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 - Mozambique,” UNICEF, December 7, 2021, p. 1.

<sup>1055</sup> World Food Programme, “Food security and climate change, the pressing reality of Mozambique,” WFP News release, July 7, 2021.

<sup>1056</sup> Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2021: Events of 2020*, Mozambique chapter. Deutsche Welle, “Mozambique: Manica students are not attending classes for fear of attacks,” *Club of Mozambique*, October 23, 2020.

<sup>1057</sup> “Operations Update Mozambique: Tropical Cyclone Idai and Kenneth,” International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, February 17, 2021, p. 3.

<sup>1058</sup> Lusa, “Cabo Delgado: Over 120,000 students affected by attacks in 2021 (Cabo Delgado: Mais de 120 mil alunos afetados por ataques em 2021),” *Deutsche Welle*, January 14, 2022.

<sup>1059</sup> Hizidine Achá “More than 100 schools closed due to terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado (Mais de 100 escolas fechadas devido aos ataques terro-

ristas em Cabo Delgado),” *o Pais*, March 23, 2021. Information from a UN respondent received via email on January 13, 2022.

<sup>1060</sup> Deutsche Welle, “Mozambique: Manica students are not attending classes for fear of attacks,” *Club of Mozambique*, October 23, 2020.

<sup>1061</sup> Odete Duarte Muximpua and Lúcia Nhampossa, “In times of COVID-19, the future of education depends on the provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene services,” World Bank Blog, September 24, 2020. Myrta Kaulard and Mark Lundell, “Mozambique school children face ‘catastrophic’ fall-out from COVID-19: a UN Resident Coordinator blog,” UN News, May 25, 2020. UNICEF, “Mozambique Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6 (Reporting Period: 1 - 30 April 2021),” May 24, 2021, p.4. All Africa, “Mozambique: Government Authorises Re-Opening of Schools,” *All Africa*, March 5, 2021.

<sup>1062</sup> Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, “Mozambique elections: Arson in Angoche,” *Club of Mozambique*, October 18, 2019, (accessed March 4, 2021); “Insurgents kill eight persons, burn down 70 houses in Cabo Delgado – Mozambique,” *Club of Mozambique*, September 12, 2019. Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, “Insurgents kill eight persons, burn down 70 houses in Cabo Delgado – Mozambique,” *Club of Mozambique*, September 12, 2019.

<sup>1063</sup> Lusa, “Armed group loots and burns village in Cabo Delgado province (Grupo armado rouba e incendeia aldeia na província de Cabo Delgado),” *Observador*, November 4, 2018. Lusa, “Armed group steals and burns village in Macomia (Grupo armado rouba e incendeia aldeia em Macomia),” *Folha de Maputo*, November 5, 2018.

<sup>1064</sup> A full list of references can be found on GCPEA’s website, [https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua\\_2022\\_references.pdf](https://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/eua_2022_references.pdf)

<sup>1065</sup> President of Mozambique, February 10, 2020, as cited by Selemani, “Conflict-displaced people in Cabo Delgado: a narrative of suffering (Deslocados de guerra em Cabo Delgado: Narração de Sofrimento),” *Selemani*, 2021.

<sup>1066</sup> Amnesty International, “*What I Saw Is Death*,” pp. 6, 29-30.

<sup>1067</sup> *Club Mozambique*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID MZM1379 (data downloaded December 3, 2020). Carta de Moçambique, “Mozambique: Insurgents carried out yet another raid in Quissanga - Carta,” *Club of Mozambique*, February 11, 2020. Karina Gomes, Selma Inocencia, Agencia Lusa, “Attack in Cabo Delgado: ‘We are in the bush because we are afraid’ (Ataque em Cabo Delgado: ‘Estamos no mato porque temos medo),” *Deutsche Welle*, January 30, 2020.

<sup>1068</sup> Karina Gomes, Selma Inocencia, Agencia Lusa, “Attack in Cabo Delgado: ‘We are in the bush because we are afraid’ (Ataque em Cabo Delgado: ‘Estamos no mato porque temos medo),” *Deutsche Welle*, January 30, 2020.

<sup>1069</sup> Amnesty International, “*What I Saw Is Death*,” p. 19.

<sup>1070</sup> ACLED, “Cabo Ligado Weekly: 25-31 May 2020”, ACLED, June 2, 2020. “Mozambique: At Least 17 Killed in Macomia Attack,” *All Africa*, June 2, 2020. Amnesty International, “*What I Saw Is Death*,” p. 29.

<sup>1071</sup> Lusa, “Mozambique: New clashes in Mocímboa da Praia, population flees - Lusa”, *Club of Mozambique*, June 27, 2020.

<sup>1072</sup> Amnesty International, “*What I Saw Is Death*”: War Crimes in Mozambique’s Forgotten Cape, (London: Amnesty International, February 2021), (accessed March 23, 2022), p. 29.

<sup>1073</sup> James Elder, “Geneva Palais briefing note on the situation of children in Tigray, Ethiopia, and Cabo Delgado, Mozambique,” UNICEF news release, June 11, 2021.

<sup>1074</sup> “More than 100 schools closed due to terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado (Mais de 100 escolas fechadas devido aos ataques terroristas em Cabo Delgado),” *o Pais*, March 23, 2021. Lusa, “At least eight teachers killed and over 120,000 students affected in 2021 in Cabo Delgado (Pelo menos oito professores mortos e mais de 120 mil alunos afetados em 2021 em Cabo Delgado),” *RTP Noticias*, January 14, 2022. ISS, “Mozambique: Terrorists Destroy Over 100 Cabo Delgado Schools,” *All Africa*, April 16, 2021.

<sup>1075</sup> Education for All Movement (Movimento de Educação para Todos - MEPT), “More than 300 schools destroyed as a result of terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado (Mais de 300 escolas foram destruídas devido aos ataques terroristas em Cabo Delgado),” MEPT News release, April 15, 2021.

<sup>1076</sup> Deutsche Welle, “Mozambique: ‘Military junta’ threatens attack in the centre of Mozambique,” *Club of Mozambique*, January 8, 2020. *Club of Mozambique*, as cited in Education in Danger Monthly News Brief, January 2020,” p. 4.

<sup>1077</sup> Joseph Hanlon, “Comment on ‘terrorism’,” *Mo24horas*, November 24, 2020.

<sup>1078</sup> Elísio Muchanga, “Insurgency disrupts research, endangers lives in region,” *University World News*, October 15, 2020.

<sup>1079</sup> Education for All Movement (Movimento de Educação para Todos - MEPT), “More than 300 schools destroyed as a result of terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado (Mais de 300 escolas foram destruídas devido aos ataques terroristas em Cabo Delgado),” MEPT News release, April 15, 2021.

<sup>1080</sup> Information received from a UN respondent via email on January 13, 2022.

<sup>1081</sup> O Pais, “Renamo Military Junta abducts and kills school director (Junta Militar da renamo rapta e mata director de uma escola),” *Moçambique Media Online (MMO)*, June 20, 2020.

<sup>1082</sup> *Mo24horas*, as cited in Education in Danger Monthly News Brief, November 2020,” p. 3. Omarine Omar, “Homage to Teacher Tangassi: be-headed in the woods of Muídambe,” *Club of Mozambique*, November 25, 2020.

<sup>1083</sup> Lusa Agency, “Cabo Delgado: Teachers contest order to return to schools,” *Deutsche Welle*, July 13, 2021.

<sup>1084</sup> Lusa, “Cabo Delgado: Over 120,000 students affected by attacks in 2021 (Cabo Delgado: Mais de 120 mil alunos afetados por ataques em 2021),” *Deutsche Welle*, January 14, 2022. Lusa, “At least eight teachers killed and over 120,000 students affected in 2021 in Cabo Delgado (Pelo menos oito professores mortos e mais de 120 mil alunos afetados em 2021 em Cabo Delgado),” *RTP Noticias*, January 14, 2022.

<sup>1085</sup> Elísio Muchanga, “Insurgency disrupts research, endangers lives in region,” *University World News*, October 15, 2020.

<sup>1086</sup> *Club Mozambique*, as cited in ACLED, Event ID MZM1379. Carta, “Mozambique: Insurgents carried out yet another raid in Quissanga - Carta”, *Club of Mozambique*, February 11, 2020.

<sup>1087</sup> “College burned in militant attack in northern Mozambique,” *Reuters*, January 30, 2020.