

GLOBAL APPROACH: IOM & DISABILITY INCLUSION

Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are estimated to represent 15 per cent of the world's population, while in humanitarian contexts they may form a much higher percentage due to hazards and risks created by the crisis. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) ensures that its staff and programmes are inclusive and contribute to the protection of persons with disabilities. This means that IOM programmes: tackle stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities; ensure that they are taken into consideration in humanitarian service delivery; enable their meaningful participation in IOM projects; and ensure accountability mechanisms are accessible and responsive to their needs.

Migration may cause, create and/or exacerbate factors for disability and IOM's commitment to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration require action to be taken to reduce barriers that migrants with disabilities face in their day-to-day life. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) include specific provisions on persons with disabilities that advocate their inclusion in responses to movements of refugees and migrants.

At an institutional level, IOM is a member of the IASC Disability Inclusion Reference Group, which feeds into the IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion. The activities and initiatives taken at this level aim to ensure disability inclusive humanitarian action across the board. IOM also reports yearly against the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), which requires internal co-ordination on programming, policy, planning and evaluation matters related to disability inclusion. Regional strategies and country programming are required to ensure that humanitarian programmes address key indicators within the strategy.

As co-leads of the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM) Cluster, IOM has a role in ensuring that the barriers that persons with disabilities face within collective and communal displacement settings are addressed at a cluster level. Additionally, in the past few years, IOM has scaled up its engagement with the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and the areas of responsibility thereunder giving it the opportunity to ensure that disability inclusion is included within protection cluster activities and coordination mechanisms.

Furthermore, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has collected disaggregated data in disability using the Washington Group Methodology in various countries, including Mozambique. Data collected by DTM on disability contributes to identifying the factors that put persons with disabilities most at risk in humanitarian contexts. This data is shared across clusters and feeds into the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) process.



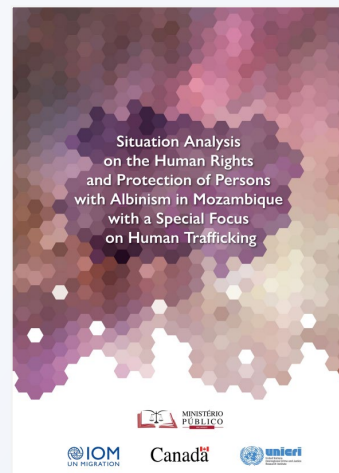
IOM worked with a local women's group with disabilities to learn pottery skills as part of the psychosocial support art interventions to promote inclusion and participation. © IOM 2022

In Mozambique: Protection of Persons With Albinism

There are an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 Mozambicans with albinism dispersed across the country. The actual number is likely to be higher because there is no systematic mechanism to monitor and report on such cases. People with Albinism (PwA) in Mozambique face discrimination, verbal and physical violence, human rights violations, trafficking, murders and organs' removal, particularly in Nampula, Tete and Zambezia provinces.

In 2018, IOM released the ['Situational Analysis on the Human Rights and Protection of Persons with Albinism in Mozambique with a Special Focus on Human Trafficking'](#) which presented key findings and recommendation on how to improve the protection of Persons with Albinism in Mozambique. Among others, the assessment calls for the need to collect additional data on PwA

to better inform policies and programming; conduct public education and awareness campaigns to reduce discrimination and stigmatization against PwA, particularly in rural and remote areas; conduct training for law enforcement personnel; strengthening community-based protection structures beginning with traditional authority, amongst others.



Ongoing Project 'Protection and Promotion of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism (PWA) in Mozambique: Maputo, Nampula, Zambézia and Tete' (April 2022):

In 2015, the Government of Mozambique adopted a Multisectoral Action Plan on Albinism to guide the implementation of measures to address the human rights and development challenges faced by PwA in Mozambique. To support the implementation of the Action Plan, the project "Protection and Promotion of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism in Mozambique: Maputo; Nampula; Zambézia and Tete 2021-2023" was developed. The project is led by UNESCO and jointly implemented with IOM and other United Nations (UN) sister agencies. The objective of the project is to reduce attacks, human rights violations, violence and abduction of persons with albinism. The project focusses on promotion and protection of human rights of PwA, with focus on education and culture for behavior change and legal and medical response to the stigmatization and human right violations, combined with awareness raising and public information campaigns through traditional and modern media and social media. The intervention also include capacity building of various stakeholders.

IOM implements activities to support capacity building for reference groups on child protection, counter trafficking and irregular migration; trainings for community leaders on protection and prevention of attacks against persons with albinism, gathering information on atrocities and reporting attacks, and provision of comprehensive assistance to PWA victims of trafficking or violence. A study was conducted in 2022 in order to address the multidimensional nature of the developmental, humanitarian and human rights challenges faced by persons with albinism in Mozambique to propose sustainable solutions as well as policy recommendations to address them.



BEYOND ALL ODDS: RAIMANY'S JOURNEY OF PERSEVERANCE WITH ALBINISM IN MOZAMBIQUE

Five-year-old Raimany is playing with his friends, unaware of the complexities of his skin colour, just one innocent child among many.

His journey of perseverance started early; his mother died in childbirth in the far northern province of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. His father raised him by himself, grappling with Raimany's health needs as a person with albinism, and the discrimination and threats of physical violence he might face.

The province of Cabo Delgado, as many others in Mozambique, is engulfed in taboos. Albinism is still greatly misunderstood, and people with albinism across the world face multiple forms of discrimination. The physical appearance of persons with albinism is often the object of myths and superstitions, which often lead to marginalization, stigma, discrimination and hate crimes.

Through its integrated Protection-MHPSS programming, IOM ensures an inclusive and human rights-based approach to guarantee the availability and accessibility of MHPSS services for IDP and other affected communities.

IOM's MHPSS team on the ground comprises trained psychologists, protection focal points, and community workers who identify vulnerable individuals in need of protection assistance and provide psychological first aid, individual, family and group counselling, and referrals to specialized mental health or protection services.

Raimany and his cousin, Sufi, have a very close relationship. They are just like brothers and do everything together. They are not yet in school but hope to begin next year. Raimany is that excited about starting school that, when his older cousins come home from school, he listens attentively and reads their books while they do their homework, his uncle Dinho recounts.

“Since IOM’s team came into our life, the boy is receiving his treatment, which is drastically improving the condition of his skin, and his family is learning more about his needs. Raimany is happiest when they are here,” Dinho shares with emotion.

[Read more...](#)

Disability Inclusion Under Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

In Mozambique, some members of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and host communities, stranded or irregular migrants as well as victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), human trafficking, or other forms of violence may find themselves in highly vulnerable situations as a result of their specific circumstances and may be in need of additional individual assistance to alleviate protection risks, even while receiving humanitarian aid. IOM has been implementing IPA in Mozambique since the end of 2019.

IOM recognizes that the main duty bearer for the protection of vulnerable populations in emergencies is the state and thus supports existing referral mechanisms and support systems for vulnerable individuals. IOM's Protection-Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team ensures that vulnerable individuals, as well as victims of violence, exploitation and abuse, including children and persons with disabilities, are referred and assisted based on existing social and health services available.

Where such services are disrupted or insufficient to meet specific protection needs, IOM can provide direct individual or family assistance based on existing needs. Under this programme, IOM provides the following kits: Food Kit, School Kit, Household Kit, Shelter Kits (emergency, basic, extended), agriculture kits, and finally, medical assistive devices.

The provision of IPA is always meant to be complementary to and embedded into available protection services and closely coordinated with its main Government partners, namely the Province Directorate for Gender, Children and Social Action (DPGCAS) as well as District Services for Health, Women and Social Action (SDSMAS). Where necessary, IOM also reaches out to UN partners as well as other IOM sectors, such as Health, WASH, CCCM or Shelter/NFI.

TARGET GROUPS:

As agreed with the government (DPGCAS) and in the context of Mozambique, individuals belonging to the following groups are considered to be vulnerable categories and as such, potentially eligible for IPA taking into account their individual needs and (combination of) vulnerabilities:

- Orphans living with host families; Orphans heading a household; Unaccompanied and separated children; Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups; Women heading households; Elderly persons heading households; Persons with physical or mental disabilities; Persons with chronic diseases; Elderly persons without caregiver; Pregnant and lactating women; Elderly persons; Widows/widowers; Survivors of GBV; Victims of human trafficking; Vulnerable and stranded migrants.

While in the context of Cabo Delgado generally, the assistance is aimed at displaced or highly vulnerable individuals, at times, their host families or caregivers may also be targeted, if this contributes to the overall alleviation of protection risks for the affected household.

Disability Inclusion in IPA

In conflict and emergency contexts, persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups, whose unique protection concerns make them more vulnerable to abuse, violence, isolation and separation. In this regard, IOM strives to increase access to humanitarian services for persons with disabilities living in the most hard-to-reach communities through the provision of essential medical supplies such as wheelchairs and crutches. Similar to other IPA processes, the identification, assessment, and support of persons with disabilities are conducted in cooperation with the government social services.



Before receiving a wheelchair through IOM's Protection-MHPSS programme, this young man depended on the help of friends and family to get around. © IOM 2022

Disability Inclusion In Other Community-Based MHPSS And Protection Activities

Through its integrated Protection – MHPSS approach, IOM implements activities in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces in Northern Mozambique. The activities are implemented by psychologists, protection focal points, and community workers to improve the wellbeing of the communities and to promote resilience, ownership, and dignity. As part of these activities, IOM conducts awareness-raising on disabilities to ensure that the communities are aware of special needs. Also, IOM creates support groups for persons with disabilities and their caregivers in addition to the individual and family counselling provided to these groups. IOM uses the healing effect of arts to strengthen the ties between the PwD and their communities. IOM Protection – MHPSS teams work very closely with CCCM teams and disability inclusion committees set up in displacement sites.

Disability Inclusion under CCCM and WASH programming

Through funding from the The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), IOM's CCCM and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions for PwD are focused on the modifications of WASH services to ensure accessibility. The selection of the interventions is done in consultations with the Disability Inclusion Committees and the Organizations for Persons with Disabilities in the sites in which CCCM has presence, and the identification of the beneficiaries is done in coordination with the NGOs specialized in inclusion, aiming to select the most vulnerable. Furthermore, the design of the interventions is done following the global and national standards, but also in consultation with the users (prototypes). The interventions encompass the following: modification of water points to ensure water access, construction of modified latrines and support with assistive devices modified on a case-by-case basis that allow PwD to access water and sanitation services.

At the programmatic level, CCCM has done significant work to increase the inclusion of people living with disabilities in displacement sites. To date, 12 disability inclusion committees have been set up in 12 displacement sites, with additional committees being created in new sites. The committees aim to provide access to PwD to forums which help them to express their views and needs, and the members receive an induction training about their roles and responsibilities. The committees meet regularly with IOM CCCM community engagement staff to identify issues they are facing and seek how to address them. Representatives from these committees are integrated within the community leadership structures in the sites, increasing the visibility of people with disabilities and prioritization of their needs as well as facilitating solutions to the issues they face.

Moreover, community engagement staff have been trained on disability inclusion, including how accidental bias can play a role in the work they do, and how to recognize and eliminate their own personal bias to be truly inclusive when engaging with persons with disabilities. The staff training was done before the set up of disability inclusion committees.



Disability Inclusion under CCCM and WASH programming

Moving forward, CCCM intends to scale up and address physical access improvements at site level. This is completed based on discussions with the affected population in the sites to understand their main barriers, prototypes will then be developed for testing before rolling out for further use. This provides us with opportunities to engage further with WASH, shelter, protection and other sectors to increase the visibility of the need for dedicated programming for this specific population. Site planning interventions also take into consideration access for PwD. The CCCM cluster and IOM continue to advocate across the response on ensuring that distributions are carried out in line with inclusion guidelines. This is not fully taken up by some partners, and the programme and cluster continue advocating for this to be adopted. The Disability Inclusion committees makes efforts to ensure that all people with disabilities in the site receive support, this is also backed up by DTM data collection which reflects disability in the disaggregation.

In addition to the ongoing work on disability inclusion, IOM Mozambique is working on additional measures to increase participation for people living with disabilities in the sites through cash work, recreation activities and livelihoods activities. IOM will continue applying a multisectoral approach to disability inclusion mainstreaming with complementarity across Shelter, CCCM, MHPSS – Protection, DTM and WASH interventions to ensure delivery of a comprehensive package.



DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SAFE, TAILOR-MADE LATRINES IN DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS



[Read more...](#)

Strengthening Data on Disability and Inclusion

PwD living in displacement sites face specific challenges in access to humanitarian services (food, water, sanitation, health, education and other assistive/rehabilitative services) as well as participation in activities. In 2012, Mozambique ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). While there are continued efforts through national legislation to incorporate considerations of PwD, existing instruments do not identify and address accessibility and participation barriers faced by PwD affected by conflict, natural hazards and climate change. Data generation on disability and inclusion as related to access to services and



information as well as participation and representation within displacement sites is limited. This is because existing governmental and non-governmental structures established in some areas of the country are not adequately equipped to perform comprehensive assessments that are tailored to disability data collection, methodology and training of staff.

IOM Disability and Inclusion Survey (November 2022)

To develop a comprehensive understanding of disability and inclusion in IDP sites, in November 2022 DTM piloted a dedicated assessment amongst displaced households in targeted displacement sites of Cabo Delgado Province. Working in collaboration with the Disability Working Group, Disability Inclusion Committees as well as IOM CCCM, Protection and WASH Programmes, assessments provided a mixed methodology approach to assess needs and conditions of persons with disabilities in displacement sites in Montepuez District, Cabo Delgado. This survey included the use of the Washing Group Short-set Questions on Disability as well as the Global Disability Inclusion Field Companion Multi-sectoral data collection. Under this assessment, over 9,000 household surveys were conducted along with 19 key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Key findings indicate that persons with disabilities living in IDP sites face challenges such as participating in activities, mainly due to accessibility barriers.



Recommendations generated from the assessment are used in support of ongoing IOM CCCM programming with Disability Inclusion Committees, community complaint and feedback mechanisms as well as Women Participation interventions in displacement sites.

CONTACTS

IOM Mozambique
IOMMaputo@iom.int

IOM Mozambique Emergency Response and Recovery Coordinator
 Priscila Scalco - pscalco@iom.int

IOM Mozambique Programme Support Unit Coordinator⁸
 Nadiah Zuur - nzuur@iom.int