

GLOBAL APPROACH: IOM & DISABILITY INCLUSION

Given the fact persons with disabilities are estimated to represent 15 per cent of the world's population and in humanitarian contexts, they may form a much higher percentage, IOM staff have a duty to ensure that their programmes are inclusive of, and contribute to the protection of, persons with disabilities. This means that IOM's programmes need to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities, ensure that they are not forgotten 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 disabling factors 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 and the Global Compact on Refugees 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 CCCM 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 (AoR) thereunder giving it the opportunity to ensure that disability inclusion is included within protection cluster activities and co-ordination mechanisms.

DTM has collected disaggregated data in disability using the Washington Group Methodology in various countries, including Mozambique. Data that is 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 HRP process.



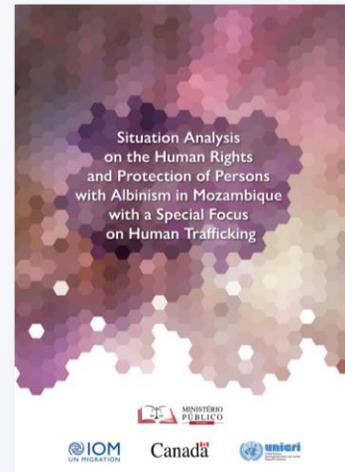
IOM Protection-Mental Health and Psychosocial Support programme provides individual protection assistance to a displaced man at a relocation site in Metuge, Cabo Delgado (2021).

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.



Upcoming 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 will be jointly implemented by IOM and other UN sister agencies. This objective of the project is to reduce attacks, human rights violations, violence and abduction of persons with albinism. The project will focus 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. This will be combined with awareness raising/public information campaigns through traditional and modern media and social media. The intervention will also include capacity building of various stakeholders.

IOM will implement 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 VoT or victims of violence.

Disability Inclusion Under Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

In Mozambique, some members of the IDP and host communities, stranded or irregular migrants as well as victims of GBV, human trafficking, or other forms of violence may find themselves in highly vulnerable situations as a result of their specific circumstances and may – even while receiving humanitarian aid – be in need of additional individual assistance to alleviate protection risks. IOM has been implementing Individual Protection Assistance 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 individual protection assistance 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, Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) or Shelter.

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 individual protection assistance taking into account their individual needs and (combination of) vulnerabilities:

- Orphans living with host families; Orphans heading a household; Unaccompanied and separated children; 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 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.

Disability Inclusion In Other Community-based MHPSS And Protection Activities

Through its integrated protection-MHPSS approach, IOM implements activities in four provinces (Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Sofala and Manica). 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 Protection-MHPSS Teams work very closely with CCCM Teams and disability inclusion committees.



Abudo received a wheelchair on Ibo Island through IOM's Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Programme (IOM/2021).

Disability Inclusion under CCCM and WASH programming

Through funding from CERF, IOM's Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and 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 PwD committees in the sites in which CCCM has presence, and the selection of the beneficiaries is done in coordination with the NGOs specialized in inclusion, and the idea is 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 will contemplate the following: modification of water points to ensure accessibility to water, construction of modified latrines and support with assistive devices modified to one-to-one cases 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 the sites. We have had 10 field staff trained by an organization dedicated to working for people with disabilities (AIFO). The training aimed to demonstrate to the staff how accidental bias can play a role in the work they do, and how to recognize and eliminating their own personal bias to be truly inclusive when engaging with this group. The training was carried out for the staff before starting to set up disability inclusion committees. This was triggered as the team noted a lack of access to forums to hear from people with disabilities and to understand how best to ensure their needs are covered within the response.

To date, 12 disability inclusion committees have been set up, with additional committees to be created in newer sites. The original 12 committees received an induction training with the women's and site leadership committees to raise awareness of each committees' roles and responsibilities, to agree a ToR and sign a CoC. In total, these trainings covered 93 people from all 3 committees across 4 districts. These committees meet regularly with our dedicated CCCM community engagement staff to identify issues they are facing. Materials have been provided to these committees and in sites where IOM is site management agency. Representatives from these committees are integrated within the community leadership structures at the sites, increasing the visibility of people with disabilities and the issues they face, and facilitating solutions to these issues.

Community Engagement at a displacement site in Marruapua, these activities under IOM's CCCM program are key to ensure participation of vulnerable groups in decision making (IOM/2021).



Moving forwards, 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 site 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. 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 partners, and the programme and cluster continue for this to be adopted. The Disability Inclusion committees work to make sure that all people with disabilities in the site receive support, this is 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 with IOM HQ to further increase participation for people living with disabilities in the sites. This is based on the success of projects in South Sudan and Bangladesh which have proven to provide a voice and decision-making role in contexts where this is frequently a challenge. This should be moving forwards throughout the coming year and continued resource mobilization.

Feta Armeni, a woman displaced in Metuge, Cabo Delgado with visual impairment, received a house better adapted to her needs thanks to the Ngalane Relocation Site's Inclusion Committee and the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism put in place by IOM's CCCM program (IOM/2021).

