

MOZAMBIQUE

Supporting Urban Solutions and Data Harmonization in Mozambique

Case Study • November 2026

This case study, developed by JIPS, UN-HABITAT Mozambique and IOM Mozambique, highlights the broader and longer-term benefits of the interagency technical collaboration on 'solutions data', across humanitarian, development and government actors, in support of the urban profiling in the Greater Pemba area.

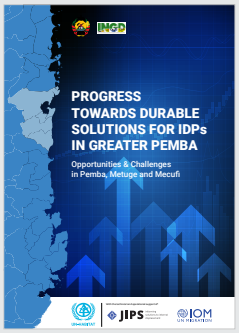
The province of Cabo Delgado in Northern Mozambique has been affected by attacks of terrorist groups since 2017. In late 2025 and early 2026 attacks intensified and thousands were newly displaced in districts such as Macomia and Chiúre. As per latest estimates (IOM/DTM Round 23) there are approximately 600,000–700,000 IDPs in northern Mozambique, with 70% of them concentrated in Cabo Delgado. The violent context in the north, with its reoccurring attacks on civilians, has rapidly increased existing vulnerabilities in Cabo Delgado, a province which already was amongst Mozambique's poorest.

Internal displacement is resulting in significant population increases in the hosting districts of Pemba, Mecufi and Metuge. Data from mid 2025 (IOM/DTM Round 23) point to a population increase of approximately 34% in Mecufi, 69% in Metuge, and 121% in Pemba compared to the 2025 projected population. The arrival of IDPs affects the Greater Pemba area in various ways, including significant impacts on the housing market, land use and access to basic services. In addition, there is limited access to employment and subsistence activities, which results in increased food insecurity and impacts social cohesion. Furthermore, the displacement dynamics are influencing the creation of satellite settlements around the municipality of Pemba impacting urban planning and development both within the city as well as in its periphery and neighbouring districts of Metuge and Mecufi.

Joint Durable Solutions analysis to inform urban solutions

The urban profiling exercise carried out in Greater Pemba during 2024-2025 aimed at informing institutional policy and planning that support durable solutions to displacement and in particular local integration of IDPs in the urban communities and district structures – be it as interim or as longer-term solutions. Specifically, the solutions analysis intended to contribute to the implementation of the Government's PSiDM Strategy and Action Plan[1], by providing evidence on key solutions topics outlined in the Strategy, namely: economic inclusion of IDPs, access to basic services, housing and personal documentation.

Some of the key points made in the analysis include the need for: better tenure security of agricultural land for IDPs; support to agricultural livelihoods to alleviate food insecurity; more sustainable accommodation solutions in the city; addressing access and tenure of left behind property, regardless of the future intentions of IDPs. The profiling report, furthermore, recommends leveraging development commitments and urban planning to also address displacement impacts and further social cohesion.



In the report you will find an analysis of the key obstacles that IDPs face in their progress towards durable solutions, as well as recommendations for support to urban solutions and social cohesion between hosting and displaced populations.

Data harmonization through technical collaboration across the nexus

The profiling methodology was developed during a series of workshops and technical exchanges that aimed to ensure that:

- The analysis was tailored to the data needs of the Government policy, the district and municipal authorities of Pemba, Metuge and Mecufi as well as the humanitarian/development actors operational in Greater Pemba (and engaged in the profiling through a dedicated Task Force); and
- The approach supported ongoing efforts in Mozambique, under the UN-led Solutions Working Group[2], to harmonise data on solutions between humanitarian, development and government actors.

1 Support to durable solutions in Mozambique is guided by the Government Policy and Strategy for Internal Displacement Management (PSiDM also known by its Portuguese title PEGDI), which addresses the entire displacement cycle—prevention, assistance, and durable solutions—covering displacement caused by armed conflict, climate shocks/disasters, and human rights violations. A National Action Plan for Durable Solutions (PEGDI Action Plan 2025–2029), guides the operationalization of the strategy, focusing on voluntary return, local integration and relocation.

2 Under the umbrella of the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the UN Resident Coordinator oversees the interagency Solutions Working Group (SWG), which is co-led by UNHCR, IOM and UNDP. The SWG works in direct alignment and close partnership with the Mozambican national authority, INGD (Instituto Nacional de Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres), which leads the national implementation of the durable solutions policy (PEGDI).

Tailored design and joint analysis

The analysis approach and scope were done in close exchange with the profiling Task Force members at Pemba level, to ensure that the study unpacks topics that are relevant to the government policy implementation, the district and municipal development planning and to the programming of humanitarian and development actors. The subsequent selection of indicators was done in close alignment with national indicators monitored by the National Institute for Statistics (INE) to ensure comparability of results with national statistics, situating the displacement analysis into the larger scope of development planning.

During the analysis of the data, a two-day workshop in Pemba was held with provincial, district and municipal authorities as well as humanitarian organisations, where a detailed review of all preliminary results was done, and critical feedback was consolidated on context, interpretation and relevance. Similarly, feedback on the preliminary insights was also collected through several community sessions, held with displaced and local community members in Pemba. The interactive engagement on the results with different stakeholders, from local officials to displaced communities, ensured both the in-depth dissemination of findings as well as rich feedback that shaped the final analysis and the recommendations.





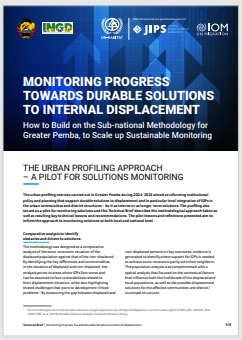
Input from both authorities and communities was integrated in the interpretation of the analysis. © *JIPS*

Left: Representatives from provincial and district authorities review profiling results, Pemba workshop. **Above:** Main findings, visualised on posters, are presented to community members and feedback is collected. February 2026

Contribution to data harmonisation on solutions

The profiling served as a pilot for monitoring solutions and the technical insights were presented and discussed in several sessions facilitated by the Solution Working Group (SWG) data-sub group and with INE; reflections and lessons concerned: identification of IDPs, indicators for measuring progress and benchmarking of solutions. In parallel to the profiling taking place, the SWG was supporting the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD) to develop a Framework to monitoring solutions outcomes in the PSiDM Action Plan.

The indicators that were piloted by the profiling, had been closely aligned with SDGs and other country specific indicators published by INE in national statistics. Thereby the SWG was able to build on the piloted indicators and propose a monitoring framework to INGD and INE that allows comparison of IDP indicators with national development indicators and eventually will facilitate the use of Government statistics to monitor progress towards solutions under the PEGDI policy[3].



The Technical Brief outlines the lessons and recommendations elicited from the profiling methodology, which piloted the monitoring of solutions, in close coordination with the Solutions Working Group (SWG).

The anonymised dataset can be found here.

This important technical alignment facilitated by IOM, JIPS, Habitat, and the SWG in close collaboration with INGD and INE has contributed significantly to data harmonisation in the country with a focus on aligning basic standards between operational data and national statistics, paving the way for more sustainable and Government led solutions data.

Conclusion

The Greater Pemba profiling illustrates how collaborative approaches can strengthen both displacement solutions planning and long-term development outcomes. By generating a shared understanding of displacement, urban growth and community needs, it provides a foundation for more inclusive policies, better targeted investments and locally led solutions that benefit displaced and host communities alike.

Additionally, the profiling contributed to the ongoing efforts in Mozambique to systematise and harmonise data on displacement and durable solutions, serving as a good example of what the UN Action Agenda[4] recommends on shifting from purely humanitarian data toward nationally owned, development-oriented data systems. The shift in Mozambique is happening through the coordination between humanitarian/development actors and the government on a jointly developed monitoring approach to durable solutions that both takes advantage of the operational data and the official statistics. The profiling in Greater Pemba served as a pilot to this technical alignment and shift.

3 This requires that large national surveys include an identification of IDPs and representative sampling of IDPs (such as the 2026 Household Budget Survey).

4 United Nations. (2022). The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. United Nations.

Acknowledgement

This case study, developed by JIPS in close collaboration with UN-Habitat and IOM Mozambique, highlights the broader and longer-term benefits of the technical collaboration during the joint implementation of the Pemba Urban Profiling.

The urban profiling was implemented through a collaborative approach with a dedicated Taskforce guiding the process. The Taskforce has been led by UN-Habitat together with INGD and the Provincial Directorate for Environment and Territorial Planning, which has closely coordinated its activities with the Municipality of Pemba. IOM led on the operational component of data collection. JIPS led on the methodology approach and analysis. INE was invited at provincial and national level to review the profiling approach and accompany the data collection. The elaboration and implementation of the urban profiling was a key-activity under the scope of the Cabo Delgado Solutions Working Group (SWG).

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Design & layout: Elwa Design Studio.

The profiling exercise was funded by the Peace Building Fund (PBF), the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), and the High Commissioner of Canada.

JIPS' support in Mozambique was made possible through the funding of UN-Habitat Mozambique and generous co-funding by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

Citation: JIPS, Habitat, IOM (2026). Mozambique Case Study: Supporting Urban Solutions and Data Harmonization in Mozambique.

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