

## Summary

In the Mozambican northern region of Cabo Delgado the terrorist threat is exponentially growing. July and August 2023 have witnessed an increase in violence. Furthermore, the security situation will likely deteriorate due to the government's financial and political struggle and the upcoming possible withdrawal of foreign forces. The capital of Cabo Delgado, Pemba, and the neighbouring provinces of Nampula and Niassa may be targeted in the upcoming months.

## Recent events and developments

Despite the recent counter-insurgency efforts, IS-affiliated Ansar Al Sunna (AS), locally known as Al-Shabaab, continues to haunt northern Mozambique, in particular the region of Cabo Delgado. On 10 August, 10 soldiers were killed and 7 went missing in Katupa, Macomia district. Besides, an ambush by Al-Shabaab on 10 July killed 3 Mozambique Defense Armed Forces (FADM) soldiers in Quiterajo, Macomia, followed by an IED explosion, which raised the death toll to 25. Civilians are also targeted as Al-Shabaab militants robbed and beheaded two fishermen in Litamanda, Macomia. In addition, at least 7 civilians, mostly women, were killed by unknown assailants on 30 July near Lake Nguri, Muiumbe, Cabo Delgado. Given the insufficient security measures, insurgents are openly being seen in the streets of the districts of Macomia and Mocimboa da Praia. Foreign forces have played a big role in supporting FADM in Cabo Delgado since 2021. However, Southern African Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) troops are planned to drawback starting in December, leaving the remaining forces ill-equipped. On another note, Mozambique is still witnessing a countrywide cholera outbreak. In June, 131 deaths have been registered.

## Impact assessment

Seasonal natural hazards and counter-terrorism efforts relatively deterred attacks in the first half of 2023. However, given the current dry season and the public discontent with the authorities, attacks and radicalisation in the northern region are on the rise. While there is a higher security presence in the cities, Al-Shabaab is exploiting the rural areas, using accusations against the Mozambican government as motives for recruitment. Additionally, the government's delay in paying the salaries of the security forces for the last two months has caused unrest. Considering the economic prospects of the province and Al-Shabaab's potential growth, attacks are likely to increase. The capital of Cabo Delgado, Pemba, while it has not yet been targeted, remains on alert. Likewise, assaults in the provinces of Nampula and Niassa are possible after they witnessed a wave of attacks from September to November 2022. Foreigners related to the NGO and mining sectors can become both collateral and intended targets, as was the case on 12 February 2023, when militants attacked a ruby mine in the village of Nairoto, Cabo Delgado, prompting the evacuation of personnel.

## Advice from Forth Global

- Refrain from unnecessary travel to Cabo Delgado due to ongoing violence and increased security dangers.
- Ensure emergency plans and security procedures are set up, and that on-site employees are familiar with protocols, and emergency contacts
- Advise Northern Mozambique staff to be extra cautious around public areas and Western cultural symbols.
- Stay in touch with local employees and liaise with local security contacts for current updates.

## Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

+31 (0) 35 543 04 37  
[christiaan@forthglobal.com](mailto:christiaan@forthglobal.com)

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