Beat: News

Residents return to face devastation in the wake of violent conflict

in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

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ARAC International StratCom - REBUILDING MOCÍMBOA DA PRAIA: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND HAUNTING MEMORIES

The challenges faced by returnees to Mocímboa da Praia, highlighting the urgent needs and the tireless efforts of organizations like MSF to provide aid amidst the ruins.

Mocímboa da Praia Faces Daunting Rebuilding Task After Conflict

In the aftermath of the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique, Mocímboa da Praia, a coastal town, stands as a testament to both the resilience of its people and the devastation left behind by violence.

Key Highlights:

* Returnees Confront Destruction: As families return after years of displacement, they encounter a town in ruins. Most public infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and water systems, has been obliterated.

* Ongoing Security Concerns: Despite improvements in the security situation, fears of potential attacks persist, hampering people's efforts to rebuild their lives.

* Urgent Needs: Among the most pressing necessities are food, water, shelter, healthcare, and education. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) remains one of the few organizations offering assistance.

* Mental Health Crisis: The traumas of the conflict continue to haunt returnees, with many having witnessed or experienced unspeakable violence.

The History of Conflict

The first attacks in Cabo Delgado began in Mocímboa da Praia in 2017, escalating in severity until 2020 when a non-state armed group seized the town. By August 2021, a joint effort by Mozambican and Rwandese armed forces reclaimed the area. The improved security situation has since prompted the return of approximately 176,000 displaced residents, as per UN figures.

Struggles of the Returnees

On their return, residents have faced the harsh reality of a destroyed town and the challenge of starting from scratch. With limited job prospects, many are dependent on humanitarian aid. Concerns about potential attacks further hinder their attempts to eke out a living.

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unwavering dedication, we aim to pave the way for a sustainable, just, and harmonious future for all.

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