

The action will build on the humanitarian response, scaled-up since the cyclone Kenneth hit the province in 2019, and will invest in equitable service's provision to address immediate needs, while tackling systemic causes of vulnerability and conflict. The support to essential service's delivery and protection will be carried out with the objective of enhancing social cohesion and equity across all project outcomes. Similarly, the promotion of community and local leadership and of strengthening the provision of essential social services through sustainable, appropriate, and transformative interventions will be at the centre of the interventions.

In line with the triple nexus approach, stronger linkages will be built between humanitarian action and longer-term development interventions, with a peacebuilding approach underlying both. This will also encompass a risk-informed approach to programming, notably through contingency planning for natural disasters and potential increases in displacement due to further conflict. As such, the action will contribute to increased access to basic services, reduction of inequalities, economic recovery and peacebuilding.

The action is also a direct contribution to Mozambique's WASH Sector Action Plan for implementation of the SDGs 2015-2030, and the Five-Year Government Programme (*Plano Quinquenal do Governo* PQG) 2020-2024. The Action also contributes to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, more particular to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

This action contributes to priority area 1 of the Multi-annual indicative programme 2021-2027 (MIP) "Growing Green" and its Specific Objective 3 "Mozambique increases its low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure" in the water sector. It is complementary to Priority area 2 "Growing Youth", Specific Objectives 1 and 2 on nutrition and education. This action is embedded in the Team Europe Initiative for Mozambique's Green Deal with as expected impact "Mozambique's society as a whole is better prepared to adapt to climate-induced events, contributes to climate change mitigation and reaps the fruits of a green growth and energy transition in a health-promoting biodiverse environment". In line with the TEI's theory of change, the action will put in place climate-resilient water supply systems that will improve livelihoods and create opportunities for the private sector.

The action will build upon the lessons learned of the "Expanding Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Small Towns in Inhambane Province (AGUASANI)". The action will expand the implementation modalities developed therein, as well as integrate with other projects such as Growing Strong (nutrition), focusing on stunting reduction and WASH in rural areas, including in the North.

These interventions will also support the implementation of the Delegated Management Framework for water supply and sanitation in urban areas and secondary systems, leveraging on the existing partnership with the Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Management Unit (AIAS), as well as reinforcing the capacities of the decentralized provincial delegations of AIAS. The resources applied through these interventions will contribute to the implementation of the AIAS mandate and the town's innovative financing initiative for WASH.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

In Mozambique, the situation has further deteriorated in the Northern provinces due to violence, recent climatic events, and the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa have significant deprivations affecting the lives of the entire population, but particularly children and women.

Starting in late 2017, non-state armed groups began attacking civilian populations and infrastructure in Cabo Delgado. The violent incidents and attacks increased significantly in late 2020 and early 2021 resulting in significant displacement. The vast majority of IDPs remain in Cabo Delgado. However, as the conflict escalates, people are also traveling to Nampula, and, to a lesser extent, to Niassa, seeking safety, access to services and livelihoods.

Enhancing resilience, inclusion and supporting recovery in the conflict-affected Northern provinces is of utmost importance to obtain peace, stability and inclusive socio-economic development.

In addition, Mozambique is suffering from widespread poverty and a severe water crisis with approximately half of its people below the poverty line and being deprived of access to clean, safe water and sanitation, the population in rural areas being the most affected. The major reason for the breakdown of these current water sources include poor maintenance systems, lack of spare parts, lack of financial revenues, etc. Systems should also be resilient to