



Threats and violence against education in Mozambique in 2020

On 5 November a group of militants raided Nanjaba village, Cabo Delgado province during the night, firing shots and setting homes alight. During the attack nearly the entire village was burnt down, including a school. Residents who managed to escape the village heard that two civilians were beheaded and six women were kidnapped.

Increased conflict in Cabo Delgado province has led to a rise in violence not only towards civilians but also towards local education service providers leading to a highly insecure environment.

This document by Insecurity Insight focuses on violence against schools and teachers. It does not include information on violence against students. Militant raids on towns and villages often included arson attacks on schools.

The incidents referred to are based on the dataset **2020 Threats and violence against education in Mozambique Data**, which is available on the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX).

SUMMARY

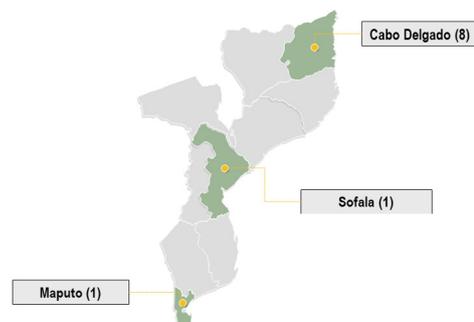
- Attacks on education in Mozambique increased from two in 2019 to ten in 2020.
- Most incidents were reported in the first six months of 2020. Two occurred in the rest of the year – both in November.
- Schools were set on fire, vandalised or otherwise damaged, and one teacher was killed and another kidnapped in these incidents.
- Both primary and secondary schools were impacted by violence.
- The perpetrators of this violence were non-state armed groups.

10 REPORTED INCIDENTS	10 SCHOOLS DAMAGED/ DESTROYED
Source: 2020 Threats and violence against education in Mozambique Data	

LOCATIONS OF INCIDENTS

- Incidents were documented in three of Mozambique's 11 provinces.
- Incidents frequently took place in Cabo Delgado - where Islamist militias have increased their activities - and comprised arson attacks on schools during wider assaults on villages and civilians by armed groups:
 - In one incident a teacher was beheaded in front of the children he taught, who are now in the captivity of militants.

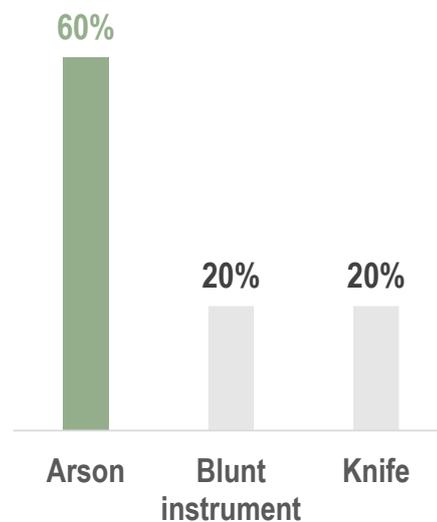
Location of reported attacks on education in Mozambique in 2020, by province



[ACCESS THE DATA ON HDX](#)

- **Health care facilities**, shops, houses and a Catholic church were also destroyed during attacks in Cabo Delgado:
- Incidents also occurred in Sofala and Maputo:
 - In one incident in Sofala a teacher was kidnapped from his house and then killed by RENAMO militants.
 - In Maputo, school supplies were stolen during a robbery at a school. A school security guard and his wife and children who lived at the school premises were killed with blunt instruments in the attack.

Reported weapons use in attacks on education in Mozambique in 2020



RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Education is essential for all children. A child's right to education cannot be safeguarded in conflict zones without education itself being protected.

School should provide a safe space where children can be protected from threats and crises. It is also a critical step to breaking the cycle of crisis and reduces the likelihood of future conflicts.

- Strong monitoring and reporting systems are essential to protect education.
- Effective accountability mechanisms must be established to hold perpetrators responsible for violations.
- Physical protection has been used in high-risk areas to shield potential targets and minimise damage from attacks.

DATA COLLECTION

- This document is prepared from information compiled by Insecurity Insight that is available in local, national, and international news outlets, online databases, and social media reports.
- The incidents reported are neither a complete nor a representative list of all incidents. Most incidents have not been independently verified and have not undergone verification by Insecurity Insight. All decisions made on the basis of or in light of such information remain the responsibility of the organisations making such decisions.
- Data collection is ongoing and data may change as more information is made available

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