

19 - 25  
**APR**  
2020

A CONCERNING  
ESCALATION IN

# MOZAMBIQUE

The outbreak of COVID-19 has left Islamist militants in Mozambique's north-eastern Cabo Delgado province undeterred, as they step up attacks against civilians and armed forces. The 30-month long insurgency escalated in recent weeks, when the militants - known as Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamo and allegedly affiliated to the Islamic State - seized territory in the oil-rich region. Amid a worsening humanitarian situation, Mozambican security forces, assisted by private military contractors, are reported to also have engaged in indiscriminate killings, contributing to the insurgents' anti-government narrative and further antagonizing the local population.

## Map of conflict events in Cabo Delgado (October 2017 - April 2020)

### Mocimboa da Praia | 23 March 2020

Islamist insurgents briefly captured the port town of Mocimboa da Praia, symbolically raising the Islamic State flag and distributing food to the population. 20 people were killed in clashes with military forces.

### Mbau | 9 April 2020

Private contractors affiliated with the Dyck Advisory Group conducted an aerial attack against an Islamist base in Mbau, reportedly inflicting several losses to the militants.

### Muidumbe | 7 April 2020

Islamist militants attacked villages around Muidumbe, ransacking government buildings, hospitals and banks, and killing an estimated 52 people who refused to join their ranks.

### Ibo | 12-21 April 2020

Security forces are accused of opening fire on vessels carrying fishermen and traders in Ibo Island, killing at least 18 people.

## THE INSURGENCY IN FIGURES

**101**

The number of violent incidents recorded by ACLED in Cabo Delgado province from 1 January 2020 to 25 April 2020, **marking a 300% increase from the same period last year.**

**285**

The number of total reported fatalities recorded by ACLED in Cabo Delgado province from 1 January 2020 to 25 April 2020, **bringing the total to approximately 1,100 from the beginning of the insurgency.** As of the 25th, April 2020 is the month with the highest number of fatalities ever recorded by ACLED in Mozambique.

**200+**

The number of reported civilian fatalities recorded by ACLED in Cabo Delgado province from 1 January 2020 to 25 April 2020, **totalling more than 700 since October 2017.**

### Number of Conflict Events

