MLHCP
Plataforma Local de Coordenação Humanitária de Moçambique

PUBLIC STATEMENT

One Year of the Mozambique Local Humanitarian Coordination Platform (MLHCP)

July 2026

One year ago today, a group of local and national NGOs came together to establish the MLHCP based on a single conviction: **humanitarian action in Mozambique must be led by those closest to the communities it serves**.

What we set out to build was a movement of like-minded organisations committed to this goal. In twelve months, the platform has grown to **more than 120 members**, working alongside other networks and platforms across the country. It includes the local actors who responded to the end-2025 violence that displaced communities in Cabo Delgado and Nampula, and to the floods that affected nearly 900,000 people across southern and central Mozambique early this year.

In December last year we held our first General Assembly and adopted a strategic framework, and we are now establishing a full-time secretariat, nationally and in Pemba.

Our legitimacy is conferred by the people we serve. It comes from the proximity of watching our own neighbours and communities lose their lives, homes and livelihoods to one disaster after another. That is what gives local actors both the standing and the responsibility to respond, and it is why we are the first on the ground when crisis strikes. The question is not whether local actors have a mandate to respond, but whether the broader humanitarian system accepts that they should be the ones leading the response.

> Out of the $80 million allocated to Mozambique so far this year, as part of the landmark US contribution to UN OCHA-managed pooled funds, local and national NGOs received just **4 per cent** directly.

Localisation is not proceeding in Mozambique at the pace it should. Local actors have been told that this is their time, yet they still feel structurally overlooked in the response, both in leadership roles in coordination and in access to funding.

The *status quo* has to change. The Peer-to-Peer mission last November recognised the slow progress on localisation in Mozambique and set out clear recommendations. We intend to act on them: taking up co-leadership of the humanitarian clusters, strengthening area-based coordination, and reactivating the Localisation Working Group to carry this agenda forward.

The Humanitarian Reset, set out last March by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, is, in our view, an important opportunity to shift the system towards a locally led response that is closer to the

people we serve. It will only happen, however, if there is a genuine willingness to move real power and resources to local actors. We intend to ensure that promise is kept by acting as a global example of what locally led humanitarian action can achieve.

We are aware that making this change will take years, not months. Some **2.4 million people** in Mozambique are in need of humanitarian assistance, yet this year's response plan is barely **29 per cent funded**. Seasonal forecasts now point to a strong El Niño and a heightened risk of drought across southern and central Mozambique, with several districts still recovering from this year's floods now among those facing drought. Cholera has already caused more than 9,000 cases and 86 deaths. These shocks are compounding and intensifying. A humanitarian response already stretched this thin cannot meet the challenges ahead unless it is built around the local actors closest to affected communities.

So today we call on all humanitarian actors across Mozambique national authorities, donors, UN agencies, international NGOs and other partners to join us and be part of this movement. **Let us build a truly locally led response together**, with each playing their part: through simpler due diligence, institutional support to local actors, and real access to funding and decision-making.