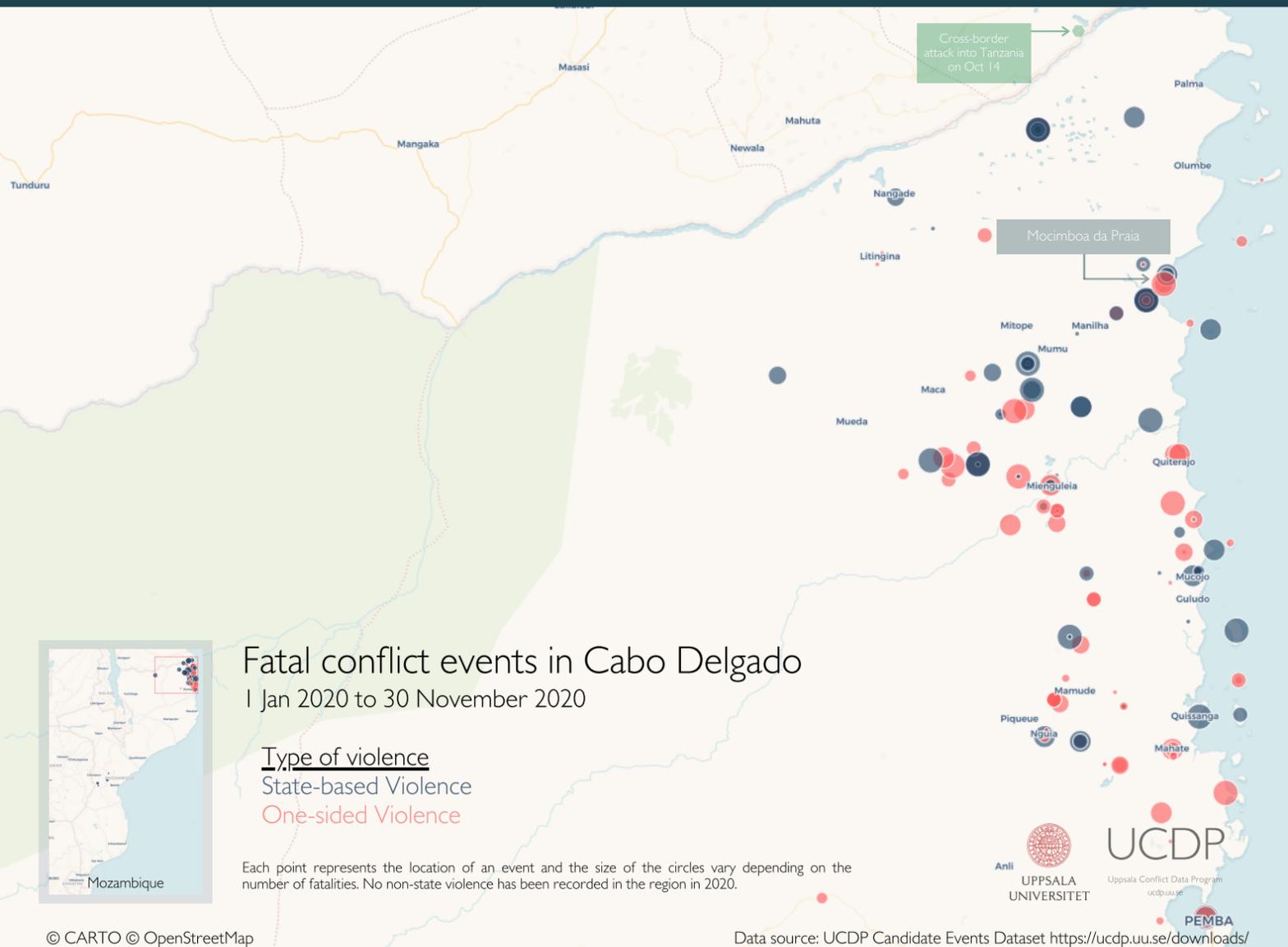




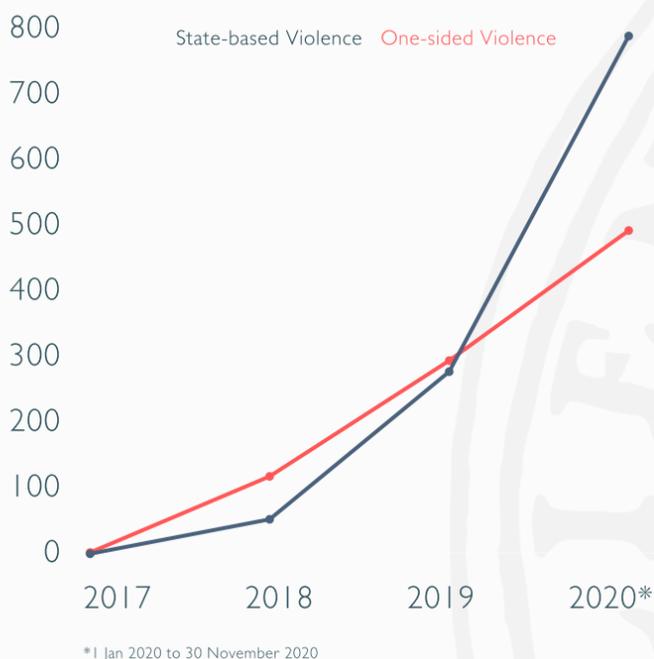
CONFLICT IN CABO DELGADO

Mozambique's Struggle against Islamic State in 2020



The conflict in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province began in October 2017 when a previously unknown Salafist group, Ansar al-Sunnah, attacked a police station in the town of Mocimboa da Praia. In July 2019, Ansar al-Sunnah pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS). Since the start of the insurgency, the violence has escalated sharply, evolving from mostly one-sided attacks by small groups of insurgents against remote villages to large coordinated offensives against the Mozambican military, which culminated in IS capturing and controlling the regional hub of Mocimboa da Praia since August 2020. One-sided attacks, mainly perpetrated by IS, have also continued to escalate in 2020. On 8 April, 52 civilians who refused to join the group were executed, most by being beheaded, in Xitaxi village in Muidumbe. Another IS offensive in Muidumbe district resulted in the execution of at least 40 civilians in a series of devastating one-sided attacks in early November. In October 2020, the conflict escalated further as IS launched attacks across the border from Mozambique into Tanzania.

Fatalities from organized violence since the beginning of the conflict



Considering the number of fatalities from organized violence in Cabo Delgado, 2020 has been the most violent year.

IS was responsible for nearly 90 percent of all one-sided fatalities in 2020.

Districts in Cabo Delgado with the highest number of fatalities in 2020:

- 1) Mocimboa da Praia
- 2) Muidumbe
- 3) Macomia
- 4) Quissanga
- 5) Palma



Data source: UCDP Georeferenced Dataset 20.1 & UCDP Candidate Events Dataset <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/>

The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) is the world's main provider of data on organized violence and the oldest ongoing data collection project for civil war, with a history of almost 40 years. Its definition of armed conflict has become the global standard of how conflicts are systematically defined and studied.



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