

ISIS-Mozambique (a.k.a. Ansar al-Sunna)



OVERVIEW

AS OF APRIL 2025

ISIS-Mozambique, a.k.a. Ansar al-Sunna, seeks to violently overthrow the Mozambican Government and expel foreign influences. The branch demands governance by sharia and rejects secular education. ISIS publicly recognized the branch in 2019, provides it with technical assistance and financial support, and touts the branch's attacks in its propaganda.

ISIS-Mozambique primarily recruits disaffected youth among the Mwani and Makua ethnic groups, exploiting political, economic, and social factors, including feelings of marginalization, religious and ethnic tensions, and poor regional economic conditions.

Operating Area

Primarily in Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado

Members

Approximately 300 fighters

Tactics And Targets

ISIS-Mozambique uses small arms, IEDs, mortars, and RPGs to attack civilians, local government officials, security forces, foreign aid workers, and public facilities, such as garrisons, police stations, health centers, and schools. Since 2021, the branch has threatened liquid natural gas projects in the region, causing some companies to cease operations.

Terrorist Group Designation

The State Department designated ISIS-Mozambique as a foreign terrorist organization and designated its former leader, Abu Yasir Hassan, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist in March 2021.

KEY LEADERS



Abu Yasir Hassan

Former amir



ISIS-Mozambique (a.k.a. Ansar al-Sunna) *(continued)*

NOTABLE ATTACKS

May 2024

Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

ISIS-Mozambique captures multiple barracks around Macomia and seizes control of the town for two days.

September 2021

Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

ISIS-Mozambique conducts its first IED attack, targeting Southern African Mission troops, damaging a vehicle.

March 2021

Palma, Mozambique

ISIS-Mozambique seizes and hold the town for four days, killing dozens of security officers, local civilians, and foreign workers.

October 2020

Kitaya, Mtwara Region, Tanzania

ISIS-Mozambique conducts its first cross-border attack, killing 22 people, including three Tanzanian security officers.

August 2020

Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

ISIS-Mozambique conducts a series of coordinated attacks during a five-day period in Mocimboa da Praia, which the branch seizes and holds for a year.

