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# AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP (AWG)

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## Key Highlights:

Important and valuable inputs were given during the 2023 February AWG meeting which will help to collect quality data for the study:

- Data collection should include important aspects such as the quality of land (travelling distances to “machambas”, soil fertility and irrigation water availability).
- Although there are reports of conflicts between Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and Host Communities, it is important the study delves deeper into the possible drivers of this conflict.
- The results of the study should be published on time so that it can inform the planning of the 2022/23 agriculture campaign short cycle (winter season).
- The planning and implementation of agriculture livelihoods interventions should take into account the number of IDPs and Host Communities households headed by women and youth.
- Lastly, it is crucial to check with IDPs and returnees farmers if the 0.5 ha allocated by the Government can sustain their families for a period of time from six to twelve months.

During the last Agriculture Working Group (AWG) meeting held on 28 February 2023, Brasilino Salvador, Agronomist/Project Officer at FAO Pemba Field Office, presented the topic “*Assessment to verify land availability and accessibility for IDPs in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces, Mozambique*”. The meeting was co-chaired by the Government through the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries (DPAP), Provincial Services of Economic Activities (SPAÉ), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

# Assessment to verify land availability and accessibility for IDPs in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces, Mozambique

The crisis in northern Mozambique due to the conflict, insecurity and violence by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) in Cabo Delgado Province has led to the internal displacement of over a million people, resulting in significant disruption of their agriculture-based livelihoods. The IDPs were forced to abandon their land used for agricultural purposes and lost their productive assets, including agricultural inputs, food stock and livestock. The IDPs are officially camped in resettlement centres organized by the Government, others in Host Communities in the west and south districts of Cabo Delgado, and others in Nampula Province.

To achieve better coordination of humanitarian interventions, the AWG was established under the Food Security Cluster (FSC), which is co-chaired by FAO, MADER (through

DPAP) and Provincial Services of Economic Activities (SPA). The AWG is a platform for better coordination among partners to avoid duplication and overlapping of efforts and to facilitate the exchange of information between actors. AWG is also a forum for the harmonization of technical standards and approaches during humanitarian interventions through a 5W matrix (who does what, where, when and for whom) – to improve the quality and timeliness of agriculture-based livelihoods interventions.

The agriculture-based livelihood activities in response to the Northern Mozambique crisis are being implemented in ten districts of Cabo Delgado Province and four districts of Nampula Province by 11 agencies and 11 Implementing Partners (local and international), assisting a total of 121 450 people in Cabo Delgado and 27 906 in Nampula.





## Land allocation

The Government through the District Services of Economic Activities (SDAEs), District Services of Planning, and Infrastructures (SDPIs) has been clearing and allocating an average area of 0.5 ha of land per IDP household in almost all the districts hosting IDPs. As for now, land is allocated temporarily mainly because many displaced people are expected to return to their areas of origin when security conditions improve. By providing a plot of 0.5 ha, the humanitarian actors ensure the conditions required for minimum basic needs for a life with dignity are met and the necessary technical assistance to the families is provided so that they can be self-sufficient for at least from six to twelve months.

In addition to this, host communities have informally been sharing, borrowing and renting their “machambas” to the IDPs. Some conflicts between IDPs and host communities regarding the use of land have been reported recently in several districts. This will be assessed in this study being undertaken in Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces by FAO and the Government.

There are crops production blocks for the IDPs established in Ancuabe , Balama, Chiure, Macomia, Mecufe, Meluco, Metuge, Montepuez and Namuno in a total of 12 783 ha for the 2021/22 agriculture season, as reported by DPAP in 2022 September AWG meeting. However, this information is not updated and it accounts mainly for people living in resettlement sites and not those who live within the host communities. Therefore, there is a need to collect and update the information on land availability and access for crop production for IDPs in resettlement sites and those in host communities/families.

## Durable solutions and land tenure

Once the IDPs are camped in resettlement sites and hosted in the communities, and others have returned to their districts of origin (returnees), it is important to address their protection needs. They may need support to find a medium or long-term, durable solution. It is important that local integration and resettlement of IDPs as well as the returnees' movement be linked to durable solutions.

The allocation of land to the IDPs by the Government should be negotiated with host communities ensuring that the resettlement blocks do not infringe on the tenure rights of host communities in a manner that is detrimental to their livelihoods. One of the activities should aim at creating harmony between the IDPs and host communities – this will contribute towards a durable solution to food and nutrition security for the IDPs.

The land is at the centre of inter-communal conflict. The lack of durable solutions for IDPs in resettlement sites or host communities and in some cases for returnees can

lead to tensions over land with the host communities and it can be one of the primary causes and drivers of conflict.

Several resource partners and civil society organizations have also shown concern regarding land management for the IDPs, especially land allocation and its use, including statutory and legal ownership systems.

In order to achieve better planning, effective coordination of agricultural livelihoods interventions, and to allow an evidence-based response, the Government as well as the AWG members recommended a study on land availability and accessibility for IDPs to be undertaken in the resettlement sites, host and returnees communities in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces.

The study will focus on IDPs in resettlement sites, in Host Community areas, and on those who returned to their districts of origin (Palma, Quissanga and Mocimboa da Praia). It will also identify possible drivers of conflict between IDPs and host communities where they exist.



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## Methodology

For data collection on land availability and accessibility, a combination of approaches will be used as follows:

- Semi-Structured Interviews (SSIs) with key informants from SDAEs, SDPIs, DPAP, Provincial Directorate of Territorial Development and Environment (DPDTA), National Institute for Risk and Disaster Management (INGD) and local communities and authorities.
- Structured interviews with IDPs, host communities and returnees.
- A geospatial assessment to assess the changes in land use (comparison before the conflict started and now) in terms of crops production, especially in the production blocks allocated by the Government.
- The data collection and analysis will be conducted using an open ODK Collect application (KoboCollect), which is used for primary data collection in humanitarian emergencies and other challenging environments.

From the study, the proportion of the land available and accessible to IDPs and returnees in Cabo Delgado and Nampula, and the overall condition of the land (including the availability of water sources or irrigation facilities) will be collected. This will help the Government and partners to better plan their agricultural livelihoods interventions for IDPs, host communities and returnees.

A total of 1 872 households will be surveyed, with 70 percent IDPs in resettlement sites and 30 percent host communities IDPs while in Palma, all the interviewed people will be returnees. The demographic data will be disaggregated by gender and age. At least 50 percent of the targeted households will be headed by a female.

### AWG RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is important that the quality of available land for the IDPs and returnees be assessed, especially the traveling distances to the “machambas”, the fertility of the soil and the availability of water for irrigation purposes.
- The study should also explore if the 0.5 ha allocated to the IDPs and Host Communities is enough to sustain a five-member household for six to twelve months.
- The introduction of cash crops is another component that should be looked at during the study.
- The results of the study should be shared with the Government and other partners involved in agriculture livelihoods as soon as possible so that it can inform the interventions starting from the 2022/23 agriculture campaign short cycle.
- The planning and implementation of agriculture livelihoods interventions by all partners should be gender-sensitive considering the number of IDPs and Host Communities households headed by women and youth.
- The study should look carefully at possible conflicts between IDPs and Host Communities, especially reported cases of Host Communities asking back their land in Ntokota, Metuge district.

### AWG MEETING ATTENDANCE

The meeting participants included representatives from the government (SDAE, DPAP, IIAM and SPAE), United Nations agencies (WFP, FSC, FAO and UNDP), Food Security Cluster (FSC), National and International NGOs (AGRA, AeA, Care, Caritas Moçambicana, Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation, Technoserve and SEPPA), with a total of 37 participants.

## List of Acronyms

<b>AeA</b>	Ayuda en Accion
<b>AGRA</b>	The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
<b>AWG</b>	Agriculture Working Group
<b>DPAP</b>	Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries
<b>DPDTA</b>	Provincial Directorate of Territorial Development and Environment
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FSC</b>	Food Security Cluster
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced People
<b>IIAM</b>	Mozambique Agricultural Research Institute
<b>INAM</b>	Mozambique National Institute of Meteorology
<b>INGD</b>	National Institute for Disaster and Risk Management
<b>MADER</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>NSAG</b>	Non-State Armed Groups
<b>SCI</b>	Save the Children International
<b>SDAE</b>	District Services of Economic Activities
<b>SDPI</b>	District Planning of Planning and Infrastructures
<b>SEPPA</b>	Sociedade Económica de Produtores e Processadores Agrários
<b>SPAE</b>	Provincial Services of Economic Activities
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program



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