

Rapid Response Mechanism

Rapid Need Assessment Report for Mapalanganha and Namalala 2, Palma District, and Namalala, Mocimboa Da Praia District

November 2022 & January 2023



Photo : Shelter

in Namala I, Mocimboa District



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection



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List of abbreviations

FSL- Food Security and Livelihoods
 HH – Household
 Mdp – Mocimboa da Praia
 NFI – Non-Food Items
 NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
 RNA – Rapid Needs Assessment
 SEAPP - Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Protection Policy
 SI – Solidarites International
 WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. Main Findings

Based on the finding from this Rapid Need Assessment (RNA), humanitarian needs are spread across all sectors of humanitarian intervention. The only other humanitarian actor present is Doctors without borders, who does not have the capacity to service all villages across the Palma to Mocimboa Da Praia (MdP) axis. The biggest need reported was food, followed by water and health, and education. However, a general trend emerging from all interviews was the need to invest in livelihoods initiatives. This complex situation requires a holistic approach with diverse actors carrying out interventions to address emergency, early recovery, and structural needs.

1.2. Recommendations

Given the complex situation, recommendations are grouped by type of response from immediate emergency response, early recovery, and wider structural response. It is worth noting that a more in-depth assessment is needed to establish different priorities in the different villages, as well as to identify the different scales of vulnerabilities amongst the returned population. However, these newly accessible areas should be considered as priority intervention area for humanitarian actors to support immediate response needed for returnees, as well as engage into medium- and long-term assistance given the expected continuation of the trend in returns, as now that the area is perceived as safe by the returnees, the main reason for non-return reported by respondents is the lack of transport or financial resources to do so.

SECTOR	RECOMMENDATIONS	TIMEFRAME
SHELTER	Distribution of shelter fixing kits and tarpaulins before the rainy season	IMMEDIATE
NFI & WASH	Distribution of NFI kits	IMMEDIATE
FSL	Distribution of food during the lean season	IMMEDIATE
WASH	Rehabilitation or building of water points in all three villages	IMMEDIATE
HEALTH	Extension of mobile clinic provision to the surveyed areas	IMMEDIATE
PROTECTION	Reinforce mainstreaming of protection (PSEA, gender, child protection) into interventions	IMMEDIATE
FSL	Distribution of seeds and tools for the upcoming agricultural seasons	EARLY RECOVERY
WASH	Support construction of improved latrines and hygiene promotion (training and material donation / construction for vulnerable HH)	EARLY RECOVERY
EDUCATION	Establishment of temporary learning spaces, implementation of alternative education programmes to mainstream children back into school at the appropriate grade, and training of teachers in education in emergency contexts so they	EARLY RECOVERY

	are best able to support child returnees	
SHELTER	Rehabilitation of key public infrastructure such as schools and health facilities	RECOVERY
EDUCATION	Strengthening of educational systems in all neighbourhoods, including rehabilitation/construction of physical spaces, and return of teachers into schools	RECOVERY
HEALTH	Refurbishment and re-launching of local health facilities	RECOVERY
PROTECTION	Campaigns to spread awareness on key protection risks such as early marriage, especially as a coping mechanism, and the need for children to attend school, as well as the risks associated with joining armed groups	RECOVERY
MARKETS	Small business training and support to star up local markets in the assessed areas	RECOVERY

2. INTRODUCTION

MdP and Palma are the two most northern Districts of the Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique, lying on the coast of the Indian Ocean. The villages assessed in this RNA lie on the border of both provinces, along the main road from Palma Sede down to MdP Sede. Mapalanganha and what is officially Lipunguti, but which is called locally Namalala 2 by residents (hereafter referred to as Namalala (Palma)) are in Palma District, with Namalala in MdP District, 5km south of Mapalanganha.

Since 2017 the Province has been affected by an insurgency. MdP Sede suffered a significant attack in March 2020, and Palma Sede suffered a significant attack in March 2021. Both of these attacks displaced the majority of the population from both Sedes into other areas in Cabo Delgado, and affected the wider Districts. The combination of these two major attacks, coupled with smaller attacks across the Province has led to often multiple displacements over the past two and a half years. Mozambican armed forces, with the support of the Rwandan army have since retaken both cities, and many people are now making their journey home, with a significant return of the population to Palma Sede from March / April through to August / September 2022, as well as the start of the return of the population to Mocimboa da Praia Sede from July / August 2022.

However, Mocimboa da Praia Sede being a new area for Solidarites International, only recently accessible after departure of military escorts, Solidarites International first had to conduct a security assessment, which was done between October and December 2022. Moreover, in order to be able to operate on this axis, Solidarites International had to obtain the necessary credentials to be able to operate on this axis. These necessary steps have led SI to properly conduct thus Rapid Need Assessment between November 2022 and January 2023.

3. ASSESSMENT AREA

With a Human Development Index of 181 out of 189, a high vulnerability to recurring natural hazards, and some of the highest income inequality in the world, Mozambique is one of the world's poorest countries. Internally, there has consistently been a significant disparity between north and south in terms of educational attainment, infrastructure, and quality of life, with the south scoring systematically higher on all development indexes than the north. Within this context, the north has been affected by an internal conflict driven by a non-state armed group. Active since 2017, the group began fighting under the banner of the Islamic State Central African Province in 2019, with the Islamic State sporadically claiming responsibility for attacks since 2021.

The associated displacements the attacks caused, which currently stand at over 945,000 people displaced in the north of the country, have affected the northern provinces since 2017. Exact figures on displacement and return are unclear for the Palma do Mocimboa da Praia axis, yet it is clear there have been multiple displacements since 2017, and in particular since the larger attacks in MdP sede in 2020, and Palma Sede in 2021. There has been a clear trend in returns across Palma and MdP districts since March / April of 2022, and humanitarian needs are high, particularly given the multiple displacements people underwent, and length of time spend away from home.

At time of writing, the only humanitarian actor present along this axis is a health NGO, which only services Mute on Wednesdays and Fridays. This rapid need assessment is Solidarités International's first step in contributing to the availability of information on the humanitarian context in the Provinces of Palma and MdP, to shed further light on needs and potential areas of intervention.

Thanks to the leaders, we have collected data regarding the population in the 3 villages.

Village	Number of pregnant or lactating women	Number of children (up to 17 years old)	Total number of households	Total number of populations
Mapalanganha	40	193	105	381
Namala 2 (Palm sede)	43	323	160	574
Namala 1 (MdP Sede)	27	235	74	359
Total	110	751	339	1314



Figure 2 – Map of the assessed areas

4. METHODOLOGY

As MdP is a newly accessible area, with the road between Palma do MdP Sedes recently freed of military escort, the area is of priority for SI. Therefore, this scoping mission focused on gathering a

quick snapshot of the humanitarian context given the limited availability of information and data on the communities residing along this axis, and relied solely on key informant interviews and direct observations during the data collection exercise. The RNA was led by the SI Emergency Response Team. Key informants were volunteered by the community, and comprised of people from the local leadership of the three villages.

The KIIs were largely structured interviews, with scope for the interviewee to add further thoughts on each topic where they felt relevant. In total 11 interviews were conducted on the 10th and 11th of November, each lasting around 1h30, five in Mapalanganha, three in Namalala (Palma), and four in Namalala (MdP).

Also, so as to have an up to date list of NFI kits requirement, leaders identified vulnerable populations on the 18th of January and shared it with SI.

To complete those assessments, a WASH assessment was held in the 3 villages on the 24th of January. SI met with the village leaders, visited the different water points and had the opportunity to exchange information about the available water resources and the difficulties encountered by the inhabitants.

5. CHALLENGES

The main limitation of this scoping mission was the fact that as the area is recently accessible, security policies did not permit the SI team to stay in a place longer than 1h30, coupled with the need to physically visit the localities of Namalala (Palma) and Namalala (MdP) as there is not phone signal there.

While three of the 11 key informants were female, the expectation had been that there would not be a gender balance in the information gathered, and therefore the assessment did not cover specific gender-related concerns. This will later be addressed through a household survey, aiming to have both male- and female-led households, and dedicated women focus groups discussions.

Another limitation is the availability of population movement figures, or lack thereof. There has been no official census since populations have started to return, and very little information, even anecdotal, on how many people are still displaced and where. This will have to be followed up on, yet is likely to be an issue for other humanitarian actors.

6. MULTI-SECTOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFI)

As with many areas targeted by the insurgents, shelters were often destroyed and looted, with 50% of houses reported as destroyed in Namalala (MdP). All respondents reported some level of damage found to shelters following their return, particularly those living in capi covered houses as they were burnt. In these villages there was no clear trend in where people were residing upon their return, with respondents reporting people were either in their original houses, host families, empty houses, and one respondent said "under trees". In general, communities were reported to rebuild their shelters and living in their own houses, however respondents reported that access to building material, tools, and financial resources are a challenge since the resources are too far and that materials are not available in markets. It is worth noting though that the latter challenge is likely highly influenced by the lack of physical access to any significant market. Support for rebuilding shelter has been mentioned as a

priority especially considering the upcoming rainy season.)

All respondents said NFIs were a need, as items were lost or stolen during the attacks and displacements. Needs were reported across the board. The most common reported need was WASH items, the second was cooking material , and the third shelter items .

Recommendations	Timeframe	Responsible
Distribution of shelter fixing kits and tarpaulins before the rainy season	Immediate	Solidarites International WASH team
Distribution of hygiene kits	Immediate	Solidarites International WASH team
Rehabilitation of key public infrastructure such as schools and health facilities	Recovery	Shelter cluster

Table 1. Shelter/NFI response recommendations.

6.2. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

WATER

Access to safe water is very limited across this axis. A majority of the people collect water from unprotected traditional wells, and some are using water from the river.

Before the attacks, in Mapalanganha the inhabitants used a borehole in which water quality was good. Another borehole was built just before the attacks and is now destroyed. The people are using water from the river. None of the respondents reported the use of water treatment methods.

In Namalala (MdP), one respondent said they had an improved well, but it was destroyed and used by the insurgents as latrines. They also have two unprotected wells, but there is no water for two years according to the population.

At the time of the assessment, residents in Namalala (Palma) had an unprotected well, however, following a recent visit in January 2023, this was no longer the case and 3 dried traditional wells had been identified and one protected well with a broken hand-pump. Residents claimed to be collecting surface water from the lake Lipunguti. Most respondents said there was an issue with water quality, with all of them saying there was a problem with colour, half reported an issue with taste and smell, and a few said water carried diseases. All of the latter were in Mapalanganha. Neither of the two Namalala respondents reported an issue with water quality during the assessment, however they did during the visit in January 2023.

Apart from one person, all respondents requested support with regards to access to safe water.



Photo : Protected well with broken hand-pump in Namala 2

SANITATION & HYGIENE

Access to latrines at household level appears to vary, with six of the 11 respondents saying they exist. All of them are reported to be traditional simple pit latrine, with two respondents saying they were equipped with handwashing stations. The respondents who said there wasn't access to latrines, said people practiced open defecation in the bush, and buried the waste. Schools are all closed, and do not have functioning latrines, there are no communal latrines, and there is no health facility with functioning latrines. Household waste is largely reported to be buried or burnt, with practices varying during the dry and rainy season. Based on the sanitation level identified and considering the arrival of the rainy season at the end of the year, the risk of epidemic outbreak due to faecal-oral transmitted diseases seems high.



Photo : Simple pit latrine in Namala 2

Recommendations	Timeframe	Responsible
Rehabilitation or building of water points in all three villages	Immediate	Solidarites International WASH team

Support construction of improved latrines and hygiene promotion (training and material donation / construction for vulnerable HH)	Early recovery	Wash implementing partner/cluster
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Table 2. WASH response recommendations.

6.3. Food Security & Livelihoods

Food was a key concern of all respondents. People usually access food through their own production in machambas. However, it has been reported that the lack of access to seeds and tools is limiting the agriculture activities. In addition, linked to the current security situation, when possible, communities are only cultivating small machambas located between the main road and the coast as they are still afraid of going further west. The majority of the respondents reported eating 1 or 2 times a day and that people do not have access to a source of income, meaning both production and purchasing of food is a challenge. Lack of livelihoods opportunities was a general concern.

Recommendations	Timeframe	Responsible
Distribution of food during the lean season	Immediate	FSL implementing partner/cluster
Distribution of seeds and tools for the upcoming agricultural seasons	Early recovery	FSL implementing partner/cluster

Table 3. Food security and livelihoods response recommendations.

6.4. Health

There has never been an operating public health facility servicing the assessed villages. The nearest access is a health NGO who set up a mobile clinic on Wednesdays and Fridays in Mute, 4 ½ hours from Namalala (MdP) and 3 hours from Mapalanganha . The most reported health issues were malaria and diarrhoea, with communities reporting high need for health support, with anecdotal references of people falling ill and passing away as the health facility was too far to access.

Recommendations	Timeframe	Responsible
Extension of mobile clinic provision to the areas surveyed	Immediate	Health partners/cluster

Table 4. Health response recommendations.

6.5. Education

While all villages had access to basic education before (primary first cycle in Mapalanganha and Namalala (MdP), and second cycle in Namalala (Palma)), none of the schools are currently functioning. A minority of the respondents reported security would be a concern to access education in light of the current situation.No barriers were reported to education before the crisis, however it is worth noting that this is likely only for primary school education, as none of the schools offered secondary education

Recommendations	Timeframe	Responsible
Establishment of temporary learning spaces, implementation of alternative education programmes to mainstream children back into school at the appropriate grade, and training of teachers in education in emergency contexts so they are best able to support child returnees	Early recovery	Education implementing partners/cluster
Strengthening of educational systems in all villages, including rehabilitation/construction of physical spaces, and return of teachers into schools	Recovery	Education implementing partners/cluster

Table 5. Education response recommendations.

6.6. Protection

This RNA did not have a strong focus on protection, yet armed group recruitment, GBV, early marriage, and child labour were mentioned as protection risks. It is clear however that the physical security of communities is still a concern for the population. Two respondents (one male, one female) specifically mentioned the need to have protection initiatives that focus on girls and women, as *“we should let our daughters grow and study”*.

Recommendations	Timeframe	Responsible
Reinforce mainstreaming of protection (SEAPP, gender, child protection) into interventions	Immediate	Protection partners/cluster
Campaigns to spread awareness on key protection risks such as early marriage, especially as a coping mechanism, and the need for children to attend school, as well as the risks associated with joining armed groups	Recovery	Protection partners/cluster

Table 6. Protection response recommendations.

6.7. Markets

Beyond the lack of financial access to markets, physical access to markets is an issue for those living in Mapalanganha, Namalala (Palma), and Namalala (MdP). The nearest reported market is in Maputo, 8km south of Mapalanganha, and 3 ½km south of Namalala (MdP), however a majority of the people tend to go to Mute, 12km north of Mapalanganha, or 17km north of Namalala (MdP). There is no reported access to mobile money, is not surprising and the Namalalas never have mobile signal, and mobile signal in Mapalanganha is very unreliable.

Recommendations	Timeframe	Responsible
Small business training and support to star up local markets in the assessed areas	Recovery	FSL implementing partner/cluster