

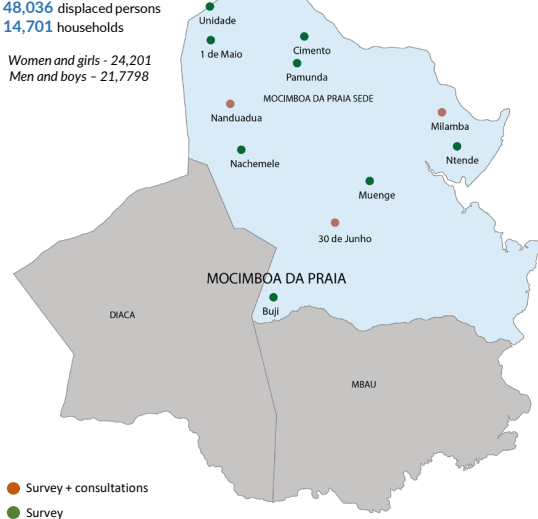


Mocimboa da Praia District

Location of consultations

48,036 displaced persons
14,701 households

Women and girls - 24,201
Men and boys - 21,7798



KEY FIGURES



1,490 returnees

(located in transit centers)



389 households

(men – 427; women – 552; children – 961)

Source: CCCM – Mozambique (December 2022)



72,000 approximate returnees

(in neighborhoods)



19,005 households

Source: Serviço Distrital de Planeamento e Infra-Estruturas

Consultation Date:

December 2022

No. of KIIs

5

No. of FGD/SSI

11

No. of participants:

153 (42 boys, 40 women, 37 girls, 34 men)

No. of neighborhoods visited

3 (consultations); 11 (survey)

No. survey respondents:

302 (69% female, 31% male)

Protection Monitoring (Survey): 11 Bairros (1 de Maio, 30 de Junho, Buji, Cimento, Milamba, Muenge, Nacheleme, Nanduadua, Ntende, Pamunda, Unidade)

Community Consultations: 3 Bairros (Milamba, Nanduadua, 30 de Junho); 1 transit center (Terceiro Congresso)

Objectives

- Assess core protection risks, needs and gaps
- Qualitative protection assessment
- Assess voluntariness of returns
- Evaluate intentions of returnees and sustainability of returns
- Protection services mapping
- Mapping of community structures

INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Violent attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAG) in the District displaced at least 26,000 people

Severe protection crisis, caused more displacement with over 62,000 IDPs leaving the coastal towns. NSAG gained full control of Mocimboa da Praia.

Rwandan forces support in re-establishing control of MdP

Recent security developments and public statements by Mozambican Government prompted returns to the District. By end of 2022, according to the authorities, at least 72,000 displaced persons have returned to MdP District.

2017

March 2020

August 2021

2022

BACKGROUND

Since the end of August 2022, IDPs have massively been returning to Mocimboa da Praia – either by their own means, or with the support from either the State or Private actors. This Mission Report has been produced by the Protection Cluster in Cabo Delgado as a result of a mission to Mocimboa da Praia on 21 and 22 December 2022. The Mission was organized following an initial inter-cluster mission led by OCHA to Mocimboa da Praia on 6 October 2022 during which humanitarian partners highlighted the limited assistance provided to returnees and other protection risks, such as detention of GBV survivors, transactional sex, restriction of freedom of movement, lack of civil documentation, child protection risks, among others. The Protection Cluster decided on the need to conduct an in-depth protection assessment following these preliminary findings.

Although populations have returned and will be characterized as **returnees***, it does not necessarily indicate that a durable solution has been achieved as per IASC Framework on Durable Solutions nor that these IDPs have returned to their place of habitual residence.

A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination that stems from their displacement (ie. IDPs should be sustainably reintegrated at the place of origin, in the case of returns).

Key Protection Messages

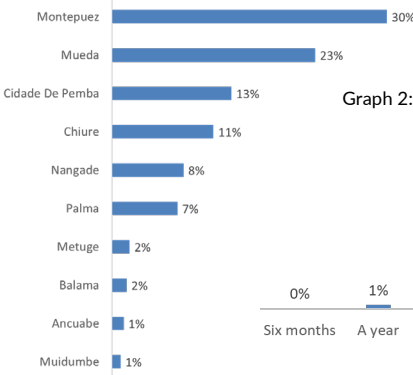
- ❑ **Challenges faced by families during the return process** included as protection incidents such as extortion, physical abuse, GBV and sexual harassment mainly in the hands of local authorities such as in transit sites, family separation and high risk of SEA.
- ❑ **Gaps in information shared on conditions in return areas:** families have reported not having received accurate and updated information on the conditions in areas of return. Before returning, families had been informed of greater availability of services, conditions of shelters as well as completely stabilized security situation which is not what they actually found on the ground. IDPs need to have accurate and updated information on the situation in areas of return in order to make well-informed decision as information gap can expose families to risks in areas of return, the inability to cope with the actual situation and difficulties in meeting their basic needs.
- ❑ **Few services in areas of return:** IDPs expressed concern about the lack of various services in areas of return – including health care, education, civil documentation and social services. Furthermore, there is limited knowledge of the available services, which further compromises the population's ability to access the limited services available.
- ❑ **Living/shelter conditions in areas of return remains poor:** families have reported that their homes have been either totally or partially destroyed by NSAG. As a result, many are left sleeping on the floor and in tents.
- ❑ **Reported discrimination of certain groups:** Families have reported that those perceived to have supported NSAG are discriminated. Furthermore, there is a perception that those returning from Palma are favored for jobs over those returning from other locations like Montepuez.



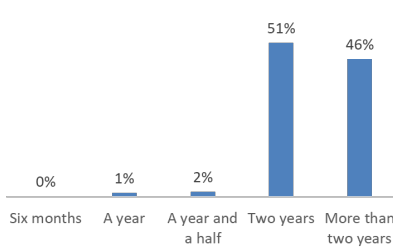
Displacement locations, duration and trend

Based on the Protection Monitoring carried out with 302 (61% female, 39% male, 10% elderly) returnees in 11 Bairros (neighbourhoods) of Mocimboa da Praia Sede, returnees came from 10 Districts of Cabo Delgado. Most returnees to Mocimboa da Praia came from Montepuez (30%), Mueda (23%), Cidade de Pemba (13%) and Chiure (11%). The vast majority of respondents (97%) have been displaced for two years or more while the highest return movement occurred in September and October 2022.

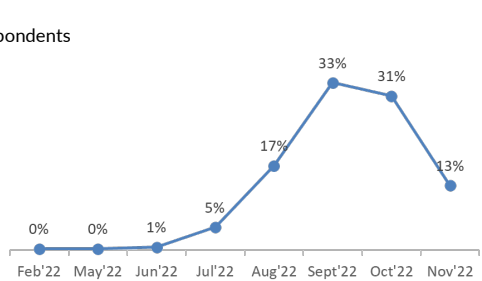
Graph 1: Displacement locations (place of refuge) of respondents



Graph 2: Duration of displacement of respondents



Graph 3: Return Movement by month in 2022



Motivating factors for the decisions returns

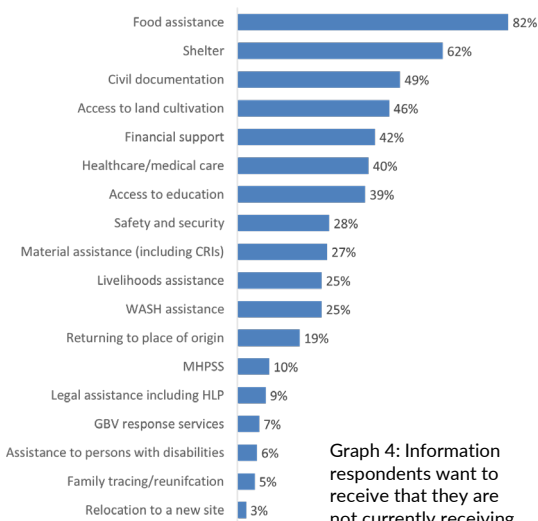
Decisions to return to Mocimboa da Praia were based on: 1) the perception that the security has improved (99%), 2) for purposes of family reunification (63%) and 3) to access housing and property (60%). Other reasons cited were to access livelihood opportunities and access services. Furthermore, some 34% of IDPs interviewed mentioned that they have returned based on the advice provided by authorities. The dire situation in the displacement sites is also an important factor in the decision of IDPs to return.

Revulsion factors for return: During the FGDs, the situation in displacement sites and the living conditions in displacement locations were mentioned as the main push factor for IDPs to decide to return to Mocimboa da Praia. More specifically, the participants in the FGD mentioned shelter issues, such as living in small houses with no privacy and sleeping on the floor, as well as the reduction of humanitarian aid. Respondents also added the lack of livelihoods, especially for those engaged in fishing and intertidal collectors. Discrimination and conflict with host communities as well as a lack of sense of belonging (or feeling to be a “stranger” or “unwanted” in areas of displacement) were mentioned by the community. Women specifically mentioned difficulties related to local integration, especially in relation to livelihoods, accessing resources such as water, and strained relations with the host community as some factors that obliged them to return to their place of origin “They used to call us Mahindra” – offensive word aiming at degrading a person - highlighted women interviewed. “They also used to call us terrorists, responsible for taking their land” added another woman.

Attraction factors for returns: According to the men, the perception of safety in the place of origin, following public statements made by the authorities, family reunification, and the sense of belonging acted as “pull” factors for them to return. “The Rwandan forces granted us security, and this is why we returned”, was mentioned during a FGD with men. For women, some of the main pull factors mentioned, aside from the perception of security, include family reunification. Despite the perception of security, respondents seem to be aware of the security issues in MdP that is essentially granted by the presence of the Rwandan forces: “If the Rwandan leave, we will leave with them”.

Useful Information needed by returnees

Most of the respondents expressed they would like to receive more information on food assistance (82%), shelter (62%), civil documentation (49%) and access to land cultivation (46%), financial support (42%) and healthcare / medical (40%). It is also good to highlight that 19% of respondents would like to receive information on returning to their places of origin and 3% would like to have information on relocation to a new site.



Graph 4: Information respondents want to receive that they are not currently receiving

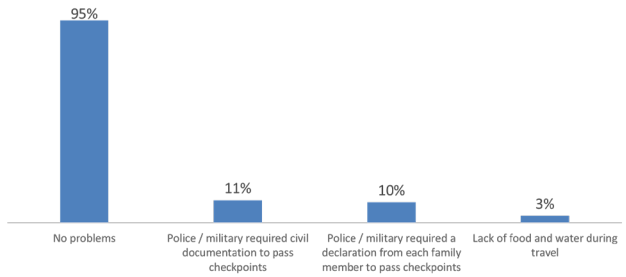
The FGDs was an opportunity to get a sense of what information IDPs wish to have during their process of deciding whether to return or no. Women shared that they would want to receive more information on shelter condition of their original homes, since many have expectation of returning home but end up sleeping in tents. Men shared that they expected greater availability of services and were surprised to find the level of destruction of their homes, boats, possessions as well as of social infrastructure such as hospitals, mosques and markets. Participants in the FGD also noted that they were surprised to still hear that the conflict is not yet over in the countryside since they were told the situation had been fully stabilized. They were also surprised to find that some locations are still not accessible.



Process of returns

Among the respondents, 11% noted that the police and military asked for civil documentation to pass checkpoints and 10% noted that they were required to have a declaration from each family member to pass checkpoints. The consultations also noted similar situation including protection risks associated to absence of civil documentations such as extortion and physical abuse. The requirement for Atestado de residencia (Declaration for Residence) issued by MdP authorities for persons coming from MdP to allow their entrance to MdP was confirmed during the consultations with the community although a community leader informed that it is not required anymore.

Graph 5: Problems encountered in the process of return



- ❑ Women had to sell their non-food-items (buckets, pots and pans) and food stocks to pay for the declaration requested by the government and transportation fee.
- ❑ Respondents mentioned the limited food and water during the return trip.
- ❑ Respondents mentioned not being aware they would not be able to reach their town of origin due to security reasons. They principally come from Palma and are currently living in the transit centre, an inactive school, under dire conditions, including makeshift houses & tents. A private entity supported these IDPs in providing transportation from Palma to Moçimboa and also improved the conditions by providing a roof to the inactive school and lighting. At this point, many women and children are awaiting authorization to return to their site of habitual residences.
- ❑ The displacement movement triggered family separation cases. Many families were forced to leave some of the family members, mostly children in their places of displacement due to limited financial resources to pay for transport, while others are still afraid of the security situation and thus decided not to return.
- ❑ The cost of transportation for one person was reported to be around 1,000 meticaís but could increase to 3,500 meticaís, which would include the transportation of personal belongings. Also, the transporters kept asking additional money through the return journey, hence abusing of the vulnerability of the returnee families.

Situation in return areas

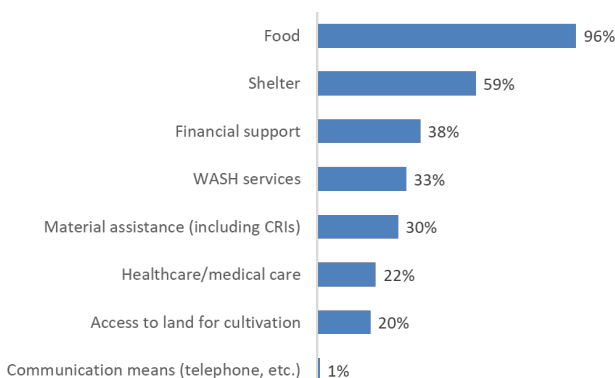
Access to services: According to the Protection Monitoring exercise, around 37% reported that health services are insufficient, 27% noted its non-existent and 35% reported it is sufficient. Respondents also noted that there is no functional school (99%), not enough access to water and sanitation services (100%), no access to food (97%). Also 65% respondents in need of civil documentation do not have access to civil documentation services, all respondents mentioned not having access to livelihoods (100%).

The main humanitarian needs reported by the authorities, the community during FGDs, and the key informants are food, water, and health services. As an overall concern, service provision is very limited and access to the few services available is jeopardized since the population does not know about their existence or how to access them. According to the administrator of Mocimboa, the services that are crucial and have not yet returned include: *Justiça, Serviços Marítimos, Migrações, Instituto para o Desenvolvimento de Pescas em Pequena Escala-IDPP, Polícia Alfandegaria, Instituto da Segurança Social-INSS, Sistemas Financieros e Bancários, Registo Civil e Tribunal.*

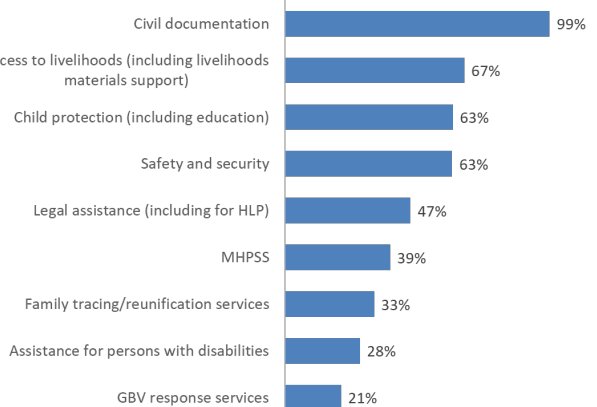
Primary basic and protection needs

The majority of the respondents identified food (96%) as their primary need, followed by shelter (59%) and financial support (38%). With many protection risks associated with the lack of civil documentation, almost all respondents identified this as an urgent protection need at 99%, followed by access to livelihoods (67%), child protection (63%) and safety and security services (63%).

Graph 6: Primary basic needs



Graph 7: Primary protection needs



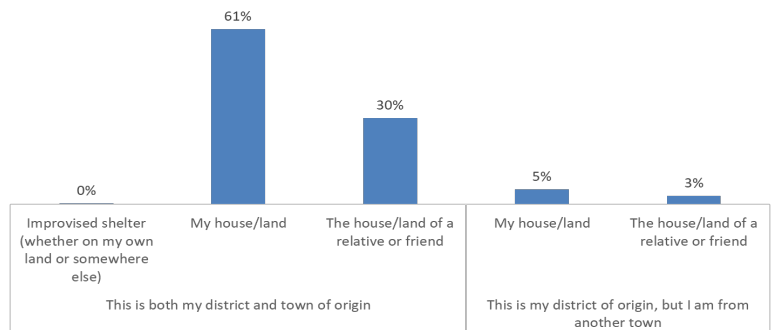


Housing, land and property

The majority of the respondents (92%) returned to their town of origin and 61% of them are currently living in their own house and land, while 30% live with relatives or friends. Around 8% have returned to their district of origin but not to their town or village of origin.

Upon reaching the return areas, 72% of the IDPs reported that their houses and livelihood were destroyed.

Graph 7: Condition of housing/shelter in return areas



In the FGD's the community expressed the issue of accessing mashambas' due to the presence of wild elephants & leopards, fear of safety and security and access issues as the armed forces have not allowed the returnees to go farther away from the center, they were advised to only be able to go to mashambas close to the highways where there are presence of security forces. There were also reportedly tensions between two ethnic groups due to size of plots in mashambas, houses burnt and may are sleeping in tents.

Condition of services

| Services | Service provider | Findings |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Protection Services | Servico Distrital de Saude Mulher Accao Social – SDSMAS INAS – National Institute for Social Action PRM | Support to persons with specific needs Awareness raising on early marriages and pregnancy Provision of milk to children under 6 months Medical assistance, MHPSS and referrals for GBV survivors |
| Health | Health Center – Diaca Rwandese Military Clinic – Mbau Medico Sins Fronteras (MSF) | Hospital of Mocimboa da Praia is still occupied by the Rwandese military Health services provided through shops ("loias") along main streets (temporary health centers) For complex medical cases – patients will go to Mueda or Pemba (e.g. difficult pregnancy) Promotion of hygiene through mobile clinics (MSF) Short-term plan to rehabilitate health center in Nanduadua (UNDP) |
| Gender based violence | MSF PRM SDMAS | Women are at risks of recruitment and sexual violence by NSAG. Reported acts of violence perpetrated by FADM (extortion, sexual harassment, forced labor). Women and girls believed to have limited understanding of GBV and thus are not aware if they experienced it or not. Since December 2022, 137 women liberated by NSAG according to (Servico Distrital de Saude Mulher e Accao Social (SDAMS) are back to their communities (including cases of pregnant and lactating mothers). Cases of women resorting to transactional sex to get food. |
| Child protection | SDMAS | High number of unaccompanied and separated children and no available services. Most liberated UASC were found critical medical condition. Provision of psycho-social support, family tracing, reunification, medical assistance and temporary shelter is provided by SDMAS. Risks of forced recruitment and child labor among children and adolescents. Discrimination issues for women and children liberated by NSAG. Potential cases of forced recruitment into Forca local. Reported cases of child marriages. Coping mechanisms (girls)– early marriage, child pregnancy, engage in relation with military. Coping mechanisms (boys) – theft, excessive alcohol consumption. |
| Livelihood | TOTAL | Lack of materials for cultivation and agricultural inputs. Lack of access to fishing inputs, some resort to use of mosquito nets in their fishing activities Some beneficiaries were provided 1000 kits of agricultural in puts (TOTAL) Some women engage in cash for work programs (UNDP) |



Condition of services (cont)

| Services | Service provider | Findings |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Education | Ministry of Education (MoE) UNICEF | <p>Children registration for the school year to start in January 2023 is ongoing. Unclear capacity of functioning schools to provide for the returnee children</p> <p>The main barriers to attend school include parents preferring madrassas than secular schools and early marriage.</p> <p>Lack of school equipment was mentioned by the representative from the MoE</p> <p>The Secondary school that was occupied by the military is now vacated thus expected to be operational in 2023.</p> <p>UNDP has short-term plans to rehabilitate the educational building and EPC and UNICEF has further plans to support educational activities.</p> |
| WASH | UNICEF ICRC | <p>Water distribution system was destroyed, and the majority of the population has no access to sufficient & quality water. Many have resorted to traditional wells which triggers health issues like diarrhea and cholera. Lack of access to water also triggers tensions in the community.</p> <p>ICRC supports WASH interventions through the drill of 6 boreholes in urban areas and increasing the water system to its full capacity.</p> <p>UNICEF has plans to support temporary latrines in schools</p> |
| Civil Documentation | No civil documentation services available | <p>FGD's confirmed that most returnees do not have civil documentation either because civil documentation services do not reach them, or because they decided to throw away their Bilhete de Identidade as they would face discrimination for being from MdP and be associated with NSAGs.</p> <p>Reported cases of extortion, discrimination, forced labor and forced disappearances perpetrated by armed forces at checkpoints and during patrols.</p> <p>Perceived association with criminals.</p> <p>Potential cases of forced recruitment into <i>Força local</i> and child marriages.</p> <p>ICRC works to re-establishing family links.</p> |
| Access to justice | No functional justice system | <p>No presence of tribunals, public prosecutors or provision of legal assistance</p> <p>Short-term plan to build three community courts and rehabilitate the municipal and administration building, police station and judicial court buildings (UNDP)</p> |
| Food and markets | WFP TOTAL | <p>Lack of access and means to access food.</p> <p>Emergency food assistance provided by WFP and TOTAL although limited. WFP plans to expand coverage to the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Limited provision of food assistance to returnees (WFP and TOTAL).</p> <p>Livelihood opportunities are limited due to the lack of tools or boats, and fear to work in mashambas. Families still return to their places of displacement to receive food assistance.</p> <p>There is on-going economic activities in the District, such as fishery, but the population has limited financial means to buy what is made available in the markets.</p> |
| Safety and security | Rwandan armed forces <i>Forças Armadas de Mozambique</i> (FADM) - Mozambican Armed Defence Force) PRM & <i>Força Local</i> | <p>Community members still fear for their safety and feel the need to rely on Rwandan forces. There is lesser trust in the <i>Forças Armadas de Mozambique</i> (FADM) and other local armed forces.</p> <p>Some areas remain unsafe even those areas who were cleared by authorities (incidents of people fleeing again after reported security incidents).</p> <p>Land cultivation is also allowed close to the roads to avoid being attacked or killed.</p> <p>Presence of mines, mortar shells and grenades confirmed (clearing is still on-going).</p> <p>PRM increasing its capacities through the recruitment of young returnees into <i>Força Local</i>.</p> <p>Alarming cases of GBV perpetrated by Mozambican armed forces.</p> |
| MHPSS | Serviço Distrital de Saúde, Mulher e Acção Social – SDSMAS MSF | <p>High need for psychosocial services.</p> <p>Reported cases of psychological issues as a result of trauma. Some persons interviewed noted that they do not know where to look for help.</p> <p>Language barrier with a humanitarian psychologist thus service provision is limited.</p> <p>Difficulties re-integrating locals freed by NSAG from captivity (limited response capacity, no transport means to provide them support after they re-integrate their communities).</p> |