



IDP Number Source:
Mobility Tracking Assessment Report
R18 (2023)



89,821 displaced persons
21,034 households



37,736 approximate returnees
9,121 households

Community Consultation:
Led and facilitated by the
Protection Cluster

No. of key informant interviews: **16** (incl. *Secretario Permanente*, SDPI, *matronas*, community leaders, social workers)
No. of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): **10** (ensuring vulnerable groups were represented)
No. of participants to FGDs / consultations: **140** (19 boys, 28 girls, 24 men, 69 women)
No. of neighborhoods assessed: **Four** (consultations); **Three** (survey) incl. Nandimba, Lyanda, Mpeme, Ed. Mondlane
No. surveyed households: **1,013 HH** (55% female, 45% male) (through UNHCR's Protection Monitoring - March and April 2023)

KEY FINDINGS



46%

Wish to **remain** in
current location



65%

Of the IDPs who wish to remain,
they eventually plan to return
"when conditions improve"



28%

Wish to **return** to
place of origin



23%

Remain **undecided**

Out of the 46% of HHs interviewed who do not wish to return, 65% still plan to eventually return to their places of origin when "conditions improve". Others, mentioned *never* wanting to return due to the traumatic incidents they experienced before fleeing.

KEY PERCEPTIONS OF IDPs IN MUEDA

FEAR OF RETURN: The results show that there are IDPs that are unwilling to return due to a deep-seated fear of returning and being attacked (due to what happened in Mianguelewa Village in Muidumbe District as also reported in media by ACI Africa).

SECURITY: Even IDPs wishing to return reported that they would only do so "should security improve", however, not all IDPs could respond what that would look like.

INFORMATION: Discussions with key informants and IDPs demonstrated a clear gap in information on areas of return for IDPs that would enable to take a sustainable decision on return. Furthermore, IDPs are still unaware of plans by district authorities that might impact them.

KEY PROTECTION NEEDS EXPRESSED BY IDPs

STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE: Mueda will require maintaining (and to some extent strengthening of key humanitarian assistance) as well as greater early recovery and development programming to minimize protection risks and increase resilience. Livelihood is key.

HLP: With reports of frictions between IDPs and host communities over land access, this activity will be key for local integration.

PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE: Activities will be needed to both facilitate dialogue between IDPs and host communities as well as between local authorities and IDPs.

MHPSS: There are mental health needs due to rights violations experienced prior and during flight.

CIVIL DOCUMENTATION: The results show that a substantial amount of IDPs lack civil documentation which hinders other rights.

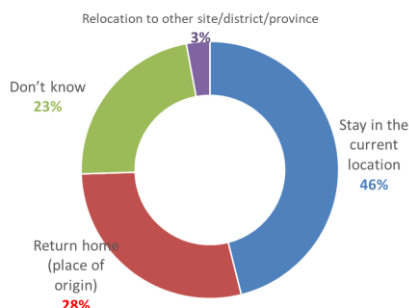
CONTEXT

Mueda District is a location hosting IDPs, of transit for various movements and sporadic attacks (although fewer than neighboring districts). The district is geographically distant from Pemba, close to the only "formal" border crossing into and from Tanzania, and has a large military presence. Mueda has also been an important transit and hosting district of Mozambicans who have been *refouled* from Tanzania, with UNHCR having recorded almost 12,000 up until last year. Mueda neighbors Nangade District, where out of 51 villages, only six remain untouched by attacks by NSAG, according to Cabo Ligado. Therefore, the district hosts populations that have been displaced multiple times and present a variety of protection needs. According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Monitoring, there has been an **eight per cent reduction** in internally displaced persons in the district between November 2022 and May 2023 from 98k to almost 90k respectively. Originally, the population comes from Muidumbe, Mocimboa Da Praia and Nangade Districts. However, some of the sites in the District of Mueda have also seen population increase from October to December 2022 due to attacks in Nangade (source: UNHCR-CCCM Flash Updates). Armed actors present in Mueda include the FADM (Mozambique Defense Armed Forces), SAMIM (South African Development Community Mission in Mozambique), PRM (Mozambique Police) and *Força Local* (Mueda being the stronghold in Cabo Delgado for the latter). This report presents results of a **coordinated community consultations on intentions and durable solutions with IDPs to understand coping strategies as well as preferred solutions for IDPs** on return, relocation or on reintegration in the current location. In total, 10 FGDs with 58 IDPs, interviewed 16 key informants and collected individual intentions from 1,013 HHs. The exercise also sheds light on existing capacities of IDPs to materialize their preferred solution.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS INTENTIONS

Quantitative: Of the 1,013 HHs surveyed 46% expressed their intention to settle and locally integrate in their current location. Some 23% are still undecided. For those who expressed their intention to return (28%), they would proceed to their return only when the security conditions allow (see Chart 1 and Graph 3). Among those who choose to remain or settle in Mueda, a majority (94%) mentioned insecurity or fear of continued violence as the main reason to not return. Others mentioned the lack of reliable information (7%), their houses were destroyed in the place of origin (4%), too much trauma from what happened in the return area (3%) and fear of detention or maltreatment for lack of civil documentation (2%) (see Graph 2).

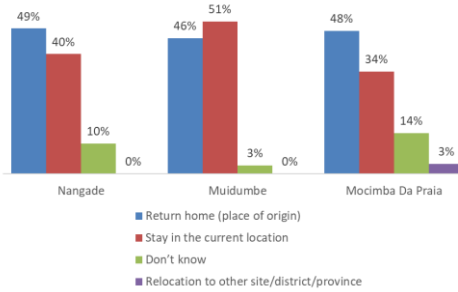
Chart 1: Households intentions



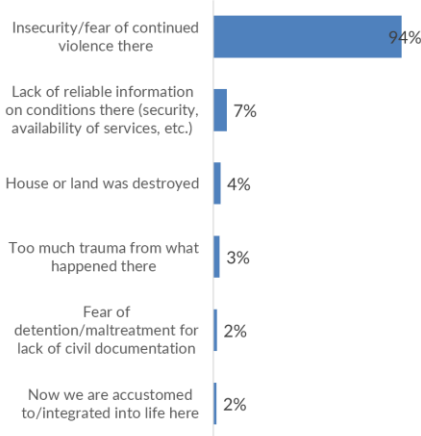


Intentions and Reasons

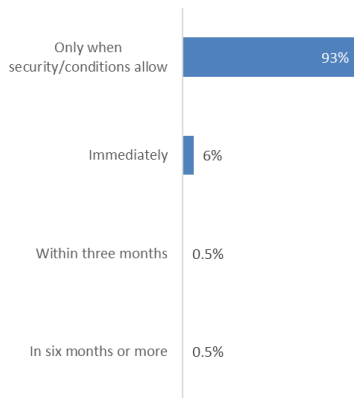
Graph 1: Intentions per district of origin



Graph 2: Reasons for NOT wanting to return (top 5)



Graph 3: Return intention timeframe

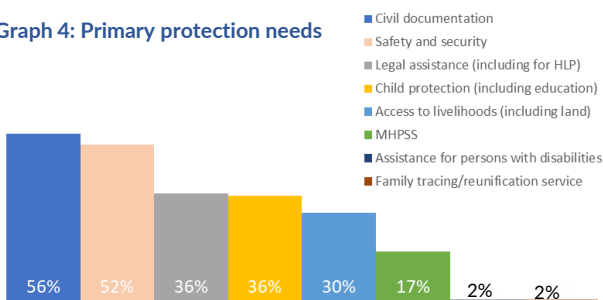


Note: Survey cover the period March and April 2023 and were conducted through UNHCR's PM.

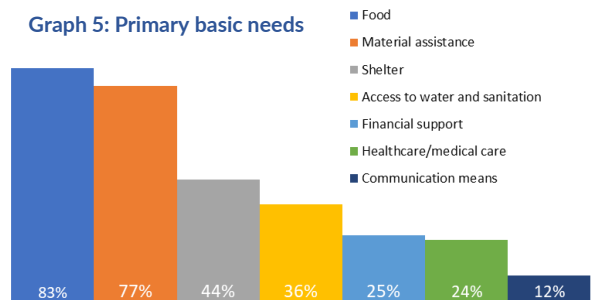
TOP 5 NEEDS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN/LOCALLY INTEGRATE

According to UNHCR's Protection Monitoring (March and April 2023)

Graph 4: Primary protection needs



Graph 5: Primary basic needs



ANALYSIS OF REASONS TO REMAIN/LOCAL INTEGRATION

Focus Group Discussions highlights: During the FGDs in the four sites, all groups shared that they are not ready to return immediately or in the short run due to concerns for safety and security in places of origin. Nevertheless, some mentioned they are ready to consider returning when the security situation improves, therefore confirming the results of the interviewed IDPs through the survey. **Both adult men and women** emphasized that they believe they will inevitably experience attacks should they return to areas of origin due to the presence of NSAG. For instance, IDPs consulted mentioned having received information of returnees going missing or killed. They are also aware of IDPs that have returned, but then had to return to IDP sites due to conditions in return areas. There is a prevailing sense of fear of threat still palpable towards return areas. **Younger adult women** emphasized they would be concerned for their safety in areas of return and they perceive the conflict as continuing. They also fear kidnapping by the NSAG and question whether they will be able to study, eat and be sheltered in the areas of return. They feel the current situation presents much more certainty, than attempting to go back.

Key Informant Interview highlights: (local authorities, community leaders, social workers): During discussions with key informants, they stressed that one of the main obstacles for taking a decision on return is the lack of clear and correct information on the situation in return areas. They stressed that there has been no reliable information on places of origin being disseminated.

Information needed to be able to decide on a solution: While some IDPs still look forward to returning to their places of origin on the condition of safety and security, they expressed that they need to be informed of the real situation including the presence of basic services such as education and health, livelihood and/or opportunities to resume agriculture (farming and fishing) activities, markets and entertainment activities for children and the young people. Other IDPs mentioned that they are simply waiting instructions from the government to inform them whether the return area is safe, however, when asked who should communicate that or what the information should look like, they were unable to provide a clear answer.

Why remaining is a better option for those who have chosen to remain in Mueda: Some IDPs expressed their intention to be locally integrated in the area of displacement as they generally feel safe and there is no fear of attacks from NSAG. During the discussions, IDPs mentioned having a peace of mind in their current location and this greatly influences their intention to remain. IDPs also mentioned that access to school for children as a factor influencing their intention to stay in the displacement area.

Challenges to locally integrate: IDPs mentioned the conflict with the host communities over the access to cultivation land to be a major challenge to integrate locally. For instance, IDP families mentioned that their productions are, in some instances, taken by the host community causing significant misunderstanding. Community tensions and insecurity of land tenure remain a great barrier to achieve local integration alongside with the lack of broader livelihood opportunities for men and women, considering notably that access to the limited employment opportunities are further hindered by the lack of civil documentation. Women also expressed their fear to be sexually abused due to the precarious conditions in areas of displacement. During the consultations, the IDPs shared that there are currently no activities that support reintegration or return.

Feeling pressured "to return" by authorities: As per the interviews conducted, 13% HHS say that they are being pressured to decide to return. Among these HHS, the main source of these pressures came from armed forces (31%), government authorities (31%), community leaders (28%) and the host community (9%).



CAPACITIES AND NEEDS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN/LOCALLY INTEGRATE

Subsistence for those who wish to remain: Displaced families rely primarily on humanitarian assistance. The main factor that would enable local integration which was mentioned by all groups consulted is the **access to land**. This will both leverage their food security, their livelihoods and the social cohesion with host communities. During community discussions, the IDPs shared that part of their food assistance is used to exchange for cash to use as “small capital” to start income generating activities. The **men** mentioned that they **lack non-monetary support**, which hinders their ability to fend for themselves through, for example, **procuring tools** to use in subsistence farming, small agriculture or small businesses (tailors, bricklayers, cooks). The men also advised that support should not just be limited to children and women. In the discussions, men expressed that their capacities have been affected due to the **absence of jobs/livelihoods, health services and infrastructures such as water, hospitals and schools**. Seeking employment is significantly difficult with the absence of **civil documentation**. **Young men** also asked for greater support to start small businesses. According to them, lack of support and prolonged inactivity in displacement sites has encouraged malpractices such as small-scale thievery. **Young women and girls** would like more sports activities, **learning** about sewing, weaving, crochet and cooking in order to develop skills for **income generating activities**. **Both men and women** mentioned that if they had easier **access to food and livelihoods**, families would rather choose to remain in Mueda. **Women** mentioned that they should be supported in settling down with support for them to build better homes, enroll in **adult literacy classes**, develop and engage in **income generating activities** such as weaving pottery, small business, cooking, and **develop their skills** to engage in market activities. The women wish to continue doing the small livelihood activities in Mueda that they used to do before displacement if given the opportunities. They also mentioned **access to justice** that would ensure accountability from the violations suffered by NSAGs. **All groups** mentioned the need for **mental health and psychosocial support** due to the human rights violations they experienced in areas of displacement. IDPs interviewed have either been farmers or fishermen, which means that they are highly impacted by the unavailability of **land, rivers and lakes**. Women did acknowledge that returning or remaining in their current location will still be decided by their husbands or male household members.

LOCAL INTEGRATION: CAPACITIES AVAILABLE

- Scale up of partners in the last few years have increased presence of some services (care for children, presence of schools and health care)
- Commitment from local authorities
- Women have the skill to engage in livelihood activities (culinary, small business, handicrafts and agriculture) if opportunities are available
- Men can engage in small jobs, such as unloading of products from trucks, manual labor and others if opportunities are available

LOCAL INTEGRATION: CAPACITIES NEEDED

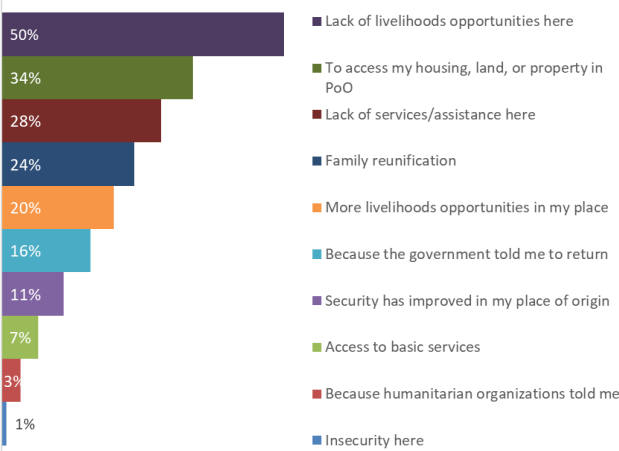
- Increase security and safety for women
- Secure access of land for all IDPs and host communities
- Enable greater access to legal services
- Dedicated livelihood opportunities for women and men
- Greater dialogue, engagement and peaceful co-habitation projects between host community and IDPs
- Greater access for renewing civil documentation
- Greater MHPSS support for traumatized persons and children
- Alternative sources of income for fishermen who have no access to rivers or lakes

ANALYSIS OF REASONS TO RETURN

Focus Group Discussions highlights: Conditions in displacement site are among the reasons that are considered as **push factors for displaced families to return or move onwards**, including lack of livelihood opportunities, lack of access to housing, land and property, lack of services or assistance and the need to reunite with family. However, when asked to rank the most urgent reasons during FGDs, the community responded: 1) tensions with host community over access to *mashambas* for livelihood purposes; 2) sexual abuse by leaders (mentioned by women); 3) fear of “revenge” or attacks by host community members against the displaced population. The IDPs also mentioned lacking of sense of belonging in the area of displacement as a push factor.

Note: Interviews cover the period March and April 2023 and were conducted through UNHCR’s PM.

Graph 6: Top Reasons cited FOR the decision to return



NEEDS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO RETURN

For return, information is crucial (and can be life saving!): According to FGDs, displaced families are neither fully aware nor informed of what basic services are available nor functioning in return areas. Furthermore, displaced families mentioned that the authorities have not had the capacity to organize “go-and-see visits”. In the majority of return districts, Social Action (SDMAS) is either not present (Muidumbe, Nangade) or has a limited presence and still not able to fully work on the needs (Moçimboa da Praia) due to lack of available resources, such as lack of case workers, logistical, including transportation, and premises. The demand to provide basic services is high compared to available or presence of services providers in the return areas. IDPs expressed their need for information so that they are also able to assess or be prepared in case return is inevitable.

For men, they will require basic support to respond to primary needs such as food, shelter, education and health. There is a prevailing issue surrounding the allocation of *mashambas* so that returnee families can resume agriculture and thus be able to restart livelihood activities in the long-term. Currently, displaced families do not have information on their *mashambas*, whether these are still available or if will they will be able to access a cultivation land. Displaced families engaged in fishing are not aware of whether they will be able to access rivers or lakes upon return (for non coastal areas). Hunger in the places of origin is inevitable according to young men and boys, due to lack of livelihood and limited food assistance. There remains a high level of uncertainty in all areas, on top of the safety concerns linked to the conflict. For women, they generally do not wish to return as they remain at risk of hunger and security concerns due to the ongoing conflict, fear for their family’s safety and many are still traumatized.



RETURNS: CAPACITIES AVAILABLE

- Men will continue their previous livelihood activities if means are available such as agriculture and fishing
- Previous ties to their areas of origin
- Communities' ties with those who never left or who have managed to return

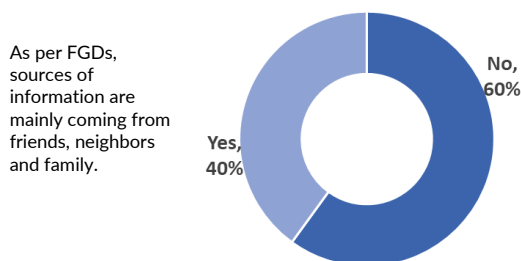
RETURN: CAPACITIES NEEDED

- Need for basic services (schools, hospitals/clinics)
- Need for presence of government personnel to attend to the needs of the returnees (civil documentation, agriculture, information)
- Availability of livelihood sources (*mashambas*, fishing grounds, alternative livelihoods, markets, inputs)
- Need for longer term safety and security
- Need for mental health and support services
- Transportation to return
- Accurate and up to date information for those who wish to be able to decide

Access and Availability of Information

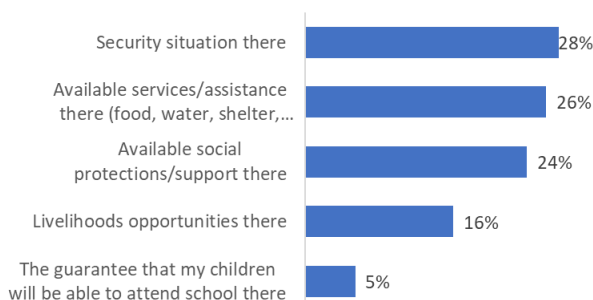
The majority (60%) of HHs interviewed do not have access to information on the situation in return areas. In Mueda, displaced HHs place importance on the security situation (28%) as an indispensable information that will help shape their decision. Similar to this, the community consultations highlighted again the safety and security situation as the main factor influencing their decision to return, mainly as they were made aware of some security incidents including human rights violations happening in the return areas. These triggered trauma and fear and thus affect their decision to return. Some IDPs also mentioned the lack of information about services in the place of origin that would help them take an informed decision on the preferred solution. As per UNHCR's PM data, the preferred channels of communication of the population surveyed are to receive information in person from community structures. According to IDPs interviewed by protection cluster partners during FGDs, information is an important driver of decision-making for displaced families on either remaining or returning. The IDPs acknowledged that some of them do receive pressure by different sources on the decision to return, however, IDPs would prefer to receive up-to-date, accurate and complete information on the conditions in return areas.

Chart 2: HHs with access to information



Note: Survey cover the period March and April 2023 and were conducted through UNHCR's PM.

Graph 7: Types of information needed



Operational context

The Mueda District local administration has expressed its intention to transition from emergency settings to the adoption of a more sustainable and integrated approach in exploring local integration opportunities for the IDPs that will also benefit the host communities. In March 2023, SDPI announced plans to transition IDP sites towards villages and has advocated for resiliency projects that have longer-term impact on IDPs and host communities. In this context, **eight IDP sites in Mueda have been designated as villages** and the authorities wishes are that the sites receive their own local social services. The visit from the President of Switzerland in March 2023, jointly with President Nyusi, demonstrate the commitment of authorities in developing the district and bringing greater development funding, which will be needed with 46% interviewed wishing to remain in the short to medium term and a group (see first page) wishing to remain permanently in the district even if conditions improve. Nevertheless, challenges remain with current provision of services on the ground for those IDPs that wish to remain in the short, medium and long term. According to the Ministry of Education (Source: Education Cluster), the **students to teacher ratio** is high at 68.7 children (standard should be 40) where schools that have been already crowded and struggling before received an influx of 9,044 (4585 male/4459 female) displaced children corresponding to a 20% increase in the total number of children in schools in the district. **Access to land also remains challenging for IDPs with only 27% of IDP HH in sites accessing land according to CCCM-UNHCR and SDPI.** The most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Report classified Mueda as Phase 3 (« crisis ») with 40 percent of households having significant food consumption gaps or marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies (liquidating livelihood assets).

As of April 2023, protection services were provided to 40,249 IDPs and host populations by **six protection partners** (UNHCR, HelpCode, UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children and CARE International). The bulk of individuals have been reached with awareness raising on GBV and PSEA (21,000+ individuals) and MHPSS (1,700+ individuals). On the other hand, the low funding means fewer activities are provided at individual level such as case management (100+ individuals) and in-kind assistance (less than 100 individuals).

KEY PARTICIPATING PARTNERS



"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 displacement, relocation or the place of origin, in the case of returns)."

- IASC Framework on Durable Solutions