

Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

March 2026 | Ancuabe District, Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

CONTEXT

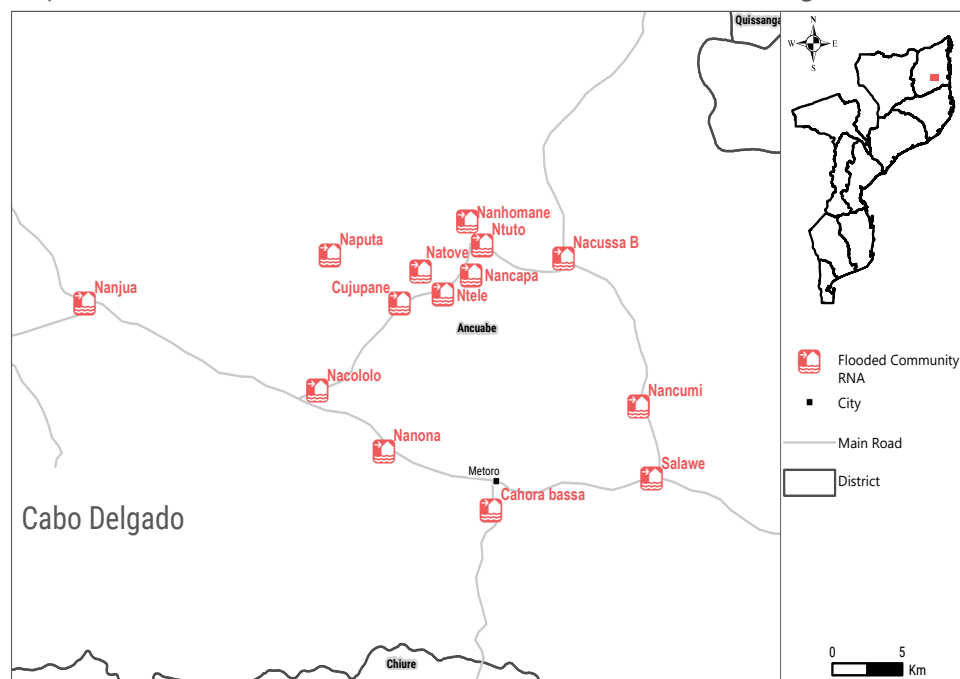
BETWEEN 13 AND 17 OF MARCH 2026, heavy rains affected much of Cabo Delgado, with particularly severe impacts in Ancuabe District (including the communities of Ntuto, Nancapa, Natove, Cahora Bassa, Nanona and Nanjua). Flooding and soil erosion caused widespread shelter damage, loss of machambas (agricultural fields) and latrine collapse, increasing health and protection risks. Some households sheltered with relatives, while others stayed in makeshift temporary shelters.¹

In response, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) teamAction Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted 123 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) in late March 2026 across the communities of **Cahora Bassa, Cujupane, Nacololo, Nacussa B, Namcapa, Nancumine, Nanhomane, Nanjua, Nanona, Naputa, Natove, Ntele, Ntutu, Salawe** in Ancuabe District (see Map 1). This brief presents the main findings of the assessment. Findings are indicative of priority needs in the assessed locations; further details are provided in the Methodology and Limitations section at the end of the document.

5,709

Number of affected households across Ancuabe District.²

Map 1: Flood affected communities in Ancuabe District of Cabo Delgado



TOP 3 PRIORITY NEEDS

as reported by Key Informants (KIs) in assessed communities

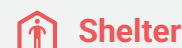


Food

94%

 of KIs

Food emerged as the most immediate priority need for affected communities in Ancuabe. Most KIs reported that households are currently **struggling to access food**.



Shelter

91%

 of KIs

Shelter was the second most prioritised need, driven by widespread **partial and total housing damage** and the **vulnerability of shelters**. Household have primarily **relocated temporarily**.



NFIs

42%

 of KIs

Non-food items (NFIs) were the third most prioritised need, reflecting the loss of basic household assets alongside ongoing constraints in accessing essential items. **NFIs were reported to be scarce or unavailable locally**.

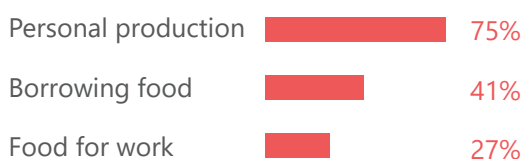


FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

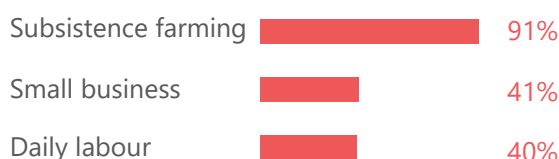
Food security clearly emerged as the most immediate priority need in Ancuabe. 96% of KIs reported that affected households are currently facing **difficulties accessing food**, driven primarily by **lack of financial ability** (80% of KIs) and **limited access to land for food production** (16% of KIs). These findings align with the broader context: as of March 2026, Ancuabe has been **classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis)** since October 2025, suggesting that the shock is compounding already elevated levels of food insecurity.³ KIs indicated that **food access remains largely anchored in own production**, but increasing reliance on **borrowing and food-for-work** suggests many households are already using coping strategies to cover shortfalls. With livelihoods heavily agriculture-dependent and **repeated reports of machamba damage**, the shock is likely to quickly **reduce both food availability and income**.

Field observations reinforce this picture: **markets exist but are often poorly stocked**, and households frequently travel to district hubs (i.e., Metoro, Chiure, Nampula, Montepuez) to obtain goods, while reported **crop and small livestock/poultry losses** further compound immediate food access and short-term earning opportunities. These findings align with secondary reporting from *Instituto Nacional de Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres* (INGD), which indicates **1,167 hectares of agricultural land affected and 186 hectares lost in Ancuabe**, underscoring the scale of agricultural disruption.⁴

Main sources of food, by % of KIs*

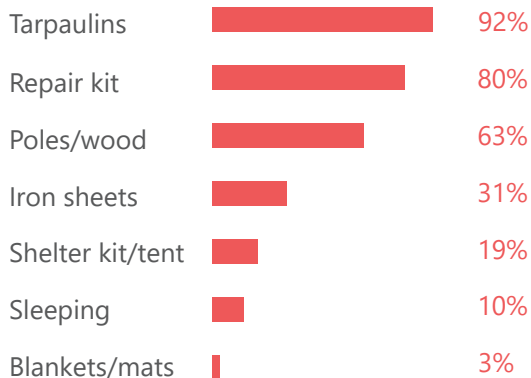


Main livelihood activities, by % of KIs*



SHELTER & NFIs

Shelter items needed, by % of KIs*



Shelter was the second most frequently reported priority need in Ancuabe, with **NFIs also commonly cited**. Most KIs reported **widespread shelter impacts**: the majority described **major damage** requiring repair materials (54% of KIs), while a substantial share reported **homes destroyed** and currently **uninhabitable** (38% of KIs). Qualitative observations indicate that many shelters are **built primarily from local materials** (wattle and daub, mud, thatch/grass roofs) and may have contributed to **accelerated collapse during heavy rains**, reinforcing the **need for rapid repair and shelter-support items**. Many affected households were reported to be **staying in borrowed houses** (42% of KIs) or with **host families** (36% of KIs), and enumerator teams noted **temporary relocation within or near communities**, including use of



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

WASH was reported as a priority need by 19% of KIs, but WASH-related risks appear significant, particularly for sanitation. **Most KIs reported latrines/toilets as very damaged or completely destroyed**, with additional reports of overcrowding where facilities remain usable. Water access was also constrained, with some KIs indicating that a large share of affected households have **very limited access to clean water for drinking, cooking and hygiene**. Field observations noted reliance on a mix of **public taps** and **protected/unprotected wells** - alongside limited **surface water use** in specific locations (notably the Centro de Reassentamento de Nanona) - with uneven functionality and coverage, including **water points requiring maintenance**. Teams also observed **increased open defecation linked to latrine damage**, heightening contamination risks. A **fatal incident involving a child falling into an unprotected well** in Nanjua further underscores the need for urgent WASH safety and risk-reduction measures.

75%

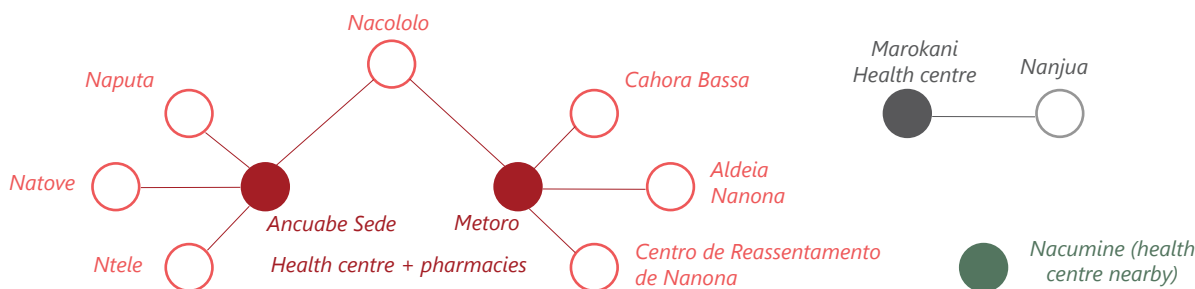
of affected households have been reported to have **very limited access to clean water** for drinking, cooking

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Health and nutrition were considered top three priority needs by 5% of KIs, but reported morbidity levels were high across assessed communities. All KIs (100%) reported that adults and children over five had experienced illness in the two weeks prior to data collection, most commonly **fever/malaria** (92% of KIs*), followed by **respiratory illness** (54%) and **non-severe diarrhoea** (18%). **Among children under five**, 85% of KIs reported recent illness, most commonly **fever/malaria, cough** and **diarrhoea**. In terms of service availability, **Ancuabe Sede and Metoro function as the main health-service hubs** for several assessed communities. This concentration of access points suggests a **risk of overburdening these facilities**.

Health services access - Ancuabe district, schematic hub-and-spoke



Communities connect to their primary reported access point. This is a schematic diagram, not a geographic map

EDUCATION

Education was considered a top three priority need by 9% of KIs, but they highlighted **clear barriers to children’s school access and continuity** following the floods. The most urgent education needs reported were **school supplies, IDs/documentation for school registration**, and support with **transportation to school**. **Primary and secondary schools are available in Ancuabe Sede and Metoro**, though several sites noted classrooms in advanced **disrepair or at risk of collapse**. In more remote settings, **access is constrained**: the Centro de Reassentamento de Nanona has no schools and children reportedly travel to Nanona or Metoro (~15 km), while other communities reported long travel distances for higher grades (Nanjua ~17 km to Mariri, and Natove/Ntele ~2.5 km to neighbouring schools). Some KIs also referenced the **need for scholarships or support for learners** seeking to continue beyond grade 12.

Top 3 most reported education needs, by % of KIs*

School supplies	92%
Improved school conditions	80%
Transportation to school	32%

PROTECTION

Protection was not identified as a top three priority need by any of the 123 assessed KIs. Nevertheless, some concerns were reported: while 59% of KIs indicated **no current protection issues**, 33% highlighted **theft/looting** and 11% raised concerns related to **child marriage**. Qualitative observations suggest that security dynamics vary by location. Some communities reported the **presence of military/police** (Cahora Bassa, Nacololo, and Centro de Reassentamento de Nanona), while others noted no military presence and/or unsafe areas (Naputa, and an unsafe area reported near an anti-terror unit in Nacololo). In addition, Aldeia Nanona reported **two armed robberies since February (targeting merchant residences)**, indicating localized risks that may affect household safety and access to goods.

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Overall, key informants expressed a **preference for in-kind assistance** as the most useful modality for affected households, followed by **cash and vouchers**. Qualitative observations indicate that community governance structures are generally in place across assessed locations (e.g., chiefs and secretaries), which may support community engagement and targeting processes. **Government and humanitarian presence varied across sites** (no government entities reported in Nacumine and no humanitarian actors observed in Centro de Reassentamento de Nanona, Natove and Ntele). These differences should inform delivery and AAP planning, and any cash/voucher response should be preceded by confirmation of market functionality and supply chains.

Preferred modalities of assistance, by % of KIs

In-kind		43%
Cash		35%
Voucher		21%

METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW & LIMITATIONS

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) team of Action Conte la Faim conducted 123 structured, face-to-face key informant interviews (KIIs) in flood-affected communities of Ancuabe District (Cabo Delgado) between 21 and 28 March 2026. The survey was deployed via KoBo Collect and used the Area of Knowledge (AoK) approach, purposively selecting key informants (e.g., community leaders, local authorities and service providers) based on their knowledge of the shock and priority needs. KIIs were complemented by a semi-structured team leader observation grid, with support from shelter and WASH specialists where available. This qualitative component helped contextualize the impact of the shock, triangulate key findings, and provide detailed insights into access constraints, shelter conditions, WASH infrastructure, and the availability and quality of essential services such as markets, schools, and health facilities.

The scope of the RNA is limited by the rapid response requirements of the RRM and the need to operate within the resources available from partners. Furthermore, access constraints and poor road conditions during the rainy season limited full geographic coverage of some planned areas. Therefore, the findings of the RNA are indicative rather than representative. Additionally, the questionnaire was designed to prioritize only the most essential indicators for each sector, which constrains the depth of the data collected. While the survey captures general living conditions across households, it does not explore differences between individual members or intra-household dynamics, including power relations related to gender, age, or disability. Please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#) and the [Dataset and Analysis](#) for more details.

Endnotes

- 1 RRM Mozambique. SI_ANC_18032026. March 2026 (for access, please contact Solidarite Programme Manager, Amorim Manuel, at rrm.pm@solidarites-mozambique.org)
- 2 Republic of Mozambique National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD). [Dashboard on the Impact of Floods February 13-17, 2026](#) (Cabo Delgado Province / Ancuabe District). Supported by UNICEF. Accessed [01 April 2026]; dashboard last updated Apr 01 2026.
- 3 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Mar 19 2026. [Mozambique: Humanitarian Snapshot, as of February 2026. Situation Report](#).
- 4 (INGD). [Dashboard on the Impact of Floods February 13-17, 2026](#) (Cabo Delgado Province / Ancuabe District)

ABOUT THE RRM

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Northern Mozambique, composed of two consortia—one led by Solidarités International with Action Contre la Faim, A Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade, Acted, and IMPACT, and the other led by the Norwegian Refugee Council with Ayuda en Acción—provides emergency assistance to populations affected by conflict, epidemics, or located in newly accessible areas.

For more up-to-date information on RRM alerts and interventions, please use the link below to access the RRM Dashboard:

[RRM Dashboard](#)

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

COOPERATING



FUNDED

