

Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

May 2026 | Macomia ,Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

KEY FINDINGS

- **Shelter and NFI support are the most immediate priorities.** All KIs reported shelter and NFIs among the top three priority needs, with emergency shelter materials/tarpaulins identified as needs.
- **Displacement remains recent and likely to continue.** All KIs identified newly arrived displaced households as the affected group; most reported arrivals within 8–21 days before data collection, with further arrivals expected.
- **Water, sanitation, food access and livelihoods require close follow-up.** The main water sources were unprotected wells and surface water; food access constraints were linked to lack of purchasing power and loss of access to land among KIs reporting food security needs.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

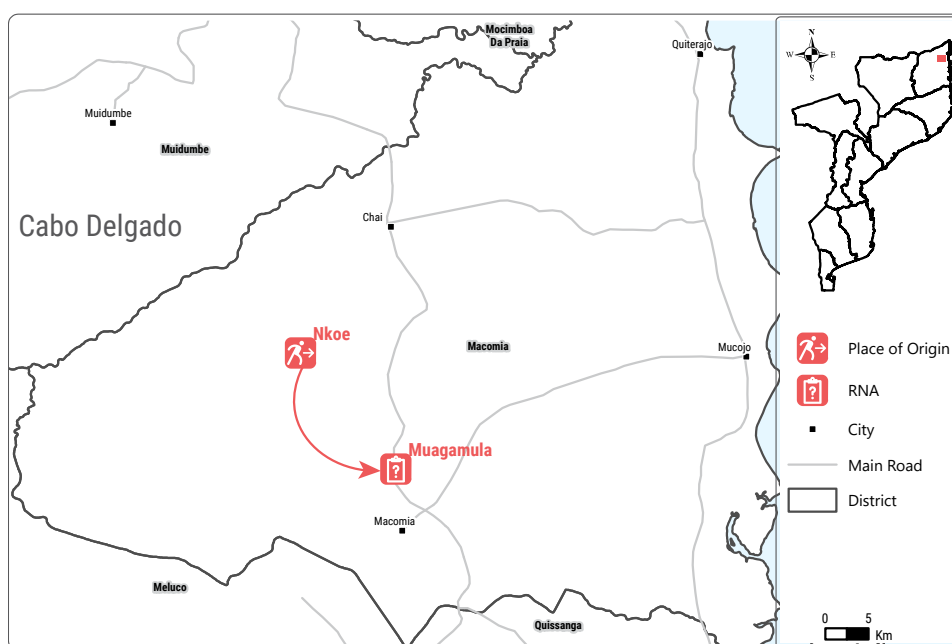
This brief presents indicative findings from 15 Area of Knowledge (AoK) key informant interviews (KIIs) and field observations conducted in Muagamula in Macomia District. The assessment covered shock and displacement dynamics, priority needs, response coverage, access constraints, AAP preferences and risk of deterioration. Data collection took place between 10 and 11 of May. Findings are not statistically representative; further details are provided in the methodology and limitations section.

CONTEXT

Between 14 and 17 April 2026, attacks by **Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs)** in Nkoe locality and subsequent movements towards Nguida heightened insecurity across affected and surrounding areas in **Macomia District**. The IOM DTM Movement Alert reported **452 displaced individuals** linked to the Macomia attack, including people originating from Nkoe, Nguida, Macomia, Chai and Pangane. Most of these displaced individuals reportedly sought refuge in resettlement sites and host communities within Macomia locality. Across the wider Macomia and Muidumbe alert, **573 individuals/177 households were displaced, with children representing 52%** of the displaced population. The alert identified **food assistance, emergency shelter and NFIs** as immediate needs.¹

The RRM team of Action Contre la Faim conducted an RNA to better understand their primary needs.

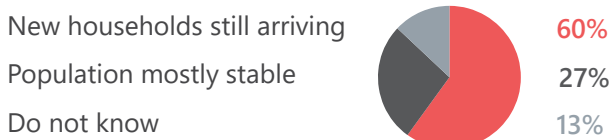
Map 1: Reported place of origin and RNA assessment location in Macomia District, Cabo Delgado



SHOCKS, ACCESS, AND DISPLACEMENT

All surveyed key informants identified **newly arrived displaced households as the affected population group**, with **conflict and insecurity** reported as the main trigger. **Displacement was described as recent**, with 87% of key informants reporting that newly displaced households had **arrived within the previous three weeks**. **Continued insecurity appears to be limiting short-term return intentions**: 93% of key informants reported that displaced households were not expected to return to their areas of origin within the next 30 days.


Current movement situation, by % of KIs surveyed




100% of KIs surveyed reported that **Lack of security in the place of origin** inhibits IDPs from returning

The field teams recorded a 15-minute journey from Macomia Sede to Muagamula-Nonje under good weather conditions. **No major physical obstacles were recorded on the access route**, although the route was reported to include a checkpoint. The observation did not record movement restrictions or identified unsafe areas along the assessed route.

TOP 3 PRIORITY NEEDS

 **SHELTER**

100% of KIs* surveyed reported shelter as one of the top three priority needs, reflecting urgent needs for emergency shelter materials among newly displaced

 **NFIs**

100% of KIs* surveyed reported NFIs as one of the top three priority needs, with kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets and sleeping mats most commonly highlighted.

 **FOOD ASSISTANCE**

93% of KIs* surveyed reported food assistance as one of the top three priority needs, driven by limited financial resources and reduced access to land for food production.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

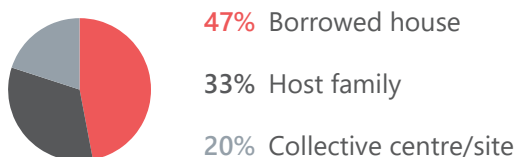
Findings suggest that **community leaders** (53% of KIs* surveyed) and **helpdesk/desk at distribution site** (47% of KIs*) are the **most trusted communication channels**. When asked what assistance modality would be most useful, 47% of KIs surveyed cited **in-kind assistance** (47% of KIs), followed by cash and vouchers.

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

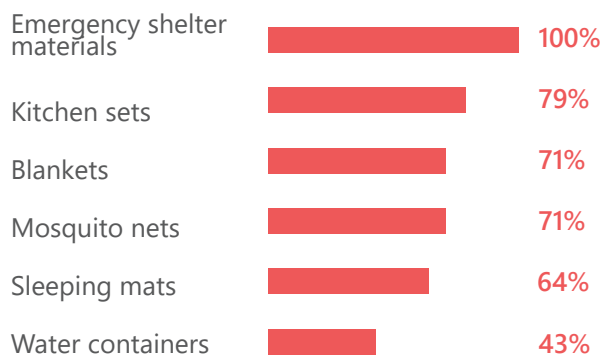
SHELTER & NFIs

Shelter and NFIs were the clearest response priority in the KII data and were reinforced by field teams' observations. Most KIIs reported that displaced households were **staying in borrowed houses or with host families**, while a smaller share reported **collective centre / site arrangements**. The field teams recorded **traditional houses, unfinished houses** and **makeshift/emergency shelters**, and noted that some shelters were flooded, leading some families to abandon their dwellings.

Current accommodation, by % of KIIs



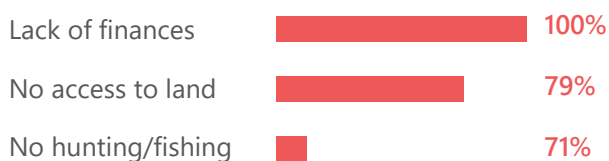
Most urgent Shelter/NFI needs reported, by % of KIIs*



FOOD SECURITY

Food assistance was reported by 93% of surveyed KIIs as one of the top three priority needs. Among KIIs reporting food security needs, the **severity of food access challenges appeared high**: all reported that most or all displaced households were facing serious difficulties accessing enough food. The main reported barriers were **lack of financial resources, no access to land for food production, and no access to hunting or fishing grounds**. KIIs also reported that households were using **coping strategies in response to reduced food access**, indicating continued pressure on food security and livelihoods.

Food access barriers, by % of KIIs* reporting food security issues, n=8



Food coping strategies, by % of KIIs* reporting food security issues, n=8



60% of KIIs reported livelihood or income needs. All KIIs reported subsistence farming as the main pre-displacement livelihood activity of displaced households. Among KIIs* reporting livelihood needs, the **main current barriers were lost access to land/machambas (56%), lack of work opportunities (44%), insecurity preventing work (44%), lost livestock/productive assets (33%), and lost tools, seeds or inputs (22%)**.

MARKETS

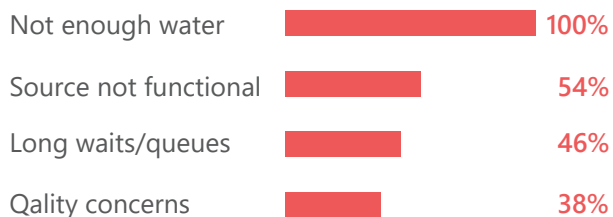
KII findings were mixed: 47% of KIIs reported that **most basic food items were available** in nearby markets or shops, 33% reported some basic items and 7% reported basic food items were mostly unavailable. Only 53% said affected households could **safely and physically access nearby markets/shops**. The field teams reported that **no food or NFI market was yet operating in the community**, although **vendors were available** to supply local markets.

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

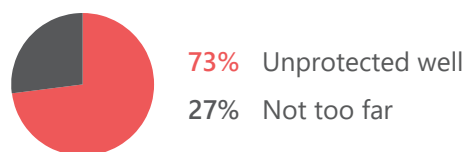
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

WASH needs were reported by 87% of KIs. **Current water access appeared concerning.** Among KIs reporting WASH needs, all reported **not enough safe water** as a barrier, while **water source functionality, waiting time** and **quality** concerns were also frequently mentioned. KIs most frequently reported **shared latrines** (46%) and **damaged/destroyed latrines** (38%) as sanitation problems. The field teams recorded latrines with slabs, but also noted **community concerns that latrines were not being used** because the soil was fragile and households did not feel safe using them.

Barriers to safe water, by % of KIs*
reporting water access issues n=13



Main water source, by %
of KIs surveyed



HEALTH, NUTRITION, EDUCATION & PROTECTION SUMMARY

● HEALTH

27% of KIs reported health needs/concerns; 53% reported no needs and 20% did not know. Among KIs reporting health needs, 75% reported illness symptoms in the past two weeks, including among children under 5. Fever/malaria and cough were reported by all KIs who identified common illnesses (n=3). The observation grid noted the nearest health centre was about 2 km from the centre.

● NUTRITION

Low-diversity foods were not reported as common by KIs: 60% said no and 40% did not know. However, 33% reported some children under 5 lacked age-appropriate/diverse foods and 47% reported that some or many pregnant/breastfeeding women lacked enough nutritious food. Food safety/quality concerns were reported for some or many households by 60% of KIs.

● EDUCATION

60% of KIs reported education needs. Among KIs answering on school attendance barriers (n=14), lack of school materials was the most frequently reported barrier (86%), followed by distance/lack of transport (29%). The observation grid noted the nearest school for children and adolescents was about 2 km from the centre.

● PROTECTION

No KIs reported protection/safety concerns or tensions between/within affected and host communities. Nevertheless, older persons, persons with disabilities, children and newly arrived households were mentioned by some KIs as facing the greatest risks or barriers to assistance/services.

RESPONSE PRESENCE, OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND METHODOLOGY

The field teams recorded humanitarian actors present in the community, including IOM, PRONANAC, ACF and LJ, as well as a government entity recorded as SDPI2. The community requested support from ACF to install lighting in the centre, noting that the centre becomes completely dark at night. This request should be reviewed alongside protection, site management and feasibility considerations.

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW & LIMITATIONS

This Rapid Needs Assessment brief is based on 15 Area of Knowledge key informant interviews and one structured team observation grid for Muagamula / Muagamula-Nonje in Macomia District. KII findings are reported as the percentage of KIs who selected a given response. For multiple-choice questions, the total may exceed 100%, and denominators vary depending on skip logic. Observation grid findings are reported as direct observations from the field teams for the assessed site and route, not as population estimates.

The unit of analysis for KII data is the key informant / community-level area of knowledge, not the household. Findings should therefore be considered indicative and should be triangulated before being used for household-level targeting.

The assessment was designed to rapidly inform operational decision-making and does not provide statistically representative estimates. Results reflect the knowledge and perceptions of selected KIs and one observation point, and may not capture intra-community differences, individual protection risks, or the conditions of displaced households outside the assessed area. Some administrative fields in the KII dataset should be verified before publication, as the community was consistently reported as Muagamula but the administrative post coding was split between Macomia and Chai. Findings should therefore be considered indicative rather than statistically representative.

Endnotes

1 International Organization for Migration (IOM), April 2026. DTM Movement Alert 153: Mozambique | Macomia & Muidumbe, Cabo Delgado: 18 April 2026. RNA conducted by The RRM team of Action Contre la Faim for more details please contact Fernando Momba, RRM Supervisor for ACF, at rrmsup@mz-actioncontrelafaim.org

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.

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 PARTNERS



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