

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

Cyclone Chido - Natuco

Mecufi District - Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

Data collected by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) on 17/18 December 2024

KEY MESSAGES

- **Food security was reported as the top priority need by the respondents** (87% of assessed households). 87% of assessed households relied on personal production as their primary source of food, and most crops were soaked as a result of the cyclone. As a result, agricultural inputs were reported as a priority aid preference for 45% of assessed households.
- **Shelter was reported as a priority need by the respondents** (65% of assessed households). Qualitative observations from ACF's initial rapid assessment suggested that nearly all homes were completely or partially destroyed.
- **NFIs were reported as a priority need by the respondents** (35% of assessed households.) Both quantitative and qualitative findings highlighted a particular need for essential NFIs such as lamps, stoves, sleeping mats, blankets/sheets, and cooking utensils.
- **Sanitation services were also reported as a priority need** (32% of respondents). Qualitative findings highlighted widespread damage to latrines, rendering most non-functional, and 74% of assessed households reported a lack of soap.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

ON DECEMBER 15TH, 2024, Intense Tropical Cyclone Chido made landfall in the Mecufi district of Cabo Delgado, bringing heavy rainfall and wind gusts of over 200kmh. An estimated 182,000 have been affected across the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa. The damage in the Mecufi district was catastrophic, with early reports suggesting that nearly all houses in the district were completely or partially destroyed. In the Natuco community in the south of the Mecufi district, principal buildings such as the primary school, health center, and the resettlement center were destroyed or severely damaged.¹

In response to the Cyclone Chido, the RRM team of Action Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) to identify the immediate priority needs of the 7,434 residents of Natuco. This document presents the key findings of the assessment.

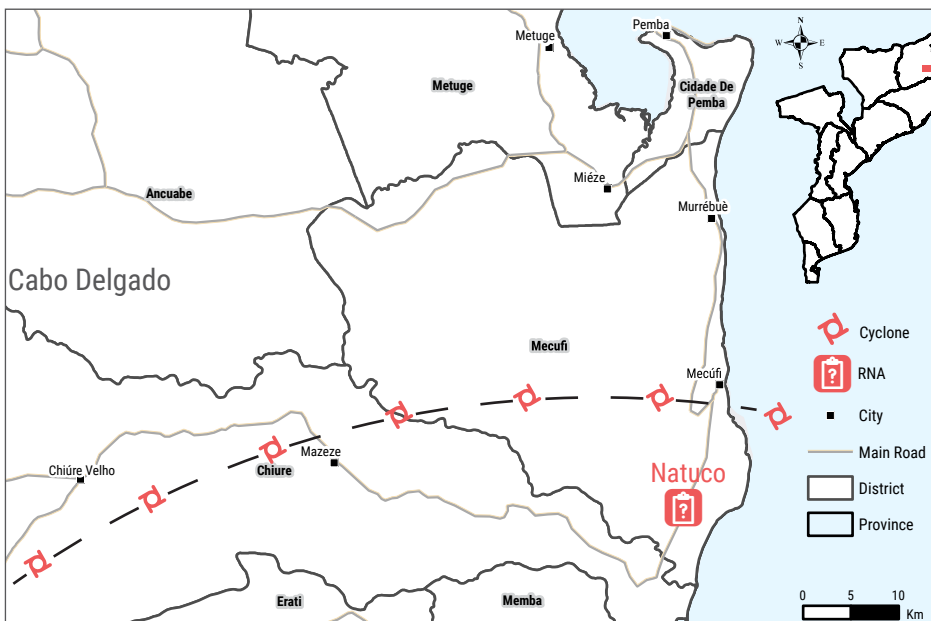
ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This assessment utilized a quantitative approach consisting of 31 household surveys conducted on December 17th and 18th with host families in Natuco who were affected by Cyclone Chido.

The usual qualitative component of the RNA methodology was not utilized for this round as ACF already conducted an initial rapid assessment on December 16th, which involved observations and engagements with local authorities and key informants. Findings from this initial rapid assessment were used to complement the quantitative findings of the RNA.

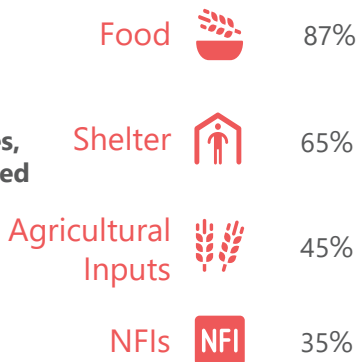
Results are indicative. Please refer to the Methodology Overview and Limitations section at the end of the document for further detail.

Map 1: RNA location and places of origin of the affected population

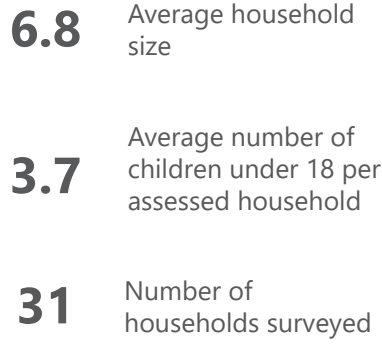


PRIORITY NEEDS

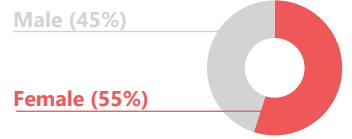
Top 4 most commonly reported humanitarian aid preferences, by % of assessed households*



HOUSEHOLD PROFILES



Respondent gender, by % of assessed households



7,434 Estimated size of affected population (in households)²

FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS & MARKETS

% of assessed households that reported having problems accessing food at the time of data collection

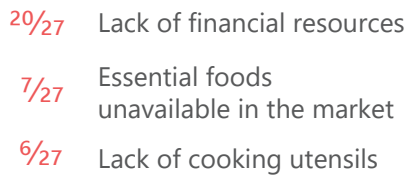
87%

Average number of meals consumed per assessed household member per day

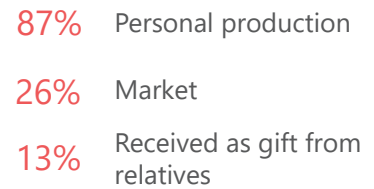
1.8

| % of assessed households per each Reduced Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) category ³ | | |
|--|--------|------|
| Low | Medium | High |
| 13% | 71% | 16% |

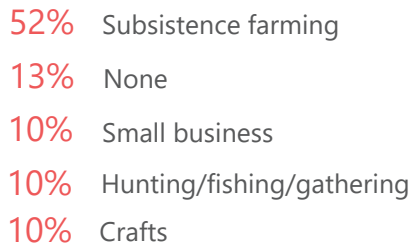
Top 3 most commonly reported barriers to food access, by % of assessed households*



Top 3 most commonly reported sources of food, by % of assessed households*



Top 5 most commonly reported primary livelihood activities, by % of assessed households



Qualitative findings from ACF's initial rapid assessment supported the quantitative findings that **cassava production was the primary food source for families in Natuco**. However, the **cyclone soaked most cassava crops** and drying efforts were underway to salvage the situation. This is likely correlated to **agricultural inputs being the third most preferred type of humanitarian aid** (45% of respondents).

SHELTER & NFIs

87% of assessed households lived in traditional houses made of *matope* (mud-brick) and with roofs made of dried palm leaves.

Qualitative observations from ACF's initial rapid assessment suggested that the **vast majority of shelters were completely or partially destroyed by the cyclone**. An **urgent need for tarpaulins** was reported as dried palm leaves typically used for roofs were unavailable at the time of data collection.

% of assessed households by most commonly reported missing essential NFI

| Essential NFI | % of HH |
|------------------|---------|
| Lamps | 84% |
| Stove | 77% |
| Soap | 74% |
| Sleeping mats | 74% |
| Sheets/blankets | 71% |
| Cooking utensils | 65% |
| Pots > 5L | 39% |
| Water buckets | 26% |

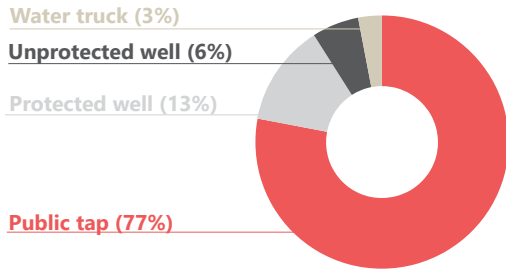
Hygiene products (57% of respondents), **NFIs** (53% of respondents), and **construction materials** (27% of respondents) were available at the local market in addition to essential foods (97% of respondents).

These quantitative findings slightly contradicted the observations from the initial assessment, which suggested that Natuco only had a few small establishments selling small quantities of food. Nevertheless, **the cyclone deteriorated road access and local crop production, which will likely affect the ability of market vendors to replenish stock**.

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Most commonly reported primary source of drinking water, by % of assessed households



Qualitative observations from ACF's initial rapid assessment suggested that **only 9/21 public taps are functional**, and that many families were resorting to unprotected wells for water access.

88% of assessed households reported using a **non-hygienic sanitation facility** (open pit latrine or open defecation) at the time of data collection.

68% of assessed households reported **having problems related to sanitation facilities** (toilet/latrine).

% of assessed households that reported having enough water to meet the following needs

- 81% Hygiene needs
- 81% Cooking needs
- 81% Drinking needs

Top 3 most commonly reported barriers to a hygienic sanitation facility* from the 21 households that reported having sanitation facilities issues

- 11/21 Facilities were damaged/destroyed
- 7/21 Facilities were shared
- 5/21 Facilities were too crowded

Qualitative observations from ACF's initial rapid assessment suggested that **most latrines of the host community were severely damaged** and no longer in use.

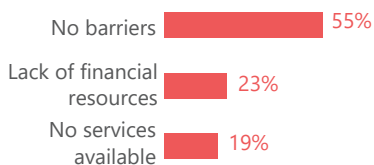
Furthermore, **the roofs of latrines in the resettlement center of Natuco were destroyed**, leaving latrines exposed.

HEALTH

58% of assessed households reported **an adult member who was sick during the past 2 weeks**, with body pain (8) and malaria (8) as the most commonly reported conditions.

9/21 of assessed households with at least one child under age 5 reported having **at least one child who was sick during the past 2 weeks**, with fever (5) as the most commonly reported symptom.

Top 3 most commonly reported barriers to healthcare, by % of assessed households*



Qualitative observations from ACF's initial rapid assessment suggested that **Natuco's local health post was severely damaged** at the time of data collection. Nevertheless, **the health post continued to function**, albeit **with limited space that was insufficient to conduct all necessary activities**.

Most commonly reported distance to the nearest health facility, by % of assessed households

- 65% 0-30 minutes
- 32% 30-60 minutes
- 3% More than 60 minutes

EDUCATION

6/27 of assessed households with at least one child aged 5-17 reported having **at least one child who was not attending school at the time of data collection**, with the lack of school materials (2), lack of financial resources (2), and never attended (2) as the most common barriers.

Most commonly reported distance to the nearest school, by number of assessed households

- 85% 0-30 minutes
- 7% 30-60 minutes
- 7% More than 60 minutes

Qualitative observations from ACF's initial rapid assessment suggested that the **primary school of Natuco was destroyed and was not functional** at the time of data collection.

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

PROTECTION & ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

13% of assessed households were **concerned about violence in their community** at the time of data collection, with fears of domestic violence (2), insurgent attacks (1), and burglary (1).

75% of assessed households **reported at least one member that was missing their identity documents**.

52% of assessed households had access to **mobile money** (M-Pesa/e-Mola).

31% assessed households with at least one child under age 18 reported having **at least one child not residing in the household at the time of data collection**. There were 5 reports of child marriage and 2 reports of child labour.

Preferred modalities of assistance, by % of assessed households*



METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW AND LIMITATIONS

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) team from Action Contre la Faim conducted 31 structured, face-to-face household surveys with host community members of Natuco who were severely affected by Intense Tropical Cyclone Chido. The survey tool, deployed via KoBo software, targeted the host community, which were selected using an on-site purposive sampling method. The usual qualitative component of the RNA methodology was not utilized for this round as ACF already conducted an initial rapid assessment on December 16th, which involved observations and engagements with local authorities and key informants. Findings from this initial rapid assessment were used to complement the quantitative findings of the RNA. This qualitative data helped to contextualize the shock, triangulate information, and provide detailed observations and descriptions of the sites and affected populations.

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. As a result, the quantitative findings should be considered indicative only. Additionally, the questionnaire was designed to include 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. This lack of detailed insight limits the assessment's ability to fully address nuanced vulnerabilities within households. Please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#) and the [Dataset and Analysis](#) for more details.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Initial Rapid Assessment - Mecufi District. ACF. December 2024.
- 2 The initial estimate from ACF's Initial Rapid Assessment of the Mecufi District. However, this number is subject to change as more families register with local authorities in Natuco.
- 3 The RCSI is a proxy indicator of household food insecurity that is based on a list of behaviors (coping strategies) that people do to manage their food insecurity situation. The higher the score, the more extensive the use of negative coping strategies and hence potentially increased food insecurity.

ABOUT THE RRM

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Northern Mozambique is a consortium composed of Solidarités International (SI), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), a Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC), Acted, and IMPACT Initiatives, that provides emergency assistance to populations affected by conflict, epidemics, or located in a newly accessible area.

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).

RRM CONSORTIUM MEMBERS:



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