

Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

May 2026 | Ancuabe, Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

KEY FINDINGS

- Food and shelter needs are the clearest immediate response priorities. Findings point to urgent needs for food assistance, emergency shelter support and targeted NFIs, as well as support to households hosting IDPs
- Access to basic goods and services exists, but households face major practical barriers. Lack of financial resources, distance, disrupted livelihoods and limited documentation are preventing households from meeting needs independently.
- Displacement is recent, ongoing and increasing pressure on host-based arrangements. Protection risks, psychosocial distress and potential tensions over land, services and assistance require close monitoring.

CONTEXT

Between 27 and 30 April 2026, several communities in Ancuabe District, Cabo Delgado, were affected by attacks and related population movements. On 27 April, armed actors reportedly entered Muaja, abducted 19 people, looted food, and burned community assets, including the village leader's community house and a vehicle transporting maize. On 30 April, further attacks were reported in Minhewene and Nacole, where civilian houses, public infrastructure, a school, a church and health facilities were reportedly damaged, looted or burned.

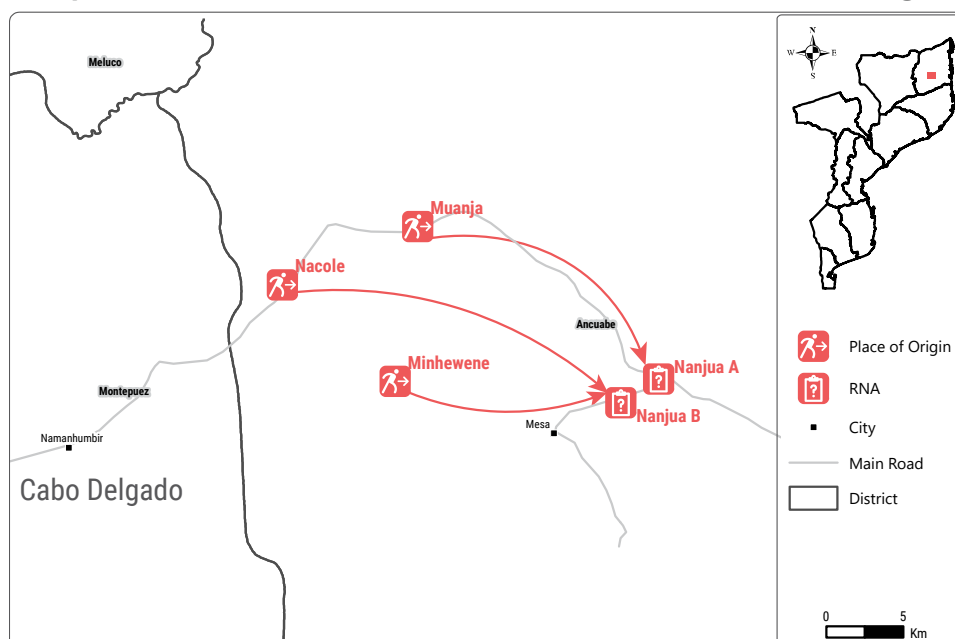
In Nacole, approximately 10 houses were reportedly burned following an armed clash between the attackers and Government Forces.

According to initial information from local authorities, approximately 1,573 displaced families, equivalent to 3,950 people, were displaced from Minhewene and Nacole, with arrivals reported in Nanjua B, Nanjua A, Muaja, Majasse and Nsanja. The alert also indicated the presence of vulnerable groups among the displaced population, including children, pregnant women, older persons and people with chronic illnesses. Population movement was reportedly ongoing at the time of the alert.¹

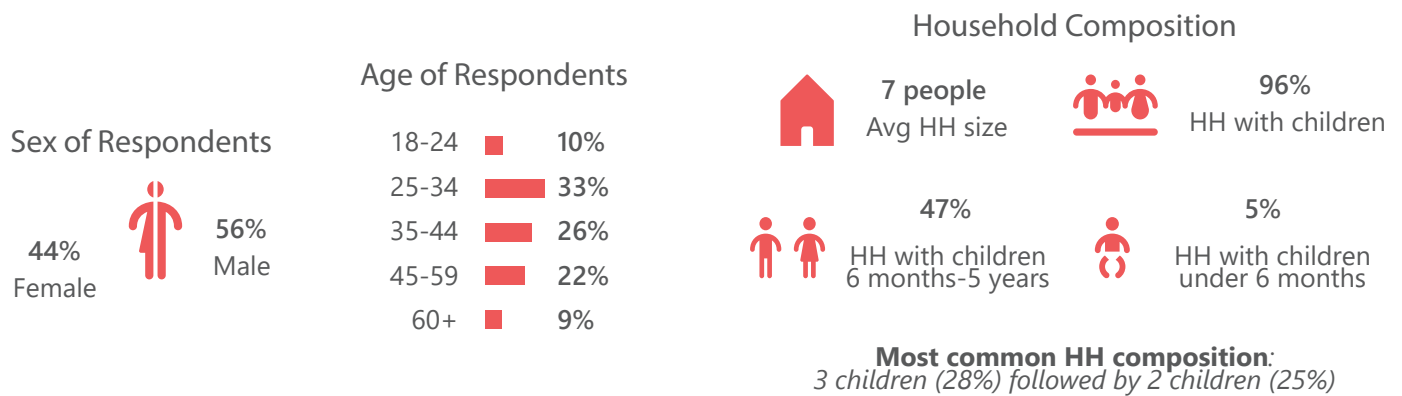
ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This brief presents indicative findings from 100 household (HH) surveys and 14 AoK Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Data was collected between 10 and 11 May 2026 in Nanjua A and Nanjua B. The assessment covered shock and displacement dynamics, priority needs, response coverage, access constraints, AAP preferences and risk of deterioration. Findings are not statistically representative; further details are provided in the methodology and limitations section.

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



AFFECTED POPULATION SNAPSHOT

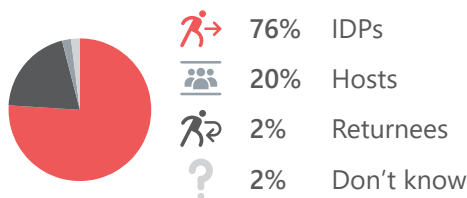


SHOCKS, ACCESS, AND DISPLACEMENT

Findings from KIIs indicate that displacement in assessed locations remains recent and ongoing. Nearly all key informants (KIs) reported that new households were still arriving (93%), while 7% reported pendular or back-and-forth movements. All KIIs identified newly arrived displaced households as the affected population group, with conflict and insecurity reported as the main trigger in all interviews. KIIs also indicated that displaced households had arrived within the past week, and all respondents expected further arrivals.

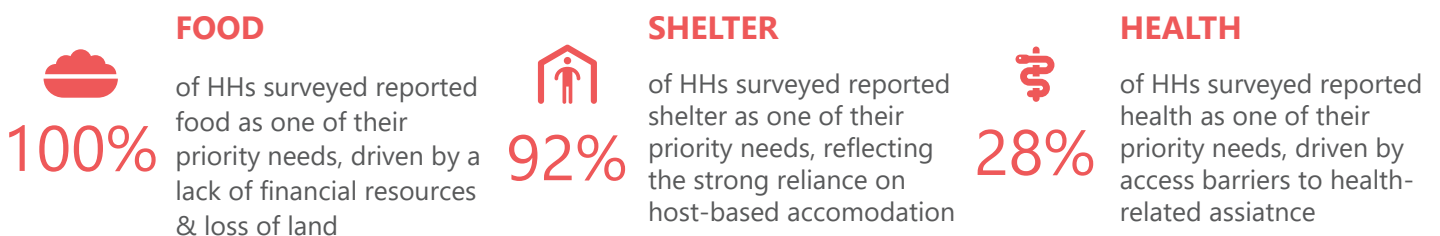
Return intentions appear limited in the short term. Most KIIs reported that displaced households do not intend to return within the next 30 days (79%), mainly due to insecurity in areas of origin. Smaller proportions also cited lack of basic services (18%), damaged or insecure shelter (9%) and lack of livelihood opportunities (9%).

Displacement Status



100%
of KIIs reported as the main trigger

TOP 3 PRIORITY NEEDS

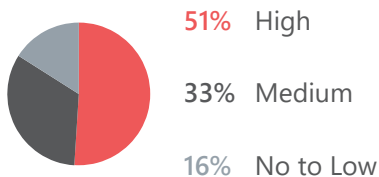


Food and shelter were consistently prioritised across both HH surveys and KIIs. All KIIs identified food assistance as a priority need for displaced households, mirroring the 100% of surveyed households who reported food among their top three needs. **Shelter was also consistently highlighted**, reported by 92% of households and 71% of KIIs, reinforcing concerns around precarious living arrangements among newly displaced households. However, while **households most commonly identified health** as their third priority need (28%), **KIIs placed stronger emphasis on Non-Food Items**, cited by 86% of KIIs.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Food insecurity appears to be primarily driven by limited financial resources, disrupted access to land, and insecurity. At household level, 88% of surveyed households reported **problems accessing food**, while 83% reported a **reduction in meal frequency** since the shock. Across both household surveys and KIIs, **lack of financial ability emerged as the main barrier to food access**, reported by 90% of surveyed households and 100% of KIIs. This reduced purchasing power appears closely linked to the **disruption of households' main income and food production systems**, with both data sources highlighting the loss of access to land and livelihoods following displacement.

Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) among surveyed households



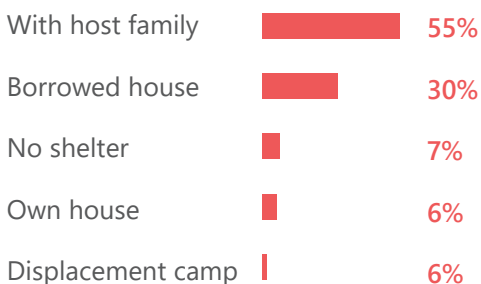
66% of HHs surveyed relied on **subsistence farming before shock**

68% of HHs surveyed currently report **no access to land**

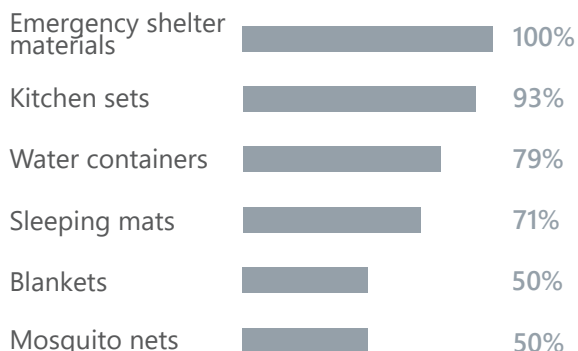
NFI SHELTER & NFIs

Shelter and NFI findings suggest strong reliance on host-based accommodation, combined with significant gaps in emergency shelter materials, sleeping items, cooking sets, water storage containers and mosquito nets.

Current living arrangements of surveyed households



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



*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

HEALTH

While reported illness levels were moderate, healthcare access appears constrained by distance, financial barriers and limited ability to reach services when medical attention is needed.

48% of HHs surveyed said the nearest functional health facility is **more than 60 minutes away**

29% of HHs surveyed said they needed care but **could not reach a health facility**

29% of HHs surveyed cited **lack of financial ability** as a barrier

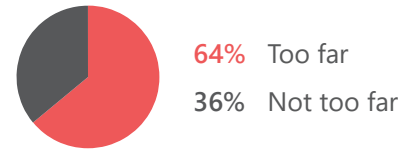
85% of KIIs surveyed said **mobile clinic/outreach** is the most urgent support needed


69% of KIIs surveyed said **referral support** is needed


WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Water point distance, by % of HHs surveyed

Water was generally reported as available, but access remained constrained by distance, non-functional water points, cost, quality concerns and limited storage capacity. Sanitation conditions were basic, with widespread use of open pit latrines and KII-reported concerns around damaged, shared, unhygienic and non-segregated facilities.



 **91%** of KIIs identified soap as an urgent hygiene need

 **85%** of HHs surveyed cited enough water for drinking

 **82%** of KIIs identified water containers as an urgent hygiene need

 **69%** of HHs surveyed use open pit latrines without slabs

MARKETS

Findings suggest that affordability, rather than physical market access, is the main constraint to meeting basic needs through markets.

 **100%** of KIIs say households can access nearby market

 **57%** of HHs have access to mobile payment services

 **64%** of KIIs say most basic food items are available

PROTECTION

Protection risks are present, particularly around armed violence, theft/looting, harassment and extortion, with women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities and children identified by KIIs as facing the greatest safety risks or barriers to assistance. Household data also points to widespread psychosocial distress and missing documentation.

Main protection concern, by % of KIIs surveyed



90% of respondents report feeling more sad, discouraged or hopeless

68% of HHs surveyed reported theft or looting

58% of HHs surveyed reported that someone in the household was missing identity documents

EDUCATION

Education access appears disrupted, particularly for girls, with households mainly needing guidance on where children can continue studying, enrolment support and school supplies.

Not attending school recently, by % of HHs surveyed



52% of HHs surveyed need information on which school children can continue attending

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

Findings suggest that **community leaders and local authorities** are the **most trusted communication channels**, while **voucher assistance (64% of KIs surveyed)** was most frequently reported as the preferred modality, followed by **cash (21% of KIs)**. Communication plans should still include targeted outreach to women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities to avoid over-reliance on leadership structures.

METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW & LIMITATIONS

This Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) was conducted between 10 and 11 May 2026 in Nanjua A and Nanjua B, Ancuabe District, Cabo Delgado. Data collection combined 100 structured household surveys with 14 Area of Knowledge key informant interviews (AoK KIIs). Household surveys were used to capture household-level experiences, priority needs and access constraints, while KIIs were used to provide a community-level understanding of shock and displacement dynamics, affected population groups, service availability, response coverage and risks of deterioration.

The assessment covered displacement dynamics, priority needs, WASH, shelter and NFIs, food security and livelihoods, health, education, protection, markets, AAP preferences and response gaps. Findings from household surveys and KIIs were triangulated where possible to identify areas of convergence and divergence between household-reported needs and community-level observations.

Findings should be considered indicative rather than statistically representative. Data collection was limited to two assessed communities and was conducted rapidly to support operational decision-making. As a result, the assessment does not provide full geographic coverage of all affected locations or allow for statistically representative comparison between population groups. The questionnaire also prioritised a limited set of operational indicators, which constrains the depth of sectoral analysis. Household-level findings reflect reported conditions at the time of data collection and do not capture intra-household differences or individual experiences in detail.

Endnotes

1 RRM Mozambique. RRM_SI_ANC_04052026. May 2026 (for access, please contact Solidarites International RRM Program manager, Amorim Manuel, at rrm.pm@solidarites-mozambique.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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