

Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)

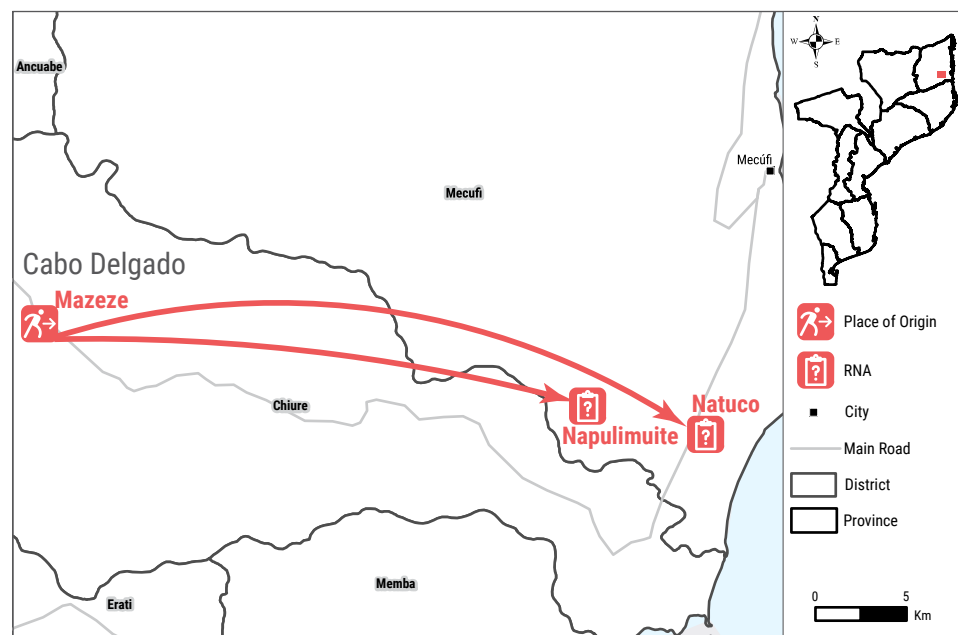
Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

Napulimuite and Natuco Sede - Mecufi District

Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

25 August 2025

CONTEXT & RATIONALE



SINCE 24 JULY 2025, non-state armed groups (NSAG) have attacked several villages in the Chiure, Ancuabe, and Muidumbe districts, leading to the displacement of more than 60,000 people.¹ The attack on Mazeze village on 28 July forced approximately 95 households (HH) to flee to the communities of Napulimuite (81 HH) and Natuco Sede (14 HH) in the Mecufi district in search for safety.²

In response to these events, Action Contre la Faim (ACF) issued an RRM alert and conducted an RNA on 25 August in Napulimuite and Natuco Sede to identify the most urgent needs of the displaced population. This document presents the key findings of the assessment. All findings are indicative of the priority needs of the displaced population. Further details can be found in the Methodology Overview and Limitations section at the end of the document.

Access Conditions: Natuco is located 60km by road from Pemba via the N1 and the R760 roads, with Napulimuite located 8.7km west of Natuco. There are three Mozambique Defence Armed Forces (FADM) checkpoints at Muxara junction, Muitua, and the entrance to Mecufi Sede.

TOP 3 REPORTED PRIORITY NEEDS by % of households

<p>96% Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93% of households reported having problems accessing food 49% of households depended on gifts from relatives as their primary source of food 	<p>82% Shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74% of IDP households did not intend on returning to their place of origin in the 30 days following data collection 98% of IDP households were living with host families or in houses borrowed from the host community 	<p>47% NFI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only about 7% of households reported possessing essential NFIs, such as sleeping mats, sheets, or soap
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COMPLETED INTERVENTIONS

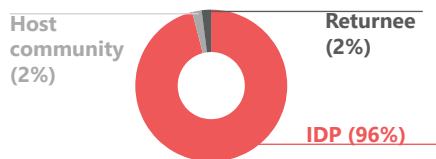
Organization	Date	Sites	Intervention	HH Reached
INGD	15/08/25	Napulimuite	Food Assistance (25kg rice + 20kg beans)	63 HH
ACF (RRM)	27/08/25	Napulimuite and Natuco Sede	Survival Food, SNFI, and Hygiene Kits	96 HH

HOUSEHOLD PROFILES

95 Number of IDP households in the affected population

45 Number of assessed households

Population groups, by % of households



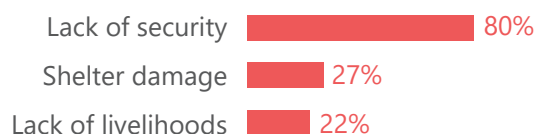
Respondent gender, by % of households



DISPLACEMENT

74% of IDP households **did not intend** on **returning** to their **place of origin** in the 30 days following data collection (n=43)

Top 3 reported barriers to return to place of origin, by % of assessed households*



FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS & MARKETS

% of households that reported having problems accessing food

93%

Average number of meals consumed per household member per day

1.8

% of households that reported a decrease in the frequency of meals per day since the shock

84%

Top 3 reported barriers to food access, by % of households that reported having problems accessing food (n=42)*

- 83%** Lack of financial resources
- 33%** Lack of cooking utensils
- 29%** Limited availability, quantity, and quality of essential foods in the market

Top 3 reported sources of food, by % of households*

- 49%** Received as gift from relatives
- 42%** Borrowing food from relatives
- 22%** Food in exchange for work

Top 3 reported primary livelihood activities, by % of households

- 82%** Subsistence farming
- 11%** Hunting/fishing/gathering
- 2%** Daily work

PRIORITY ACTION

Food assistance: 96% of assessed households reported food security as a top 3 priority need.

93% of households reported having problems accessing food, with 49% of households depending on gifts from relatives as their primary source of food.

% of households per Reduced Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) category²

Low	Medium	High
8%	67%	24%

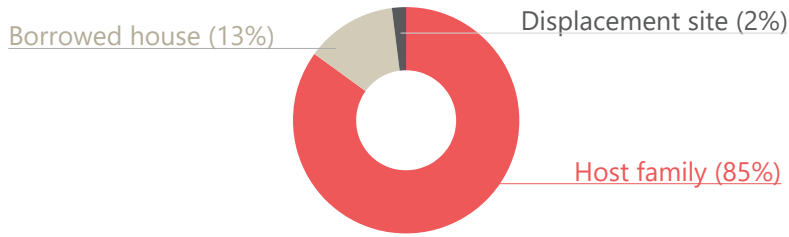
40% of households that reported having **access to land for cultivation**

51% of households that reported having **access to mobile money (M-Pesa/e-Mola)**

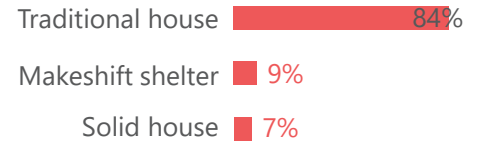
*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

SHELTER & NFIs

Most reported living arrangement, by % of households



Most reported shelter condition, by % of households



PRIORITY ACTION

Shelter and NFI assistance: Shelter (82%) and NFIs (47%) were both reported amongst the top 3 priority needs by assessed households.

98% of displaced households were living with host families or in houses borrowed from the host community. Meanwhile, 74% of respondents did not expect to return to their areas of origin within 30 days of data collection, underscoring the need for more sustainable shelter solutions that ease—rather than strain—relations with the host community.

Essential NFIs were also scarce: only 7% of households reported having essential NFIs, such as sleeping mats, sheets, or soap, highlighting the need for NFI assistance.

Ownership of essential NFIs, by % of households*

Essential NFI	% of HH
Stove	0%
Sleeping mats	2%
Sleeping sheets	2%
Soap	2%
Cooking utensils	4%
Lamp	9%
Mosquito nets	11%
Pots > 5L	16%
Water buckets	36%
Clothes	90%

HEALTH & NUTRITION

36%

of households reported having at least **one household member above age 5 who was sick in the 2 weeks prior to data collection**, with fever (9), severe traumatic injury (3), and respiratory illness (2) as the most reported conditions

5/23

households with at least one child under age 5 (n=23) reported having **at least one child who was sick in the 2 weeks prior to data collection**

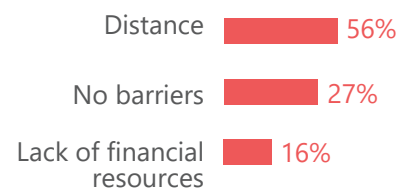
15/16

households with a sick member above age 5 **received treatment for their condition**

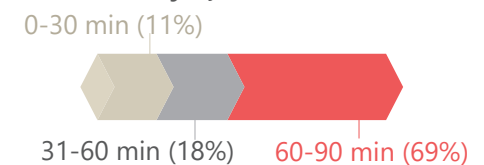
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households **with newborns (less than 6 months old) reported that their infants consumed anything other than breast milk** during the 24 hours prior to data collection

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



Reported distances to the nearest health facility, by % of households



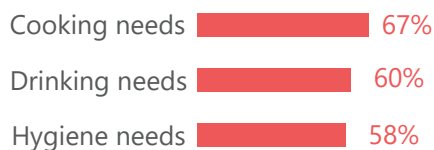
QUALITATIVE INSIGHTS

Napulimuite has no health facility. Residents rely on Agentes Polivalentes for basic care and travel about 9km to the health center in Natuco Sede for serious cases.

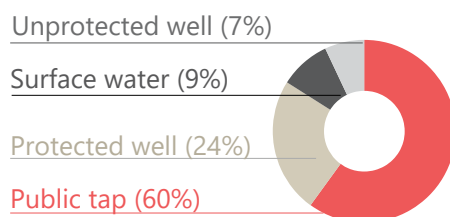
*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

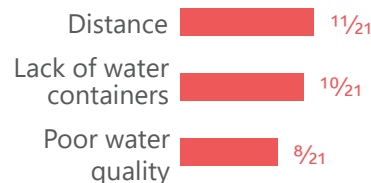
% of households that reported having enough water to meet the following needs



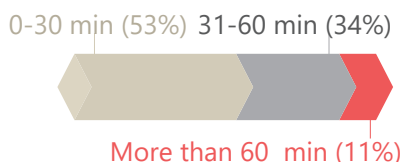
Most reported primary source of drinking water, by % of households



Top 3 reported barriers to accessing clean water, by % of households* (n=21)



Reported water collection times (including travel time and wait time at water point), by % of households



51% of households reported **having problems related to sanitation facilities** (toilet/latrine)

84% of households reported **using a non-hygienic sanitation facility** (open pit latrine or open defecation)

Top 3 reported barriers to access a hygienic sanitation facility, by % of households who reported having sanitation facility issues (n=23)

- 9 Facilities weren't private
- 8 Facilities were damaged
- 6 Facilities weren't segregated between men and women

QUALITATIVE INSIGHTS

Qualitative observations suggested that Napulimuite did not have any public taps or protected boreholes, and that most of the residents collected surface water from the Megaruma River 2km away, contradicting quantitative findings. As for latrines, observations suggested that displaced families used the latrines of the host community. As with shelter, sharing limited facilities could strain the relationship between the displaced families and the host communities.

EDUCATION

34% of households with at least one girl aged 5-17 reported having **all school aged girls attending school at the time of data collection** (n=38)

32% of households with at least one boy aged 5-17 reported having **all school aged boys attending school at the time of data collection** (n=38)

2% of households with children reported having their children participate in **non-school educational activities** (n=44)

Most reported barriers to school attendance for girls, by number of households* (n=25)

- 28% Unable to enroll in school
- 12% Lack of school materials
- 12% No nearby accessible school

Most reported barriers to school attendance for boys, by number of households* (n=26)

- 35% Unable to enroll in school
- 23% Cost
- 12% No documentation

Top 3 reported most pressing educational needs for children, by % of households* (n=44)

- 73% School supplies
- 39% ID card for official registration
- 30% Remedial classes

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

PROTECTION & MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

87% of households reported a **good** or **very good relationship between IDPs and the host community**

4% of households had **heard or encountered separated/unaccompanied children among the newly arrived population**

87% of households **reported at least one member with missing identity documents**

38% of households were **concerned about protection issues in their community** (n=17), with fears of **armed conflict** (10) and **theft** (6)

Most reported causes of separated/unaccompanied children, by number of households (n=2)*

- 1 Loss of parents due to illness
- 1 Parent disappearance after an attack

13% of households reported **knowing children** in the community that **worked with armed groups**, with **resettlement sites** as the most commonly reported **recruitment location**

Top 3 reported psychosocial signs in adults, by % of households*

- 51% Sadness and discouragement
- 29% Strength and resilience
- 27% Anxiety or fear

Top 3 reported psychosocial signs in girls, by % of households (n=38)*

- 53% Strength and resilience
- 37% Sadness and discouragement
- 19% Anxiety or fear

Top 3 reported psychosocial signs in boys, by % of households (n=38)*

- 61% Strength and resilience
- 26% Sadness and discouragement
- 16% Anxiety or fear

Top 3 reported reasons for social tension in the community, by % of households*

- 67% None
- 11% Access to land
- 11% Ethnic differences

QUALITATIVE INSIGHTS

The relationship between the host community and IDPs appeared to be very stable, with both groups sharing the same fields for crop cultivation. However, community leaders stressed that the continued sharing of limited resources could increase tension, especially in the upcoming rainy season.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS




Top 3 preferred sources of information on humanitarian aid, by % of households*

- 51% Face to face with humanitarian worker (any)
- 42% Community leaders
- 13% Local government

Top 3 preferred complaint mechanisms of humanitarian aid, by % of households*

- 49% Face to face with humanitarian worker (any)
- 44% Community leaders
- 9% Local government

Preferred modalities of assistance, by % of households

- In-kind  62%
- Cash  36%
- Services  2%

*select multiple, the total value may exceed 100%

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW AND LIMITATIONS

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) team from Action Contre la Faim conducted 45 structured, face-to-face household surveys in the Mecufi district on 25 August 2025: 39 with displaced families living in the village of Napuluimuite and 6 with displaced families living within the host community Natuco Sede. The survey tool, deployed via KoBo Collect, targeted displaced households, which were selected using an on-site purposive sampling method. The household surveys were complemented by a qualitative, semi-structured team leader feedback form, which included observations (shelter conditions, water points, health facilities, schools), engagement with community leaders and local authorities, as well as insights from the data collection team. This qualitative data helped to contextualize the shock, triangulate information, and provide detailed descriptions of the assessed sites and living conditions of the affected population.

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. 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.

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS PRESENT IN MECUFI

Organization	Type	Intervention Sectors
Solidarités International	INGO	RRM - SNFI, WASH, FSL
Helvetas	INGO	WASH, Health, FSL
Ayuda en Acción	INGO	RRM - WASH, Protection
IOM	UN	SNFI, CCCM
MSF	INGO	Health, Nutrition, MHPSS
UNICEF	UN	WASH, Nutrition, Child Protection

ENDNOTES

1 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Aug 5 2025. DTM Mozambique — ETT Movement Alert Report —137_Ancuabe, Chiure and Muidumbe attacks (20 July to 3 August). IOM, Mozambique.

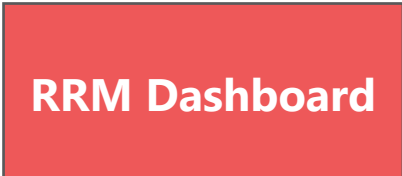
2 RRM Mozambique. Alert ACF_MEC_20082025. August 2025 (for access, please contact ACF Deputy Area Coordinator for Programs, Capucine Peignier, at dfc-cd@mz-actioncontrelafaim.org).

3 The RCSI is a proxy indicator of household food insecurity that is based on a list of coping strategies (relying on less preferred or less expensive foods, borrowing food or relying on help, reducing meal frequency, reducing portion sizes, and restricting food consumption for adults to prioritize children) 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, 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:



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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