



Food emergency in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

Armed conflict and
forced displacement as
drivers of food insecurity



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Acronyms

UNHCR		United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IPC		Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
EFSA		Emergency Food Security Assessment
FAO		Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FRELIMO		Mozambique Liberation Front
IDP		Internally displaced persons
IRR		Immediate response rations
OCHA		United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN		United Nations Organization
FCS		Food Consumption Score
WFP		World Food Programme
PSEA		Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SADC		Southern African Development Community

Executive Summary



This report delves into the food insecurity situation in the districts of Ancuabe and Metuge, Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, analysing the data collected in the field through a survey conducted by Ayuda en Acción of households comprised of vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and households where IDPs are living with host families. This analysis was supplemented by a series of interviews with key informants on the ground, and status reports by the United Nations and other agencies.

Since 2017, violent attacks by insurgent groups have triggered a steady stream of displaced persons. Violence, coupled with weak institutions and climate vulnerability, has had a major negative impact on food security. Displaced persons, with no means of subsistence in their new surroundings, have been hit the hardest. This past year, the combined effect of the armed conflict, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic has alarmingly reduced food availability in Cabo Delgado.

In this province alone, more than 800,000 people were internally displaced in July 2021, amounting to a third of its population. Most sought refuge in the homes of relatives or friends. The massive influx of displaced people puts enormous pressure on the already scarce resources and food systems available to host families who were already struggling with limited access to food, income and basic services.

Survey results show that food shortages are the main concern, both in households comprised of displaced persons and those where IDPs are living with host families. In both cases, the diet is unacceptable according to international



standards. Families lack reserves of basic grains and, if they have any at all, they are barely enough to cover their needs for less than a month. As they do not grow their own crops, most people spend over 90% of their scarce income, mostly from temporary agricultural work or external aid, on food.

Data show that the crisis is not affecting all areas to the same degree. Food insecurity is significantly worse in the Ancyabe district than in Metuge. The villages with the worst indicators are Metoro, Ancyabe Sede and Chiote. The food security status of families living in relocation centres is better than that of those living with host families or elsewhere. Indicators were better for households that own their own land or have access rights to land. The same holds (although the difference is less significant) for households whose diet depends on their own production of basic grains. The longer families are displaced, the worse food consumption indicators are, suggesting that food insecurity is worsening over time. No differences were observed between households headed by men and those headed by women.

These findings underscore the magnitude of the food crisis and highlight the chronic weakness of food systems and livelihoods in host communities. This serves as an

alarm targeting stakeholders, especially humanitarian agencies, to bolster aid in the region and to respond to the UN's appeal for funds with a view to offering lasting assistance. Both displaced persons and host communities urgently need food, shelter, protection and basic services. Given that violence and hunger are mutually reinforcing, crisis response must simultaneously address peace-building and bolster resilient food systems; and this necessarily requires access to land, means of production and technology.



Introduction

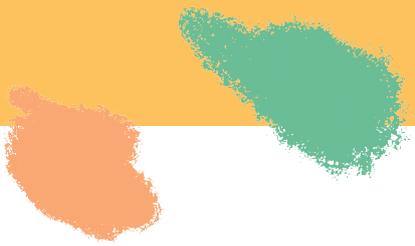
Since 2017, the province of Cabo Delgado in northern Mozambique has been immersed in violence that, together with extreme weather events, has negatively impacted the humanitarian situation. Constant attacks on the local population by armed groups and clashes with government forces have caused a massive flow of internally displaced persons, mainly to the districts of the southern part of Cabo Delgado and to other provinces in the country.

The number of internally displaced persons is constantly increasing, putting the response capacity of host communities, government authorities and humanitarian organizations to the test. Added to the pressing demands of IDPs for shelter, protection, food and basic services are the chronic deficiencies faced by the population living in a historically impoverished region whose subsistence food systems are fragile and extremely vulnerable to the effects of global warming.

Ayuda en Acción has been present in the province of Cabo Delgado since 2016.

In order to identify the humanitarian needs and risks faced by both displaced populations and host communities, its teams and partners in the field surveyed over one thousand households (1,045) and more than 5,000 vulnerable individuals suffering from food shortages and a lack of essential services. The World Food Programme (WFP) methodology was used to conduct the emergency food security assessment (EFSA). The districts of Metuge and Ancuabe were selected as they were the ones that, with the exception of the city of Pemba, were hosting the highest number of IDPs at the time the survey was taken (between December 2020 and January 2021).

This document analyses the results of the survey with a view to shedding light on the vulnerabilities, capacities and needs of both resident and displaced populations in these districts, and focuses especially on aspects related to food security. To enhance the analysis of the data collected through the survey, semi-structured interviews of representatives of humanitarian and government agencies were conducted in



September 2021, and secondary sources that collect data on the situation in the area were tapped.

It is important to note that this study is a snapshot of the situation in late 2020 and early 2021 and therefore, in light of the quickly changing context and rapidly evolving situation, it cannot be taken in isolation. Nevertheless, this analysis does identify some key challenges that the humanitarian response must meet if it is to promote social stability by bolstering food security.

With this document, based on information from the field, Ayuda en Acción and the Instituto de Estudios Sobre Conflictos y Acción Humanitaria (Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action - IECAH) seek to analyse trends detected in terms of the humanitarian needs of populations affected by the conflict in Cabo Delgado. Paying particular attention to the impact on food security, the document is addressed first to humanitarian and development workers already in the area or

who may go there in the future. Secondly, it targets government institutions in charge of crisis management, particularly in the area of food security. Lastly, it seeks to raise decision-makers' awareness of humanitarian aid funding so as to ensure assistance specifically tailored to needs on the ground.

The first section of the document describes the socio-economic and political context surrounding the conflict; the second presents the most recent data on internal displacement and its humanitarian consequences; the third addresses the humanitarian response, its main actors, achievements and challenges; the fourth analyses the different impacts of the crisis based on survey results and the last section offers conclusions and recommendations.

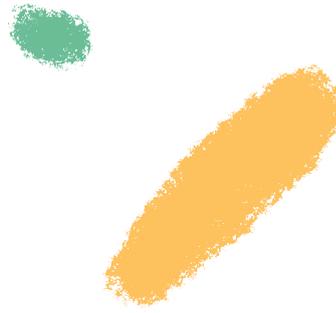
Cabo Delgado: background information





The province of Cabo Delgado faces a serious problem of insecurity caused by many factors, including a high poverty rate, social and geographical inequality, a government weak in terms of service coverage, as well as social exclusion, youth unrest, the influence of jihadist extremism and economic interests related to mineral and gas resources. This instability crisis has a direct impact on the lives of those living in the area, but also threatens regional stability along the entire east coast of Africa*.

(*) United States Institute of Peace, USIP (2021). "Five Keys to Tackling the Crisis in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado."



Over three years of conflict, violence has triggered approximately 3,000 deaths and massive displacement within the region¹. This, coupled with extreme weather events, has unleashed a humanitarian that is on the brink. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 1.3 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection as a result of the escalation of violence in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces in the North².

Demographic data and the health situation

With a population of over 31 million³, Mozambique is the fourth most populous country in Africa. It is estimated that 68% of the population lives in rural areas and 60% along the coast⁴. Cabo Delgado is the northernmost of the country's 11 provinces and shares a border with Tanzania. According to the 2017 census, the population of Cabo Delgado is 2,289,943⁵. In that province, 54% of the population are Muslims while only 18% of the country's overall population professes that religion⁶.

Mozambique ranks at the bottom of the list of the world's countries for its economic and social situation. In 2019, it ranked 181 out of 189 in the Human Development Index⁷. Between 41% and 46% of the population lives below the poverty line⁸ (2016 figures). According to the 2021 Cabo Delgado Reconstruction Plan published by the Government of Mozambique, the province's

3. World Bank Development Indicators

4. United Nations Development Programme. About Mozambique.

5. Government of Mozambique (2021): Plano de Reconstrução de Cabo Delgado das Zonas Afectadas pelo Terrorismo (2021 - 2024).

6. U.S. Department of State. (2019). 2019 Report on International Religious Freedom: Mozambique.

7. UNDP. (2020). Briefing note for countries on the 2020 Human Development Report, Mozambique.

8. Santos, R. & Salvucci, V. (2016) Poverty in Mozambique: Significant progress but challenges remain. WIDER Policy Brief 2016/6. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

1. International Crisis Group. Report No. 303 / Africa. 11 June 2021.

2. OCHA. (2020). Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan 2021.



GDP stood at 500 USD in 2014, and fell to under 300 USD in 2020. The growth rate fell from 2.4% in 2017 to -3.8% in 2020 due to the combined effect of the conflict and the pandemic. According to the data presented in this plan, 44.8% of the province's population lives below the poverty line⁹.

The average life expectancy in Mozambique is 65 for women and 59.1 for men¹⁰. Infant mortality in children under 5 is 61.1 per 1,000 births and the average age of the population is 17.6¹¹.

There is great deal of inequality as the country's cities and its south of have benefited much more from development¹². Indicators are much worse than the rest of the country in the province of Cabo Delgado where life expectancy stands at 48 years of age, the illiteracy rate at 60.7% and water supply coverage at 44%¹³.

With regard to the health situation, Mozambique is subject to outbreaks of malaria, cholera and HIV. Insecurity has reduced the health services' capacity to respond to these outbreaks and provide

essential services including sexual and reproductive health care and immunization¹⁴. The conflict has caused the destruction of 27% of the region's health-care centres and has left the districts most affected by violence (Mocimboa da Praia, Macomia, Muidumbe and Quissanga) with no operational centres¹⁵.

Social instability and climate vulnerability

Mozambique, and specifically the province of Cabo Delgado, are characterized by a set of circumstances that act as catalysts for social instability and among which the following can be highlighted: inequality and poverty; asymmetries in regional development, particularly between the province of Cabo Delgado and the southern regions of the country, especially Maputo; unrest in areas where government presence is more limited, especially in those where the public services network is the weakest; conflicts between ethnic and religious groups, especially within Islam; the monopoly of governmental power over the last 40 years during which the country has been governed by a single party which has traditionally exerted control over power structures in large areas of the country and administration; the prevalence of illegal social and economic activity throughout the country, particularly trafficking in natural resources and illegal

9. Government of Mozambique (2021): Plano de Reconstrução de Cabo Delgado das Zonas Afectadas pelo Terrorismo (2021 - 2024).

10. Worldometers. Mozambique Demographics.

11. Ibid.

12. United Nations Development Programme. About Mozambique.

13. MASC. 2021. Malamulelo. Cabo Delgado precisa do apoio de todos.

14. Ibid.

15. WHO. (2021). Responding to cholera in Mozambique.



goods; weak border control; weak government and a weak justice system; unrest among youth in light of the situation in general and the lack of opportunities to access employment and earn a decent living in particular; interest in the area's land and natural resources; and major extractive projects including the largest investment in the history of Southern Africa, i.e. the Rovuma basin gas extraction project.

Mozambique's geographical situation, lack of development, chronic poverty and frequent exposure to extreme weather events, make it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. In 2019 Mozambique was the country most affected by extreme weather events, followed by Zimbabwe and the Bahamas¹⁶. According to the climate risk index for the period 2000-2019¹⁷, it ranks fifth out of 180 countries. Frequent cyclones, droughts and floods, outbreaks of different diseases (malaria, cholera), together with the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic stand out among the main risks and threats. This situation is

even more harrowing in Cabo Delgado, the province affected by the armed conflict.

In 2019 alone, Cyclones Idai and Kenneth caused more than 500,000 internal displacements. It is estimated that over the last 40 years, approximately 20 million people have been cumulatively affected by tropical cyclones, droughts, floods, epidemics, conflicts and other hazards and threats¹⁸. Two thirds of those affected were internally displaced.

The armed conflict

In addition to the factors mentioned above, the genesis of the armed conflict has been more directly influenced by other elements, an example being large extractive projects in the Palma district and mismanagement of the expectations of the affected population. Promises of jobs and wealth did not materialize over the short term, leading to dissatisfaction in local communities.

Another factor having a direct impact was the longstanding crisis between denominations of Islam in East Africa and, in recent decades, in Mozambique.

16. Germanwatch. (2021). "Global Climate Risk Index 2021 Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Events? Weather-Related Loss Events in 2019 and 2000-2019"

17. Ibid.

18. UNHCR. "Climate change and disaster displacement"



The influence of Salafi groups, with more orthodox principles and values, clashed with the Sufi groups that had mixed with local cultures for centuries. This rise in a more orthodox version of Islam resulted in internal conflicts in several communities, especially those whose youth had studied abroad and returned with new practices and principles. This, in turn, led to intergenerational conflicts within denominations, with accusations and conflicts with the State for its radicalism.

All these issues came to a head in October 2017, when the conflict saw its first manifestation of violence as the town of Mocimboa da Praia was taken. During the following years, the conflict spread inland, especially to the central and northern region of the province and the adjoining districts of Palma, Macomia, Nangade and Muidumbe, affecting approximately 30% of the territory of Cabo Delgado.

The conflict escalated in 2019 and 2020 when it went from armed militias attacking small towns to organized and heavily armed groups seizing control of towns and cities throughout the central and northern regions of the province, including Macomia, Muidumbe, Quissanga, again Mocimboa da

Praia and, most recently, the city of Palma in 2021.

The movement has gained momentum with funding and external logistical and military support, and some analysts have identified direct links with Islamists in East Africa although connections to ISIS have not been confirmed. Concerns about the risk of an ISIS stronghold emerging in the region are on the rise¹⁹.

The attack on the city of Palma in March 2021 by armed groups exacerbated the humanitarian crisis as it gave rise to nearly 70,000 displaced persons. Many of these people were already displaced in Palma. It is important to point out the economic impact of this attack as Palma is an operational hub for energy companies. It is estimated that about 5,000 small and medium-sized businesses have been affected by the insurgency²⁰.

19. International Crisis Group. Stemming the Insurrection in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Africa Report N°303 | 11 June 2021.

20. Republic of Mozambique. (2021). Plano De Reconstrução de Cabo Delgado das Zonas Afetadas Pelo Terrorismo (2021-2024) PRCD

The impacts of this conflict are far-reaching and humanitarian assistance is expected to continue.

In light of the atrocious humanitarian situation and lack of protection, in March 2020 the Mozambican government established the Agency for Integral Development in the North to coordinate humanitarian and reconstruction aid²¹.

This past August, some of the main cities taken by insurgent groups were recovered with the support of Rwandan and South African troops²². However, the emergency situation is far from over. The impacts of this conflict are far-reaching and humanitarian assistance is expected to continue. It will take time to recover from the structural consequences throughout

the region that include both logistical (destruction of road infrastructure) and political-social damage.

Impact of COVID-19

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been more intense in cities than in rural areas. According to official figures, 1,924 people have died from the virus and 151,061 have been infected²³.

However, Covid had a notable logistical impact on distribution chains and the arrival of imported goods in a country highly dependent on foreign products, especially in urban areas. This pushed up the price of basic commodities. Confinement measures

21. International Crisis Group. Stemming from the Insurrection in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Africa Report N°303 | 11 June 2021.

22. Hanlon, Joseph. "Mozambique insurgency: Rwanda leads the fightback."

23. COVID-19 Dashboard. Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Data as of 15 October 2021.



especially affected poor urban and peri-urban families whose income depends on informal businesses, and caused their food situation to worsen dramatically²⁴.

Chronic failure of food systems

According to the 2021 *Global Hunger Index*²⁵ Mozambique ranks 106th out of 116 countries and its situation is considered alarming. According to the most recent WFP data (May 2021), 2.9 million people face malnutrition in Mozambique²⁶. This means that in the span of a single year, food

insecurity nearly doubled as the October 2020 figure was 1.6 million people²⁷.

Within Mozambique, Cabo Delgado is among the provinces with the worst food security indicators. Even before the current humanitarian crisis, food insecurity was worrying, and chronic malnutrition rates stood higher than the national average. Among children under the age of five, 53% suffer from stunted growth compared to 43% nationally²⁸. The extreme lack of diet diversity is one of the main factors responsible for scant production diversity and food culture issues. A trend analysis compiled with data from 2006, 2009 and 2013 showed that the decline in food security in the province of Cabo Delgado

24. Famine Early Warning Systems Network. Mozambique Food Security Outlook Update. August 2021.

25. Ayuda en Acción (2021) Global Hunger Index: Hunger and food systems in conflict situations.

26. WFP. (2021). Mozambique Country Brief May 2021.

27. WFP. (2021). Mozambique Country Brief October 2020.

28. USAID. Mozambique Nutrition Profile

coincided with low consumption of foods rich in micronutrients and proteins such as fruits, vegetables, leguminous vegetables and meat²⁹.

Subsistence farming and livestock farming, small-scale fishing, small businesses and forest exploitation are the activities that feed and sustain households in this province. Corn and cassava (and rice in river areas) are the main crops and also the staple foods, while hunting and fishing occasionally supplement the diet. When their own production is insufficient, households resort to buying or bartering to meet their food needs. They also obtain income or food products from informal jobs and by selling charcoal and other forestry products.

This impoverished diet has coincided with a growing dependence on purchased food to the detriment of home production. This has made the poorest households very vulnerable as a high percentage of their income is spent on food. Many foods, including corn (of which Mozambique is a net importer), are imported and are therefore susceptible to price volatility on international markets. By way of example, the 2008 global crisis sparked by the rise in food prices led to a 63% increase in the price of corn nationwide compared to 2007³⁰.

In April 2017, all the districts of Cabo Delgado were at the critical phase of

29. WFP. (2016). Trend Analysis: Key Food Security & Nutrition Indicators - Mozambique.

30. World Food Programme (2016). Trend Analysis: Key Food Security & Nutrition Indicators - Mozambique.

acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3). In the Ancuabe district, 50% found themselves in a situation of acute food insecurity³¹.

Rainfed production accounts for 95% of agricultural production, making it extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change and seasonal rainfall. Rising temperatures, increasingly erratic rainfall patterns and more frequent and intense droughts and floods impact the productivity of crops such as corn where declines of up to 25% are expected. The impact on women and girls is even greater as they are the ones chiefly responsible for agricultural work. Given restricted access to productive land, adaptation to climate change is limited to modifying planting dates and crop varieties³².

Many homes in Cabo Delgado are still recovering from the impact of Cyclone Kenneth which hit the area in April 2019, affecting 374,000 people. The expectation of more extreme weather events and the increase in crop pests and diseases due to climate variability are additional threats that have affected food production³³.

31. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of Mozambique (2017). Relatório da Avaliação da Situação de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional.

32. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (2018) Climate Change Profile Mozambique.

33. FAO (2021). Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan 2021



THE FOLLOWING FACTORS
STAND OUT FROM AMONG THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOD
INSECURITY IN THIS AREA

Gleaned from interviews with
key informants

- Limited access to land and water and to vital productive resources for developing agri-food systems.
- Low productivity due to the absence of appropriate technologies and poor climate resilience.
- Lack of productive infrastructure, storage and food transport to get production to end consumers among the urban population, and the lack of storage systems to preserve food in rural areas.
- Scant investment capacity among poverty-stricken households to improve production systems.
- Lack of knowledge regarding production and preservation techniques on the part of food producers.
- Lack of state investment in productive infrastructure, extension services in resilient agricultural practices and local food markets.

Violence, displacement and humanitarian crisis



This section sheds light on the humanitarian crisis that Cabo Delgado is facing, the magnitude of the flows of internally displaced persons and their main consequences.

The humanitarian crisis in numbers

The violence that has been escalating in northern Mozambique since October 2017 has triggered an urgent humanitarian crisis. The internally displaced population skyrocketed from 49,000 people in April 2019 to 72,000 in April 2020 and to over 732,000 in April 2021 (see **Figure 1**). This represents about a third of the total population of the province. Of the displaced population, 46% are children, 31% are women and 23% men¹.

The numbers continue to rise incessantly. According to data from the Mozambican government, at the end of July 2021 the

number of internally displaced people in the province of Cabo Delgado had already exceeded 826,000². It is estimated that nine out of ten have remained in the same province and the rest have moved to other nearby provinces.

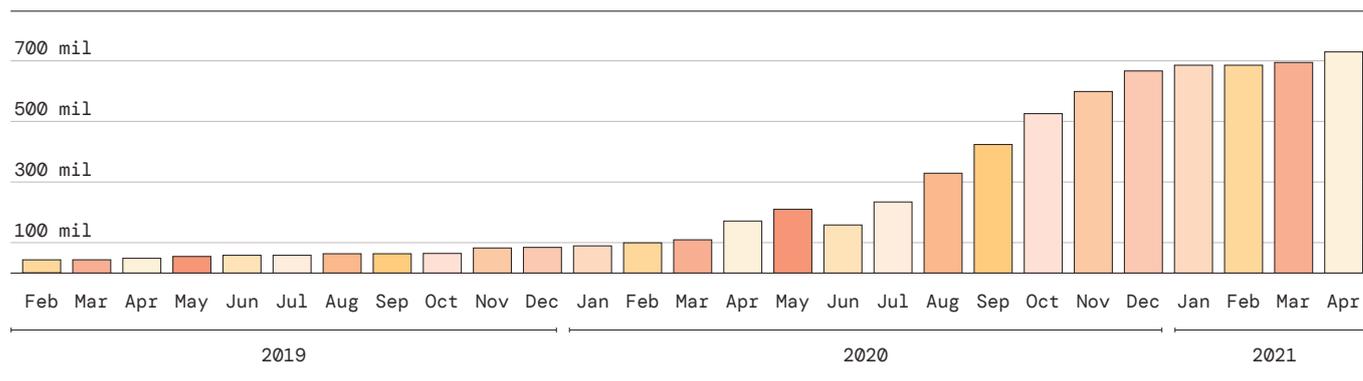
Two-thirds of displaced people were forced to flee more than once to save their lives. Many of the nearly 70,000 people who left the city of Palma after the March 2021 attack had previously been displaced from elsewhere³. Although some have been able to return to their villages of origin, despite the government offensive with the support of Rwandan troops and the Mission of the Southern African Development Community

2. Famine Early Warning Systems Network. Mozambique Food Security Outlook Update.

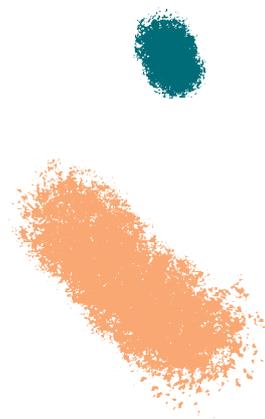
3. OCHA (2021). Mozambique Access Snapshot - Cabo Delgado Province. July 2021.

1. IOM. (April 2021). DTM Mozambique Baseline Assessment Round 12 Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala and Zambezia Provinces.

Figure 1. Displaced population in Cabo Delgado (January 2019 to July 2021)



Source: OCHA. Mozambique Access Snapshot - Cabo Delgado Province. July 2021.



(SADC) in Mozambique⁴, most do not expect to do so in the near future for fear of armed groups.

Description of the households interviewed

Ayuda en Acción surveyed 1,045 households living in two of the main districts hosting the displaced population: Metuge and Ancuabe (see Map 1). Figure 2 depicts distribution by town and shows that at the time of the survey, the displaced population was concentrated in the Ancuabe district, mainly in Ancuabe Sede, while the local population surveyed was concentrated in Metuge Sede and Ancuabe Sede. It is worth noting that over a third of the sample (382 households) was concentrated in the town of Ancuabe.

Insofar as the displaced persons' place of origin, Figure 3 shows that about half of the households surveyed come from the Macomia district (46%), followed by Quissanga (22%), Muidumbe (14%) and Mocimboa da Praia (14%). These are the same areas where violence has escalated.

The vast majority of households (82%) had been living in the host community for

fewer than six months at the time of the survey, and only 3% had been in the host community for over a year (see Figure 4).

Concerns and threats facing households

The escalation of violence, coupled with the impact of the pandemic, cyclones and droughts has left hundreds of thousands of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. It is estimated that over 900,000 people may be facing a crisis situation due to acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or higher) in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula, of whom 227,000 are in an emergency situation (IPC phase 4).⁵

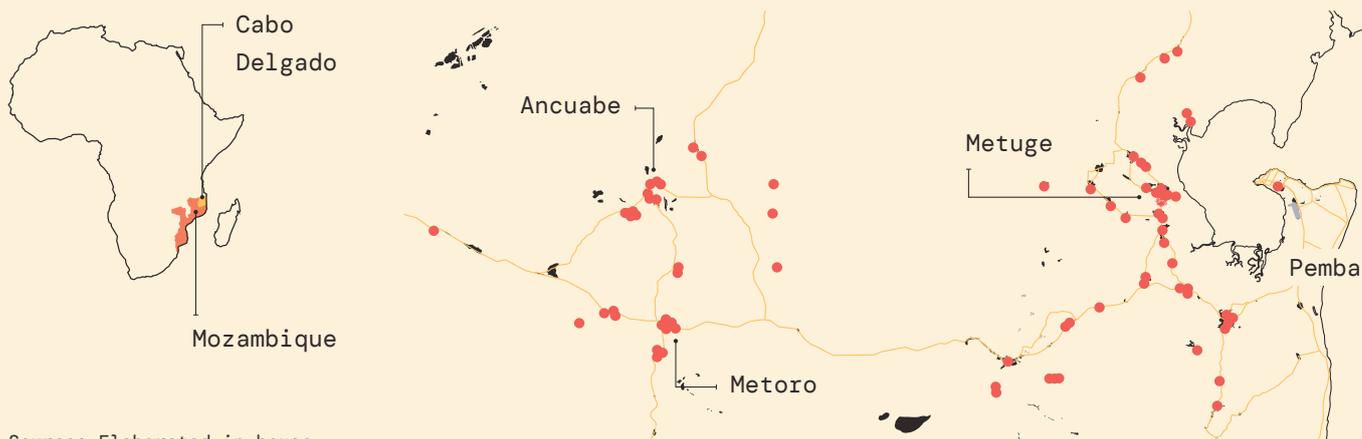
As a result of armed violence, economic and productive activity in the areas directly affected by the conflict has come to a virtual standstill. Households face food crisis due to the destruction of their livelihoods, the disruption of local markets and rising prices due to shortages.

Both displaced persons and host communities urgently need shelter, protection and food assistance. Hunger is not only increasing in rural areas but also in

4. OCHA (2021). Mozambique Situation Report. Updated on 1 June 2021.

5. Famine Early Warning Systems Network. Mozambique Food Security Outlook Update. August 2021.

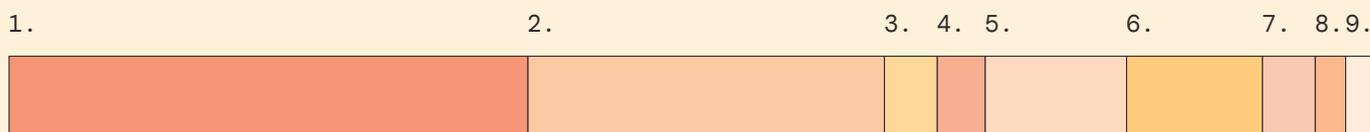
Map 1. Location of surveyed households



Source: Elaborated in-house

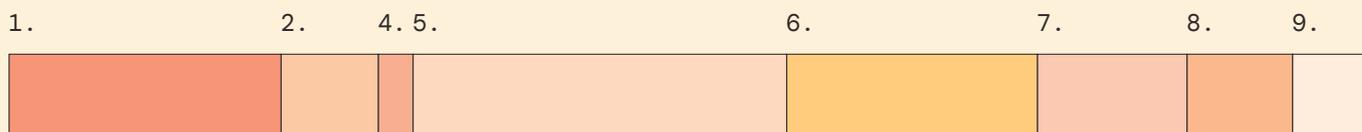
Figure 2. Distribution of households surveyed by host location

Local Population



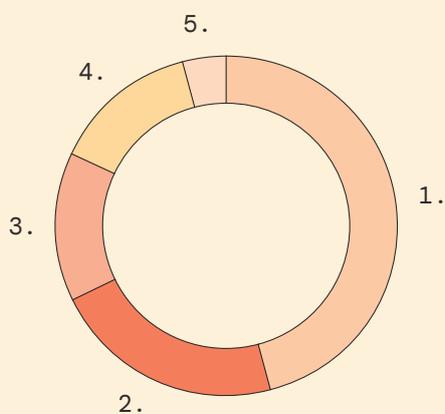
1. Ancuabe Sede | 20% 2. Metoro | 7% 3. Nanjua | 0% 4. Chiote | Gihote 2%
5. Metuge Sede | 27% 6. Mizeze | 19% 7. Nanlia | 11% 8. Nacuta | 8% 9. Messanja | 6%

Displaced Population



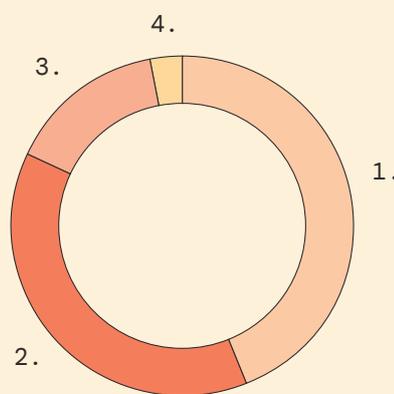
1. Ancuabe Sede | 38% 2. Metoro | 26% 3. Nanjua | 4% 4. Chiote | Gihote 3%
5. Metuge Sede | 10% 6. Mizeze | 10% 7. Nanlia | 4% 8. Nacuta | 2% 9. Messanja | 2%

Figure 3. Districts of origin of the displaced population



1. Macomia | 46%
2. Quissanga | 22%
3. Muidumbe | 14%
4. Mocimboa da Praia | 14%
5. Others | 4%

Figure 4. Length of stay of IDP households in host communities



1. ≤3 months | 44%
2. >3 a ≤6 months | 38%
3. >6 a ≤12 months | 15%
4. >12 months | 3%

Figure 5. Perceived threats by gender and situation



1. Do not feel threatened
2. Kidnapping/attempted kidnappin
3. Swindling/fraud
4. Political persecution
5. Killings/attempted homicide
6. Expropriation of land/dwellin

7. Extortion/attempted extortion
8. Harassment/sexual intimidation/rape and attempted rape
9. Theft with or without violence/armed robbery
10. Discrimination/exclusion/stigmatization
11. Threat/intimidation

urban centres, including the capital Pemba, where 40% of the population is in a critical phase of acute food insecurity (above IPC 3).⁶ Vulnerable people who have fled violence and taken refuge in forests are of particular concern. Their food insecurity situation may be even more critical⁷.

The household survey conducted by Ayuda en Acción revealed differences in the perception of threats to security between the displaced and the local population, and

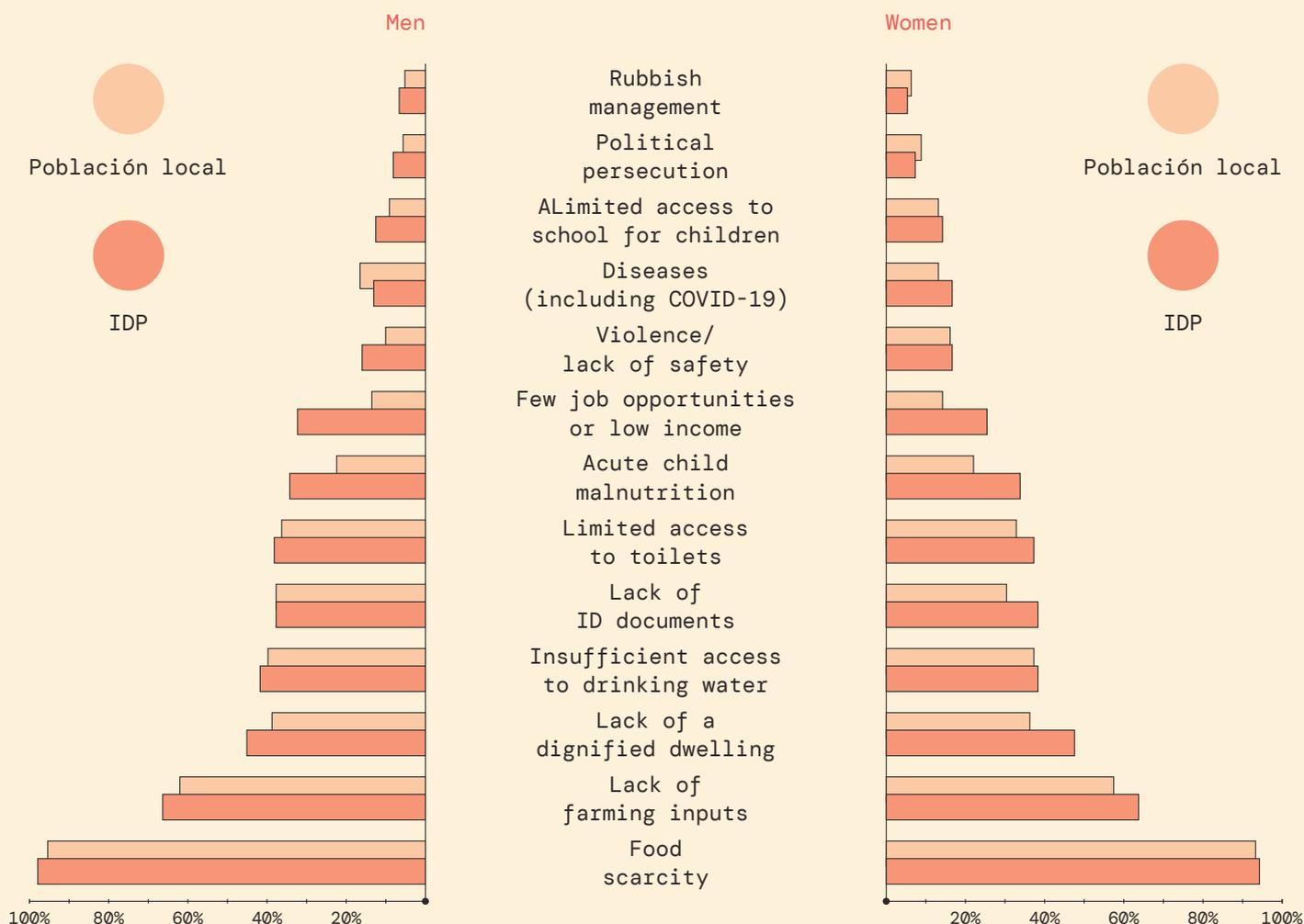
between women and men. Surprisingly, the local population feels more threatened than the displaced population.

There are also differences in the type of threat perceived as shown in Figure 5. The main threat perceived by the displaced is intimidation (both men and women), followed by rape / sexual harassment for women, while men perceive discrimination / exclusion / stigmatization. Women in the local population are most wary of rape and sexual harassment while men worry most about theft.

6. OCHA (2021) Mozambique Situation Report. Updated on 1 June 2021.

7. Famine Early Warning Systems Network. Mozambique Food Security Outlook Update. August 2021.

Among both the local and displaced population and for women and men alike, the main concern, by far, is food shortage,



a worry shared by virtually 100% of the households surveyed. Lack of agricultural inputs, closely related to food, ranks second.

Lack of decent housing, a concern also shared by women and men, ranks third. These three are followed, in descending order of importance, by insufficient access to drinking water, lack of identification documents, limited access to latrines and acute child malnutrition (significantly higher among the displaced population). Violence, insecurity and disease, including COVID-19, reported by fewer than 20% of those surveyed, are less pressing concerns for all population groups than those previously mentioned.



Humanitarian response



The intricate interaction of climatic, political and social factors has led to food insecurity for hundreds of thousands of people, prompting the urgent need for a humanitarian response from international agencies. Data on 1 June 2021 indicated that humanitarian organizations had assisted more than 710,000 people in the first four months of 2021, out of a target of 1.1 million people estimated to be in need of such assistance*.

(*) OCHA. (2021). Mozambique Situation Report June 2021.



Development of humanitarian needs

The WFP has warned of the rapid increase in food costs owing to the difficulty of getting food to market due to lack of security¹. A clear indication of the rapid deterioration of the food situation in the region is that the WFP went from serving 113,699 people in May 2020 to serving 1,055,241 people in May 2021².

The United Nations ranked priority needs in the northern region of Mozambique in its 2021 fund-raising appeal³ when 1.3 million people in need were identified and arrangements were made to serve 1.1 million of them. This effort requires 254 million dollars. The food security cluster accounts for the greatest need of funding (136 million dollars), followed by shelter and water and sanitation⁴. In October 2021, 44.8% of this

requested amount was still not funded⁵. The largest contributors are the United States (38.4%), the European Commission (9.3%) and Germany (8.3%)⁶.

The humanitarian response in Mozambique has focused on the country's three northern provinces: Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula. In 2020, a rapid response plan was launched in Cabo Delgado with a budget of 35.5 million dollars, of which 48.7 million dollars were raised, 40.2% more than the amount required⁷. The 2021 humanitarian response plan set three goals: 1) save lives and alleviate suffering; 2) vital support, ensuring access to essential services; 3) protection, addressing the risks and needs of affected groups. The inter-sectoral response recognizes that the crisis is experienced differently depending on gender and has therefore prioritized marginalized and socially vulnerable groups⁸.

1. WFP. (2021). Mozambique Country Brief May 2021.

2. Ibid.

3. OCHA. (2021) Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan (Abridged Version).

4. Ibid.

5. OCHA. (2021) Cabo Delgado Province Mozambique Rapid Response Plan 2020.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. OCHA. 2021 Mozambique Humanitarian Response Plan (Abridged Version).

Phases of acute food insecurity according to the IPC

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) establishes the severity of acute food insecurity in five phases based on common benchmarks: 1) Minimal, 2) Stressed, 3) Crisis, 4) Emergency, 5) Humanitarian Catastrophe / Famine.

The number of people at Phase 3 or higher is used to calculate the number of people in urgent need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance*.

01.	02.
<p>Minimal</p> <p>More than four in five households in the area are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance.</p>	<p>Stressed</p> <p>Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five households in the area have the following or worse: minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in detrimental coping strategies.</p>
Resilience building and disaster risk reduction.	Disaster risk reduction and protection of livelihoods.

03.	04.	05.
<p>Crisis</p> <p>Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five households in the area have the following or worse: food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition OR are marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps.</p>	<p>Emergency</p> <p>Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five households in the area have the following or worse: large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality OR extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps in the short term.</p>	<p>Humanitarian Catastrophe</p> <p>Even with any humanitarian assistance at least one in five households in the area has an extreme lack of food and other basic needs where starvation, death, and destitution are evident.</p>

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

To protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps and reduce acute malnutrition.	To save lives and livelihoods.	To prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods.
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Source: Technical Manual of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, version 1.1. FAO. Rome

(*) OCHA. (2021). Mozambique Situation Report June 2021.

The food security cluster coordinates food security and livelihood responses during humanitarian crises. In Mozambique, this cluster is co-led by the WFP and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). In Cabo Delgado, the lead organizations are WFP, Oxfam, Caritas and NPA and the implementing partners are: AMA, AVSI, Caritas, NAP, Oxfam, SEPPA, and Solidarités International⁹.

This cluster focused on two strategic objectives in 2021: 1) provide vital food to those facing severe food insecurity, including the displaced population and host families; and 2) support the rebuilding of livelihoods of the affected population in resettlement locations and host communities¹⁰.

In August 2021, WFP director António Vitorino called on the international community to ramp up support for Northern Mozambique in light of the continuous displacement of families and the need for more funds to meet vital needs and work towards durable solutions in preparation for the rainy season and cyclones in December¹¹.

9. For more information on the activities carried out by month and region, the WFP nutrition cluster dashboard provides access to activities, needs and gaps between objectives and reality in the Mozambique Security Cluster Dashboard.

10. Ibid.

11. IOM. (2021). "IOM Director General Calls for Enhanced Support for Northern Mozambique". August 2021.

Weaknesses and risks in the humanitarian response

Several weaknesses and risks were identified in the humanitarian response through interviews focusing on food security and nutrition with members of humanitarian organizations and a government worker in the region.

Operational approach

Food assistance is delivered by means of the so-called 'blanket distribution' approach in Cabo Delgado. This method of distribution is defined as the delivery of food assistance, in kind or in cash, to all internally displaced people regardless of any other economic or social factor. This aid is distributed to households. This takes into account the locals living in the households hosting displaced persons.

Hence, this approach does not take the specific vulnerabilities of individual household members into account. Although displaced person status itself implies vulnerability, there are other pre-existing social disadvantages such as gender, age, social class, ethnic group and religion, all placing certain groups in an even more vulnerable food security situation.

As food is delivered to the head of the household, there is no way of knowing how it is distributed to displaced persons in the

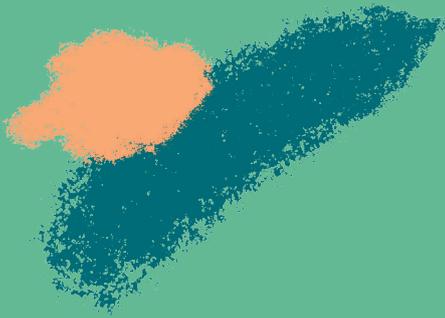


household. This lack of information makes it difficult to ascertain the distribution dynamics within households and whether this approach could be perpetuating existing intra-family gender and age inequalities. However, the results of the survey do show that the most commonly employed survival strategy in the face of food shortages is to restrict food consumption by adults in favour of children.

Moreover, according to ministerial and humanitarian sources, this migration status-based approach may have resulted in tensions between local and displaced groups. As survey data from the districts of Ancuabe and Metuge show, the food situation of the local population is also very deficient, but not as crucial as that of the displaced population. Also, the arrival of displaced persons to places where state-run services

were already deficient has exacerbated the difficult access to public services.

While the blanket approach makes sense in order to initially address an emergency situation as it facilitates rapid food distribution, it is not considered appropriate for the medium or long term. According to sources from the food assistance cluster in the region, discussions are under way to shift from a blanket distribution approach to targeted distribution. Assistance would then be provided to certain households whose members or groups are considered particularly vulnerable. Bearing in mind that the flow of displaced persons will continue over the foreseeable future, selective delivery approaches will need to coexist with the blanket food assistance approach for newly arrived groups.



Forms of assistance

With the exception of cash assistance in the city of Pemba, food aid has been offered in the form of food kits. This is because in urban areas there are markets and shops where one can purchase food but this is not typically the case in rural areas. These food kits contain oil, rice, sugar and, in some cases, beans. Following the March attack on Palma, immediate response rations (IRRs) consisting of rice, leguminous vegetables, oil and canned food such as sardines, beans, biscuits and water¹² were distributed to recently displaced persons. According to sources in the field, occasionally, food received from humanitarian assistance is exchanged or sold within resettlement communities themselves and at markets as a resource diversification strategy.

12. WFP. (2021). "WFP's response to clashes in northern Mozambique".

Conditions allowing, cash assistance is preferable to its in-kind counterpart as it not only allows beneficiaries themselves to decide what to consume, but also promotes commercial and agricultural economic activity¹³. This is only feasible, however, if food is available in commercial establishments or local markets, and this is not always the case when towns are in the midst of a conflict or of mass displacement due to climatic disasters.

Last year the government launched a programme to promote farming, providing displaced families with land, seeds and agricultural materials to grow their own food¹⁴.

It is important to point out that the destruction of transport infrastructure has

13. WFP. (2021). "Food assistance: cash and in-kind".

14. FAO. (2021). "Northern Mozambique Crisis. Agriculture Livelihoods Response Plan".



Cash assistance is preferable to its in-kind counterpart as it allows beneficiaries themselves to decide what to consume.

exacerbated distribution problems as access is blocked to many remote areas making it difficult to ascertain the humanitarian situation of those living there (at the time of the survey it was impossible to reach certain places for security reasons). Also, situations vary among different areas within the same region and therefore a single humanitarian response is not appropriate for all communities.

Protection against abuses in humanitarian assistance

In situations of heightened vulnerability, the provision of humanitarian assistance goes hand-in-hand with the risk of abuse given the power disparity between aid distributors and recipients whose vulnerability is augmented by personal characteristics such as gender, age and other circumstances.

Regarding sexual exploitation and abuse in Cabo Delgado, Human Rights Watch has

reported cases of demands for sexual favours by humanitarian staff in exchange for food kits in the province¹⁵. The Centre for Public Integrity, a Mozambican NGO, conducted another investigation and reported that community leaders were demanding money or sexual favours from displaced women in exchange for including them on food distribution lists¹⁶.

The UNHCR works with the government strategy of the national interagency Committee for Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) to prevent and respond to these incidents and promote the reporting of such cases by the displaced community¹⁷.

15. Human Rights Watch. September 2021. "Aid-for-Sex Alleged in Northern Mozambique"

16. Observador. (2020). "NGO denounces sexual abuse in Cabo Delgado and criticizes silence on the matter".

17. UNHCR. (2021). Cabo Delgado Situation May 2021.

Food insecurity and its varied impacts on the population



Characteristics of the households surveyed

Overall, it is estimated that 81% of displaced people are hosted in the homes of relatives or friends, followed by 12% in temporary shelters, 6% in formal or informal settlements and 2% in partially destroyed houses¹. Results of the survey conducted by Ayuda en Acción reveal that 75% of displaced households live in houses or apartments, 18% have settled in rudimentary temporary shelters, 3% in rented rooms

and 4% are homeless (see **Figure 8**). In the vast majority of cases, housing conditions are very precarious, with plastic, straw or bamboo roofs, mud walls and an indoor floor made of mud, sand or plastic sheeting.

The massive influx of displaced people puts enormous pressure on the already scarce resources available to host families who are struggling themselves with limited food, income and access to basic services. One third of the households surveyed shared a dwelling with several family units. In some cases, more than 10 people lived together, and in others up to 26. Most did not have a bed or mat to sleep on or blankets. This held particularly for the displaced who also

1. IOM. (April 2021). DTM Mozambique Baseline Assessment Round 12 Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa, Sofala and Zambezia Provinces.

Figure 8. Type of homes where displaced families reside

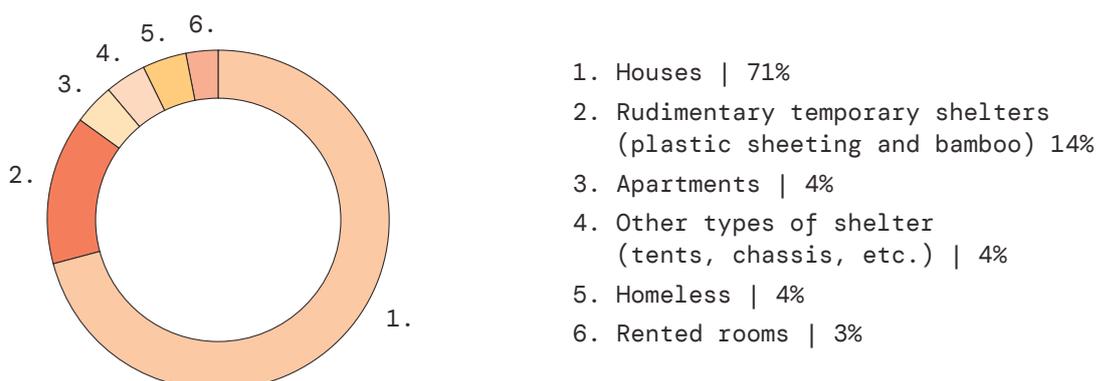




Figure 9. Access to basic services by migration status

					
Local population	27%	6%	5%	5%	97%
Displaced population	10%	9%	1%	3%	97%



lacked access to soap, basic kitchen utensils and latrines. The households surveyed have limited access to electricity and running water, use firewood and charcoal for cooking and have to drink non-potable water (see **Figure 9**). This the situation persists today.

Barely 4% of the IDP households surveyed had been settled in relocation centres, even after weeks of waiting in temporary facilities. According to Doctors Without Borders, conditions in the temporary settlements fail to meet even minimum standards and the growing demand for assistance has exceeded the response capacity of both the authorities and civil society organizations in Cabo Delgado.²

The vast majority of households lack a stable source of income as both displaced and local populations depend largely on temporary work in farming for income. Humanitarian

aid (in cash or in kind) ranks as the second most important source for the displaced, followed to a lesser extent by temporary work in construction, small sales and help from family and friends (see **Figure 10**).

In almost a third of the IDP households, income depends on relatives other than the father or mother (see **Figure 11**) while 0.4% claimed to not have any type of income.

Access to land is very limited, especially for displaced persons; only 12% of these households have their own land. Meanwhile, among the local population, although 66% of the households surveyed claimed to own land, the parcels are extremely small, most fewer than 50 square metres. (see **Figure 12**).

Close to a third of the households surveyed are headed by women (31%). This percentage is higher among the displaced (33%) than among the local population (26%). In four households (three displaced and one local), a child was found to be in charge (**Figure 13**). Although this is not representative of the

2. Doctors without borders. 3 June 2021. 'Two months after the attacks in Palma: the aftermath of the violence in Cabo Delgado', Doctors without Borders press release.

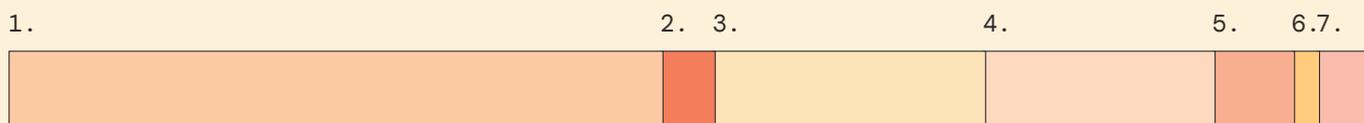
Figure 10. Sources of income by migration status

Local Population



1. Temporary Work in Farming | 42% 2. Humanitarian Aid | 32% 3. Temporary work in construction | 10% 4. Small sales | 7% 5. Assistance from family members or friends | 6% 6. Sale of production goods | 2% 7. Remunerated employment | 1%

Displaced Population



1. Temporary Work in Farming | 48% 2. Humanitarian Aid | 4% 3. Temporary work in construction | 20% 4. Small sales | 17% 5. Assistance from family members or friends | 6% 6. Sale of production goods | 2% 7. Remunerated employment | 4%

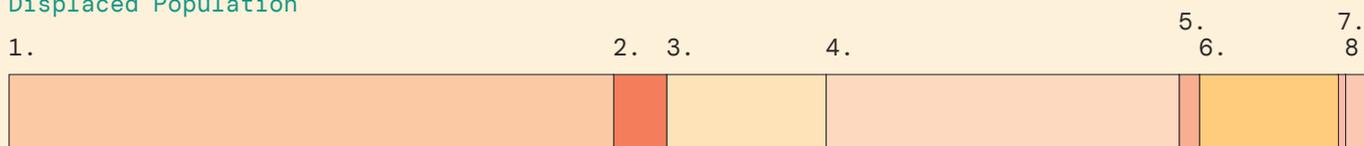
Figure 11. Income generation by migration status

Local Population



1. Father | 42.9% 2. Other family members | 27.3% 3. Mother | 15.6% 4. Father + Mother | 7.5% 5. Daughter or son | 2.4% 6. Father + Mother + Son/Daughter | 1.5% 7. Father or Mother + Son/Daughter | 1.5% 8. Other combinations | 0.9% 9. No one | 0.4%

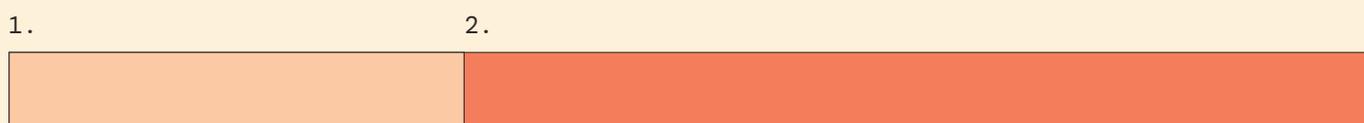
Displaced Population



1. Father | 44.4% 2. Other family members | 3.9% 3. Mother | 11.7% 4. Father + Mother | 25.9% 5. Daughter or son | 1.5% 6. Father + Mother + Son/Daughter | 10.2% 7. Father or Mother + Son/Daughter | 0.5% 8. Other combinations | 2.0% 9. No one | 0%

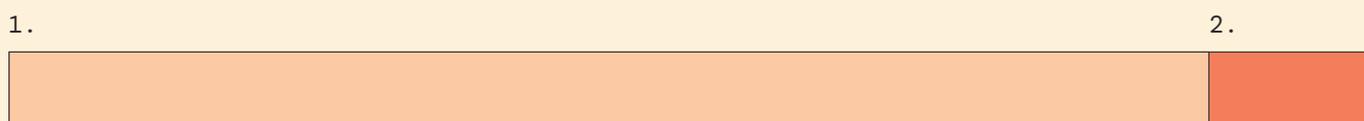
Figure 12. Availability of own land according to migration status

Local Population



1. No | 33.5% 2. Yes | 66.5%

Displaced Population



1. No | 88% 2. Yes | 12%



whole, it is striking to find families headed by children, possibly a result of the conflict. In fact, 2,733 unaccompanied minors have been reported among the displaced population in Cabo Delgado³.

By age group, the under 25 population predominates, accounting for 60% of those surveyed (**see age pyramid in Figure 14**).

Regarding level of education, 68% of women and 55% of men have not finished their formal instruction or have not completed primary school (**see Figure 15**). Less than 1% have completed advanced technical training or a university degree.

Food security analysis

A food security proxy indicator known as the food consumption score (FCS) was developed based on data gleaned from the household survey. This indicator is based on household food consumption during the week prior to the survey. The FCS classifies households into three groups based on their food security situation: poor, borderline or acceptable.⁴

Food Consumption Score

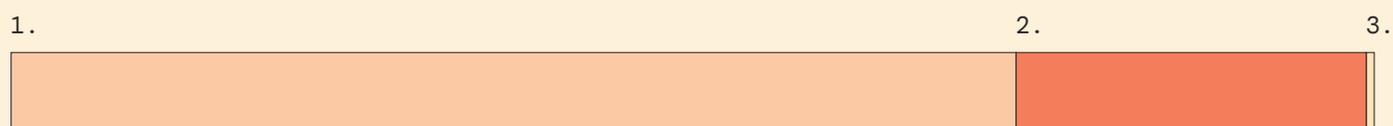
Results point to a high prevalence of food insecurity in all the households surveyed. In 60% of the households the food security

3. IOM. (April 2021). DTM Mozambique Baseline Assessment Round 12

4. More information on the food consumption score is given in the methodological annex. Also see World Food Program (2009). Manual for the Emergency Food Security Assessment.

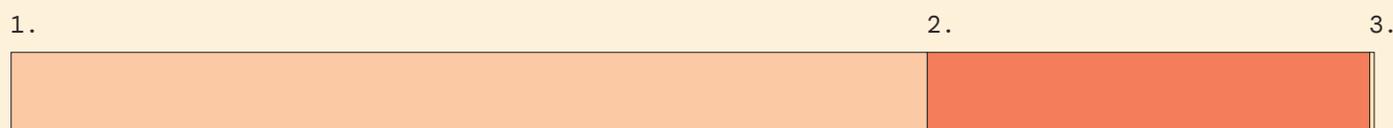
Figure 13. Head of household by migration status

Local Population



1. Man | 73.5% 2. Woman | 26% 3. Minor | 0.5%

Displaced Population



1. Man | 67% 2. Woman | 32.75% 3. Minor | 0.25%

Figure 14. Population pyramid



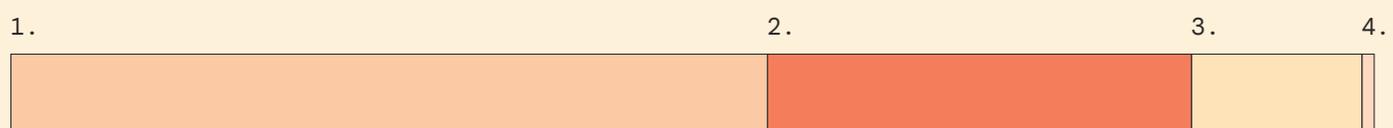
Figure 15. Educational level of the adults surveyed

Women



1. No formal education or incomplete primary studies | 68.1% 2. Completed primary education | 24.6%
3. Completed secondary education | 6.9% 4. Higher vocational training or university graduate | 0.5%

Men



1. No formal education or incomplete primary studies | 55.5% 2. Completed primary education | 31.1%
3. Completed secondary education | 12.5% 4. Higher vocational training or university graduate | 0.9%

Figure 16. Food consumption score according to migration status

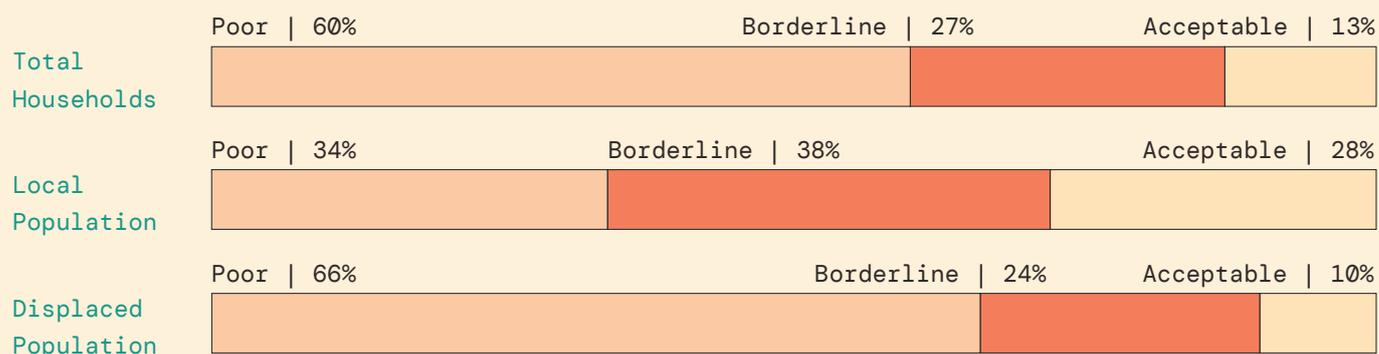


Figure 17. Food consumption score according to host district

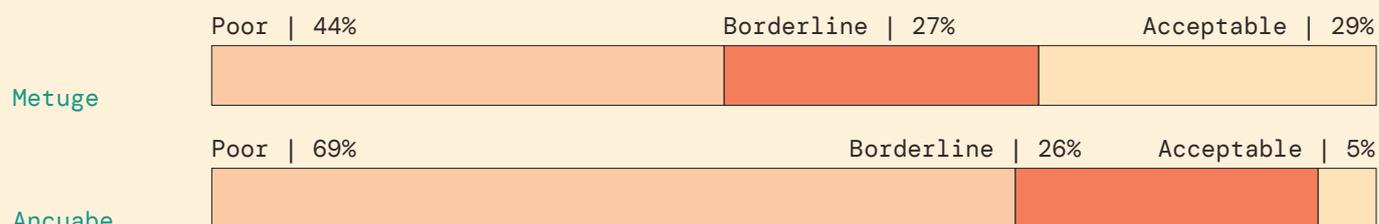


Figure 18. Food consumption score according to host city

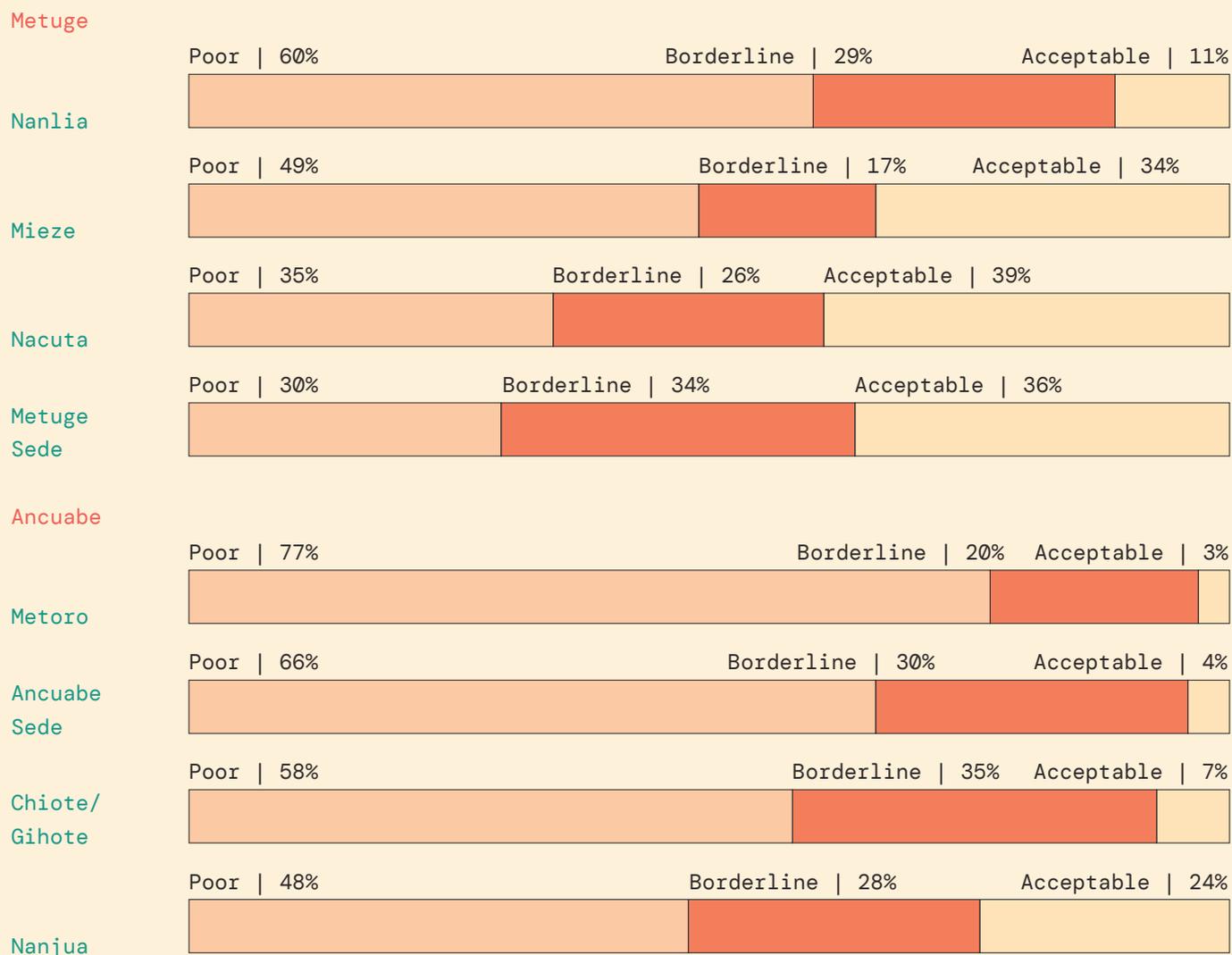


Figure 19. Food consumption score by district of origin of displaced households (IDP households only)

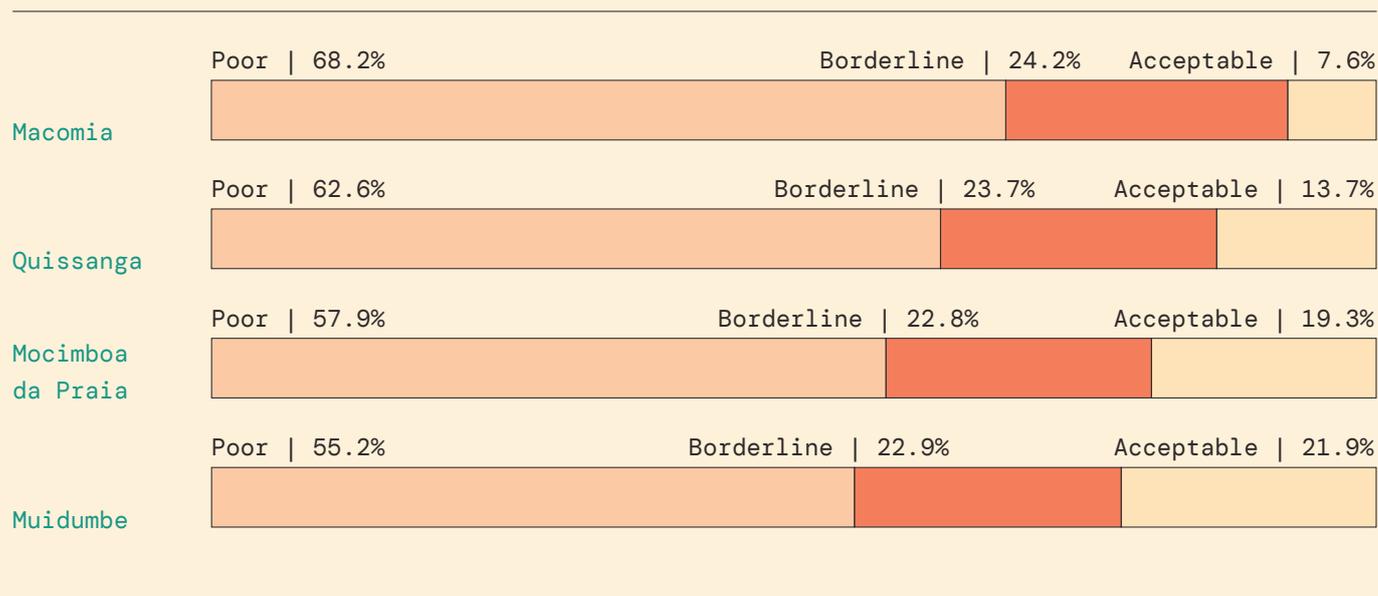
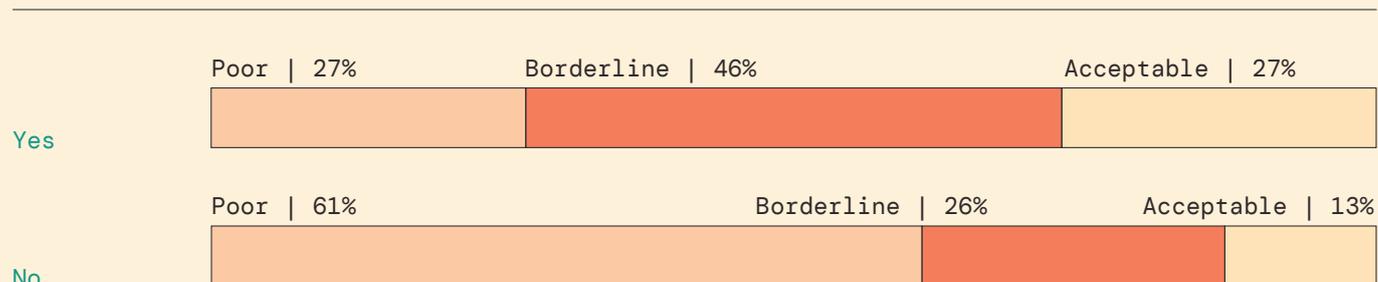


Figure 20. Food consumption score depending on whether or not IDPs are living in a relocation site (IDP households only)



situation is poor, in 27% it is borderline and in only 14% can it be considered acceptable. The problem is much worse among the displaced population. As shown in **Figure 16**, the food security situation is unacceptable in 90% of IDP households (either poor or borderline) compared to 72% of local households. The percentage of IDP households with poor food security (66%) is nearly double that of local households (34%).

By districts, the food insecurity situation in Ancuabe is far more serious than in Metuge. In Ancuabe only 5% of households have an acceptable diet, 26% have a borderline diet and 69% a poor diet. In Metuge the situation is somewhat better, with 30% of households having an acceptable diet (**see Figure 17**).

However, indicators vary within each district as shown in **Figure 18**. The most extreme situations are found in the towns of Metoro, Ancuabe Sede and Chiote where 97%, 96% and 94% of the households, respectively, have an unacceptable diet.

Differences are also observed depending on the district of origin of displaced persons (**see Figure 19**). The highest percentage of households with a poor or borderline diet are those that come from the Macomia district, followed by those from Quissanga.

There is a significant difference in household food consumption depending on whether or not the household is in a relocation site. An acceptable diet is found in 27% of households

Figure 21. Food consumption score according to type of lodging arrangement

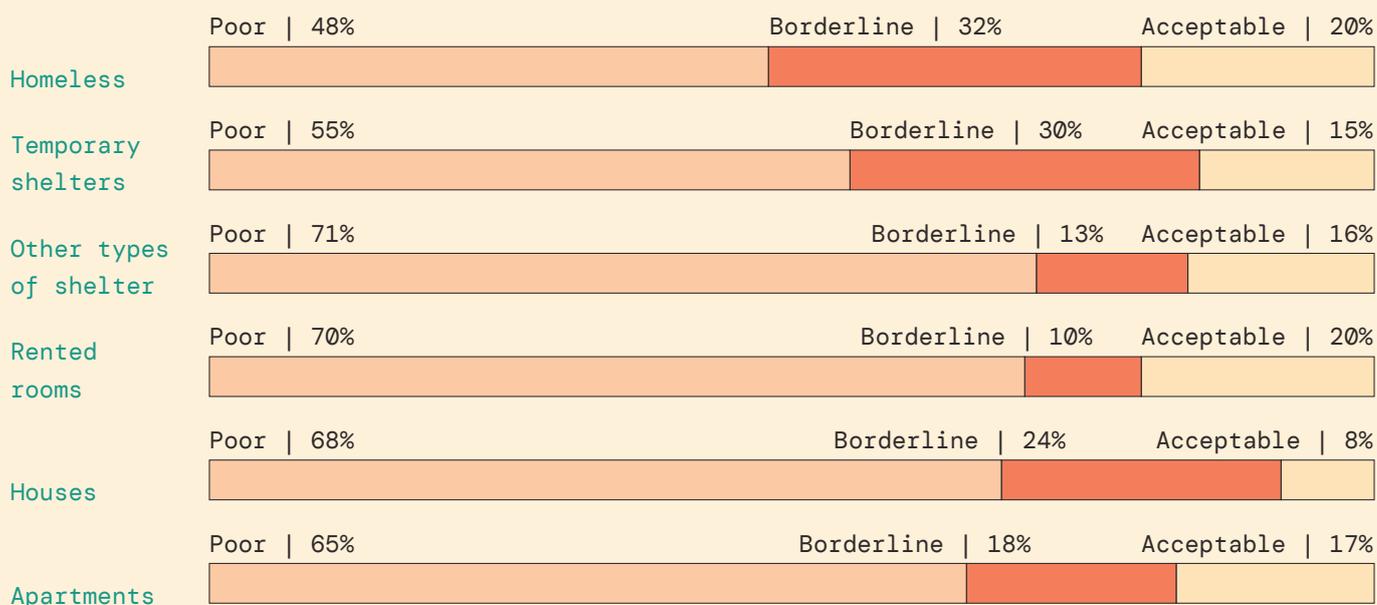


Figure 22. Food consumption score according to the length of stay in the host community

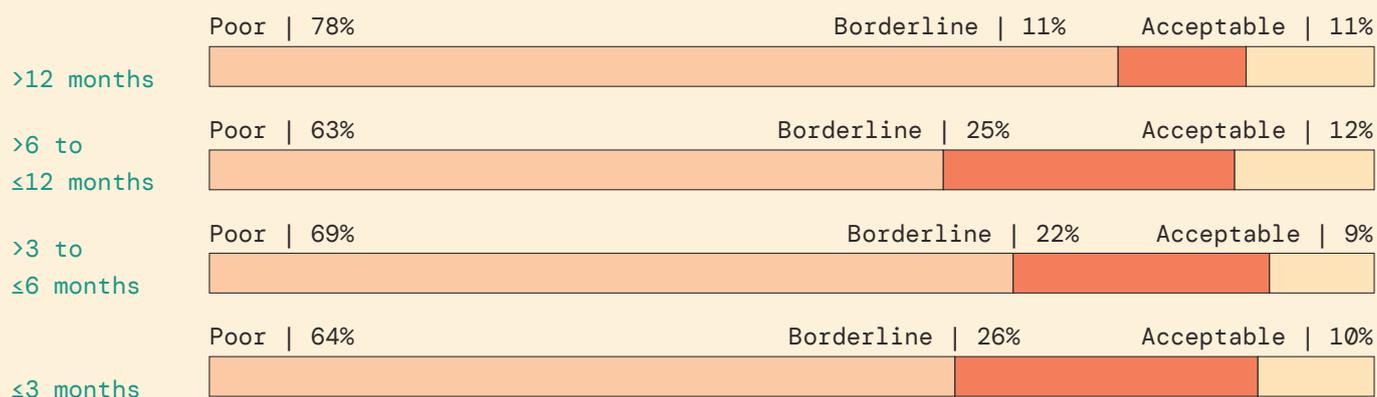


Figure 23. Food consumption score according to head of household

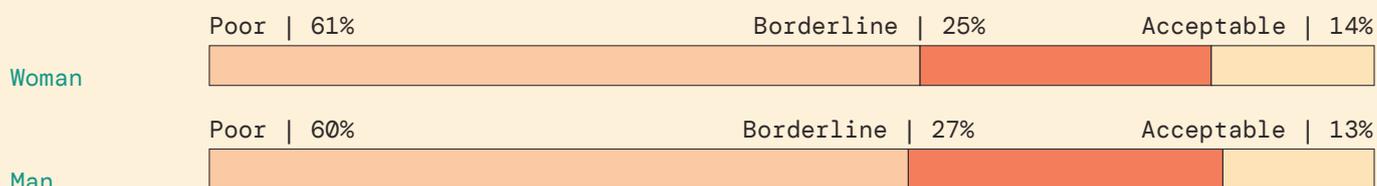
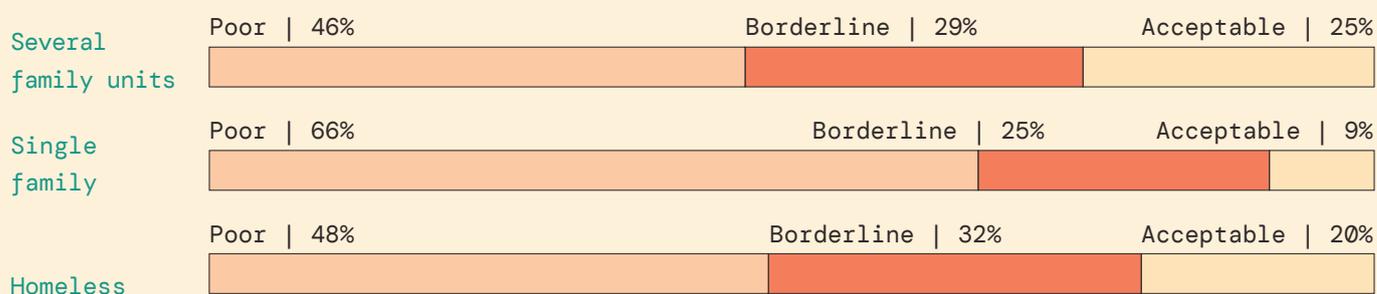


Figure 24. Food consumption score according to lodging arrangement of family units





living in relocation sites (accounting for only 4% of the total). Meanwhile, another 27% are found to have a poor diet, and those living outside of such sites (mainly with host families) have an acceptable diet in 13% of cases and a poor diet in 61% (**see Figure 20**).

These differences are attributable to many possible reasons, but additional research would be required to accurately determine them. One possible explanation is that food aid is distributed in greater quantities or more frequently to relocation sites than to host families. It could also be that people receiving food aid who live with host families have to share that food with all the members of that family, and sometimes with the members of two, three or even more families living under the same roof. However, those interviewed reported that food distribution is based on the total number of people in the household and not only on the number of displaced persons. In any event, it is a striking result that should be further examined to find an explanation.

Observing FCS according to the type of lodging arrangement shows that food insecurity is greatest among those living in other people's homes: 92% of such households have an unacceptable diet (**see Figure 21**). Also surprising is that households or family units that are homeless or are living in temporary shelters have a better score. While this and the previous

results need to be analysed in greater detail, they could indicate that displaced persons who seek refuge with host families share food with those families and, as a result, suffer greater food insecurity.

Regarding the length of stay of displaced households, the FCS is lower for those that have been in host communities for more than a year (**see Figure 22**). This could indicate that the food insecurity situation of IDPs deteriorates over time.

However, as **Figure 23** shows, no significant differences are observed between households headed by women and those headed by men. This could indicate that food distribution is taking place without gender discrimination and that, as men are not engaged in any productive activity to speak of, the households they head do not have any food access advantage over those headed by women.

Another surprising fact is that homes shared by several family units have better food security (25% with an acceptable diet) than single-family households and homeless families (**see Figure 24**). This result appears to contradict those mentioned above and again would require further investigation to obtain greater clarity.

Although the difference is small, both IDP and host households that produce their own

Figure 25. Food consumption score according to whether households produce their own basic grains

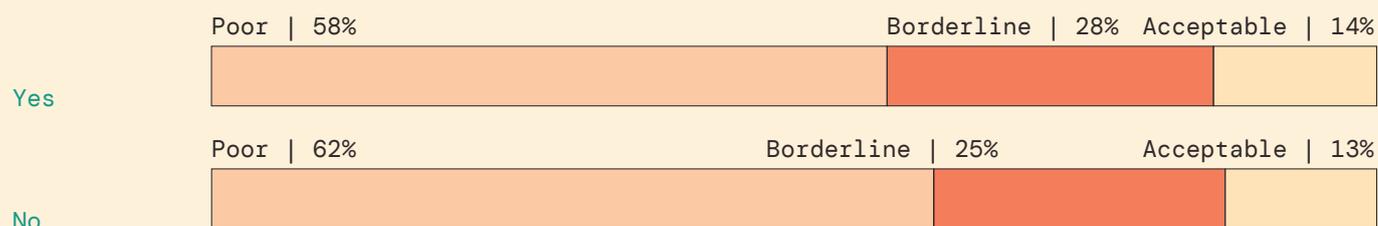


Figure 26. Food consumption score according to land tenure

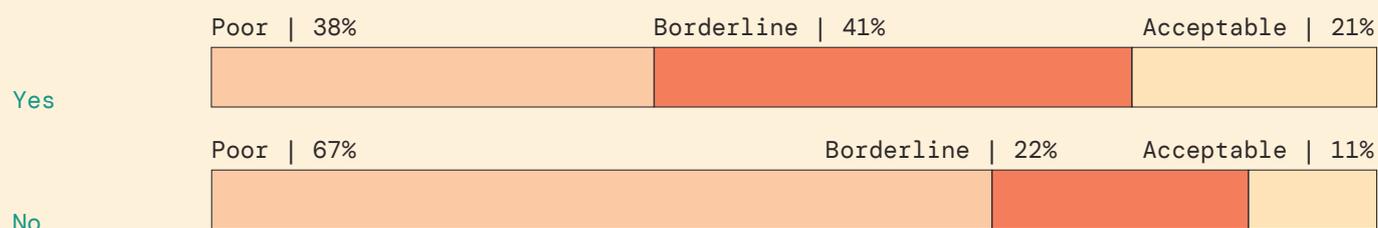
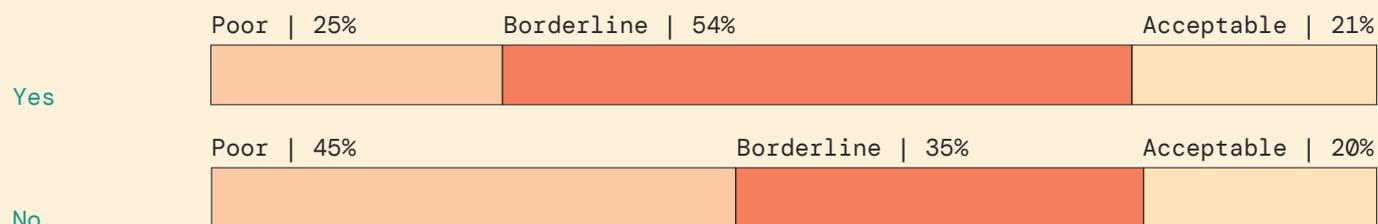


Figure 27. Food consumption score according to the right to use and benefit from the land



basic grains have a slightly higher level of food security than those who do not grow their own crops (see **Figure 25**).

In contrast, an important difference is observed between households that own their own land or are entitled to use and benefit from land (see **Figures 26 and 27**). The difference is particularly large in the case of land tenure where 67% of households without their own land face situations of food security compared to 38% with their own land. This clearly indicates that access to land is a key food security factor.

Other indicators of food security

Basic grain reserves

Fewer than half of the households interviewed produce their own basic grains, mainly corn, to cover their nutritional needs: 42% of the local and 35% of the displaced population (see **Figure 28**).

The vast majority of the households surveyed lack reserves of basic grains as shown by **Figure 29**. This holds for 97% of the displaced population compared to 93% of the host population. A small percentage (3% of the displaced and 6% of the local

Figure 28. Dependence on the production of basic grains for household food

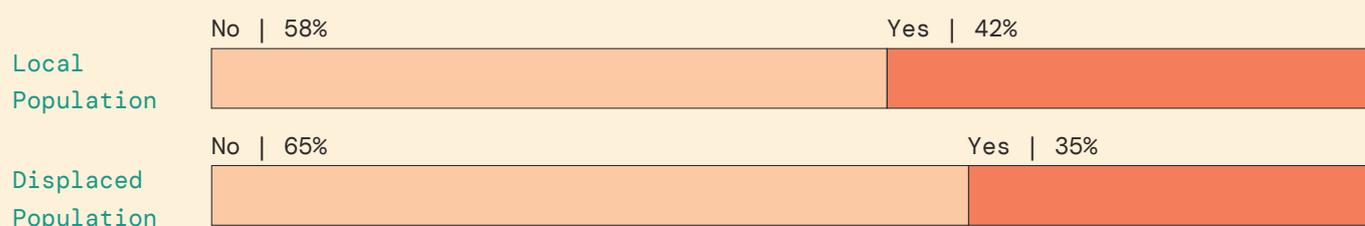


Figure 29. Duration of basic grain reserves according to migratory status

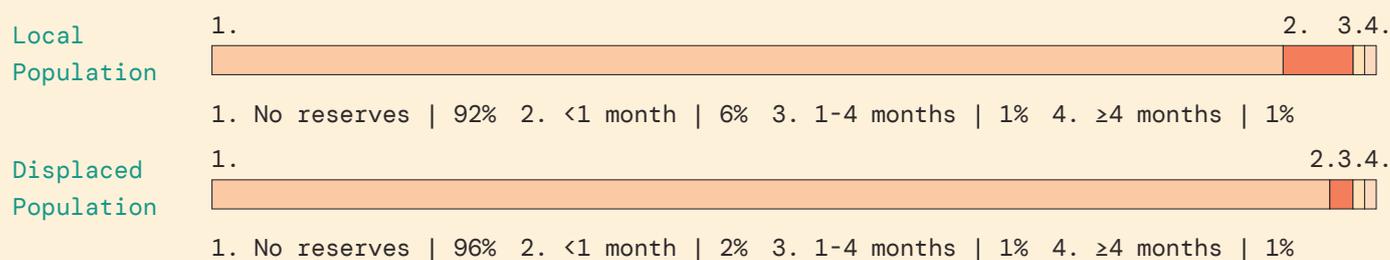
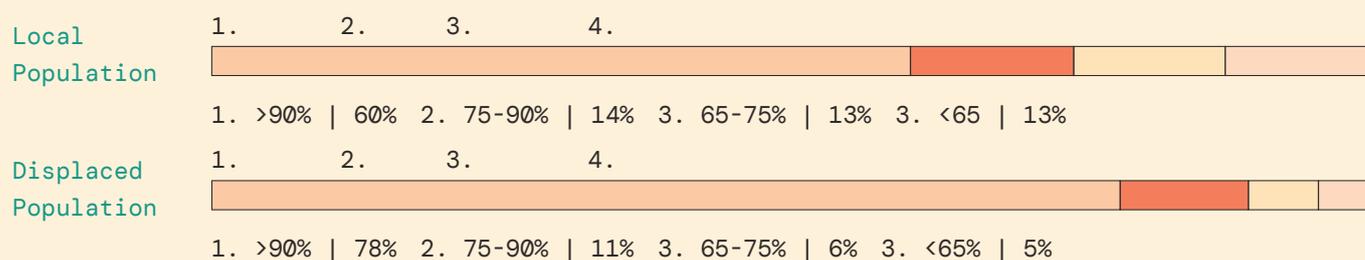


Figure 30. Percentage of household income earmarked for the purchase of food according to migration status



population) have grain reserves for less than a month, only 1% have reserves for between one and four months and another 1% for more than four months (only among the local population).

Expenditure on food

The percentage of family income earmarked for the purchase of food is another indicator of the state of food security.

Again, as depicted in **Figure 30**, households comprised of displaced persons are more vulnerable insofar as they must spend a greater proportion of their income on food

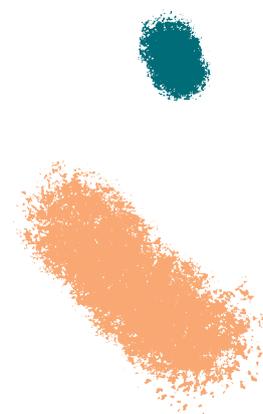
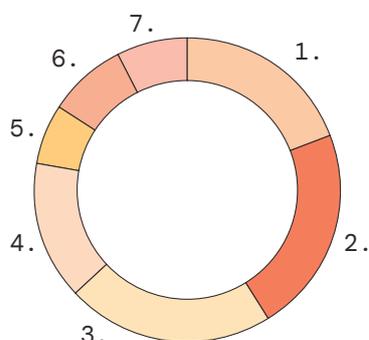
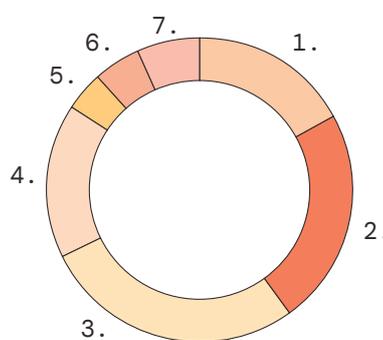


Figure 31. Survival strategies of IDP households



1. Replace certain foods with cheaper/less preferred alternatives | 21%
2. Reduce portion sizes | 24%
3. Curtail adult consumption to favour children | 24%
4. Reduce the number of meals a day | 16%
5. Purchase food on credit (enter into debt) | 7%
6. Scavenge in food waste/rubbish | 9%
7. Spend days without eating | 8%

Figure 32. Survival strategies of host households



1. Replace certain foods with cheaper/less preferred alternatives | 21%
2. Reduce portion sizes | 28%
3. Curtail adult consumption to favour children | 34%
4. Reduce the number of meals a day | 20%
5. Purchase food on credit (enter into debt) | 5%
6. Scavenge in food waste/rubbish | 6%
7. Spend days without eating | 8%

(78% spend more than 90%) than the local population (60%).

Survival strategies

Households resort to a number of different strategies to cope with food shortages. Some of these strategies are very harmful as they compromise the ability to obtain food in the future and endanger the livelihoods and health of household members.

Figure 31 shows the various survival strategies employed by IDP households while **Figure 32** depicts the strategies of host households. Both figures reflect the percentage of households applying a given strategy one or more times a week in the last month.

IDP households resorted to the following survival strategies in descending order of frequency: restrict adults' food consumption in favour of children; reduce meal portions; restrict food intake; and substitute certain foods with other cheaper ones. Host households resort to the same strategies, albeit less frequently.

IDP households resorted to riskier strategies for health and family finances more frequently than host households. These strategies are: scavenging from the rubbish (9% / 6%), spending whole days without eating (8% / 8%) and taking out loans to buy food (7% / 5%).

Summary of the main findings of the household survey

Following is a summary of the main findings related the previous sections, gleaned from an analysis of results of the survey on food security.

01.

Food shortages are the main concern in nearly 100% of both local and IDP households, followed by the lack of agricultural inputs, access to decent housing and availability of drinking water.

02.

The degree of food insecurity as measured by the food consumption score (FCS) is unacceptable for both IDP (90%) and host households (72%).

03.

The vast majority of the households surveyed (97% IDP and 93% local) have no basic grain reserves and, if they do, they will last for less than a month.

04.

78% of IDP households spend over 90% of their disposable income on food, compared to 60% of host households.

05.

Most of the food consumed by both IDP and local populations does not consist of home-grown basic grains.

06.

The main source of income is temporary work in farming, followed by humanitarian aid and help from family members.

07.

The food security status of families living in relocation centres is better than that of those living other places, mostly with host families.

08.

The more time displaced households spend in host communities, the worse their food consumption indicators, thus suggesting a situation that deteriorates over time.

09.

Food insecurity is significantly higher in Ancuabe (with only 5% of households with an acceptable FCS) than in Metuge (30%). Metoro, Ancuabe Sede and Chiot had the worst indicators

10.

No significant differences in FCS were found between households headed by women and those headed by men.

11.

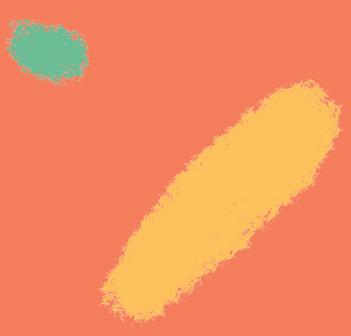
Households with their own land or access rights are significantly better off in terms of food security (FCS) than those without land.

12.

Homes shared by several family units have better food security (FCS) than single-family households and homeless families

13.

Households producing their own basic grains have a slightly higher degree of food security (FCS) than those that do not grow their own crops.



Conclusions

The escalation of violence stemming from the armed conflict in the province of Cabo Delgado has unleashed an unprecedented humanitarian crisis triggering the massive displacement of approximately one third of its population. In addition to the loss of human life, the conflict is having an impact on the livelihoods and food systems on which hundreds of thousands of people depend.

All facets of food security have been damaged by this disruption in the ability to produce and deliver food to households. First of all, the situation has a direct impact on the communities under attack that must flee from their homes leaving behind their scarce resources and livelihoods. Secondly, it takes a toll on the food systems in host communities, already extremely fragile before the crisis erupted.

Most of the displaced population have sought refuge with family and friends and only a small proportion are staying in

temporary reception centres where they receive humanitarian assistance. State actors are overwhelmed and humanitarian aid workers are on the brink of outstripping their capacity and are unable to access some of the places where people in extreme need are living.

The unprecedented number of internally displaced persons raises important challenges in the host communities that take in IDPs. These include scarce housing, available land to grow basic food crops, sources of employment, social infrastructure (health and education), access to basic services (water and sanitation, waste management) and social and cultural integration. The humanitarian crisis highlights the structural weakness of food systems and livelihoods in host communities.

Both displaced persons and host communities urgently need food, shelter,



protection and basic services. The survival of hundreds of thousands of people today depends on food aid as host households do not have sufficient food reserves.

Against this backdrop of dependency, extortion and abuse must be prevented, especially sexual abuse faced by displaced women in this humanitarian context. Transparent and safe complaint mechanisms must be put in place so that women survivors are compensated and their rights safeguarded. This means that with a view to prevention, humanitarian organizations and government authorities need to invest resources in training and awareness-raising instruments with a feminist approach in order to reverse pre-existing gender dynamics rooted in inequality.

Another cause for concern is the potential tension that could arise between displaced and host populations as they compete for

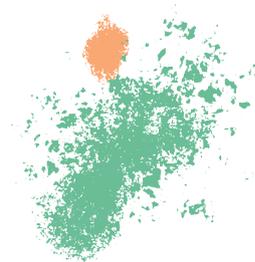
very scarce local resources and outside aid. The results of the survey conducted by Ayuda en Acción in the districts of Ancuabe and Metuge show how host households also suffer from food insecurity, although to a lesser degree. In fact, the main concern expressed by practically all the households surveyed, local and displaced alike, is the scarcity of food.

Violence and food insecurity go hand-in-hand and are mutually reinforcing, thus generating a vicious cycle. The current food crisis in Cabo Delgado is not only a consequence of the armed conflict, but may also be a factor contributing to worsening the conflict. The potential overlapping of several adverse circumstances such as droughts or floods that damage future crops, an increase in food prices and a reduction in humanitarian aid would result in a famine that could destabilize the fragile balance and further exacerbate existing social instability.

Recommendations



Many lives are being saved by the humanitarian response. However, together with local and state authorities, humanitarian and development workers must step up efforts to simultaneously address immediate food needs and, over the medium and long-term, shore up productive capacity, livelihoods and local food markets.



In light of survey results, review of situation reports and interviews with key informants, food security challenges in Cabo Delgado have been identified and must be addressed by means of a comprehensive approach that considers the nexus between humanitarian action, development aid and peace-building.

Over the short term, humanitarian agencies and local and national authorities must:

- **Ensure access to sufficient food** for the population in emergency situations, which includes both displaced and resident populations, preferably (and where possible) through cash assistance and targeted distribution.
- **Provide shelter and basic services** to the most vulnerable households in terms of physical and food insecurity as these IDPs cannot return to their homes and are currently living in settlements that fail to provide even bare minimum living standards.

Over the medium and long term, humanitarian and development agencies must:

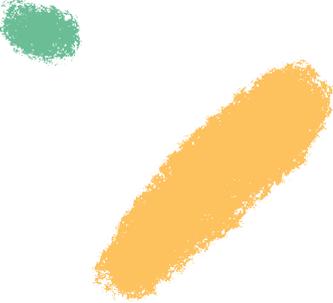
- Promote the **intensive growing of diversified crops** to produce nutritional food for self-consumption and, at a later stage, introduce commercial crops to raise family income levels. This can only be achieved by ensuring access to land

(considering that the minimum area for a family's sustainable production is one hectare) and water, as well as to agricultural inputs and other vital productive resources to boost livelihoods and increase the availability of local food.

- **Reduce dependence** on humanitarian aid by promoting diversified food production by households themselves and by providing opportunities to earn an income.
- Invest in the **development of resilient food systems** so as to be able to resist adverse weather conditions such as heavy rain, cyclones and drought.
- Train people to better **preserve and store** basic grains to increase food reserve capacity.
- Activate/reactivate local **food markets** to facilitate access to a diversity of products. This entails addressing issues such as logistics, storage and sales networks.
- Incorporate information-gathering tools on the **status of food systems and key factors** (environmental, socioeconomic, market, etc.) into food security monitoring and evaluation exercises in order to identify opportunities and challenges when designing of comprehensive interventions adapted to the local situationl.

Methodology



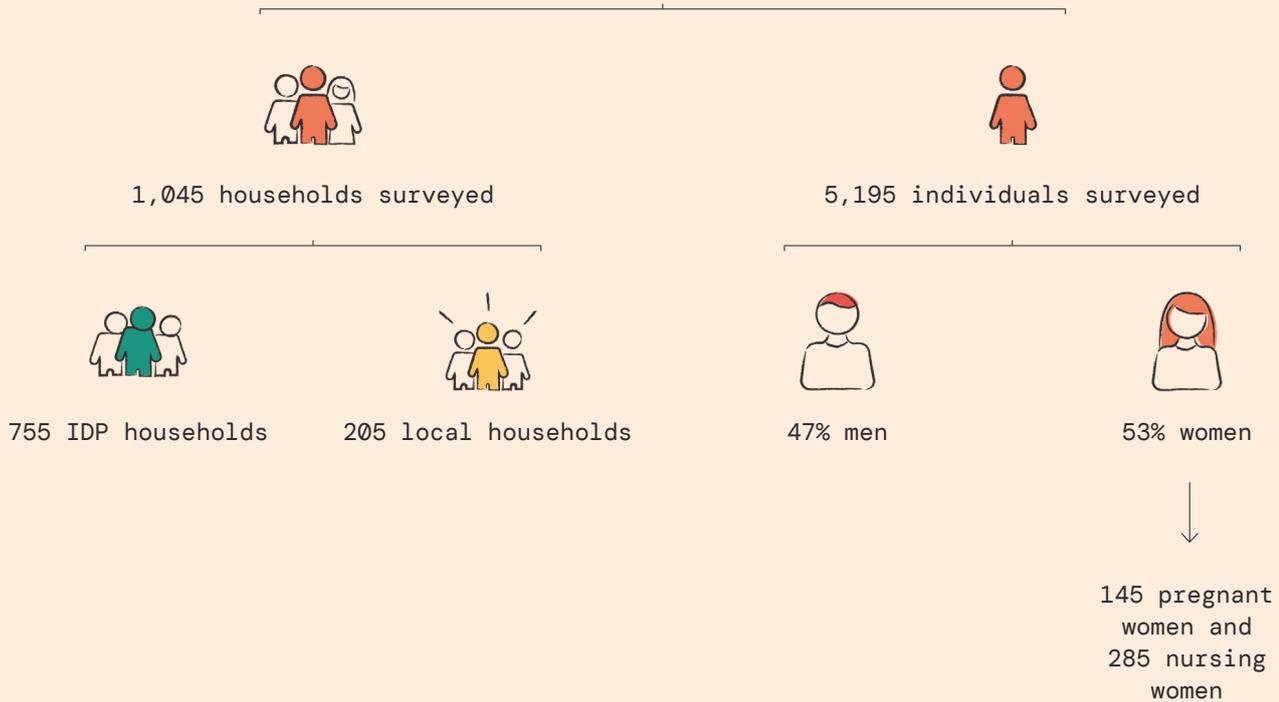


The Ayuda en Acción team in Mozambique and its partners on the ground conducted a survey of more than 1,000 households between December 2020 and January 2021. Within the province, the districts of Metuge and Ancuabe were selected for the study as they were the ones hosting the largest number of IDPs at the time of the survey*.

(*) Today, Metuge continues to be among the main host districts, although according to the most recent reports Ancuabe has been overtaken by the districts of Mueda and Montepuez.



9 locations in 2 districts:
Ancuabe and Metuge



Of the total 1,045 household surveys, 987 were processed in addition to 5,195 surveys of individuals (53% women and 47% men). The sample included 145 pregnant women and 285 women who were nursing.

The population was divided into three large groups: 1) IDP households residing in temporary or fixed camps, 2) IDP households staying with local host families, and 3) local households.

The design of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) survey was based on World Food Programme (WFP) methodology¹. The objective of this type of assessment is to assess the impact of a shock to the food and nutritional security of the affected households and communities

with a view to informing decision-making for humanitarian response.

The localities within each district and the communities and households where the survey was carried out were selected based on criteria including vulnerability, access to basic needs, exposure to risks and accessibility to able to reach them². The objective of the study was to detect needs and shed light on the situation of the communities receiving insufficient services or none at all.

Communities and locations were grouped into sampling units based on uniformity

2. The households selected were ones where people live permanently in the selected community / neighbourhood and have limited or no income, diminished or destroyed livelihoods, are consistently unable to cover their basic needs (food, water, sanitation, protection, access to primary health care, etc.), and who receive no or insufficient humanitarian aid from third parties.

1. World Food Programme (2009) Manual for Emergency Food Security Assessment.



among the factors, and statistical methods were applied to determine the number of households to be surveyed for each group in the sample³. It is important to note that probability sampling was not applied and therefore the findings cannot be extrapolated to the general population but rather shed light on the situation faced by targeted vulnerable households.

A total of 1,045 surveys were conducted, 987 of which were processed. Those that contained inconsistent data, outliers suggesting error, repeat interviews or lacking in key data needed for subsequent analysis were eliminated.

The Food Consumption Score (FCS), along with other variables, was used to analyse households' food security situation. The FCS is a *proxy* indicator of food security status that is commonly used by the WFP to assess dietary diversity and the energy and nutritional value of the foods consumed by households. It is based on how often each type of food is consumed and its relative nutritional value. Each household surveyed receives an FCS score and its food security status is classified as "poor," "borderline," or "acceptable," according to standard cut-off points suggested by the World Food Programme⁴.

The FCS provides essential information on household food consumption, although it

3. Student's t-distribution was used with a standard deviation of 0.5, an error of 5% and a confidence level of 90% for surveys of host households and a 10% error for the 164 households lodged in temporary settlements

4. For further information regarding the FCS, see World Food Programme (2009) Manual for Emergency Food Security Assessment.

More than just the FCS was used to analyse the state of food security among the surveyed population. Other dimensions of food security were used as well as influencing factors such as the availability of food reserves.

does have its limitations. As it is limited to a period of seven days, it is a snapshot of the situation at the time of the survey but does not necessarily reflect the situation over a longer period as these situations can vary depending, for example, on harvest cycles and the distribution of food assistance⁵.

Without the above-described EFSA, a trend analysis cannot be conducted, nor can the post-crisis situation be compared with the previous situation. Another limitation of the FCS is that it does not provide information

on the amount of each type of food consumed, or on possible inequalities in food consumption among household members (such as between children, adults and older adults, or between men and women).

More than just the FCS was used to analyse the state of food security among the surveyed population. Other dimensions of food security were used as well as influencing factors such as the availability of food reserves, survival strategies, sources of income and asset ownership, including land. It was impossible to develop other food availability or nutritional status indicators as this requires data that were not available from the household survey (such as data on food production, market prices, income and anthropometric variables).

5. Here, the survey was conducted between the months of December and January while the harvest seasons are from May to August (for corn, beans, rice, sesame and cassava) and in April / May (for other types of beans and peanuts).

How the Food Consumption Score (FCS) is calculated

In the survey, households are asked about the frequency with which they consumed **nine different food groups during the previous seven days**. Each food group is assigned a score from 0 to 7 which indicates the number of days it was consumed (regardless of whether it was consumed one or more times in the same day).

Each food group is then assigned a relative weight to reflect its **nutritional value**:

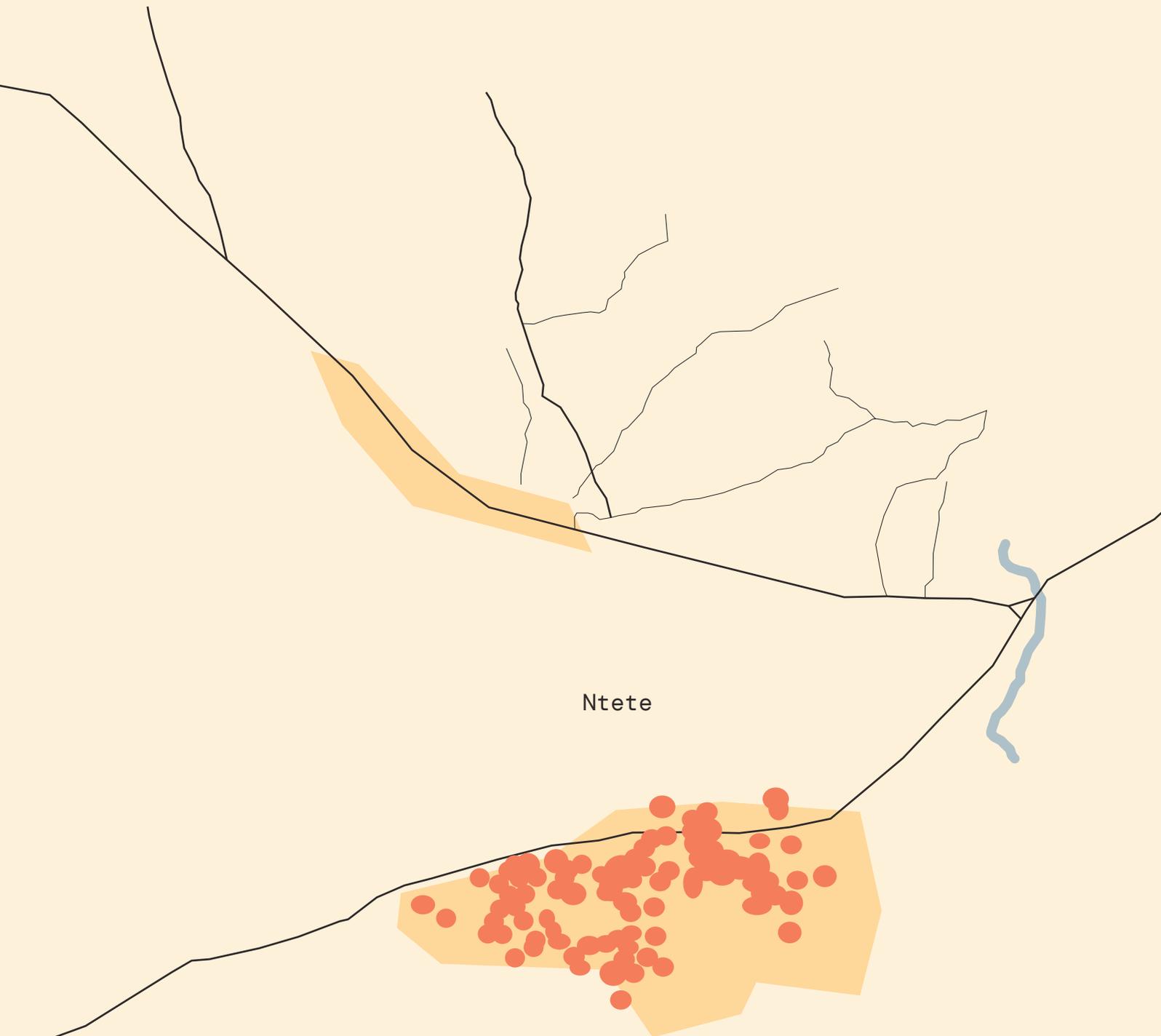
Food group	Relative weight
Corn, wheat, rice, potato, cassava, sweet potato, pasta, bananas, bread or other cereals	2
Beans, peas, peanuts, and walnuts	3
Vegetables	1
Fruit	1
Beef, poultry, eggs, and/or fish	4
Milk, cheese, yoghurt, cream and/or other dairy products	4
Sugars	0.3
Oil	0.5
Sweets (candies, cookies)	0.2

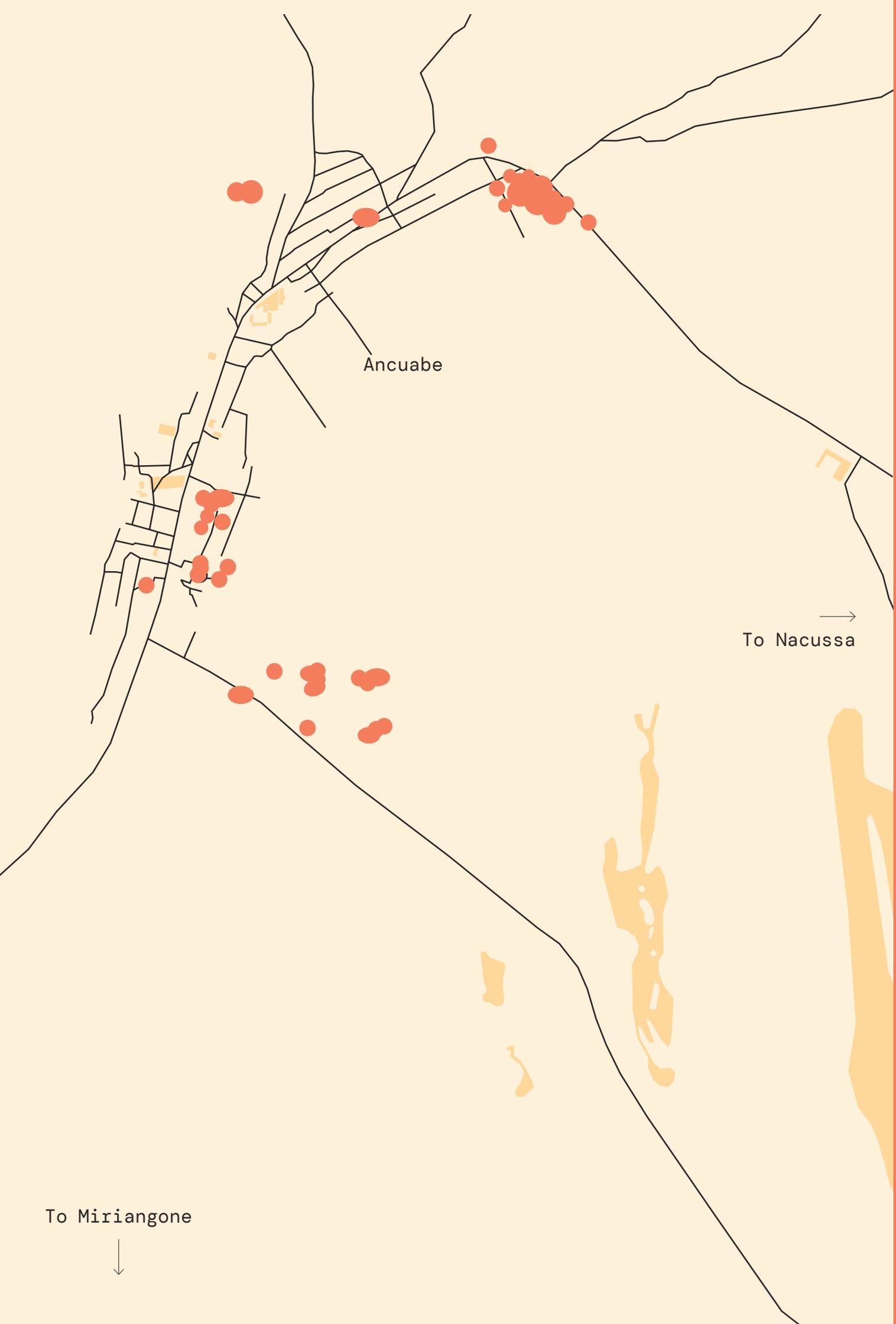
Each household's FCS was calculated by multiplying the frequency with which each food group was consumed by its relative weight. The sum total of all these values provides a composite score. The **maximum household scores is 112**, which means that each of the food groups was consumed every day for the last seven days.

The household score is then compared with predetermined **cut-off points** (adjustable according to the local context), which indicate the food consumption status in the household and, hence, the state of food security. The WFP applies the following cut-off points which fit a wide range of situations:

Food security	FCS
Poor	≤ 21
Borderline	>21 y ≤ 35
Acceptable	>35

Concentration of households surveyed in Ancuabe





58
59

Ancuabe

→
To Nacussa

To Miriangone



Concentration of households surveyed in Ancuabe

Ayuda en Acción

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