

# PROTECTION MONITORING

Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia



**JANUARY – JUNE 2025**

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**COVER PHOTOGRAPH**

*Displaced family rebuilds their life at Corrane IDP site, in Nampula. © UNHCR/Isadora Zoni*

# Methodology

This **Protection Monitoring** report is based on data collected by UNHCR and partner Helpcode from January - June 2025 in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia, Mozambique.

- A total of **9,480 households (HHs)** were interviewed, including displaced people in host communities and sites, and returnees in areas of origin. 61% of respondents were women and 39% were men. The average household size was almost 4.8 people. 46% of respondents were displaced people in IDP sites, 19% were displaced people in host communities, and 35% were returnees in the place of origin. Enumerators conducted the interviews in the local languages, collected data using the KoBo data collection tool, employed a randomized sampling methodology and reached provincial-level household statistical representativity.
- The quantitative data was enriched with qualitative data collected through **72 focus group discussions (FGDs)** with 907 IDP, returnee, and host community members (including women, men, girls, boys, older people and people with disabilities) in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Zambezia and **21 key informant interviews (KIIs)** with IDP, returnee and host community members.

Note that all indicators were disaggregated by age, gender, disability, district of data collection, and district of origin, however these were only included (either as a graph or narrative) if the differences between variables were both significant (10% or greater) and relevant.

<sup>1</sup> Qualitative data was not collected in Niassa due to capacity and logistical limitations.

Displaced people are supported with assistive devices in Corrane IDP site, Nampula © UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

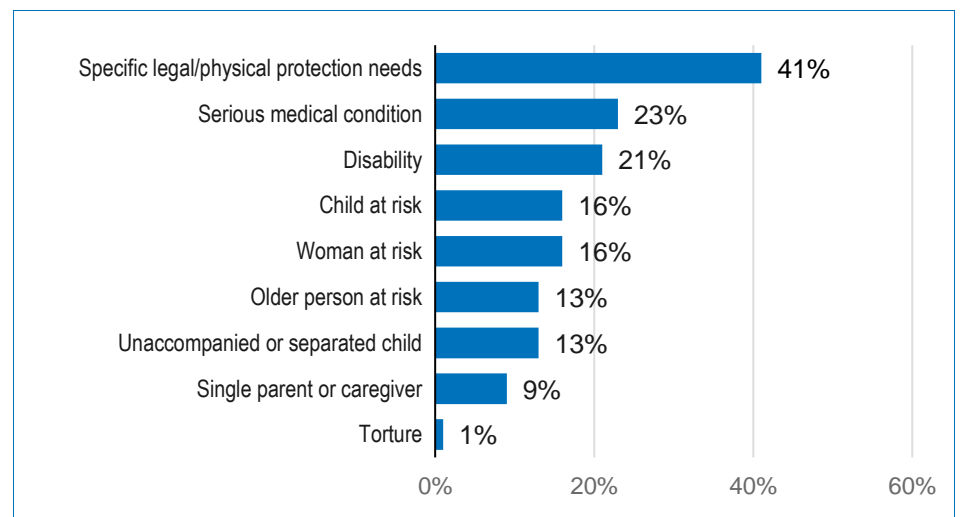


# Analysis

## People with Specific Needs

Overall, **68% of respondents reported having one or more household members with at least one specific need**, mostly “legal and physical protection needs” (primarily related to the lack of civil documentation), serious medical condition and people with disabilities. Households’ specific needs were either caused or exacerbated by displacement and significantly increased their protection risks.

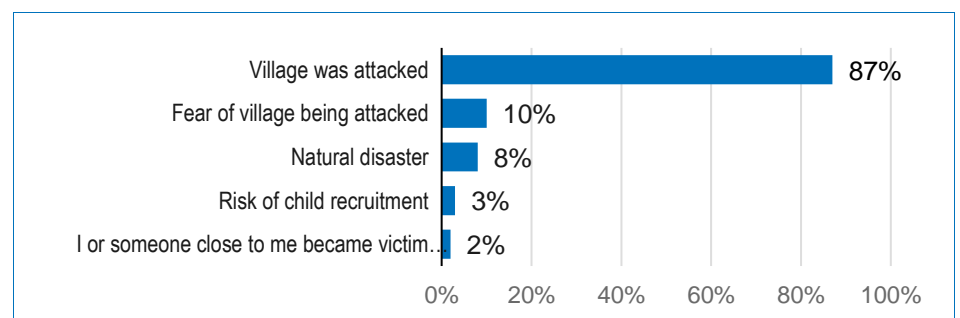
Chart 1. People with Specific Needs



## Reasons for displacement

While most displaced people fled because their village was attacked, a **significant number pre-emptively fled out of fear of imminent attacks**. This demonstrates how the Non-State Armed Group’s (NSAG) mere presence (or rumours of its presence) can displace an entire locality.

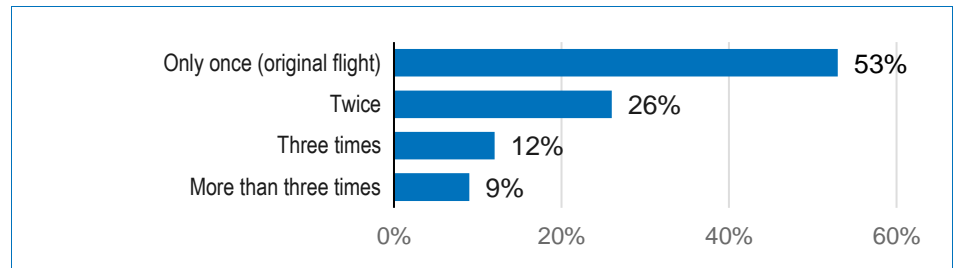
Chart 2. Reasons for displacement



## Times forced to flee

Overall, **around half of displaced people have fled multiple times**, creating new trauma and protection needs each time and concomitantly impeding recovery and reintegration. While many people in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa have fled multiple times, Zambezia stands out, with 84% experiencing only one displacement, mostly due to natural disasters.

Chart 3. Times forced to flee

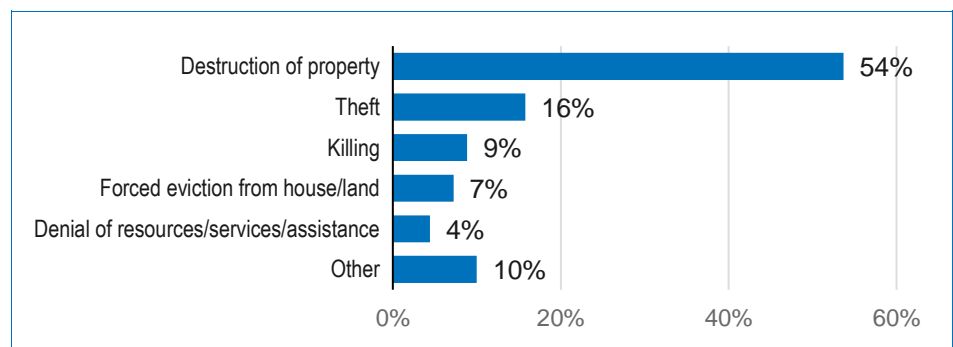


## Protection incidents<sup>2</sup>

During the reporting period, 7% of respondents reported experiencing or witnessing a total of 678 protection incidents.

<sup>2</sup> These protection incident typologies are based on UNHCR's standard typologies but modified for the local context.

Chart 4. Protection incidents



Displaced women receive GBV and PSEA sensitization in Chiure, Cabo Delgado.

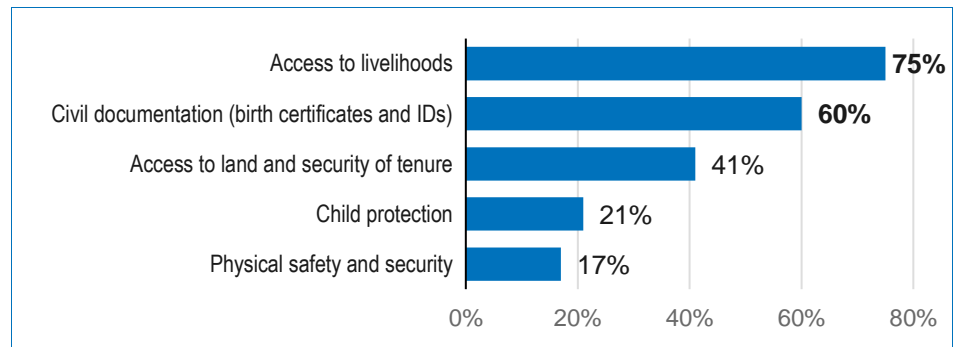
© UNHCR



## Protection needs

Access to livelihoods, civil documentation, and access to land have proven to be among the top reported protection needs over time. Note, however, that community consultations in the first half of 2024 revealed the need for physical safety and security to be more important, before it decreased over subsequent reporting periods until June 2024.

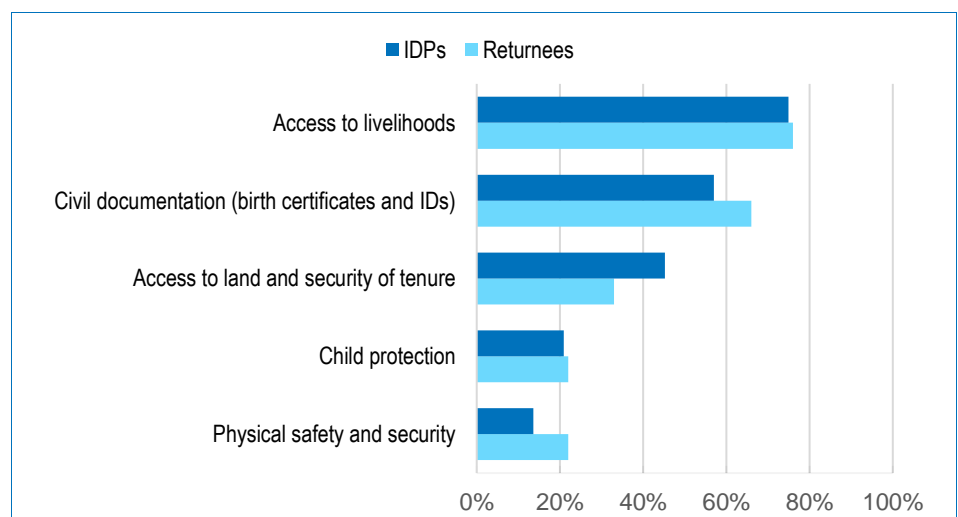
Chart 5. Protection needs (overall)



## IDPs vs. Returnees

While IDPs and returnees are mostly aligned on their top protection needs, **IDPs report a notably higher need for access to land and security of tenure** than returnees.

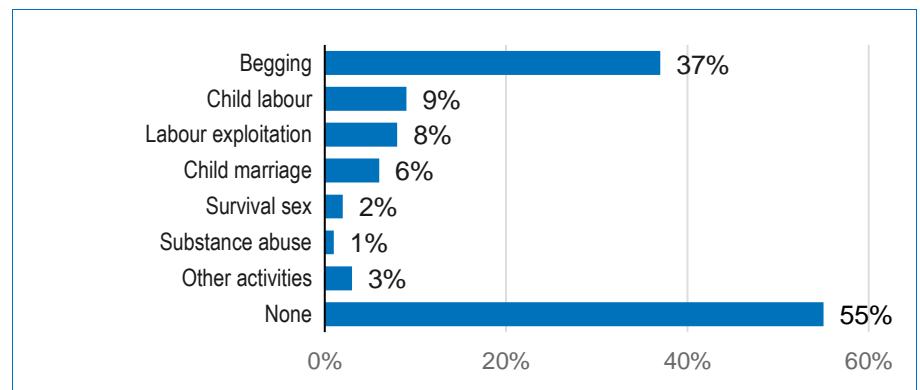
Chart 6. Protection needs (IDPs vs. Returnees)



## Harmful coping mechanisms

While most people report not engaging in harmful coping mechanisms, **more than a third** report begging, working in exchange for assistance, sending their children to work instead of studying, engaging in survival sex and sending their child daughters to marry in order to be able to have enough to eat, have a roof over their heads and cover the other basic necessities of life.

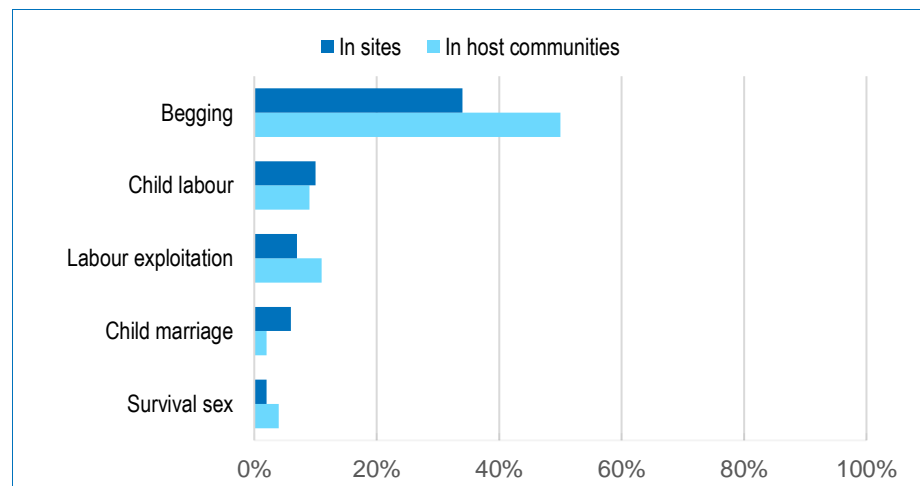
Chart 7. Harmful coping mechanisms (overall)



## IDPs in sites vs. IDPs in host communities

**IDPs in host communities report significantly higher engagement in harmful coping mechanisms (61%)** than those in sites (40%). This could be due to the fact that begging in an IDP site does not bear results given that all are in the same dire situation, as well as the fact that much assistance distribution is concentrated in sites.

Chart 8. Harmful coping mechanisms (IDPs in site vs. IDPs in host communities)

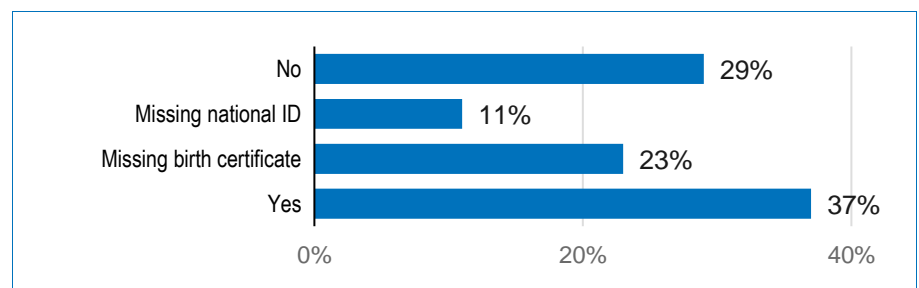


## Civil documentation

### Possession of civil documentation

Overall, **63% of respondents are missing some or all documentation**. FGDs and KIIs reveal mixed experiences in obtaining or renewing civil documentation. Many IDPs appreciated the support received from mobile brigades offering free documentation services shortly after displacement. However, others continue to face significant barriers, including **high costs, long distances to civil registry offices, limited outreach and lack of clear information**. The absence of permanent registration points in displacement sites, combined with physical and financial constraints, particularly affects people with disabilities, older persons, and those without family support. While birth certificates are a prerequisite to acquiring national IDs, it is possible that people forced to flee may have left their birth certificate behind (which is less common to carry) but still possess their national ID, explaining why a higher proportion of respondents reported missing their birth certificate than their national ID.

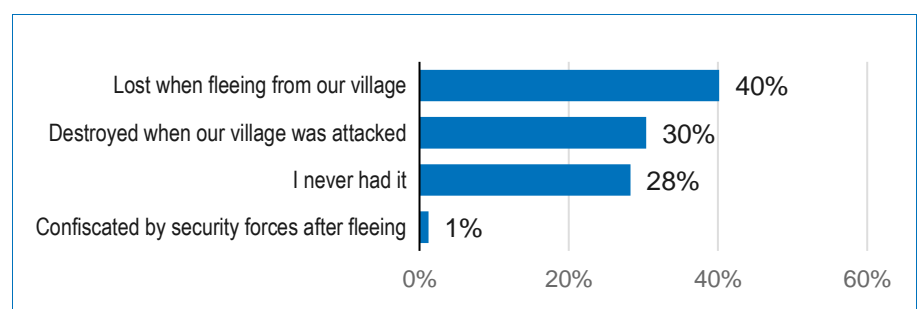
Chart 9. Possession of civil documentation



### Reason for not having civil documentation

Among those missing civil documentation, **around a third never had it while two thirds lost it due to the conflict** (either leaving it behind when their village was attacked or losing it during flight).

Chart 10. Reason for not having civil documentation



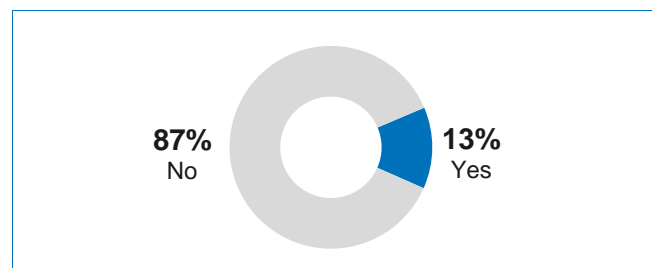
## Housing, Land and Property

### Possession of land title (DUAT)

Most respondents (87%) lack a land title (DUAT) in the place of origin<sup>3</sup>, however it is important to note that this is not due to the conflict, but rather a widespread lack of land tenure security pre-dating the conflict. Overall, **only 13% report having a DUAT**. Without a DUAT, people's land rights remain insecure, especially regarding agricultural land upon which many depend for livelihoods, but also the land upon which their houses are built, and they are at perpetual risk of land violations such as illegal occupation, illegal eviction, illegal expropriation, and land-grabbing. DUATs, whether individual or collective, support the title holder to reach a durable solution. And while widespread lack of land tenure security pre-dates the conflict, untitled land abandoned by those who have fled is more likely to be illegally occupied or grabbed in their absence, leaving them without land to return to.

<sup>3</sup> This refers to IDPs' and returnees' DUATS only in the place of origin, given that very few IDPs have DUATS in the place of displacement.

Chart 11. Possession of land title (DUAT)



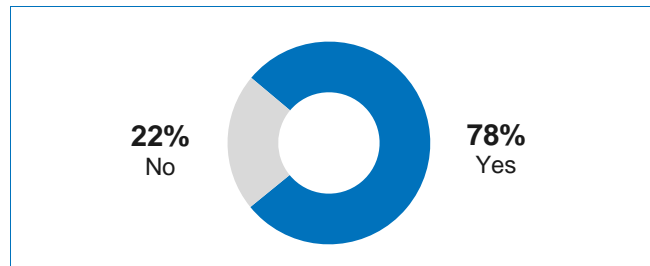
### Access to agricultural land

Overall, around a fifth of respondents do not have access to agricultural land.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, given the figure above (87% of respondents lacking DUATs), most land that people have access to does not have secure tenure, therefore it is important to **distinguish between access to land and secure access to land**.

FGDs and KIIs reinforce that access to agricultural land remains a serious challenge for IDPs. Many are unable to afford land for purchase or rent, relying instead on temporary arrangements that lack security of tenure. Reports show land being reclaimed by owners mid-season or shared under exploitative terms. Some IDPs resort to farming in their areas of origin while they are still displaced (engaging in pendular movements), requiring long and exhausting commutes, and exposing them to security risks.

<sup>4</sup> This number is derived from the combination of IDP responses (referring to access to land in the **place of displacement**) and returnee responses (referring to access to land in the **place of origin**).

Chart 12. Access to agricultural land



*Displaced man has small garden which helps him provide food for his family in Pemba, Cabo Delgado. © UNHCR/Isadora Zoni*



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