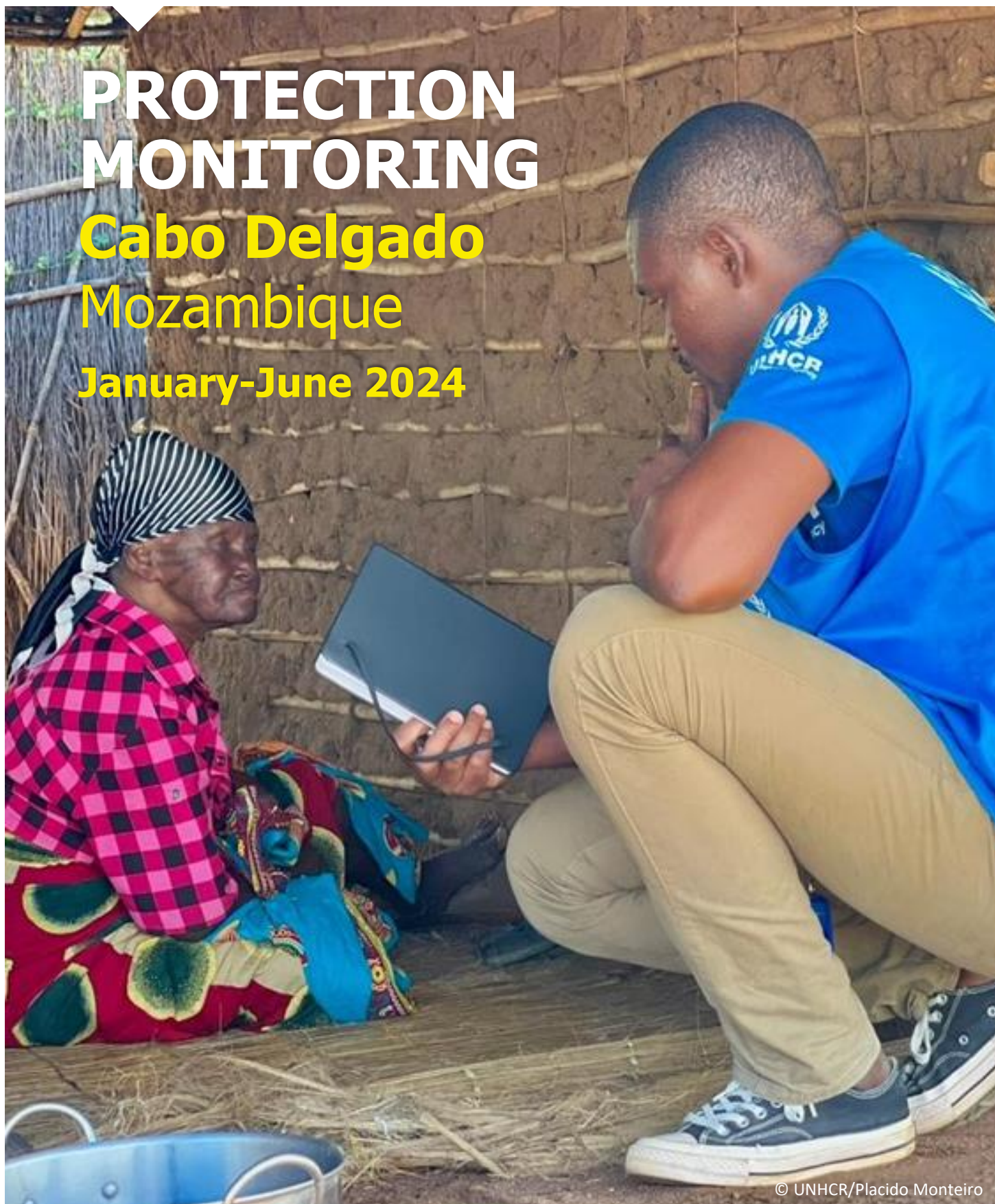


PROTECTION MONITORING

**Cabo Delgado
Mozambique**

January-June 2024



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Figure 1 UNHCR protection assessment and identification of vulnerable IDPs in Chiure, March 2024

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

As a **protection-mandated agency**, monitoring the protection environment is at the core of UNHCR's responsibilities. UNHCR **Protection Monitoring** in Cabo Delgado provides key information to support understanding the ever-evolving situation of **internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, and other affected people**.

This report presents data on **violations of rights, protection risks and needs, protection trends, and the priorities of people affected by the conflict in Cabo Delgado**. Analyzing data collected in the first half of 2024, this report aims to:

- **Provide Government bodies, donors, and humanitarian and development actors with valuable insights to inform their planning, actions, and decision-making.**
- **Shape targeted advocacy strategies and messaging to enhance the protection environment.**

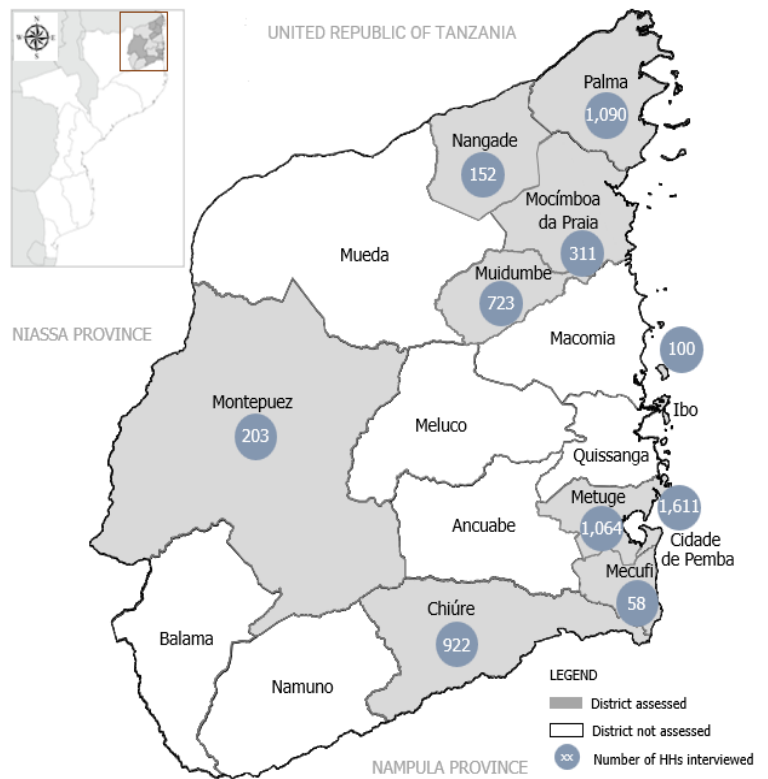
Since 2017, Cabo Delgado has suffered ongoing attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), leading to the displacement of over a million people. According to the latest DTM¹, the province currently has 541,400 displaced persons and 553,265 returnees.

While advancing long-term solutions for those in protracted situations is crucial, new displacements continue to occur, such as the Chiure attacks in early 2024 that displaced over 90,000 people².

This report consolidates data collected by **UNHCR**, together with **Helpcode**, in the first semester of 2024 regarding the main protection risks and needs faced by affected people.

From January to June, quantitative interviews were conducted with **6,234 households** (representing 31,170 individuals) in Chiure, Pemba, Ibo, Mecufi, Metuge, Mocimboa da Praia, Montepuez, Muidumbe, Nangade, and Palma districts. Additionally, qualitative data was collected through **98 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** with around 1,300 participants, and **24 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)**.

Protection Monitoring data collection (January - June 2024)



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

¹ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mozambique — Mobility Tracking Assessment in Northern Mozambique, Round 21, July 2024. Available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-mobility-tracking-assessment-northern-mozambique-round-21-july-2024>.

² International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mozambique — Movement Alert Report 103 (08 February - 03 March 2024), Available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mozambique-movement-alert-report-103-08feb-03mar-2024>.

METHODOLOGY

Protection Monitoring is based on both quantitative and qualitative community consultations conducted in Cabo Delgado from **January to June 2024**. The quantitative component relied on household level interviews while the qualitative component relied on FGDs and KIIs with IDPs, returnees, and host community members. The KoBo data collection tool was utilized, and all interviews were conducted in the local languages.

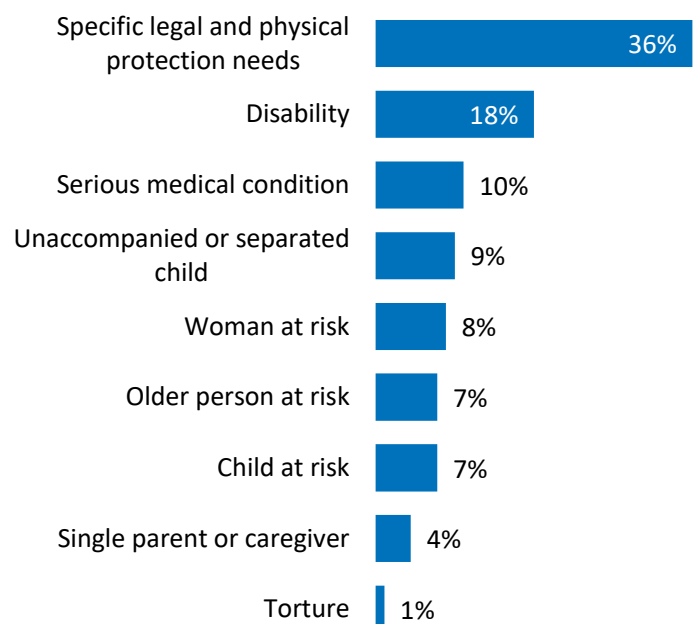
The **6,234 household interviews** were conducted with IDPs residing in both sites (37%) and host communities (35%), and returnees in their places of origin (29%). Around 61% of respondents were women and 39% were men. Approximately 92% were aged 18 to 59, while 8% were 60 or older. The average household size was five people. Respondents were selected utilizing a randomized sampling approach, and statistical representativity was reached.

The **98 FGDs** were divided among various age, gender, and diversity groups in IDP, returnee, and host communities, with participants broken down as follows: boys 12-17 years old (12%); girls 12-17 years old (14%), men 18-59 years old (13%); women 18-59 years old (17%); older people 60+ years old (27%); and people with disabilities of all ages (17%). The **24 KIIs** were held with IDP, returnee, and host community leaders and other influential community figures.

PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

Approximately 87% of respondents reported having one or more individuals with at least one specific need in their households. The breakdown of these needs is as follows:

- **Specific legal and physical protection needs:** 36%, primarily related to the lack of civil documentation.
- **People with disabilities:** 18%, including physical, visual, auditory, speech, and developmental disabilities. Among these:
 - 22% reported that they were able to access specialized services for their family member(s) with a disability;
 - 57% reported that they were able to but that it was not sufficient, as sometimes case management does not cover all the needs;
 - 21% reported that they were not able to access services.
- **Unaccompanied or separated children:** 9%, including orphaned children.
- **Women at risk:** 8%, including single mothers and pregnant women.
- **Older people at risk:** 7%, including those needing daily care, single older persons, and those caring for young children alone.
- **Children at risk:** 7%, including those with teenage pregnancies, child marriages, child-headed households, and serious medical conditions.
- **Torture survivors:** 1%, including those traumatized by physical and psychological torture.



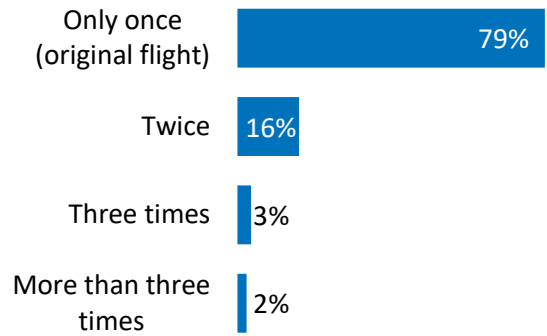
TIMES FORCED TO FLEE

Most respondents fled only once (original flight). Those who were forced to flee multiple times did so due to subsequent attacks by NSAGs in the areas where they had initially sought refuge. Such repeated attacks, particularly in areas previously considered safe, contribute to a growing sense among affected people that no place is secure, heightening trauma and hindering efforts to find durable solutions.

In the first semester of 2024, mass displacements took place in Macomia, Metuge, and Chiure.

Between February 8 and March 3, 2024, a series of attacks by NSAGs in Chiure district resulted in approximately 18,248 families (91,239 people) fleeing from the administrative posts of Chiure Velho, Mazeze, and Ocuca. As a result, many sought protection in displacement sites and host communities within Chiure district, as well as in Erati district in Nampula province. While the majority of the IDPs have since returned to their places of origin, around 8,200 families (41,000 people) remain in host communities and IDP sites near Chiure Sede.³

Times forced to flee?



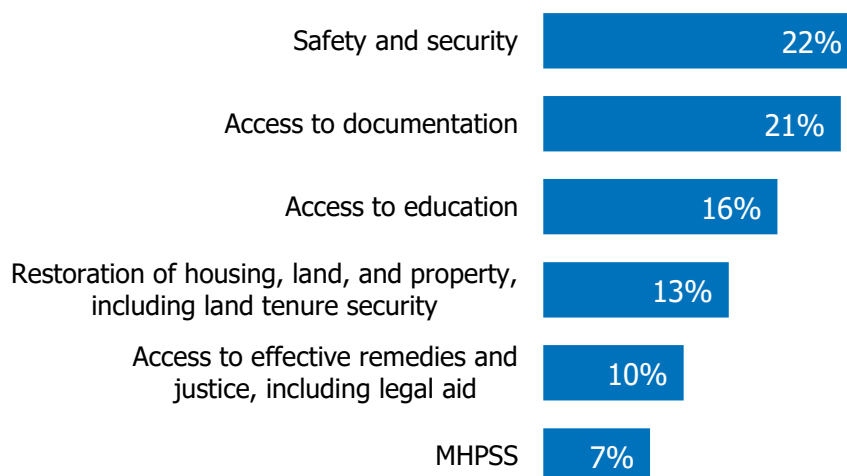
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Figure 2 Forced displacement in Chiure district following fresh NSAG attacks in February 2024

³ Mozambique Access Snapshot - Cabo Delgado Province - February 2024 | EN/PT | OCHA (unocha.org)

PROTECTION NEEDS

The top reported protection need was **safety and security** (22%), most highly reported in Chiure, Metuge, Mocimboa da Praia, and Palma districts. Note that despite the efforts of various stakeholders supporting **access to documentation**, it remained as the second highest reported protection need (21%), followed by access to education (16%); access to HLP, including land tenure security (13%); access to effective remedies and justice, including legal assistance (10%); and MHPSS (7%).



PROTECTION INCIDENTS

Protection incidents: During the reporting period, respondents reported experiencing or witnessing a total of 460 human rights violations.

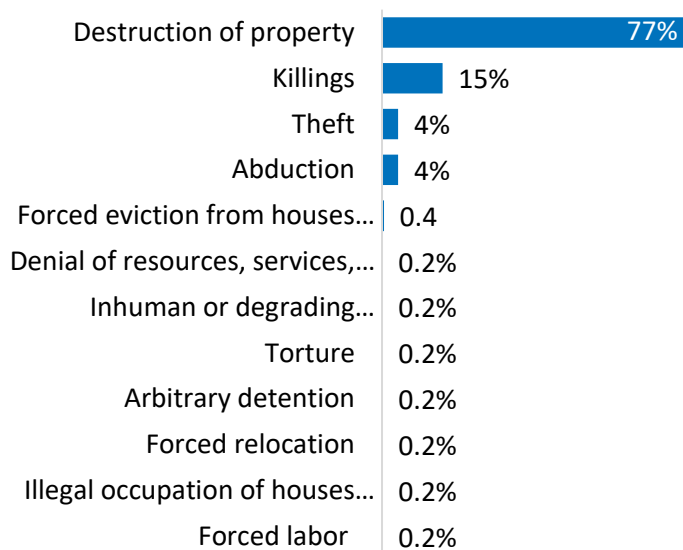
Incident type: The top three reported incidents were destruction of property (77%), killings (15%), and theft (4%) and abduction (4%), all of which occurred in the respondents' places of origin. Less frequently reported incidents were forced eviction from houses or land (0.4%), denial of resources, services, or assistance (0.2%), inhuman or degrading treatment (0.2%), torture (0.2%), arbitrary detention (0.2%), forced relocation (0.2%), illegal occupation of houses or land (0.2%), and forced labor (0.2%).

Perpetrator type: The perpetrators of the incidents were the Non-State Armed Groups, accounting for 96%. The remaining 4% were allegedly committed by husband/partners, local militias, and unknown perpetrators, among others.

Incident location: Most incidents occurred in Chiure (46%), followed by Metuge (38%) and Macomia (7%).

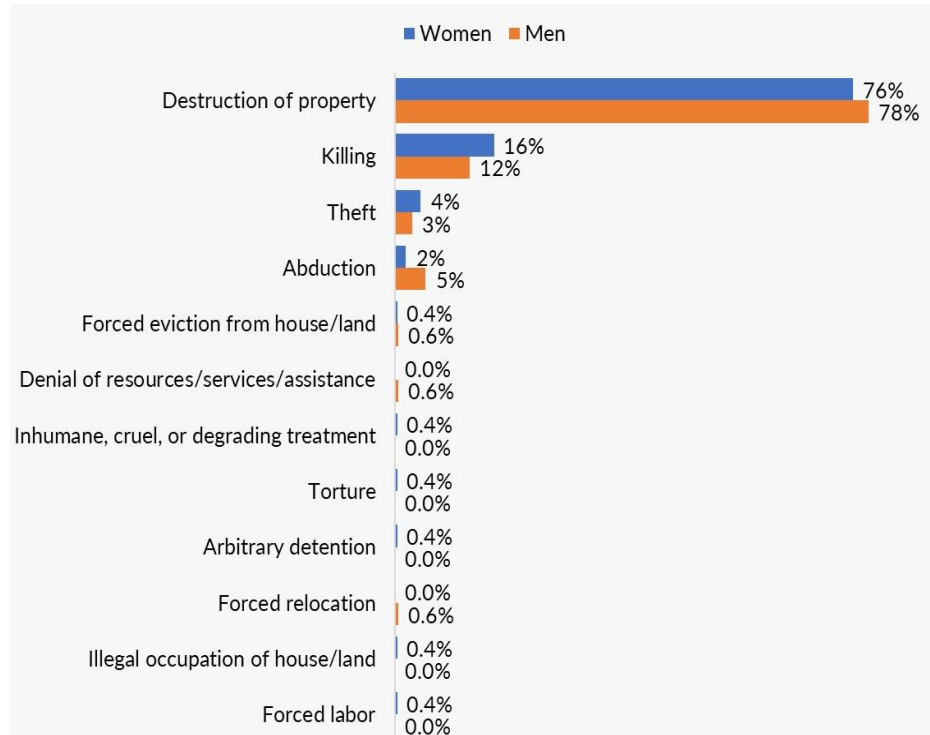
Age of those affected by the incidents: In total, 9% were aged between 18 and 59 years, 42% were under 18, and 5% were over 60. The age of 3% of the casualties was unknown.

Protection incidents in Cabo Delgado January - June 2024



Gender of those affected by the incidents:

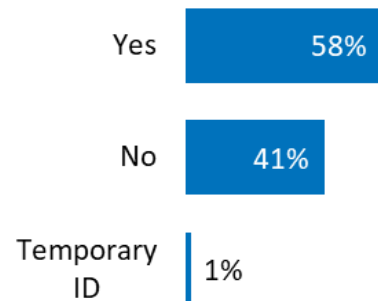
Destruction of property and abduction affect more men than women. However, women are more affected by killing, theft, forced eviction, inhumane, cruel or degrading treatment, arbitrary detention, torture, illegal occupation of house/land, and forced labor.



CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

Around 58% of respondents, including IDPs and returnees, reported having civil documentation, while 1% had temporary IDs. However, around **41% indicated they did not possess any form of civil documentation**. The districts of Chiure, Mecufi, Metuge, Muidumbe, and Nangade had a higher proportion of respondents without documentation compared to other areas. Considering the current numbers of 541,400 returnees and 553,265 IDPs, and the fact that 41% lack civil documentation, it can be inferred that **approximately 448,808 individuals are still in need of civil documentation**. Most respondents without documentation, **83%**, reported that their documents were **lost or destroyed when they fled**, while **17%** stated they **had never had civil documentation**.

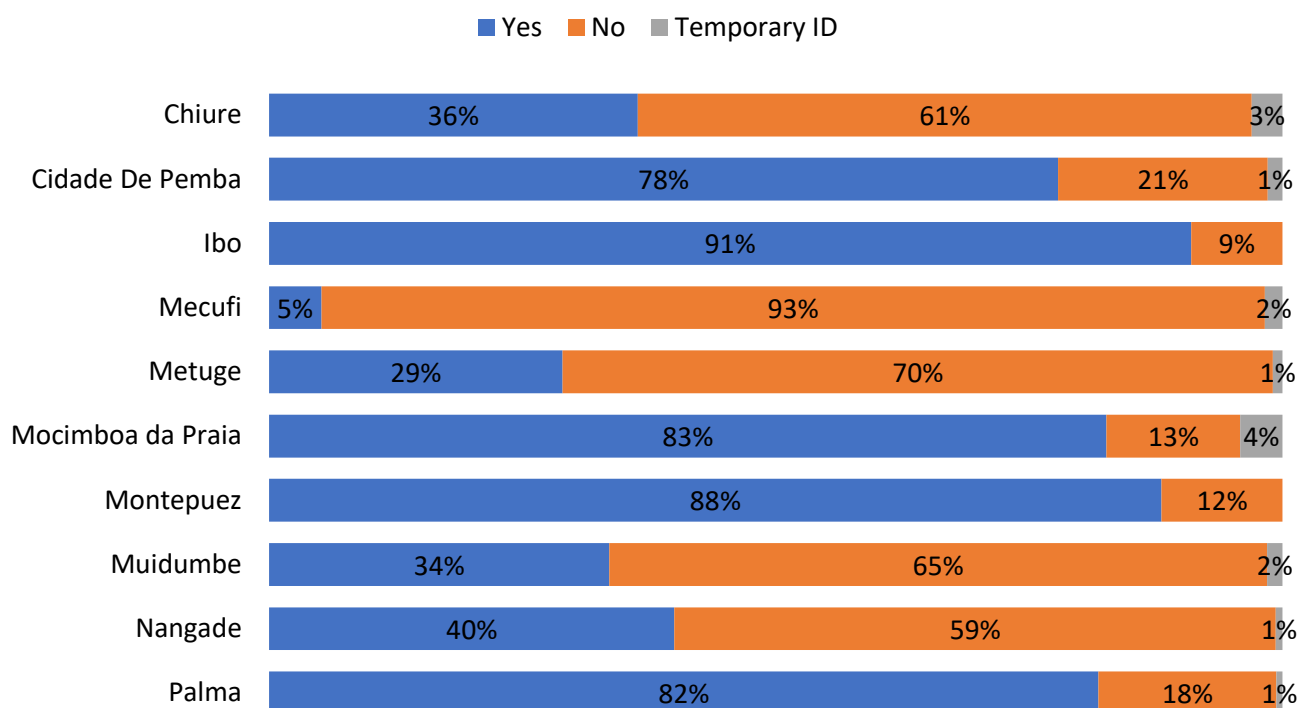
Civil documentation



When broken down by gender, substantially **more women lack civil documentation (58%) than men (42%)**.

Lack of civil documentation disaggregated by gender	
Women	Men
58%	42%

When broken down by district, **Mecufi, Metuge, Muidumbe, Chiure, and Nangade had the most respondents lacking civil documentation**.



During FGDs with affected communities, several protection issues related to civil documentation were highlighted. **Communities emphasized the need for more support in obtaining birth certificates**, noting that children above five years old are often charged fees for acquiring these documents. Most IDPs and returnees stated that the **lack of documentation puts them in a vulnerable position**, particularly when they are going through security checkpoints between towns, or even moving within their own neighborhoods. Both IDPs and returnees reported **difficulties in securing employment, accessing education, and working in local markets** due to the absence of proper documentation. For those who do not have a birth certificate, it is impossible for them to acquire an ID card (as the birth certificate is a prerequisite). The main challenges faced by affected communities in obtaining a new document are fee costs, the length of the procedure, and the distance of Government service providers from where the IDPs and returnees live.

FGDs with men and women across nearly all districts revealed that the primary reason for not possessing documents was that they had to flee during the conflict, leaving their documents behind. Moreover, a considerable number of individuals lack the financial means to reacquire these documents.

“Most of the people here are undocumented. A person is not safe due to lack of documents, she is always afraid of being caught by the police”.

--Returnee in Muidumbe district

WOMEN & GIRLS: ACCESS TO SERVICES AND PARTICIPATION

Overall, **86% of respondents reported that women and girls have safe access to resources and services within the community**, with little difference when broken down by gender. However, in the districts of Pemba and Mecufi, a higher proportion of respondents indicated that women and girls do not feel safe accessing resources and services compared to other districts.

Regarding participation, **86% of respondents stated that women and girls in the community are involved in decision-making processes related to them**, with little difference when broken down by gender. However, in Pemba (26%) and Montepuez (56%), many respondents noted that women and girls are not allowed to participate in community decision-making.

FGDs with girls revealed that they are often excluded from decision-making processes in some districts, as they are perceived as too young. Instead, their mothers participate in community decision-making on their behalf.



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Figure 3 FGD session with IDP women in Pemba, April 2024

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

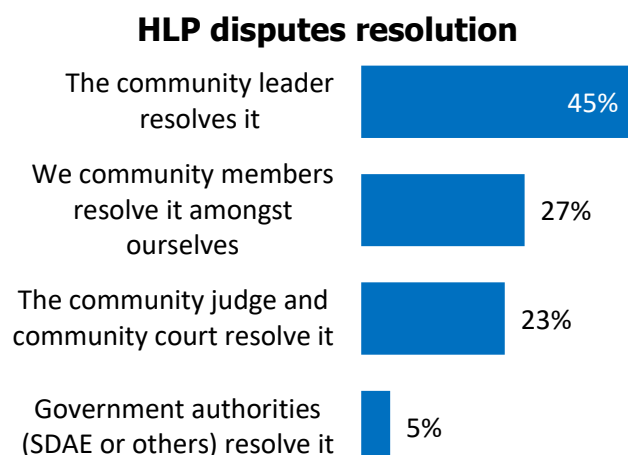


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Figure 4 HLP discussion with IDPs in Chiure, March 2024

Land title in place of displacement: A total of 96% of respondents indicated they do not have a land title (DUAT) in their place of displacement. The need is particularly acute in the district of Metuge, where 99% of respondents reported not having a land title. The primary reason given for not having a DUAT was a lack of knowledge on how to acquire one, cited by 81% of respondents. This issue is especially prevalent among IDPs in host communities, where 90% of respondents reported not knowing the process for obtaining a DUAT. These findings highlight the need for programs that raise community awareness about Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights and the process of acquiring land titles. It is also important to note that the lack of DUAT existed even before the onset of the conflict.

Resolution of HLP disputes: Some 45% of respondents indicated that HLP disputes are resolved by the community leaders, while 27% reported resolution by the community members themselves and 23% by community courts. Only 5% indicated that HLP disputes are resolved through government support or an institution, such as the District Service for Economic Activities (SDAE). The incidence of HLP disputes mediated by community leaders are highest in the districts of Muidumbe (62%) and Chiure (55%).



Agricultural land:

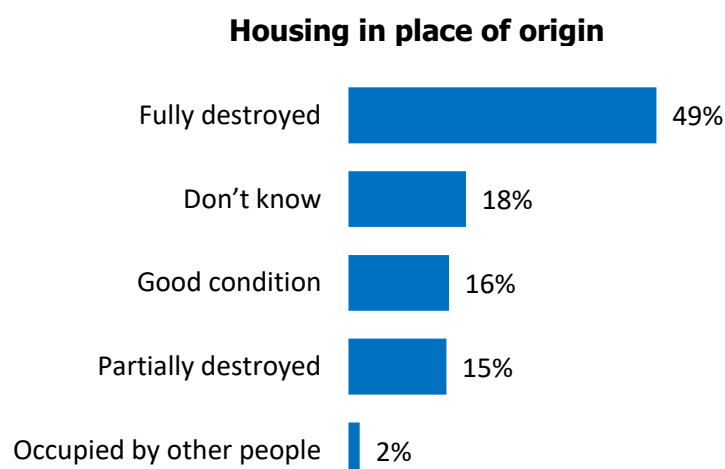
The top five districts where lack of land for agricultural purposes is most prevalent are: Mocimboa da Praia (99%) Pemba (92%), Mecufi (84%), Chiure (73%) and Metuge (73%). Among those who do have agricultural land, 38% reported that it was allocated by host community leaders, 25% by host community families, 23% by friends or family, and 13% by the Government. Ibo has the highest proportion of IDPs fearing eviction from their agricultural land (14%), followed by Pemba (11%) and Nangade (6%). FGDs across age, gender, and diversity groups in Nangade and other districts, including Montepuez, Chiure, and Pemba, indicate that IDPs are concerned about the risk of eviction.

Regarding agricultural land in the place of origin, 57% of respondents reported that their land is abandoned or overgrown, 22% were unsure, 18% stated it is in good condition, and 2% noted it is being used by others. Women represent a higher percentage of those with abandoned/overgrown agricultural land (62%) compared to men (50%). Older respondents also have a higher rate of abandoned/overgrown land (69%) compared to younger respondents (59%).

Muidumbe and Nangade have the highest rates of IDPs with abandoned/overgrown agricultural land at 90% each, followed by Mocimboa da Praia (86%) and Ibo (83%). Concerns over security affecting access to agricultural land are expressed by 62% of IDPs, with Nangade (90%) and Muidumbe (85%) showing the highest levels of concern.

Housing in the place of origin:

In terms of housing in the place of origin, approximately 94% of respondents reported having a house, while 6% did not. Among those with houses, 49% indicated that their homes are fully destroyed, 18% were unsure of the condition, 16% stated their homes are in good condition, 15% reported partial destruction, and 2% mentioned that their houses are occupied by others.



Women constitute the majority of those with completely destroyed houses, at 52%, compared to 42% of men. The district of Ibo has the highest proportion of IDPs with destroyed houses at 86%, followed by Mocimboa da Praia (66%), Nangade (59%), Muidumbe (54%), and Pemba (52%).

Only 4% of returnees reported having a DUAT in their place of origin, while the majority (96%) do not. The highest percentages of returnees without DUATs are in Palma and Muidumbe (99%) and Nangade (96%), followed by Mocimboa da Praia (62%). The primary reason for lacking a DUAT, cited by 98% of respondents, is a lack of knowledge on how to acquire one.



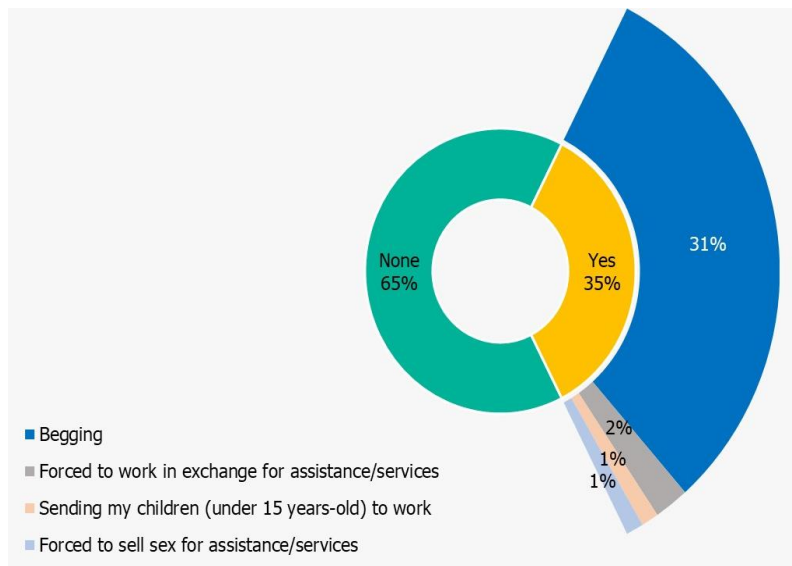
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Figure 6 HLP awareness session with returnees in Mocimboa da Praia

HARMFUL COPING MECHANISMS

Overall, **35% of IDPs and returnees reported being forced to engage in harmful coping mechanisms to be able to survive**. 31% of respondents reported engaging in begging, 2% report being forced to work in exchange for assistance/services, 1% report sending their children (under age 15) to work, and 1% report selling sex in exchange for assistance/ services. It's highly probable that the latter three are significantly underreported, given possible shame associated with such activities and taboos around reporting them.

During FGDs, returnees and IDPs mentioned that they survive thanks to humanitarian assistance, help from family members or having access to land.



UNHCR is grateful for the generous support from its donors in 2024

In collaboration with



PROTECTION MONITORING

Cabo Delgado Mozambique

January 2024 – June 2024



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