



**Total displacement as of 01 March 2023**

**45,957** individuals  
Displaced in Erati, Nampula

**Disaggregation**

**7,353** adult men      **15,625** boys  
**10,111** women      **12,868** girls

**Vulnerable persons identified**

**249** pregnant women      **79** unaccompanied & separated children  
**419** elderly  
**60** people with a disability

*Data sources:*

- 1) CENOE/INGD, 2024
- 2) Joint Rapid Protection Needs Assessment - Protection Working Group, Nampula (February 24, 2024)

**CONTEXT**

Erati, with Namapa as its Sede (center) is one of the districts of Nampula province. According to the 2017 Census, the district has 387,713 inhabitants in an area of 5,773 km<sup>2</sup>, which results in a population density of 67 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. The district is bordering Chiure district of Cabo Delgado Province. Following the Non-state Armed Groups (NSAGs) attacks on Mazeze that started earlier in 2024 and continued until 25 February, affected the normal living condition of the civilian population in a total number 27 villages of Chiure district Cabo Delgado Province. As reported, the major affected villages are Mazeze, Okua, Magaia, Ntonhane, Maraea, Najane, Suire, Napala. On 20<sup>th</sup>, and later, on 24 and 25 February 2024, when the NSAG attacked the mentioned villages, particularly Mazeze, Okua and Magaia massive displacement and arrival of IDPs reported to Namapa and Alua administrative posts of Erati district.

In addition to the old IDP caseload, reported to be around 5000 persons and settled in Corrane, the district authorities estimates 45,957 new IDPs (9,912 families) in the area, while registration of new arrivals continues in Muwanona primary school. They also stated that majority of the IDPs are spread in host communities, especially in Praca 21 de Abril and Odinepa villages and Alua administrative post while around 500 IDPs are staying in Nacusha primary school. Furthermore, it is reported that the NSAG abducted an unknown number of men possibility for recruitment into the NSAG, whereas unknown number of children and older persons drowned in Lurio river while trying to cross it. Unconfirmed number of individuals lost their lives during the attacks. In Namapa, members of 30 families approached the police for support to trace their children. The family members assume that their children might have been drowned in the river Lurio and or abducted by NSAG. Allegedly, around 500 public and private infrastructures including houses, local markets, churches and GoM institutions were destroyed.

In Erati, education teaching-learning programme has been affected in 6 schools due to the ongoing influx of IDPs into the district (one of them used as registration center, second one for temporary accommodation of IDPs, third one occupied by the military). Three other schools stopped functioning due to the changing security environment and unwillingness of the parents to send their children to school. Rumors of disappearing children, insecurity in the areas and deployment of military forces resulted in some of the parents' decision not to send their children to schools.

The GoM deployed military forces from Nacala port and Nampula to heighten the protection of the civilians and to counter possible NSAG attacks at border areas of Erati district. In this respect a curfew has been enforced in the district from 9 pm to 5 am, which has affected the mobility and regular activities of the host communities. Most of the villages attacked in Chiure are close to Namapa and other areas of displacement of IDPs.



Photo 1: The displaced community in Namapa sede.

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Following a planning meeting of **Protection Working Group (PWG)**, on 24–25 February 2024, the Protection partners participated in an inter-agency rapid needs assessment mission in the areas of displacement. During the mission, partners conducted focus group discussions, key informant and individual interviews with the IDPs of different age and gender and influential individuals, met with the partners on the ground, the local authorities and INGD in Namapa Sede. The team also used observation methodology to understand the protection needs of the displaced population. Reportedly, the new displacement to Erati stretched the existing resources of the local authorities and humanitarian agencies/aid organizations that have already scaled down their programs due to financial constraints.

### IMMEDIATE PROTECTION RISKS

**Safety and security:** The IDPs feel safe at the Nacusha school, since it is closer to the police post. However, expressed concerns that the classrooms are overcrowded, lack lights and separation based on gender. On average, 100 persons are living in one classroom, which expose women and girls to high risks of GBV. This situation has created condition for possible outbreak of transmittable diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, conjunctivitis and typhoid. The military personnel are deployed for protection of civilians due to insecurity in the border areas of Erati, Nampula province and Chiure, Cabo Delgado province. In case of any confrontation between the deployed forces and NSAG could subject the life of IDPs and local population at risk. Risks of crocodile and snake attacks in the rivers were reported for women, girls and children when they go for bathing and to the bush to collect firewood. Some of the IDPs stated that any land allocation for their settlement should be far from the border areas probably to be allocated in Alua, Nacaroa areas or as stated earlier by the authorities in areas around Corrane IDP settlement.

*“I am alone now. I lost four of my children in the recent attack, I am remaining only with two children, it is hard to come to terms and life is not making meaning to me at this transit center”*  
**reported a woman at Nacusha temporary accommodation center.**

*“They beheaded my son. He was my only son. I couldn’t bury him because of the insecurity situation in the village. I left his body in the bush. When will this end?”* **shared by one of the women at Nacusha temporary accommodation center.**

**Mental health and psychological wellbeing:** consultations with the IDPs revealed that some of them lost immediate family members in the villages that were attacked while others fled due to fear of attack from NSAG to different directions even though their villages had not been attacked. The IDPs reported traumatic experiences, signs of distress, and looked numb and in distraught conditions. Some reported witnessing the killing of their close family members, and the destruction of properties. The families whose close members were killed, abducted and drowned are the most traumatized individuals who needs immediate support.



Photo 2: Focus group discussion with the displaced women and girls at EPC Nacusha

@PWG Nampula

Provision of MHPSS was not observed or reported during the mission neither by the local authorities nor by aid agencies. Reportedly, there is only one psychologist and one psychiatric technician at the district health centre.

**Limitation in accessing education facilities:** Since the start of the displacement on 20 February, around 13,891 students have been deprived of continuation of their education in the IDPs hosting areas. If solutions are not found for the relocation of IDPs, change of the location of registration center and removal of the military personnel elsewhere, prolonged closure of the schools will negatively affect the education of students and might create tensions between the IDPs and host communities.

**Family Separation:** Some families reported that they have been separated from their nuclear family members and they do not know the status and whereabouts of those who remained behind.

**Gender-Based Violence:** There is a high risk of GBV for female IDPs at the accommodation center as there are no separate rooms/living spaces and toilet facilities for male and female IDPs with no bathrooms at all. They are also at risk of GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse if they approach the deployed military forces and seek food assistance, go for water, firewood collection and bathing at the river. There is only one water point in the school area which is used by the host community and IDPs. The water point is managed by host community and some fighting were reported between some members of the two communities. It was observed that there was no community mechanism and workers to support women, girls, boys and men.

**Child Protection risks:** Majority of the IDPs are children and adolescents of school age who are currently out of school and do not have access to recreational activities and psychosocial support. Four newborn babies were identified at the temporary accommodation center without any specialized assistance while lactating mothers reported that they are unable to feed their babies due to limited food for themselves and for their babies.



01 March 2024

**Persons with specific needs:** the recent attacks have heightened vulnerabilities for older persons without support, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic medical conditions and pregnant women. Most of them encountered difficulties during their flight to Erati and are facing challenges in getting their medications, especially those living with HIV/AIDS as there is no provision for them to receive the medications from the nearby health center. Some of the persons with disabilities lost their assistive devices during the flight while others were separated from their primary caregivers. There is no accommodated toilet for persons with severe disabilities.

**Civil Documentation:** Some of the interviewed IDPs reported that they lost their IDs and birth certificates during the flight, and or burnt during the attacks while others did not carry them as the attacks got them unprepared and hence left without civil documentations.

*"I would rather die in my home village than die of hunger and staying without any assistance in this center. We have been starving for three days without having a meal. We need food and better living conditions" an old man explained with tears in his eyes at EPC Nacusha temporary accommodation center during focus group discussion. .*

The lack of civil documentation is limiting their movements as well as access to basic services, especially during food distribution. Similarly, lack of such documentation may expose women and girls to sexual exploitation and abuse as a means of survival.

**Community-Based Protection:** The displacement of the families has paralyzed the traditional community protection mechanism they had in their areas of origin. However, in areas of displacement the IDPs do not have such structures to lead, share information, advise on possible protection risks, access available services etc. The IDPs have no means of community feedback channels to address their concerns and complains.



Photo 3: Focus group discussion with the displaced men community at EPC Nacusha

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## ONGOING & PLANNED PROTECTION RESPONSE

**Protection Coordination:** The Nampula protection working group meetings are held weekly instead of monthly to coordinate and mobilize emergency response and address the existing protection gaps. UNHCR has established a temporary protection desk and through its partner, ActionAid, is conducting protection messaging.

**Civil Documentation:** On 27 February, during the Nampula Provincial Emergency Operational Center (COE) meeting, the government sought support of the aid agencies for identification of IDPs lacking civil documentation, so that to plan the issuance of such document with the support of partners. Protection Cluster partners are committed and extending necessary support with their identification and referrals to relevant government department.

**GBV/PSEA:** UNFPA and UNHCR are conducting GBV/PSEA awareness raising and referral of GBV cases through the referral pathways. GBV AoR partners, have established women and girls' safe spaces for psychosocial activities in areas of displacement. There is also a need for the distribution of dignity kits. Due to the risk of sexual violence, clinical management of rape to health service providers required. There is a need to conduct GBV safety audits and gender analysis assessment to capture the whole picture of GBV risks.

**Child protection:** UNICEF has allocated three tents for temporary child-friendly space and three recreational kits to Nacusha primary school.

Furthermore, through host communities' networks and partners on the ground Child Protection AoR started identification and profiling of separated and unaccompanied children and their referrals to available service and support providers. child protection monitoring and psychosocial support continues as one of the main activities of the child protection AoR.

**Family Tracing and Reunification:** ICRC has deployed activists to the areas of displacement to identify the missing and separated family members and initiate the tracing process. At the meeting on 27 February, authorities also confirmed that they have deployed teams to identify unaccompanied and separated children. With funding from UNICEF, Plan International has seconded a team to carry out family tracing and reunification (FTR) activities and case management in an emergency context.

**Persons with specific needs:** On 27 February, during the Provincial Emergency Operational Centre (COE) meeting in Nampula, Provincial Directorate of Gender, Child, and Social Affairs (DPGCAS) confirmed that their team has been deployed to identify persons with disabilities and link them to the services and partners for further support. While protection partners are supporting the identification of persons with disabilities, UNHCR is planning to assist the identified persons with disabilities through provision of assistive devices and referrals.

**PROTECTION RESPONSE GAPS AND CHALLENGES**

**Limited financial resources:** consequently, very few partners are on the ground responding to the emergency.

**Community-Based Protection:** There is a need to strengthen community awareness raising on the services available and establish community leadership structures and community feedback mechanisms with referral pathways to channel cases to service providers/humanitarian actors. The PWG partners, in coordination with CE/AAP WG partners, is planning to mobilize required support.

**GBV/PSEA:** Women and Girls' Safe Spaces that are supporting psychosocial activities, literacy and life skills training need to be strengthened with PSEA awareness campaigns and training of the focal persons. There is an urgent need for the: 1) distribution of dignity kits, 2) establishment of additional Women and Girls safe Spaces in Nacuha temporary accommodation center, 3) awareness rising on PSEA through Namapa community radio and 4) conducting GBV safety audits and gender analysis assessment.

**Social Cohesion:** There is no protection partner currently conducting activities for community coexistence and strengthening the cohesion with host communities.

**Persons With Specific Needs:** There is a need to establish community-based rehabilitation center and strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities into other sectors for response. A coordinated response to the immediate needs for persons with specific needs to be prioritized.

**Access to civil documentation:** strengthen advocacy with the Government.

**Provision of MHPSS:** Though the GoM health service providers, with the support of the Provincial Directorate of Gender, Children and Social Action, is doing their best, the MHPSS delivery requires expansion to all areas of displacement and remains one of the highest needs of the IDPs.

This Protection Update aims to provide an initial snapshot of the situation on the ground based on information provided by protection partners to support the scale-up of the protection response. Updates will be provided as the Protection Cluster receives additional updates from partners. In this connection, additional information is always welcomed by email below.

**Contributing Partners**

