OVERVIEW

Four months after heavy rainfall caused extreme flooding and mass evacuations in Mozambique’s Zambezia Province, the vast majority of displaced families continue to reside within relocation sites. The National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) coordinated the initial rescue and relief operations with the provincial Emergency Operation Center (COE) in Zambezia and has transitioned into the recovery phase while concluding the process of allocating land plots to internally displaced families (IDP) within established relocation communities.

In order to support these on-going recovery efforts IOM has implemented the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the most affected districts of Zambezia Province. The DTM is a data collection system that allows tracking and monitoring of displaced populations with the objective of providing timely information on the population to the Government of Mozambique and the humanitarian community. During the second round of DTM data collection, IOM continued to work in close collaboration with INGC and partners Concern, Welthungerhilfe and World Vision, to conduct site assessments at 46 relocation sites within the districts of Maganja da Costa, Mocuba, Namacurra, Nicoadala, Mopeia and Morrumbala.

The multi-sectoral assessments enable IOM to monitor trends in population movements as well as the actual conditions at each site. Monitors conducted site interviews with community leaders, observed site conditions and surveyed focus groups with IDP representatives at each relocation site. The DTM will continue with a door to door registration activity which will provide more specific demographic information for each assessed site. Finally, a final round of site assessments will take place in July.

QUICK FIGURES

- Approximately 13,207 displaced families were identified within 46 relocation sites in Zambezia Province
- 38 of 46 assessed sites reported an active site management committee comprised of community members
- Malaria was noted as the most prevalent health problem in nearly all sites (89%)
POPULATION PROFILE

Second round assessments were conducted during the first two weeks of May and displayed a slight increase in the IDP population compared to previous evaluations, indicating that displaced families have remained in relocation sites as opposed to returning to their homes in low-lying areas. An estimated total of 13,207 displaced families are spread amongst the 46 evaluated relocation sites. The increase in families observed since first round DTM collection (12,166 families) can largely be attributed to one additional site being evaluated, improved estimates from community leaders and a new, relatively large group of IDP families moving to the relocation community of Landinho in Maganja da Costa (increase of 323 families).

The 46 assessed relocation sites contain an estimated population of 72,517 displaced individuals. This estimation was completed through a random demographic sample of households at each location. The population remains geographically dispersed with the inland district of Mopeia exhibiting the highest number of IDP families living in 11 sites along the Lua Lua River.

Though INGC has concluded the process of allocating plots to displaced families within official relocation communities, many remain in unofficial accommodation centers. Generally, these families prefer to live in communities closer to their flooded homes as opposed to acquiring a plot available to them in a more distant relocation community. These families received support during the emergency phase and most plan to continue residence where they are currently situated. Of the 12 unofficial sites, seven are located within the district of Mopeia housing an estimated 2,834 families. The remaining 34 evaluated sites are relocation communities established by INGC containing 72% of all displaced families.

A number of positive developments were observed within relocation sites and reflect the stated intention of displaced families to remain in the relocation sites. While construction of durable, permanent housing has yet to be observed on a medium to large scale, a small number of families have begun to build structures with mud bricks and/or locally gathered posts. In the district of Mocuba, four of the seven relocation communities reported the first permanent homes being constructed.

IDPs at many sites noted that they feel satisfied with their location and intend to stay, but are waiting for an official declaration from the government before beginning construction activities. Some families displayed hesitation to build noting the perceived possibility of being transferred to a different plot of land.

Improvements in the organization of relocation sites is displayed by the growing number of visible streets and roads. Oftentimes these works are initiated and led by the communities themselves while local government officials have aided in the process at a number of sites. These efforts are expected to intensify in the coming months through the planned “food for work” program in which displaced families will work on improvements within the relocation sites in order to receive future food distributions. Another stabilizing sign within the locations is an increase in the formation of site management committees – currently 38 of 46 (83%) sites have formed such a committee.

A predominant trend in more than half of relocation sites is the practice of many families returning to their locations of origin.
in order to perform agricultural activities. Many IDPs note the lack of subsistence at relocation sites and therefore return to the area of their former homes to work where they have more land and more fertile soil. Dependent on the distance from sites to areas of origin, some families tend to leave the relocation site on a daily basis whereas others leave their new homes for days at a time to tend to their crops. This practice assists in family subsistence, yet creates other challenges as families are often split with younger children remaining in relocation sites as adults work near their former homes. Further, incidents of theft have occurred in instances of families leaving their tents and household items unattended in relocation sites as they work and sleep a number of kilometers away. This development indicates the need for a coordinated plan within relocation communities and the possibility of increased security.

**SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS**

Homes constructed of distributed tents/tarpaulins continue to be the most common form of shelter at nearly all sites (85%). Conversely, families at five locations (Caumbata, Guente and Murire in Morrumbala, Gugurune in Maganja da Costa, and Assiate in Mopeia) displayed a great need for tarpaulins and reported less than 25% of displaced families sleeping in homes made with tents/tarpaulins. Forms of makeshift shelter are most common in these communities and were observed to some extent at 72% of sites. Further, many families have begun to use local material such as posts/branches, grass, reeds and mud to erect walls while often using distributed tarps as material for the roof. At least one permanent housing structure, normally comprised of mud bricks, was reported at 15 of the 46 relocation sites.

Kitchen sets represented the most needed non-food item (NFI) at over half of the locations. This indicates a change from the first round of DTM when the majority of IDPs sited tents/tarpaulins as the most needed NFI, possibly suggesting that displaced families are focusing on other forms of home construction as opposed to residing in tents. Mosquito nets continue to be a need as 15 relocation sites reported less than half of IDPs possessing a net. Mosquito nets represent a very important defense of malaria in the heavily affected province of Zambezia; 89% of sites noted malaria as the most prevalent health problem.

**WASH**

As families continue to adapt to their new surroundings, the majority of sites (78%) now retrieve their drinking water from manual water pumps. This represents an increase over the past month when 62% of sites reported that IDPs retrieve drinking water from manual pumps. The difference can be attributed to drilling efforts by the government and partners in combination with some families walking farther distances to obtain higher quality drinking water. Indeed, 48% of sites reported that the majority of families walk over 20 minutes in order to reach their primary water source. Displaced families in 10 relocation sites continue to obtain drinking water from open-air sources including rivers, ponds, surface water and open wells. Unsurprisingly these 10 sites do not consider their water potable and shared drinking water complaints. These combined facts point to the continued need for improvements in water access.

Positive developments were reported regarding latrine construction as over half of the relocation sites reported the majority of displaced families had constructed a private latrine. This further signifies actions of stability as IDPs continue to improve the conditions of their plots within their communities. Efforts in latrine construction were aided by the Mozambican government and humanitarian partners through the distribution of 2,272 plastic and concrete latrine bases. A number of sites reported systems of joint latrine building as groups of four or five families have worked together to build shared latrines. Finally, hygiene promotion campaigns were noted as ongoing in nearly all (93%) relocation sites.
FOOD, NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOODS

Responses from IDPs to this point indicate an ongoing need of food support as families are unable to meet their nutritional needs without assistance. Families in 72% of relocation sites indicated that their primary source of obtaining food remains through distributions, exactly matching the response from early April 2015. However, many families noted the need to balance distributions with agricultural produce, stating that neither food from distributions nor cultivation alone is adequate to meet their needs. Food distributions continued through early May at high rates with families at 96% of sites indicating they had access to distributions. However, IDPs at 21 communities indicated that the assistance received was not sufficient for all displaced families.

The livelihood of the majority of IDPs continues to be based in subsistence level agricultural activities. Families in 35 sites indicated that their primary daily occupation is based in agriculture. As previously mentioned, many IDPs return to their locations of origin to tend to crops, while others work in smaller areas near their new homes. Access to tillable land continues to be a driving issue behind the movement of IDPs. Families in five of the seven sites within the district of Mocuba sited no livelihood activities as there is a lack of available land to farm and no other occupation options.

On a positive note, groups of IDPs in three sites within the administrative post of Chire in the district of Morrumbala have joined in order to perform joint agricultural activities with the hopes of increasing production for their own consumption in addition to generating a small income.

HEALTH

Access to health care services proves to be a challenge for most IDPs. Families at only 17 relocation sites indicated ongoing regular services from health professionals within the site and families at over half of relocation sites travel distances of more than 3km to reach the nearest health facility. A small number of communities reported the presence of trained health volunteers that aid in providing initial diagnoses.

Malaria was once again overwhelmingly mentioned as the most prevalent health problem, while diarrhea was noted at 34 sites and problems with malnutrition was mentioned at 24 sites.
EDUCATION
A substantial increase was observed in regards to children attending school as IDPs in 30 relocation sites indicated that over 75% of children regularly attend class. An increase was also noted in terms of educational services being offered within the relocation sites themselves.

The situation is much more difficult for students attending school in grades 6-12. Most relocation sites are located in relative close proximity to educational facilities serving younger children; 86% of the communities are located within 2km of the nearest school normally serving grades 1-5. However, students at over half of relocation sites studying at higher levels must travel long distances in order to attend class. This situation forces the majority of older-aged school children to either abandon their studies or live outside of their family homes in areas close to secondary schools.

PROTECTION
Encouragingly a substantial increase in the number of sites with an organized security structure was observed over the course of the last month. Currently 78% of relocation sites exhibit security structures, up from 36% reported at the beginning of April. Further, the majority of these structures (72%) are comprised and led by community members living in the respective relocation sites.

Unfortunately thefts have been commonly reported, particularly when families leave their tent homes within relocation sites to work in their farming plots in high-risk flood zones. Theft was the most frequently mentioned common security incident, noted in 61% of communities. Police posts have been established in a limited number of sites and planned for others, most recently with plans for the relocation community of Ronda in the district of Namacurra.

The combination of security issues at relocation sites leads to women and children at 12 communities (26%) to separately indicate that they do not feel safe within the site. Incidents of gender-based violence were noted as a problem at 10 sites (22%) while child protection issues were indicated at 13 relocation sites (28%).

Another commonly mentioned protection concern involves a lack of official documentation. IDPs in only 6 of 46 relocation sites indicated that the majority of residents possess official identification since many individuals lost the bulk of their possessions, including identification documents, as they fled their homes in January. On a positive security note, displaced families exhibit strong, positive relationships amongst themselves as IDPs in all 46 sites reported either ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ relations between displaced families.

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