Severe Tropical Cyclone Gombe hit the coastal area of Nampula and Zambezia provinces on 11 March 2022. INGD reported over 730k persons affected (over 148k families). At the height of the evacuations/displacement, some 23k persons have been displaced/evacuated into 52 transit centers. There are presently 6,981 persons considered presently displaced. During the first three weeks of the emergency, (11-25 March 2022), the Nampula Protection Working Group visited Monapo, Meconta and Corrane during which visits were also done to 19 of the 25 transit centers. During these visits to Transit Center, Protection partners assessed the protection situation of each accommodation centers, raised awareness on PSEA and Linha Verde, identified persons with specific vulnerabilities and in need of protection services, and distributed protection guidance to district authorities and accommodation center focal points.

The initial protection response was done in coordination with the government (both INGD’s Safeguarding Department and the Acao Social). The government has also been responding by sending nurses and providing social services to support as well as police to ensure security of those impacted by the Cyclone. Initial food distributions have also been organized. Displaced families in accommodation centers identified their basic needs to be food and shelter and protection needs to include loss of civil documentation, MHPSS and protection risks, especially GBV, as they remain in the accommodation centers.

ASSESSED TRANSIT CENTERS

Key Protection Issues Identified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk of negative coping mechanisms</th>
<th>Loss of civil documents</th>
<th>Access to water &amp; health services</th>
<th>Specific support needed for vulnerable groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Services</td>
<td>6,981</td>
<td>9 accommodation / transition centers assessed</td>
<td>7,711 displaced persons reached</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education / Training</td>
<td>6 out of 6</td>
<td>44 accommodation / transition centers assessed</td>
<td>1,355 displaced persons reached</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROTECTION RISKS AND NEEDS (MONAPO AND MECONTA)

Risk of negative coping mechanisms in the medium term

The cyclone has either washed away or destroyed Mashambas (small rural fields for subsistence agriculture) including small gardens used for subsistence located near the homes of those impacted, which has not only deprived affected families of potential income, but also left them without any food while trying to recover from the cyclone. This situation could force IDPs to resort to negative coping mechanisms in the long run.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

In some centers, there are both observable signs of the need for mental and psychosocial support since those some have been heavily impacted by the cyclone including by the loss of property, livelihoods and access to basic services, which increases uncertainty about their situation in the medium to long term. Impacted persons have mentioned that cyclones are becoming more frequent and more violent. Thus, creating considerable anxiety about upcoming events. In some transit sites, the Protection Working Group also met with IDPs who had already been displaced from Cabo Delgado and again displaced by the impact of the cyclone into transit centers. For these IDPs, there is observable need for mental health and psychosocial support.

Loss of civil documentation

In transit centers, impacted persons reported that the cyclone destroyed their civil documentation including other important documents such as health certificates and/or prescriptions as well as education certificates/diploma. Some have actually managed to pack their documents and take them with them, nevertheless, their documents were damaged or rendered non-recognizable because they were exposed to rain and wind. Some impacted persons mentioned to the Protection Working Group that they have not yet tried to re-acquire these documents considering their situation. However, they also added that they either did not know where to start the process or would not have the money to travel and pay for the fees needed for such services.

Vulnerable groups in urgent need of support

In the centers visited, there are women headed households, child headed households, persons with disability, pregnant women, lactating mothers and persons with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs. These groups have reported to the protection team that they are unable to rebuild their houses even if they are provided with materials since they do not have the strength nor family members to support them. The Protection Working Group also noticed that there are vulnerable households that have moved in with their neighbors (family members or acquaintances) for lack of better options since those most vulnerable have been unable to reconstruct their homes and need to be prioritized for

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Source: INGD, Tropical Cyclone Gombe, Preliminary Data, 27 March 2022

Photo 1: Women IDPs in Carapirra
Photo 2: Dialogue with Meconta local government
Photo 3: PSEA awareness raising with IDPs in Meconta
Photo 4: Assessment team with Monapo local government
PROTECTION RISKS AND NEEDS (MONAPO AND MECONTA)

Distributions of shelter materials (since they were not in transit centers) while some are elderly or persons with disabilities with nobody to support them. Special considerations and/or interventions will be needed for this particular vulnerable group.

Access to water

Some transit centers have reported considerable challenges in accessing potable water. In other locations where water is available, it may not be sufficient or clean for drinking and/or cooking. Furthermore, it is important to note that water is also required by those impacted in order to rebuild their homes by utilizing the water to replace the adobe on the wall of their homes.

Malaria and water-borne diseases

In most accommodation centers, several children and adults mentioned that they had been suffering from coughing and fever. Many of those impacted mentioned that they have been suffering from malaria and other water borne diseases because of mosquitos at night. This also puts pregnant women, young children, and lactating mothers at heightened risk. In the transit centers, the Protection Working Group noted that those impacted did not have proper bedding, cloths, and other basic non-food items. During the early phase of the emergency, the Protection Working Group noted an urgent need for mosquito nets.

Presence of persons with specific needs in all accommodation centers

The Protection Working Group noted that there is an urgent need for protection services for persons with specific needs. In transit center, the Protection Working Group identified a large presence of pregnant and lactating mothers, female headed households, elderly men and women, persons with disabilities, potential cases of persons requiring mental and psychosocial support and child headed households. To complicate protection risks, many transit centers did not have a perimeter fence, which meant that unknown persons could get in and out of the location at any moment. Impacted persons mentioned fear of robbery and gender-based violence, especially during the night. Furthermore, fetching water in distant locations (eg. rivers) at night when there is no light heightens risks for women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities. Most of the transit centers visited were overcrowded with many families sharing one classrooms with no separation between women or men, which could expose women to risks of GBV. Furthermore, not all toilets nor bathing spaces were clearly demarcated for men and women.

KEY PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Special consideration is needed for those most vulnerable who have may not have yet found a shelter solution. The Protection Working Group noticed a large group of vulnerable individuals who have either remained in in accommodation centers or have moved into the homes of neighbors or strangers to seek shelter. They have reported to the Protection Working Group that they have been unable to reconstruct their homes either because they lack the strength or know-how or do not have family members to support them (such as female headed households).

Advocate with authorities for rapid resumption of electricity interrupted by the cyclone - especially for remaining transit centers. This also will address access to safe drinking water and security for women at night.

Advocate for MHPSS to target persons impacted by cyclones as they normally struggle to reconstitute their lives, this should also include PSS recreational activities for children.

Advocate for any humanitarian distribution to take into consideration persons with specific needs.

Advocate for special registration campaigns of civil documentation programmes in accommodation centers (humanitarian or Gov programmes).

Advocate for housing, land and property (HLP) so that vulnerable groups that have lost their homes do not see their land grabbed by others

Due consideration is needed to data protection so that lists with names of beneficiaries are treated with confidentiality.