

NAVIGATING THE EFFECTS OF DISPLACEMENT: MOZAMBIQUE

*Insights From Internally Displaced, Host Community and
Returnee Populations*

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**PROGRESS
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Periodic Global Report on the State of
Solutions to Internal Displacement



SFS

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Walsh School of Foreign Service

Institute for the Study of International Migration



Effects of Displacement on Internally Displaced, Host Community and Returnee Populations

This report presents a deeper country-specific dive into the findings of the qualitative analysis of seven focus group discussions conducted between 1 and 15 August 2023 in Guara Guara and Macomia with 103 representatives of IDPs, host community, and returnees. Over two thirds (65%) of the respondents were female. Seventy-two per cent of respondents were between the age of 18 and 59, and the remaining 20 per cent were older than 60 years and 8 per cent were under the age of 17.

IDPs

Women IDPs in Macomia said they moved multiple times seeking safety but now that they felt more secure, they still worried about hunger and the high cost of living in displacement. To return, they felt the need for ensured security, the means to survive, and transportation to reach their areas of origin. In displacement, friends and family members helped them to find jobs and access services. Still, the women said their relationship with other groups in the community was strained – they shared that there were arguments at water points when other women said the displaced should get water after them because of where they were from. Family and friends were also essential knowledge sources for return, telling IDPs whether lands are safe to return to. Their goal was to be in their locations of origin in five to ten years, but the security situation would be the deciding factor in their ability to gain ground toward return as a solution.

Focus group discussions with Male and Female IDPs who had been displaced for four years or more, a prolonged period that resulted from floods that destroyed or damaged their areas of origin, were held in Guara Guara. The deteriorating shelter conditions and reduced agriculture space affected both IDPs and the host community. The all-male discussion suggested organizing lectures to reduce discrimination. Families, after losing assets and livelihoods, struggle to find jobs. Improving energy and water systems is important, but job creation is the top priority. They said that after their prolonged stay in the host community, people no longer noticed a difference between them and others, but they needed houses to truly integrate. Female IDPs in Guara Guara shared a desire to settle over the next five to ten years, but they would need job opportunities and trade associations to do so, as well as schools for the children and income generating activities for women and older persons.



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Above all other needs, what would really improve our quality of life would be improved and resilient homes. And the factor that has worsened the quality of life is the lack of jobs and business opportunities.”

Focus group discussion with female IDPs, Mozambique,

August 2023.

HOST COMMUNITY

Men in the host community of Macomia Sede village pointed out strains on water and agricultural resources and rising food prices as effects of the influx of IDPs. Tension was described in all-male host community discussions due to unequal aid distribution between them and IDPs, while all-female host community discussions in Macomia Sede stressed the need for food assistance.

They suggested initiatives to aid the host community, but also to ensure employment for displaced people as a way to decrease tensions. In a separate focus group, women in the host community agreed that conditions had not improved since the arrival of IDPs, while crowding raised food prices and strained health centres. However, contrary to both their men counterparts and to IDPs, they said there was no tension between host and IDP communities. Their discussion of how to ameliorate the situation included providing vocational training to women and girls and giving the opportunity to women and girls to provide primary health care services. They hoped that in five to ten years, they would be living without war, something that they did not think IDPs had any effect on.

On the other hand, women in the community of Guara Guara shared the mixed benefits and drawbacks of hosting IDPs. They mentioned they perceive an increase in petty crime and theft with the increased population, as well as more competition for the few available jobs, but they added that the hospital and school had been improved since IDPs arrived and there were new jobs and training initiatives available. IDPs also supported existing small businesses as customers. Some women shared the perception that IDPs received all the attention from humanitarians and the government, although they still felt that their relationship with the IDPs was good. The women shared that job opportunities shared fairly, schools, and health care were the most needed support systems for durable solutions.



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Displacement has an impact because the number of people in the community is greater and there is no space for everyone in terms of needs.”

Focus group discussion with male host community, Mozambique,

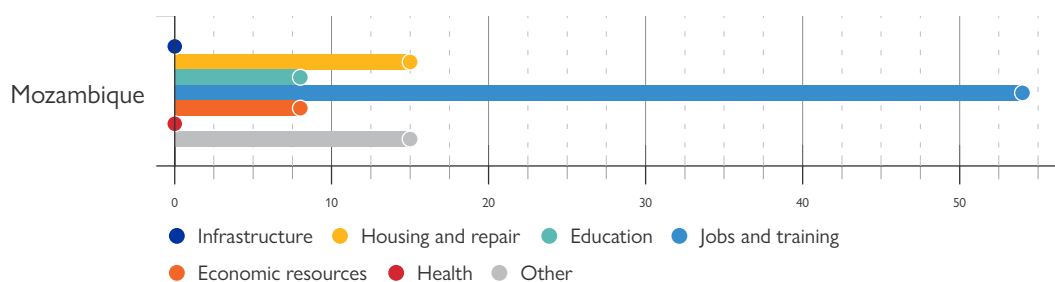
August 2023.

IDP RETURNEES

Young men and boys who had returned in Macomia Sede said that they and their families returned to reclaim their lands and build houses, but following displacement they needed employment opportunities, vocational training, and assistance to rebuild their houses. Despite a high cost of living and occasional attacks in their district, which is distant from their homes, the returnees felt welcomed and noted that families returned together. They shared a sense of acceptance upon return, and said it was free will that brought them back, with no one influencing the decision. The most important factor they considered necessary to achieve stability in the coming years was an end to attacks, and the most important type of support needed was economic.



MENTIONS OF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR SOLUTIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE



The chart above shows the number of times each sector was mentioned by host communities, IDPs and returnees in each focus group discussion. In Mozambique, the main themes that emerged were support with jobs and training, followed by housing and repair, education, and economic resources.

Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS 2023)

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions acknowledges three accepted approaches for addressing internal displacement: the return and sustainable reintegration in the community of origin (referred to as “return”), integration in areas where internally displaced persons (IDPs) seek refuge (referred to as “local integration”) into local communities, or sustainable integration into another part of the country (referred to as “settlement elsewhere”). However, integration is also a fundamental part of all three solutions and overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities; for returnees it entails becoming reintegrated in their communities, and for IDPs it signifies inclusion and access to livelihoods, jobs and basic services on par with the other members of the community.

As a contribution to addressing displacement challenges, the collaboration between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Global Data Institute (GDI) and Georgetown University’s Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) has produced the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS). PROGRESS aims to be people-centered and operationally relevant, providing evidence-based analysis of factors facilitating internally displaced persons (IDPs) in moving towards and achieving durable solutions. It is designed for governments, development and humanitarian actors, and IDPs themselves, offering practical steps to enhance realistic opportunities for approaching solutions. Given the global focus on resolving internal displacement, there is a crucial need for the international community to unite efforts in supporting solutions for over 70 million IDPs, a number of whom have experienced prolonged displacement.

The report focuses on 15 countries, providing an analysis of operational quantitative data, mostly collected by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) on the challenges and opportunities faced by IDPs. It shows the importance of job creation, security, and fostering a sense of belonging within communities for overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities and, subsequently, reduce disparities between IDPs and their host communities. In addition, focus group discussions were carried out in 10 of these countries to include perspectives of people who were displaced, had returned, or were part of communities that hosted IDPs. The published PROGRESS report highlights the commonalities across countries and regions – such as the strong focus on economic recovery and security as fundamental to durable reintegration. The conversations also exposed the range of experiences within families, communities, and national contexts. Additionally, these discussions provided a platform to express perspectives typically overlooked by conventional data collection methods, such as affected communities’ views on the cultural and gender-related impacts of displacement in their countries.



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