REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND WATER RESOURCES, NATIONAL ROADS ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC INSTITUTE

CLIMATE RESILIENT ROADS FOR THE NORTH (P500488)

In the Provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula & Niassa – Mozambique

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

MAY 2025

PREPARED FOR

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DOCUMENT CLEARANCE FORM

Name of Unit	Environmental Services
Document Title	Consultancy Services to Develop the Environmental and Social Instruments for Climate Resilient Roads for the North of Mozambique.
Project Name	Climate Resilient Roads for the North (P500488)
RFP No.	**47A003041/CP/157/2023**
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External Parties - Client Reviewers			

Current Version	Draft Report	☐	Final Version	☑

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to recurring climate impacts, the road network has suffered extensive damage over the last 20 years, with substantial sums of financial resources being diverted from improving the network to repairing flood-related damage. As the Mozambican road network has low redundancy, these disruptions sometimes isolate communities for long periods of time and therefore have a significant negative impact on their local economy. In Cabo Delgado province, the cyclones, heavy rains and floods have destroyed various infrastructures including roads and bridges, hitting an already vulnerable population, which was in many areas affected by terrorism violence and poverty. In the districts of Quissanga, Mueda, Muidumbe, Macomia, Metuge, Mecufi and Ibo (the most affected), entire villages were destroyed with communities in need of humanitarian assistance which, despite the improvements in terms of security caused by terrorism, the poor condition of roads and bridges has created difficulties for the transportation of the human aid for the population.

The delays in rebuilding of road infrastructures caused by insufficient financial resources, had increased the degradation of the road network and bridges, especially steel bridges, causing partial isolation of the Mueda, Quissanga, Muidumbe, Macomia, Mecufi and Metuge districts, affecting around 378,762 people. As the security situation has improved, there is a need to urgently reconstruct the affected road network to ensure the implementation of all reconstruction projects in Cabo Delgado province and provide the minimum conditions for the movement of goods and people. (Source: CRRN Project Concept Note, 2023).

In view of these, GoM requested the World Bank to help develop a long-term program of socio-economic integration through Climate Resilient Roads for the North in Northern Region of Mozambique.

The World Bank has agreed to be supporting the Government of Mozambique (GoM) through the National Roads Administration, Public Institute (ANE, IP) and Road Fund, Public Fund (RF, PF) in implementing the Climate Resilient Roads for the North in Northern Region of Mozambique (P500488) (CRRN Project). The objective of the project is to enhance climate-resilient, safe and sustainable road connectivity in the Northern Provinces of Mozambique. The project will support the following activities: upgrading, rehabilitation, and maintenance of selected secondary and tertiary roads (adopting the Output and Performance-based Road Contracts (OPRC) approach), as well as the construction and rehabilitation of bridges and drainage structures in the secondary road network and installation of bailey bridges in the tertiary road network. Community infrastructure (markets, schools, health centers, agriculture produce storage facilities) will be provided to rural population along segments of roads targeted by the project and incorporated into the works contracts.

The project consists of 4 Components which are; Component 1 (Climate Resilient, Safe and Sustainable Road Connectivity Improvement), the project will finance the

upgrade of about 52 km of the secondary road N381 Mueda – Xitaxi and 15 km of the tertiary road R762 Muepane - Quissanga, rehabilitation of 25 km of sealed secondary road N380 Muagamula – Xitaxi in Cabo Delgado, associated land acquisition and resettlement of project affected persons (PAPs); the construction and rehabilitation of five concrete bridges (Mirohote (45m), Muaguamula (40m), Muera 1 (55m), Muera 2 (30m) and Nango (35m) along the secondary road N380 in Cabo Delgado; acquisition and installation of 1,500 m of bailey/metallic bridges in tertiary roads in all three northern provinces. Component 2 (Improvement of Road Safety and Transport Mobility) will finance a pilot program on safe road infrastructure, inclusive of safety audits and inspection for roads and bridges; road safety education activities (including post-crash sensitization) along the road network and awareness in the schools, local communities and amongst road users; road safety and traffic calming measures and other road safety-related facilities that include speed bumps (near community centers, schools, and markets), pedestrian crossings, road markings, and road signs; pedestrian sidewalks, and cycle lanes in urban and community centers, including provision of wider shoulders along road segments for non-motorized traffic to increase road safety; development of a pilot for non-motorized transport for girls and boys to improve access to schools. Component 3 (Institutional Strengthening and Project Management) will finance incremental operating costs and institutional strengthening activities including procurement, financial management and audits, Environmental and Social (E&S) oversight and audit, axle load control and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). Component 4 (Contingent Emergency Response) will facilitate access to rapid financing by allowing a reallocation of uncommitted project funds in the event of a natural disaster, either by a formal declaration of a national or provincial government of emergency or upon a formal request from the Government of Mozambique. Component 4 will use the IDA Immediate Response Mechanism.

The project activities will take place in the Northern Provinces of Mozambique, namely Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula. Specific locations, designs and detailed scope of subproject activities are not known at this stage, because their final selection will be determined later after undertaking specific Engineering Design Studies alongside the site specific ESIAs (post project approval).

The Project has been prepared under the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF), which came into effect on October 1, 2018, replacing the Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguards Operational Policies. Under the ESF, all World Bank Borrowers have agreed to comply with the ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) applied to investment project lending financed by the Bank. This project recognizes the significance of, and adopts the ESSs, for identifying and assessing as well as managing the environmental and social risks and impacts associated with this investment project. The Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS Concept Stage) (2023) Report No: ESRSC03889 undertaken by the World Bank has classified the environmental and social risks as

substantial. As a response, ANE, IP as an implementing agency, has developed the key instruments to address these risks.

According to data from the General Population Census carried out in 2017, the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa have a total of 9,464,848 inhabitants, of which 2,267,715 are from Cabo Delgado, 5,483,382 are from Nampula, and 1,713,751 are from Niassa. A significant part of the population from these 3 provinces will benefit from the enhanced access to road transport through the project interventions.

Therefore, the stakeholder's identification is a critical component before the specific engagement begins, and it is an on-going process requiring regular review and updating. Through that, ANE, IP will find it easy to understand how each stakeholder may be affected or, perceives they may be affected so that the engagement can be tailored to inform them and understand their views and concerns in an appropriate manner. When identifying and mapping specific individuals or organizations, it is important to consider the expected area of influence of the Project i.e. the geographical area over which it may cause impacts (both positive and negative) over its lifetime, and the localities within which people and businesses could be affected.

Regarding the total of the households in the project area, approximately 76.4% are headed by men, while 23.6% are families headed by women. The household heads are the key people decision-makers on crucial family issues and the ability and willingness to participate in project activities in the locality. While the number of child-headed households is not availed, it is essential to note that there are some child-headed households in the project area. The living conditions of families depend on the income stability of the primary breadwinners (Household heads).

The datas shows that, the households identified in the areas covered by the project, the highest percentage comprises agricultural households (78.2%), followed by business and finance (6.7%) and other income activities represented 4.6%. Further, these data suggest that the primary source of household income comes mainly from indicate primary revenue primarily on agricultural activities significantly.

Increased pressure on land, access and limited social services is almost certain to occur because of the project, and this could lead to tensions specifically around access to health and education services. Intra-community conflict over access to jobs can also be anticipated within and between direct PAPs if the project and its contractors do not carefully manage expectations around these opportunities. Essential Any fears or perceptions that PAPs and involved farmers have around this issue must be allayed through the stakeholder engagement process.

Due to the expected influx of project labour, there is also an increased risk of SEA/SH in the project area. These impacts will be mitigated through a implementing measures that prevent risk of SEA/SH among vulnerable groups such as, Capacity Building of government institutions engaged on GBV/SEA/SH, Building Awareness among project

workers and community member about SEA/SH and Empowerment of women and girls.

Also, the data describe that, currently, in the project area are PAPs registered as Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) with capacity to attend many services linked to the project. Therefore, the project should onboard local SMEs and MEs to provide the required services since most of them have the capacity to perform various services, as they have experience and equipment. Still within the scope of the PAPs capacity, the data describes that in the project area are not observed the existence of a community groups or members identified as involved in road safety in the project area. Then, to improve road safety, it is necessary to create and strengthen the community groups to ensuring road safety in project-affected communities. However, once created, these road safety committees must build capacity and provide financial support.

Regarding households, was observed PAPs characterized by households headed by women and children, as well as households with people with disabilities. This situation is classified as vulnerable households and, it's in line with the World Bank ESF guidelines. The vulnerable families must be prioritized to receive project benefits and potential employment opportunities, with the exception of children. This will be one of the most difficult project-induced impacts to mitigate and manage successfully, and attention is given to this aspect for the contractor to prioritize in planning and management efforts.

The project will generate positive social and economic impacts during the construction and operational phases. These include (i) increase in employment opportunities and skills transfer, (ii) increase in business/trade opportunities, (iii) increased revenue generation for the government and (iv) improved road safety and connectivity.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANE, IP	National Roads Administration, Public Institute
CERC	Contingency Emergency Response Component
CRPT	Climate Resilience Planning Tool
DPEDH	Provincial Directorate of Education and Human Development
DPGCAS	Province Directorate of Gender, Child and Social Action
DPOPHRH	Provincial Directorate of Public Works and Hydrological Resources
DPS	Province Directorate of Health
DPTC	Provincial Directorate of Transport and Communication
EHS	Environment, Health and Safety
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FY	Financial Year
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GoM	Government of Mozambique
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
INATRO	National Road Transport Institute
INE	National Institute of Statistics
IPF	Investment Project Financing
IRM	Immediate Response Mechanism
LME	Local Micro Enterprise
LMP	Labor Management Plan
ME	Micro Enterprise
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MOPHRH	Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources
MPA	Multi-Phase Approach
TCM	Ministry of Transport and Communication
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OPRC	Output-Performance Roads Contracts
PAP	Person Affected by the Project

PBMC	Performance-Based Maintenance Contract
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RMG	Road Maintenance Groups
RF, PF	Road Fund, Public Fund
SDAE	District Services of Economic Activities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDMAS	District Services of Women and Social Action
SDPI	District Services of Planning and Infrastructures
SDSMAS	District Services of Health, Women and Social Action
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SH	Sexual Harassment
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRSEI	Safer Roads for Social and Economic Integration
WB	World Bank

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to recurring climate impacts, the road network has suffered extensive damage over the last 20 years, with substantial sums of financial resources being diverted from improving the network to repairing flood-related damage. As the Mozambican road network has low redundancy, these disruptions sometimes isolate communities for long periods of time and therefore have a significant negative impact on their local economy[1]. In Cabo Delgado province, the cyclones, heavy rains and floods have destroyed various infrastructures including roads and bridges, hitting an already vulnerable population, which was in many areas affected by terrorism violence and poverty. In the districts of Quissanga, Mueda, Muidumbe, Macomia, Metuge, Mecufi and Ibo (the most affected), entire villages were destroyed with communities in need of humanitarian assistance which, despite the improvements in terms of security caused by terrorism, the poor condition of roads and bridges has created difficulties for the transportation of the human aid for the population.

The delays in rebuilding of road infrastructures caused by insufficient financial resources, had increased the degradation of the road network and bridges, especially steel bridges, causing partial isolation of the Mueda, Quissanga, Muidumbe, Macomia, Mecufi and Metuge districts, affecting around 378,762 people. As the security situation has improved, there is a need to urgently reconstruct the affected road network to ensure the implementation of all reconstruction projects in Cabo Delgado province and provide the minimum conditions for the movement of goods and people. (Source: CRRN Project Concept Note, 2023).

In view of these, GoM requested the World Bank to help develop a long-term program of socio-economic integration through Climate Resilient Roads for the North in Northern Region of Mozambique. Tentatively, the Bank has indicated willingness to fund a US$ 125 million envelope to finance the project. The project implementing entity under the proposed project will be the Road Fund under the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MoPWHWR). To facilitate project implementation and allocation of responsibilities, the Road Fund will enter into legally binding and enforceable cooperation agreements with ANE, IP and other beneficiary institutions of the project. There will be a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at ANE, IP to facilitate its implementation.

The MoPWHWR will provide overall coordination for the project while the Road Fund will be responsible for implementation, coordination with ANE, IP, budgeting, monitoring, financial management and auditing of project resources. ANE, IP will oversee execution of the works, including procurement, E&S standards, and engineering aspects. It is proposed that, the existing central PIU at ANE, IP in-charge

[1] IFRDP, 2019

of some on-going World Bank financed projects will be responsible for this project too and where need be, additional PIU staff can be assigned/hired to enhance its capacity.

The Climate Resilient Roads for The North is being prepared under the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF) as well as Mozambican Environmental and Social regulations. Therefore, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standard 1 (ESS1) on Assessment and Management of Social Risks and Impact, ANE, IP is obliged to make the **Social Assessment**, in order to ensure the managing, and monitoring social risks and impacts associated with the project supported by the World Bank, in order to achieve social outcomes consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).

Between December 2023 and January 2024, the provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa were subject to a social risk assessment process within the scope of CRRN. As will be further described throughout this document, the MoPWHWR aims to improve climate-resilient, safe, and sustainable road connectivity in the Northern Provinces of Mozambique. Through this project, the World Bank (WB) seeks to assist the Government of Mozambique (GoM) in responding to the problems of imbalances in regional socioeconomic development that have had harmful effects on the northern region and with repercussions on the country as a whole.

1.1 THE SCOPE OF SOCIAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROJECT

In line with the World Bank's ESS1, a Social Assessment for a World Bank-funded project was carried out to improve the project's design and establish a participatory process for the project implementation and monitoring. To achieve this, the social assessment process took account of the views and preferences of the affected people and other stakeholders. The process covers five social assessment considerations for the design of socially inclusive projects: (i) a review of the legal and institutional framework appropriate for the project-affected social group; (ii) characterization of social context for project-affected social groups; (iii) stakeholder analysis and elaboration of the culturally appropriate process for consulting with the project affected social group; (iv) assessment of the potential adverse and positive effect for the project; and (v) Identification measures necessary to avoid adverse effect or if not feasible, measure to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for the effects.

1.2 BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (SA)

1.2.1 Objectives of Social Assessment

Social evaluation is a method used to evaluate the social impact of a given project. This seeks to understand how interactions affect society, considering improving quality of life, equity, social justice, social inclusion, and sustainability. Furthermore, SA examines the social aspects of the potential positive and negative impacts of the project's proposed activities to identify social impacts and implement appropriate institutional, organizational, and project-specific mechanisms to mitigate adverse effects.

The objective of this Social Assessment was to develop an understanding of the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the PAPs in the selected project areas to inform the design of the project. The SA will ensure all PAPs are adequately involved, and they get the maximum benefit from the project's interventions. This is expected to enhance inclusion and local ownership while reducing and compensating for adverse social impacts.

The SA shall inform the process of incorporating the principles of the World Bank's guidelines into the different project components as deemed relevant. The SA will also provide baseline information about the PAPs in the project sites and inform the process of incorporating the principles of ESS1, into the Project Implementation Manual (PIM). Apart from deepening the understanding of critical social issues and evaluating mitigation measures, the assessment also sought to discern appropriate ways to reach these groups to ensure that the project objectives are acceptable to them.

The Social Assessment broadly entailed evaluating the legal and institutional framework applicable to the project; baseline information on socio-economic, cultural, and political; and identifying project activities, their impacts and how to manage them in a manner that is culturally appropriate, gender and intergenerational inclusive. These include, among others, aspects related to involuntary resettlement, GBV/SEA/SH, public health, non-discrimination and requirements to ensure public consultation, participation, and communication of the affected population.

Given the sensitive nature of the issues being investigated in this assessment and the fact that at this stage, we are not yet seeking to establish cause and effect relationships between the various phenomena involved, but only to carry out a general exploration and eventually identify the issues and subjects that could be addressed, greater depth, although initially these can also be used to illuminate immediate planning and implementation, the study used a series of methods that can be seen below.

1.2.2 Data Collection and Survey Processing

For the development of this SA report, the data collection process was based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods that included: (i) document analysis, (ii) Key Informant Interviews (KII) and (iii) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

1.2.2.1 Document review

The document review was done by consulting available documents with data or information relevant to the project. As the time allocated to collect field data was very limited, it was insufficient to carry out a household survey with Project Affected People (PAP's). The document analysis exercise provided a deeper understanding of the CRRN project, the socioeconomic profile of the project area, existing public infrastructure and household income and expenses, among others. During the document analysis, the following documents were referred to but were not limited to these:

- Terms of Reference for Consulting Services.
- CRRN Project Concept Note, 2023
- 2021 Statistical Yearbook (provided by INE – National Statistics Institute).
- Family Budget Survey Report (provided by the Ministry of Economy and Finance)
- Field reports provided by government institutions (e.g. Provincial Directorate of Gender, Children and Social Action - DPGCAS, Provincial Directorate of Education and Human Development - DPEDH, etc.).

1.2.2.2 Direct Observation

Direct observations in the field, in its broadest sense, i.e. making use of all the senses with a focus on the general environment and the living and working conditions of the various people and entities in the three provinces of the project. The locations directly visited for interviews and direct observations by the evaluation team were:

- Nampula province
- Cabo Delgado province
- Niassa province

1.2.2.3 Key Informant Interviews (KII)

Interviews with key informants were used to collect qualitative data and through in-depth interviews with 23 key informants. These included: (i) critical people in provincial government institutions (e.g., Cabo Delgado Provincial Directorate of Gender, Children and Social Action, Cabo Delgado Provincial Directorate of Health, Cabo Delgado ANE Provincial Delegation, Provincial Directorate of Transport and Communication of Cabo Delgado, Cabo Delgado Provincial Environmental Services, Provincial Directorate of Industry and Commerce of Cabo Delgado, Provincial Command of Cabo Delgado, INDG of Cabo Delgado, Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries of Cabo Delgado, etc.

Information about project expectations and relevant recommendations for project execution and community ownership was collected from the interviews. Even so, the interviews allowed us to absorb information about i) the impact of road degradation on the development of the sector, (ii) the impact of climate change on the development of the industry, (iii) the impact of terrorist attacks on the industry, suggestions, and recommendations from the industry to improve the mobility of populations and traders and (iv) proposal criteria for selecting road maintenance service providers.

Information collected from government bodies such as DPGCAS, DPS and SDSMAS provided information on (i) identification of vulnerable groups along the project area corridor, (ii) occurrence of GBV/SH/SEA, (iii) Government and NGOs working with GBV/SH/SEAand (iv) mitigation measures adopted to reduce GBV/SH/SEA in the project target area.

1.2.2.4 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

This was another qualitative method used during field data collection. Only three (3) FGDs were carried out in the project area with different stakeholder groups such as (i) Gender Experts, ii) PAPs in the project area registered with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and iii) Community members. Group discussions focused on issues related to community and SME participation in project implementation and financing, categories of existing vulnerable groups and potential impacts of the project on these groups, GBV/SEA/SH, child labour, among others. These meetings were previously scheduled with the group members with the help of community leaders guided by the consultant's criteria. The consultation was conducted in a free and informed manner guided by an interview guide.

1.2.2.5 Public consultations

Developing and implementing an effective public participation plan involving all interested and affected parties is vital to the project. This involves identifying the population that will benefit or be negatively affected by the project and collecting information on the public response to the investments proposed in the project.

During this preparation phase, three (3) public consultations will be held, namely in Pemba, Lichinga and Nampula. The issues discussed during this public consultation included:

- Introduction of the components and items of the project,
- Participants' Perceptions and Expectations about the project and
- Recommendations for the project execution phase;
- Potential impacts of the project;
- Recommendations for project implementation phase.

1.2.2.6 Data Compilation

The data compilation involved the consultants' expertise to summarize and make sense of various issues that have been collected during the study. This approach strategy helped to provide valuable insights and ensure a comprehensive analysis of the data.

To finalize, the situations in which the interviewees and the areas receiving the project find themselves are diverse, variable, and subject to daily changes, making it impossible to capture all the variations and nuances.

In an attempt to minimize these limitations, an effort was made to explore the key issues that emerged, treating them as a form of "case studies." A more exhaustive assessment, focused on the various aspects of the provincial contexts, conflict hotspots, and the project as a whole, will enable a more precise understanding of the dynamics in the northern region and across the country, as well as the socioeconomic conditions surrounding the project's implementation.

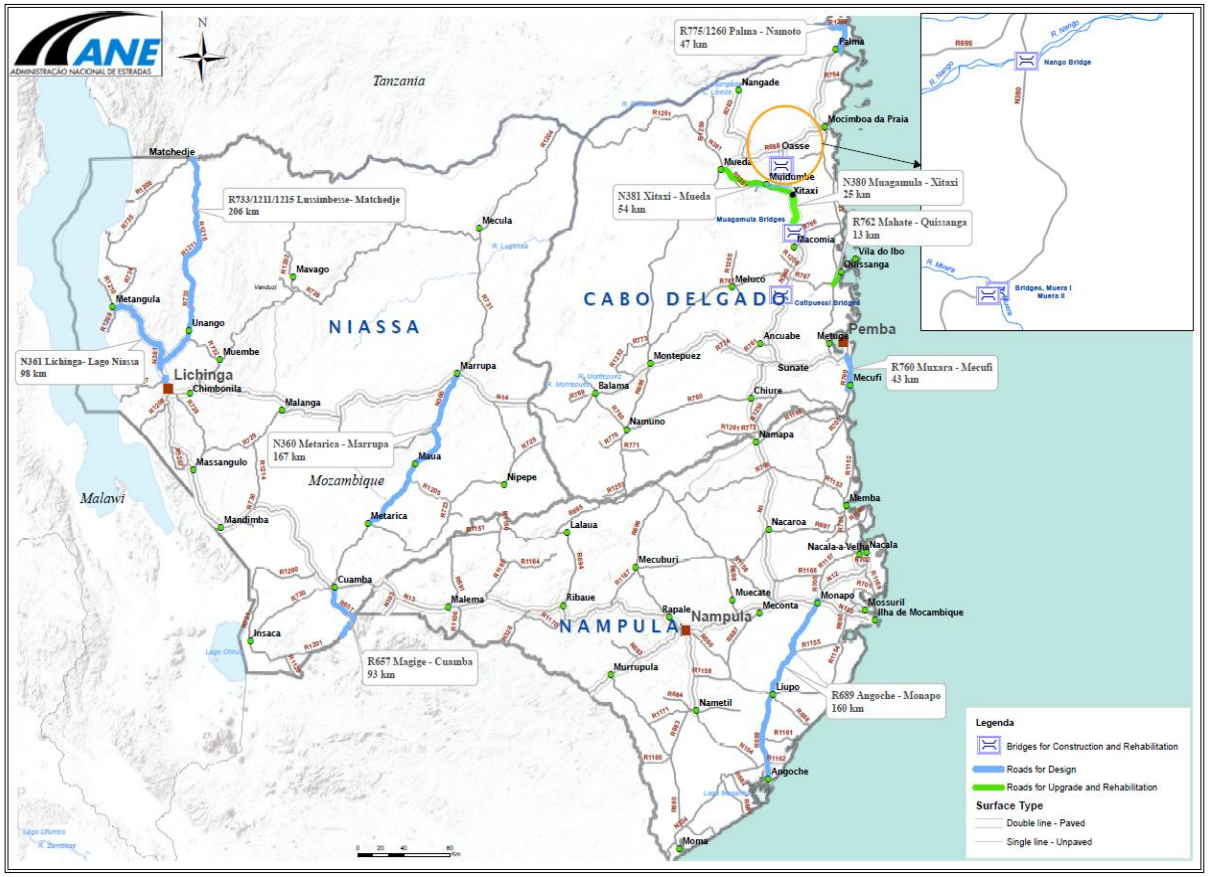
In the context of this methodology, an attempt is made to structure a spiral of steps, where each step consists of a cycle of planning, action, and investigation of the outcomes. This iterative process allows for continuous reflection and adjustment, with each subsequent step being informed by evidence and insights gained from the previous cycle. This approach ensures that progress is made based on a certain level of evidence, promoting learning and improvement as the project evolves.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT AREA

As shown in Figure 1, the target area of the project is essentially the specific roads of the province of Cabo Delgado (52km of the secondary road N381 Mueda – Xitaxi; 15km of the tertiary road R762 Muepane – Quissanga and rehabilitation of 25km of the asphalted secondary road N380 Muagamula – Xitaxi), and installation of 1,500m of metal/balanced bridges on tertiary roads in the three northern provinces (Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula), including the construction of bridge substructures and bridge interventions. As well,the improvement of a 15 km section of the R762 Muepane-Quissanga and some of the concrete bridges to be built and rehabilitated along the N380 road are located within the Quirimbas National Park (PNQ).

Figure 1: Project intervention provinces



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As described above, the project will be implemented on secondary and tertiary roads in Niassa, Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces. The project's area of influence comprises ten (10) sections totalling 906 Km, and as the multi-phase programmatic approach (MPA) will be adopted to facilitate project implementation, the proposed phases for interventions are presented in the table below, while Figure 1 shows in detail the area of influence of the project.

Table 1: Intervention phases on Project Roads

PROVINCE	SECTION (SECONDARY AND TERTIARY)	LENGTH (KM)	INTERVENTION PHASE	
			I	II
Corporal Delegate	N381 Mueda - Xitaxi	52	X	
Corporal Delegate	R762 Muepane - Quissanga	15	X	
Corporal Delegate	N380m Muagamula - Xitaxi	25	X	
Corporal Delegate	R775/1260 Palma – Namoto	47		X
Corporal Delegate	R760 Muxara – Mecúfi	43		X
Niassa	N361 Lichinga - Lake Niassa	98		X
Niassa	N360 Metarica - Marrupa	167		X
Niassa	R733/1211 Lussimbesse – Matchedje	206		X
Nampula	R657 Magige - Cuamba	93		X
Nampula	R689 Angoche - Monapo	160		X
Total		**906**		

Made by: ANE, 2023

On the other hand, the project envisages the construction and rehabilitation of five concrete bridges along the N380 secondary road in Cabo Delgado (Mirohote (45m), Muaguamula (40m), Muera 1 (55m), Muera 2 (30m) and Nango (35m).

Table 2: Intervention phases on the Project Bridges

PROVINCE	SECTION (SECONDARY AND TERTIARY)	LENGTH (M)	INTERVENTION PHASE	
			I	II
Corporal Delegate	Mirohot	45		X
Corporal Delegate	Muaguamula	40		X
Corporal Delegate	Muera 1	55		X
Corporal Delegate	Muera 2	30		X
Corporal Delegate	Nango	35		X

Made by: ANE, 2023

2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Social Assessment (SA) supports the the CRRN Project in complying with the provisions of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank (WB) with the aims to:

- Improve road connectivity in the Northern Provinces of Mozambique, namely Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula.
- Improve the quality of the road network (modernization, rehabilitation, and maintenance of selected secondary and tertiary roads) through implementing Performance-Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC).
- Build and rehabilitate bridges on the secondary and tertiary road networks by implementing Performance-Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC).
- Contribute to the creation and promotion of employment.

In the project, it is proposed to implement the PBMC approach to guarantee a consistent and accessible long-term service for road users, as well as the involvement of local communities in road works. The PBMC will include performance standards (service levels) for compliance with the ESS for both construction and maintenance. In an innovative approach, payments will be linked to service levels performed, for example:

- Preparation of an environmental, social, health and safety plan and establishment of baseline indicators before construction begins.
- Completion of mandatory periodic training for all workers on Sexual Exploitation Abuse (SEA) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) issues.

Under the terms of the contract, the Contractor will also be responsible for the ongoing monitoring and control of road conditions and service levels of all roads or sections of road included in the contract.

2.3 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve climate-resilient, safe, and sustainable road connectivity in the Northern Provinces of Mozambique. Based on the PDO, the Project has four components that can be summarized as:

- **Component 1**: Improving Climate Resilient, Safe and Sustainable Roads ($119.6 million).
- **Component 2**: Improving Road Safety and Transport Mobility ($2.5 million).
- **Component 3**: Institutional Strengthening and Project Management (US$2.9 million).
- **Component 4**: Contingent Emergency Response

In summary, the four main components and subcomponents of the project are presented below, as well as the expected levels of allocation of funds:

Table 3: Main components and subcomponents of the project

COMPONENT AND SUBCOMPONENTS	AMOUNT (USD)
COMPONENT 1: CLIMATE RESILIENT, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT OF ROADS	US$ 119.6 MILLION
Sub-component 1.1: Improvement and maintenance of road network	*US$81.5 million*
Sub-component 1.2: Improvement of bridges and drainage structures	*US$38.1 million*
Component 2: Improvement of Road Safety and Transport Mobility	US$ 2.5 million
Component 3: Institutional Strengthening and Project Management	US$ 2.9 million

2.4 MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES BY COMPONENT

The Component 1 will support the upgrading of roads and bridges.

Table 4: Civil works (Roads to be constructed and rehabilitated)

ROAD	LENGTH (KM)	INTERVENTION	ESTIMATED COST (US$ MILLION)	PROVINCE
N381 Mueda - Xitaxi	52	Upgrade	42.6	C.Delgado
R762 Muepane - Quissanga	15	Upgrade	9.4	C.Delgado
N380m Muagamula - Xitaxi	25	Rehabilitation	17.5	C.Delgado

Table 5: Consultancy services

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED COST (US$ MILLION)	PROVINCE
Preparation of concept designs and bidding documents (phase I)	1.45	C.Delgado
Monitoring Consultant for the works (phase I)	4.55	C.Delgado
Preparation of concept designs and bidding documents (phase II)	6.0	C.Delgado, Nampula, Niassa.

Table 6: Roads for preparation of concept designs and bidding documents (Phase II)

ROAD	LENGTH (KM)	INTERVENTION	PROVINCE
R775/1260 Palma – Namoto	47	Upgrade	C.Delgado

The Component 3 will support the activities indicated in Table 8 and related cost.

Table 7: Activities to be supported under component 3

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED COST (US$ MILLION)
Road Asset Management	0.5
Equipment and road and traffic data collection	0.8
Enhancement of climate resilience of roads	0.2
Technical assistance for project implementation	0.8
Preparation of Maintenance strategy	0.1
Development of community resilience committees	0.1
Project operating costs	0.9

3. SOCIOECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE STUDY AREA

This chapter presents a description of the socioeconomic aspects associated with the project during its various phases, based on available project data. All changes to the socioeconomic context of beneficiary communities, whether directly or indirectly related to the implementation of the proposed project are considered here. The objective is to assess the current situation in the project area and propose an appropriate strategy for the preparation phase of the project's documentation. This screening aims to ensure that any socioeconomic impacts are accurately understood and addressed in the planning and implementation processes.

3.1 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

According to data from the General Population Census carried out in 2017, the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa have a total of 9,464,848 inhabitants, of which 2,267,715 are from Cabo Delgado, 5,483,382 are from Nampula, and 1,713,751 are from Niassa. A significant part of the population from these 3 provinces will benefit from the enhanced access to road transport through the project interventions.

Therefore, the stakeholder's identification is a critical component before the specific engagement begins, and it is an on-going process requiring regular review and updating. Through that, ANE, IP will find it easy to understand how each stakeholder may be affected or, perceives they may be affected so that the engagement can be tailored to inform them and understand their views and concerns in an appropriate manner. When identifying and mapping specific individuals or organizations, it is important to consider the expected area of influence of the Project i.e. the geographical area over which it may cause impacts (both positive and negative) over its lifetime, and the localities within which people and businesses could be affected. It also important to consider the nature of the impacts that could arise and the types of government bodies, NGOs, academic and research institutions and other bodies who may have an interest in the project.

Identification and analysis of stakeholders will help the National Roads Administration, Public Institute (ANE, IP) to know the key stakeholders, their location, their interests and issues, levels of influence, what motivates them and what they are looking for in relationship to the project activities.

3.1.1 Different Levels of Stakeholders

3.1.1.1 Interested Institutions

The institutional and community stakeholders with relevant intervention and influence on the Project are indicated and categorized in Table 8. There are, however, other institutions that could have a significant, although not decisive, influence on the implementation of the project. These institutions include: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS); Ministry of State Administration and Public Service (MAEFP); Ministry of Education and Human Development (MoEHD); State Secretariat for Youth and Employment; National Employment Institute; National Institute of Statistics; Courts at provincial and district levels, and Higher Education Institutions stablished at provincial levels.

3.1.1.2 Local Government

The provincial government which includes provincial services/directorate for infrastructures, environment, education, health, public works, housing and water resources (especially ANE, IP), social affairs, and the provintial police, as well as the Provincial Secretariat in the three provinces (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa), are key in a number of aspects of the project. This category also includes community leadership and community-based organizations with a relevant role in local life, in discussions and decision-making on local issues, such as neighborhood secretaries and chiefs among others.

3.1.1.3 Non-Governmental Organizations

The participation of the NGOs whether local, national or international is important in the implementation of the proposed project and the engagement process throughout its life cycle. These may include organizations working directly in the construction and building materials, health, education, environment and biodiversity conservation sectors as well as other related stakeholders such as; the Engineers of Mozambique, Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique (CTA), United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) as well as those working in the area of protection and development of special interest groups (children, women and the youth) and this include; UNICEF, UNFPA coordinating the GBV/SH/SEA and the Health Cluster in Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa. Furthermore, the involvement of NGOs that work with communities in different sectors, including sanitation, health will be fundamental to support project activities especially the local mediawhich are also very important.

As mentioned previously, the Table 8 below describe the categorization of stakeholders according to how they will be affected (directly or indirectly) by the implementation of the project; level of intervention and influence on project implementation.

Table 8: Stakeholder identification and mapping

STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BY THE RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT	STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY TAKE PART IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT	STAKEHOLDERS WITH INFLUENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

• General affected population living in the project targeted areas (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa Provinces).
• Vulnerable population including women, female headed households, children/ child headed households, Persons with Disability (PWD), elderly and others.
• Civil society in general.
• Private sector, small commercial farmers, subsistence/traditional farmers.
• Public servants (health, education workers, public administration in general).
• NGOs and Associations operating at district and Provincial levels.
	• Provincial Government.
	• ANE provintial delegations
	• All sectoral institutions at provincial level.
	  ○ Environment
	  ○ Education
	  ○ Health
	  ○ Public works, housing and water resources.
	• Northern Regional Water Administration (ARA-Norte).
	• ANE, IP delegation.
	• Provincial Health Directorate (DPS).
	• Provincial Directorate of Education Human Development (DPEDH).
	• Provincial Directorate of Transport and Communications (DPTC).
	• Provincial Infrastructure Directorate (DPIE).
	• Provincial Environmental Services (SPA).
		• Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resource.
		• Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTC).
		• Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security.
		• Minisry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER).
		• Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Action.
		• Ministry of Health (MISAU).
		• Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH).
		• Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA).
		• National Institute of Meteorology.
		• National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD).

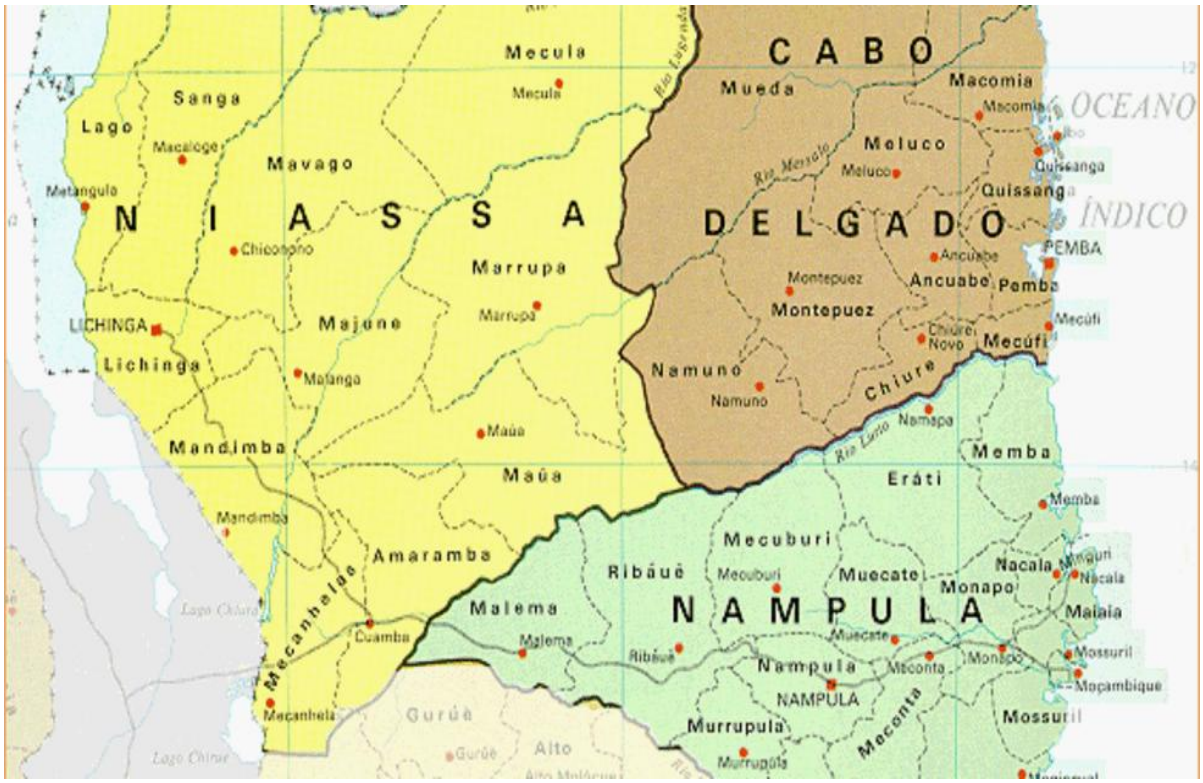
• Provincial and District Government. • Small Business operating along the roads to be intervened and others. • Transport operators.	• Provincial Services for Economic Activities. • Provincial Directorate of Territorial Development and Environment (DPDTA). • Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries (DPAP). • Provincial Directorate of Industry and Commerce (DPIC). • Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism (DPCT). • GBV/SH/SEA multisectoral stakeholders (Health institutions, Legal system, and Social Affairs).	• International organizations promoting gender equality reducing GBV/SH/SEA and implementing interventions on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. • UN Agencies, especially the UNFPA coordinating the GBV/SH/SEA and the Health Cluster in Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa. • Northern Integrated Development Agency (ADIN).

Source: EA and JBN (2023)

3.2 GENERAL GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS

As shown in Figure 2, the project area is located in the northern region of Mozambique, bordering the Republic of Tanzania to the north via the Rovuma River, and the Republic of Malawi to the east. The project encompasses three key provinces: Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa. These provinces are known for their strategic geographic location and diverse socioeconomic and environmental conditions, which have significant implications for the project's development and implementation.

Figure 2: Overview of the provinces covered by the project



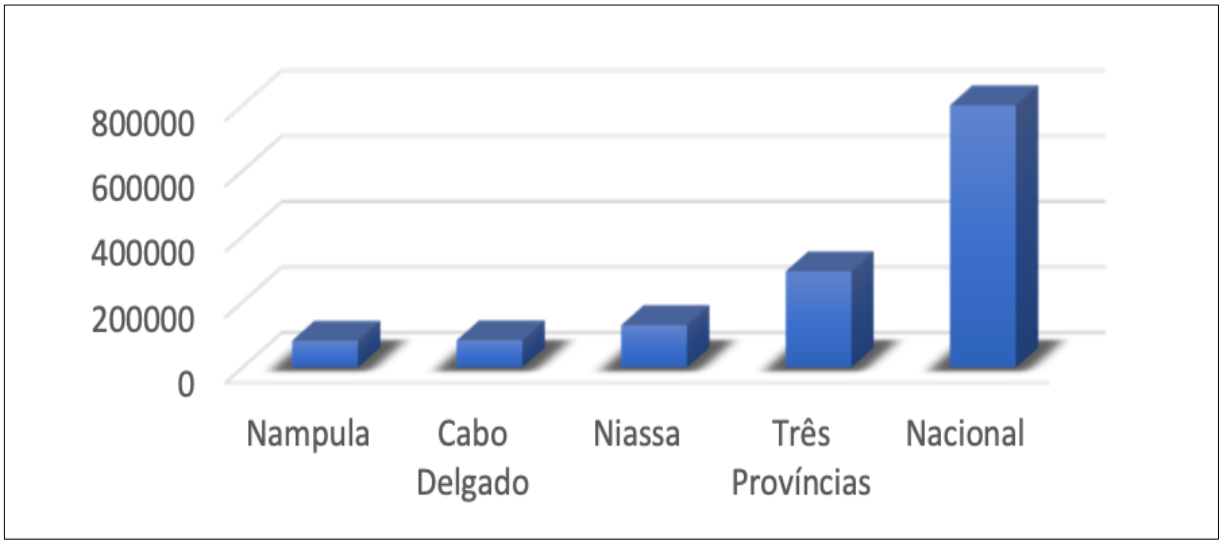
Source: ANE, 2023

The provinces of the northern region of Mozambique, particularly Niassa and Cabo Delgado, exhibit some of the lowest socioeconomic and human development indices in the country. This situation starkly contrasts with the region's considerable natural and human potential, particularly when viewed from the perspective of the inhabitants who are familiar with the region's resources and capabilities.

Despite this high natural potential and the fact that these provinces cover approximately 37% of the entire national territory, their contribution to the national GDP is relatively low, at just 22%. This figure highlights the underdevelopment of the region in economic terms, especially when compared to other regions of Mozambique. The central provinces (Sofala, Manica, Tete, and Zambézia) contribute around 30% to the national GDP, while the southern provinces (Maputo city and province, Gaza, and Inhambane) account for the most significant portion, contributing 48% of the GDP.

This disparity in economic contribution underscores the need for targeted development strategies in the northern region to harness its natural resources and human potential effectively. Addressing the socioeconomic challenges in Niassa, Cabo Delgado, and Nampula through sustainable development projects could significantly boost their contribution to the national economy and improve living standards for the local population.

Figure 3: Total Area of Each Provinces



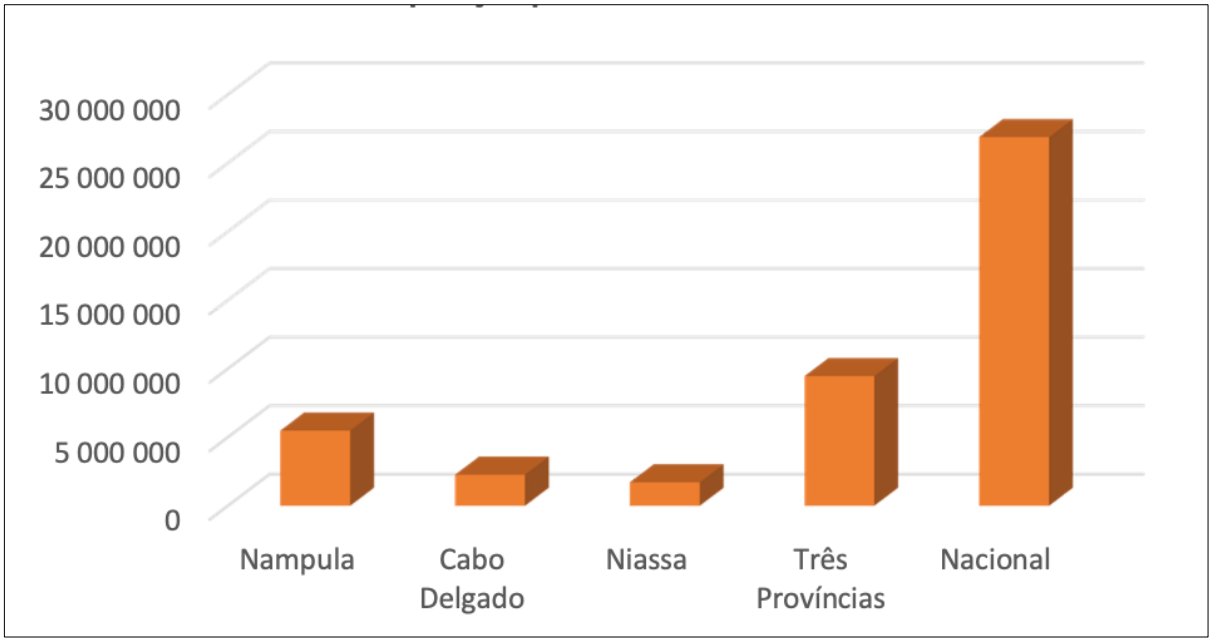
Source: INE, 2022

3.2.1 Population

In Mozambique, the population totals approximately 32 million inhabitants, with women making up around 52% of the population. This gender distribution is further highlighted by the sex ratio, which indicates that, on average, there are 100 women for every 94 men (INE, 2023). This demographic structure underscores the significant role of women in the Mozambican population.

The three provinces within the project area (Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa) collectively account for 37% of the country's total population. This figure is significantly bolstered by Nampula Province, which alone represents nearly 22% of the national population. The demographic weight of these provinces, particularly Nampula, emphasizes their importance in the overall socioeconomic landscape of Mozambique and highlights the potential impact of development projects in these regions.

Figure 4: Total Population in each Province



Source: INE, 2022

Regarding the project area, which includes the provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa, there are approximately 12 million inhabitants. Of this population, 51% are female, and 49% are male, reflecting a slightly higher proportion of women in the region. This demographic distribution is crucial for understanding the social dynamics within the project area, as it may influence the design and implementation of project activities to ensure that they are inclusive and equitable.

As refer to Table 9 for a detailed breakdown of the population distribution by gender within the project area.

Table 9: Population of Project Area

PROVINCE	PROJECT AREA POPULATION			%
	FAMELE	MEN	TOTAL	
Region	**5,947,012.00**	**5,650,558.00**	**11,597,570.00**	**100.00**
Niassa	1,130,861.00	1,071,956.00	2,202,817.00	18.99
Cabo Delgado	1,408,165.00	1,336,707.00	2,744,872.00	23.67
Nampula	3,407,986.00	3,241,895.00	6,649,881.00	57.34
%	51.00	49.00	100.00	

Source: INE, 2022

3.2.2 Household Characteristics

According to the National Institute of Statistics (INE, 2023), Mozambique has approximately seven million households, of which 71.3% are headed by men and 28.7% are headed by women. In rural areas, the percentage of households headed by women is slightly lower at 28.4%, compared to 29.1% in urban areas.

In the specific project area, which encompasses the provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa, there are approximately two million and five hundred households. Of these, 77% are headed by men, while only 23% are headed by women. This gender disparity in household leadership is more pronounced in this region compared to the national average.

This trend also extends to dependency rates, with urban households generally experiencing higher dependency rates than those in rural areas. This is partly due to the tendency of individuals who secure some level of income in urban areas to bring their family members from rural areas to live with them. As a result, urban households often have more dependents, increasing the financial and social burden on the household head.

The situation in Cabo Delgado further exacerbates these dynamics. The ongoing conflict in several districts within this province has led to significant displacement, disrupting traditional household structures and increasing the number of dependents in both urban and rural areas as families seek refuge from the violence. This displacement places additional stress on already vulnerable households, particularly those headed by women, who often have fewer resources and support networks to manage these challenges. As refer to the detailed statistics in the table below for a

comprehensive breakdown of household composition and dependency rates within the project area.

Table 10: Households Distribution in the Project Area

PROVINCE	HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUITION			%
	FAMELE	MEN	TOTAL	
Region	**556,012.00**	**1,893,821.00**	**2,449,833.00**	**100.00**
Niassa	111,585.00	323,192.00	434,777.00	17.75
Cabo Delgado	134,901.00	454,211.00	589,112.00	24.05
Nampula	309,526.00	1,116,418.00	1,425,944.00	58.21
%	23.00	77.00	100.00	

Household heads are key decision-makers on crucial family issues, playing a vital role in determining the direction of their households. Their ability and willingness to participate in project activities in their locality is crucial for the success of any initiative. As primary decision-makers, they influence not only the daily operations of the household but also how the household engages with external opportunities, such as community development projects.

In the context of the project area, where a significant majority of households are headed by men, their involvement is particularly critical. However, the inclusion of women, who head a smaller proportion of households, is equally important, as they often have unique insights and priorities that can enhance the effectiveness of the project.

Understanding the dynamics of household decision-making, including who holds authority and how decisions are made, is essential for ensuring that project activities are designed in a way that is accessible and relevant to all members of the community. By actively engaging household heads and considering their perspectives, the project can foster greater community participation, ownership, and ultimately, success in achieving its goals.

3.2.3 Household Size and Marital Status

On average, each household consists of three people, with the head of the household having an average age of 40 years (IOF, 2020). The marital status of the household's heads varies, with majority (77%) being married or living in a marital union, while approximately 6% are widowed.

Regarding the marital status of the head of the household, in Mozambique, among households headed by women, separated or divorced women (36.4%) and widows (34.5%) stand out, while for households headed by men, those in a marital union stand out (80.8%). Specifically in the project area, there is a higher percentage of households headed by separated or divorced women and followed by households headed by widows. For households headed by men, there is a higher percentage of heads in a marital union (See the details at table below).

Equally, there are notable differences between households headed by men and those headed by women. Among households headed by women, a significant proportion are led by separated or divorced women (36.4%) and widows (34.5%). In contrast, for households headed by men, those in a marital union are predominant, with 80.8% of male household heads being married or living in a marital union.

In the project area, these trends are also evident but with specific regional nuances. There is a higher percentage of households headed by separated or divorced women, followed by households headed by widows. This reflects the challenges faced by female household heads in the region, who may be managing households under more difficult circumstances, such as after the loss of a spouse or separation.

For households headed by men in the project area, a higher percentage of these heads are in a marital union, consistent with national trends. This marital status often provides a more stable household structure, which can influence the household's economic and social decisions.

These demographic details are crucial for understanding the social structure and dynamics within the project area, as they impact the participation and engagement of households in project activities. Recognizing the specific challenges faced by female-headed households, particularly those led by widows or separated women, is essential for ensuring that the project addresses the needs of all community members and fosters inclusive participation.

For a detailed breakdown of marital status among household heads in the project area, please refer to the table provided below.

Table 11: Distribution of households by marital status (%)

PROVINCE	MARITAL STATUS					TOTAL	N
	SINGLE	MARRIED	MARITAL UNION	DIVORCED/ SEPARED	WIDOWED		
WOMEN							
NIASSA	14.40	1.30	11.10	41.20	32.00	100.00	111,585.00
CABO DELGADO	5.20	0.10	13.30	48.50	32.80	100.00	134,901.00
NAMPULA	3.00	2.80	15.90	52.30	26.00	100.00	309,526.00
MEN							
NIASSA	2.10	13.40	81.40	2.20	0.90	100.00	111,585.00
CABO DELGADO	1.70	2.10	91.80	2.60	1.90	100.00	134,901.00
NAMPULA	1.80	16.90	76.80	3.40	1.10	100.00	309,526.00

Souces: INE, 2022

The majority of the Mozambican population is Catholic with 27.3%, followed by Islam with 19.1%. However, the percentage of people with no religion is notable with 13.5%. In the project area, specifically in the provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa, the predominance of the Islamic religion is observed at 40%, followed by the Catholic religion at 30% (See details in the table below).

Table 12: Distribution of households by marital status (%)

PROVINCE	RELIGION								TOTAL
	CATHOLIC	ANGLICAN	ISLAMIC	ZION	EVANGELICAL/PENTECOSTAL	NO RELIGION	OTHER	UNKNOW	
NIASSA	450,816.00	74,089.00	1,011,582.00	46,775.00	73,532.00	12,840.00	25,766.00	18,351.00	1,713,751.00
CABO DELGADO	814,443.00	7,669.00	1,192,305.00	9,663.00	42,665.00	168,352.00	19,132.00	13,486.00	2,267,715.00
NAMPULA	2,071,688.00	44,505.00	2,174,247.00	112,453.00	338,595.00	565,896.00	95,436.00	80,562.00	5,483,382.00
%	38.00	0.80	40.00	2.00	6.00	10.00	1.70	1.50	100.00

Souces: INE, 2022

On average, each household in Mozambique consists of three people, with the head of the household having an average age of 40 years (IOF, 2020). The majority (77%) of household heads are either married or living in a marital union, while approximately 6% are widowed.

These marital status statistics provide insight into the social stability and family structures within households, which can influence decision-making processes and participation in community and project activities.

3.2.4 Academic Education

Education is a fundamental right for all human beings and serves as a key instrument for improving living conditions. It plays a crucial role in the realization of civil, political, economic, and social rights, and is vital for reducing inequalities within a population. In this chapter, selected education indicators are presented, including the illiteracy rate, level of education completed, and school enrollment rates by level of education.

According to the data presented in the table below, in the project area, 55% of household heads had attended school or had some form of formal education. Notably, of these household heads with education, 64% are men, while the remaining 36% are women. This gender disparity reflects broader trends in access to education within the region.

Only 0.93% of household heads have attained higher education, highlighting the limited access to advanced educational opportunities in the project area. Additionally, 53.8% of household heads are illiterate, indicating a significant challenge in the region's educational attainment levels.

Furthermore, 1.79% of household heads have participated in adult education programs, suggesting that a portion of the population still faces challenges with literacy, such as reading and writing. This low level of formal education among household heads suggests that many community members may have limited ability to engage with complex information or documents.

Given these educational indicators, it is clear that the general educational level in the project area is low, with a significant portion of the population being illiterate. This has implications for the project's communication strategy. While community members can participate and provide feedback, it is essential for the project to develop a communication strategy that is accessible and inclusive. This strategy should take into account the low literacy levels and ensure that information is conveyed in a manner that allows for active participation from all Project-Affected Persons (PAPs). This approach was emphasized during Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and public consultations, where the need for clear and understandable communication methods was highlighted.

For a detailed breakdown of the educational levels of household heads in the project area, please refer to the table provided below.

Table 13: Academic Education

EDUCATION								TOTAL	%
NENHUM NIVEL	PRÉ-ESCOLAR	ALFABETIZAÇÃO	PRIMÁRIO DO 1º E 2º GRAU	SECUNDÁRIO GERAL DO 1º E 2º CICLO	NIVEL TÉCNICO (BÁSICO E MÉDIO)	CURSO DE FORMAÇÃO DE PROFRSSORES	NIVEL SUPERIOR		
108,843.00	4,375.00	3,437.00	86,041.00	33,792.00	1,976.00	1,212.00	3,251.00	242,927.00	51.00
150,213.00	4,254.00	3,862.00	56,222.00	12,875.00	826.00	638.00	1,472.00	230,362.00	49.00
259,056.00	**8,629.00**	**7,299.00**	**142,263.00**	**46,667.00**	**2,802.00**	**1,850.00**	**4,723.00**	**473,289.00**	**100.00**
185,858.00	7,490.00	5,960.00	139,434.00	44,039.00	2,116.00	1,268.00	3,719.00	389,884.00	50.05
276,260.00	6,889.00	5,425.00	82,352.00	15,251.00	773.00	527.00	1,684.00	389,161.00	49.95
462,118.00	**14,379.00**	**11,385.00**	**221,786.00**	**59,290.00**	**2,889.00**	**1,795.00**	**5,403.00**	**779,045.00**	**100.00**
366,948.00	22,930.00	14,554.00	331,165.00	106,813.00	5,003.00	797.00	10,500.00	858,710.00	51.63
528,605.00	22,415.00	15,202.00	193,251.00	36,596.00	1,956.00	1,438.00	4,961.00	804,424.00	48.37
895,553.00	**45,345.00**	**29,756.00**	**524,416.00**	**143,409.00**	**6,959.00**	**2,235.00**	**15,461.00**	**1,663,134.00**	**100.00**

Souce: INE, 2022

Regarding cultural beliefs and values, Mozambique is characterized by a diverse array of human groups, each with specific sociocultural characteristics that align with regional distinctions (MINED, 1986). These groups are typically organized based on shared cultural traits that are prevalent in different parts of the country.

- **To the north of the Zambezi River**, the predominant cultural groups are matrilineal, meaning that lineage and inheritance are traced through the mother's side. The major matrilineal groups include the **Makonde, Yao, Makhuwa, Nyanja, Nsenga, Pimbwe, and others. These groups maintain a social structure where women often play a central role in the family and community decision-making processes.
- **To the south of the Zambezi River**, the population is primarily patrilineal, where lineage and inheritance are traced through the father's side. The key patrilineal groups in this region are the Shona, Tsonga, Chope, and Bitonga. Additionally, the Nguni group, which also follows a patrilineal structure, has a presence throughout the country, with communities scattered across different regions.
- **In the Zambezi Valley**, which serves as a transition zone, there is a mix of matrilineal and patrilineal influences. This region is home to groups like the Chuwabo, Sena, Nyungwe, and Mwani, who exhibit a blend of these cultural traditions, reflecting the unique socio-cultural landscape of the valley.

In the project area, which encompasses the provinces of Nampula, Niassa, and Cabo Delgado, the family structure is predominantly matrilineal. The main ethnic groups in these provinces include the Makonde, Yao, Makhuwa, Nyanja, Nsenga, and Pimbwe, among others. In these communities, the matrilineal system influences various aspects of social life, including inheritance, land ownership, and family organization, where women often hold significant influence within the family and community.

Understanding these cultural dynamics is crucial for the successful implementation of the project, as these sociocultural factors can significantly impact how communities engage with the project and how resources and benefits are distributed. The project's strategies should therefore be culturally sensitive and tailored to align with the local traditions and social structures, particularly in addressing issues related to land use, community participation, and leadership roles within these matrilineal societies.

3.2.5 Family Income and Expenses

3.2.5.1 Sources of Income and Unemployment Rate

The workforce, or Economically Active Population (EAP), is defined as the entire population aged 15 years or older who are either employed or available for employment, should an opportunity arise. According to data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE, 2022), 84.9% of the population aged 15 years or older in Mozambique is economically active, while 15.1% is not engaged in any economic activity.

When analyzing the workforce by gender, there is a notable difference in participation rates. 83.1% of women aged 15 years or older are part of the economically active population, compared to 87.1% of men. This indicates that women have a relatively lower participation rate in the workforce compared to men, reflecting broader gender disparities in economic opportunities and labor market access within the country.

These figures highlight the importance of considering gender dynamics in employment policies and initiatives aimed at enhancing workforce participation. Addressing barriers to women's participation in the workforce could contribute to greater economic empowerment and reduce gender inequalities in Mozambique.

The living conditions of families are closely tied to the income stability of the primary breadwinners, typically the household heads. In many cases, sustaining a household's livelihood requires income from more than one source. For example, the head of a family might be engaged in agricultural production, which is often subject to seasonal fluctuations and market uncertainties. To supplement this, other family members may have jobs that provide more stable income, such as those paid by the state, including civil servants and retirees, who generally enjoy a relatively consistent and reliable income.

However, for poor and lower middle-income households, income is often derived from unstable and temporary jobs. These jobs might include casual labor, small-scale trading, or other informal sector activities, which are highly susceptible to economic shifts and offer little job security. As a result, these households frequently face financial uncertainty, making it difficult to maintain consistent living conditions or plan for the future.

The reliance on multiple income sources underscores the importance of job diversification and the need for stable employment opportunities to improve the living standards of families. Addressing the instability of income in lower-income households is crucial for enhancing overall economic security and reducing poverty in the long term.

The following table illustrates the distribution of household income sources in the areas covered by the project. The data show that the majority of households are primarily engaged in agriculture, with 78% of households identified as agricultural households. This indicates that agricultural activities are the primary source of income for most families in the project area.

Following agriculture, a smaller percentage of households are involved in business and finance, accounting for 6.6% of the households. This sector includes small-scale trading, retail activities, and financial services, which provide additional income streams for these families.

Other income-generating activities, which may include casual labor, artisanal work, and other informal sector activities, represent 4.4% of the households. These activities provide supplementary income but are often less stable and more vulnerable to economic fluctuations.

These data suggest that the primary source of household income in the project area is heavily reliant on agricultural activities. This reliance on agriculture as the main income source highlights the importance of supporting and enhancing agricultural productivity, market access, and sustainability to improve the economic well-being of these households. Additionally, the relatively small percentages of households involved in business, finance, and other activities indicate potential areas for diversification and development to create more stable and varied income opportunities for the local population.

Table 14: Source of Income of People Living in the Province Where the Project will be Implemented (% of Households)

SOURCE OF INCOME	NIASSA	NAMPULA	CABO DELGADO	TOTAL (%)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	82.4	73.2	78.4	78
Mining	0.2	1.7	2.3	1.4
Industry	2.5	4.1	5.4	4
Energy	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2
Construction	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.4
Transport and Communications	1	1.8	0.5	1.1
Business and Finance	4.5	10.11	5.1	6.6
Administrative services	1.5	5.5	1.8	2.9
Others	5.3	3.4	4.5	4.4

Source: INE (2021), IOF (2020), INE (2017), IAI (2020)

In the project area, the average unemployment rate stands at 11.9% of households. However, this rate is notably higher in the provinces of Niassa and Nampula, where unemployment exceeds 12%. A closer look at the data reveals that unemployment is a significant issue among male-headed households in the project area. However, it is particularly concerning among female-headed households in Niassa and Nampula, where the unemployment rates are 13.3% and 11.6% respectively. In these provinces,

the unemployment rate among female-headed households is slightly higher, at 12.1% in Niassa and 13.5% in Nampula.

These statistics suggest that unemployment is a critical issue in the project area, particularly among vulnerable groups such as female-headed households. The high unemployment rate has several negative implications, including reduced disposable income for families, erosion of purchasing power, decreased worker morale, and a decline in the overall economic productivity of the region.

Given this context, it is essential that the project implementation actively considers the local population for employment opportunities. By prioritizing the hiring of local residents, especially those from vulnerable groups, the project can help mitigate the adverse effects of unemployment, boost local economies, and enhance the socioeconomic well-being of the affected communities. This approach will not only contribute to the success of the project but also foster greater community support and engagement.

Table 15: The unemployment rate in the Project area

PROVINCE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MAN	WOMEN	ALL
Niassa	13.3	12.1	**12.7**
Nampula	11.6	13.5	**12.6**
Cabo Delgado	10.7	12.3	**11.5**
All	**11.9**	**12.6**	**12.3**

Source: INE (2021), IOF (2020), INE (2017), IAI (2020)

3.2.5.2 Income and Expenses

According to the data provided in the table, the average monthly income per capita in the project area is 1,677 MZN. Among the provinces, Niassa has the highest average income at 2,321 MZN, followed by Nampula with 1,455 MZN, and Cabo Delgado with the lowest average income of 1,256 MZN.

In terms of expenditure, the average monthly expenditure per capita in the project area is 1,295.70 MZN. Niassa and Cabo Delgado report the highest per capita expenditures, while Nampula has the lowest, at 1,124 MZN.

This data indicates a correlation between household income and expenditure in the project area, suggesting that regions with higher income levels also tend to have higher expenditures, and vice versa. For instance, Niassa, which has the highest

income, also shows higher expenditure levels, while Nampula, with lower income, demonstrates lower expenditures. This correlation implies that as household income increases, so does the capacity to spend, reflecting the economic dynamics of the households in these regions.

Understanding this correlation is important for the project, as it highlights the economic realities of the local population. These insights can guide the allocation of resources and the design of interventions to ensure that they effectively address the needs of the communities, particularly in regions where income is lower and financial vulnerability may be higher. The project could also consider initiatives aimed at boosting income levels in lower-income areas to improve the overall economic well-being of households.

Table 16: Monthly household income and per capita expenditure in the project area (in MZN)

PROVINCE	MONTHLY HH BUDGET (PER CAPITA)			
	INCOME		EXPENSES	
	MZM	USD	MZM	USD
Niassa	2,321.00	36	1,588.00	25
Nampula	1,455.00	23	1,124.00	18
Cabo Delgado	1. 256.00	20	1,175.00	18
AVERAGE	**1,888.00**	79	**1,295.70**	61

Source: IOF (2020)

3.2.6 Public Services

3.2.6.1 Electricity, Water Supply and Sanitation

Access to public services such as electricity and water is vital for community development, as it enables households to utilize electricity for essential functions like lighting, heating, cooling, refrigeration, and operating appliances, computers, electronics, and machinery, all of which directly contribute to increased productivity and improved quality of life.

According to the data provided, all provinces covered by the project have some level of access to the national electricity grid. However, only 21.3% of households use electricity as their primary energy source. Nampula has the highest percentage of households with access to electricity, at 23.6%, while Cabo Delgado has the lowest, with only 19.5% of households having access to electricity. This indicates a disparity in access to electricity within the project area, with significant portions of the population still lacking reliable access to this critical resource.

Access to clean and safe water is equally essential. The data shows that less than 5% of households in the project area have access to tap water within their homes. Additionally, 14.6% of households rely on boreholes or wells as their primary water source. This low level of access to piped water highlights the significant challenges in securing adequate water supplies in the project area. The competition for water between local communities and contractors during the construction phase, thus the need to incorporate the provision of water during the project implememtation phase

In terms of sanitation, the situation is also concerning. Only 19.5% of people in the project area have access to safe sanitation facilities, such as flush toilets and improved latrines. The remaining 80.5% of the population relies on unsafe sanitation facilities, including unimproved or open latrines. These poor sanitation conditions pose serious health risks, increasing the likelihood of disease outbreaks and epidemics, which could further strain the already vulnerable public health infrastructure in the region.

Given these challenges, it is crucial for the project to address these basic service deficiencies during its implementation. Ensuring access to electricity, clean water, and safe sanitation will not only improve the living conditions of the local population but also support the overall success and sustainability of the project. By addressing these fundamental needs, the project can contribute to the long-term development and well-being of the communities in the project area.

Table 17: Access to public services and sanitation

PROVINCE	PUBLIC SERVICES			SANITATION (%)	
	ELECTRICITY	WATER SUPPLY		SAFE	UNSAFE
		TAP WATER	DRILLED WELLS		
Niassa	20.8	4.6	24.7	13.4	86.6
Nampula	23.6	5.6	7.6	21.6	78.4
Cabo Delgado	19.5	4.6	11.6	23.6	76.4
AVERAGE	**21.3**	**4.9**	**14.6**	**19.5**	**80.5**

Source: IOF (2020)

3.2.7 Health Establishments

The project area is served by a total of 569 health units, the majority of which are health centers (525), with only three central or provincial hospitals providing more advanced medical care. This distribution of health facilities, as shown in the table below, reflects a healthcare system that is primarily focused on providing basic and primary healthcare services to the population.

According to the Provincial Health Directorate of Cabo Delgado, the most common illnesses in the region include malaria, diarrhea, cholera, tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, and whooping cough. These diseases are prevalent in the area, and the health sector is tasked with managing and preventing outbreaks, especially in vulnerable communities.

The health sector has indicated that every district and locality in the project area has a health unit. However, the ongoing terrorist attacks in Cabo Delgado have severely impacted the operation of these health services. In many areas, healthcare facilities have become inoperative due to the instability and violence, leaving communities without essential health services.

In response to emergencies, the health sector, supported by the national defense forces, continues to provide medical services to areas still considered at risk. When necessary, health units are mobilized to these areas to address the immediate health needs of the affected populations, despite the challenging security situation.

These conditions highlight the critical need for the project to consider the health infrastructure and services in the area, especially in terms of strengthening the capacity of existing facilities and ensuring that healthcare delivery is resilient to the ongoing security challenges. The provision of additional support, both in terms of resources and security, could be vital in maintaining the functionality of health services and improving the overall health outcomes for the local population. Additionally, the project could play a role in enhancing the emergency response capabilities of the health sector, ensuring that communities have access to essential health services even in times of crisis.

Table 18: Provincial health facilities

PROVINCE	TYPE OF HEALTHCARE FACILITY				
	CENTRAL, PROVINCIAL AND MILITARY HOSPITAL	DISTRICT/RURAL AND GENERAL HOSPITALS	HEALTH CENTER	HEALTH CENTER	TOTAL
Niassa	1	3	196	0	**200**
Nampula	1	9	207	21	**238**
Cabo Delgado	1	4	122	4	**131**
All	**3**	**16**	**525**	**25**	**569**

Source: INE (2020)

3.2.8 Transport - Roads

It is well established that one of the primary factors contributing to the underdevelopment of the northern region of Mozambique, and which is expected to have significant implications for the project area, is the inadequate infrastructure. Among the various types of infrastructure, roads play a crucial role in facilitating the movement of people and goods, which in turn stimulates the production and development of other economic and social services. These services include railways, ports, energy, telecommunications, water supply, sanitation systems, education, and health. Unfortunately, these essential services are currently more deficient in the northern region compared to other parts of the country, largely due to the poor condition of the road network.

The road network in the project area is particularly problematic, especially in rural villages where roads do not uniformly meet the local development needs. While asphalt roads exist, they are limited to main roads, national roads, urban centers, inter-district, and inter-communal roads. The table below highlights that the majority of roads in the project area are composed of stone or gravel, totaling 6,847.35 km, while paved roads (asphalt/concrete) make up 2,128.35 km. This indicates that while families in the project area do have access to some paved roads, the majority of the road network is unpaved and not in good condition.

Consultations with the regional office of the National Roads Administration (ANE) in Cabo Delgado province revealed that financial constraints have severely limited the ability to maintain these roads. Additionally, the lack of alternative means of transport has led to the overuse of existing roads, which in turn has accelerated the deterioration of the region's road infrastructure.

The poor condition of the road network has far-reaching consequences, impacting not only transportation but also the broader development of the region. The inadequate infrastructure hinders access to markets, schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential services, further entrenching the region's economic and social challenges.

For the project to be successful, it is crucial to address these infrastructure issues. Improving the road network would not only enhance transportation but also support the development of other critical infrastructure and services in the region. This could involve advocating for increased funding for road maintenance, exploring alternative transportation solutions, and integrating infrastructure development as a key component of the project strategy. By addressing these challenges, the project can contribute to the sustainable development of the northern region and improve the quality of life for the local population.

Table 19: Extension of paved and unpaved roads in the project area

PROVINCE	ROAD SURFACE (KM)			
	CONCRETE/ASPHALT	STONE/BRICK/GRABBLE	EARTH	ALL
Nampula	935.65	3,077.35	0	4,013
Cabo Delgado	733	1262	828	2,823
Niassa	460	2508	966	3,934
All	**2,128.65**	**6,847.35**	**1,794**	**10,770**

Source: INE (2020) and INE (2019)

The summary of the state of the roads is structured along the following lines: (a) the total length of the road network is just over 30,623 km, with 20% primary, 16% secondary, 42% tertiary and 22% local roads; and (b) the primary road network is in better condition and tends to coincide with paved roads than the secondary, tertiary and local networks, to the extent that conditions progressively deteriorate as one goes down the hierarchy.

Even considering the adjustment to be made in relation to 2021, the fact that in 2014, 38% of the tertiary road network and 49% of the road network were in very poor condition, limiting the development potential of the areas covered by the project, as well as negatively interfering with the integration of regional trade.

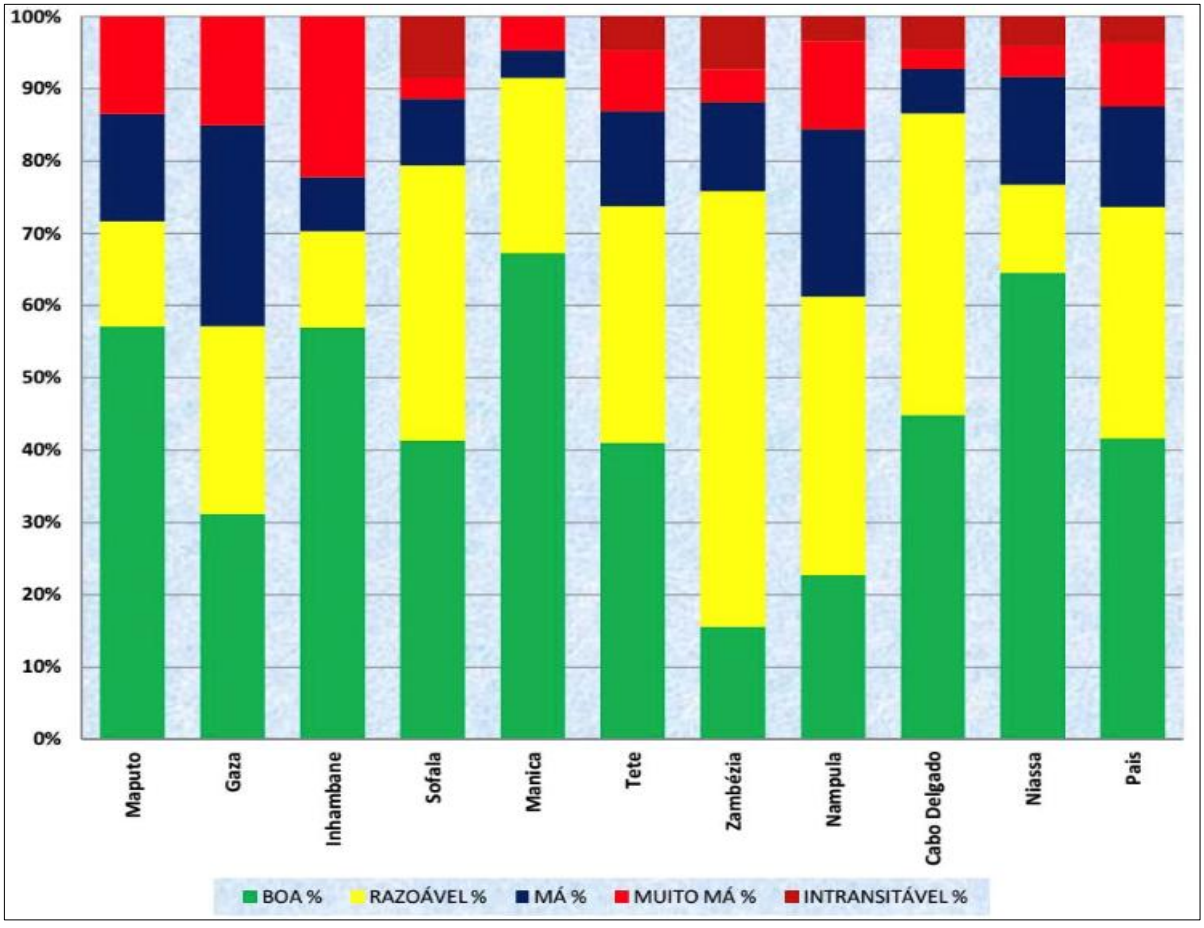
Traditionally, Mozambique has been a country more focused on east-west corridors, intended to serve inland and landlocked countries. This gave rise to the three main corridors of Maputo, Beira and Nacala, which hold significant potential and, despite

the added value they contribute to the domestic economy, are primarily intended to serve cross-border businesses.

In the project area, the current state of the road network, especially the deterioration of tertiary and local roads, poses a significant challenge to the project. Poor road conditions hinder access to essential services, limit the movement of goods and people, and reduce the economic integration of the region. The focus on east-west corridors, while beneficial for cross-border trade, has left many areas, particularly in the northern region, with inadequate infrastructure for internal development.

To enhance the success of the project, there is a need to prioritize the improvement of secondary, tertiary, and local roads within the project area. Such improvements would not only facilitate better access and connectivity but also unlock the development potential of the region by integrating it more effectively with national and regional markets. Addressing these infrastructure challenges will be crucial for fostering sustainable economic growth and improving the living conditions of the local population.

Figure 5: Road conditions in the project area



Source: INE (2020)

The assessment revealed that the northern region of Mozambique has a secondary and tertiary road network in a highly precarious state. This poorly maintained and underdeveloped road network leaves vast areas of the northern provinces, including Nampula, Cabo Delgado, and Niassa, without adequate basic infrastructure.

A striking example of this is the road access from Nampula to the southeastern districts of the province. Although the distance is no more than 200 kilometers, the journey can take more than 8 hours by car due to the poor condition of the roads. This situation is exhausting for travelers and significantly hinders the movement of goods and people.

The inadequate road network contributes to regional disintegration, making it difficult to connect different parts of the region effectively. It also severely limits the development and maintenance of basic infrastructure networks within the districts, such as healthcare, education, water supply, and sanitation systems. The lack of efficient transportation routes exacerbates the challenges faced by these communities, restricting their access to essential services and economic opportunities.

Addressing the poor state of the road network is crucial for fostering regional integration and enabling the delivery of vital infrastructure and services to these underserved areas. Improving these roads would not only reduce travel times and transportation costs but also support the broader development goals of the region, ensuring that all communities have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

3.2.9 Gender

The northern region of Mozambique, encompassing the provinces of Nampula, Niassa, and Cabo Delgado, is rich in ethnic and cultural diversity, inhabited by groups such as the Macuas, Macondes, and Yao. Predominantly rural, this region faces significant socioeconomic challenges, including high poverty rates, low educational attainment, and limited access to basic services. Nampula is the most populous province, whereas Niassa, with its vast territory, has the lowest population density.

This region operates largely within a patriarchal framework, with distinct gender roles. Women traditionally manage domestic tasks and caregiving, alongside contributing to subsistence agriculture. In contrast, men are perceived as the primary providers. This dynamic contributes to lower literacy and education levels for women, exacerbated by practices like early marriage and teenage pregnancy. Gender-based violence and child marriage remain significant issues, often rooted in cultural norms.

Sociocultural practices in the region include initiation rituals that mark the transition to adulthood, differing for boys and girls. Polygamy is prevalent in some communities, influenced by cultural and religious traditions. The region's religious diversity,

comprising Islam, Christianity, and traditional African practices, significantly shapes social and gender norms. Alongside Portuguese, local languages such as Macua, Maconde, and Yao are widely spoken, reflecting the area's rich cultural heritage. These factors profoundly influence the social and economic dynamics, shaping family, community, and institutional relationships in northern Mozambique.

3.3 VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Social vulnerability is a critical dimension of vulnerability to multiple stressors and shocks, including abuse, social exclusion, and other adverse impacts. It refers to the inability of individuals, organizations, and societies to withstand or recover from these stressors due to various factors. These factors are often rooted in the characteristics inherent to social interactions, institutions, and systems of cultural values. Large-scale development projects frequently exacerbate the vulnerabilities of already marginalized populations, making it essential to identify these groups to ensure that their needs are addressed, and negative impacts are mitigated.

In the project area, it was necessary to identify vulnerable and marginalized groups to develop strategies that protect them from potential adverse effects of the project. This identification process was carried out through meetings with government institutions, NGOs, and community members. The table below presents the vulnerable and marginalized groups identified during these consultations. Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups in the Project Area:

- Widowed women – in rural areas, widowed women are associated with poverty and have limited access to productive resources, as well as being unlikely to access sources of income.
- Older Person – Consultations with local leaders and NGOs in the project area revealed that this group of people was increasingly left to fend for themselves in rural areas and sometimes in very remote areas, often without traditional family support and financial resources. Although the National Institute of Social Action (INAS) supports older people, participants noted that much more needs to be done to reach more people in remote areas. Furthermore, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, INAS suspended its activities in some regions along the project area corridor, increasing the vulnerability of this group.
- Child-headed families – these refer to households asin which there are no adult caregivers available, and the children live alone. An older child typically cares for siblings, cousins, nephews, or nieces. This is increasingly common in areas with high AIDS mortality and war-affected regions. These families face severe challenges of malnutrition as well as lack of education. They may be prevented from accessing Orphan and Vulnerable Child (OVC) benefits as well as other services that require identification documents, as some do not have a caregiver

and maybe they can't name someone. In most cases, such households are extremely vulnerable to fraud and abuse during project implementation activities, for example, resettlement action planning and others. Thus, there need to be measures to protect such groups.

- People living with a chronic illness- are more dependent on others, including professional helpers, and are therefore more vulnerable.
- People with disabilities – people with disabilities are often discriminated against and excluded from development activities, often due to cultural and traditional beliefs. In the project area, people with disabilities often do not have access to employment opportunities.
- Single women – Adolescent girls and young single rural women face multiple constraints that limit their ability to make choices and thrive. Some of these restrictions include being outside of cultural norms, low levels of education, early marriages, and early pregnancies. Young single women generally have a low asset base, meaning they lack land, money, knowledge, experience, access to opportunities, social capital, and influence. Rural development interventions rarely target this group, explicitly or inadvertently. Women in these groups also generally do not participate in community affairs. Young single women are, in a way, "invisible" to communities and projects. Socially, they go from being someone's daughter to another man's wife. In situations of poverty, young single women are more vulnerable than any other subgroup of women to transgenerational, transactional sex, GBV, SEA/SH and much more exposed to acquiring HIV/ STI than their male peers.
- Unemployed youth – Young people are considered vulnerable as they are often not involved in community decision-making and have less access to employment opportunities. Furthermore, young people living in communities along the project area corridor suffer from low levels of education and have soft technical skills. Many communities do not prioritize the education of girls and children, and most boys do not go beyond 8th grade.
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees: Due to conflict or natural disasters, IDPs and refugees may already be living in precarious conditions. Development projects can further strain their resources and social networks.
- Sex workers are sometimes single mothers whose children are vulnerable, people living with HIV-AIDS or STI’s.

Vulnerable groups were identified throughout the project area, except sex workers, who were only identified in Namialo. These locations are the main centres truck and bus drivers use to park and rest during their trips.

Identifying these vulnerable and marginalized groups is a crucial step in ensuring that the project is implemented in a socially responsible manner. By recognizing and

addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by these populations, the project can minimize negative impacts and enhance the benefits for all members of the community.

Particularly vulnerable groups often lack the social flexibility and resources necessary to withstand the stresses associated with the resettlement process. Within any community, certain segments of the population are more susceptible to changes, requiring them to adapt or mitigate their livelihoods in response to a new environment. Development projects can create both positive and negative changes, compelling communities to adjust or diversify their livelihoods to accommodate these shifts.

The 2024 survey revealed that 23.6% of households in the project area are headed by women. Female-headed households are particularly vulnerable to project-induced impacts, especially economic displacement, for several reasons:

- **Economic Insecurity**: Female-headed households often have fewer financial resources and lower income levels compared to male-headed households. This economic insecurity makes it more challenging for them to cope with disruptions in their livelihoods caused by resettlement or changes in their environment.
- **Limited Access to Land and Resources**: In many communities, women, especially those heading households, may have limited access to land, credit, and other resources necessary for sustaining their livelihoods. This restricted access can exacerbate the difficulties they face when displaced or when their environment changes due to development projects.
- **Social Isolation**: Female heads of households may have weaker social networks and less influence in community decision-making processes, which can reduce their ability to advocate for their needs and rights during the resettlement process. Social isolation can also limit their access to information and support services that are critical during times of transition.
- **Care Responsibilities**: Women who head households are often the primary caregivers for children, the elderly, and other dependents. This additional responsibility can limit their ability to engage in income-generating activities or relocate easily, making them more vulnerable to the economic and social impacts of displacement.
- **Vulnerability to Exploitation**: During the resettlement process, female-headed households may be more susceptible to exploitation or abuse, including unfair compensation for lost assets or land, or being pressured into unfavorable agreements. This risk is heightened when they lack legal protection or support from community leaders.
- **Health and Well-being**: The stress and uncertainty associated with displacement can have significant impacts on the health and well-being of female-headed households, particularly when they have limited access to

healthcare services. The burden of maintaining household stability during such transitions can lead to mental and physical health issues.

Given these factors, it is crucial that the project implementation includes targeted measures to support female-headed households and mitigate the specific risks they face. This might include providing them with priority access to resources, ensuring fair compensation, offering tailored livelihood support programs, and enhancing their participation in decision-making processes. By addressing these vulnerabilities, the project can help ensure that female-headed households are not disproportionately affected and can benefit from the development in a sustainable and equitable manner.

The generally higher levels of illiteracy and low education will hinder them during any development process. The elderly are also more fragile and vulnerable to diseases. They will need additional health services that are not generally available to residents in the study area. No support is provided locally by the state in the form of pensions if they have not contributed to the national scheme during their working life. This applies to most PAPs in the project area because they have never been in formal salaried employment.

Many communities confirmed that they had children with disabilities in their communities, as well as child-headed households. The lack of adequate government-supported educational and health services for disabled children and child-headed families exposes most of these families to a range of vulnerabilities, such as chronic illnesses and lack of education. These households also typically depend on assistance from family and neighbours and may have difficulty obtaining such aid in cases where their family and neighbours struggle with the resettlement and social change process.

3.3.1 Tensions, Conflicts and Instability In the Project Area

The project area, which includes the northern provinces of Mozambique, has been experiencing significant tensions, conflicts, and instability, which pose substantial challenges to the successful implementation of development projects. These issues are deeply rooted in a complex mix of historical, socio-political, and economic factors, and have been exacerbated by recent events.

3.3.1.1 Historical and Socio-Political Factors

The northern region of Mozambique, particularly Cabo Delgado, has a long history of marginalization and underdevelopment. The region has often been excluded from the economic and political benefits that have flowed to other parts of the country, leading to feelings of disenfranchisement among local populations. This historical neglect has created fertile ground for grievances, which have been exploited by various groups to incite tension and conflict.

3.3.1.2 Insurgency and Violence

Since 2017, Cabo Delgado has been the epicenter of an escalating insurgency linked to extremist groups. This insurgency has led to widespread violence, including attacks on civilians, infrastructure, and government forces. The conflict has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, with many fleeing to neighboring provinces such as Niassa and Nampula. The ongoing violence has created a climate of fear and uncertainty, severely disrupting everyday life and economic activities in the region.

3.3.1.3 Resource-Related Conflicts

The discovery of natural resources, particularly natural gas in Cabo Delgado, has contributed to tensions in the region. While these resources hold the potential for significant economic development, they have also fueled conflict over land rights, resource control, and the distribution of benefits. Local communities often feel excluded from the economic gains generated by these resources, leading to protests and resistance against development projects perceived as favoring external actors or the central government.

3.3.1.4 Humanitarian Crisis

The conflict and instability in the project area have precipitated a severe humanitarian crisis. Displaced populations face inadequate access to food, shelter, healthcare, and basic services. The influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has strained resources in host communities, leading to increased competition for scarce resources and, in some cases, tensions between displaced people and local residents.

3.3.1.5 Cabo Delgado Province

Cabo Delgado, the northernmost province of Mozambique, spans an area of 82,625 km² and is home to a population of 2,320,261 inhabitants (INE, 2017). The province shares borders with Tanzania to the north and the Mozambican provinces of Nampula and Niassa. Despite its wealth in natural resources, particularly the discovery of vast natural gas deposits, Cabo Delgado has been severely impacted by violence since 2017. The northern and eastern districts of the province have been particularly affected by attacks from self-proclaimed Islamic insurgents, which have significantly disrupted peace and stability in the region.

3.3.1.5.1 Impact on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Cabo Delgado has become the epicenter of the conflict in Mozambique, leading to a massive displacement crisis. The province has the highest number of known and unknown Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country. By 2020, the province recorded 617,263 IDPs, who were dispersed across all districts. The districts most affected by displacement are:

- Pemba: Hosting 144,467 IDPs,
- Metuge: Hosting 114,418 IDPs,
- Montepuez: Hosting 54,008 IDPs.

3.3.1.5.2 Conditions and Challenges Faced by IDPs

The reports collected from displaced women, particularly mothers of children and young people, underscore the dire conditions these groups face throughout the displacement process, regardless of whether they are accommodated with family members or in reception centers. The challenges begin with the displacement itself, which often forces women to abandon their fields (machambas) and other income-generating activities that were essential for providing food and basic necessities for their children.

3.3.1.5.3 Economic Hardships

Without access to their traditional means of livelihood, these women are left with minimal resources to support their families. They often have to make difficult decisions, such as selling portions of donated food to purchase other necessities like clothing and hygiene products. However, this trade-off often leads to food insecurity and the threat of hunger.

3.3.1.5.4 Vulnerability of Women and Children

The displacement has also severely impacted children, many of whom are unable to enroll in local schools due to the instability. With no structured education or employment, these children and young people are at risk of engaging in harmful practices, such as prostitution, as a means of daily sustenance.

The situation is further compounded by the potential for sexual exploitation and other degrading practices targeting women, girls, and children. While such claims are often underreported due to the sensitivity of the subject, there is credible concern that these vulnerable groups may be subjected to various forms of abuse in the context of displacement.

3.3.1.6 Nampula Province

After the southern part of Cabo Delgado, the province of Nampula in particularly its northern and eastern regions has become one of the main destinations for people displaced by the ongoing conflict in Cabo Delgado. These displaced individuals and families typically find refuge either (i) with family and friends or on their own or (ii) in displacement camps that are usually organized by local governments with support from various governmental and non-governmental organizations, both national and international.

3.3.1.6.1 Displacement Dynamics and Modes of Transport

Information gathered from displaced families who fled the conflict in Cabo Delgado to Nampula, as well as from local informants representing authorities and support entities, indicates that these individuals used both private and public transport to reach safety. In some cases, “good Samaritans” offered to transport those fleeing the violence, often after days or weeks of hiding in the forests near their homes. Those who had more time to organize their escape and gather some belongings typically used public transport.

Reports indicate that these escapes often occur following brutal attacks and the destruction of homes, including killings and mutilations in the villages, towns, or district centers where these families lived. Typically, the decision to abandon their homes comes after they have spent a considerable amount of time hiding in forests, assessing the possibility of returning home. When it becomes clear that their villages or towns are irretrievably occupied by insurgents, the decision is made to move to another location.

3.3.1.6.2 Resettlement in Meconta District

The district of Meconta, specifically the administrative post of Corrane, hosts one of the largest Resettlement Centres for internally displaced people (IDPs) from Cabo Delgado. Many of those who settle in such centers do so because they have no family, friends, or resources to find an alternative solution. Others might initially attempt to live independently but eventually decide that the accommodation center offers the best solution for their circumstances.

These resettlement centers are often seen as the safest and most viable option, especially for families typically composed of women, girls, and minor children. The men in these families often remain in Cabo Delgado, either to try to preserve what they can of their previous way of life, engage in other profitable activities, or simply because they choose to wait and see how the situation evolves. As of March 2021, the Corrane Resettlement Centre was home to around 2,000 IDPs, accommodated on agricultural land owned by a German farmer.

3.3.1.6.3 Impact on Host Communities and Infrastructure

The arrival of IDPs has significantly increased the pressure on local goods and services. The host communities, which already had limited resources, are now facing additional challenges. For instance, the local schools in these areas were already struggling with overcrowding, and the influx of around 400 new students from the IDP population has exacerbated the situation. The total number of school-age children and young people in these host communities has risen to about 1,500.

Local authorities have worked to raise awareness among the residents, and the integration of new students has been generally well received, although efforts are underway to expand the capacity of local schools to accommodate the growing number of students.

The increased pressure is felt across all services that accommodate IDPs, whether in or outside city centers. Health services, water supply, sanitation, and educational facilities have all been highlighted as areas of concern. In response to these challenges, a health unit has been built at the Corrane Resettlement Centre, along with the construction of four new water sources to help meet the needs of the displaced population.

The influx of IDPs from Cabo Delgado to Nampula has placed significant strain on local infrastructure and services, creating challenges for both the displaced populations and the host communities. While efforts have been made to address these challenges, such as building new health facilities and expanding water access, and the situation remains precarious. Continued support from governmental and non-governmental entities is crucial to ensure that the needs of both IDPs and host communities are met, and that the potential for social tension is minimized as the region continues to cope with the impacts of this ongoing crisis.

3.3.1.7 Niassa Province

Niassa, currently the least affected by the phenomenon of internal displacement compared to the other two northern provinces of Mozambique, is the province that contributes the least to the national GDP, accounting for only 2.85%. Despite this, Niassa is the largest province in the country in terms of surface area, covering 129,056 km², which constitutes about 16% of Mozambique's territory. It is also one of the most resource-rich provinces. In terms of population, Niassa ranks fourth, with 1,865,976 inhabitants, representing only 6.47% of the country’s total population as of 2017.

3.3.1.7.1 Displacement and Movement Patterns

As the conflict in Cabo Delgado escalates, families displaced by the violence are making their way into Niassa, often on foot. Many of these displaced individuals are choosing to travel as far away from the conflict as possible, and upon reaching Niassa, some have been able to secure transport within the province. The fear of being close to the conflict has driven them to seek refuge in the most remote areas available.

3.3.1.7.2 Authorities' Response to Displacement

To manage the influx of displaced people and mitigate potential security risks, authorities in Niassa have implemented several measures. Initially, all displaced individuals are detained and interviewed to gather information about their destination, companions, and any possible connections to insurgent groups. The authorities' strategy focuses on the following objectives:

- Preventing the continuation of conflict and displacement: Efforts are made to contain the flow of internally displaced people (IDPs) and ensure that the conflict does not spill over into Niassa.
- Eliminating the risk of insurgents entering disguised as IDPs: Authorities are vigilant in ensuring that insurgents do not infiltrate the province under the guise of displaced individuals.
- Addressing the lack of resources for prolonged humanitarian support: Recognizing the limited resources available in Niassa, authorities are cautious about the long-term sustainability of supporting a large displaced population.
- Avoiding decisions that could destabilize the region: The focus is on maintaining stability and preventing actions that could exacerbate the situation.

3.3.1.7.3 Social and Cultural Challenges

In addition to the logistical and security challenges posed by the displacement crisis, the province of Niassa faces unique social and cultural issues that affect the progress of various development projects. One such issue is the influence of witchcraft within displacement centers. It has been reported that individuals who do not adhere to traditional social norms or who show abilities to improve their lifestyles are sometimes targeted by witchcraft. This practice can create a hostile environment, particularly in the agricultural, fisheries, and social sectors, hindering the progress and success of projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of displaced and local populations.

3.3.1.7.4 Implications for Development and Stability

The influx of IDPs into Niassa and the associated security and cultural challenges present significant implications for the province's development and stability. The authorities' efforts to control the situation are crucial but must be balanced with the need to provide adequate humanitarian support and ensure the well-being of both displaced and local populations.

The use of interviews and detention of displaced persons, while aimed at preventing the spread of conflict, must be handled with care to avoid further traumatizing already vulnerable populations. Moreover, addressing the influence of witchcraft and other cultural practices that impede development will require a sensitive and culturally informed approach.

By addressing these issues proactively, Niassa can continue to maintain its relative stability while supporting displaced populations and contributing to the overall development of the region.

3.4 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (SEA), SEXUAL HARASSMENT (SH) PREVENTION/ MANAGEMENT AND PILOT INTERVENTIONS

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) are serious human rights violations that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, especially in conflict and displacement settings. In northern Mozambique, particularly in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa, the ongoing conflict and the resulting displacement crisis have heightened the risks of SEA and SH, making it imperative to implement robust prevention and management strategies.

This section outlines the current situation regarding SEA and SH in northern Mozambique, the strategies being implemented to prevent and manage these issues, and pilot interventions designed to address these challenges effectively.

3.4.1 Current Situation

The conflict and subsequent displacement in the northern provinces have created an environment where SEA and SH can occur with relative impunity. Displaced individuals, particularly women and girls, face significant risks in transit, in displacement camps, and even within host communities. Contributing factors include:

- Lack of Security and Oversight: Displacement camps and temporary settlements often lack adequate security, making it easier for perpetrators to commit acts of SEA and SH without consequences.
- Economic Vulnerability: Many displaced women and girls lack financial resources, which can lead to situations where they are coerced into sexual activities in exchange for food, shelter, or protection.

- Breakdown of Social Structures: The displacement crisis has disrupted traditional family and community structures that typically offer protection against SEA and SH.
- Underreporting and Stigma: Victims of SEA and SH are often reluctant to report incidents due to fear of stigmatization, retaliation, or lack of trust in the authorities.

3.4.2 Prevention and Management Strategies

To address the risks of SEA and SH, a multi-faceted approach is necessary, involving prevention, protection, and response strategies. The following measures are being implemented or proposed to manage and prevent SEA and SH in northern Mozambique:

- Community Awareness and Education: Efforts are being made to educate displaced populations and host communities about SEA and SH, including what constitutes these forms of violence, the rights of victims, and how to report incidents. This includes community workshops, information campaigns, and engagement with traditional leaders to change harmful norms and practices.
- Strengthening Reporting Mechanisms: Establishing accessible, confidential, and reliable reporting mechanisms is crucial. This includes the setup of hotlines, safe spaces within camps, and training of community focal points to whom survivors can report incidents without fear.
- Enhancing Security in Displacement Camps: Increasing the presence of trained security personnel, particularly female officers, in displacement camps and temporary settlements can help deter SEA and SH. It is also important to ensure that these personnel are trained in human rights and gender sensitivity.
- Provision of Support Services: Providing comprehensive support services for survivors of SEA and SH, including medical care, psychological counseling, legal assistance, and economic empowerment programs. Collaboration with local NGOs and international organizations is key to delivering these services effectively.
- Capacity Building for Authorities and Service Providers: Training local authorities, healthcare providers, and NGOs on how to handle SEA and SH cases appropriately, ensuring that they are equipped to respond to incidents sensitively and effectively.
- Legal and Policy Frameworks: Strengthening the legal frameworks related to SEA and SH, ensuring that there are clear laws and policies in place that criminalize these acts and provide protection for survivors. This includes advocating for stronger enforcement of existing laws and policies.

3.4.3 Pilot Interventions

To address the issue of SEA and SH in a targeted manner, several pilot interventions are being implemented in the northern provinces:

- Pilot Safe Spaces for Women and Girls: Safe spaces are being established in displacement camps and host communities where women and girls can access support services, receive information, and engage in livelihood activities in a secure environment. These spaces also serve as hubs for education on SEA and SH prevention.
- Cash Transfer Programs with Safeguards: Cash transfer programs aimed at economically empowering displaced families are being piloted with specific safeguards to prevent SEA. This includes ensuring that cash distribution points are safe, having female staff manage distributions, and providing information on SEA and SH risks.
- Engagement with Men and Boys: Pilot programs are being introduced to engage men and boys in the prevention of SEA and SH. These programs focus on changing harmful attitudes, promoting gender equality, and encouraging men and boys to take an active role in preventing violence against women and girls.
- Technology-Based Reporting and Monitoring: Mobile-based reporting and monitoring systems are being piloted to enhance the detection and response to SEA and SH. These systems allow survivors to report incidents anonymously and provide real-time data to authorities and service providers.

3.4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Continuous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of these interventions are critical to assess their effectiveness and scalability. Regular feedback from community members, service providers, and other stakeholders will help to refine the strategies and ensure that they are responsive to the evolving needs of the population.

The prevention and management of SEA and SH in the northern provinces of Mozambique require a coordinated and comprehensive approach, involving multiple stakeholders. By implementing targeted interventions, raising awareness, and strengthening reporting and support mechanisms, it is possible to create a safer environment for vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. The lessons learned from these pilot interventions will be crucial in scaling up efforts and ensuring long-term protection and empowerment for those affected by the ongoing conflict and displacement crisis.

4. POTENTIAL RISK AND IMPACT

This chapter presents an assessment of the potential impacts associated with the project, during its construction and operation phase, based on project data made available to SA. The chapter also outlines the applicable mitigation and optimization measures for each of the impacts. The impacts were identified and evaluated according to pre-established criteria of nature, size, duration, intensity and occurrence.

The northern region of Mozambique, particularly the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa, faces significant social risks and impacts due to a combination of factors including ongoing conflict, economic instability, displacement, and inadequate infrastructure. These risks and impacts are complex and multifaceted, affecting various aspects of life for the local population. Below is an overview of the key social risks and their corresponding impacts in northern Mozambique:

4.1 NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LEVEL BENEFITS

Both direct and indirect economic opportunities will be created as a result of the proposed project. If the project and its staff purchase the services of the surrounding area and community members, the project will increase the amount of cash flow to affected communities and smaller settlements within the larger project area. The improvement of infrastructure and services in the area as a result of the project will also benefit residents in the project's area of influence. Economic growth in the area resulting from the project could also attract more qualified professionals (i.e. entrepreneurs, artisans, teachers and health professionals) willing to move to that area and make their services available. The following benefits can be obtained:

- Economic opportunities: direct and indirect opportunities will be created (increased cash flow to the village surrounding the project facilities; improved services; potential improvements in access to essential service provision for residents resulting from project provisions and increased purchasing power of local communities; and direct economic benefits from employment and new income generation opportunities).
- Employment Benefits: Possibly increasing the skill base in the field. However, the general skills shortage in the project area reduces the potential for long-term employment opportunities available to residents unless training is provided, in this case, the skills base will increase among the local population.
- Social development: Initiatives should take the form of a dedicated Social Development Plan (SDP) to be developed by the contractor company in consultation with key stakeholders. This provides a road map for CSR (Corporate social responsibility?) and proper implementation can result in societal acceptance of the project.

In general, the project will result in direct economic benefits at the district, provincial and national levels, and any income generated from the project and subproject operation will significantly increase the country's tax base. Equally, the impact is classified as moderate significance, indirect (associated with the increase in family income and the purchasing power of the population) and occurring in the short and medium term.

4.2 CONFLICT AND INSECURITY

The insurgency in Cabo Delgado, which began in 2017, has resulted in widespread violence, including killings, abductions, and destruction of property. This ongoing conflict has led to severe instability in the region.

The primary impact of this insecurity is the **displacement of hundreds of thousands of people**. Displaced populations face challenges such as loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, lack of access to healthcare, education, and basic services, and increased vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. The conflict also disrupts social cohesion and traditional community structures, leading to a breakdown in trust and social networks.

4.3 DISPLACEMENT

The conflict in Cabo Delgado has led to massive internal displacement, with people fleeing to neighboring provinces like Nampula and Niassa. Displacement often occurs under chaotic and traumatic conditions. Displaced individuals and families experience a range of negative impacts, including overcrowded living conditions in displacement camps, limited access to clean water and sanitation, and heightened exposure to health risks. The influx of displaced persons also places a strain on host communities, exacerbating existing resource shortages and social tensions.

4.4 ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

Northern Mozambique is economically underdeveloped, with high levels of poverty and limited access to formal employment opportunities. The conflict and displacement have further weakened the region's economic stability. The economic vulnerability of the population is worsened by the loss of livelihoods, particularly in agriculture, which is the mainstay of the local economy. Many displaced people have lost their land and means of production, leading to food insecurity and dependency on aid. The overall economic downturn in the region also limits opportunities for recovery and development.

4.5 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND EXPLOITATION

The instability and displacement have increased the risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH), particularly for women and girls. GBV has devastating physical, psychological, and social impacts on survivors, including trauma, stigmatization, and exclusion from community life. The lack of safe spaces, reporting mechanisms, and support services further compounds the problem, leaving many cases unaddressed and perpetrators unpunished.

The GBV/SEA/SH Risk Assessment and Response Action Plan is a critical component of the Climate Resilient Roads for the North Project in Mozambique, aiming to enhance road connectivity with a special focus on climate resilience and gender inclusivity. Engaging a wide range of stakeholders, this plan undertakes a systematic evaluation of the socio-economic, cultural, and political contexts. It identifies gender disparities and GBV/SH/SEA risks, collaborates with stakeholders to assess impacts, and devises a risk matrix to prioritize interventions. The risk assessment highlights the increased vulnerability to GBV/SH/SEA in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa, and Nampula, attributing this to conflict, displacement, and socio-economic hardships. It examines how traditional gender roles, economic dependence, and climate-induced displacement contribute to GBV/SH/SEA prevalence. Despite a comprehensive legal GBV/SH/SEA framework, service delivery is challenged by conflict, cultural barriers, and logistical issues.

Construction work and road construction activities involve hiring a number of workers, who can be local and immigrants. Since the project was classified as moderate risk, a GBV risk plan was prepared with a view to monitoring GBV issues within the project area. A comprehensive consultation process was conducted with relevant stakeholders including community members from project-affected communities. Based on the provided information, GBV/SH/SEA and associated risks were identified and assessed considering their potential impact on individuals and communities.

Therefore, the impacts of the construction phase are assessed as significant (moderate significance), direct and occurring in the short and medium term. Based on the findings, were proposed targeted mitigation measures to prevent and address identified GBV/SH/SEA and associated risks. These measures should be tailored to the specific risks and may include modifications to project design, community engagement strategies, and GBV/SH/SEA awareness campaigns. These findings underscore the need for a coordinated and multifaceted approach to mitigate GBV/SH/SEA risks in Nampula, Niassa, and Cabo Delgado. Tailored strategies, considering each province's unique context, are essential for effective GBV/SH/SEA prevention and response.

4.6 HEALTH RISKS

The conflict and displacement have disrupted health services and infrastructure, leading to inadequate healthcare provision. The influx of displaced populations has overwhelmed existing health facilities. There is a heightened risk of disease outbreaks, including malaria, cholera, and COVID-19, due to poor living conditions in camps and limited access to clean water and sanitation. The psychological toll of conflict and displacement also increases the incidence of mental health issues, which are often unaddressed due to the lack of mental health services.

4.7 EDUCATION DISRUPTION

The conflict has led to the destruction of schools and displacement of teachers and students, disrupting education across the region. Thousands of children and young people are unable to attend school, leading to long-term impacts on literacy, skills development, and future employment opportunities. The lack of education also increases the risk of child labor, early marriage, and recruitment into armed groups.

4.8 SOCIAL COHESION AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

Displacement and the influx of different ethnic and cultural groups into host communities can lead to social tensions and conflicts over resources, cultural differences, and access to services. The disruption of traditional social structures and cultural practices can lead to a loss of cultural identity and social fragmentation. This may further exacerbate tensions between displaced populations and host communities, undermining efforts to foster integration and social stability.

4.9 INFRASTRUCTURE DEGRADATION

The existing infrastructure in northern Mozambique, including roads, water supply, and sanitation systems, is underdeveloped and has been further degraded by the conflict and the influx of displaced persons. The poor state of infrastructure hampers the delivery of humanitarian aid, restricts access to markets and services, and limits the potential for economic recovery and development. It also exacerbates the living conditions of both displaced persons and host communities, contributing to health and sanitation issues.

Social systems and structures have evolved in the project area over generations and are not static but often respond dynamically to any changes imposed on their environment and social context. Any development on the scale of the proposed project will result in very rapid and significant social change. The influence of the project on the social systems and structures of the various communities is likely to be experienced in a variety of ways – both positive and negative. Construction activities,

increased vehicle traffic, intensification of economic activity and improved economic/market linkages are all likely to change the prevailing rural nature of these PAPs settlements and stimulate local development. Developments of this magnitude are often associated with changes in social structures and associated tensions and social pathologies. These may be related to a variety of factors, including the influx of outsiders seeking employment, increased money circulation in these communities, the introduction or increase of communicable diseases, increased crime, disruption of traditional hierarchies, as well as open conflict if not managed properly. Local governance institutions will also experience a sudden increase in the demand for their attention and participation in new developments and processes that are completely new and foreign to them and to which they may struggle to adapt. The limited capacities for social and health services provision in the project area will potentially be jeopardised if a substantial population influx occurs. In general, the impact is considered to be of high significance, indirect and occurring in the short and medium term.

4.10 VULNERABILITY OF HOUSEHOLDS

Regarding households, was observed PAPs characterized by households headed by women and children, as well as households with people with disabilities. These are classified as vulnerable households and, in line with the World Bank ESF guidelines, will need to be prioritized in terms of support if they are affected by the project, as the situation could compromise food security, as the households are already vulnerable and less resilient to social change. Ensures therefore, the project must definitively identify them during the Executive Project development process and ensure that they are adequately addressed. Vulnerable families must be prioritized to receive project benefits and potential employment opportunities. This will be one of the most difficult project-induced impacts to mitigate and manage successfully, and attention is given to this aspect for the contractor to prioritize in planning and management efforts. In general, the impact is considered to be of high significance, direct and occurring in the short and medium term.

4.11 IMMIGRATION

There is a strong probability that the infrastructure construction phase of the project will attract migrant labour in search employment opportunities. Typically, residents of the project area are largely poor and uneducated, which means that more educated and skilled labour will certainly be needed in nearby areas such as provincial capitals. Such an influx could potentially cause some of the existing communities to expand significantly in a short time, as well as result in a temporary oversupply of labour that could result in social conflict within these communities. As with most social impacts, internal migration can also have a positive impact in terms of providing locals with

rental opportunities and other small businesses due to increased demand for local products and other goods.

This growth in the local market could also stimulate agriculture and support the intensification of production.

In general, the project will result in direct economic benefits at the district, provincial and national levels, and any income generated from the project and subproject operation will significantly increase the country's tax base. Equally, the impact is classified as moderate significance, indirect (associated with the increase in family income and the purchasing power of the population) and occurring in the short and medium term.

5. MITIGATION AND RESPONSE STRATEGIES

Addressing these social risks and impacts requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach that involves government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and local communities. Key strategies include:

- Strengthening Security and Stability: Efforts to restore peace and security are crucial, including peacebuilding initiatives, conflict resolution, and increased protection for vulnerable populations.
- Providing Humanitarian Assistance: Continued and enhanced humanitarian aid is essential to meet the immediate needs of displaced populations, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education.
- Supporting Livelihoods and Economic Recovery: Programs to restore and diversify livelihoods, particularly in agriculture and small-scale trade, are needed to reduce dependency on aid and promote economic self-sufficiency.
- Enhancing Protection Measures: Strengthening mechanisms to prevent and respond to GBV, SEA, and SH, including providing safe spaces, legal support, and psychosocial services.
- Investing in Infrastructure: Rebuilding and improving infrastructure, including roads, health facilities, schools, and water and sanitation systems, is critical for long-term recovery and development.
- Promoting Social Cohesion: Initiatives to foster social cohesion and integration between displaced populations and host communities, including cultural exchange programs and community dialogue, can help reduce tensions and build a more inclusive society.

- Immigration
  - Project planning considerations should incorporate collaborative management strategies for internal migration, ensuring fair access to project community benefits and transparent and effective communication with local stakeholders. To Emphasize that the strategy will guarantee the absorption of local labor, regardless of qualifications, since communities have been penalized with the mass migration of labor in the project area. Collaboration with local/district government is crucial to manage this potential internal migration's spatial (locality planning) and governance (health and social service delivery) implications.
  - The project must ensure that recruitment is fair and transparent and that local job opportunities are maximized; working with local authorities and?? is essential to confirm this.

- The contractor's community liaison officer will work with neighboring communities to ensure the communication of employment or SME opportunities.
- Direct PAPs should be prioritized for employment and training opportunities.
- Attention should be paid to employment opportunities or assistance for vulnerable people (female-headed households and people with disabilities) to ensure equitable development and access to basic needs
- A plan for the gradual replacement of expatriates and outsiders by the local population will be developed and implemented throughout the project to ensure sustainable and effective transfer of knowledge.
- The contractor is encouraged to provide on-the-job training, skills development, and learning opportunities to unskilled community members, who will gain on-the-job skills under the supervision of more experienced employees. This will enable local community members to participate in the project development activities.
- Development of an Employment Plan, with clear employment requirements and procedures for the construction workforce in line with guidance provided in the project LMP.
- Transparent and culturally appropriate communication with communities regarding employment opportunities.
- Fair and transparent hiring and staff management procedures.
- Employment requirements and vocational training plan to be agreed with local institutions, so that local people can be trained to meet the project's needs in a timely fashion.
- Development of measures to manage the transition after construction is complete, including SME development, ongoing opportunities for the workforce in road management and maintenance, reskilling and alternative employment.

A Grievance Mechanism should be implemented as part of the SEP to allow community members to express any concerns that may result in community conflict or conflict between the project opponent and the communities.

By addressing these risks and impacts, stakeholders can help mitigate the adverse effects of the conflict and displacement in northern Mozambique, paving the way for recovery, stability, and sustainable development in the region.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

The social assessment of northern Mozambique, particularly in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa, reveals a region facing profound social, economic, and humanitarian challenges. These challenges are primarily driven by ongoing conflict, widespread displacement, economic underdevelopment, and insufficient infrastructure, all of which have compounded the vulnerabilities of the local population. The Key Findings are:

- **Conflict and Displacement**: The insurgency in Cabo Delgado has led to widespread violence and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. The influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into Nampula and Niassa has placed significant pressure on host communities and local resources.
- **Economic Vulnerability**: The conflict has severely disrupted economic activities, particularly in agriculture, which is the mainstay of the region's economy. The loss of livelihoods and limited access to resources have exacerbated poverty and food insecurity, leading to increased dependency on humanitarian aid.
- **Social and Gender-Based Vulnerabilities**: The displacement crisis has heightened the risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH), particularly among women and girls. These social vulnerabilities are further aggravated by the breakdown of traditional protective structures and the lack of adequate support services.
- **Health and Education Challenges**: The conflict and displacement have disrupted healthcare and education systems, with many facilities destroyed or overwhelmed by the needs of the displaced population. This has led to poor health outcomes and a significant decline in educational access for children and young people, which will have long-term implications for the region's development.
- **Infrastructure Deficiencies**: The region's already inadequate infrastructure has been further strained by the displacement crisis. Poor roads, insufficient water and sanitation systems, and limited access to healthcare and education have hindered both the humanitarian response and long-term development efforts.
- There were also no community groups or members identified as involved in road safety in the project area. To improve road safety, it is necessary to create and strengthen these community groups. Community-based road safety committees

are suggested as an appropriate and sustainable approach to ensuring road safety in project-affected communities. However, once created, these road safety committees must build capacity and provide financial support.

- The project will generate positive social and economic impacts during the construction and operational phases. These include:
  - Increasing employment opportunities and skills transfer,
  - Increased business/trade opportunities,
  - Increased revenue generation for the government and
  - Improving road safety and connectivity.

The social assessment underscores the urgent need for a coordinated and comprehensive response to the challenges facing northern Mozambique. Addressing the complex social, economic, and humanitarian issues in the region requires sustained commitment from both national and international stakeholders. By implementing targeted interventions that focus on security, economic recovery, social protection, and infrastructure development, there is potential to stabilize the region, support the recovery of affected communities, and lay the groundwork for sustainable development in the future. The success of these efforts will depend on the continued engagement of local communities and the effective integration of their needs and perspectives into all stages of the response.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

To address these challenges and mitigate the social risks identified, the following actions are recommended:

- **Enhance Security and Stability**: Prioritize peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts to restore security in the region, allowing for the safe return of displaced populations and the resumption of normal economic activities.
- **Increase Humanitarian Assistance**: Provide immediate support to meet the basic needs of IDPs and host communities, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education. This support should be coupled with efforts to strengthen local capacities and resilience.
- **Support Economic Recovery**: Implement programs to restore and diversify livelihoods, particularly in agriculture and small-scale trade, to reduce dependency on aid and promote self-sufficiency. These programs should include specific support for female-headed households and other vulnerable groups.
- **Strengthen GBV Prevention and Response**: Develop comprehensive strategies to prevent and respond to GBV, including the establishment of safe

spaces, improved reporting mechanisms, and accessible support services for survivors.

- **Invest in Infrastructure Development**: Rebuild and improve critical infrastructure, including roads, healthcare facilities, schools, and water and sanitation systems, to support long-term recovery and development.
- **Foster Social Cohesion and Community Engagement**: Promote initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and facilitate the integration of IDPs into host communities. This includes community dialogue, cultural preservation efforts, and the involvement of local leaders in decision-making processes.

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ANNEX

Presence List

Annex 1 – A summary of issues during the stakeholders Meetings during 1st Phase of consultations in Pemba and Maputo (February 15th to 19th)

Nº.	Institution met	Location	Date	Nº. of participants		Issues discussed	Issues that arose and proposed actions
				Men	Women		
1	National Road Administration (ANE, IP)	Maputo	15/01/2024	2	1	• Presentation of the JV team (JBN and EA) and the objectives of the consultations meetings to be carried out between the 15th and 19th of January. • Support to be provided by ANE to the process. • Meetings already confirmed with institutions, both in Maputo and Cabo Delgado.	• ANE made two staff members available to attend the meetings in Maputo. • Provided the list of institutions that confirmed to be met during the study in both Maputo and Pemba.
2	National Institute of Statistics (INE)	Maputo	15/01/2024	1	0	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Security statistics for the northern region of the country (Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula). • Statistics on crime and justice. • Statistics of general population census. • Statistics on gender-based violence.	• INE has a report on crime and justice, to be provided in digital format to the team. • Statistics on security are not part of data generated by INE, that is from police and security agencies. • The demographic health survey report is available and has information on gender-based violence which is source of information to the study. • ANE has a survey report on family budget, with data disaggregated by province, rural and urban level.

Nº.	Institution met	Location	Date	Nº. of participants		Issues discussed	Issues that arose and proposed actions
				Men	Women		
3	National Institute of Meteorology (INAM)	Maputo	16/01/2024	4	0	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Data on tropical cyclones occurring in the last 20, 10 or 5 years. • Provinces prone to the effects of tropical cyclones. • Technical specifications recommended for road and bridge works for climate resilience. • Areas most prone to flooding in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula.	• INAM has data on cyclones that have already occurred and will provide. • Rainfall data exists and can be provided. However, there is a limitation that INAM does not have meteorological stations in all areas of the country. • There are no specific technical specifications for roads/bridges, but there is a manual for building climate-resilient schools, which was developed by UN-Habitat with intervention from INAM. TUN-Habitat should be contacted for access. • For areas prone to flooding ANE should contact National Directorate of Water Resources Management (DNGRH). • ANE sent formal request of data to INAM indicating the following: (i) Number of tropical cyclones that hit Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa in the last 20 years and affected districts; (ii) Wind speed and rainfall volume for the period of occurrence of each cyclone; (iii) Trajectory maps of the same tropical cyclones that hit the three provinces; (iv) Districts of Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa

Nº.	Institution met	Location	Date	Nº. of participants		Issues discussed	Issues that arose and proposed actions
				Men	Women		
							vulnerable to being affected by tropical cyclones.
4	National Emergency Operations Centre (CENOE), of the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD)	Maputo	16/01/2024	1	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • INGD major role. • Technical specifications for roads and bridges. • Capacity of the INGD on E&S issues.	• INGD major role is coordination with other institutions and sectors aligned with the nature of a disaster. • Depending on the nature and magnitude of the emergency, high risk emergencies are commanded by the President or Prime Minister. • Responding to all types of emergencies and natural disasters is one of the responsibilities of INGD. • For roads related disasters, they have a mobile bridge which is installed to facilitate emergency access as ANE implements measures to restore cut off access, they provide boats in case of flood related disasters. • Engineering designs should consider the flood peak volume and provide drainage infrastructure (box culverts, bridges) that is commensurate with the risks posed by floods. • Drainage should also be considered on flood plains where water flows to avoid flooding people's property and soil erosion. • Most of the roads in Mozambique have very many structures very close to the road or within the road

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				Men	Women		
							reserve and these pose safety risks to drivers and people who live in such areas. • Most of the secondary access roads in Mozambique are in very poor condition and these humpers emergency operations. • Terrorists' attacks in the North have reduced and about 5000 IDPs have returned to their homes. • Most of the emergency response activities entail provision of shelter, food, WASH (Sanitation), and blankets. • INGD do not have own E&S staff but coordinate with other government institutions with E&S capacity to undertake any E&S related tasks.
5	Ministry of Transport and Communication (MTC)	Maputo	17/01/2024	5	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Systematized data on road accidents (cumulative numbers) for Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa. • Specific role of the MTC in managing the road network, from a communication point of view.	• The MTC has a database of road accidents. The data exists in INATRO and DNTS, although they may not be systematized. • The MTC does not have a department that deals with ESHS matters, although the DNTS has focal points that interact with other institutions when it comes to environmental and safety matters. • There is no specific role for the MTC in managing the road network. However, the MTC regulates transport and road signs through

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						• MTC has a department that deals with environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) issues.	INATRO. This work is carried out in coordination with ANE. • The environmental and social instruments being developed for the Climate Resilient Roads for the North should consider the National Roads Code. • The team should also refer to E&S instruments of the Southern Africa Connectivity Project, including its feasibility studies. ANE can provide these documents as they participated during the project preparation phase.
6	Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA)	Maputo	18/01/2024	1	0	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Technical specifications/guidelines to be included in road and bridge works to ensure climate resilience. • Important aspects that the MTA considers relevant to include in the design and implementation phase of road and bridge projects.	• There is a National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (2013-2025), which results from the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Therefore, the project should rigorously include measures to mitigate the climate change effects. • The ESMF should present the recommendation that site specific ESIA/ESMP consider provisions on risk assessment of climate effects and present provisions for mitigation. Gender and climate change aspects must also be considered.

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							• The final draft E&S instruments should be shared with the MTA for review and comment. • There is a manual for building climate-resilient schools, which was developed by UN-Habitat with MTA support. MTA will share the manual. • There is also the Gender and Climate Change Strategy, which the project should consider. • At the local level, each district has a Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which the project should consider. This plan has a chapter on roads and bridges.
7	Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MITSS)	Maputo	19/01/2024	2	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Main concerns and/or frequent risks and impacts related to occupational health and safety in different sectors, especially in civil works (roads, bridges, among others). • What have been the most recommended mitigation measures (in a strategic way) for situations of occupational risks and	• The project should observe the principles of local content, ensuring that national labor is prioritized in the hiring processes. • Foreign labor hiring processes should strictly follow the requirements of national legislation. • Health and safety requirements, including social security, should be observed. • National legislation does not determine the percentage (%) of female labor to be hired in certain jobs. However, the positive exclusion principle is acceptable. • The Ministry does not have a systematized database of work-

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						impacts, with focus on civil works (roads, bridges, among others). • Following the new Labor Law (Law no 13/2023) coming into force in February, it would be important to know whether there will be regulations to be updated in connection with the new Labor Law. Of particular interest to the project are the regulations related to general labor inspection; work accidents and occupational illnesses; hygiene and safety in industries, among others. • Data on the occurrence of work-related accidents, by sector (roads and bridge for example) and by province, in the last 2 to 5 years.	related accidents. There are only administrative records of documents received from communications that companies send reporting accidents. • Based on these records, the Ministry will be able to provide data relating to the project targeted provinces (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa). • Since the meeting request letter did not specify the information required, meeting participants will escalate concerns to other departments within the Ministry, once the information is available the Ministry will contact ANE and the Consultant.
8	Post-Cyclone Reconstruction Office (GREPOC)	Maputo	25/01/2024	1	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team.	• GREPOC is a project management unit and has PIUs with all specialties relevant to its activities, including environmental and social safeguards.

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						• Challenges that GREPOC faces in implementing activities, especially in relation to environmental and social aspects, and what recommendations may provide to consider in CRRNP project. • How GREPOC has dealt with security aspects in some areas of the Northern provinces.	• Initially there was no demand for security specialists in the projects, but later there was a need to include in the tender documents for Contractors to have a security specialist, to advise on security aspects. • GREPOC's advice is to ensure that contractors' contracts include clauses on the need to provide periodic reporting on the implementation of E&S measures, including for the complaints management through a GRM. • One of the measures that GREPOC applies to limit river water pollution in intervention sites is to prevent concrete from being made on site, but only brought in for immediate application. • Institutional communication and coordination are essential to ensure security in project operations. The Security Forces are the ones who guarantee security for project operations in risk areas. • The issue of demining should always be considered. GREPOC deals with the demining through the Contractors. Therefore, the responsibility for demining is placed in the bidding documents, and contractors subcontract certified

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				Men	Women		
							companies to carry out the demining where necessary.
9	ANE provincial delegation	Pemba	17/01/2024	2	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Current ANE provincial level structure and the proposed structure for the time of project implementation. • Experience in managing activities in a security risk area. Lessons learned.	• ANE informed that there is neither a department nor an employee with security responsibility. All security issues, currently involving travel to high-risk areas and emergency response, are managed by the security defense forces, especially for the northern part of the province, providing support to ANE and the contracted personnel in operation. • Due to the attacks in the northern part of the province there are road infrastructures (bridges) partially destroyed. • Two projects under ANE portfolio were interrupted due to GBV/SH/SEA related incident, and only after addressing the identified irregularities related to GBV/SH/SEA the activities resumed.
10	Provincial Directorate of Health (DPS)	Pemba	18/01/2024	2	0	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Operations in critical security area. • Gender-based violence in critical security areas.	• The DPS operates in critical security areas under the guidance and protection of local forces. When security conditions are not adequate, the emergency health response is supported by local forces, with the DPS providing support through specific equipment and medications.

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						• High-risk areas for GBV/SH/SEA in the province. • Main risks related to GBV/SH/SEA in project context and vulnerable population.	• GBV/SH/SEA has increased since the onset of terrorist attacks, especially in camps prepared for the displaced population. • Security high-risk areas include the districts of Ancuabe, Montepuez. • Awareness-raising actions within the population are carried out through community-level teams. Multisectoral teams, involving Health, Justice, Police (PRM), and Social Action, conduct lectures and sensitize community leaders and other respected entities at local level. • The most common types of GBV/SH/SEA are sexual, physical, and psychological violence, and the most vulnerable population is women.
11	Provincial Police Command (PRM)	Pemba	18/01/2024	2	0	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Situation of security risk in the province and future perspective. • GBV/SH/SEA related issues. • Road traffic accident.	• The security high risk areas are the districts in the northern part of the province, namely: Palma, Mocímboa da Praia, Nangade, Muidumbe, Macomia, Quissanga, Meluco, and Mueda. • Centers where IDP are located is where the greatest risk for GBV/SH/SEA is. • Poor conditions of some roads, lack of signaling and road maintenance contribute to traffic accidents.

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							• Generally, all districts have a police station, but considering the project's coverage area, not all stations are operational due to the terrorism situation.
12	Provincial Directorate of Industry and Commerce (DPIC)	Pemba	18/01/2024	1	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Relevance of the project for economic activities.	• The project implementation will stimulate increased agricultural production since one of the major challenges at the moment is the need for alternative roads for the transportation of agricultural products. • The trade sector involves approximately 45% women, and with the project's implementation, we expect revitalization of some activities and thus increased participation from women, which may contribute to 5% impact in areas with agricultural potential.
13	Provincial Environment Services (SPA)	Pemba	19/01/2024	2	0	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Recommendation for the project.	• Suggestion to conduct a public consultation in Metuge or Quissanga, taking advantage of an extended government executive session where all district administrators covered by the project will be present.
14	Provincial Directorate of Gender, Children and	Pemba	19/01/2024	2	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team.	• Occurrence of sexual abuse by workers against vulnerable women in the communities. • The government has been working with community leaders for public

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				Men	Women		
	Social Action (DPGCAS)					• Operations in critical security areas. • Gender-based violence, and main risks related to GBV/SH/SEA in the project context and vulnerable population. • Recommendation for the project.	awareness, and there is a multisectoral mechanism (PRM, Justice, Health, and Social Action) aiming for integrated care in the prevention and combat of GBV/SH/SEA related risk. • High-risk zones for GBV/SH/SEA are located further inland and with difficult access, hindering awareness campaigns. Communities lacking information show high GBV/SH/SEA rates. • Some northern districts such as Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Ibo, Namuno have reported GBV/SH/SEA cases resulting in deaths, with one contributing factor being alcohol consumption. • The most common types of GBV/SH/SEA are physical, sexual, and psychological. • Women are the vulnerable group seeking the most support of the services of DPGCAS. • Looking at the project scenario, it is recommended to conduct lectures, awareness campaigns at the community level, as well as for the contracted workers.
15	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural	Maputo	30/01/2024	3	1	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team.	• MADER could have been better prepared if the meeting request had included details about the project.

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				Men	Women		
	Development (MADER)					• Discuss if MADER has anything to recommend for consideration during project preparation phase and in the execution phase. • MADER has an Environmental and Social Safeguards Office and therefore may want to share experience E&S safeguards in projects.	• The safeguards documents should consider all relevant legislation, including for the agriculture sector. • MADER asked what security we are talking about in relation to the Security Management Plan under preparation. The Consultant clarified that this is a plan that results from the security risk assessment for the northern provinces (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa), motivated by the risk situation currently observed in that region. This is a document that establishes the procedures that will be used to guarantee the safety of assets/infrastructure and people during the execution of the project. Occupational health and safety issues will be detailed in site-specific instruments (ESIA/ESMP) that will be developed later following the procedures established in the ESMF. • MADER indicated that they are aware that the multinational Total is applying material on road asphalt that is resilient to the effects of climate change. It is recommended that this technology be taken into consideration for this project.

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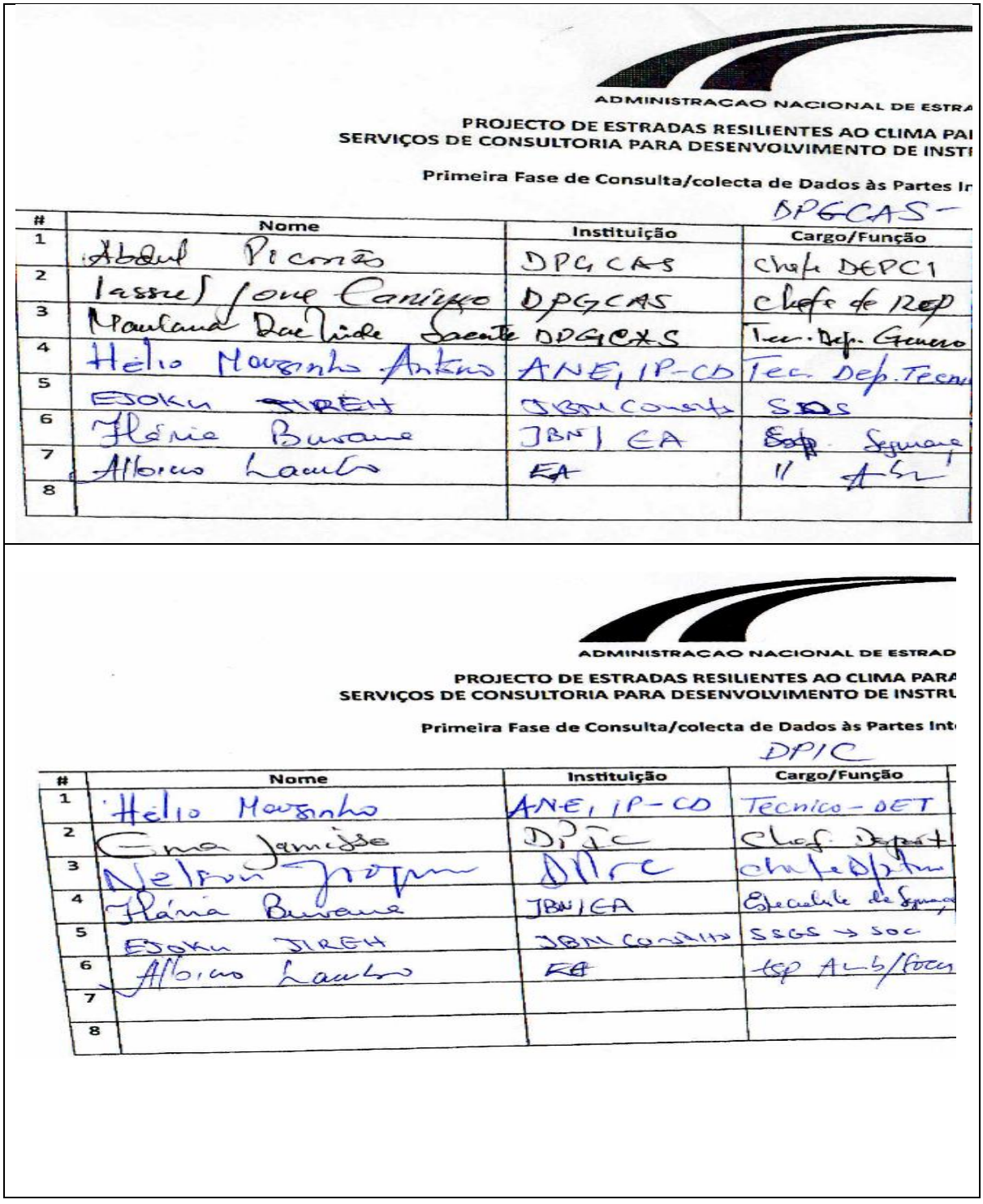
							• MADER will issue a note to the sector's provincial directorates to find out if they have anything to recommend regarding the roads that will be covered by the project. • It is important to ensure that preliminary E&S safeguards instruments are shared with civil society organizations for information.
16	National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC)	Maputo	1/02/2024	1	0	• Project scope, objectives, and targeted area, and assignment of the consultancy team. • Discuss if ANAC has anything to recommend for consideration during project preparation phase and in the execution phase.	• ANAC indicated that the project is welcome and hopes that the project's interventions do not interfere with ecosystems, especially in conservation areas, Even considering that the intervention will be on existing roads. • ANAC is preparing to conduct research on the impact of climate change on rivers environment and will start with the Zambezi River from its entry into Mozambique to the Marromeu complex, in the province of Sofala.

Annex 2 – Copies of Attendance Lists for the Meetings held in Pemba – during 1st Phase of consultations (15th-19th February 2024)



ADMINISTRACAO NACIONAL DE ESTRA

PROJECTO DE ESTRADAS RESILIENTES AO CLIMA PAI
SERVIÇOS DE CONSULTORIA PARA DESENVOLVIMENTO DE INST

Primeira Fase de Consulta/colecta de Dados às Partes Ir

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3	Maulana Daúde Saente	DPGCAS	Tec. Dep. Genero
4	Hélio Marinho Antonio	ANE, IP-CD	Tec. Dep. Tecn
5	EJOKU JIREH	JBN Consult	SDS
6	Flávia Buvane	JBN / EA	Esp. Segurança
7	Alberto Lauto	EA	//
8			

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Primeira Fase de Consulta/colecta de Dados às Partes Int

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5	EJOKU JIREH	JBN Consult	SSGS → SOC
6	Alberto Lauto	EA	Esp Amb/Focu
7			
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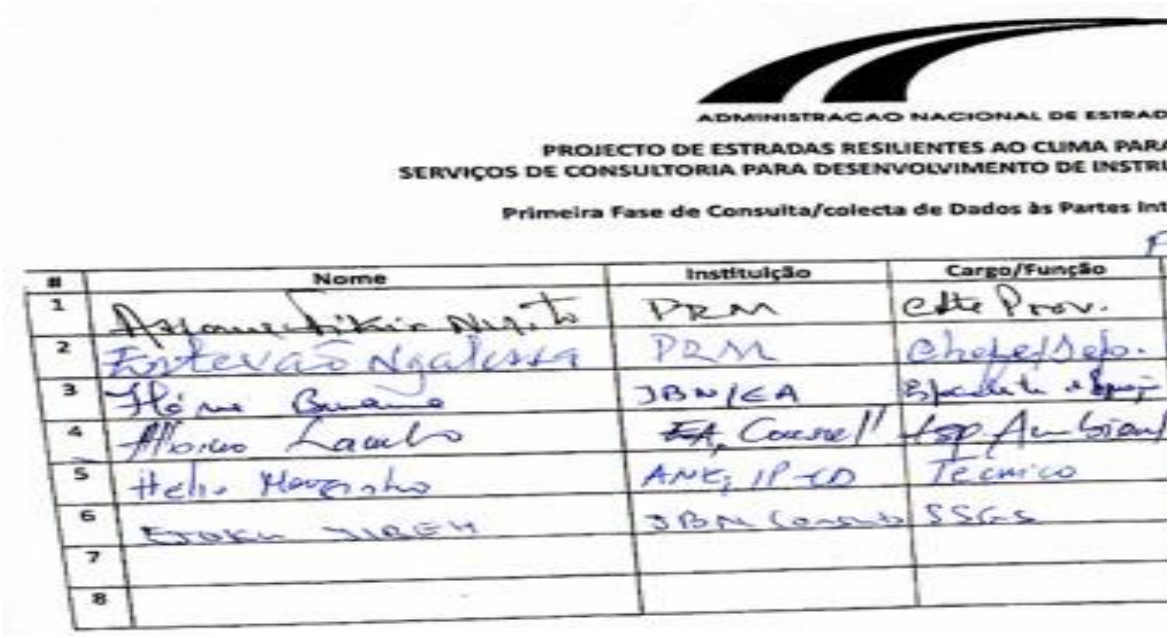

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Annex 3 – Copies of Attendance List for the Meetings held during 1st Phase of Consultations in Maputo (15th-19th February 2024)

ADMINISTRAÇÃO N

PROJECTO DE ESTRADAS RESILIE
SERVIÇOS DE CONSULTORIA PARA DESENVO

Primeira Fase de Consulta/colecta d
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REPÚB
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ADMINISTRAÇÃO NAC

PROJECTO DE ESTRADAS RESILIENTE
SERVIÇOS DE CONSULTORIA PARA DESENVOLVIM

Primeira Fase de Consulta/colecta de Da

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