



Rapid Food Security Assessment

NAMPULA – CABO DELGADO

Mozambique

22 – 31 March 2006

Executive summary

Following February 2006 VAC recommendations and an official request from INGC to provide emergency food aid for one “affected” district in northern Mozambique (Nampula) where WFP has no emergency relief operation, WFP conducted a rapid food security assessment together with local representative of INGC, MINAG and iNGOs from the 22nd to the 31st of March 2006, in order to validate the prevailing 2 main assumptions that (i) the expected crop failure would translate into a serious fall in food consumption for a large number of population and that (ii) food assistance, rather than non-food assistance, was the appropriate form of intervention.

A 9 days field visits and extensive discussions with local authorities and other key informants authorize us to conclude that households in the coastal areas of Nampula and Cabo Delgado have been indeed experiencing a protracted lean season lasting longer than normal due to a poor harvest in 2004/05 and a late arrival of rains. The effects have been severe, particularly for the poorer leaving in the “intermediary” zones, or “interior” of the coastal areas, where coping or survival strategies appear to be more limited. Production from the main harvest (July) is normally sufficient to cover staple food needs in this zone and food is normally bought within the different districts themselves if needed. The remoteness and seasonal isolation of a number of poor villages have aggravated a situation for a number of household who had to rely only on wild fruits and hunts.

In the coastal districts visited in Cabo Delgado Province, Aga Khan Foundation have been very active (and continue to be) and has provided earlier food together with INGC in affected localities and seeds together with the Ministry of Agriculture. In visited districts in Nampula, mitigation activities have been more limited, although INGC and MINAG did provide some emergency food and seeds together with SCF US extension workers and World Vision but to a lesser extent.

However the forecasts for the coming harvest are all good, thanks to the abundant rains. And villagers can already count on fresh products including green maize (massaroca), cassava, pumpkin, etc. Although poor sandy soils near the coast are a hindrance to good agricultural production, fishing is providing there with additional sources of income and food. In the interior the agricultural potential is good thanks to generally adequate levels of rainfalls and available good quality lands. And crop production that only depends on the labor of household members is diversified and includes a number of staple (maize, cassava, sorghum and rice) and of cash crops (cashew nuts, sesame, and cotton). Food was available in all markets visited (mainly dry cassava or rice) and affordable at a very reasonable prices, very consistent all over the places visited, even the more remote ones.

The water supply current conditions remain inadequate for a large number of villages relying only on rivers also affected by the delayed rains. The situation in the social sectors is similarly bleak. Both the health and education services, despite all the effort recently made, remain short of adequate physical infrastructure, equipment and trained staff. The mission such concludes that the main issue in all the districts visited was one of utilization more than availability or household access. The severe health and nutrition situation observed in Nacaroa districts remains of concern. We do recommend an **integrated food security and nutritional survey** in these interior administrative posts of Nacala Velha, Memba, and Nacaroa districts, Nampula Province, to get a better understanding of the severity of the situation and its main causes. Upon confirmation of the nutritional situation, a targeted nutrition intervention focusing on under 3 years' old children and pregnant and lactating women has to be considered urgently. Different activities could be envisaged such as:

- Efficient therapeutic and supplementary feeding and the provision of fortified foods to support the existing limited capacity of distrital health sector.
- Health, water and sanitation interventions to reduce diarrhoea and other diseases
- Nutrition education with a focus on diet quality, crop diversification and promotion of gardening.

The team considers that free food distribution is no longer required although it recommends that careful monitoring is done and that the VAC assessment planned for June pays particular attention to these listed districts. Thus, WFP will not meet INGC request to provide immediate emergency food for Nacaroa district.

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1. Objectives and methodology of the assessment

Objectives of the assessment:

In order to inform WFP decisions in terms of response to the recent VAC recommendations, this assessment aimed at better understanding:

- the **nature** and **causes** of reported food insecurity and malnutrition in order to determine whether food and/or non-food interventions would be appropriate;
- the **present situation**, how it is expected to evolve and any **future risks** for food security, in order to determine programme options and the period during which assistance may be needed and provide a basis for contingency planning;
- the **capacities** of people, communities, the government and other organizations to help themselves and/or to contribute to the planning and management of externally assisted interventions, in order to determine the most appropriate type(s) of assistance and indicate possible implementation modalities.

More specifically this assessment tried:

- To estimate the extent, severity and probable duration of changes in food availability (including market functioning) and in livelihoods and households' access to and use of food as a result of the crisis;
- To identify:
 - the geographic areas where food security has been affected either directly or indirectly;
 - any differences in the severity and probable duration of impact in different areas and on different socio-economic population groups; and
 - the immediate and possible underlying causes of current food insecurity and any observed malnutrition.
- To determine:
 - the capacities of the different groups to cope with the situation; and
 - whether sufficient food of appropriate quality is available in the area – whether the problem is, or will be, one of 'availability' or of 'access' – and the extent to which market-related problems may be contributing to the problem and/or markets may be able to contribute to resolving the problem.

- To identify the type(s) of measures or assistance – food and non-food – that could help to ensure that people, especially the most vulnerable households and individuals, have access to:
 - food that is adequate in quantity and quality to meet their nutritional needs, and
 - related non-food supplies, services and protection to maintain (or restore) nutritional health and well-being, without engaging in damaging or undesirable survival strategies
- To identify the resources and capacities (of the communities and potential partners) currently available to implement measures and interventions to meet the food and related needs of the population(s), and any constraints;
- To identify any immediate possibilities to initiate assistance for self-reliant recovery and longer-term food security;

and, on that basis:

- To propose specific measures and assistance interventions – food and non-food – that could help the affected population groups to meet their short- and longer-term food security needs, and specify the pros and cons of the various response options;

Methodology:

This rapid food security assessment used ‘rapid appraisal’ techniques, including some participatory techniques. Rapid household surveys have also been included.

Formal meetings at provincial level gathering main sectors’ representatives were organised in both Nampula and Pemba by INGC delegate. More in depth discussions have been then carried out with directors of Agriculture and Health.

Key informant discussions and joined field visits have been conducted together with local authorities, NGOs, INGC, and MINAG local representatives following the initial plan (see Annex 1, TOR).

Broad discussions were conducted at all administrative level to better understand (i) the current situation (rainfall pattern, distribution, geographic areas affected); (ii) food availability (present stocks level, crop prospects, how markets are functioning, market prices); (iii) food access (livelihood and coping strategies); and (iv) nutrition and health data. (see Annex 2, list of information to be collected).

The discussions with key informants have been further consolidated by observations and more details discussion with selected households.

This report tries to summarise the main findings of this rapid assessment. It mainly builds upon the regular debriefing discussions held continuously during the field work with the team members. A first team made of WFP, INGC, MINAG and World Vision has been involved in the first part of the assessment in Nampula Province. A second team only made of WFP and INGC was involved in the Cabo Delgado Province assessment.

Team members:

- Augusto Penue, INGC, Nampula
- Carlos Jaquessone, SETSAN focal point, Nampula
- Jose Daniel, CDPP coordinator, World Vision, Nampula
- Ussene Assane, INGC Pemba
- Oscar Baciao, Head of Sub Office, Nampula
- Sylvie Montembault, Regional Assessment Officer, Maputo

Limitations of data

- Time:

The findings of this assessment have to be put in perspective with the limited length of time spent in the field. An average of 1 day has been dedicated to each district visited. (See Annex 3, itinerary). The conclusions and recommendations reflect such the additional information required prior to design a proper intervention.



- Access:

The state of the roads in the coastal areas visited didn't allow us to access all the more remote areas, also, as this report will try to demonstrate, appearing to be the more "vulnerable". Especially, we didn't manage to get to the Administrative post of Mucojo in Macomia district, nor to Meluco district capital. However, we interviewed key people able to inform us about the situation in these areas.

Nacala Velha, team assessing the road before crossing the river

- Recently appointed district authorities

This assessment relies heavily on secondary data and districts administrators were our main source of information. However, often new in their post, as some of the district directors of agriculture, they were not always able to provide us with an accurate briefing of the situation. Our field visit and observations have been critical in the conclusions drawn in this assessment.

2. Pre -conditions in the assessed area

The North of the Mozambique is known for having a net surplus of cereals. For lack of cheap transport, it is not economic to move this surplus to the deficit areas in the south. Instead, this surplus is often sold to Malawi, much of it by small traders. The amounts involved can be substantial – from 50,000 to 200,000 tons per season of Maize, depending on demand in Malawi. When prices are attractive in Malawi, farm households in the North often sell their maize, and rely for their own consumption on cassava and sweet potato. (FEWS/WFP Informal cross border trade 2004, 2005; Whiteside 2002, 2003).

The main crops are cassava, maize, sorghum, millet, rice, beans and groundnuts.

Even in the interior fish is included in the local diet, caught in the large number of rivers that cross all these districts.

The main food crop in Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces is cassava, grown in all districts in significant quantities and particularly in the sandy soils of the coastal districts. Other food crops are maize, sorghum, millet, rice, beans and groundnuts. Cotton, sesame and cashew nuts are important cash crops for smallholder farmers. The average size of holdings is 1.16 ha.

Livestock numbers are higher than in the two other Northern provinces, but are still very low compared to local potential.

Because of its vast coastal plain and the network of tributaries of the Rovuma and Lugenda rivers that has created fertile valleys in the interior; Cabo Delgado is one of the provinces with the highest agricultural potential in Mozambique. Rainfall is usually well distributed and above the normal requirements for cereal production. Agricultural production is rainfed, subsistence farming on holdings averaging 1.22 ha is conducted by some 400 000 farming families.

Establishment of the 7,500 km² Quirimbas National Park, in Mozambique's northern-most Cabo Delgado Province, close to the border with Tanzania, represents a globally significant conservation achievement. The Park was inaugurated in June 2002 with the celebrations and an official functions taking place on Ibo Island. The Quirimbas National Park goal is "to conserve the diversity, abundance, and ecological integrity of all physical and biological resources in the park area, so that they may be enjoyed and used productively by present and future generations". The Park is extremely selective about what tourism projects and investments it allows into the region with an emphasis on high quality, low impact tourism where the communities also benefit. The terrestrial Park region has been identified by various studies as priority areas for wildlife. Three important migratory routes for elephant

transverse the area, following the coast and the Montepuez and Messalo river systems. Elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, hyena, wild dog, eland, greater kudu, bushbuck, sable, water buck, duikers, suni and oribi, jackal, serval, civet, otter, bushpig, warthog, baboon, samango and vervet monkey, hippopotamus, crocodile and a huge variety of sea birds and raptors including the fisheagle, bataleur eagle, martial eagle, flamingo, storks, herons, kingfishers, and many more can be found in the park. The creation of this park including highly populated areas raises a number of questions as the cohabitation of extensive agricultural system with protected wild life is often source of conflict.

An important source of secondary data is the district profiles developed in 1997. This joined exercise led by UNDP and UNHCR builds upon a national household food security survey conducted by MSF and the ministry of agriculture in 1996. Some of the recurrent features found in these profiles for the visited districts are:

- the normally adequate rainfall and relatively low population density, at least low pressure on land access
- the very good agricultural potential and conditions generally suitable for the production of basic crops
- the coastal location adding to the districts' potential in terms of fishing
- accessibility in some areas remaining poor and being a serious problem since a number of localities are isolated from the district capital with obvious consequences for economic and social development
- with regards to the social sector, both the health and education services being very short of qualified staff and adequate facilities
- those districts also facing problems of access to sources of clean water in the areas away from the district capital

In 2004, the VAC/SETSAN conducted a vulnerability analysis in Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Nampula to complement the one done at first in the southern and central provinces of the country. This household survey (2700 households interviewed) focused on the coastal area of Northern Nampula (Memba, Nacala velha and Nacala Porto), the coastal area of central Nampula (Mossuril, Ilha de Mozambique, Mongicual), the intermediary area of Nampula (Monapo, Nacarua), the coastal area of Cabo Delgado (Macomia, Mocimboa da praia, Palma), the interior area of Cabo Delgado (Montepuez, Mueda, Meluco) and Niassa area (Mavago, Mecula).

The analysis led to the identification of 5 different livelihood groups:

- group 1: small farmers with limited resources
- group 2: medium farmers with limited resources
- group 3: small farmers with a lot of resources, sometimes combining petty trade activities
- group 4: medium farmer with a lot of resources
- group 5: big farmers with a lot of diversified resources

The first 3 groups were then considered as being the most vulnerable. They appear to be households mainly headed by women. Their limited numbers of coping strategies in case of shocks make them particularly vulnerable, although the study also underline that fishing, hand craft and production of local beverages are additional activities that one can find within group 1, 4 and 5. In addition, using 3 indicators (poor diet quality, consumption of famine food and very low meal frequency) the study defined the group of population suffering from food insecurity and who should benefit from relief until the next harvest.

Livelihood groups distribution by studied areas, VAC/SETSAN 2004.

	group 1	group 2	group 3	group 4	group 5
Nampula 1 (Memba, Nacala Velha, Nacala Porto)	24%	24%	19%	32%	2%
Nampula 2 (Mossuril, Ilha de Mozambique, Mongicual)	20%	19%	32%	29%	1%
Nampula 3 (Nacarua, Monapo)	1%	11%	5%	82%	2%
Cabo Delgado 1 (Macomia, Mocimboa da praia, Palma)	32%	19%	30%	13%	5%
Cabo delgado 2 (Meluco, Mueda, Montepuez)	19%	24%	20%	27%	10%
Niassa (Mavago, Mecila)	32%	48%	5%	9%	6%

However, this broad typology doesn't really reflect the specificities of the coastal areas, where fishing and small trade usually play a major role.

According to "**Impacto Demográfico do HIV/SIDA em Moçambique**", prepared by INE in coordination with MISAU and Multisectorial Group in 2004, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in these 2 provinces remain one of the lowest in Mozambique with 7.5% in Cabo Delgado and 8.1% in Nampula. On the other hand, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition according to the recent DHS data is the worst in Cabo Delgado with more than 56% of under 3 years old children, being stunted and 43% in Nampula. According to the consolidated results of the October 2005 Nutrition Survey conducted in 54 Vulnerable Districts in 10 Provinces by MISAU with the support of UNICEF, Nampula and Cabo Delgado fall into the group of provinces having a prevalence of acute malnutrition higher than 4.5% together with Niassa and Zambezia (with 4.7% under 5 children suffering from wasting in Nampula and 5% in Cabo Delgado). These data correlated the DHS ones on stunting and further correlated this high malnutrition prevalence with very high level of diarrhea prevalence especially in Nampula (see table below).

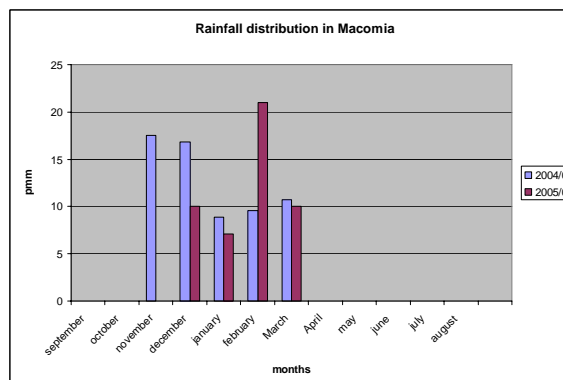
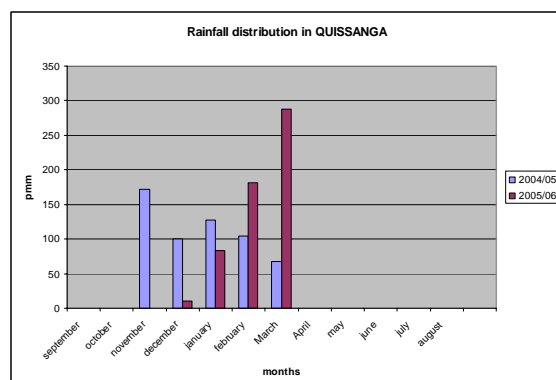
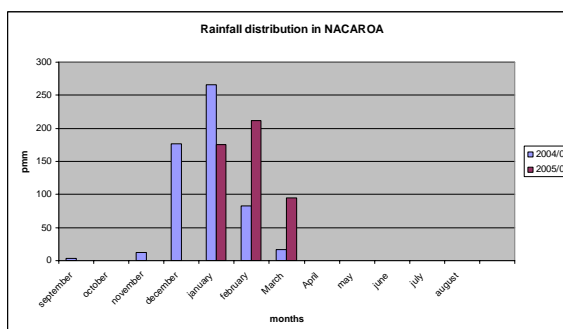
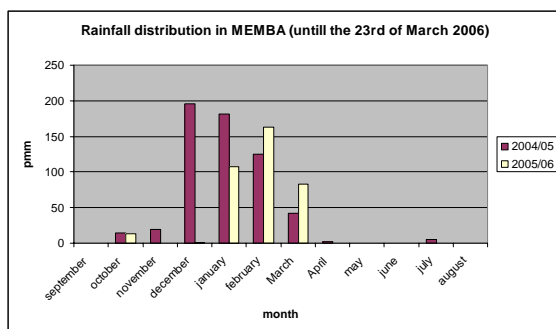
	Wasting Prevalence among 6-59 months old	Stunting Prevalence among 6-59 months old	Underweight Prevalence among 6-59 months old	Percentage of children 6-59 months that only had one meal the day before the survey	Diarrhoea Prevalence among 6-59 months old children	Vaccination coverage (polio or measles) among 6-59 months old children	Vitamin A coverage among 6-59 months old children
Maputo	4.4%	18.8%	11.0%	7.2%	16.9%	95.0%	95.0%
Gaza	2.3%	32.2%	17.0%	4.6%	29.7%	98.0%	95.1%
Inhambane	1.8%	27.2%	13.6%	19.9%	29.7%	96.8%	96.5%
Sofala	4.1%	36.5%	18.6%	9.9%	11.1%	99.2%	97.3%
Manica	3.6%	28.9%	21.0%	19.4%	31.6%	97.5%	96.3%
Tete	4.2%	37.2%	30.1%	9.2%	46.8%	98.7%	98.3%
Zambézia	6.9%	27.8%	23.8%	15.6%	47.0%	95.8%	95.2%
Nampula	4.7%	49.9%	35.9%	9.2%	41.8%	99.3%	94.8%
Niassa	5.4%	26.9%	18.6%	21.5%	51.7%	95.5%	92.3%
Cabo Delgado	5.0%	52.0%	36.8%	27.9%	28.8%	98.8%	98.6%
Total	4.7%	35.7%	25.2%	13.1%	37.3%	97.7%	95.9%

Source: October 2005 Nutrition Survey, MISAU and UNICEF

High levels of stunting in tandem with comparatively lower incidence of wasting suggest factors other than availability of food may be significant determinants of child stunting. These factors might include disease arising from poor health and sanitation. The incidence of malaria is notably high in Mozambique. Inadequate access to diversified and quality food is nonetheless clearly an issue. This is closely related to poverty and lack of income opportunities, as both urban and some rural households purchase a significant proportion of their food needs. It has also to be correlated with poor feeding practices and strong cultural behavior, including the persistence of feeding taboo.

3. Nature of the shock: factors affecting the production

Despite late and erratic rains early in the season, regular precipitation from January through March, has enabled replanted cereal crops to reach maturity and encouraged extended plantings of maize. In the visited districts, the 2005/06 rains started late in December and continued abundantly until the end of March. See selected rainfall distribution below from data given at district level by agriculture department.



The main growing season usually starts with the first rains in December. There is also a minor growing season that extends from March to July, based on residual ground moisture that accounts for approximately 10 percent of total output. This year, rains have really started only in January and have been well-distributed and have continued fairly evenly until April. Such rains are providing a prolonged season that is encouraging regular planting in most areas. The areas of early maize lost have been successfully replanted with maize and/or sorghum in January and February in most of the areas visited.

However the consequent delay in the harvest is noted to have extended the hunger gap. The poor harvest of last year, and therefore the limited available stock, has aggravated the situation. This abnormally long lean season has mostly affected isolated remote village having to resort to self-sufficiency for most of the rainy season.

In addition, in all these areas where maize plays a limited role in terms of staple, the brown streak disease of cassava that is affecting cassava fields for a few years now appears to be very important in time of scarcity. Farmers are harvesting earlier to beat the rot that sets in and spoils the tubers, consequently yields are reduced. Indeed, reduced cassava production, forced people in remote areas to rely mainly on wild foods especially in January and February.

Although various steps have been taken by MINAG and operating NGOs to deal with the cassava disease, including the introduction of cassava varieties resistant to the brown streak disease, the lack of seedlings and the failure of early seedlings this year because of the late rain have been repetitively mentioned as a main cause of concern.

As is the normal practice, most farmers planted their crops with local seeds from the previous season's production either from their own supply or from local informal sources. The quality (growth potential) of such seeds is limited. Except in the case of the poorest farmers, cereal seed availability was not noted to have been an issue as the same local seeds are used for planting and eating although reseeding was necessary. On the other hand, and despite the efforts of MINAG together with intervening NGOs, the need for improved supply of vegetable seeds including beans was often reported. It's worth mentioning here the very interesting initiative of Aga Khan Foundation in the coastal districts of Cabo Delgado that in addition to free seeds distribution tries to strengthen the private vegetable seeds supply by contracting local private traders who make available quality seeds at subsidized prices.

Another big issue regarding production especially in Cabo Delgado is the damages done by wild animals including monkeys, wild pigs and marauding elephants. It was explained in Quissanga that the situation is even worse this year because of the low level of the river earlier in the season that



usually serves as a barrier against the elephants. However, because these areas fall under the protected perimeter of the Quirimbas Park, beside scaring the animals and being vigilant, there's little to be done.

Child looking after a rice field threatened by monkeys in Quissanga

This issue clearly raises the conflict of interest – familiar to environmental protection measures – between the will to save a wild fauna without disturbing too much productive and economical activities of resident population. More drastic measures, including fencing or re-location, have to be soon considered.

Agricultural calendar for this year, done with farmers in Napera II, Memba Sede.

oct	nov	dec	jan	feb	march	april	may	june	jul	aug	Sept	
	ppp	ppp							hhh	hhh		Cassava
			ppp			pp-h			hhh			Maize
			ppp	trp			hhh					Millet
				ppp	ppp	hhh	hhh					Beans niembe
			ppp	pp-h	hh-p	hhh						Beans holoco
			ppp			hhh	hhh					Ground nuts
				ppp	ppp		hhh	hhh				Sesame
hhh	hhh	hhh										Cashew nuts
						ppp	ppp		hhh	hhh		vegetable

p= planting; h= harvest; trp= transplanting

Normal planting month

4. Impact on food availability and production forecasts

In response to the food access problems, food aid has been distributed in relatively big quantity by INGC in Nampula and in Cabo Delgado with the support of Aga Khan. In Nampula where INGC didn't benefit from NGOs support to implement the distribution, food was left to the district administrators and remote areas have been hardly reached.

INGC free food distribution in Nampula counted for a total of :

124 Mt of maize grain

40.3 Mt of maize flour

9.5 Mt beans

2 000 litre of oil

And more specifically, for the districts visited:

Memba 10 Mt Maize grain + 8 Mt Maize flour + 1.55 Mt beans + 260 litre of oil

Nacaroa 16 Mt Maize grain + 9.45 Mt Maize flour + 1,45 Mt beans + 260 litre of oil

Nacala Velha 20 Mt Maize grain + 10 Mt Maize flour + 1.6 Mt beans + 260 litre of oil

Mongicual 9 Mt Maize + 0.55 Mt beans

The Head of Administrative Post of Indepa in Nacaroa district was receiving additional cassava flour from INGC at the moment of our visit to serve the 2 575 families considered of being in need in Indeta PA (including Penhavate, Muita, Namizaco, Maia and Tabuane).

In Cabo Delgado, together with INGC, Aga Khan distributes:

Distrito	Quantidade a ser alocada (kg)				Qtide de Acrecimo provaveis(kg)			
	Mandioca seca	Milho	Feijão	Totais	Mandioca seca	Milho	Feijão	Totais
Macomia	50778	19747	8463	78988	39060	15190	6510	60760
Quissanga	39942	15533	6657	62132	23058	8967	3843	35868
Metuge	21348	8302	3558	33208	0	0	0	0

The prospects for the coming production are fairly good, often said better than the past 2 years. Below are the preliminary figures provided by agriculture district authority for the main staples. Overall, production is expected to be slightly better than the last year's harvest

CULTURA	forecasted production MONGICUAL		forecasted production NACALA VELHA		forecasted production MEMBA		forecasted production NACAROIA	
	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06
Milho	3,200	2,171	2,478	3,742	3,414	4,342	2,662	2,712
Mapira	1,941	1,720	1,665	1,750	4,697	4,125	1,949	3,427
Mexoeira	186	499	17	27	334	657	-	-
Arroz	1,414	433	1,030	1,540	376	946	528	1,955
Feijões	1,310	1,039	1,323	1,452	1,591	1,404	1,276	1,440
Amendoim	2,253	1,640	675	1,537	1,380	1,391	3,482	2,562
Mandioca	79,055	160,965	65,250	78,300	74,754	115,335	70,360	84,749
Batata doce	440	300	105	375	438	411	300	376
Gergelim	888	379	-	110	241	250	416	442
Cotton	-	560	-	-	158	208	343	1,340

CULTURA	forecasted production CABO DELGADO PROVINCE		forecasted production QUISSANGA		forecasted production MACOMIA	
	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2004/05	2005/06
Milho	61,943	105,668	1,249	2,225	6,462	6,313
Mapira	44,328	49,779	600	1,093	2,058	1,909
Mexoeira	57,161	30,212	42	119		
Arroz	2,584	2,526	248	1,093	4,891	4,214
Feijões	30,465	29,608	452	874		
Amendoim	12,352	38,444	350	596	1,020	2,100
Mandioca	322,167	364,816	16,206	19,072	22,522	21,315
Batata doce	14,140	13,018				
Gergelim	4,778	4,759			300	375
Cotton	21,677	31,463			71	

This year's cereal output is expected to result in an overall satisfactory food supply situation and consequent exports to the neighboring Malawi and Tanzania, where demand maybe higher this year because of the drought.

The expansion of both traditional cash crops, such as cotton, cashew nuts and newly introduced ones, such as sesame significantly contribute to provide alternative sources of incomes to the households, knowing in addition that maize and groundnuts count normally as cash crops for many people. Their expected good performance this year would definitely contribute to the resilience of poor households in this area. The cashew production is still contributing substantially to farm incomes and food supply. Cashew is severely affected by powdery mildew disease (*Oidium anacardii*). Programs to combat oidium have been noted, and supported by Umukasi, a local NGO, in Nampula and Cabo Delgado, including the propagation of resistant varieties and tree spraying.

Although poor sandy soils near the coast are a hindrance to good agricultural production, fishing provides with additional sources of income and food.



Share of the catches of the day, Quissanga

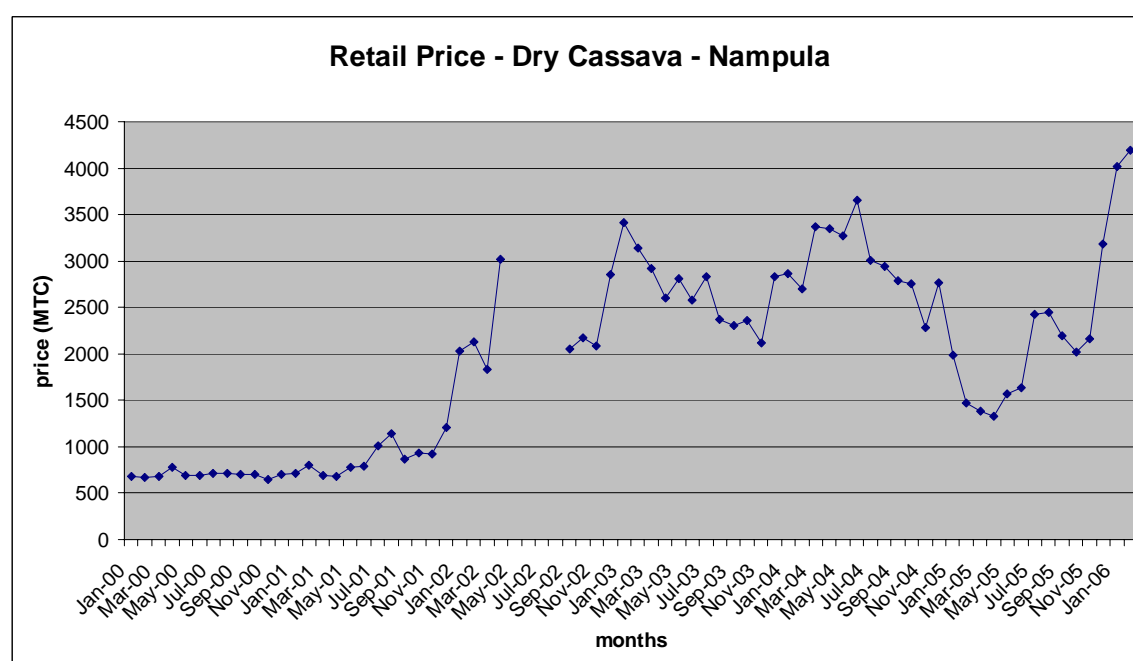
5. Impact on prices households' access to food

Food was available in every market place visited and accessible with slight prices differences from one place to another.

Average prices recorded during the mission:

Commodity	Average prices (per Kg)	Remark
Maize flour/ Grain	13,000	very little, said to be too expensive in many areas, also not part of the traditional food habit
Dry Cassava	5,000	Largely available everywhere – Mostly coming from interior Nampula or Cabo Delgado
Cassava flour	8,000	Only available in a few places
Rice	12,000 – 12,500	Main cereal in Ibo
Small dry fish (pile)	2,000	Available even in the interior. Also the price is constant; the size of the pile may vary.
Cob of green maize	1,000 – 2,000	Largely available
Sugar	18,000 – 20,000	
Maize mill (top score)	25,000	Available in almost all small stores visited

The analysis of the recent evolution of Cassava price shows that the prices have reached their maximum this year. However every interviews conducted with small retailer on the market confirm that prices were on their downwards trend. Note also that these prices in Meticaís have to be also considered with the inflation rate of medicals these last months.



Source: SIMA, Maputo



Women selling locally milled dry cassava in Memba

Commercial activities remain relatively limited and the market for local produce (agricultural, livestock and consumer goods) is limited to the district and administrative post capitals. To step up the marketing of surplus crops and small livestock, some district authorities (example observed in Memba) have organised weekly market in order to increase the number of buyers/ sellers. Additional means of transports would also be a prerequisite to improve the movement of goods in some of the remotest areas.

Food is largely available in all part of districts including Ibo. But the lack of infrastructures made some areas isolated from main road and district capitals during a large part of the rainy season.



There's a number of coping strategies, especially on the coast where fishing and small trade appear to be the main support in case of scarcity. However those coping strategies appear very limited for the population living in remote areas and depending on their own for quite extended periods, corresponding to the lean season. Wild food and hunting are definitely playing a major role but appears to be insufficient this year.

Nacala Velha, some of the wild tubers and cereals traditionally consumed during the lean season

These areas are the interior and remote localities of the northern coastal area of Nampula (Nacala Velha, Memba, Nacaroa) and the southern coastal areas of Cabo Delgado (Mecufi, Meluco, Quissanga, Ibo, Macomia).

Household crop production depends on the labor of household members and such households with limited able body are classically considered as the most vulnerable (sick, elderly, widows).

Timber was mentioned has an important source of income for people leaving in the interior of Mecufi district, Cabo Delgado. Indeed we've seen a massive number of trucks full of precious or semi-precious hardwoods that can be used industrially in Pemba or being exported from Nacala Port. More organized extraction of timber is becoming evident, and licences issued by MINAG confer rights of extraction to traders equipped with lorries and tractors to move laborers into the forests to extract the timber.

6. Impact on food consumption, utilization, nutritional and health status

The normal diet in all these districts is caracata (xima made of cassava) with a curry of green leaves and coco or beans; or groundnuts and fish especially on the sea side. Sorghum and millet are very important staples in some areas (Mecufi district for instance). Rice is more consumed on Ibo where a

larger population depends on the market for procurement. During the rainy season, consumption of green maize (massaroca) and pumpkin is usual.

Although the mission didn't assess the food consumption pattern in depth, it was often reported bad consumption habits and very little use of the diversified foods even if available but primary produced to be sold (beans, groundnuts, sesame). The very poor feeding practices of young children and the known food taboo (pregnant/ lactating women not allowed to consume eggs, young children not allowed to consume beans or groundnuts, etc.) have been largely documented by previous studies, including the 1997 districts profiles.

Although no study have come with strong data analysis to demonstrate this linkages, empirical data tend to prove the correlation between abnormally high level of stunting but also seasonal wasting in these areas and poor feeding practices. Anaemia has been also regularly mentioned as a preoccupying health issue all over the visited places.

It is worth mentioning that despite our efforts to get accurate information, recent surveillance data is often hard to obtain. In addition, the surveillance system is based on the health posts visit and not always reflects the reality of the situation, given the very limited capacity of health workers and mobile brigades to visit remote areas for screening. Note also that the situation is different in Districts visited in Cabo Delgado where the health sector benefits from the support of Medicos del Mundo and Aga Khan Foundation.

Thus, although the available statistics from the existing Nutritional Surveillance System doesn't provide a picture of deteriorating nutritional situation, it was often reported increasing number of cases, including adults. Our visit to Penhavate, locality of Indeta administrative post in Nacaroa districts, has been a sad opportunity of observing a big number of acutely malnourished children. We brought them to the district health post that has a therapeutic feeding unit and that is supplied with F100 and F75. The 10 children were first admitted as severely malnourished children. However, one week later, when our team stopped by Nacaroa district hospital to visit the patients, only 1 was remaining. The others have been sent home with therapeutic milk!

In addition of very limited means to operate efficiently, the district health authority has also a very limited knowledge and capacity in treating acute malnutrition.

Access to clean water is a critical need everywhere outside the administrative posts or district capitals. In many remote localities people only rely on small rivers that get muddy and limited during the dry season, increasing the risk of high levels of microbial contamination and favoring unsanitary conditions. Improvement of water access has often been mentioned as a priority by districts authorities, together with roads rehabilitation.

7. Current and future problems and risks for food security and livelihoods; assistance required

Food security has been problematic in most of the visited districts especially during the recent month of January and February due to poor harvest last year and late rain this year.

The current year is very promising in terms of production. People already eat fresh products.

The nutritional situation is cause of concern and has to be better documented before urgent targeted nutritional program can be implemented.

The food availability and access is already getting back to normal but the utilization problem remains. Therefore, we consider that general food distributions at this point are not justified for populations who had suffered from unusually severe food insecurity in the recent months of January and February.

This area is mainly facing structural problems that translate into a major food utilisation issue (high prevalence of chronic illnesses, very poor access to good quality water and poor basic knowledge in the provision of basic care for young children, women, elderly and chronically sick people). Raising awareness of good hygiene and nutrition practices is of primarily importance in all these districts. Only long term and multisectoral interventions addressing simultaneously accessibility to social facilities (health, education) and to markets may have an impact on the long term. Mainly **non-food interventions** are recommended, among them:

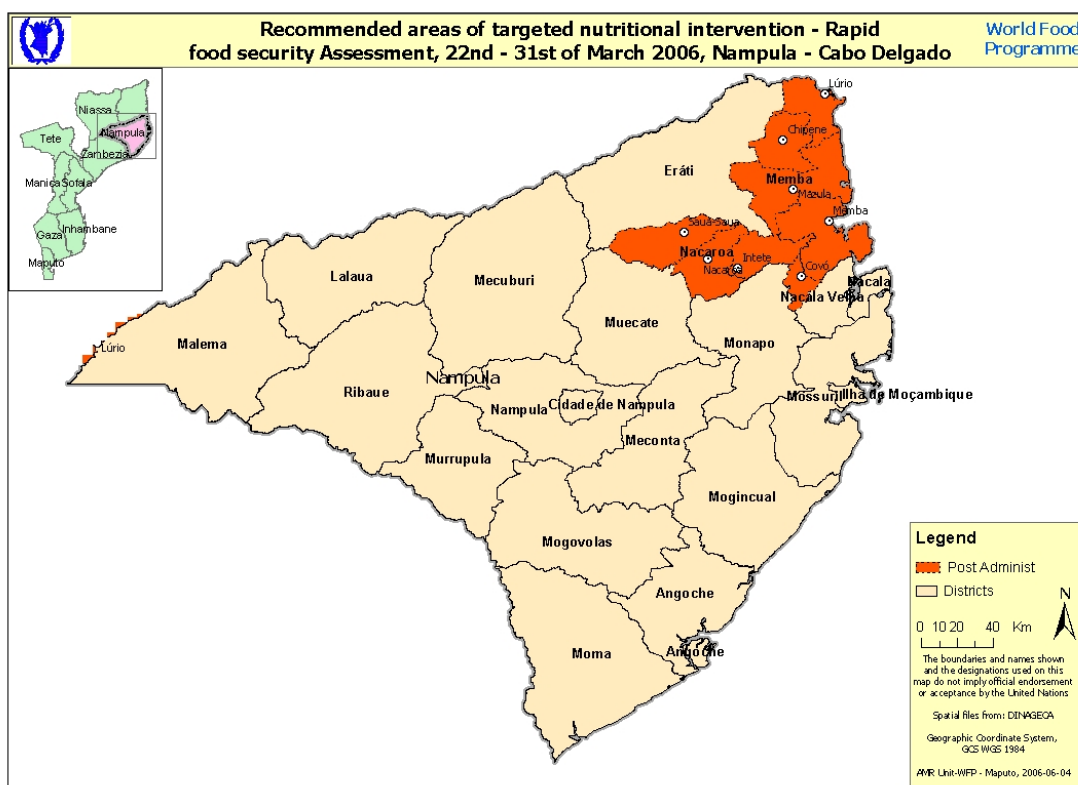
- Health, water and sanitation interventions to reduce diarrhoea and other diseases

- Nutrition education with a focus on diet quality, crop diversification and promotion of gardening

However, the assessment team is concerned by the observed prevalence of acute malnutrition and exposure to disease among young children and mothers in an area known for being prone to chronic malnutrition.

A integrated food security and nutritional assessment is however a prerequisite for any type of intervention. Because we don't have evidence of what are the main causes of anticipated such high levels of malnutrition in a surplus producing area, an integrated food security and nutrition survey would be better to allow for the analysis to consider the 3 basic causes of malnutrition: HH food security, caring practices and health and hygiene. The regular nutrition survey could be complemented with some HH food security sections to achieve this.

Given the anticipated severity of the nutrition situation observed in northern Nampula, where limited mitigation measures have been taken, the team recommends a **nutritional intervention** targeting under 3 children and pregnant and lactating women in order to correct and/or prevent malnutrition among the under 3 population and women. This may include the reinforcement of existing capacity of therapeutic and supplementary feeding schemes and the targeted provision of fortified foods especially to tackle the recurrent reported micronutrient deficiencies, anemia being the most important. Provision of food aid to nutritionally vulnerable groups (children whose growth falters and pregnant and lactating women) through, for example, the health network may be similarly considered if it can support nutrition education.



ANNEX 1 – TOR

NAMPULA – CABO DELGADO Rapid food security Assessment

TOR

Background:

According to the recent VAC some parts of northern Mozambique (Coastal Nampula and Cabo Delgado) have been experiencing dry conditions, delaying seasonal planting for the second consecutive year. Households in these areas of the north are facing a protracted lean season lasting longer than normal. The effects are likely to be severe, particularly for the poorer households with limited livelihood options and a propensity to pursue negative coping strategies.

More specifically, the February VAC report has pointed out 5 districts of concern in Cabo Delgado (Macomia, Ibo, Meluco, Quissangana and Mecufi) qualified of “extremely worrying” (*extremamente preocupante*) in terms of food security and 6 districts with a “very worrying” (*muito preocupante*) food security situation (Palma, Mosinboa da praia, pamba, ancuabe, moginvual and moma angoche). Finally, following a short situation report from World Vision that is operating in Nampula, INGC has just requested officially from WFP to provide food aid for 12,300 affected people living in Nacarua districts. WFP has no emergency relief activities currently in the Northern Provinces, classically considered as part of the surplus area in Mozambique and needs therefore to develop its strategy of intervention to address this aggravating food security situation.

Objective:

- To estimate the extent, severity and probable duration of changes in food availability (including market functioning) and in livelihoods and households' access to and use of food as a result of the crisis;
- To identify:
 - the geographic extent of the areas within which food security has been affected either directly or indirectly;
 - any differences in the severity and probable duration of impact in different areas and on different socio-economic population groups; and
 - the immediate and possible underlying causes of current food insecurity and any observed malnutrition.
- To determine:
 - the capacities of the different groups to cope with the situation; and
 - whether sufficient food of appropriate quality is available in the area – whether the problem is, or will be, one of ‘availability’ or of ‘access’ – and the extent to which market-related problems may be contributing to the problem and/or markets may be able to contribute to resolving the problem.
- To identify the type(s) of measures or assistance – food and non-food – that could help to ensure that people, especially the most vulnerable households and individuals, have access to:
 - food that is adequate in quantity and quality to meet their nutritional needs, and
 - related non-food supplies, services and protection to maintain (or restore) nutritional health and well-being, without engaging in damaging or undesirable survival strategies
- To identify the resources and capacities (of the communities and potential partners) currently available to implement measures and interventions to meet the food and related needs of the population(s), and any constraints;
- To identify any immediate possibilities to initiate assistance for self-reliant recovery and longer-term food security;

and, on that basis:

- To propose specific measures and assistance interventions – food and non-food – that could help the affected population groups to meet their short- and longer-term food security needs, and specify the pros and cons of the various response options; and
- To determine key axes for already planned more in-depth food security assessment (JAM in partnership with UNHCR focusing on the refugee population of Marratane Camp in Nampula, VAC assessment planned for May) and propose core elements for the terms of reference and methodology to be used.

Methodology:

This rapid food security assessment would employ 'rapid appraisal' techniques, including some participatory techniques. Rapid household survey will also be included.

Key informant discussions and joined field visit will be conducted together with local authorities, INGC, SETSAN, MISAU and MINAG local representatives. In addition, in order to better assess the resources and capacities (of the communities and potential partners) currently available to implement measures and interventions to meet the food and related needs of the population, discussions will be held with intervening NGOs and active community organisations.

Secondary data will also be reviewed to better understand (i) the current situation (rainfall pattern, distribution, geographic areas affected); (ii) food availability (present stocks level, crop prospects, how markets are functioning, market prices); (iii) food access (livelihood and coping strategies); and (iv) nutrition and health data.

Timeframe:

A 9 days field mission has been planned. The final planning will be discussed with provincial authority to take into account recent situation evolution

Date	Time	Place	Remarks/Activity
22-Mar-06	13:50	Nampula	Mission Arrival (Sylvie)
22-Mar-06	10:30 to 12:00	Nampula	Meeting at the SO
22-Mar-06	14:00	Nampula	Meeting with SETSAN / INGC in Nampula & NGOs
22-Mar-06	15:30	Nampula	Meeting with NGOs (overnight in Nampula)
23-Mar-06	7:30	Mogincual	Travel to Mogincual -visit to district (overnight in Nacala)
24-Mar-06	7:30	Nacala-a-Velha	visit to Nacala-a-Velha (overnight in Nacala)
25-Mar-06	14:00	Memba	visit to Memba (overnight)
26-Mar-06	7:00	Nacaroa	visit to Nacaroa (overnight in Pemba)
27-Mar-06	8:00	Pemba	Meeting with SETSAN / INGC in Pemba & NGOs
27-Mar-06	11:00	Mecufi	visit to Mecufi (overnight in Pemba)
28-Mar-06		Quissanga	visito to Quissanga
28-Mar-06		Ibo	Ibo
29-Mar-06		Macomia	visit to Macomia
30-Mar-06		Meluco	visit to Meluco (overnight in Pemba)
31-Mar-06		Pemba	Return to Maputo/Nampula

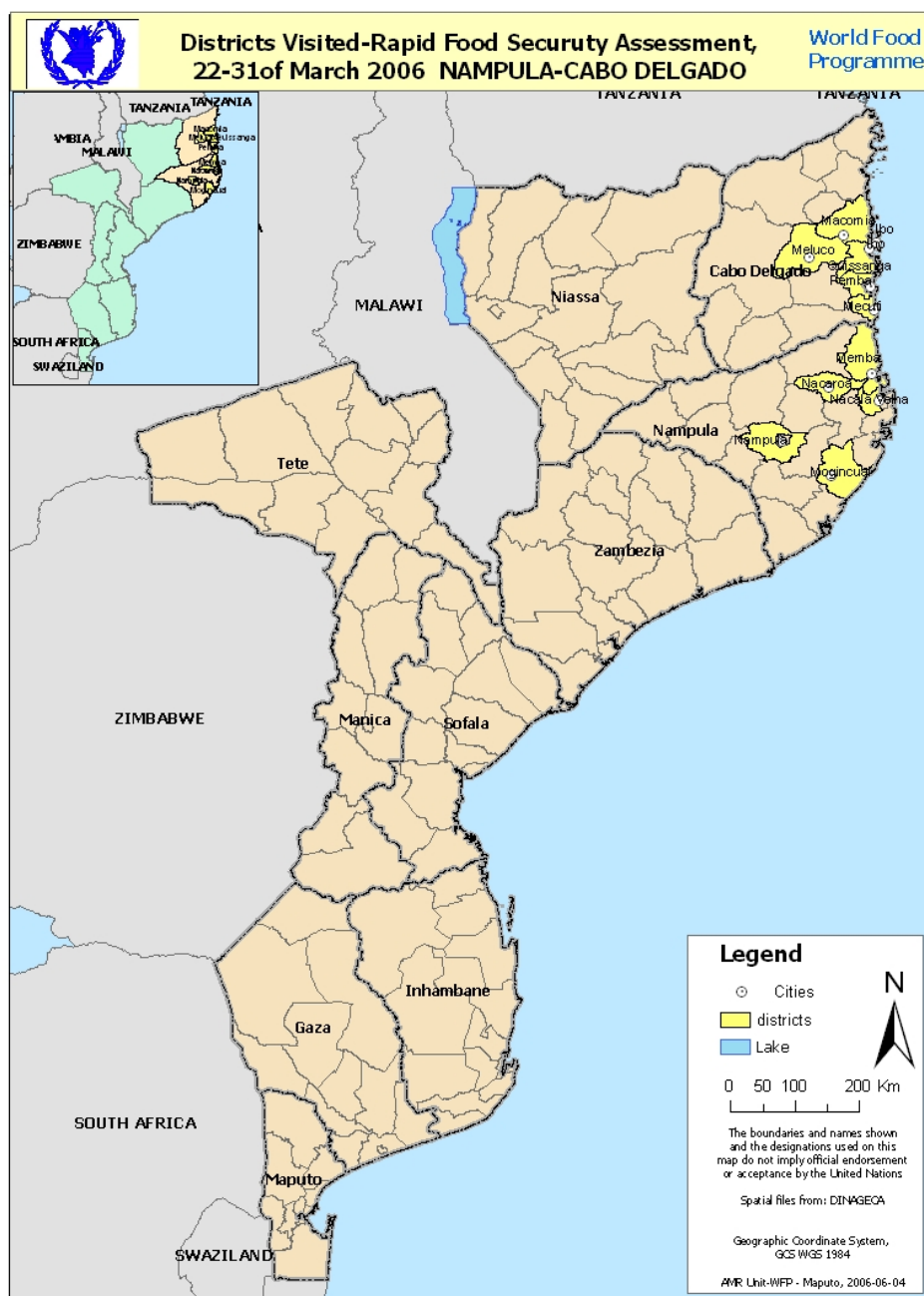
ANNEX 2 - INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED

Type	Indicators	Source	Level
Current situation/ "crisis"	Rainfall distribution / quantity	Agriculture	Province District
	Affected areas	INGC	Province District
	<p>"Crisis" situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in the human and other productive resources of households in different population groups (e.g. if household members have been sent out to work, or called back to the household). Social structures and relationships, including ethnic or social tensions, if any. Changes in gender roles and the effects of this on livelihoods and food security. Current logistics capacity. 	SETSAN	Province District
Food Availability	Maize, cassava, rice? Cash crops? production estimates	Agriculture	Province District
	Exports	MIC	Province District
	Prices (staple, cash crops, wage labor)/ trends in prices	Market survey/ traders	Province District Villages
	estimated volumes of food moving into/out of (i) the districts now in crisis and (ii) the country	Market survey/ traders	Province District Villages
	trends in trade flows	Market survey/ traders	Province District Villages
	perspectives of traders and relevant authorities	Market survey/ traders	Province District Villages
	Stocks	Traders/ community	Province District Village
	Current Programs (food aid, seeds, etc.)	INGC, Agriculture, NGOs	Province District Village

Food Access	Livelihood strategies/ Changes in livelihood assets of different population subgroups and the reasons	NGOs + communities representatives Local population	village
	Changes in employment opportunities, the natural resource base, markets and trade patterns on which livelihoods depend	NGOs + communities representatives Local population	village
	Coping strategies (cassava, ganyu-ganyu, stocks from previous year, etc.) The limits on coping strategies, and their sustainability	NGOs + communities representatives Local population	village
	Prospects for household food production, employment, other income generation activities, food or cash receipts	NGOs + communities representatives Local population	village
	Source of food – source of income / Quantified changes in food and income sources and essential expenditures of different population subgroups	NGOs + communities representatives	village
	Qualitative changes in food and income sources and essential expenditures of different population subgroups	NGOs + communities representatives	village
	Drop out rates from school	NGOs + communities representatives	village
Food utilisation	Nutrition rates/ Current situation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global and severe acute malnutrition rates. Clinically diagnosed micronutrient deficiencies. Diets and any associated risks of micronutrient deficiencies.	MISAU NGOs working in nutrition and public health Community leaders	Province District Village
	Main diseases	MISAU, NGOs working in nutrition and public health, Community leaders	Province District Village
	Intra-household sharing of food.	MISAU, NGOs working in nutrition and public health Community leaders	Province District Village
	Access to water/ The quantity and quality of water available to households for cooking and domestic hygiene purposes	Min of Water	Province District Village

	Water and sanitation conditions	MISAU, NGOs working in nutrition and public health Community leaders	Province District Village Observations
	Current programs	MISAU/ min Agua NGOs working in nutrition and public health Community leaders	Province District Village

ANNEX 3 –AREA VISITED and team itinerary



22/03/05 – NAMPULA - Meeting with INGC, SETSAN and different Ministry representatives, and NGOs (Care, SCF US, CCM, WV) active in the field of food security:
23/03/06 – Mongicual (Liuro) – meeting with District administrator, DDA, health, education + SCF extensionist
Namige – market pricing
24/03/06 – Nacala velha – meeting with DA, DDA, saude, educacao + SCF extensionist. World Vision coordinator joins the team.
PA Covo Village Mapebele
Mehua Nacala Velha Sede PA, Fishermen communities
Nacala Velha Market
24/03 – Memba - Meeting with the permanent secretary of DA = DDA
PA Cava – market, mitigation activities
Village Napera II – memba sede PA – farmer's discussion
Memba market
26/03/06 – Nacarora
Inteta PA – meeting with PA administrator
Penhavate – meeting with village leaders and selected households
Nacarora - meeting with the DA, DDA, Saude – quick visit around
27/03/06 – PEMBA – Meeting with INGC, Helvetas, DDA, Director of health, etc.
Mecufi – meeting with DDA
Morruebe PA
28/03/06 - Quissanga – meeting with district administrator, health and agriculture representatives
Mahate market:
29/03/06 IBO - Meeting with DA, Dir education + Saude
29/03/06 Macomia - late meeting with saude and DA
30/03/06 Macomia – meeting with agriculture/ tentative visit of Mucojo
Muaguide PA – Meluco district – meeting with PA administrator
31/03/04 Pemba – debriefing with INGC, meeting with Aga Khan Fondation