

COVID-19 IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF MOZAMBIQUE (MANICA, SOFALA, TETE AND ZAMBEZIA)

JUNE 2020



ABOUT THIS REPORT

With this report, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assesses the impact of COVID-19 and the preventive measures put in place by the Government on the communities living in four provinces (Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia) of central Mozambique. This report provides an overview on the status of public awareness, healthcare provision, access to services, movement restrictions and the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and businesses across central Mozambique.

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All the maps used in this report are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

*Cover photo: IOM COVID-19 prevention women mobile brigade in Bandua I Resettlement site in Buzi District.
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Introduction

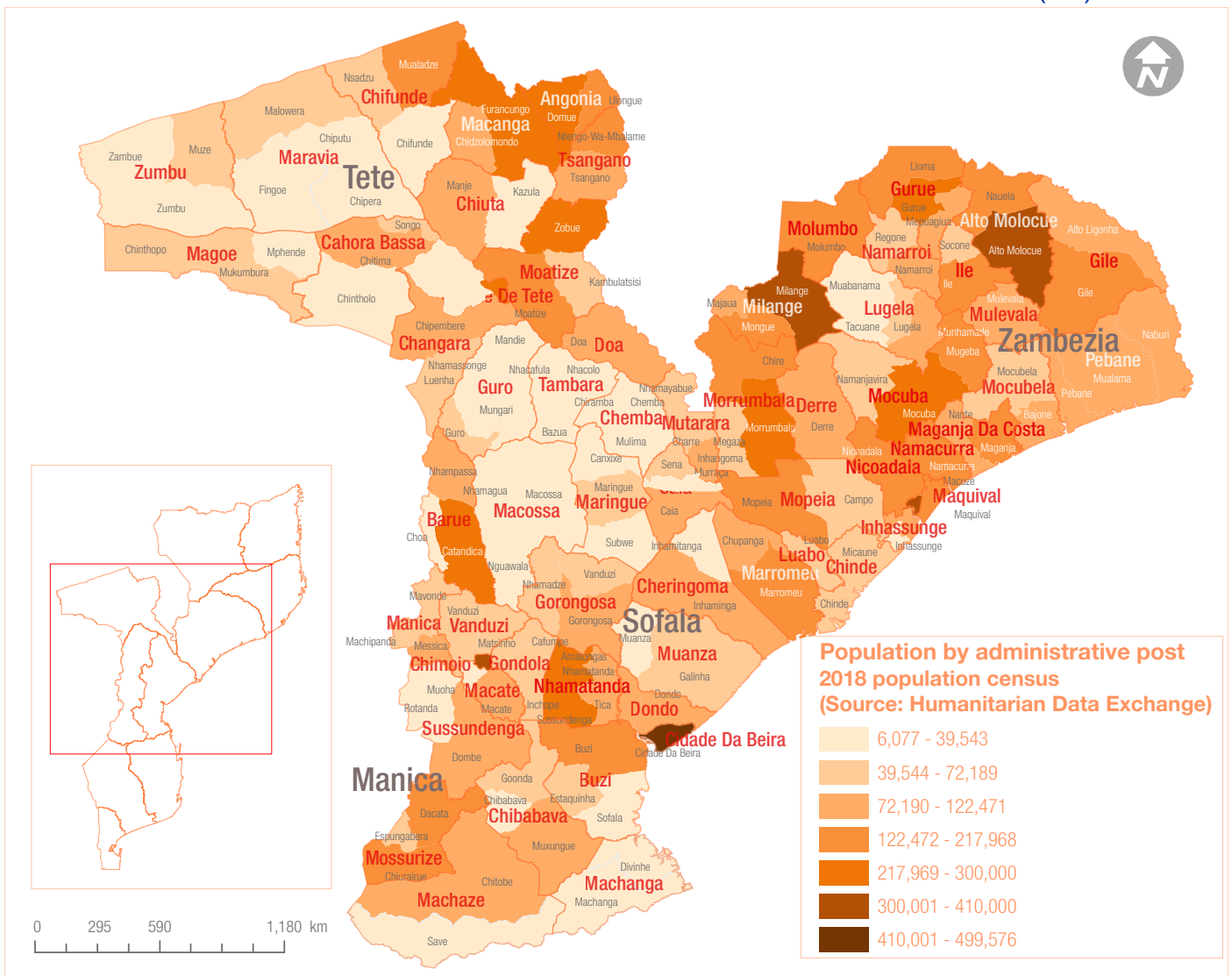
The current outbreak of COVID-19 has resulted in a global pandemic, heightening the risk for vulnerable populations, internally displaced people and people on the move. On 22 March 2020, the Government of Mozambique officially declared the first positive COVID-19 case. As of 29 June 2020, Mozambique reported 883 positive COVID-19 cases including cases in every province. A nation-wide state of emergency began on 30 March, and has been further extended until 31 July 2020.

This assessment presents an overview of the status of healthcare services, public awareness levels, access to services, movement restrictions and the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across four provinces (Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia) in central Mozambique.



IOM COVID-19 prevention handwashing station In Guara Resettlement site in Buzi district. IOM Mozambique/28 May 2020

COVID-19 IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF MOZAMBIQUE
CENTRAL REGION - POPULATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE POST (AP)



14,224,547
individuals
(2018 census)

4
provinces
assessed

61
districts
assessed

154
administrative posts
(APs) assessed



IOM COVID-19 prevention mobile brigade in Mutua Resettlement site, Dondo district. IOM Mozambique/10 June 2020

Methodology

The data for this COVID-19 impact assessment report was collected between 15 and 21 June 2020. The information was collected at the administrative post (AP) level and covers 154 APs across four provinces (Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia) in central Mozambique. The remaining 11 AP (representing 7% of the total) were not assessed due to the AP administrators' unwillingness to participate in the interview and physical access barriers.

Data was collected through IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix team, composed of 21 staff members deployed (8 team leaders and 13 enumerators), and 45 INGC staff members. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews with Key Informants (KIs), who are selected among AP administrators in order to describe the COVID-19 impact in their respective AP.

Table 1: Number of Key Informants (KIs) interviewed by province

Province	No. of KIs interviewed
Manica	37
Sofala	38
Tete	33
Zambezia	46
Total	154



Women wearing hand-made masks in Nhamhama 2 Resettlement site, Dombe. IOM Mozambique/24 June 2020

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 1: Public Awareness

97%

of the assessed administrative posts (APs) received information about the COVID-19 pandemic and personal hygiene measures

22%

of the KIs believe that people in their community might hide their status, if diagnosed with COVID-19, for fear of stigma



SECTION 2: Impact On Healthcare Provision

95%

of the KIs reported that public primary healthcare centres are open in their AP and people can access them on their own

80%

of the assessed APs have functional mobile brigades



SECTION 3: Impact On Access To Services

28%

of the assessed APs with waste disposal service experienced disruptions in service provision

52%

of the KIs reported that there have been price increases in their area since the COVID-19 crisis began



SECTION 4: Impact On Employment, Businesses And Vulnerable Groups

55%

of the KIs reported that most of the people in their AP still applies the same work modalities regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic

25%

of the KIs reported that most of the businesses are closed in their AP and they won't be able to open again at the end of the emergency



SECTION 5: Mobility Restrictions

75%

of the KIs reported that in their AP the majority of the population stays at home after working hours

55%

of the KIs reported that checkpoints and patrols are in place in most of the areas in their AP



SECTION 6: Returnees From Abroad

32%

of the assessed APs have returnees from abroad

46%

of the KIs reported that there have been negative reactions in their AP about the returnees from abroad

SECTION I: Public Awareness

The results from the assessment show that public awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be strong across all four provinces.

Campaigns through leaflets, posters or announcements have been conducted in almost all administrative posts (APs) to inform the population about the COVID-19 pandemic and personal hygiene measures (150 out of 154 APs, 97%).

It is recommended that public awareness campaigns reach all APs in order to inform the population about the risks of COVID-19 and preventive measures to

avoid the spread of the virus.

In the event of suspected COVID-19 case in the KI's community, the vast majority (84%) reported they would seek medical attention in a public primary health center or hospital and 12 per cent of KIs would call the dedicated hot-line.

In relation to possible stigma associated with COVID-19, 22 per cent of KIs believe that people in their community might hide their status, if diagnosed with COVID-19, for fear of stigma.

Chart 1: Was any public awareness material on COVID-19 epidemic and personal hygiene received in the AP?

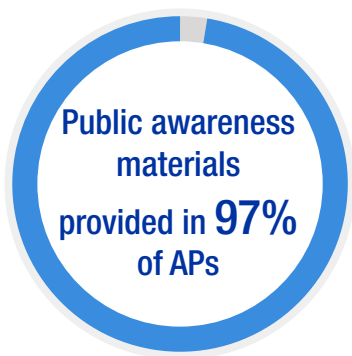
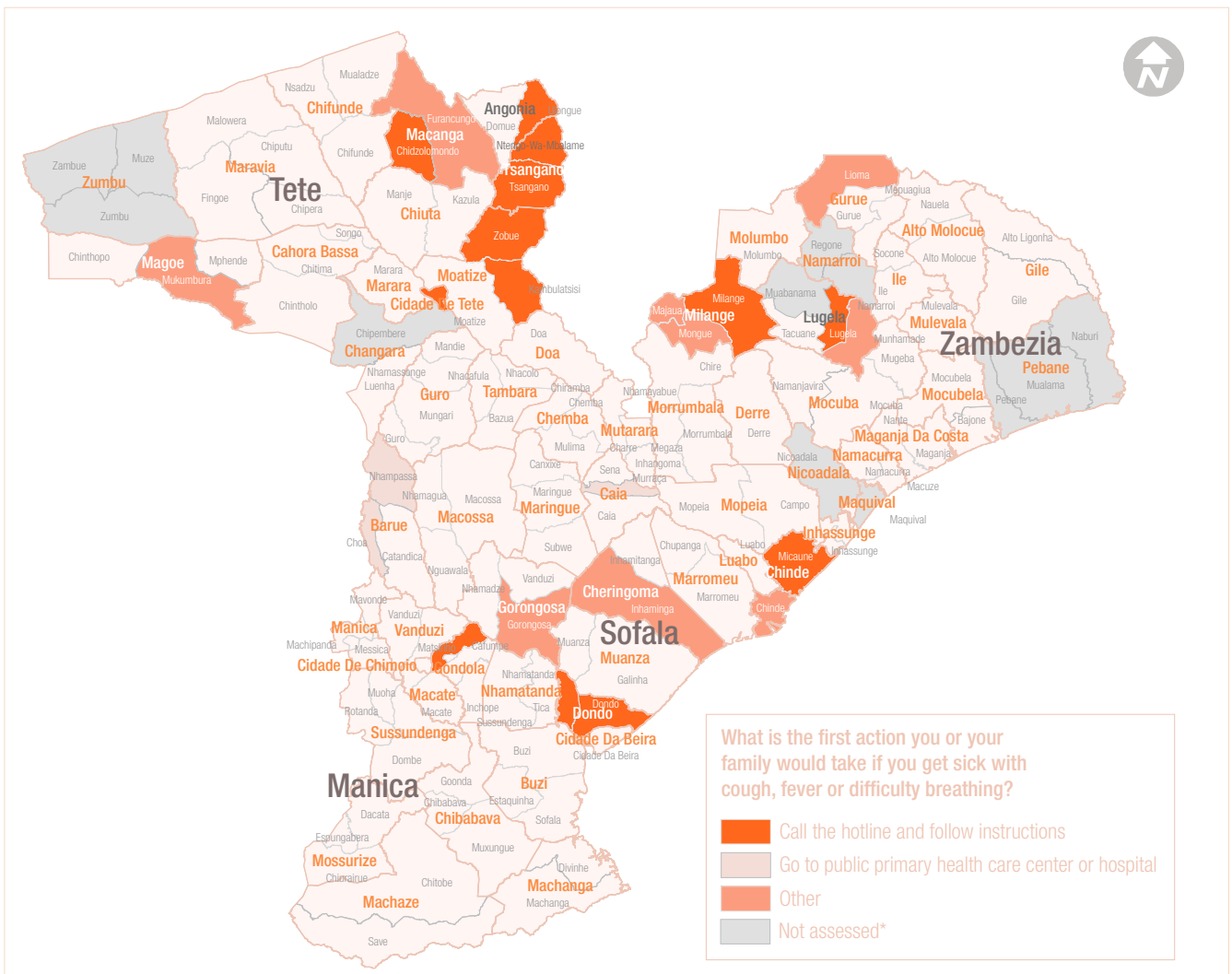
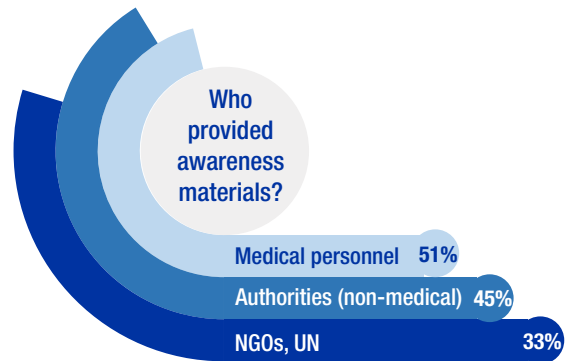


Chart 2: If yes, by whom?



*Not assessed due to the AP administrators' unwillingness to answer the questions and limited access to some APs.

SECTION 2: Impact On Healthcare Provision

In central Mozambique the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictive measures put in place by the authorities do not seem to have affected the provision of healthcare services.

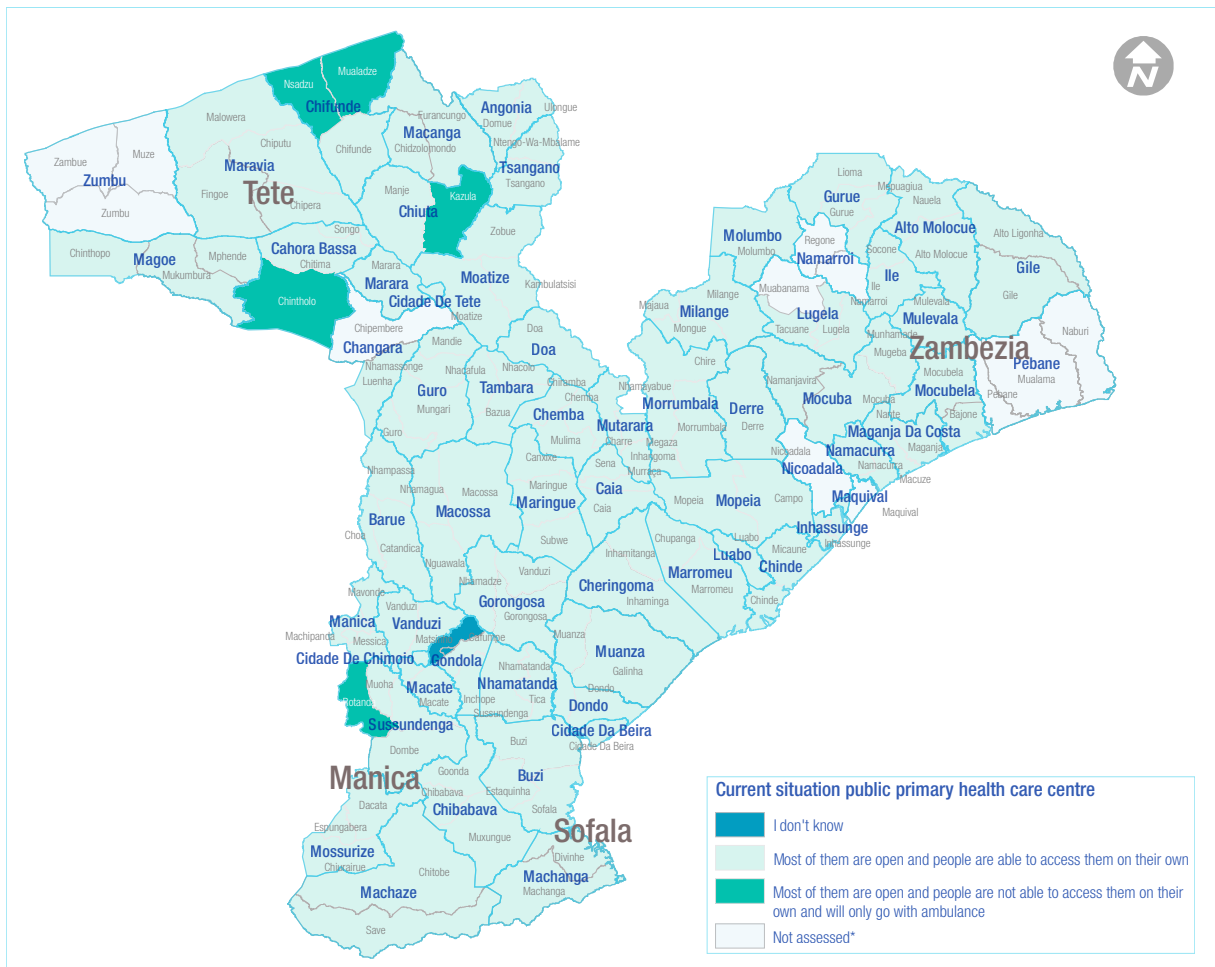
95 per cent of KIs reported that public primary healthcare centres are open and functional. Only 48 per cent of the administrative posts (APs) reported to have access to public hospitals.

The vast majority of respondents (80%) stated that mobile brigades are also functional, however 21 per

cent of the KIs from Sofala province reported that mobile brigades in their AP have stopped.

The lack of mobile brigades might indicate a difficult access to health services since mobile brigades are the only available healthcare providers in some of the most remote areas.

15 per cent of APs have private clinics, and most are still open and functioning. In Zambezia, however, two APs (50% of the APs with private clinics in this province) signalled that these facilities have been closed.



*Not assessed due to the AP administrators' unwillingness to answer the questions and limited access to some APs.

SECTION 3: Impact On Access To Services

Findings from the assessment show that, excluding schools, access to services has been minimally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictive measures put in place by the authorities.

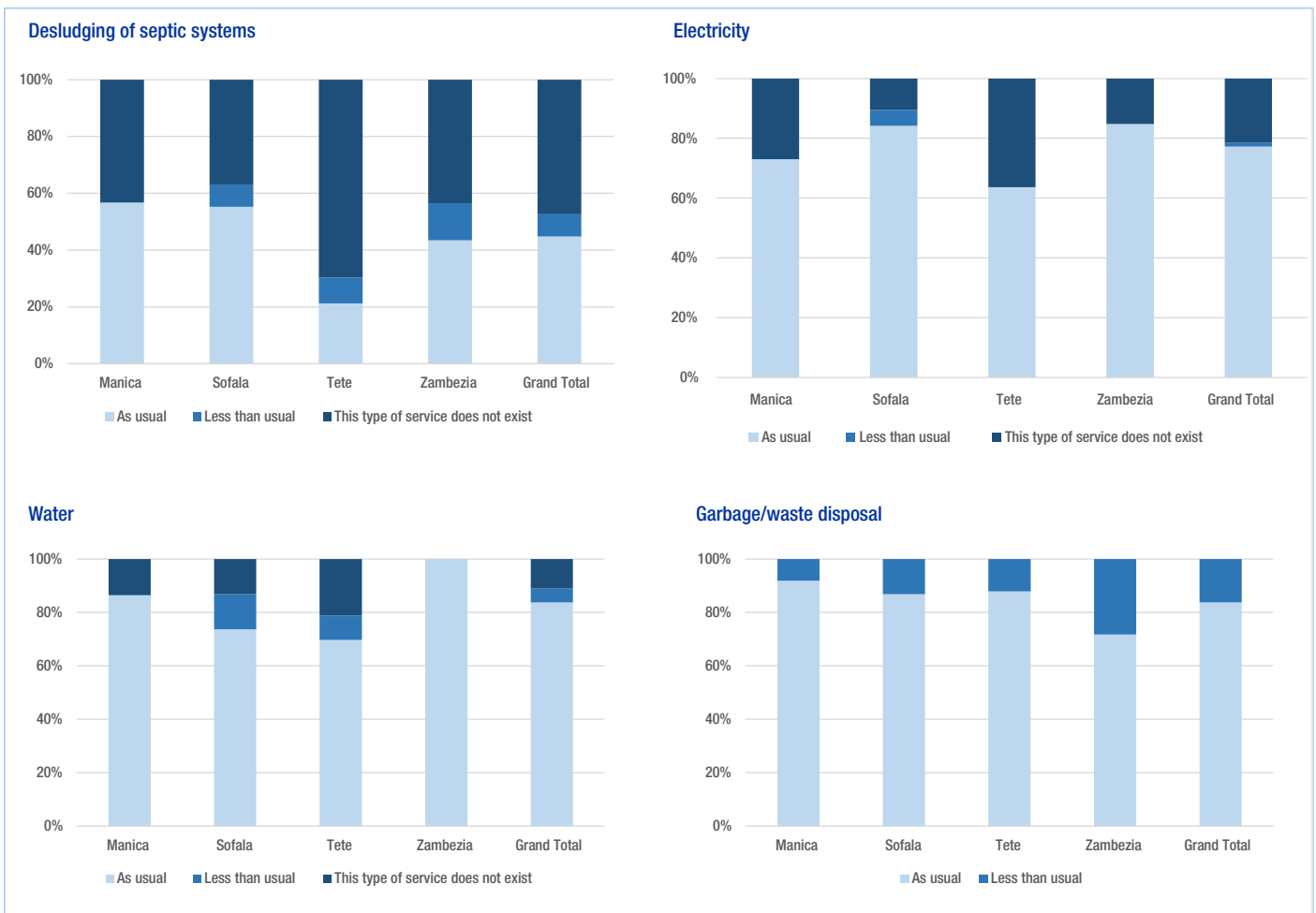
Markets, pharmacies, supermarkets, banks, public transports and government services continue to operate normally or with reduced hours/limited capacity. On the other hand, in all assessed administrative posts (APs), schools have been closed or continue with remote learning.

KIs in 52 per cent of the APs reported that there have been price increases, while 36 per cent of the

KIs reported product shortages. Food and personal hygiene products have been reported as the most affected items by shortages and price increases.

Water and electricity provision, where available, were minimally affected. On the other hand, 28 per cent of KIs living in APs with waste disposal services reported that they are partially or severely affected. This service reduction was reported by 47 per cent of assessed APs in Zambezia province.

Chart 3: Current service delivery by province as a result of restrictions due to COVID-19



SECTION 4: Impact On Employment, Businesses And Vulnerable Groups

On the impact on employment, 55 per cent of the KIs reported that most of the people in their administrative post (AP) are still working out of their homes regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic, while 18 per cent reported that most of the people in their AP are able to work from home.

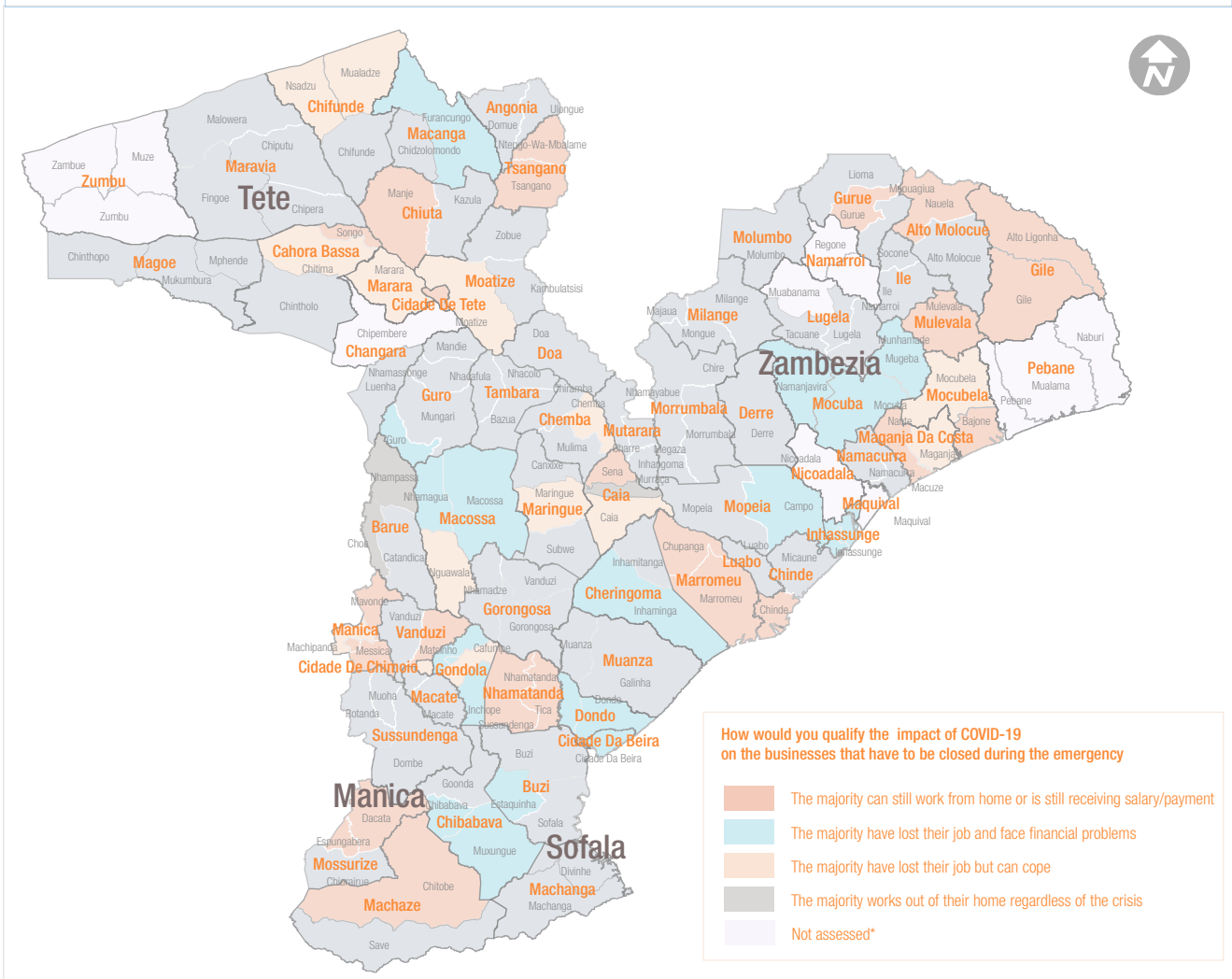
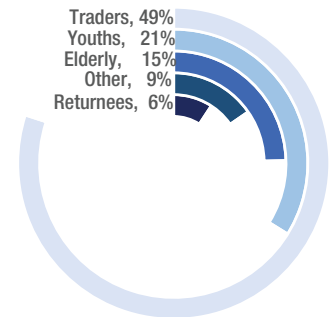
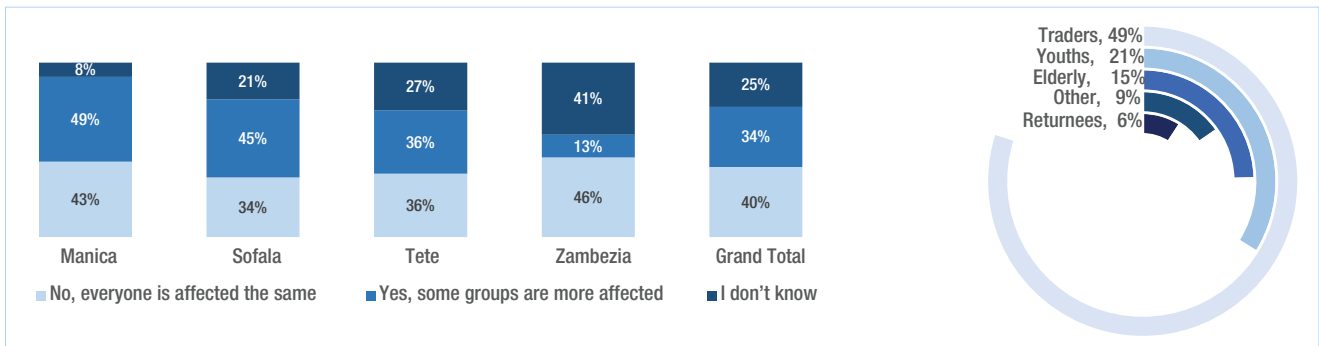
Finally, 27 per cent of the KIs reported that most of the people in their AP lost their job, with approximately half of them reporting that these people are currently facing financial problems, while the other half seems able to cope.

Regarding the impact on businesses, a quarter of the KIs felt that most businesses that had to close will not be able to reopen, however 51 per cent believed that they can cope and will reopen at the end of the emergency and in 23 per cent of the APs most of the businesses are still running despite the emergency.

About a third of the KIs felt that some population groups are more affected than others, with traders being the most frequently mentioned category. Only 4 out of 53 KIs reported that the above-mentioned affected groups received some kind of support from local government or community organizations.

Chart 4: Are there population groups in your AP who are more impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions (facing issues with job loss, paying rent, getting sick, etc)?

Chart 5: If yes, specify which groups



*Not assessed due to the AP administrators' unwillingness to answer the questions and limited access to some APs.

SECTION 5: Mobility Restrictions

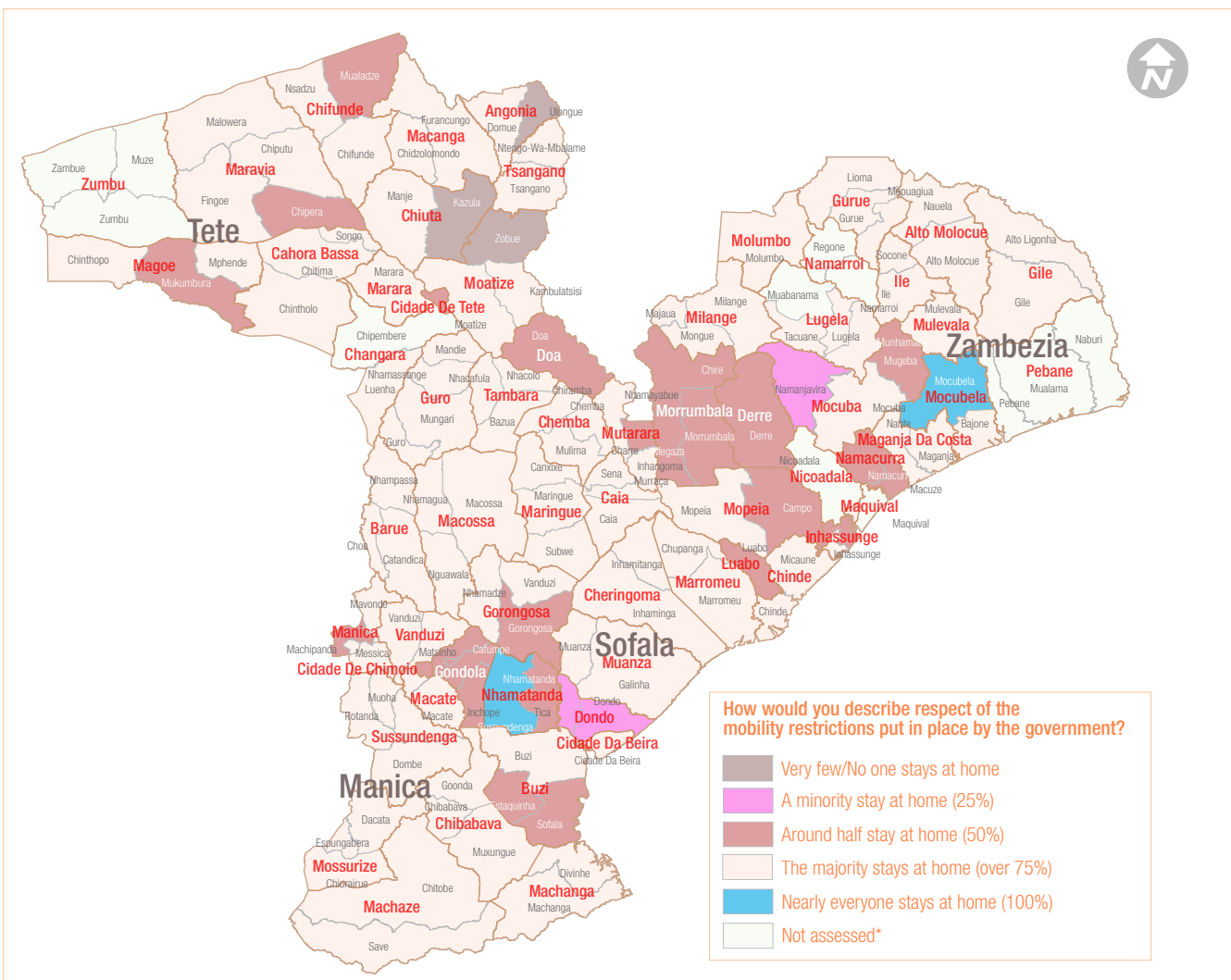
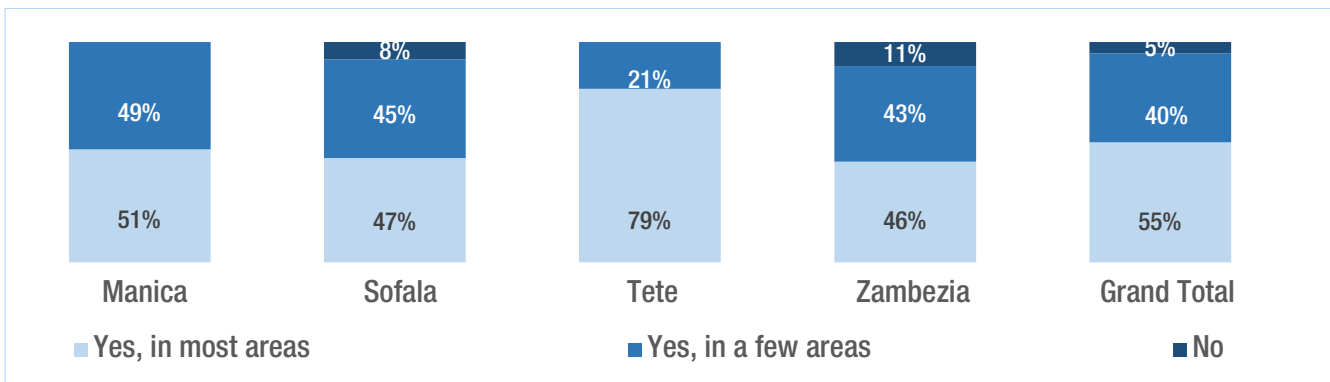
According to three quarters of the KIs, the overwhelming majority of the population in their administrative post (AP) stays at home after working hours. For 21 per cent of the KIs, the share of the population who stays at home after work hours is around half, while very few KIs reported that less than half of the population in their AP stays at home after work.

55 per cent of the KIs reported that checkpoints,

controls and patrols to monitor the respect of the rules are currently happening in most of the areas of their AP, with almost 80 per cent of KIs from Tete reporting this information. Only 5 per cent of the KIs reported that no control was in place in their AP.

37 per cent of all assessed APs indicated that sanctions were not applied to people breaking the mobility restrictions' rules. The non-application of sanctions was reported by 66 per cent of the APs in Sofala.

Chart 6: Are there checkpoints, controls or patrols set up in the street to prevent traffic movements?



*Not assessed due to the AP administrators' unwillingness to answer the questions and limited access to some APs.

SECTION 6: Returnees From Abroad

Due to restrictive measures imposed in neighbouring countries, tens of thousands of returnees came back to Mozambique in the past few months.

Overall, 32 per cent of the KIs reported that there are returnees from abroad in their administrative post (AP), and up to 50 per cent in Sofala. As shown in the map below, the most southern APs and those close to major border posts are the main ones reporting the recent arrival of returnees.

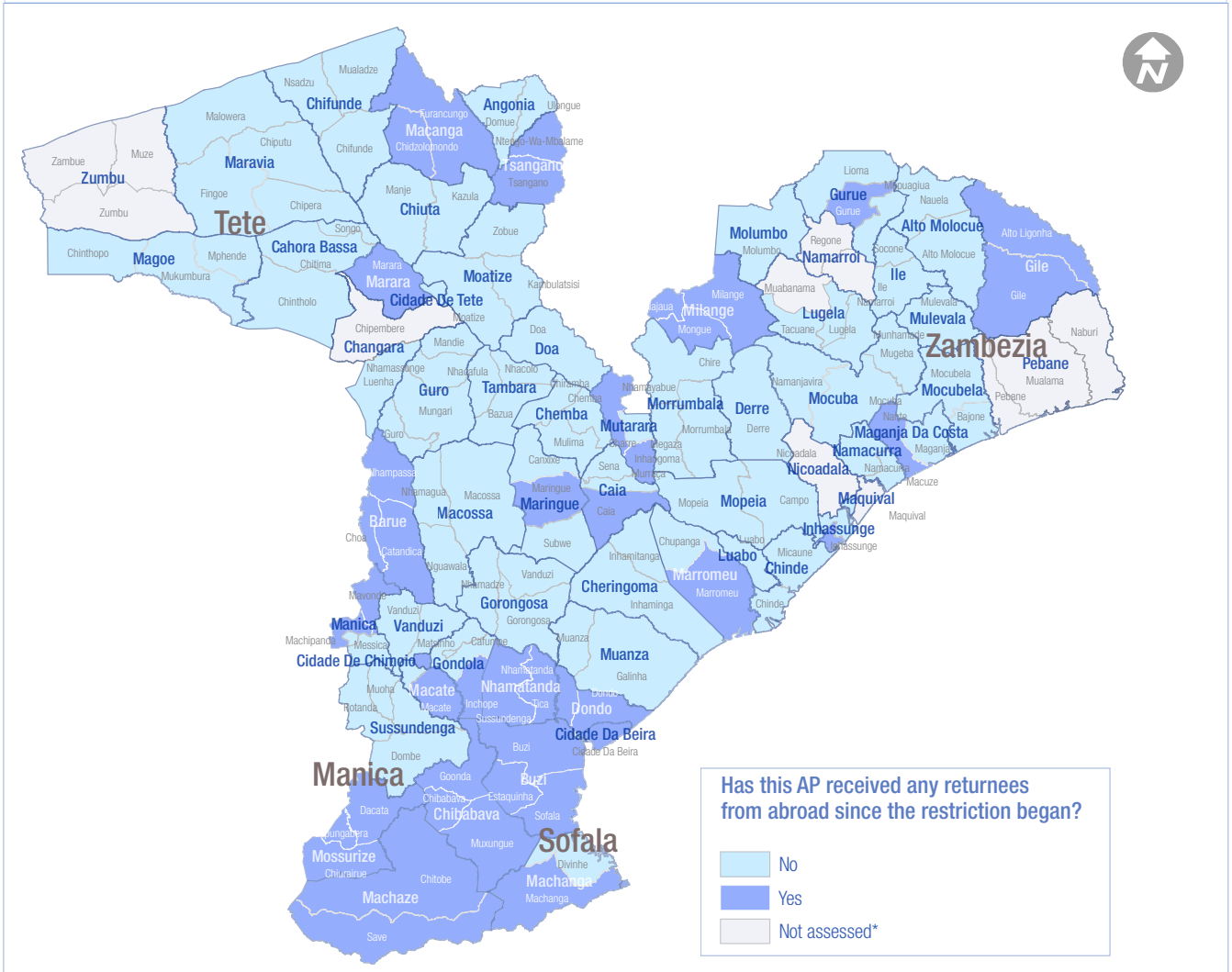
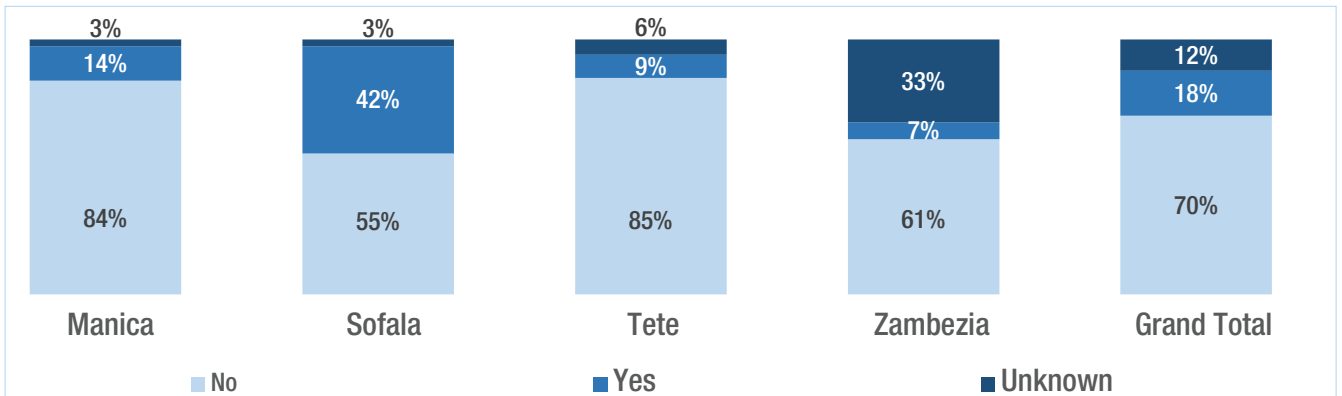
Most of the returnees came from neighbouring Zimbabwe and South Africa, with the latter being

mentioned as the country of departure for returnees in their AP by 78 per cent of the KIs.

46 per cent of the KIs (23 out of 50), reporting the arrival of returnees in their AP, felt that their arrival has provoked negative reactions from the community because of the perceived risk of spreading the virus.

Close follow up on the health conditions of returnees who recently arrived from abroad is required in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the hosting community.

Chart 7: Were there any negative reactions from the community or neighbours on returnees from abroad (for example, fear they would bring COVID-19)?



*Not assessed due to the AP administrators' unwillingness to answer the questions and limited access to some APs.

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