



**JA! Report:
Situation on the ground in Cabo Delgado**

Feb/March 2020

Summary:

If you are not familiar with the overall problems with the gas industry in Cabo Delgado, we suggest you first see the document of information, *Impacts of LNG in Mozambique*, also attached.

Over the last few months, the actual resettlement process has started.

- Total has not planned for enough land for the resettlement village and for the machambas to be given as compensation, which means they are taking more from host villages and have even started encroaching on other villages.
- There is division within displaced communities about whether they should move into the resettlement houses Total has built, or whether they should wait to receive decent, well-sized and well-located machambas, .
- In place of providing decent machambas, Total has been giving communities cash, while ignoring that after this amount is used up, they will have no means of subsistence or livelihood. Many people are already starving.
- Contractors have set up markers demarcating land for themselves without talking with the communities
- There is a large military presence, also taking up land, and when Total representatives come to the communities for meetings, they have an intimidating entourage.
- The security situation, with the insurgent attacks and responding military, is out of control and very much affected the resettlement process.
- The land which Total is encroaching on goes beyond the area in its license, which is illegal.

JA! Made its last field trip on 19-28 February 2020

Notable villages:

Milamba (former fishing and farming village), has been resettled/ fled from the land

Quitupo (former farming village), to be relocated

Senga, host village

Macala, host village [Note: Total also wants land in Monjane and Mangala]

Qitunda (resettlement village)

Safety situation and attacks:

The safety situation is out of control and attacks by insurgents are becoming more and more frequent and expanding geographically. They are now in a radius of 700 km now. In the most recent major attack in Mocimboa de Praia in March, the attackers put up an ISIS flag. This is new, attackers don't usually have faces or specific identities.

We've seen on social media that attackers who were caught claimed that they received money to carry out an attack, around 50 000 MT per attack. However, the money was transferred to them via M-Pesa, an international mobile phone money transfer service, from an anonymous sender.

However, people are afraid to leave their villages even with the attacks, for fear that if they leave, Total or another company will take their land. This is what happened in Milamba. When an attack happened nearby in Maganja, the community fled to Palma, and Portuguese company Gabriel Couto took over the land and closed it off. So people are in a very dangerous situation.

Women:

Women are now under major threat – there have been several instances where women have been kidnapped by insurgents. In one, a woman was kidnapped from Senga last year while walking to nearby village Macomia with her husband. She is still missing.

In the attacks in Mocimboa on 23 March, attackers kidnapped two girls, threatening to kill their families otherwise.

Several women have also been victims of sexual abuse by the military, but are afraid to speak.

We are seeing an issue with alcohol, sexual abuse, and more violence towards women. Men have become aggressive, as often happens with mass unemployment, and there is an increase in crime.

Major land grabbing:

Total had planned to take land from Senga to give to the communities of Milamba and Quitupo as machambas, because Milamba and Quitupo have been relocated.

Senga was already unhappy about this. Now, because Total found that the land in Senga is not enough for the 1-2 hectares it promised the Milamba community, it is encroaching further on Senga, and also beginning to encroach on the village of Macala.

On top of this, Total is allocating land to other companies and contractors encroaching on Senga.

Furthermore, the military have set up tents and bases on Senga land, and taken even more land as a buffer zone.

Communities learn that the land has been allocated to companies because of sign boards that have been put up demarcating the area. They have done this even though the Senga community has said no, because Senga's leadership have them permission (Senga's leadership is a problem - the leader was put in place by government and not by the community as is supposed to happen by law).

The landmarks serve to signal the occupation of extensive areas of land, but it is not clear who it belongs to, because they are not properly identified. It was difficult to take pictures and get proper coordinates of these signs due to the strong military presence in the area.

Milamba:

The Milamba community's land was wanted by Anadarko for a long time. In early 2019, an attack happened nearby in Maganja, and the community of Milamba fled to Palma out of fear. While they were in Palma, Gabriel Couto, a Portuguese company took their land and began construction. We are not sure exactly what they are constructing or their progress because the area has been closed off.

Compensation is being given to resettled community members in amounts ranging from 400,000 MT to 8 million MT. These are high values that could probably meet their needs for the immediate future. But does not guarantee the livelihood of these families, and has been creating hostility among family members. Total is also giving them food handouts, but these are just carbohydrates like rice and porridge and oil, and no protein.

The measurement system for compensation was based on the size of a household's machamba and the different crops there, as different crops have different values.

Many of the fishermen in Milamba were both fishermen and farmers. Now they have neither the access to the sea to fish, nor machambas to farm. The machambas that Total wants to give them are 30km away from the Quitunda, the resettlement village. This is very far for them to walk, also considering the fear of attacks by insurgents or by the military mistaking them for insurgents.

The leader, Arabe Nchamo, made an agreement with the community that they would not move to the resettlement village until they get good machambas that are close by.

However, there is little unity now in the community. 60% of the community moved to the resettlement village, even though they have no machambas, because they are afraid they would lose the houses too, and be left with neither a house nor a machamba.

The remaining 40% have said they won't move till they get everything, as the machambas are their source of food, and they want to be able to rely on themselves and not be dependent on Total's handouts.

There are also issues of who gets how much money.

For example, the fishermen from Milamba are making nothing right now since they have moved from the sea. Total offered to take them at some point with buses to another village to fish, Salama, but it's not that simple. Fishing depends on tides, different times, often very early morning - it's not a system that can work with taking a bus at the same time every day.

Also, there has not been agreement with Total yet on how their fishing boats would get from Milamba, where they still are, to Salama.

Total has not yet told the people of Milamba how the company plans to provide them with transport every day from the resettlement houses to the new machambas in Macala/Mangala/Monjane/Senga.

The only people currently getting transport to the sea are the women who collect mussels, oysters and crabs on the shore.

We are also seeing internal family conflict, which arise because the majority of the population cannot read and write, and there is a need for each family to appoint a representative who can do so. Unfortunately, opportunistic situations arise, and representatives often take the money for themselves and do not distribute it to the family. Most of the victims of this are women, especially widows and elderly women.

In one case, a man who was representing a widow, was needed to transfer her late husband's house to her name. Instead, the rep transferred it to himself.

Quitupo:

Quitupo is one of the villages to be resettled. They are currently facing major problems with their leadership.

Problem with complaints system:

In Quitupo (and Milamba) there is a complaints process where communities lay their complaints with an internal complaint committee, which then takes it to Total. We have been monitoring how the community complaints process works with the committee, following the activities of our focal point (FP) in the field.

We have noticed that the way in which the committee deals with someone's complaint depends on their relationship with that community member. This is an issue that has harmed community members who have legitimate concerns but because of community disputes and

disputes between the community members and the committee, they are sometimes not properly addressed and resolved.

Also, there have been instances where community members have had to give money to a member of the committee for their complaint to be taken to Total.

Because of this problem, our FP has been guiding and supporting the people in the communities who are not satisfied with the way the committee has handled their process.

The committee was established a few years ago by the elders in the community.

Senga:

Anadarko made Senga the host village for the relocated communities. The resettlement village, Quitunda, is actually within the village of Senga.

Companies are encroaching more and more on Senga. These companies rushing to occupy land are not only gas companies, but service providers and contractors, because the initial area allocated by the company was not enough.

And when the company has meetings with the community, they are not legitimate – they invite naturalised Mozambican citizens who are from other countries.

Note: The people having meetings with communities initially had Anadarko uniforms, and now have Total uniforms, but are the same people.

The area that Anadarko had initially taken from Senga for machambas (agricultural land), onshore construction and for the resettlement village is not large enough, which is why they want more, to which Senga has said no, because they have already been forced to give land away against their will.

The Senga community no longer has access to their original machambas close by, and those they have been given in compensation are far, and they do not travel there out of fear of attacks by insurgents. There is also the fear that the military may mistake them for insurgents and attack them.

Senga is having problems with its leadership: The leader of Senga has been put in place by the government, and not by the people, as should happen by law. He is giving land away to companies without legitimate consultation with the community.

Macala:

This village is not going to be resettled, but Total is encroaching on its land because there is not enough land in Senga.

Our trip in February was the first time that JA! Had its first formal with the community of Macala to explain our working process with communities. Total plans to use this land in Macala for the compensation machamba's for the Milamba community. These machambas will be 30km away from the resettlement houses which are in Quitunda.

Total has been meeting with them since 2018, and they had agreed to give Total land, and they would no longer make machambas on that land. For compensation they would get 1.5 hectares of land in the same area, and will get 100 000 MT for each family, for them to look for another area to buy another machamba. Searching for new plots of land, however, is not easy.

They had already started the process of signing compensation agreements with Total, but so far nobody has been paid.

Our first meeting actually had to be stopped because it was interrupted by a team from a company called Tecnicol who Total has hired to do financial management with the communities (Total has seen that people have not known how to work with large sums of cash). The team was accompanied by the military so we left. We returned to the village early the next morning.

At this first meeting we explained who JA! Is, and how we have been supporting the communities with protection of their rights over many years. We explained that it is not mandatory for them to give land to a company that comes to ask for it.

Rather, the land belongs to the state, and the state is the Mozambican people. This is a right reflected in the Constitution of the republic. We reinforced that it is important for them to have copies of the minutes of the meetings to protect themselves against false promises.

Although Total had already had two meetings with them, they had not left any copies of the minutes of meetings with them. They were unsure if minutes were even taken.

They said they were happy to work with us, and are in fear of losing their lands and homes as has happened in the surrounding communities.

The community shared with us a letter, which they had written in 2017 with another organisation, CTV, that they had sent to the Office of the Ombudsman complaining that the land that Total is encroaching on, and the unidentified demarcated areas they are seeing, are actually outside the DUAT that the government has granted to Total. A DUAT is the rights given by the government to a party (in this case Total) to use for its agreed purposes. If the land Total is using is outside the DUAT area, they are acting illegally. This area outside the DUAT means they are destroying large flora and fauna.

Following this letter, the Ombudsman held a meeting with the governor of Cabo Delgado and administrator of Palma, but we do not yet know the results of the meeting.

Potential for ethnic conflict:

There has been an escalation of attacks by insurgents, and one of the possible motivations may be on grounds of ethnicity and social dissatisfaction. This makes it a terrible time to allocate high compensation and houses to the coastal community (Milamba) which is mostly Muslim, when Senga, the host community, which is mostly Catholic, is only receiving money, with no houses, and they have had to give up their land. This can exacerbate already existing ethnic tensions.

Resettlement village:

The resettlement village that people from Milamba have been allocated is 30km from the compensation machambas. So far people from Milamba have moved in, but not yet from Quitupo. People are getting compensation land more than 20km from the resettlement village. There is only furniture in the houses allocated to teachers (who currently live in Palma) and the mayor.

However, the chief of Palma stole the furniture and took it to Palma. JA! is writing a letter about this to Total, asking if they are aware of these problems in the communities.

There is a school in the resettlement village but the teachers have remained in Palma due to their furniture being stolen, and have no jobs now, neither in Palma or the resettlement village.

Basically, Anadarko built a school and it is standing empty.

There is an imminent risk of abandonment of the resettlement village in the coming years due to the lack of cropland, as the available fields are far away and there is a danger that the fields will be damaged by insurgent attacks in the woods.

Military presence:

There is a large military presence, and when company representatives come to meet with communities they are accompanied by the military, who are intimidating. This makes it impossible to get true consent from communities who are fearful of speaking out.

People are afraid of the military in general.

Also, the army has pushed up recruitment like crazy. So there are a lot of youngsters in the army who have no training and lots of power. They also are not given enough food, so steal food from communities.

We identified 21 military positions, structures made of iron, scattered around Afungi on the land that is encroaching on Senga, mentioned earlier, as well as tents where the military resides.

Interestingly, many of these military positions are close to the areas that Total has allocated to other companies that have been demarcated. This has led to further loss of land for Senga, as these barracks and tents have been set up close to the communities. One of these sites is right at the entrance to Senga.

On top of the location of the military tents, since the area has been designated as a conflict area, the army also needs a buffer zone which takes up even more land.

Presence of other NGO's:

Technically there are 60 NGO's in Palma, but it's been a year since we've seen the office open, and we've not seen anyone from them in the villages. Instead, they pick an FP to tell them what is developing in the field. But this person usually has no internet or equipment and hardly talks to the office. And nobody really knows what they do.

The only others that are on the ground are UPC (the farmers' union) and a rep from Sekelekane whose main focus is media.

Some organisations sit at the table with Total to monitor the agreements between the company and the communities, but don't do anything to ensure that the company actually acts as per the agreement.

JA! has an FP permanently in Palma plus a bigger team that goes every 2 or 3 months.

Besides UPC, we do not fully trust any NGO's in Palma. Many are getting paid by Total to work with communities. Because many NGO's get this money, as well as general funding from big companies, they cannot be critical.

Extremely difficult to travel:

Given the current escalating situation of insurgent attacks by a group known locally as Al Shabaab (different to the Somali group Al Shabaab), in the northern districts of Cabo Delgado province, traveling to and from the area has been reduced.

The journey from Pemba to Palma, of 574 km normally takes 6 hours in private transport and 8 hours by public transport. Currently, it takes 2 days.

Travel on this route is almost impossible because of the fear of the increasingly violent and frequent insurgent attacks along the roads. They have left threatening letters along the road, and made potholes.

It is possible to rent a seat for 'open box travel', in a Land Cruiser that carries 20 people standing, on an alternate route (Pemba- Montepuez-Mueda-Palma). The trip is extremely uncomfortable but also very dangerous because this route has already been the target of 2 robberies of trucks transporting fuel and food to Palma.

Private charter airplane companies are exploiting the situation, raising their prices exorbitantly as demand for their services skyrocket:

Tanzanian company Coastal Aviation charges \$ 450 a seat one way

South African company Ultimate Aviation charges \$ 300 a seat one way

Price increase in Palma:

The insurgent attacks and difficulty of transport from Pemba to Palma makes it difficult to get basic necessities in Palma, making life very difficult.

The prices of rice, oil and sugar have skyrocketed:

- 1 bag of 25 kg rice that usually costs 1200mt now costs 2300mt
- 5L of oil usually costs 350 MT, now costs 600 MT
- 1kg of sugar usually costs 70 MT, now costs 100 MT
- There are only two petrol pumps in the district, both without fuel.
- One of the two bakeries ran out of bread for a few days due to a lack of wheat and electricity

These shortages have become common in the village of Palma and have highlighted the problematic situation in the north of the country, the arrival of news about the attacks in the neighbouring districts is the daily bread.