

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT #7

Location: Nhamatanda (Água Rural Accommodation Centre; Metuchira Resettlement site)
Discussions: Camp Leader, women, men and children
Participants: UNHCR, UNICEF
Date: 17/04/2019

General background

The population in the Água Rural Accommodation Centre come from several nearby villages – 10 administrative areas. The population is mostly women and children, and men were said to be out trying to find work. Out of 32 tents at the site, most are occupied by women and children. Boys who are 15 years and above stay with their fathers. In addition to the tents, several families were staying in a brick building within the compound.



Food distribution at Aguas Claras: women and children comprise the majority of those living at the accommodation centre ©UNHCR/Luiz Godinho

Metuchira resettlement site is one of the three “resettlement” areas identified by GoM/INGC. The other two are Xiluvo and Ndeja. 221 households are expected to be allocated individual plots. 186 plots have been demarcated with 47 tents already pitched and the same number of families resettled.

On the day of monitoring, a multi-partner visit was held in Nhamatanda to meet with the Municipality Administrator and meet IDPs in transit sites as well as in permanent relocation sites. The Protection Cluster was represented by UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR. The UNHCR Representative in Mozambique and Assistant Regional Representative (Admin), ROSA also joined the delegation.

According to local authorities, 3,245 families live in accommodation centres. It was reported that like in other ‘resettlement’ sites, lack of basic facilities (such as WASH and Health, functioning schools) and support for livelihoods exposed the population to protection risks, particularly the most vulnerable. Similarly, the team recorded tensions between host communities and IDPs over aid distribution.

General protection & safety

Água Rural Accommodation Centre

The centre is located near the Nhamatanda town, the population stated that they felt safe there.

Metuchira Resettlement Site

Local population at the nearby village said that most of the new families are known to them as they are from the neighbouring villages.

Follow-up:

- Metuchira Resettlement Site lacks any form of lighting, increasing the risk of SGBV and compromising physical safety of the entire population living in the site.
- Upon completion of the site, it would be prudent to establish leadership structures and ensure incident reporting mechanisms are clearly defined and shared with the community.

WASH

Água Rural Accommodation Centre

Additional pit latrines were being dug at the time of visit. Numbers available are inadequate to support the population.

Metuchira Resettlement Site



Led by UNHCR, the Protection Cluster visited Metuchira, where family tents were pitched by the local authorities ©UNHCR/Luiz Godinho

There are 47 families currently living at the site. In spite of the families having moved to the location site for more than a week, water and sanitation infrastructure and other vital services are not yet available. Young girls/children and women walk long distances to water points and hence at risk of sexual violence. There is a high likelihood that due to lack of sufficient water of good quality, and sanitation, they are exposed to public health and nutrition risks and may have adopted risky coping mechanisms.

There are no latrines in the resettlement site. This has compelled the population to use the nearby bush to defecate, increasing the risk of sexual abuse for women and girls.

Follow-up:

- Urgent need for WASH partners to increase the number of latrines at Água Rural Accommodation Centre and WASH facilities at Metuchira Resettlement Site which should also include means of disposing domestic waste conveniently and effectively.
- The season of long rains is about to begin, therefore a proper drainage system in the resettlement site is required to decrease health risks and other risks posed by water erosion and standing water, including floodwater and domestic wastewater.

Food & meals distribution

Água Rural Accommodation Centre

Families reported they had received 4kg of rice, beans and flour. This was not sufficient to feed their families. Those who can afford it buy green leaves and beans to complement the rations. Families in each tent cooked for themselves, and tried to manage with what they received. Cooking is done near the tents, which is a fire hazard, particularly with young children playing in the vicinity.

Families spoken to called for international agency presence during all distributions as a mechanism for accountability. Further inquiry was not possible on this issue at the time of the mission, but will require further conversation with the communities to better understand their concerns.

Metuchira Resettlement Site

At Metuchira resettlement site, families confirmed that they were assisted with dry food rations before they relocated to the site as part of the “resettlement” package. They were not assisted thereafter.

The population hosted in the nearby villages also claimed to have been left out by GoM/INGC during the distribution of food and yet they were also affected.

Follow-up:

- Ensure the effective prevention of under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies through the provision of access to food to the general population, and special nutritional products for groups

with specific needs, as well as promotion of and support to adequate infant and young child feeding and care practices both at the accommodation centres and resettlement site. In addition, Support with food rations until when the community is able to fend for themselves.

- Assistance with seedlings to plant in lieu of the second planting season that is about to begin.
- Ensure that the method of targeted food distribution is responsive, timely, transparent and safe, supports dignity and is appropriate to local conditions.

Health

Água Rural Accommodation Centre

A small health centre is available within the site. However, the population also has access to the Nhamatanda rural hospital in the town centre. The Ministry of Health was carrying out HIV testing at the time of the visit, and women and children were seen lining up to be tested.

Metuchira Resettlement Site

The site lacks health facilities within and outside the site. The families walk a long distance to access the closest health centre which is located in the neighbouring village.

Follow-up:

- Besides establishing a health post at Metuchira Resettlement Site, there is need to collaborate with the local Ministry of Health and other relevant actors to establish new services or improve those that exist, for the benefit of the accommodation centre, the resettlement site and host population.
- Health screening that includes malnutrition, measles and polio vaccination, and basic disease surveillance systems required at the resettlement site to decrease the risk of disease outbreaks and malnutrition.

Child Protection & Education

Água Rural Accommodation Centre

Most children spoken with reported that they attended school, the same school they attended before displacement. Most of them said that before the cyclone children spent their day at school, helping their families in the farms, and doing their home-work and playing. However, at the accommodation centre, children had very little to do. Older girls were entrusted responsibilities for caring for younger siblings. Children reported that some married children were living at the centre, but most stated their understanding that a person was a child until the age of 18 years. Children reported that they did not have books and school uniforms. Children also reported that they felt generally safe at the centre, but were concerned about people from outside coming into the centre and the likely risks for women and children.



UNHCR and UNICEF conduct a joint protection assessment with the children living at Águas Claras accommodation centre ©UNHCR/Luiz Godinho

Metuchira Resettlement Centre

As the site is presently being established, no child-focused activities and learning spaces are yet available. Children moving to this site will require school material and uniforms, but also help and encouragement to enrol in the nearby school. During the transitional phase, child friendly activities and access to social services are also required.



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Follow-up:

- Child Protection Sub-cluster should facilitate the establishment of activities for children and young people, including children's engagement in protection activities.
- Education cluster should support provision of material required for schooling; planning with communities and Education authorities on enrolment in new schools in resettlement sites.



*A couple of "mamas" from Metuchira community, at Nhamatanda District
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