

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT #13

Location: Nhamatanda (Kura Resettlement site and Metuchira Resettlement site) Dondo District (Madruzi and Mutua) and Guara Guara Resettlement site.

Discussions: District Administrators, Camp Leader, Local Authorities women, men and children

Participants: UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR, Light for the World, UNICEF, World Vision, Plan International and the Provincial Director for Gender, Child Protection and Social action (PDGCAS) and a team from the Ministry

Date: 07, 08 and 11 May 2019.

General background

Three joint protection monitoring visits conducted on 07 May to Nhamatanda District (Kura and Metuchira resettlement sites) on 08 May to Dondo District (Madruzi and Mutua resettlement sites) and 11 May to Guara Guara (including temporary centre and resettlement site). Representing the Protection Cluster was; UNFPA, IOM, UNHCR, Light for the World, UNICEF, World Vision, Plan International and the Provincial Director for Gender, Child Protection and Social action (PDGCAS) with its team from the Ministry. The intention of the missions was to jointly assess the situation on ground in accommodation centres and resettlement sites, identify protection gaps, advocacy areas, and plan jointly to ensure better coordination during service delivery by GoM and humanitarian actors.

General protection situation

1. Nhamatanda (Kura Resettlement site and Metuchira Resettlement site)

a). Kura Resettlement Site: Plots were well demarcated but 52 out of 163 resettled families had no individual family tents for shelter as well as awaiting plots clearing. Water is trucked and provided through a water bladder situated at the entrance of the settlement, making it not easily accessible for the entire population. Such services should be centrally placed to enable equitable access. Households had no solar lamps for use when accessing toilets at night increasing the risk of potential Gender Based Violence incidents. Women and girls had received Dignity Kits.

At the time of the visit, a Women Friendly Space and Integrated Protection desk had not been set up yet, as the site was still very new. Pregnant women travel far to nearest health service for medical care.

IDPs consulted did not express concern regarding safety, however access to services, lack of latrines and health facilities as well as schools were mentioned as concerns. There was a lack of knowledge regarding available health, protection and other services, which needs to be mitigated by camp management and social protection.

Fire was being used to clear some plots; a phenomenon that would potentially lead to uncontrolled, irreversible and unnecessary deforestation in plots which are supposed to become permanent urbanised residential areas. In addition, no fire safety training had been received at the site in case of fire incidents.

The health point had been delivered but not set up yet and a medical team was waiting outside with medication spread on a tarpaulin. This observation illustrates a broader concern with accelerated movements to sites lacking minimum preparations and site planning.

There was a need to provide assistance to vulnerable families (*in particular for elders and women headed household*) to assist in clearing land and ensure that plot allocations take into account vulnerabilities. One vulnerable family headed by a single mother caring for her own two children and her minor siblings was identified and social services alerted to provide targeted assistance.

There is a concern regarding about 6 children who attended secondary school close to their places of origin, who had now lost access due to distance. The possibility to supply them with bicycles should be assessed. There is also a need to train and deploy social activists to support district social services in parallel to setting up protection desks.

Focus Group Discussion held with children in Kura: 4 adolescent girls; 2 adolescent boys.

The school is close to the resettlement site. Children reported that lack of school material and uniform contributed to their limited eagerness in attending school – primarily because they do not want to be treated differently from other children. Other children reported that they are not attending because parents are not showing interest in enrolling them.

Boys are mostly idle. They spend their time playing (soccer) and helping their families dig latrine pits at the new site. Boys said that they sometimes fight with one another (with children outside the resettlement site). Boys stated that some of the comments by children in the neighbouring village made them upset, particularly when they are teased and taunted about their clothes and that they are not clean because they don't bathe. The lack of showers and change of clothes are a contributing factor.

Girls are usually busy with cooking, cleaning, fetching water, collecting firewood, and caring for younger siblings. In their free time, usually after completing their household chores, they either sit with friends and talk, play ball (catching/throwing), or go to a 'cinema' in the nearby village. Most of them normally finish their household work by 14:00hrs and after a break of about 3 hours, return to their chores. Most of the children reported that they have been doing the same type of chores at home even before the cyclone. Once a girl child reaches the age of 12, she is expected to take on these responsibilities. Boys sometimes help with collecting firewood and cooking, but these are mostly done by girls.

Firewood collecting is most difficult. They have to walk for about two hours to reach the place where they find wood, and they use machetes to chop branches off trees. Children showed us their palms, which showed signs of hard work.

Boys and girls stated that they were most happy on Sundays when they go to church. The teasing and taunting by children in the neighbouring village made them very angry. Girls said that it made them sad, but try to ignore these comments.

Children said that they were most afraid of what they referred to as 'wizards' in the community. These are individuals in the community, that residents consider to have certain 'evil powers' that used to harm people that the 'wizard' dislikes or is jealous of. The adolescent children said that they did not wish to speak aloud about these person for fear that they may be harmed. Children also reported that they were afraid of thieves as well as men who were engaged in murder and sale of body parts. While these fears and concerns requires further inquiry, the lack of safe and friendly spaces for children to share these concerns, tell stories, and build strength and positive coping strategies remains a major gap.

Key take-away:

- There are no child protection programmes/activities at the site at present; child friendly spaces and programming for adolescents are urgently required
- The displacement and resettlement has resulted in disruption to children's learning and any semblance of structure to their lives
- Being out of school means that families expect children to take on more chores at home; families need support and encouragement to enroll children in schools.
- Strengthening community-based child protection and family strengthening should be a key focus of the response
- Further inquiry into concern about body-part harvesting and children's fears about local shaman
- UNHCR committed to follow-up with immediate distribution of tents and other non-food items such as solar lamps to enhance security and minimize risks of incidents.

b). Metuchira Resettlement Site: All 225 households (1946 individuals) are well settled in clearly demarcated plots and each household was allocated a hand held solar light which is a positive GBV risk mitigation measure. There is inadequate water supply and each household is limited to 40 liters of water per day from available tank, forcing women and children to walk far to a nearby river. Through focus group discussions, women stated they walk far in groups when going for firewood collection as safety measure, as one can call for help if something happens.

Several IDPs, in particular elderly, complained about lack of food and the distribution site being very far away. They had not been informed about the food distribution schedule and other practical issues, such as the location of the health point etc, thus there is a need to improve provision of information.

A number of children with signs of chronic malnutrition were spotted, and this concern was expressed to the accompanying social worker as well as NGO representative, who works on this issue. The WFS will be a great resource for providing information to mothers on nutrition and also distribute.

There is a need to train and deploy social activists to support district social services in parallel to setting up protection desks.

In general, the site seems to be well organized and elderly seem to have received assistance in setting up tents and clearing the plots. Still, the need remains to take vulnerabilities into account in plot distribution. There was a lack of a unified registration list which would identify vulnerable households by name.

Given the close proximity of the site with the village, any distribution will need to be carefully assessed and planned, and include host community, to minimize risks of tensions over aid delivery.

2. Dondo District (Madrui and Mutua)

a). Madrui Resettlement Site: Plots are not well demarcated and some female headed households have not been allocated plots. As such, they had resulted to sleeping in the open. A few women and children are currently taking shelter in the Women Friendly Spaces hampering required activities from taking place in this space. The PDGCAS met some of the affected households and is to make follow ups with relevant offices on the safety of vulnerable groups left out. Solar lights were distributed per tent and household toilets were being constructed. Pregnant women walk far to the host community for health services.

c). Mutua - Magandakufa Resttlement Site: 61 out of 137 households had tents for shelter and the rest are sleeping under trees. Women Friendly Spaces and Intergrated Protection tents had been set up, although not in a central location of the site, and some women were engaged in pottery and weaving using local materials in the WFS. However, they had requested for machetes and knives for cutting the sisal used in weaving.



Women engaged in pottery in a WFS and welcoming their volunteer focal point, Magandakufa (Photo by UNFPA, May 2019)

UNHCR and DPGCAS requested the on-site INGC focal person to share the list of 67 families without shelter and also breakdown in issuance of plots. Unfortunately, he confirmed that the list was to be finalised and shared at a later date and plot allocation was still on going.

A water bowser with trucked water was installed at the entrance of the site, making it difficult for easy access on an equitable basis, particularly for the most vulnerable. At the same time, unlike Kura site, no roads were created in Mutua site, making it impossible for a truck to eventually reach the central area of the site. The site had no light and inadequate latrines.



UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF and DPGCAS undertaking a joint assessment in Mutua resettlement site, Dondo (Photo by UNHCR, May 2019)

3. Guara Guara

a). Guara Guara Settlement Site: The teams visited the site where they first had a meeting with the local government authorities managing the site. The chairperson local council gave an overview of the effects of the cyclone Idai on Buzi district. The cyclone affected the Buzi area destroying houses, gardens and all the produce was affected including the one household that had stocked for consumption. The Guara Guara resettlement site was identified to support the settling of families who fled Buzi area and parts of Guara Guara and sought shelter in temporary sites. In total, 1883 Families had been hosted.

Emergency relief was brought by helicopters and Doctors from Brazil, South Africa, Kenya and Mozambique. Two temporary health posts to provide emergency medical support to survivors of the cyclone were also set-up. Hygiene promotion activities were done in all centres including on cholera prevention and response.

- As of the time of the mission, 940 plots have been demarcated, families have 3 meals a day and there is light, although limited to the transit camp site.
- Resettled households are provided with their dry food rations and every family prepares their own meals.
- Women friendly space and child friendly space tents have been relocated to the resettlement site.
- Identification of persons with special needs done: elderly individuals 372 (177 males and 182 Females), PWDs 41 (18 males and 23 females), Orphans 624, single mothers 269.
- The population that came from Buzi indicated they do not want to return as their places of origin are not safe. However, it is plausible that people will continue their economic activities in Buzi, while establishing a safe home in Guara Guara.

As a result of the three joint assessment missions, the following key gaps and recommendations can be drawn.

Key gaps identified

- Lack of labour for plot demarcation in order to move the remaining population into the resettlement site; and need for preservation of trees in plots rather than using fire to accelerate clearing process.
- Timely availability of reliable registration lists.
- Need for more shelter kits including Tarpaulins, tools, etc.
- Need for better site planning (for better accessibility of services) and preparations including establishment of key basic facilities prior to movements.

Key Recommendations:

1. There is need to systematize the joint missions as reflected in the implementation matrix. The idea is to have two joint missions per month not only to resettlement sites but return areas.
2. Need to upscale protection intervention and in particular for PSN, whilst recognizing resource scarcity and gradual scaling-down of humanitarian actors within the prevailing transition to recovery and solutions. Systematic identification and verification of PSN on site will assist in referring this group for assistance.
3. Need to improve provision of services and referral pathways, it being a collective task, ensure feedback and response mechanisms are improved on site.

4. Need to improve coordination of service provision at site level and operationalise protection desks
5. Ensure that volunteers, activists and focal points work together to ensure that the affected population know that they are the entry points and a direct link between them and service providers.
6. Lack of the police on ground noted.
7. There is a need to also give support for those living in hard to reach areas for example Estaquinha, Bandua, and Grudja in Buzi District
8. Enhance Information dissemination and communication with communities
9. Map initiatives and gaps especially in resettlement sites
10. Absence of critical partners and in particular the Judicial system, invited to step-up their presence on the ground to ensure legal matters are dealt with as and when they happen, in particular individual documentation and land titles in resettlement sites.
11. Ensure that services and responses are comprehensive.
12. Strengthen referral pathways to ensure trusted reporting and feedback mechanisms are in place.
13. Psychosocial support required especially for children who seem to have been affected by past ordeals.
14. Ensure all Child Friendly Spaces are operational.
15. Advocacy required with the Ministry of Education as many children seemed to be out of school for various reasons.
16. 25 Persons with Disabilities in Metuchira identified and in need of support.