

**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT #6

Location: IFAPA, Beira

Discussions: Women, men and children in the community

Participants: UNHCR

Date: 13/04/2019

General background

Further to the protection monitoring mission to IFAPA on 12 April 2019, and in light of the proposed relocation of families from Buzi to Guara-Guara, UNHCR undertook an open vulnerability assessment amongst the population. The purpose was to identify key vulnerabilities/specific needs that should be taken into consideration in planning, implementation and follow-up support to those being resettled.

UNHCR conducted several home visits and focus group discussions were held with women, men, girls and boys.

Family composition

The IFAPA site is hosting families from Buzi, Beira, and other surrounding areas. The residents are mostly women, girls and young children. During the discussion, more than 50% of the women stated that their husbands were in Buzi village at the time.

Main vulnerability groups identified, issues raised and recommendations:

The following vulnerable/specific needs groups were identified:

Women Headed Households and Women at Risk: 25% of the women said that they were either separated from their husbands or were widows. Close to 60% of the women stated that they had at least one child below the age of 5 years.

They stressed once again on the lack of information on the planned relocation including timeframe and location and hoped to be relocated in safe places.

Recommendations: These women will need specific support during the relocation: assistance to carry their belongings to the bus/off the bus; meals prior to departure/upon arrival; prevention of separation of children; allocation of tents nearer to WASH facilities; physical safety at the site; enrolment of children into schools.

Elderly at Risk: Some elderly persons were found during the visit, and the community informed that there were many more elderly persons staying at the IFAPA site. Some of them are currently living with their grandsons or granddaughters, but also rely on the help provided by the other occupiers of the communal shelter.

The elderly at risk wished to benefit from targeted distributions of NFIs (kitchen sets, blankets) and food along the relocation process. Elderly persons at IFAPA include an 81 year old female with two teenage grandsons, an 82 year old male and 72 year old male living with their wives and children.

Recommendations: Elderly persons will need specific support during the relocation: assistance to carry their belongings to the bus/off the bus; meals prior to departure/upon arrival; allocation of tents nearer to WASH facilities; physical safety at the site; medical attention during relocation, and on site

Persons with disability: The community stated that there were several persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, living at the IFAPA site. This include a female with visual disability and a child with physical and intellectual disability who was present during the meeting with the community. In the case of the woman with visual disability, she is assisted by the 12 year old child who assists with cooking, fetching water and firewood, and caring for her younger siblings. While the child said she attended school in Buzi prior to the cyclone, she didn't have much time for playing and socialising with other children. Some persons with disabilities don't have any family members with them in the site. They raised issues relating to food distribution which necessitates their presence at the distribution site which they sometimes are unable to reach given their physical weakness.

Recommendations: Persons with disability should be made on the most appropriate location for each person and their families; Special support to prepare for and during relocation, and assistance to orient themselves with the new location and access services; specialised support for rehabilitation should follow; children with disabilities and child carers of persons with disabilities should be supported through social and community-led programmes to ensure they are able to attend school, and play and socialise with other children. Also, mechanisms should be put in place to ensure targeted support for the disabled persons during food distribution in IFAPA as well as in the new relocation site.

Persons with Serious Medical Condition: The community reported that several persons with chronic illnesses were residing at the IFAPA site. Some of those persons were on medication due to their chronic illnesses, and raised a concern about the availability and access of the medication and health practitioners in the relocation site.

Recommendations: Persons with chronic illnesses should be documented, their specific needs assessed, and counselled on the relocation process. Medical determination should be made on the most appropriate location for each person and their families.

Information & communication

The majority of people met did not speak/understand Portuguese, and their primary language is Sena. Although some of the displaced population spoke Portuguese, and assisted with interpretation. It is crucial that information dissemination and key messages are done in Sena language.

Key recommendations

- Carry out detailed registration of vulnerable individuals/persons with specific needs, and undertake assessment of each individual needs (by specialised agencies). It will also be crucial to

link up with NGOs from the Protection Cluster dealing with persons with disabilities which includes persons with physical disabilities and in certain cases, elderly;

- Ensure essential and accessible services for persons with specific needs is in place prior to relocation;
- Ensure communication with displaced population is carried out in the language that is understood by them. The communication should insure the provision of information on the timeframe and package of the relocation.