

Action!

The grown ups who look after children in the camp will get together and discuss what you said in the report. They will put together a plan of action to make children's lives in the camp better. Remember to ask about this plan.

Children: Would you like to organise some plays or concerts in the schools and camp about children's lives at Marratane? Get together and talk about what messages you would like to share with the community. Discuss your suggestions and ideas with other children, your parents, members of the refugee community and the people who work in the camp.

Children have rights!

It is important to remember that children have rights. Have you heard of the Convention on the Rights of the Child? This is an international agreement to make sure that certain rights are protected. Almost all of the countries in the world have agreed to create laws that protect the children's rights that are written in the Convention. Mozambique has signed this convention. This means the government has promised to make sure children in Mozambique are safe from all types of violence.

It was good that you told us about the problems in your camp because now the grown ups know what is needed to make sure you get your rights.

You told us about your lives!



A report-back to children
who took part in the participatory assessment
on children's views of violence

Marratane Refugee Camp, Mozambique

April 2006

 **UNHCR**
The UN Refugee Agency

Dear children

Do you remember that some people from UNHCR, World Vision and INAR organised art workshops and had discussions with you? Do you remember us talking together about your lives and the problems you face in the camp?

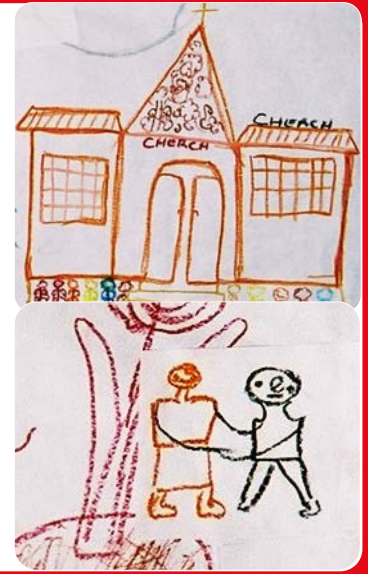
What you told us was very interesting and very useful too! We gave the report to many different people in Mozambique and at the camp. These people were very interested in the report. The staff at the camp and the UNHCR office have talked about things they could do to solve some of these problems. Although finding solutions may take some time, they will be working on making the camp safer for you. It is good that now they know what happens to children in your place.

Well done and thank you for telling your stories!

The report we wrote is very long because you told us lots of things so we have written a very short report here for you to read.

How you protect yourselves

- You walk with friends and older brothers and sisters to avoid dangerous and violent situations.
- You take someone with you when you collect firewood.
- You do not walk around at night.
- You think school is very important for girls and boys.
- You pray for help.
- You stay quiet when people insult you and do not get into arguments.
- You look to the police and "sungu sungu" to protect children.



What the report says about problems children face in your area

- There is a lot of fighting between refugees from different countries. Children and adults can say bad things to children and also beat them sometimes, particularly at the water pump and school.
- Girls in the camp are afraid of rape. You fear rape in the camp but especially in the bushes around the camp where you go to collect firewood.
- Collecting firewood in the bushes around the camp is a very hard job.
- You are afraid of snakes in the bush and in the camp.
- Some children who do not have parents are abused by their foster parents.
- Girls living alone are particularly afraid of rape.
- There is a lack of medicine at the hospital.
- Corporal punishment occurs at home and at school.
- Children sometimes go without food because food is sold to buy other things.



These are some suggestions you made for making things better for children in the camp

- Education and discussion programmes should be set up to help people from different communities stop fighting and become friends. One suggestion is to begin this in the schools.
- All children should be able to attend school.
- Charcoal should be provided so that children do not have to go to the bush to collect firewood.
- Children who do not have parents in the camp should receive special help.

