

## IBO/MATEMO – PROTECTION CLUSTER REPORT

### ●●●● INTRODUCTION

Recent displacements following the attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAG) in Palma on 24 March have triggered a ‘heightened protection crisis’. According to recent DTM ETT, displacement from the Palma crisis is about to reach 60,000 IDPs to an already existing almost 700,000 IDPs. Based on the latest information from AVSI present in Ibo island, as of 11 May 2021, there are currently 1,101 internally displaced persons (142HH, Males: 575, Women: 310, and Children: 216) in Matemo island, in Palusansa neighbourhood. Additionally, local authorities have confirmed that families have already expressed interest in staying in Matemo and would need support. According to the IOM/DTM Baseline Assessment No. 11 (March 2021), there is an estimated of 31,035 displaced persons in Ibo district.<sup>1</sup>

The mission was led by OCHA and included members of the Protection Cluster (including coordinator, UNHCR/GBV/PSEA and the CP AoR/UNICEF) and other clusters. The visit took place over three days/two nights between the 2 and 4 June 2021.

### ●●●● OBJECTIVES<sup>2</sup>

- **The Protection Situation is analyzed** – protection situation analysis in both Ibo and Matemo Island, with specific focus on identifying the different protection needs and risks of women, men, girls, and boys of concern in order to establish priorities and estimate severity of conditions faced by them as well as propose the scale up of services if needed.
- **Establish the intentions of persons of concern:** The Protection Cluster abides by the Kampala Convention on Internal Displacement and the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, which require IDPs to be consulted on decisions that impact their destiny as well as any movement of populations to be safe, voluntary and dignified.
- Identify the **main protection gaps** and the diversity of conditions faced by the different groups of persons of concern, including older women and men; persons with disabilities.
- **Participatory assessment:** structured discussions organized with IDPs (women, girls, boys, men, elderly people, persons with disabilities), providing an opportunity to explain the protection risks faced and support the response.
- **Referral Pathways:** to ensure that referral pathways (which include service mapping) is done for the district of Ibo. There are already some actors in Ibo such as SolidarMed, AVSI, IOM and Oikos providing services, they will be included in the exercise. Partially completed (see below – potential protection service providers in Ibo District).
- **Safe and confidential referral or protection cases** (GBV, CP, MHPSS, persons with specific needs, etc.) to services, including accompaniment as appropriate to services either located in the area of operation or other local services (note that referrals to local services of any identified cases should be coordinated through the EPU Team Leads). This also includes systematically recording of data on the details of referrals made capturing only non-identifying data;
- **Strengthen cooperation with local service providers:** Accao Social, DPS, PRM – to establish links that can be later explored for remote monitoring and support.



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- **\*Case Management of unaccompanied minors:** due to high numbers of unaccompanied and separated minors identified by IOM/DTM – case management of for these children will be needed.
- **\*Psychological first aid:** Due to nature of displacement by violence with reports of highly traumatic events. Psychological first aid and MHPSS will be provided when and where possible.
- **Rapid protection mainstreaming** based on quick observation of emergency activities being carried out in the response, promoting protection standards and principles across sectors through coordination;

<sup>1</sup> Taken from initial ToR shared by OCHA.

<sup>2</sup> As shared by the Protection Cluster with OCHA. Not all activities were possible due to time constraints and lack of participation of partners (those marked with asterisk were not implemented).

## PRACTICALITIES

### Logistics Consideration

- Payments are accepted in both cash and card.
- Ulani lodge and Miti Miwiri Boutique Hotel were used by the mission.
- **Radios** were crucial for communication between participants since phone works badly (only Movitel).
- **Internet** access is challenging: only at Miti Miwiri (although there is a limit to the number of computers/phones connected) and internet was down in NGO HQ when we were there.
- **Checkpoint** between the airstrip and the Ibo-sede where mission leader is asked for name, contact details and number of participants on the mission.
- **Tuk-Tuks (Chopelas)** are the cheap and quick way of moving around.
- **Boats** to access other islands from Ibo islands are expensive and attention should be placed on the tide times that limits how long one can stay on either Matemo or Quirimba island.

### Map



### Chronology of Activities

#### Delta 1: 2 June 2021

- **PSEA Awareness:** IDPs in Cimento Neighborhood – 100 women and 20 men.
- **PSEA Awareness:** IDPs in Cumuamba Neighborhood – 50 women and 30 men.
- **Meeting with Ibo Administrator:** Quick introduction on protection, emphasizing the need to prioritize persons with specific needs and PSEA awareness.
- **Meeting with the District Accao Social:** discuss the focus group discussion for the following day, logistics of the exercise, priority groups, other activities on-going in the island.
- **Meeting with the Police of Mozambique responsible for family affairs:** discussion on his activities, child marriage, domestic violence, potential support,
- **List Verification:** IDPs in Ritutto Neighborhood – 100 people.
- **Individual Protection Assessments:** Five persons.

#### Delta 2: 3 June 2021

- **Focus Group Discussion in Cimento Neighborhood:** with three different groups (men/PC coordinator, women/UNHCR and children/CP AoR coordinator/UNICEF).
- **Individual Protection Interviews in Cimento Neighborhood:** with both men and women.
- **Focus Group Discussion in Rituto neighborhood:** with three different groups (men/PC coordinator, women/UNHCR and children/CP AoR coordinator/UNICEF).
- **Individual Protection Interviews in Rituto Neighborhood:** with both men and women.



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## MAIN PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** during the meeting with the Police focal point (PRM) for family affairs, it was reported that during the month of may (2021), some three cases of sexual violence against children younger than 12 had happened in the district. The existing referral mechanism was explained, including the further referral of cases for to *Procuradoria*/District Attorney's Office, hospital as well as Accao Social. The PRM focal point also told us that he frequently organizes awareness sessions on gender issues and child marriage. One of the main risks raised by women during the FGD were sexual violence during collecting of firewood. There had been some serious concerns related to GBV reported.
- **Unaccompanied and separated children:** Before the mission, UNICEF reported that DTM has identified a high number of separated children – 36 separated children (25 in Matemo / 3 in Quirambo / 8 child in Ibo). However, even during the mission, the Child Protection AoR coordinator encountered challenges to actually find these cases – as there is no capacity to manage the cases. During the focus groups, the presence of unaccompanied children was also reported. In Matemo Island, the local community leader confirmed 25 children identified by DTM as unaccompanied but that a follow up was still pending. According to him, these children are being taken care by other families on the island. According to the information collected with the local leader, some lost their parents during attacks, while others were to safety sent by their parents as the families could not afford the trip; some are still infants and others between the ages of 3 and 5 years old.
- **Child Marriage:** during the meeting with the PRM focal point, it was mentioned the prevalence of child marriage on the island. After some awareness raising initiatives with traditional leaders there were some reporting of cases of child marriage, this prompted those who wanted to continue to practice to organize the weddings on the neighboring island of Quirambo. Reportedly, the year of 2019 was when there was the largest influx of IDPs into the Island. The PRM focal point also reported that it was after the this influx that increased the incidence of child marriages (as well as GBV) in the community. It was not clear how those who are married are supported by the Accao Social. According to the Chefe de Posto of Matemo Island, there some families encourage girls to sleep with older men in exchange for money and confirmed the prevalence of child marriage in Matemo island.
- **Freedom of movement linked to civil documentation:** during Focus Group Discussions and individual protection interviews, IDP men have reported issues for lack of civil documentation. Many IDP men have reported having lost their civil documentation or having them destroyed during their flight from Mocimboa, Quissanga or Macomia. This limits their freedom of movement, especially when going through checkpoints restricting access daily activities.
- **MHPSS needs:** During the FGDs and the individual protection interviews for both men and women, the IDPs reported experiencing highly traumatic events during their flight. This, in many cases, has compounded their stress levels and ability to integrate in Ibo island; many have mentioned nightmares, feeling profoundly depressed, sad and afraid. IDP women also reported that conditions in the place of refuge have only worsened the conditions given issues with the host community. The women also reported that they would feel uncomfortable seeking support in the community with MHPSS needs.
- **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):** UNHCR and WFP conducted awareness raising on sessions on PSEA. Specific material and information on Linha Verde was provided.
- **Other protection issues around assistance:** women reported theft during distributions and stealing of assistance provided. Police must be present during distributions to avoid tensions.
- **Protection issues in access to livelihoods/fuel:** women and men mentioned during individual protection interviews and FGDs that they face challenges in accessing livelihoods/fuel. Both men who fish and/or engage in subsistence agriculture mentioned the challenges in accessing the sea as it is highly militarized as well as those wanting to access land (see above freedom of movement linked to civil documentation). Women face similar needs as they try to access the forests (see map) located in Ibo island to be able to access firewood for cooking fuel.
- **Arrivals in Matemo:** IDPs are still arriving in the island of Matemo, after fleeing the situation in Palma. On the 2 June, for example, two boats arrived from Palma carrying IDPs. Reportedly, the IDPs that arrive in Matemo Island then proceed to other locations such as Pemba. However, reportedly, the majority remain in Matemo as it is near their home (on the continent) and can use the island to access their livelihood through fishing (many are fisherman and Matemo island is not as militarized as Ibo island). According to UNICEF/OCHA who visited Matemo, WFP services 766 households (HH) in Paulosansa village, 480 HH in Necombo village and 692 HH in Nhamba village.
- **Community based protection:** according to the women, there is a good relationship with the host community. However, some conflict was reported (not necessarily IDP vs. host) in which children fight and then escalate into wider children.

## MAIN PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen the support to Accao Social in Ibo:** there was only one person covering for Accao Social, which demonstrated a clear need to be strengthened and supported. It is unclear the Accao Social's capacity to receive and provide case management to cases. However, based on discussions with different stakeholders it is quite clear that the capacity to address the plethora of different protection incidents observed is insufficient.
- **Strengthen MHPSS in Ibo:** as mentioned above, IDPs not only arrive with MHPSS needs, but also protection challenges are faced on the island, increasing trauma.
- **Strengthen/scale-up case management for child protection:** there is a clear need to scale-up the presence of protection case management. There is a need to reinforce the presence of child protection actors on the island to provide child protection case management (in particular for: UASC and child abuse).
- **Initiate case management for GBV:** concerning reports of GBV that are in urgent need of case management; including child. Additionally, worrying reports of GBV and the heightened vulnerability of displaced women on the island requires immediate follow-up. Urgent need to initiate GBV case management to ensure adequate protection and follow up of victims of gender-based violence.
- **Seek partners to start quality response activities:** there is very little presence of protection actors, there is need scale up the response on all ranges of protection; particularly, on GBV and Child Protection.
- **Community Engagement for Child Protection:** to ensure that child protection concerns are identified timely and appropriately.
- **Structured psychosocial activities for children:** there is a need to provide structured recreational activities for children on all islands. In all locations, IDP children out and about by themselves. During FGDs, adults mentioned that IDP children fighting with local children created conflicts between both IDPs and host communities.

## ANNEX:

- **Individual Protection Assessments:** Results of individual protection assessments.