

Multi-Functional Teams of government and refugee representatives

SGBV – Food security – HIV/AIDS – Special needs of persons with disabilities - Education

Five Multi-Functional Teams composed of focal points from Government Line Ministries and refugee representatives (50% women) work together in finding solutions to problems faced by refugees and asylum seekers in the camp.



Background

Through participatory assessments, UNHCR has identified five main protection concerns within the refugee and asylum-seeker populations in camps: SGBV, food security, HIV/AIDS, special needs of persons with disabilities and education.

According to the participatory assessments, domestic violence is increasing. More than 15% of women reported having been beaten by their husbands. However, most cases go unreported and survivors often opt to settle cases through community-based mechanisms rather than seeking legal remedies through the formal judicial system.

Problems related to food distribution were also noted. Delays in procuring and delivering food mostly derived from the late issuance and updating of food list and late arrival of beneficiaries for the collection of their food rations.

Regarding HIV/AIDS treatment, refugees and asylum-seekers are able to access Mozambique's country-wide programmes. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) facilities for pregnant women are functional at Maratane Health Centre and antiretroviral treatment is available in the provincial hospital in Nampula. One of the biggest challenges in the camp, however, continues to be the stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Even though services for individuals with specific needs are generally provided in partnership with the Department of Social Action, national structures and capacities are still insufficient. This prevents UNHCR from effectively assisting refugees with specific needs. For instance, in 2011, only 18 students with specific needs were enrolled in grades 1-6.

Although in principle all refugee children have access to primary school education in the camp, certain problems prevent children from attending school, including shortages of classrooms, desks, educational material and uniforms. However in 2012 all the classrooms that were in poor condition have been rehabilitated.

UNHCR/J. Redden

Location Maratane Camp,
Mozambique

Time & Duration 2009 - present

Population Groups Refugee and asylum seekers in camps

Actors UNHCR and the Mozambican government



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
www.unhcr.org

Description

UNHCR and the Mozambican Government worked together in the establishment of five Multi-Functional Teams (MFTs), namely: (i) Prevention and Response to SGBV Committee; (ii) Food Committee; (iii) Health/HIV/AIDS; (iv) Disabilities support group and (v) Education Committee.

MFTs are composed of focal points from Government Line Ministries and refugee representatives out of whom 50% are women. MFTs come together to discuss the problems faced by refugees and asylum-seekers, and look for effective solutions.

Steps to Implementation

- UNHCR conducted participatory assessments with refugees and asylum seekers in the camp.
- The results of these assessments were shared with the Mozambican Government.
- UNHCR proposed the appointment of Line Ministry focal points, who would work with refugee representatives in the five identified areas.
- MFTs with equal representation of women and men were established.
- MFT members meet regularly to analyze protection gaps and develop plans of actions to address them.
- MFT members meet monthly to review the progress of their work.

Impact and Results

- The MFTs carried out awareness-raising and sensitization campaigns on the protection gaps needing community mobilization, such as the stigmatization suffered by refugees and asylum-seekers living with HIV/AIDS.
- University scholarships and transport allowances for high school students were increased.
- Counseling for people living with HIV/AIDS was established.
- Three additional classrooms at the primary school were constructed.
- The kindergarten was renovated.
- School uniforms were provided to all students of the Marratane primary school.

Constraints

There was a high turnover of Government Line Ministry representatives. This may be seen by refugees and asylum-seekers as a lack of commitment from the government's side.

Lessons Learned/Keys to Success

- It became evident that the participatory assessment strengthened the relations between UNHCR offices, the government and non-government staff and persons of concern.
- The creation of MFTs enhanced a team approach and coordination amongst refugees.
- As priorities and concerns were set by refugees themselves within MFTs, their work resulted in in effective targeted actions.