



**Joint WFP/UNCHR Assessment Mission (JAM)**  
**Maratane Refugee Settlement**  
**Mozambique 2022**

Data Collection: August - October 2021

**Background**

As of January 2022, Mozambique is hosting 29,500 refugees and asylum seekers<sup>1</sup>, predominately from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. About 9,135 refugees reside in Maratane settlement situated in Nampula province, one of the most populous, poverty-stricken and resource-constrained provinces in the country. Almost nine in ten refugees in Maratane have been living in the settlement for between 5 to 20 years. About

16,000 Mozambicans live in close proximity to the settlement and have access to the services provided, which include primary and secondary schools, health facilities and markets.

**Box 1: Assistance to date**

UNHCR and WFP have been supporting the refugee population in Maratane through registration, protection and legal services, protection services for persons with specific needs, livelihood support<sup>2</sup> as well as food assistance<sup>3</sup>.

**Box 2: Refugee Households in Maratane Settlement**



Extremely vulnerable



Lack Economic Capacity for Food Needs



Lack of Agricultural Inputs



Poor Food Consumption



Headed by Women



Have Access to Land

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this brief, “asylum seekers” are included in the term “refugee” and will no longer be listed separately.

<sup>2</sup>The *Livelihoods for Durable Solutions Programme (2016-2021)* - jointly implemented by WFP, UNHCR, FAO and UN Habitat - aimed to support self-reliance and local integration through livelihood interventions that focus on market and value chain development. Phase 2 is envisaged to start July 2022, funding permitting.

<sup>3</sup> The Instituto Nacional de Apoio aos Refugiados (INAR)<sup>3</sup> and WFP have been assisting refugees with in-kind food assistance targeted based on household vulnerability. As at March 2022, rations equate between 48 percent to 75 percent of WFP’s food basket of 2,100 kcal per person per day.

## Objectives of the JAM

Against the background of growing funding constraints, coupled with the need to support longer term, sustainable solutions in protracted refugee situations, the JAM’s objectives were to:

- Collect information on refugees’ and host communities’ capacities to meet their basic needs, livelihood opportunities and challenges, and related protection concerns;
- Understand the current food security and nutrition situation of refugee and host community households;
- Describe the vulnerability characteristics of refugee and host community households.

## Methodology

The JAM data collection took place between August and October 2021. A total of 579 refugee and 372 host community households were interviewed using a structured household questionnaire. Additionally, 16 focus group discussions and 7 key informant interviews were conducted. Findings are statistically representative at the level of male- and female-headed households in Maratane settlement and the Mozambican host community living in its vicinity.

### Box 3: Mozambique’s legal framework and protection environment

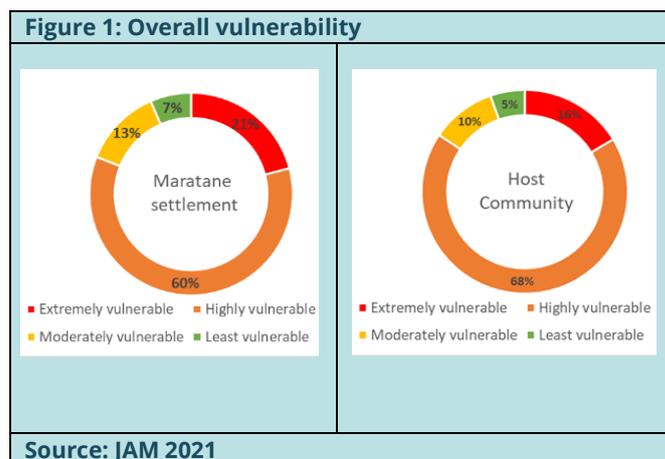
Mozambique is party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Refugee Act 1991 is the country’s principal legal framework governing refugee affairs. Following the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, the Government pledged to ensure a favourable environment towards local integration and social cohesion between refugees and the host community through the provision of agricultural land and by ensuring access to education,

health care and basic services for refugees and host communities by 2023.

## Overall vulnerability<sup>4</sup>

**Up to 80 percent of households in the settlement and in the host community are considered to be either extremely or highly vulnerable.** Over eight in ten households are unable to meet their basic food needs, tend to engage in negative coping mechanisms with potentially detrimental repercussions on lives and livelihoods, and/or have poor or borderline food consumption.

The refugee population is more prone to being extremely vulnerable (21 percent) than the host community (16 percent), while the share of those who can be considered least vulnerable is strikingly small in both locations, accounting for around 1 in 20 households.



## Income sources and livelihood resilience

**The large majority of refugee and host community households have an income source - predominately in the agricultural sector - however, challenges are abundant and households adopt coping strategies that undermine capacities and resilience.**

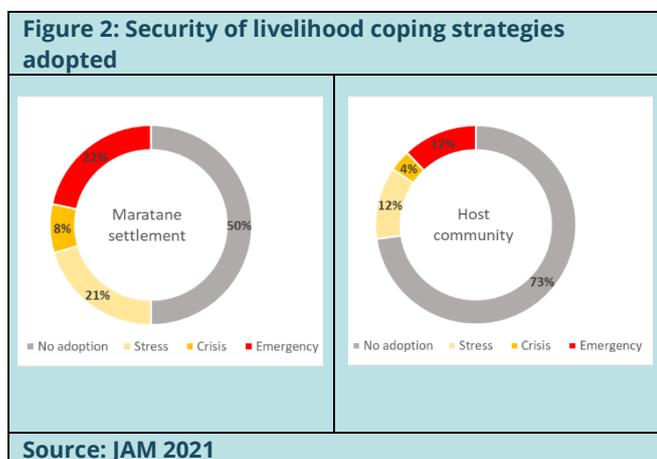
The agricultural sector is an indispensable source for income in and around Maratane

<sup>4</sup> Household vulnerability is a composite indicator measured by three outcome indicators, including food consumption score (FCS), livelihood coping classification and economic capacity to meet essential needs (ECMEN). A household’s status reflected

through these three dimensions determines the vulnerability classification of this household (Source: WFP Essential Needs Assessment, Guidance Note, December 2020).

settlement. Over 90 percent of households in both the settlement and host community have at least one income source, with agricultural production and the selling of crops the most prominent, followed by casual work. Almost all host community households and 70 percent of refugee households have access to land, albeit the plots of the latter are generally smaller, often shared and not easily accessible.

Despite its importance to people’s livelihoods, the agriculture sector is greatly underdeveloped, marred by dysfunctional value chains, lack of infrastructure and inputs, lack of markets and credit<sup>5</sup>. In fact, the primary livelihood constraint identified by 58 percent refugee households and 70 percent of host community households is the lack of agricultural inputs. Additional challenges undermining prospects for self-reliance among refugees and the host community is the lack of employment opportunities, while refugees specifically lack access to land and the host community capital to invest in livelihoods.



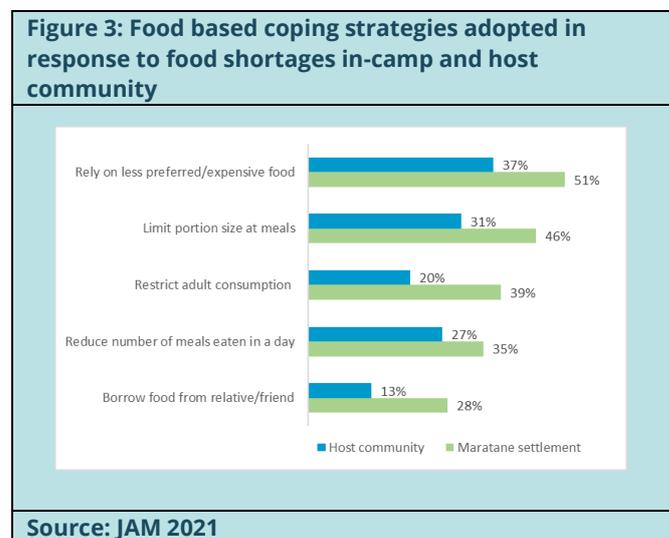
Thus, about nine in ten households indicated to feel constrained in pursuing their livelihoods. In order to cope, refugee households are more likely to adopt livelihood coping strategies to make ends meet than their counterparts in the host community – which includes the purchase of food on credit or borrowing food, spending of

savings, borrowing money. Furthermore, their coping strategies tend to be of greater severity and further risk undermining their already compromised resilience levels. They include the sale of the last female animal and the migration of the entire household.

### Economic capacities

**The majority of households are not able to meet their essential needs using their own resources: up to 78 percent of households in the settlement and 83 percent in the host community lack the necessary economic resources to even cover minimum food needs.**

The local population may be under slightly more economic pressure due to their large share of household expenditures spent on food alone, reaching 74 percent compared to 63 percent among households in the settlement<sup>6</sup>. The higher share of resources spent on food further stretches limited capacities to cover other essential, non-food needs. Comparatively speaking, indebtedness is more prevalent in the host community. Households indicated debts to have increased during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Having savings to fall back on in times of need is highly uncommon among both refugee and host community households.



<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, Thematic note on agriculture and land use: Overview of land access and its uses by refugees and hosts living in the Maratane refugee camp, April 2021

<sup>6</sup> Spending large shares of overall expenditures on food, reduces resources needed to cover non-food needs, which in turn heightens household’s vulnerability level (Source: WFP Essential Needs Assessment, Guidance Note, December 2020).

## Food consumption

**Poor and borderline food consumption is similarly high in both, the settlement and host community, while the strategies used to cope with food deficits differ between the two groups.**

Notwithstanding ongoing in-kind food assistance in the settlement, 44 percent of refugee households have borderline and/or poor food consumption which compares to 48 percent of households in the host community. Contributing factors may have been unfavourable weather conditions at the beginning of 2021, the reintroduction of COVID-19 containment measures, and most recent food assistance rations having been depleted at the time of the survey.

All households predominately access their main staples through market purchase, followed by assistance for refugees and own production for host community households. Against the background of extensive difficulties in meeting the minimum expenditure basket, price increases could critically impact households' purchasing power, further limiting resources to meet basic needs, food and non-food alike.

Refugee households are more likely to experience food deficits (52 percent) than households in the host community (37 percent) and are therefore also more likely to alter their consumption patterns in order to cope. The two coping mechanisms that most households adopted – both refugees and Mozambicans – included *relying on less preferred/expensive food* and *limiting portion sizes at meal times*.

### Box 4: Gender considerations

About 43 percent of refugee households in Maratane settlement are headed by women. Based on JAM findings, they are more prone to being extremely or highly vulnerable (84 percent) than their male headed counterparts (79 percent) in the settlement. Their

demographic composition – high dependency ratios, lack of labour capacity – seem to predispose them to heightened vulnerability and protection risks. While the large majority (88 percent) have an income source – predominately engaged in agricultural production and sales – in times of need they are more likely to resort to livelihood coping strategies of a higher severity level than their male counterparts, potentially undermining their already limited capacities to withstand shocks. Their economic capacities to meet essential needs are as limited as those of male-headed households, however, they are more likely to have poor or borderline food consumption. In sum, JAM findings point to the generally disadvantaged standing of female headed refugee households in Maratane settlement, calling for interventions that address their specific needs.

## Safety and accountability to affected populations

Safety concerns mostly relate to household theft, threats, mugging, riots and conflict and are predominately felt by refugee households in Maratane settlement rather than in the host community. Gender based violence (GBV) is a concern for 7 percent of all refugees and 3 percent of host community households. Focus Group Discussion members confirmed the worrying prevalence of domestic violence in the settlement.

Almost 90 percent of Maratane's population indicated having adequate access to information on WFP and UNHCR assistance. More than half of refugees have made use of the agencies' complaints and feedback mechanisms, however, about one third did not receive a response, citing this as the primary obstacle to accessing the mechanisms.

## Socio-economic profile of extremely and highly vulnerable households

The following socio-economic characteristics are shared by extremely and highly vulnerable households in the settlement and the host community and may guide the development of potential targeting criteria used for future interventions.

**Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of extremely and highly vulnerable households**

Refugee households	Host community households
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger households (&gt;6 members)</li> <li>• More female members</li> <li>• At least one child below 5 years</li> <li>• Limited access to income sources</li> <li>• No HH member working for profit</li> <li>• Limited non-productive assets</li> <li>• No ownership of mobile phone</li> <li>• No participation in livelihood programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No single or widowed household head</li> <li>• At least one child below 5 years</li> <li>• No salaried work as income source</li> <li>• Limited ownership of non-productive assets</li> <li>• Limited ownership of productive assets (likelihood increased among <i>highly vulnerable</i>)</li> <li>• Substandard shelter conditions (improves among <i>highly vulnerable</i>)</li> </ul>

## Recommendations

The JAM findings and recommendations inform the development of a joint targeting strategy and feed into the Joint UNHCR/WFP Plan of Action envisaged to be completed by the second half of 2022.

### Food assistance and livelihood support

- Continued provision of food assistance (Cash and/or in-kind) targeted at extremely and highly vulnerable households, factoring in age, gender, diversity and specific protection needs;
- Continuation of market-based livelihood interventions to promote increased self-reliance, focusing on employment opportunities, access to capital and

productive assets, support for agricultural production and access to financial services. Livelihood interventions are to be embedded within Mozambique's broader context of policies that support refugee integration and promote social cohesion between them and their local host community;

- Implementation of a joint UNHCR/WFP verification exercise to agree on number of refugee population residing in Maratane settlement.

### Targeting and joint monitoring

- Development of a harmonized, joint targeting approach across humanitarian and development assistance programmes, giving due consideration to age, gender and diversity, including persons with a disability, refugees of various nationalities and others with specific needs, all validated through community consultations;
- Execution of close and regular joint monitoring of key outcome indicators for food assistance and livelihood programmes.

### Accountability to affected populations and protection

- Dissemination of relevant and adequate information concerning food and non-food interventions among settlement population and host community;
- Ensuring available complaints and feedback mechanisms are functional, accessible and able to close the communication loop between beneficiaries and implementing agencies.

### Strategic recommendations

- Ensuring consistent, predictable and multi-year funding through joint advocacy initiatives based on a joint resource mobilization strategy;

- Formulation of a joint graduation strategy in close collaboration with the Government and local authorities;
- Engagement in high level programmatic discussions with the Government to address high vulnerability levels among the host community and possibilities for the integration of refugees in national development plans;
- Pursual of potential cash-based interventions guided by close consultations with the Government.

**For further information please contact: [WFP.UNHCR.hub@wfp.org](mailto:WFP.UNHCR.hub@wfp.org)**

**Cinzia Papavero**, Senior Targeting Advisor

**Yingci Sun**, Hub Assessment Officer

**Giselle Genna**, Programme and Policy Officer, WFP Mozambique

**Irene Omondi**, Head of Nampula Office, UNHCR Mozambique