

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: Get together and plan a drama of some of the problems and solutions that are in this report. You can perform it to your parents. Have a discussion with them after the drama about what parents and children can do together.

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. Malawi has signed this convention. This means the government has promised to make sure children in Malawi 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

Dzaleka Refugee Camp, Malawi

November 2005



Dear children

Do you remember that some people from UNHCR and JRS 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 Malawi and at the camp. These people were very interested in the report. The staff at the camp and at 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 harassment.
- You always take someone with you when you collect firewood.
- You do not walk out at night.
- You attend school and study hard.
- You take part in after school activities and sports.
- You report abuse to parents or teachers.



What the report says about problems children face in your area

- Groups of boys call out to girls and sometimes even chase them. Girls are afraid the boys will hurt and even rape them.
- Poverty sometimes makes girls have sex with older men for money.
- Girls told us it was sometimes hard to say no to boys who forced them to have sex as the boys use physical strength.
- Girls fear rape, especially when they collect firewood.
- Rape is not always reported because some men pay the parents not to report. If rape is reported it is not always followed up by the police.
- Some parents force young girls to get married. Girls are afraid of this happening to them.
- Men come into the camp to buy young wives and these girls are trafficked.
- The clinic and hospital care is not always good and medicine is often not given.
- Children in foster care are often abused and exploited and some do not go to school.



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

- There need to be more security people at the camp.
- Parents need to be educated about children's rights.
- More boreholes should be built so people have fewer problems when accessing water.
- There should be more lifeskills education for children, especially about respecting each other.
- The health services need to be improved.
- Income generating activities would create job opportunities for the older boys who are not in school.
- Adults in the camp need to be educated about treating orphans and children in foster care properly.
- There is too much drinking of alcohol in the camp, this needs to be stopped.

