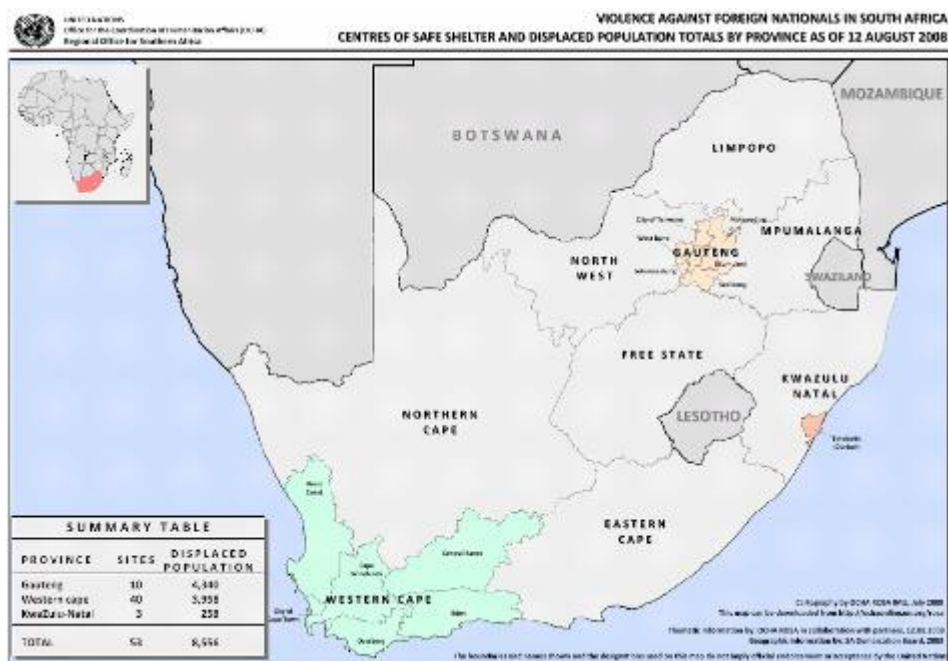


SOUTH AFRICA COUNTRY OFFICE

UNICEF SUPPORT TO THE REINTEGRATION PROCESS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN AFFECTED BY XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA



BACKGROUND / JUSTIFICATION

On 11 May 2008 violence broke out in the Alexandra Township (Johannesburg metropolitan area) when angry mobs attacked foreign nationals and non-Zulu speaking locals killing three and injuring more than 40. Several homes were burned. Almost 1,000 people fled to the local police station for safety. Attacks were then reported in the East Rand townships of Tembisa, Thokoza and Primrose and by 18 May it had reached the centre of Johannesburg. The South African government responded quickly to the attacks and realizing that the police in Gauteng could not provide adequate protection, they called in the armed forces to provide logistical support and work force. Despite their efforts, by 21 May, violence had spread to other areas of South Africa. In total 62 people were killed and at least 40,000 foreigners fled their homes seeking refuge at police stations, churches, community centres and other *ad hoc* shelters. The wave of xenophobic violence resulted in generalized fear and anxiety throughout the country. Majority of these populations come from informal urban settlements, which are characterized by high HIV prevalence rates, two fold higher than formal urban settings (17.8% vs. 6.9%, HSRC 2005). Under-five mortality rates are more than four-fold higher than in well-established communities (63 vs 15, DHS 1998). Malnutrition rates are higher than in formal urban settings (Stunting among 1-9 years: 18.5% vs. 16.2, NFCS 2005). There is also high crime and violence rates (SAPS 2008). These conditions could rapidly worsen in the absence of an effective humanitarian response.

The Government of South Africa (GoSA) assumed the overall lead to the response, including operational implementation and associated costs. The respective provincial Disaster Management Centres (DMCs) were responsible for organizing and managing the new temporary shelter sites for the displaced population as well ensuring the minimum provision of basic services including mobile clinics, provision of safe water and sanitation services, shelter, food, physical protection of the shelter sites and general logistics. In many sites, however, community and faith based organizations were the primary responders to the situation, providing additional food, shelter and clothing to the victims of the attacks. The South African Red Cross mobilized hundred of volunteers from around the country to provide emergency relief to those that were displaced by the violence



The UN supported regular inter-sectoral rapid assessments together with provincial DMCs, municipal government and NGO partners in both Gauteng and Western Cape provinces in order to determine the humanitarian situation and to identify the needs and response gaps. Based on these assessments, UN agencies mounted a coordinated joint UN and NGOs assistance to the Government of South Africa within the framework of the cluster approach to the humanitarian response. This assistance has principally consisted of material assistance, technical guidance and partner coordination. A set of agreed frameworks (e.g. Sphere, Code of Conduct, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement) were used as a basis for the needs assessments, and delivery of services and assistance in eight sectors: Shelter and NFIs, Camp Management and Camp Coordination, Health and Nutrition, WASH, Food, Education, Protection, and Re-integration/Early Recovery/Voluntary Repatriation. Additional support services were provided in the areas of information management, coordination and communications support.

The number of people displaced by the xenophobic violence has steadily reduced since the peak of the crisis in the end of May 2008. The situation is stabilized in the remaining shelter sites in Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal provinces and the GoSA is moving towards closure of the shelter sites and reintegration of the remaining displaced people into the South African society. However, at present there is no national strategy to guide the reintegration process. The processes are developed at the provincial level, with different approaches and very limited experience on community mediation, peace building and psychosocial support issues. There is a real concern that issues related to education and child protection would not be addressed within the frameworks currently implemented, thus negatively affecting the lives of children and women.

UNICEF's interventions in Child Protection and Education are critical in this context, to ensure a safe and sustainable return and reintegration of displaced people into peaceful communities. Both the displaced people themselves and the communities where they are being reintegrated to should be engaged in the process. UNICEF strongly believes that the integration of children into their schools of origin or other mainstream schools will assist with the broader reintegration process of the displaced populations. Psychosocial support, community mediation, GBV and monitoring interventions are key element for a sustainable reintegration both in Gauteng and Western Cape Provinces.



The estimated numbers of remaining displaced people staying in the shelter sites are 4,340 in ten shelter sites in Gauteng, 3,958 in forty shelter sites Western Cape and 258 in three shelter sites KwaZulu Natal.

Table 1: Estimated number of displaced people and sites per municipality – 12 August 2008

Province	Municipality	# of Shelter sites	Population of Displaced
Gauteng	Johannesburg	4	341
	Ekurhuleni	3	2,414
	Tshwane (Pretoria)	3	1,585
Western Cape	Cape Town	36	3,905
	Cape Winelands	4	53
Kwa-Zulu Natal	Etekwini (Durban)	3	258
TOTAL		53	8,556

I. GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PARTNERS RESPONSE

The South African Government in close cooperation with the humanitarian community has provided essential humanitarian assistance to the displaced population in the form of mobile health clinics, immunisation campaigns, food, legal counselling, psycho-social support, education as well as water and sanitation in the first two months of the crisis.

Through UNICEF, Save the Children UK and the Refugee Children's Project, the Provincial Department of Education supports the educational and reintegration needs of school going children in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces. The Department of Education has issued directives regarding:

- (a) special examination provisions or waivers for children that were not able to write exams;
- (b) provisions of transport to schools where feasible and safe for children to return to schools;
- (c) integration of children into nearby schools (relative to the camp sites) where feasible and safe.

Psycho-social services were provided in some sites in Gauteng and efforts were made to provide legal support to those in need. Protection guiding notes were provided to all sectors.

At the request of the Executive Director of the DMC, a senior physical site planner was deployed by UNHCR to provide technical advice during the identification of new sites for relocation. UNHCR also deployed three camp-coordinators to provide support the P-DMCs in managing the sites. Furthermore, 2,000 tents as well as tarpaulins, mattresses and blankets were provided by UNHCR and other agencies at the onset of the crisis.

In the three affected provinces, the coordination meetings are facilitated by the DMCs and are well attended by civil society and UN agencies. OHCA established a web with coordination tools including contact list, stock taking of relief items and mapping products, gap analysis and situation reports to strengthen the process of information dissemination to partners. Regular situation reports and sectoral updates are produced and compiled based on inputs from IASC members and civil society partners.

II. UNICEF'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies, UNICEF supported the South African government in the response to the humanitarian crisis through interventions in the areas of Health and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Basic Education and Child Protection. Internal resources, as well as a first EPF loan of US \$200,000 were used to respond during the initial phase of the crisis. An additional EPF loan of \$300,000 was recently received and is being utilized to address the reintegration needs of women and children.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

UNICEF and Oxfam UK have developed an environmental health strategy and made recommendations to improve sanitation at sites in both Gauteng and Western Cape Provinces. UNICEF has also developed WASH IEC materials in collaboration with the Gauteng and Western Cape Departments of Health. Hygiene promotion activities were carried out in the shelter sites throughout the acute phase of the crisis, as well as training of health promoters.

Technical support was provided to site managers and Community Development Officers on relevant WASH issues, including cultural and social norms of the displaced people, excreta disposal facilities for infants and young children, hand washing with soap, and protection issues for women.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

UNICEF and WHO in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Health have developed a working plan for service provision to displaced people in the province, at the early stage of the crisis. UNICEF provided technical support to the Department of Health for the vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation campaigns to reduce the spread of disease in the crowded police stations and community centers, at the early stage of the crisis.

In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF is continuing the promotion of improved infant and young child feeding practices including: early initiation, exclusive breastfeeding and timely introduction of age-specific, nutrient-rich complementary foods. UNICEF supports the Western Cape Department of Health for peer counseling on infant and young child feeding through a partnership with La Leche League (LLL).

UNICEF has also procured and distributed young children and baby clothing, blankets, nappies (diapers) food for young children, sleeping mats, and adult hygiene kits for 8,000 women and children. These items were distributed through partners such as the municipal Disaster Management office, the SA Red Cross, MSF-Belgium, etc.

CHILD PROTECTION AND GBV

In collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF conducted a joint assessment on gender-based violence in the shelter sites. On-site recommendations and guidance on how to address protection issues were provided to site managers, site residents and the police.

In partnership with Save the Children UK, UNICEF has established child friendly spaces (CFS) in five shelter sites in Gauteng province. Save the Children UK's local partners (RAO and RCF) at sites also regularly conducted the monitoring of child protection issues. The child protection working group developed child protection protocols through Community-Based Child Protection Committees on site. Facilitators were trained in five locations in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces. Although with some delays, Save the Children UK also partnered with Cape Town Child Welfare to establish a similar CFS project in some of the CoSS' in Western Cape.

EDUCATION

In partnership with the Save the Children UK (SCF) and the Refugee Children's Project (RCP), UNICEF supports the educational and reintegration needs of school going children in both Gauteng and Western Cape Province. Basic recreational materials were distributed to children in established sites. UNICEF has procured 1200 lap desks to assist children to do their homework while in the sites. Active Learning and Leisure Libraries – South Africa (ALL-SA) in Gauteng and Grassroots Education Trust in Western Cape are supporting early childhood interventions at different sites.

UNICEF supported early childcare interventions for the large number of children under the age of 6 years in the different shelter sites. This included locally procured ECD kits targeting at least 2,250 young children. The kits contains basic play and stimulation materials and an instructional booklet with ideas for play and stimulation.

COORDINATION

The humanitarian community in South Africa supports the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) in providing humanitarian technical expertise and standards. Coordination meetings are held frequently within and among the clusters, in collaboration with the NDMC. Following is the list of identified sectors and cluster leader agencies

Sector	Sector Lead
Health	WHO
Nutrition	UNICEF
Water, Hygiene and Sanitation	UNICEF
Protection	UNHCR
Child Protection (under Protection)	UNICEF
Education	UNICEF
Shelter	UNHCR
Camp Management	UNHCR

III. REMAINING GAPS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN ACCESS TO SERVICES

At the beginning of the crisis, the Government of South Africa announced its commitment to ensure that all IDPs are fully reintegrated within their South African homes by the end of August 2008. While the situation seems to have stabilized in the shelter sites in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces, there is still lack of a clear reintegration strategy from the Government. With the exception of the Western Cape province where 30 mediators have been hired to facilitate the reintegration process, in Gauteng and Kwazulu Natal, those willing to return are being taken back to their homes with no proper reintegration plan and no adequate community preparation, raising concerns about the risk of resurgence of violence.

Different actors in the field are implementing different reintegration interventions with very limited resources. There is very little information available regarding the conditions and protection needs of those who returned to their local communities after the violence ceased. Displaced people remaining in the shelter sites are clearly still traumatized and afraid to return to the communities where the attacks took place. There are well-founded fears of discrimination, abuse and violence from their former neighbours and lack of means to re-establish their households. Parents are still reluctant to send their children back to their schools of origin because of fears for the safety of the children, both en route to and in the schools.



It is expected that reintegration will last up to 3 months since this is a more complex process and will demands close monitoring of the condition of the most vulnerable groups, including women and children.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE REINTEGRATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In line with the current situation in the remaining shelter sites and the GoSA response so far in this crisis, the following have been identified as priority areas for support to the reintegration process, for implementation duration of 10 to 12 weeks:

Child Protection and GBV

1. Monitoring rights abuses in shelter sites and upon reintegration to the communities in order to ensure compliance with safe return, particularly pertaining to women and children's protection ;
2. Supporting mediation efforts between the receiving communities and the displaced people through identification and capacity building of lead local organizations and strengthening community based mediation activities in schools, community centres, etc...

3. Linking community based child protection structures and the child protection protocols developed within the sites with provincial child protection protocols and structures;
4. Strengthening community based psychosocial support for children and adolescents through partnership with lead local organizations in each province, and developing the psychosocial networks and referral mechanisms.
5. In collaboration with the UNFPA, supporting the implementation of the recommendations of the latest GBV assessment report both in the camp context and in the communities of return. Focus will be on improving prevention and response to gender-based violence through the development and implementation of standard operational procedures, awareness raising, capacity building of service providers and strengthening referral mechanisms.
6. Capacity building and strengthening existing local service provider networks for better service delivery and better response for potential future similar emergencies.

Education

1. Monitoring and supporting reintegration of displaced school going children in Western Cape and Gauteng through partnerships with the Provincial Departments of Education and NGOs.
2. Providing support through the provincial Departments of Education and NGO partners to schools head masters and teachers on the safe reintegration of learners and specific psychosocial needs for both learners and educators to adjust to the post-emergency situation.
3. In close collaboration with provincial Departments of Education and NGO partners, continue to provide displaced school-age children with support in the areas of transport and school materials including uniforms and lap-desk for their home works
4. Through NGO partners, continue to support early childhood development and stimulation activities both in the camp context and in the communities of return.

Assessment, Monitoring and Coordination

UNICEF will continue to coordinate efforts for assessment and response in the areas of Education, Child Protection and provide technical support to the government in the areas of Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. UNICEF will continue to contribute to the clusters related field support, monitoring and evaluation support, as well as data communications support.

ACCOMPANIMENT ACTIONS THROUGH THE CLOSURE OF THE SHELTER SITES

In addition to priority activities in the reintegration process, UNICEF will also support the Government with technical support and basic service delivery in the areas of WASH, Health and Nutrition throughout the period of the shelter site closure.

Water and Environmental Sanitation

The major WASH interventions in the next three months will focus on:

1. technical support to the municipalities to improve the WASH situation in the remaining shelter sites, especially the provision of technical advice for environmental health and hygiene promotion;
2. advocacy for special arrangements for the protection of women and children, as well as the respect of cultural differences;
3. provision of hygiene kits to the displaced people

Health and Nutrition

The major Health and Nutrition interventions in the next three months will focus on:

1. supporting the provision of continuous health and nutrition information, education and communication for disease prevention and improved healthcare practices in the remaining shelter sites
2. support to health workers and volunteers for effective delivery of health services, including integrated management of childhood illnesses, SRH and GBV and nutrition services to crisis affected population
3. community-based peer counselling and support to mothers for optimal infant and young child feeding

IV. ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNED ACTION FROM AUG-OCT 2008

The humanitarian community has been active in supporting the government with technical assistance, monitoring, assessment and gaps analysis in all three provinces, yet more needs to be done in all sectors. The UNICEF response plan aims to address the current and anticipated gaps in assistance to the displaced population staying in CoSSs and other *ad hoc* shelter due to xenophobic violence around the country. The need for technical support to government is addressed as well as the need to establish comprehensive monitoring mechanisms. The duration of the project activities will be three months and target 8,556 displaced people staying in 53 shelter sites in three provinces. After this period the needs and the sites will be reassessed.

SECTORS	BUDGET (US \$)*
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	90,000
Health and nutrition	120,000
Child Protection and GBV	150,000
Education	140,000
Assessment, Monitoring and Coordination	25,000
TOTAL**	525,000

*Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and the medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use these funds to support other, under-funded emergencies.

** The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

For more information, please contact

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