

MEDIA UPDATE

South Africa Relief Update:

UNICEF set to deliver more supplies to victims of xenophobic violence

Pretoria, 28 May 2008 – UNICEF today said it plans to deliver more basic emergency supplies urgently needed by women and children affected by recent outbreaks of xenophobic violence in several of South Africa's informal settlements. The relief supplies will be distributed through several of its NGO partners working on the ground to provide assistance to the victims.

UNICEF has prepositioned for handover more than 35 early childhood kits, including toys, crayons, paper, etc., that will cater for children aged 0 – 5 years old to help meet the educational and recreational needs of some 1,000 young children affected by the violence. The child development materials will be distributed through a local partner, Active Learning and Leisure Libraries South Africa.

Help to get fearful children back in school

Meantime, at some sites UNICEF partners have reported that many child victims of the violent attacks have expressed fear of returning to school. In response, UNICEF is working with the Refugee Children's Project to identify children who are staying away from school and will help them re-enter local schools that are deemed to be safe by the authorities.

In addition, UNICEF will deliver 1,500 adult hygiene kits that include soap, toilet paper, sanitary napkins, toothpaste. Some 7,500 baby diapers will also be distributed to mothers through the South African Red Cross.

Child health concerns

UNICEF has further expressed concern that children will be made vulnerable and possibly succumb to pneumonia due to the prevailing cold and wet winter conditions in the province of

Gauteng. Another concern is the deteriorating water and sanitation conditions at the sites where the displaced are housed.

UNICEF has pledged to do its utmost to help South Africa's Department of Health and the Disaster Management Center to set up temporary clinics and to help ensure that living conditions are humane and sanitary for all the displaced persons.

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To support UNICEF's work to assist the victims of xenophobic violence in South Africa, please visit: www.unicef.org/southafrica

UNICEF is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and from HIV and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

For further media information please contact:

UNICEF South Africa:

Yvonne Duncan, Mobile: 27-82-561-3970, email: yduncan@unicef.org

Stephen Blight, Mobile: 0794994303; email: sblight@unicef.org

André Viviers, Mobile: +27 79 498 4991 email: aviviers@unicef.org