

# Change for Children

## UNICEF RESPONDS TO XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE



Amid the outbreaks of violence against foreign nationals in South Africa, UNICEF has been on the ground, providing emergency supplies and services as needed. Working with partners, UNICEF has strived to meet the needs of women and children made vulnerable by the attacks.

Starting in Johannesburg on 11 May and in Cape Town on 22 May, the xenophobic attacks by South Africans against foreign nationals have left 61 dead and thousands displaced. Most of the violence has been centered in the Gauteng and Western Cape provinces, where more than 19 thousand persons are believed to have been displaced.

*Ad hoc* shelters were set up in police stations, public buildings and churches to house those who could not return to their homes in the townships. In cooperation with other partner organizations, UNICEF undertook a series of assessments at several of the sites that had been set up to deal with the displaced, with a view to offering a better and more targeted humanitarian response to the needs of the traumatized populations.

training and psychosocial support. These are currently operational, and the Refugee Children's Project will be responsible for these areas and the monitoring thereof.



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UNICEF is assisting the South African Government's Disaster Management team to address gaps in its emergency response that may be due to a lack of capacity that can delay relief services to the needy. UNICEF has drawn on its regional and global expertise in emergencies to assist the Government in critical areas of need that have arisen during the emergencies, including child protection and adherence to humanitarian principles.

In collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF is working with the protection cluster—a network of South African governmental and civil society partners—to establish child-friendly spaces at each of the shelter sites. Each site is to include a safe, supervised place for children to play; structured activities for different age groups; educational activities; early childhood development services; life-skills

The United Nations has taken a sector approach to the disaster and presented a coordinated and organized team response in line with the humanitarian agenda. UNICEF is the cluster leader in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Nutrition, Education and Child Protection. UNICEF and Oxfam have developed an environmental health strategy and recommendations to improve the situation at the sites. Additionally, UNICEF has conducted an assessment of WASH needs in the Musina area and has deployed portable toilets to meet the needs of increased populations in this district.

UNICEF needs your support to provide essential items to care for those who are most vulnerable from baby clothing to blankets and health and hygiene kits. Many displaced people have been severely traumatized and UNICEF looks to secondary needs such as psychological care and support, and educational requirements for children who have been displaced.



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