

District Task Team Meeting

12 September 2008

Meeting Notes

I. HRC Meeting Report Back

- a. Future Civil Society Thursday meetings- postpone meetings with government as nothing has come from them, they are more information-based than action-oriented
- b. Government not fulfilling promises, but when we need to talk to government, we will request meeting, no need for standing meetings
- c. Only a few civil society orgs who attended and there were no refugees
- d. Rapid Assessment report to go out on Tuesday
 - i. Felt it was important to include all of civil society and displaced people to discuss the situation
 - ii. Then can assess how to move forward as a group.
 - iii. Goal to have report completed by Wednesday

II. Update on DHA proposed process

- a. Meeting with Deputy Director General of Home Affairs on Monday afternoon
 - i. Should be able to get all the answers
 - ii. Most “applications” in Gauteng were rejected in “rapid assessment” but in talks with PASSOP the DDG assured that the process was fair and run fine
 - iii. Civil society has serious concerns about the process not being done fairly here (done like in Gauteng)
 1. E.g. in Gauteng, there was a mobile processing unit but no mobile appeals unit.
 - iv. The process was meant to start today; but because of the delay in camp consolidation the process has been postponed to next week.
 - v. The number of people rejected for refugee status is high in every country, but 98% is seen as excessive.
 - vi. Supposedly the same team that went camp to camp in Gauteng may be coming here.
 - vii. After meeting on Monday, then civil society groups can decide whether or not to take legal action about the process
 1. We can make a case that they will have to bring a mobile appeals clinic
 - viii. Amnesty International and UNHCR have condemned this process so we must send a letter to UNHCR about the meeting
 - ix. Zimbabweans are considered economic migrants and not refugees by South Africa, which is one reason why there was such a high rejection rate in Gauteng
 1. Must raise this classification with UNHCR to change this to get asylum seeker status

- x. Refugees would like to have monitors at the process and so that HRC and other civil society will be there
- xi. **Refugees also want to know what CS will do if the process is like Gauteng?**
- xii. **Refugees would like to know what this process means for their ID cards which were issued and expire 1 Jan? Will there still only be 30 days to appeal, etc?**
- xiii. There are serious concerns about the lack of training of the DHA officials

III. Update on conditions since consolidation and storms

- a. Bluewaters C (#2)
 - i. No milk or food for children
 - ii. No shower
 - iii. Toilets haven't been cleaned
 - iv. Kitchen is too small
 - v. Tents given are not suitable for the weather and the rain is penetrating
 - vi. There is not enough power/electricity
 - vii. There is not food from the government for people who are fasting – donated by civil society but it is not enough
- b. Bluewaters 1
 - i. Conditions are the same as above
 - ii. The showers are horrible
 - iii. Some of the tents are down
 - iv. The electricity is not right – off and on in the night
 - v. It's been a month since there has been supplies for babies (nappies, milk, formula, etc)
 - vi. Fasting – no morning meal and the evening meal comes at 6:30 pm.
 - vii. Mothers will be protesting about the poor service delivery
 - 1. Ask the staff and law enforcement to leave because the conditions of the camp have not improved in a month
 - 2. 8 or 8:30 tomorrow morning
 - 3. Scott will help arrange some media
 - viii. **No clinic in Bluewaters for health care**
- c. Harmony Park
 - i. People are still moving in but there are not enough tents to accommodate
 - 1. Especially for families
 - ii. We are lacking baby food
 - 1. Today the government were giving “packets” with nappies, a little formula but it is not enough
 - iii. Lack of information because there is never any sense of what the next steps are

- iv. People still sleeping on the floor because there are no more mattresses.
 - v. Communication
 - 1. Lack of information is greatly straining the camp
 - 2. Issues amongst leaders
 - 3. Arrest of John (bail until 16 October)—assault, intimidation, damage to property
 - vi. Offered to lay charges against police, but did not want to
 - 1. Charged with assault, intimidation,
 - vii. Health:
 - 1. TB/HIV patient is back in camp: he's been saying that he wants to go home to Mozambique
 - a. He went to clinic but was told he could not access ARVs until Friday (next)
 - viii. Other
 - 1. Reintegration celebration
 - 2. Postponement of meeting with site management
 - a. Problems with Cecil?
 - b. Many residents are in university and have trouble studying
 - 3. Need proper communication
 - 4. o the clinic but was told that he couldn't start until next Friday
 - 5. Hope and Ali, who speaks Portuguese (TAC) will follow up and go to see if he truly wants to be repatriated and then will proceed with help
 - ix. Reintegration celebrations??
 - x. Camp managers don't respect the refugees, he's not receptive, postponed meeting with leadership for the past 3 days
 - 1. He doesn't respond timely
 - xi. CLINIC with belligerent doctor , long queues, not a lot of time spent treating people
- d. Youngsfield
- i. Physical structure hasn't changed much, mostly living in large tent:
 - ii. Started reintegration interviews ("social workers" and CTRC)
 - iii. VOC is apparently up and running but is not functioning
 - 1. Lots of people there "running" the camp
 - iv. Gave out registration cards, very arbitrary, based on a list that are fairly good, done by leadership et al but there are
 - v. 6:30 pm SANZAF comes once with morning meal included and they are catering to Ramadan
 - vi. Health is improving according to nurse
 - 1. Nutrition is better because they
- e. Muizenberg House
- i. 36
 - ii. Some children are going to school now because of problem of transport and now parents are

- iii. Nearby clinic so they can go
- iv. Currently gets food from Red Cross to give them a nighttime meal around 5 or 6 pm
- v. Deadline to leave has been extended until end of September – most are looking for accommodation around the
- f. Chrysallis
 - i. 25 left, some have been repatriated and there are some waiting to get fetched by IOM (week or two)
- g. Serepta
 - i. Was supposed to be staying open – city land that was newly acquired land for them to stay: Province to pay for materials for houses
 - 1. Services still being provided but there are difficulty in getting Province to sign check blah blah

IV. Repatriation

- a. Harmony Park: UNHCR (name and date) offered 50 US dollars for those who want to repatriate to Zim
 - i. Mercy to follow up with details.... Get form
- b. Rondebosch 2 people who want to repatriate to Kinshasa but they were told that they can't be helped – Hope to follow up with Viv Anstey to maybe include them in the
- c. If there are anyone in the camp who has decided VOLUNTARILY to

V. Reintegration

- a. Youngsfield returnee from Khay because his shop was completely looted
- b. Somali leader meeting with Zana – agreed that they would unconditionally withdraw the letter
 - i. NAFCOC, PASSOP, Somali – denied they had an
 - ii. 2 shops looted at Nelson Mandela Park last night
 - iii. Chairperson who wrote letter and another were arrested, one still in hiding
- c. In Bluewaters I there was a facilitator with a file for people to write their names and where they want to go... waiting for UNICEF and government to help with assistance
 - i. About 30 who want to reintegrate

VI. Education

- a. Update on Meeting with MEC
 - i. Last Saturday
 - ii. Made a few reassurances with parents
 - 1. Going to write a letter to schools in the area
 - a. Under no circumstances should children from the sites have to pay school fees
 - b. There are forms that the principle needs to provide regarding waiving school fees

- c. letter still has not been written
- b. LIST of learners
 - i. MEC will evaluate the lists and see what he can do to get them into schools in the area
- c. In Youngsfield he should have no problem getting children into school in the Wynberg area.
- d. He could not help at all regarding adult learners as it is outside of his sphere.
- e. Containers/schools on site were not an adequate solution and would not be feasible to certify their studies there.

VII. Social Justice Coalition

- a. Who and what is SJC
 - i. Saturday meetings at 2:30 pm in ALP
 - ii. Salt River every Wednesday lectures
 - iii. 23 September, 6 pm: Public meeting on Safety and Security in Khayelitsha Site B Hall
 - iv. We believe that South Africa belongs to everyone that lives in it – that's the aim of SJC
 - 1. We would like to invite you (refugee leadership and all IDPs in camps) to include

VIII. Communication and Press

- a. Newsletter #7 – take!
- b. Upcoming newsletter

IX. Future of meeting

- a. Rotation of chair of the Friday meetings
 - i. **SONKE**
 - ii. **JRLC**
 - iii. **PASSOP**
 - iv. **etc**