

District Task Team Meeting

19 July 2008

Agenda

CHAIR: M.M HIRSI

I. Welcome by ZA

Introduction of meeting rules:

- Time: 12 – 14:00
- No Repetition/ Add
- Concise and Brief

II. Site Updates

a. Camps

Soetwater

Things are getting worse, no improvements at all - continuation of dire conditions with regards to food, electricity, sanitation. With regards to healthcare, refugees were informed that five people needed to be sick in order to call an ambulance.

Harmony park

There are problems, especially with regards to management. People are fighting and demonstrating because needs are not being met. The police arrived and Nico, the camp manager, showed the refugee leaders a notice saying that no volunteers were allowed and when the leaders complained to the coordinator, he did not want to see them. There is no specific leadership at Harmony Park and the refugee leaders want to know who is in charge of running the camp.

ZA suggested that a statement and complaint be issued to the HCR that the manager be removed.

Site assessors noted that there was a substantial difference in the assessments and the actual conditions. Inaccuracy in report- conditions are worse than noted. People are being pushed into Harmony Park - 36 adults and 4 children arrived from the SaltRiver Mosque and the management has been asked not to accept any more people.

Chrysalis

People have stolen food . Complaint to be identified.

Youngsfield

There was supposed to be an important meeting which did not happen. Conditions are the same. no improvement of food. Government is saying that they are spending R21/2 per person, not only including food (note: other things included).

People have been refused entrance. In the case of Rasheed, a refugee who was stabbed last week after trying to go home to Gugulethu . He was taken to Youngsfield and was refused entrance. **FH suggested that the HRC and Black Sash and PASSOP be written to force them to attend sat meetings as they are our safety reps and are not dealing with the situation and this is their job. The following questions must be asked- are they attending safety meetings, are they dealing with the situation, do other volunteers want to sit on the safety forums and is it correct to review our safety rep. Safety forum has not met once in the last month according to HRC. Dr Hildegarde Fast (HGF) said that there have been no new instances (lies) in the last month. Rasheed is going to be taken to Caledon Square Police Station after the meeting to report incident.**

The following concerns were noted:

1. Things are only being discussed at the meetings but no action is being taken.
 2. The UN is paying the SA government money but the refugees are not seeing it.
 3. There are no outcomes. Situations are not being improved.
 4. Donations are not being given donations that are being sent in- a supposed volunteer is locking things away.
 5. there have been many other instances of xenophobic violence
- People are not even allowed to go to locations and explain their feelings.

b. Community halls

People are allegedly being picked up by TAC and taken to the halls where there is no place available.

Tableview

There are poor sleeping arrangements; people are sleeping on the floor with no blankets/mattresses. **Medical treatment as well as food and nappies are needed for children.**

S. Suburbs

All Saints church is closing and they are helping with integration but people aren't willing to rent to people.

N. suburbs

Methodist church in Elsie's River is closing soon. No supplies, part of the church asked for cash from TAC. 31 people are currently staying there.

Parrow

Same problem, people aren't willing to help people reintegrate- scared to rent to refugees as their homes may be built down.

Tennyson mosque- people reintegrated to harmony park. Where are the other people, because not all 250 relocated to HP?

Khayelitsha

Mahlangu hall

People moved from Desmond Tutu to Mahlangu Hall. Hall is very small and conditions worse. Security guards sprayed teargas in an incident that occurred. Electricity is being switched off, there is no hot water. Complaints are not being heard, residents are told to go sleep. They were told that they are being moved on the 25th July- they have no other place to go to. **FH said to refer to false notice.** TAC was thanked for providing transport to medical resources (?).

Bothasig

Everything is under control except the issue of medical supplies. The quality of food is mainly pap and potatoes- no variety. Refugees asked for updates on rights of refugees.

Richwood

No blankets and food. They closed up the kitchen and let people go without food. There is no transport to take people to the hospital.

Summergreens

Ambulance is available to take people to the hospital but no way to get them back, but they don't have money to get themselves back. There are no showers, and there won't be enough food for two weeks. There is nothing for babies nor toiletries for whom. Transport for children to school not provided.

Caledon Square

People are leaving accommodation. Only other option are the street as there is an interdict at other places not to take more people into halls and camps.

ZA noted that there must be a protest action this week.

Mitchells Plain

There were notifications last week that said that people that were not there were not allowed to register. People in Khayelitsha had shops that were taken by police officers who intimidated them. **ZA said to contact commission of Mitchells plain, Jeremy Veery, to help us. FH said that TAC and ALP will write a letter to ICC to complain about the officers that took over the shops.**

Knysna

Red Cross was only there and the mayor visited but no one helped so they relocated to Soetwater.

c. Organizations

PHM

Noted that TAC's lack of resources will result in disaster.

d. Power struggles (City v Provincial Government)

III. Site Assessment/Data Collection Update

a. JOC(see dave's email)

Dave presented to the JOC

They have indicated that if government takes over totally there will be resentment.

They have logged complaints...

JOC has only noticed that the only problem is

Dave has compiled a report

b. Norms and Standards

JOC only says that tents are a problem.

IV. Political and Legal Update

a. False Notice/Interdict

Possibly fabricated by xenophobic community leaders. Dr. HGF said there is no interdict from government forcing people to leave. FH said that if an interdict is shown, court action can be taken to get it squashed. It must be found out who is starting these rumours.

b. Dismissal of Premier

It was suggested that refugee leaders have a meeting with everyone that could be the possible premier.

c. Legal action

Enough information to go into court and past two weeks statements have been taken.

d. Premier Meeting (21 July 2008)

Sam Pearce has said that there will be no meeting with the premier. Patrick Chawuke has apparently dismissed it as a waste of time as the premier is on his way out. The letter must still go to the premier's office with a copy of the report. FH has said that a meeting must be demanded with all people shortlisted to be premier and senior officials.

e. Statement Taking

Statement taking has been taking place over the last two weeks in preparation for court action.

f. Education Access

WC has been the only province that has received a letter in response. TAC aims to write a letter to them. **Possible site of protest- Western Cape Education Department.**

g. Site Access

Only some people are allowed access to the sites and have been issued with letters allowing them with access. Only people affiliated with NGOs are allowed. Sam aims to compile a list of refugee leaders and their contact numbers.

h. Registration DHA (plan)

2 letters were sent out. No response, no action. TAC has written to the home affairs and are waiting for a response. **Protest action has been planned for home affairs.** Refugee leaders have noted that there is no clear outline of the process. People are scared that because people are being fingerprinted and they are scared that people will identify them and intimidate them. FH has noted that the refugee status card does not replace the two year permit. Home affairs has set a deadline to register by the end of July

i. Reintegration and the UN

The UN needs to be sent another letter to ask them for money, but they have refused. The CT refugee centre has raised money for starter packs. DR. HGF has said that the government does not give money.

Cards allow people six months in South Africa without documentation. After 6 months, people are not allowed to be deported.

j. Rifle Range Situation

MSF has not even been allowed in. the people are locked in, solidarity must be offered. People have been forced to register. Solidarity must be acknowledged with those in Rifle Range.

V. Communication and Press

a. Next press conference

Rasheed must speak

Decide on a date: Tuesday

b. Newsletter 2

Everyone to take one.

c. Government Communication (Notice)

There is an urgent need for government communication and HGF has said that a newsletter must be issued.

d. legal workshop

Someone must be flown in from Johannesburg, hoped to be in next week .

VI. Humanitarian Relief

a. Limited Resources

TAC will be running out of money as well as workers to help out. Pressure will still be put on people still and advocacy work will continue. Proper interventions need to be put into place in order to accommodate the worsening situations.

GLI noted that Advocacy work is not necessarily visible to everyone and is a very lengthy process of pressure on government to act. TAC will not withdraw people.

VII. Other

a. An extra hour can be added to the meetings if necessary.

b. Urgent accommodation for Rasheed that has been assaulted.

c. Forced removals:

People were removed from Desmond Tutu and want to know who to turn to as they were intimidated when they were forced. Each time they are losing their items.

Eviction team to be formed- names to be given at the end of the meeting. SMSes to be sent if people come and force others to be moved, Tracey suggested that people be mobilized to come and help stop removals.

FH will provide a list of things to be done in case of a threat of eviction. If people arrive with guns and weapons, Sam suggested that people find a location in their camp and everyone sit and refuse to leave; SMS Sam who will alert the press and everyone else will go to the camp and protest along with them. FH will alert the lawyers who will go to the camp sites

d. **FBO's:** have been asking people to leave – they cannot be forced to provide shelter as people are not allowed to live in the places.

VIV will organize a meeting with all the FBOs that are currently helping people and figure out a strategy to go forward and find another option.

Government is sending people to FBOs- not camps.

e. Universal Evangelical Church and Plumstead is being left off lists

f. Protest action

Half outside home affairs, department of education, government and press conference (TUESDAY).

Buses will be provided at the different camps. GLI suggested that only a few people can be provided with transport so the refugee leadership must help.

g. IOM/UN/Government: they will not be giving money. CTRC is giving starter packs but only have limited funds. UN is not giving money
IOM (International Organization for Migration) has said that they have money for 500 people to be repatriated. They won't help people from DRC, ZIM or Somalia. Gilad asked for people to write down incidents with names, actions, etc if you want the TACs help with advocacy work.

H. Someone needs to write to the CTRC on how many people they have helped, how much money are available, etc (Antoinette)

i. ALP will write to the members of the safety forum

j. The Reverend B in Khayelitsha has been involved with incident of teargas. Someone to write down the exact complaint against him.

k. Memorandum for protest action to be compiled

DRL offering their offices for people to write down incidents, file complaints, etc
47 Commercial Street
Scalibrini

l. Judith to be called to get a bigger room for the HRC so that many people can come to the Tuesday meeting.

m. HOME AFFAIRS ISSUE TO BE SORTED OUT THIS WEEK!