

SOUTH AFRICA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

13-19 May 2015

KEY FIGURES

9,000

Estimated people initially displaced in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces during the height of the violence.

890

remain displaced in Chatsworth site near Durban as of 13 May 2015

7

Official government death toll

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 39 people who were displaced in Greytown have left the site to return to communities after receiving the reintegration package.
- Over 195 persons have registered for the reintegration package from Chatsworth shelter.
- On 17th May the government announced it will continue with “Operation Fiela” which it says is aimed at rooting out criminal activity in communities and not specifically targeting foreigners.



Population affected

Estimated people remain displaced in Chatsworth site near Durban **890**

9,000 estimated displaced at height of the violence **9,000**

OVERVIEW

- The numbers of people remaining in Chatsworth as of 11 May is at 890 persons. The site is open, so it is difficult to determine the exact numbers of who remains there overnight and who goes there during the day.
- There were reports of one Ethiopian being badly burned after his shop located outside Durban was petrol bombed on Friday. He remains in critical condition in hospital.
- The authorities have been organizing community meetings which are being monitored by UNHCR's partner, Displaced Migrant Persons Support Programme (DMPSP).
- The Community and Safety Liaison department within eThekweni Municipality has informed that they are meeting with local taxi associations. The taxi associations have agreed to join the campaign against xenophobia and will include "No to Xenophobia" messages on their vehicles.
- The government announced on Sunday that over 3,900 people have been arrested in response to the xenophobic attacks including 1,650 undocumented migrants who were identified during "Operation Fiela."

UN/ UNHCR/PARTNERS RESPONSE

Coordination

- On 18 May, the UN Task Team met to review its response. With efforts now being made toward reintegration and the need for additional funds for reintegration packages, UN agencies were requested to provide support in this regard.

UNHCR Response

- As of 18 May, the lay counselors supported by UNHCR's partner Refugee Social Services (RSS) have provided psychosocial support to 687 persons. An additional 400 persons of concern have been seen by the RSS counselors either individually or as a group.
- Over 195 persons comprised of 133 families and 62 individuals have registered for the reintegration package from the Chatsworth shelter. Another 42 individuals who were located in a separate private shelter (Venture Africa) in Durban have expressed interest in the reintegration packages. RSS is in the process of remitting payments and it is expected that families will leave the shelter from 20th May onwards.
- In addition to the international staff member deployed to Durban, UNHCR has sent a new support team (one international, two national deployed from Pretoria) following the return of the last team on 14 May.