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Implemented by:



Preventing conflict – South Africa

Integrating people, preventing violence

Corrugated iron huts without electricity and water, filthy toilets, young people without any education, work or hope: Khayelitsha, a poor district on the outskirts of Cape Town is marked by violence and a lack of prospects. The social and economic consequences of apartheid are clear for all to see. The former township for the black population was neglected for years, and crime there is rife. On behalf of the German federal government, KfW Development Bank is supporting the Cape Town administration in opening up new prospects for these people and continuing to suppress violence. This successful programme is now being implemented in other provinces too.

Context

In Cape Flats, on the other side of Cape Town's world-famous Table Mountain, almost two million people live in squalid townships. As in the rest of the country, violence is part of everyday life there. Statistically, South Africa had 34.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010; Germany had one. The number is even more dramatic in Cape Flats: here there are 300 murders per year, nine times the national average. Robberies, burglaries and rapes, thefts and household violence are almost routine, with women and children frequently the victims.

Khayelitsha is an example of the grim living conditions there: in the local language of IsiXhosa, the name means "new home". Built during apartheid as a township for 250,000 people at most, the influx of people rose so dramatically that today it is home for

roughly one million inhabitants. The majority live in shacks they have built themselves from corrugated iron, wood and cardboard. They live without water and electricity, and without sanitation facilities.

Unemployment is at overwhelming levels. It is assumed that somewhere between 50 and 80 percent of the people in the townships do not have a regular job. Young people in particular barely have a chance of finding a job because of their lack of school education.

Project approach

The people of Khayelitsha are now trying to regain their city bit by bit with the help of the Cape Town administra-

Project name	Preventing violence in poor urban districts
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/region	South Africa/ Cape Province
Lead executing agency	Cape Town Municipal Administration





A new playground for boys and girls, with a new neighbourhood centre in the background. Source: KfW / Jens Steingässer

tion and financial support from Germany through KfW Development Bank. Safe node areas are creating "islands" with safe connecting routes that are slowly growing and networking together.

There is no violence here; they provide an opportunity to get everyday business done without fear. The safe nodes accommodate schools, libraries, play areas and sports facilities, shops, tradespeople, theatres and restaurants, health and social centres as well as a police station.

At the suggestion of our South African partners, a local centre run by Simelela has also been financed in Khayelitsha to help victims of violence. Simelela is a partnership between Doctors without Borders, the province, the state and "Rape Crisis", an NGO, and functions as an information and consultation point. The services offered range from medical examinations and trauma work to issuing the "morning-after pill" and providing support with legal issues and complaints to police. Simelela works closely together with schools and the citizen watch groups organised as part of the programme. The teams patrolling in the safe node areas are trained to support women after a rape and refer to the competent bodies as quickly as possible.

Members of the communities are trained to take on leadership and coordination roles in their districts and the population play an active role in shaping their neighbourhood. The representation of women on relevant bodies en-sures high overall female participation in the specific planning and implementation phases for the individual measures.

Further anti-violence programmes are now being implemented in the provinces of Western and Eastern Cape as well as in Gauteng province, using the programme in Khayelitsha as a model.

Helenvale is a township in Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape). The local population have to combat problems such as drug dealing, robberies and household violence. Measures aimed at preventing violence are also expected to help create a liveable environment in Helenvale. The German Federal Government has committed EUR 10 million for this purpose. A total of EUR 5 million will be made available for the project in the Western Cape, where measures are currently being implemented in townships in the cities of Paarl and Villiersdorp, as well as the same amount for the project in Tshwane (Gauteng province) for the Mamelodi township found there. This is set to begin shortly.

Impact

The *safe nodes* are created where the situation is most dangerous, where robberies and rapes are commonplace, and not without success: in Harare, part of Khayelitsha where the programme was also implemented, the murder rate fell by roughly 53 % between 2006 and 2014.

Surveys also show that the local population's satisfaction with public services and infrastructure in the supported areas of Khayelitsha is higher than in other parts, and by comparison the people there are less likely to become victims of violence. The general sense of security has also risen.



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