

Action!

The grown ups who look after children in the camp will get together and discuss what you said in the report. They will put together a plan of action to make children's lives in the camp better. Remember to ask about this plan.

Children: Would you like to help design some posters to be put up around the camp? Get together and talk about what messages would be most useful in addressing the problems and solutions that are in this report. Write or draw some of your ideas and discuss your suggestions with other children, your parents, members of the refugee community and the people who work in the camp.

Children have rights!

It is important to remember that children have rights. Have you heard of the Convention on the Rights of the Child? This is an international agreement to make sure that certain rights are protected. Almost all of the countries in the world have agreed to create laws that protect the children's rights that are written in the Convention. Botswana has signed this convention. This means the government has promised to make sure children in Botswana are safe from all types of violence.

It was good that you told us about the problems in your camp because now the grown ups know what is needed to make sure you get your rights.

You told us about your lives!



A report-back to children
who took part in the participatory assessment
on children's views of violence

Dukwi Refugee Camp, Botswana

December 2005



Dear children

Do you remember that some people from UNHCR, Botswana Red Cross Society and the Botswana Council of Churches organised art workshops and had discussions with you? Do you remember us talking together about your lives and the problems you face in the camp?

What you told us was very interesting and very useful too! We gave the report to many different people in Botswana and at the camp. These people were very interested in the report. The staff at the camp and the UNHCR office have talked about things they could do to solve some of these problems. Although findings solutions may take some time, they will be working on making the camp safer for you. It is good that now they know what happens to children in your place.

Well done and thank you for telling your stories!

The report we wrote is very long because you told us lots of things so we have written a very short report here for you to read.

What the report says about problems children face in your area

- Many girls are afraid of the men who call out to them asking for sex. Often these men are drunk and chase girls, and sometimes they even rape girls.
- Some parents fight at home when grown ups get drunk. Sometimes women and children get beaten and chased from their homes.
- Some girls are selling sex for money. Older men offer money or goods to young girls for sex.
- Young girls are sometimes forced by their parents to get married. Parents get money from the man.
- Girls are sometimes not allowed to use the sports grounds. Girls and women get chased from the community hall when they want to watch TV and the men are watching soccer.
- Children who live without parents in the camp have problems. Girls could be raped and boys say they feel very alone.
- The long walk to the secondary school is a problem and so is corporal punishment at school.



How you protect yourselves

- Some of you, especially the younger ones, do not think that children can do much to keep themselves safe.
- You did mention, though, that you never walk around the camp alone or at night.
- You also talked about reporting bad things to the social workers.
- You learn some things at school in life skills that can keep you safe.



These are some suggestions you made for making things better for children in the camp

- There should be fair use of the television in the community hall, so girls and women can watch the programmes they want.
- Children need recreational activities after school.
- Children also need counselling.
- A youth centre would be a nice thing for children and young people in the camp.
- There needs to be an interpreter at the police station.
- People get drunk and fight because they have nothing to do. To solve this problem there have to be different activities so people don't just drink.
- Under age drinking must be stopped and there needs to be more security at the drinking places.
- Unaccompanied and separated children should have a special programme to look after them.
- Teachers must not beat children but find other forms of punishment.
- Older people need to be educated that it is wrong to sleep with a young girl.
- Parents need to be educated that it is against the law to force a young girl to marry.

