

PROJECT SUMMARY

STRENGTHENING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS IN INNER CITY JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

The Population Council conducted a needs assessment in 2008 in the Inner City of Johannesburg (incorporating Hillbrow, Berea, and Yeoville). This area has a large population of cross-border migrants who move here, mainly because the area provides easy access to economic resources and low-cost and unrestricted/unregulated housing that offers anonymity, flexibility, and convenience.

To investigate some of the issues affecting migrant communities in Johannesburg's Inner City, we used both qualitative and quantitative

methods to explore their needs, health-seeking behavior, capabilities, social networking, and coping strategies. Our goal was to understand these experiences and challenges from the migrants' perspective, in order to develop appropriate interventions to meet the needs of this population.

The findings from this assessment generated recommendations for advocacy with various government sectors. Completion of the study also led to a follow-on grant from the original funders to enable the Population Council to strengthen advocacy initiatives with various government sectors and to strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations working in the area.

In this second phase of work, the Council will implement a two-year intervention project from July 2009 to July 2011. This will be achieved through provision of technical assistance and small grants to grassroots organizations. The project will be implemented in partnership with the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA); this organization has extensive field experience working with migrant populations in South Africa. Our goal is to improve the ability of social networks and grassroots organizations



Migrant woman and child housed at the central Methodist church in the Inner City of Johannesburg

to assist women and children in migrant communities by reducing their vulnerability to the challenges they face, increasing their access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services, and building tolerance, respect, cooperation, and understanding among community members regardless of nationality or migrant status.

Our focus will be on the following objectives:

1. Provide financial assistance through small grants to existing organizations to promote sustainable programs dealing with vulnerable populations.
2. Provide training to enhance the capacity of organizations serving migrant populations.
3. Engage in advocacy to inform migrant communities about how to access their rights, and to inform stakeholders about ways to improve access to basic services.
4. Assess the impact of the intervention on access to services and information and on improved capacity among community-based service providers in reaching their target beneficiaries.



Migrant women and children housed at the central Methodist church in the Inner City of Johannesburg

Collectively, our objective is to collaborate with other similar organizations to assist the migrant communities with basic needs through advocacy services and organizational strengthening.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESEARCH CONCERNING
MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN JOHANNESBURG,
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