

TRAIL

2. Harare egrams 5350/05 and 5729/05 reported operation "restore order" in Harare. It continued unabated over the weekend and is spreading across the country to most urban and peri urban areas. IOM now have confirmed data on 29 areas. Isolated pockets of resistance have been swiftly squashed by armed police using teargas. Only in Bulawayo have they met with any serious resistance.  
  
Latest estimates suggest 10-15,000 in Bulawayo also made homeless. Many licensed traders in these towns have also had their stalls destroyed and there are well attested reports that police are appropriating goods or destroying them.
3. The social and economic implications of the evictions are profound. Already two schools in high density areas have shut and most schools in affected areas are reporting 50% attendance or less. Clinics, orphanages and home based care programmes have either been destroyed or had their clientele dispersed. The seriously ill, disabled, elderly and substantial numbers of children have not avoided being victims of the programme. Another consequence has been the disruption of DFID's HIV/AIDS programme. 80% of "tuck shops", the main outlet for condoms, have been destroyed in Harare high density areas. Many seriously ill with AIDS are living in the open streets amidst the rubble, and a number of women are also giving birth in the streets.
4. The UN assess that four main groups have been affected: street vendors and artisans in the city working in the informal economy, people living in allegedly unlicensed property, illegal immigrants and asylum seekers and refugees living in camps. Detailed figures of the scale of the problem are not available but estimates indicate that some 30-32,000 households have been affected approximately 160,000 -200,000 people. A recent development is that those seeking shelter with families in rural areas are being turned back on arrival unless they have a letter of authority from their Zanu(PF) District Chairman and a party card. We have had reports that family and friends in the urban areas who have given shelter to those whose homes have been destroyed, have now been warned that no more than five people will be permitted to live in their accommodation. Landlords and transport owners have taken advantage of people's plight and are charging extortionate rates for accommodation and to transport victim's belongings.