



Vuwani Report

 NATIONAL
EDUCATION
COLLABORATION
TRUST





“ Active citizenry and social activism is necessary for democracy and development to flourish.

The state cannot merely act on behalf of the people – it has to act with the people, working together with other institutions to provide opportunities for the advancement of all communities. ”

National Development Plan





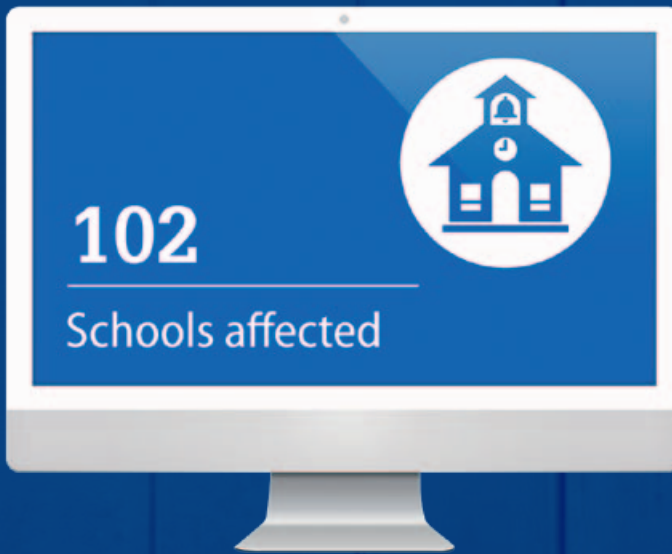
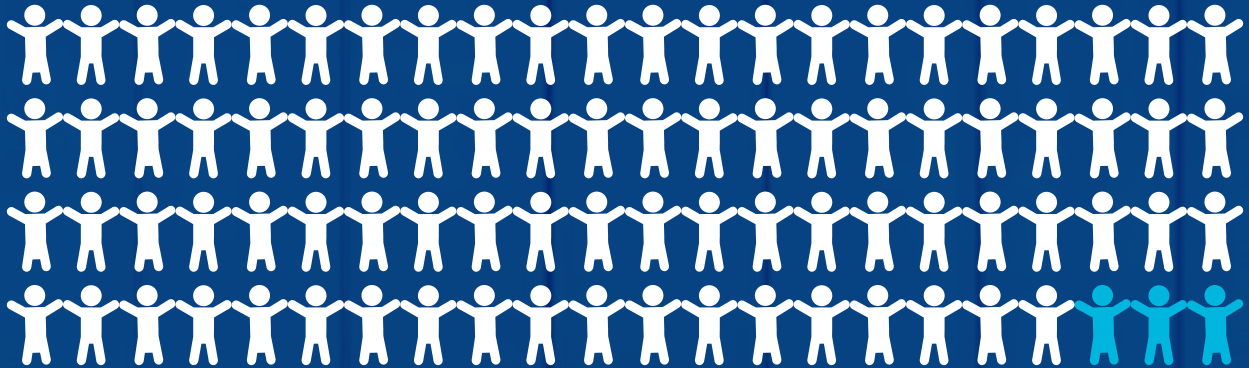
What Happened

In May 2016 community protests led to the disruption of teaching and learning in Vuwani.

42 834

Learners affected

 = 500




187

Classrooms left
unusable





Stakeholder Collaboration

The NECT District Steering Committee convened a series of stakeholder engagements involving labour, SGB associations, government, learners, traditional leaders and pastors to find practical ways of getting Vuwani schools back on track.

Call on South Africans

Whilst measures were taken to address the root cause of the protests between Government and community structures, the NECT and its partners; Section 27, the Helen Suzman Foundation, Kagiso Trust and BEFA, issued a call for South Africans to show solidarity with the affected learners and help get schooling in Vuwani back on track.

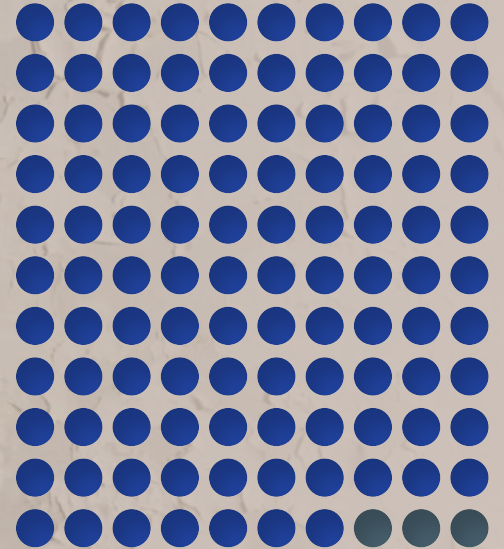


Once the dust had settled, the district and school principals took stock of the extent of the damage caused and compiled a list of urgent school needs. The schools needs varied from classroom and office equipment such as chalkboards, tables and chairs, to the most basic needs which included pens, pencils and school books.



R10.7M

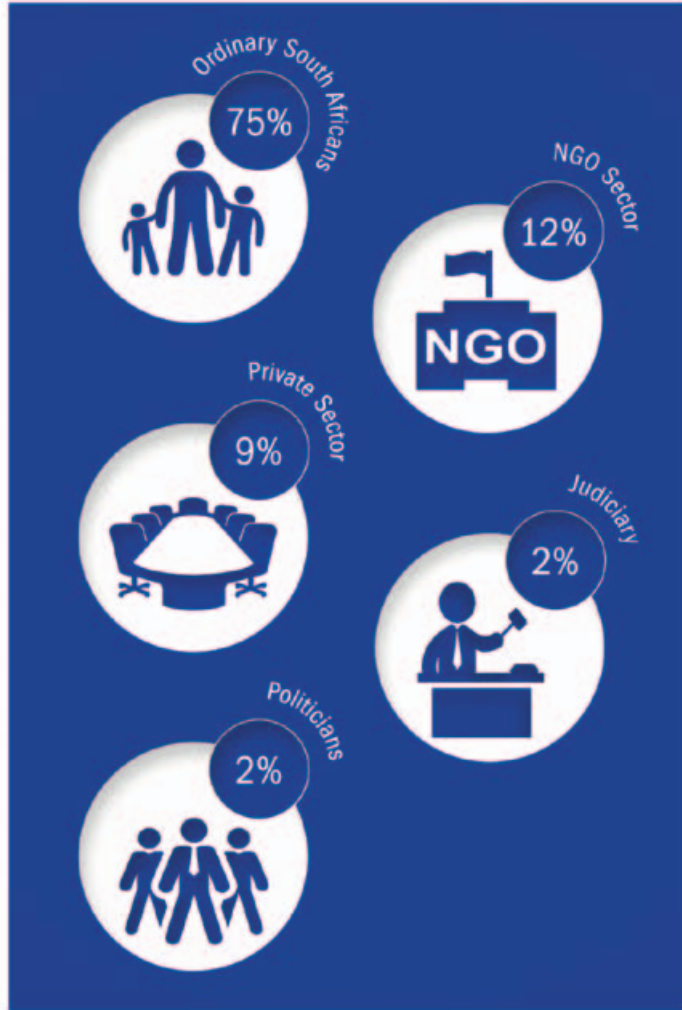
Total value of pledges received



● = 10 000

These proportions relate to the number of pledges received and not the Rand value.

Pledges received were both in cash and in-kind, with ordinary South Africans contributing to the bulk of pledges received.



A black and white photograph of three young children in school uniforms. They are smiling and playfully covering their eyes with their hands. The child on the right has 'DIKUBI P.SCHO.' printed on their uniform. A blue text box is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

The Call Answered

Whilst there was much debate on whether or not communities that destroy their own property should be assisted, individuals, corporates and civil society responded to the call and offered a helping hand to the people of Vuwani.



Distribution

No distribution of donations was made until the situation on the ground was stable.

A special task team consisting of the Department of Basic Education, the Limpopo Provincial Department of Education and the NECT coordinated the provision of the most urgent supplies to three Grade 12 learning camps held in the July school holidays.

All in-kind donations and materials purchased with cash donations were redistributed to the schools of Vuwani at the conclusion of the camp.



1 985

Grade 12 beneficiaries



Of in-kind donations
distributed to the camps

18%

Of Cash donations
spent on the camps

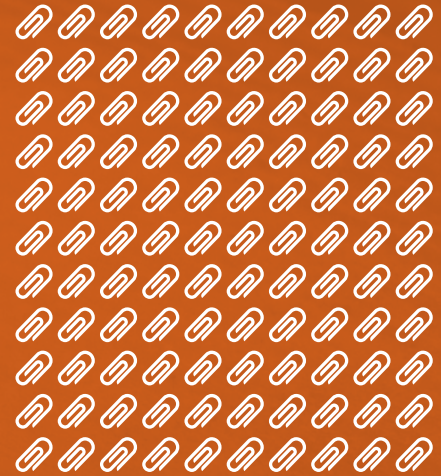


9.6M

Worth of classroom
equipment distributed



 = 10 000



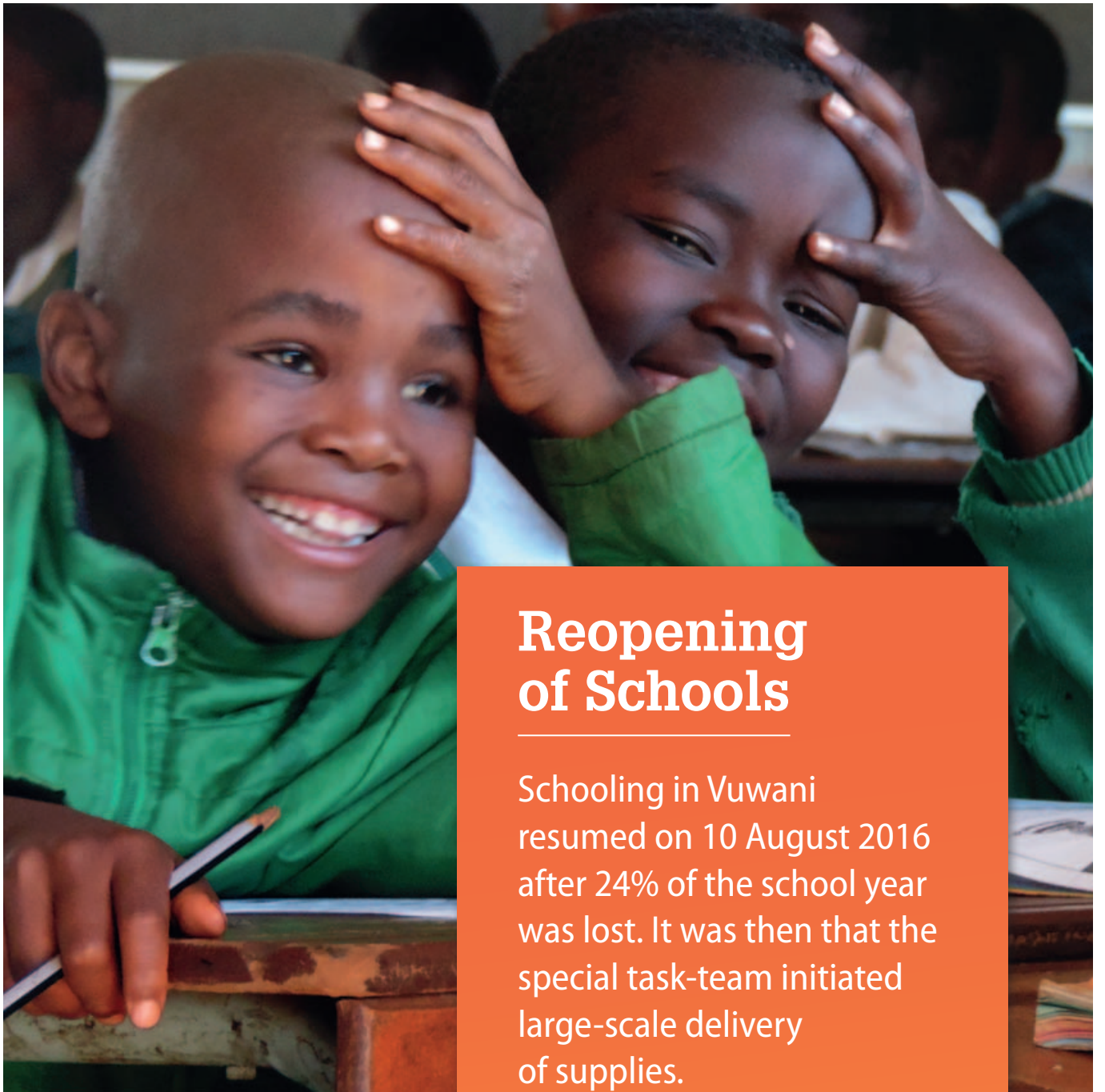
1.1M

Worth of office
equipment distributed



Materials distributed
by the DBE

- 74 mobile classrooms
- broadcasting sets (large screen television, satellite dish, lap top, decoder, external hard drive with content, shelving, extension cord and locks)



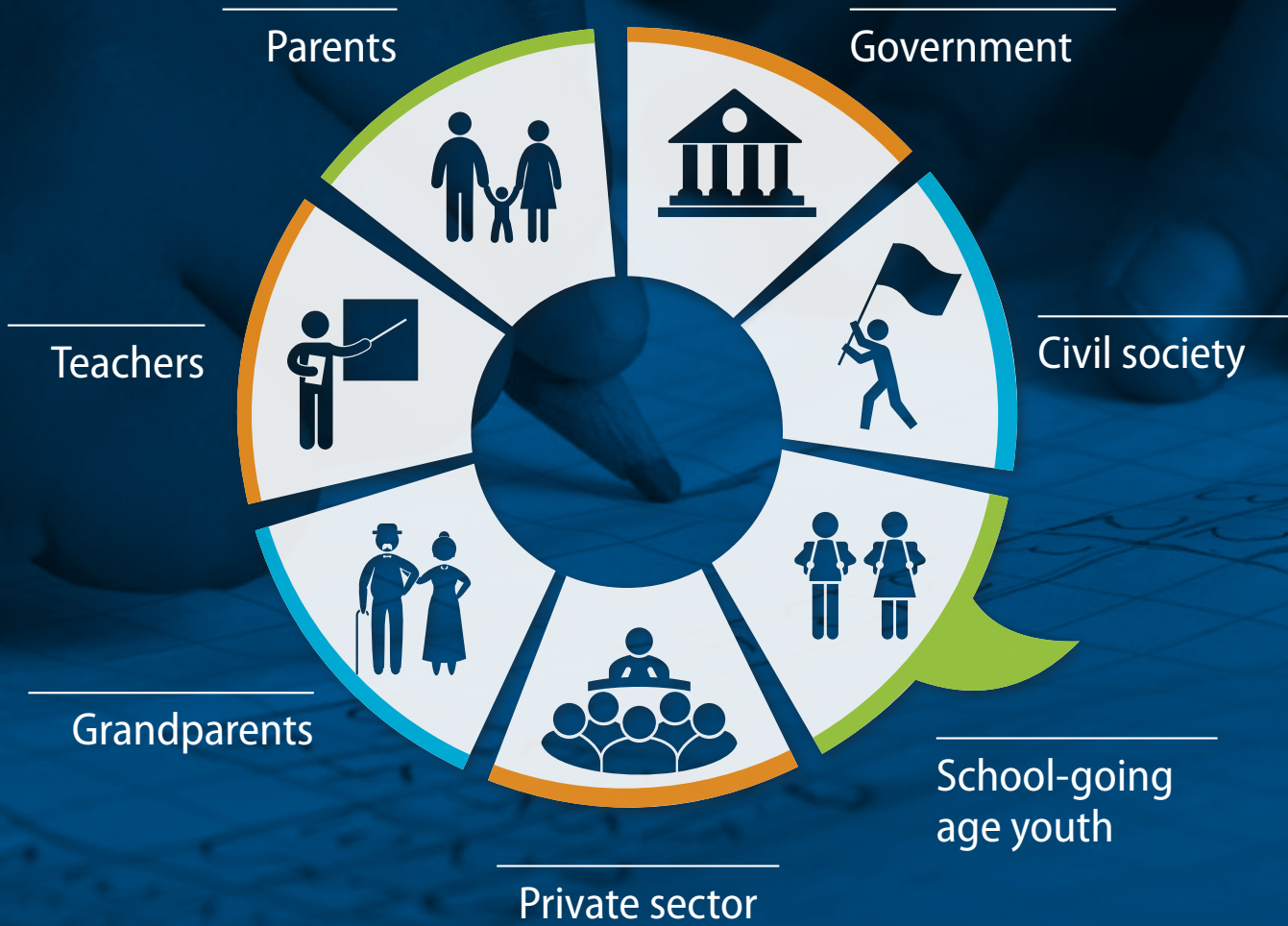
Reopening of Schools

Schooling in Vuwani resumed on 10 August 2016 after 24% of the school year was lost. It was then that the special task-team initiated large-scale delivery of supplies.



National Discussion

There is a need for both formal and informal discussions involving school-going age youth, their parents, teachers, grandparents, government, the private sector and civil society to find common ways of averting similar occurrences elsewhere in the country including defining how the broader public should respond where individuals within those communities have destroyed public property.





Closing Statement

This crowd-resourcing initiative afforded South Africans an opportunity to take part in Vuwani's rebuilding process. Although it raised serious concerns about the way in which some community members voice and act on their grievances, it also provided an opportunity to reimagine active citizenry and develop the tools required for nation building as envisioned by the National Development Plan.

‘ We say to one another: I cannot be without you, without you this South African community is an incomplete community, without one single person, without one single group, without the region or the continent, we are not the best that we can be. ’

Excerpt from the National Development Plan
Vision Statement



Let us not forget what happened in Vuwani, lest we repeat it.

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