

Monash - Oxfam South Africa Internship Program January – February, 2010

The Program & Partnership

Monash University and Oxfam Australia have partnered to provide you with the opportunity to gain experience working for local community based organisations in South Africa. The work will be varied and challenging, as will the context. However, through this internship program you will gain a deeper awareness of the issues affecting people living with HIV and AIDS in South Africa, an understanding of issues related to community development and build invaluable skills and knowledge that can be utilized in ongoing study and/or future careers.

The Organisations

Oxfam works with numerous partner organizations in South Africa, and the six organizations we anticipate will be part of the 2010 internship program are all current partners in the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program in South Africa. Partner organizations take various approaches to strengthening their local communities and ensuring community members achieve their rights. Partner profiles, along with some information on what the intern placement could include, are available for all six partners that we anticipate will be participating in the 2010 program.

The Application Process

You will need to specify which of Oxfam's six partner organizations in the internship program you would like to be placed with. Each organization is looking for students with a particular knowledge and skills. Therefore, it is essential that you read the information provided on the partner organizations. Some of the organizations require similar skills, so you may express an interest in more than one. Please, however, do not express an interest in all the organizations.

In your application, you will need to explain your interest in undertaking an internship with Oxfam in South Africa and the strengths you would bring to the program. Two of the key qualities required for an internship program such as this are:

Flexibility: The environment in which Oxfam and its six partner organizations operate in South Africa can change very quickly. Partner organizations may have to pull out of the internship program at short notice (this happened with one of the partners in the 2009 program), and you may have to be placed with another partner organization at short notice. Therefore, you need to be highly adaptable.

Resilience: As was stated above, the nature of the work undertaken by Oxfam and its partner organizations in South Africa is varied and challenging, and you will need the maturity and strength to be able to cope.

If you are applying for either of the internships that require a background in law, you should send your application to the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law in the Faculty of Law. Please visit <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/internships/oxfam-internship.html> for detailed information on eligibility criteria and the application process. Castan applications close on Friday, 14th August.

All other students should apply using the Monash-Oxfam Internships South Africa 2010 application form. Please read the eligibility criteria before completing the form. These applications must be received by Friday, 21st August, 2009.

Interviews will commence in the week beginning Monday, 24th August, and successful interns will be advised of their placement in early September.

The Placement

Provisional program schedule:

- 11th January: Monash South Africa Induction – Johannesburg campus
- 14th January: Fly from Johannesburg to Durban
- 15th January: Oxfam Australia induction – Durban
- 18th January – 18th February: Intern placement with partner organization
- 19th February: Oxfam Australia debrief – Durban
- 20th February: Fly from Durban to Johannesburg, return to Monash South Africa campus
- 22nd February: Debrief and review at Monash South Africa

The full schedule will be confirmed closer to the date

Where:

Interns will be based either in or in the vicinity of Durban or Pietermaritzburg in South Africa.

How many:

There are up to 12 internship placements available. Two students will be placed with each partner organization.

Accommodation:

Shared accommodation will be organized by Monash South Africa in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Costs:

You must ensure that you have a valid passport and all required vaccinations.

Monash covers all other costs, including return flights to Johannesburg, return flights between Johannesburg and Durban, accommodation and transport costs in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Monash will arrange travel and medical insurance through Oxfam for the Australian-based participants.

Pre-departure preparation:

You will be well prepared for the internship program. Oxfam Australia will liaise with you and the partner organization to assist in the development of a detailed workplan that will allow you to gain a better understanding of the organisation and their work. You will be provided with a security briefing and general induction by Oxfam Australia before departure for South Africa.

In-country orientation and debriefing programs:

Upon arrival in South Africa, you will be met by Monash South Africa staff and provided with an induction program at the Johannesburg campus. Once in Durban, the Oxfam Australia field office will provide you with further induction into the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program and the work of the partner organisations.

At the end of the internship, you will be fully debriefed by Oxfam staff in Durban, and by Monash staff when you return to the Monash South Africa campus.

Post-internship duties

You will be asked to cooperate with Monash University and Oxfam Australia to publicise the South Africa internship program and share your experience with future interns prior to their own departure to South Africa.



Monash University South Africa Intern Program Partner Profile – Childline

Oxfam Australia

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Childline

Background and Context

Childline KwaZulu-Natal is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that provides services to abused and vulnerable children and their families in KwaZulu-Natal. The organisation was founded in Durban when the need for the service was identified as a result of the increase in the incidence of child abuse cases treated at the Addington Hospital in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The Crisis Line was officially launched in June 1986. Childline KwaZulu-Natal, the founding Childline office in South Africa has embarked on its 22nd year of service. Childline KZN is affiliated to Childline SA, a national affiliation of the Child Help lines in South Africa. The mission of Childline is to reduce the prevalence of child abuse, and provide therapy to those affected by abuse and to ensure management of abuse by working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The vision of Childline is to develop a society free of child abuse in which every individual assumes responsibility for promoting the prevention of abuse or neglect.

Childline KwaZulu-Natal provides services to children both face to face and through a Child-helpline. The services are well established and credible in the Province. The statistics for the Helpline for the past financial year was 450 000 calls. The calls reflect the emerging crises of children in the province but also reflect the various problems that effect children. KwaZulu-Natal has the one the highest population of children, the second highest incidence of child abuse and the highest incidence of poverty and HIV and AIDS prevalence. In such a context, views of children as holders of rights in the own rights, finds roots with difficulty. Strategies developed to address these challenges for children need to be as holistic and complex as the context in which they arise. Services for children who have been abused, subject to violence and other violations are critical.

The country has been introduced to a plethora of new legislation however; concerns arise as to the effective implementation of the legislation e.g. the Children's Act, Sexual Offences Act, Films and Publications Amendment Act. Other issues of concern are child prostitution, child pornography and issues of child labour, trafficking etc. Sexual exploitation of children is a cross-cutting issue as well.

Project Aim

Childline KZN responds effectively and efficiently to children's issues through the electronic database.

Childline intends to achieve its aim by:

1. Upgrading their Electronic Database that assists in analysing and monitoring Child Protection trends.
2. Capturing and analysing all Child sexual abuse cases on the Database.
3. Advocating on Child protection, especially sexual abuse.

Activities

Childline intends on achieving this by conducting the following activities in 2009 / 10. The intern placed with Childline will assist in achieving some of these activities. A detailed workplan will be developed by the intern and Childline before the placement starts.

- Assess the existing pilot project and upgrade the electronic database.
- Develop an analysis of the information required; and generate relevant reports.
- Daily capture of back-dated cases and current cases (\pm 3000).
- Allocate cases to designated therapists.
- Update progress of all cases, every 2 months.
- Produce two 6-monthly Newsletters around the protection of children.
- Attend monthly Provincial Child Protection and KPAC networking meetings to present an analysis of trends to relevant service providers.
- Attend Quarterly Provincial Victim Empowerment Forum meetings.
- Evaluate the efficiency of responses by the various service providers and revisit the efficiency of existing responses with key networking partners.
- Develop a media partnership to educate the public monthly on the challenges that face community members in the protection of children and advise on support.

Skills, Attributes & Qualifications

Although the workplan for the intern is yet to be confirmed, the following attributes would be considered beneficial for this placement:

- Studying social work, community welfare, counselling, or a related discipline
- Computer skills; Word, Excel, Outlook
- Good communication skills and the ability to explain complex information simply
- Appreciation of the confidentiality and sensitivity required when working with children
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Understanding of social development issues in South Africa
- Some knowledge on fundraising would be beneficial
- Basic knowledge on marketing skills



Monash University South Africa Intern Program Partner Profile – Gay & Lesbian Network

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The Gay and Lesbian Network (GLN)

Background

The Gay and Lesbian Network is a partner within the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program. Based in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), GLN's current project builds on existing work with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community and has as its focus the creation of an enabling environment for HIV and AIDS interventions for the LGBTI community.

South Africa has a progressive constitution as well as an enabling legislation with regards to sexual orientation, which includes recently enacted legislation on same sex marriages/civil unions. Despite this, the social and institutional reality is not in line with the constitution and legislation and is marked by imbalances and discriminatory attitudes, practices and beliefs. While legislative and policy provisions promoting equality and non-discrimination, and protecting the right to choose, are in place, marginalisation and violation of people's rights based on one's sex, gender, and sexuality and HIV status continue.

Although the HIV and AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa (NSP) (2007-2011) recognises men who have sex with men (MSM) as a high risk population it also acknowledges the limited consideration of MSM in the national response to HIV and AIDS, which is attributed to a lack of knowledge. The serious concern, however, is that the NSP fails to recognise the general gay and lesbian population in the national strategy as a population at high risk. As a result, this limits access to, and availability of, HIV prevention choices to these groups, which further increases HIV and STI transmission and infection.

HIV prevalence is estimated to be extremely high among the LGBTI community in South Africa. Exact prevalence levels, however, are not known as national HIV and AIDS statistics do not provide disaggregated information about the LGBTI community. This could be attributed to the focus of collecting data mainly from sources that are heterosexual without taking into account other vulnerable groups in society like LGBTI. The spread of HIV has impacted seriously on the community with many families caring for ill relatives who are also discriminated against.

Lack of accurate information on HIV and AIDS and the LGBTI information is another factor that impacts on effectiveness of a human rights-based approach to HIV and AIDS. The HIV and STI information and messaging from most non government organisations and government structures only target the heterosexual community and completely ignore the health needs of LGBTI people. The information provided ignores, avoids or misrepresents same-sex practices and relationships. Promoted safer sex practices in South Africa, like condoms for example, are not suitable for lesbian sex.

Project Aim

To reduce the risk of HIV infection and promote positive living amongst lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in KwaZulu-Natal by creating “safe spaces”, increasing knowledge & changing perceptions, attitudes and behavior.

GLN intends on achieving its aim by:

- Gathering and generating accurate and up to date information & data on HIV & AIDS related issues in the LGB community in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Increasing LGB’s knowledge and awareness of HIV (prevention, transmission, & treatment); sexual health and personal development.
- Providing access to LGB friendly health & support services.

The interventions are intended to engage holistically with the challenges facing the LGBTI community in the Pietermaritzburg and Midlands area. In order to do this, GLN will engage with a range of different target groups including:

- LGBTI people (and their immediate contexts, e.g. families/households);
- Public institutions, service providers and opinion leaders (e.g. schools, police, media); and
- The community in general.

Activities

GLN intends on achieving this by conducting the following activities in 2009 / 10. The intern placed with GLN will assist in achieving some of these activities. A detailed workplan will be developed by the intern and GLN before the placement starts.

- Identify and secure regular access to existing information & data sources that provide reliable information & data.
- Analyse information to identify key issues and trends to inform the networks planned activities & services.
- Set up and maintaining a database of anonymous information & statistics of the users of the networks services.
- Identify baseline & research questions and establish partnerships with appropriate researchers or research agencies to undertake this research / information gathering.
- Train or recruit a group of volunteers to run workshops / focus groups on HIV, sexual health, and personal development.
- Run workshops / focus groups on HIV & sexual health.

- Develop & distribute media (pamphlets, posters, booklets, websites etc) on HIV, sexual health, personal development and helpline and which promote the network and its various services.
- Develop and implement a public media campaign (newspapers, radio, TV etc) aimed at increasing awareness of HIV & sexual health issues related to LGB's.
- Train volunteer counsellors in pre & post test / HIV counselling & treatment literacy, basic counseling and bereavement

Skills, Attributes & Qualifications

Although the workplan for the intern is yet to be confirmed, the following attributes would be considered beneficial for this placement:

- Studying Health Science or Social Work
- Excellent research & writing skills
- Computer skills - Word, Excel, Outlook, Database
- Good communication skills and the ability to explain complex information simply
- Appreciation of the confidentiality and sensitivity required when working with people living with HIV
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Understanding of social development issues in South Africa



Monash University South Africa Intern Program Partner Profile – Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust

Oxfam Australia

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Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT)

Background

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) is a partner within the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program (JOHAP). HACT offers a holistic program of care and prevention for people affected and infected by HIV and AIDS. Its work is focused in the outer west region of Durban and particularly in the Valley of 1000 Hills area where both HIV rates and levels of poverty are reported to be high.

Over the past three years JOHAP has supported HACT to implement an education project in four schools in the Valley of 1000 Hills Area (two primary and two high schools). Grade 5 and 6 (ages between 10 and 12) were targeted in primary schools and Grade 11 and 10 (ages 14-18) in the secondary schools. In the area, the spread of HIV and AIDS has a significant impact on people's lives. The context is one characterised by poverty, high levels of domestic violence, sexual abuse and drug and alcohol misuse. Children and young peoples' lives are increasingly affected, as they are often called upon to take up the care of the sick, and also as they experience a high degree of stigma and discrimination in schools when they themselves are infected. In most cases, young children living in the area often live under the care of grandparents or other members of their extended family as a result of their parents having died (often from AIDS related illnesses).

The targeted communities (Inchanga and Molweni) are disadvantaged, headed by the chiefs and izindunas. These are the combination of rural and newly developed urban areas; dwellings are formal and informal, situated in the surroundings of Hillcrest area, which makes Hillcrest the central part of their town. The population is approximately 6600 in each area. Each has one clinic and 7 schools.

These areas have high rates of people dying of AIDS related illnesses. In these areas there are home based carers whom HACT have trained to look after the terminally ill patients in their homes. These carers are monitored by registered nurses and also do home visits with the nurses. HACT recently opened a Respite unit (Othandweni) on their premises, where they admit acutely ill patients or patients in need of palliative care.

Most families are impoverished, and are headed by grandmothers or siblings. Children are often exposed to poverty, domestic violence, sexual abuse, drugs and alcohol abuse. Young girls are also exposed to abusive relationships that often result in traumatic pregnancies. Above all, the rate of HIV infection and school drop outs in young girls, aged 14- 16 years, is very high. The rate of HIV infection in KwaZulu Natal is 40.6%.

Project Aim

Reduce the incidence and prevalence of HIV infection in communities in Inchanga and Molweni by working with youth.

HACT intends on achieving its aim by:

- Raising awareness of the youth in 2 primary schools (grade 5, 6, and 7) and 2 high schools (grade 8,9,10 and 11) with fun educational activities related to HIV/AIDS.
- Focusing on the rights of girls; equipping them with adequate skills to negotiate safer relationships.
- Acquiring a working and in-depth knowledge of HIV/AIDS and its progression as well as treatment options.
- Training 40 learners to be peer educators in 2 high schools as mentors for their peers.
- Mobilising voluntary confidential counseling and testing, making it available for the communities; monitoring the CD4 cell counts and referring to ART sites for treatment.
- Addressing poverty through training and assistance to grow vegetable gardens, promoting healthy diet practices.

Activities

HACT intends on achieving this by conducting the following activities in 2009 / 10. The intern placed with HACT will assist in achieving some of these activities. A detailed workplan will be developed by the intern and HACT before the placement starts.

- Hold fortnightly sessions with school children to create awareness on HIV and AIDS in a creative fun way.
- Hold debates and discussions on safer relationships, gender issues and abusive relationships in a relaxed environment; separating the girls and boys.
- Conduct role plays on relationships e.g. abusive relationships, how to say “no”.
- Have learners complete questionnaires assessing their information on HIV/AIDS and other related issues.
- Discuss the progression of the illness as well as the treatment options and treatment facilities available.
- Share experiences on how to live positively with the virus.
- Organize venues and set up VCT sites in schools and communities:
 - Ensure counselors are available for pre and post test counseling on VCT sites;

- Ensure professional nurses available to do screening tests and refer for further treatment
 - Conduct CD4 cell counts.
- Train learners to be peer educators in two high schools. Peer educators to target different groups of their peers for in depth discussions and the sharing of information on sexuality and reproductive health.

Skills, Attributes & Qualifications

Although the workplan for the intern is yet to be confirmed, the following attributes would be considered beneficial for this placement:

- Studying Health Promotion or Social Work
- Computer skills; Word, Excel, Outlook
- Good communication skills and the ability to explain complex information simply
- Appreciation of the confidentiality and sensitivity required when working with people living with HIV
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Understanding of social development issues in South Africa



Monash University South Africa Intern Program Partner Profile – Justice and Women

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Justice and Women (JAW)

Background

Justice and Women (JAW) is a partner within the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program. JAW was formed in 1997 as a result of a Women's Day celebration held at the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court where 500 women motivated for a service to be based at the court to support women with applications for child maintenance. JAW has evolved since its inception, and in November 2005 they developed a project which sought to educate the Melmoth community (a rural community in KwaZulu Natal) and traditional leaders about women and children's rights.

Mthonjaneni is a rural, mountainous area with a population of 50,383 (Census South Africa). There is a severe lack of infrastructure and most people live in traditional homesteads and are reliant on rivers and community standpipes for water and use fire/paraffin as their primary energy source. The spread of HIV and AIDS has a significant impact on people's lives. Women's lives are increasingly affected, as they are often called upon to take up the care of the sick, and also as they experience the greatest degree of stigma and discrimination when they themselves are infected. According to the Department of Health statistics for Uthungulu, 32.4 % of pregnant women attending clinics in the area test HIV positive.

The increase in HIV/AIDS-related deaths impacts severely on families, in particular female members who use their labour to care for the sick and orphaned. Household budgets are used to pay for medication, and family members' time is diverted away from activities, such as farming, to care for the sick. Large funerals, including the costs of transportation, feeding of guests and the cost of the coffin can drive families into debt and financial devastation. Further, the loss of adults in their productive prime reduces the capacity of communities to cope with increasing economic pressures such as transportation and food cost increases.

JAW works to facilitate the empowerment of marginalised communities, especially women, to enable them to participate fully in society. The project is designed to start the Yanguye community talking about HIV and AIDS and gender justice. The voice of women in decision making is a rare phenomenon in these areas as women continue to be shackled by a system that is controlled by men and culture. Formal and informal Zulu customary practices, common in the project area, increase women's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, and exacerbate women's inequality should they become infected. This project intends to help influential community members like traditional leaders, faith based leaders and community forum members (both male and female) and from different generations, to explore and respond to customary/traditional practices and the role they play in increasing the incidence of HIV and AIDS.

The project's goal is not to undermine customary practices, but to help communities assess the impact custom has on sexual health and to envision how customary practices could be modified to reduce the risk of HIV infection within the community. Because older community members may have a different understanding and experience of customary practice, their input is important to help the community begin to see the dynamic nature of cultural practices and the role the community can play in shaping and transforming customs to fit new contexts, societal stereotypes and particularly HIV and AIDS.

Project Aim

To create an enabling environment in which the community of Mthonjaneni has increased capacity and will address the impact that HIV and AIDS has on its members. The project seeks to create an enabling environment in Mthonjaneni through achieving the following objectives:

- To reduce women, men, children, youth's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS through raising community consciousness and will in Yanguye to address community identified gender inequitable customary practices or beliefs which perpetuate the spread of HIV and AIDS.
- To strengthen the Mthonjaneni community's capacity to provide support to people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.
- To raise critical awareness within the Mthonjaneni home based care network of the gendered politics of illness and care and to mobilise members for collective action for change on at least one issue.
- To build capacity within JAW Melmoth staff to integrate gender and gender equitable values into their work, as well as imparting these values on the broader community.

The direct beneficiaries are people living in rural KZN, with limited access to resources, high rates of HIV infection, and low levels of employment. By targeting traditional leaders, forum members, and community change agents with spheres of influence. Indirect beneficiaries – particularly those from vulnerable groups like orphaned children, people living with HIV, and women - will benefit from increased levels of community support and increased access to social services.

Activities

JAW intends on achieving this by conducting the following activities in 2009 / 10. The intern placed with JAW will assist in achieving some of these activities. A detailed workplan will be developed by the intern and JAW before the placement starts.

- Organising, facilitating and documenting community conversations about customs and traditional beliefs.
- Holding workshops and engaging community's commitment to rethink various issues, including:
 - Parenting
 - Stigma and discrimination
 - Adolescent youth
- Hold education, HIV awareness and gender workshops at Yanguye High school and local primary schools.
- Stigma and discrimination – organize community events in Yanguye addressing gender and HIV and AIDS.
- Involve high school youth in the planning and implementation of Spring school using culture to address identified gender and HIV and AIDS issues of concern.
- Involve three Yanguye Primary schools in developing an interschool event against violence against women.

Skills, Attributes & Qualifications

Although the workplan for the intern is yet to be confirmed, the following attributes would be considered beneficial for this placement:

- Studying Arts, Education or Development
- Computer skills; Word, Excel, Outlook
- Good communication skills and the ability to explain complex information simply
- Appreciation of the confidentiality and sensitivity required when working with people living with HIV
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Understanding of social development issues in South Africa



Monash University South Africa Intern Program Partner Profile – Refugee Social Services

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Refugee Social Services

Background and Context

Refugee Social Services (previously known as the Mennonite Central Committee: Refugee Project) is the implementing partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in KwaZulu-Natal. The organisation is tasked with providing relevant social services to the most vulnerable amongst the refugee communities which includes the social protection of children who comprise a large percentage of the refugee community in South Africa. This mandate includes promoting protection, social integration and self-reliance of the refugee community.

Durban hosts in excess of 15,000 of the approximately 200,000 or more refugees and asylum seekers currently in South Africa. The South African authorities, whilst accepting asylum seekers into the country, have no mechanism to assist new arrivals to orientate and integrate into the local community. The South African Government also does not provide a package of services to asylum seekers and refugees (i.e. accommodation, food etc). Whilst asylum seekers and refugees can access state sponsored health and education services they often struggle to meet their basic needs of adequate housing, food and transport.

Refugees and asylum seekers are also unable to access social security, i.e. child support grants, pensions and disability benefits etc from the State. This leaves them dependent on their fellow community members and a few local service providers i.e. mainly faith based organisations (FBO) and implementing partners of the UNHCR. Refugees by virtue of their flight from their countries of origin, generally do not have access to their traditional support networks of extended family and close friends who can assist with ongoing childcare and they (as with other migrant families) are forced to make use of whatever means available to ensure that their children are safe whilst they work. Most families are either single parent families or, where there are both parents, both are forced to work as the cost of living is exorbitant (rentals and utility costs are generally high), and parents need to in addition meet the costs of education, transport, food, and medical costs for their families. Childcare, because of the expense associated, therefore takes the lowest priority and children are subject to neglect, potential abuse and a myriad of other physical risks as they are often left locked in flats as affordable day-care is

difficult to access. Further, a number of these children are not adequately stimulated or prepared for primary education and therefore their educational development is compromised.

Refugee Social Services has realised the urgent need for affordable, safe day care for children from these communities as parents and caregivers were forced to work to meet basic survival needs and were resorting to locking preschoolers in their homes without adult supervision. In addition the organisation found that preschoolers aged 4-6 years old were caring for babies and children being exposed to physical harm as they were alone or with unsuitable caregivers.

Project Aim

To enhance the social protection of migrant and South African pre school aged children who live in communities which experience lower socio economic conditions through the provision of home based child care centres run by trained refugee women.

Refugee Social Services intends to achieve its aim by:

- Identifying, training and mentoring persons from within the refugee community and provide a start up package in order that they can establish home based educare centres from home that service to the community and earn an income from this.
- Provide affordable child care which includes care, nutrition and stimulation of pre-school aged children at home based care centres for both migrant and South African vulnerable children in low income areas where there is a scarcity of child care and stimulation facilities and where children have been left in unsuitable circumstances as parents /caregivers are unable to access affordable child care.
- Offer capacity building to staff of educare centres at which refugee children are enrolled and supported with fees by our organisation through inviting them to join training provided by the organisation.

Activities

Refugee Social Services intends on achieving this by conducting the following activities in 2009 / 10. The intern placed with Refugee Social Services will assist in achieving some of these activities. A detailed workplan will be developed by the intern and Refugee Social Services before the placement starts.

- Identify from within the caseload, suitable women and men who could potentially provide an educare service within the community.
- Orientate and select suitable candidates based on their special abilities e.g. previous training, language proficiency, ability to connect with children and access to space in their homes etc
- Train the selected group to provide appropriate child care. Training will comprise an initial intensive 18day session and thereafter will be continued through provision of a monthly 4 hour development /training/evaluation session.
- Training will include a mandatory parenting course for all participants.
- Identify all the educare centres at which refugee children are enrolled and supported with fees by this organisation.
- Invite them to send one staff member for inclusion in training that is provided to the Home Based Child Carers at no cost to the educare centre.

- Include these centres in monitoring visits and occasional monthly monitoring and development workshops.
- Facilitate a workshop with the eThekweni Municipality, Department of Social Development and other relevant departments, to inform educare centres around the process of registering their centres and securing relevant subsidies.
- Develop, maintain and modify the existing database and website at Refugee Social Services

Skills, Attributes & Qualifications

Although the workplan for the intern is yet to be confirmed, the following attributes would be considered beneficial for this placement:

- Studying social work, community welfare, counselling, or a related discipline
- Computer skills; Word, Excel, Outlook
- Good communication skills and the ability to explain complex information simply
- Understanding of social development issues in South Africa
- Some skill in data capturing
- Knowledge on web design, database development and Information technology.



Monash University South Africa Intern Program Partner Profile – Woza Moya

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Woza Moya

Background

Woza Moya is a partner within the Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program and is situated in Ward 3 (Chibini community), Ubuhlebezwe Municipality, Sisonke district, about 15kms from the town of Ixopo in KwaZulu Natal. The project was started in April 2000 in direct response to the devastating impact of AIDS in the Ufafa area. The Ufafa community, home to about 23,000 people, is seriously affected by the AIDS pandemic, poverty and lack of educational resources. Statistics for 2003 (the most recent available) showed that 47% of pregnant women presenting themselves at the antenatal clinic were HIV positive. Of the general patients referred for voluntary counselling and testing in a five month period, 78% tested HIV positive.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has increased levels of poverty, with women and children being the most vulnerable. Gender based violence is one of the primary causes of the spread of HIV in the community. Over the years, Woza Moya has witnessed a dramatic increase in the abuse and neglect of children as a result of HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Unemployment rates in the area are high with an estimated 83.47% unemployed. Those employed are mainly in agriculture and forestry, with most receiving less than ZAR1500 (approximately \$240 AUD) per month.

In the beginning of the project, various stakeholders in the Ufafa community were invited to attend focus group discussions. Participants consisted of traditional leaders, school principals, teachers, students, community members. It became apparent in these meetings that HIV/AIDS was prevalent, as too was misinformation, stigma, discrimination and denial. Nine years on, stigma and discrimination still remains an area of concern, even though they have witnessed positive shifts in some people's attitudes and a willingness to talk more openly about HIV/AIDS.

Woza Moya facilitates support groups for people living with HIV and AIDS (120 members in total) in four rural locations around the Ufafa valley. These support groups have had a very positive impact in these communities, opening up issues around HIV/AIDS and effectively decreasing stigma and discrimination. Woza Moya is aiming to commence men's support groups in the community to greater engage men in discussions related to HIV to further reduce stigma and discrimination and to facilitate discussions on behavior change.

The Woza Moya project focuses primarily on HIV prevention, healthcare and poverty alleviation. In 2007/2008 Woza Moya serviced about 6000 people in eight communities. Services have been provided, and will be strengthened through Oxfam support, in the following areas:

- Home based care
- Orphan intervention
- HIV and Aids information and counselling
- Basic medicines
- Food security
- Paralegal assistance

Project Aim

Communities in Ufafa have the knowledge, skills and self confidence to make choices about the issues that affect them around HIV & AIDS and related issues.

Woza Moya intends on achieving its aim by:

- Providing access to treatment, care and support (and information) for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Providing psychosocial, physical/material, educational support to orphaned and vulnerable children and their care givers (Early Childhood Development).
- Food Security/Income Generation – to reduce poverty and improve nutrition and self esteem.
- Providing paralegal services to educate and assist people to access services and grants due to them.

Activities

Woza Moya intends on achieving this by conducting the following activities in 2009 / 10. The intern placed with Woza Moya will assist in achieving some of these activities. A detailed workplan will be developed by the intern and Woza Moya before the placement starts.

- Hold monthly support group meetings for:
 - People living with HIV or AIDS
 - Orphaned and vulnerable children
 - Foster Parents / Care Givers
- Ongoing training and information provided to Community Care Workers.
- Hold Community Care Worker team meetings to report on & discuss community & work issues.
- Provide school sponsorship for eligible orphans and vulnerable children.
- Provide monthly food parcels for homes housing orphans and vulnerable children.

- Refer more challenging cases to Woza Moya paralegal for extra assistance.
- Hold community learning workshops.
- Partner with the Heifer project in the provision and development of food gardens, egg producing chickens, milk producing goats, heifers etc.
- Strengthen craft making projects for income generation including training, manufacture and marketing of cards, hats and bags.

Skills, Attributes & Qualifications

Although the workplan for the intern is yet to be confirmed, the following attributes would be considered beneficial for this placement:

- Studying Arts or Development
- Computer skills; Word, Excel, Outlook
- Good communication skills and the ability to explain complex information simply
- Appreciation of the confidentiality and sensitivity required when working with people living with HIV
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Understanding of social development issues in South Africa