

CRS SOUTH AFRICA PROGRAM OFFICE PROGRESS REPORT

Project Number:	2280-686-0131
Project Title:	SACBC AIDS Office MVC Grant
Progress Report Number:	#3



Caregivers of Ikhaya; Siyabathanda and Sizumndeni at Vuleka Centre – Basic TB Training [July 2014]

Narrative Section

PROJECT SYNOPSIS

This report covers the work done between 01 July and 31 September 2014. The sites funded through this grant (receiving monthly tranches) are Good Shepherd (Manzini); Christ the King Parish HBC Unit (Manzini); Polokwane Diocese Welfare and Development (Polokwane); Ikhaya Community Development (Durban); Siyabathanda CBO (Durban); Sizumndeni Care Centre (Mariannhill) and Sithembele Awareness Program (Mthatha). The School Uniforms; TB training; Gardening training; MVC Shelter renovations and Winter blankets projects were the main focus during this period.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD [JULY – SEPTEMBER 2014]

Gardening training



Lima, Food Gardens Training – Sizumndeni

Care Centre, July 2014

A training was held at Sizumndeni Care Centre for Caregivers and other community members. 21 people attended. The training was conducted in isiZulu to accommodate illiterate participants. Theory was covered in class and there was good participation. The centre's garden was used for the practicals, which included: Double digging; Trench bed; eco-circle; Swale; Tower garden; Liming and transplanting.

Natural pesticides and liquid manure were made and their use demonstrated.

Participants received seeds and other implements for their gardens. Most participants were experienced gardeners and were very excited to learn about new techniques and homemade pesticides.

Basic TB Training for Caregivers

32 caregivers received basic TB training. 20 caregivers from Ikhaya (6); Siyabathanda (5) and Sizumndeni (9) attended basic TB training at Vuleka Centre in Botha's hill and 12 caregivers from Christ the King (6) and Good Shepherd (6) attended the same training at Swaziland Catholic Centre. Both groups were semi-literate, so the training was conducted in isiZulu and siSwati respectively. Participants received certificates of attendance at the end of the training. The training focused on the prevention, early detection and treatment of TB. The training was aimed at equipping caregivers with knowledge to do symptomatic screening of TB as well as provide directly observe treatment support in the households that they work with and in their own families. HIV and TB co-infection was also discussed at length.

Participants found the training “fun; informative and practical.”

The soil was sandy and easy to cultivate and the participants were very eager to demonstrate what they had learnt, so participants did twice the number of seedling beds as the previous groups. 2 x {Double digging; Trench bed; eco-circle; Swale}; Tower garden; Liming and transplanting practicals were done onsite.



Caregivers attending TB Training at Vuleka Centre & Swaziland Catholic Centre [August & September 2014]

Project Management Training

18 delegates from Siyabathanda (2); Christ the King(3); Caritas Swaziland(2); Good Shepherd Swaziland (1); Ekuthuleni (1); Vezokuhle (1); Tiyimiseleni (1); Sizumndeni (3); Polokwane Diocesan Welfare & Development (2) and Sithembele Awareness Program (2) attended the Project Management course presented by RDSP at Lumko from 6-12 July 2014.

After the training, sites had to develop and submit project plans and budgets that they had started as part of the course and finalised with their teams back at the sites.

From the project plans submitted, 3 sites (Sithembele; Siyabathanda and Sizumndeni) needed more mentoring and support from the plans that they submitted and it was arranged that RDSP would visit these sites individually and work with their respective management teams.



Project management participants during a planning exercise [Lumko, July 2014]

Proposal Writing training

18 delegates from Siyabathanda (2); Christ the King(2); Caritas Swaziland(2); Good Shepherd Swaziland (1); Ekuthuleni (1); Vezokuhle (1); Tiyimiseleni (1); Sizumndeni (3); Polokwane Diocesan Welfare & Development (2); Archdiocese of Johannesburg (1) and Sithembele Awareness Program (2) attended the Project Management course presented by

RDSP at Lumko from 24-30 August 2014. This training built from the previous Project Management training.

After the training each site had to write a funding proposal with a budget for a gardening project and submit to RDSP via SACBC AIDS Office to demonstrate that they have grasped the content of the training.

Winter Project



Children with their winter hampers [Polokwane, July 2014]

910 MVC from 525 households benefited from the winter blankets project. Blankets; towels and tracksuits were distributed to children at Christ the King (150 children benefited); Good Shepherd (97 children benefited); Sithembele (150 children benefited); Polokwane Diocese (150 children benefited); Sizumndeni (250 children benefited) and Siyabathanda (60 children benefited).

School Uniforms

Christmas came early for 205 Children from 134 households attending at schools in the catchment areas of Sizumndeni Care Centre (54); Sithembele Awareness Program(41) and Polokwane Diocese Welfare and Development (110) as they received brand new uniforms.

“Learners at Mahlaya Primary School sang and danced with joy as their names were called to come and receive new school uniforms.” - Sizumndeni Care Centre

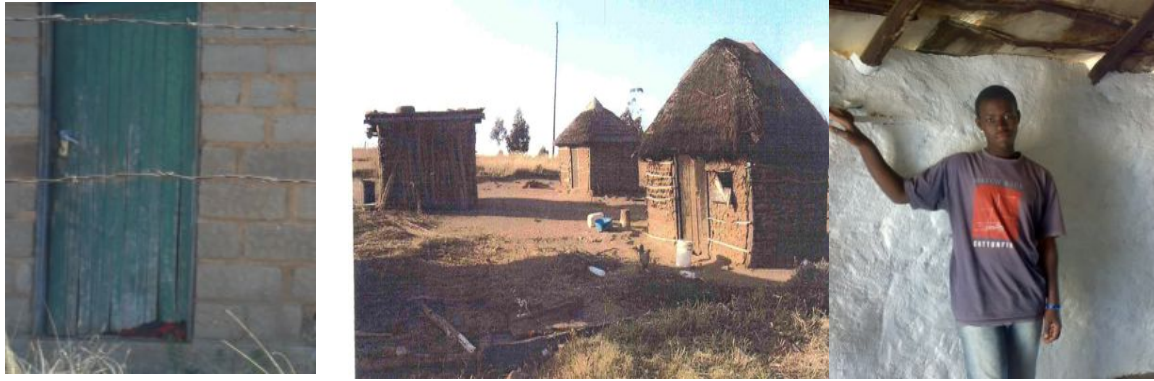


Learners holding their new uniforms at Mahlaya Primary School (Sizumndeni) and Polokwane diocese

Shelter Renovation

24 houses, accommodating 107 MVC were renovated ahead of the summer rains, 13 at Qadi/Nyuswa (Ikhaya Community Development) for 80 children; 7 at Sengatane (Polokwane Diocese) for 15 MVC and 4 at Hlatikhulu (Christ the King) for 12 MVC.

Some houses needed a just splash of paint, others needed a door or window to be replaced whilst others were dilapidated and required more work.



Houses identified for renovation (from left to right) at Polokwane; Christ the King and Ikhaya. [August 2014]

Career Workshops

4 sites were given small grants of not more than R3000.00 to conduct Career Workshops with their beneficiaries and other youths doing grade 10; 11 and 12 in collaboration with the life skills teachers in their respective partner school/s. Ikhaya; Sizumndeni; Good Shepherd and Polokwane managed to host the events.

Sites were given the following guidelines for the organisation of the camp:

1. Target group: Grade 10, 11, 12 learners and youths who were formerly in your project.
2. Time frame: in the school holidays, on a Saturday or on a public holiday.
3. Programme should include information/counselling/exhibitions/workshops from at least four organisations {covering e.g. the service industry, the tourism sector, Further Education and Training (FET) colleges, skills development training, academic study, artisan training, small business, public service, health care, education, emergency services, finance, etc.}.
4. Programme should include workshops on self-awareness, recognising your own strengths and weaknesses, preparing a CV, how to prepare for an interview, information on the skills the country needs, etc.
5. Programme can include a motivational speaker to encourage the young people.

Teachers; nurses; priests; police personnel; tertiary students; small business owners and soldiers were the most easily accessible people to the sites. Learners were informed and motivated.

Shange Nomzamo from Thembezulu High School said:

“We are all excited and want to pass matric with exemption so that it will be easy for us to do whatever we wish after matric and become successful in life.” – Sizumndeni Care Centre

Nkululeko Shezi from Sizophumelela High School said:

“Thank you for the opportunity of this career day and thank you to Sizumndeni organisation for organising such an informative and motivating event.” – Sizumndeni care Centre



Learners attending Career workshops at Ikhaya and Good Shepherd [August 2014]

MVC care and support

Besides the once off projects such as TB training; Uniforms; Winter hampers and gardening training mentioned above, Good Shepherd (Manzini); Christ the King Parish HBC Unit (Manzini); Polokwane diocese; Sithembele Awareness Project (Mthatha); Ikhaya Community Development (Durban); Siyabathanda CBO (Durban) and Sizumndeni Care Centre (Mariannhill) are receiving monthly tranches to cover expenses related to the care and support of MVC as well as administrative costs. The caregivers who conduct activities of the project, which includes monitoring health care needs of the children and ensuring that they receive the necessary follow up interventions at the clinic, and ensuring that the children attend school and after school care, are paid monthly stipends. The child caregivers conduct home visits to monitor the MVC registered in the project and ensure that food gardens are planted and looked after.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS:

Educational:	
Number of MVC attending school	1269
Number of MVC who received school uniforms and other schooling support	205
Number of households reached with school uniforms	134
Health:	
Number of MVC referred to the clinic	178
Number of MVC who received HIV counseling and testing	137
Number of MVC initiated on ART	42
Number of MVC screened for TB	134
Number of MVC initiated on TB treatment	67
Number of MVC who have successfully completed TB treatment	41

Number of other family members (besides the MVC) screened for TB	95
Nutritional:	
Number of MVC with access to a garden producing food	550
Number of households with access to a garden, producing food	315
Number of other family members (besides the MVC) benefiting from the garden	1327
Number of MVC receiving nutritional supplements	1056

**Statistics above exclude September as sites are only due to submit September statistics on the 05th October 2014.*

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

1. In spite of various capacity building efforts to equip site personnel, there is still a need for more coaching and mentoring at Siyabathanda, Sizumndeni and Mthatha. Computer literacy skills and general administration skills are very low at these sites.
2. Buying winter hampers in bulk both in Swaziland and South Africa, especially in rural towns proved very difficult, which delayed distribution and reporting thereof.
3. Communication difficulties with Mthatha, resulting in delayed reporting and a longer turnaround time for report queries to be cleared.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE:

Sites supported through this program have expressed their heartfelt gratitude, below is an email from Christ the King Parish (Swaziland), echoing the sentiments of all the beneficiaries, sub-recipients and recipients of this grant.

“ Nondumiso,

On behalf of the Christ the King Parish in the diocese of Manzini, Home Base Care and the PPC, I would like to extend our deep felt appreciation for the financial support and training towards the alleviation of misery and poverty to the Most Vulnerable children.

Our Home Base Care unit worked harmoniously with the SACBC AIDS Office through yourselves, with commitment and determination. Our personnel through this project benefited a lot in terms of computer literacy, report writing, event management, project management, proposal writing and so on. With these skills, the parish will not hesitate to use the personnel for other church programmes.

Supporting the most vulnerable children is not a once off event but a process that is continuous. It is therefore our belief and wish that should funding be available, SACBC AIDS Office will not fail to consider us for more support towards programs for the most vulnerable children.

Finally, please extend our thanks to SABC AIDS Office and staff in particular Mrs Sizakele Zwane and Miss Geraldine Hedley for the unending guidance and support they demonstrated as they worked with our team. May God Bless you all at SACBC and your families.

It was very nice to work and associate with you and caritas Swaziland.

Makadunyiswe uJesu Kristo!

Regards,

Maduduza Zwane

Chairman of the PPC, Christ the King Parish, Hlatikulu

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