

CRS SOUTH AFRICA PROGRAM OFFICE REPORT



Children at Nzhelele parish with their new uniforms

Narrative Section

PROJECT SYNOPSIS

This report covers the work done between 01 February and 30 August 2016. The sites funded through this grant (receiving monthly tranches) were OLSH Outreach Project in Nzhelele Parish (Tzaneen); Ahanang Parish Based Care Organisation in Sebokeng Zone 14 parish (Johannesburg); Zanethemba Home Based Care in new Castle (Dundee) and Sizumndeni Care Centre in Umzumbe (Mariannhill). The Project focused on the 3 main themes, each with different subcategories. The 3 themes are Nutritional Support; Educational Support and Health. School Uniforms once-off project; TB screening; HIV counselling and Testing; Homework Assistance; Gardening projects and MVC winter blankets projects were the main focus during this project during this period.

ABOUT THE SITES SUPPORTED

Ahanang Parish Based Care Organisation was started by the parish of Zone 14 Sebokeng and with the help of the Franciscan priests and the Catholic Nurses Guild to respond to the crisis of HIV and AIDS. Home Based Care; HIV Testing and Care of OVC is the core business of Ahanang. Many young people have been trained and groomed by Ahanang over the years with the support of SACBC. There is a qualified and competent Child and Youth Care worker; HCT Counsellors; Community Health Workers that have been produced by Ahanang through the support of SACBC. 70% of the non-clinical cadre of all the government clinics in Sebokeng are former volunteers of Ahanang. The impact Ahanang has made in the lives of beneficiaries, community at large and staff members is huge.



A. Ahanang Beneficiaries with their new winter blankets

OLSH Outreach is a project of Daughters of Our Lady and Sacred Heart, Nzhelele Parish in Limpopo, Vhembe District under the Diocese of Tzaneen. It was established in 2001 by Sr Mairead Kelleher and Fr Andre Bohas MSC, the project was known as Nzhelele Home Based Care working under the umbrella of the Sacred Heart Mission Clinic registration, until 2012 the project registered as an NPO as Parish of Nzhelele HIV/AIDS Response. The project has been working 36 surrounding villages offering different services ranging from Home Based Care, OVC (after school care and early childhood development through the outreach programme), Awareness programme and HIV Counselling and Testing. This happens through the support of SACBC. The staff and management team have learnt various skills over the years. The support from SACBC has helped the project and the community of Nzhelele build a better life for vulnerable people who are from underprivileged households and affected and/or infected by HIV and AIDS.



B Nzhelele Beneficiaries after collecting their Nutritional Supplements

Sizumndeni Care Centre was started by a catholic nurse who worked at Mgai clinic to assist clients who defaulted treatment due to lack of transport; working in remote sugar cane farms and lack of health education. The services expanded to the care of orphans and other vulnerable groups of children and women. The villages served are Dulini, KK, Ifafa, Nkobeni, Maplazini, Zitendeni ezincane; KwaKlaga; Mathafeni and Siyanda. Sizumndeni works closely with Gobume High School; Ekubusisweni Primary School; Mahlaya Primary School & St Nivard's Combined Primary School. Sizumndeni staff are able to conduct symptomatic screening of TB and HIV Testing services, thanks to the training provided by SACBC. Once a year, caregivers and other staff enjoy a 2 day retreat, sponsored by SACBC to help lessen the burden carried by caregivers as they take care of other people.



C Sizumndeni Beneficiaries at the centre for After School Activities



D Zanethemba Beneficiaries enjoying being children under supervision by a caregiver

Zanethemba Home Based Care is an association of the Roman Catholic Parish in Madadeni, Northern KZN in Amajuba District under the diocese of Dundee. It was established by Fr. Joseph Mango'ngo in year 2000 and registered as NPO the same year. Zanethemba HBC has been working the entire Madadeni Township and surrounding areas offering services ranging from Home

Based Care; TB Screening and DOTS; OVC and Early Childhood development. Through the support of SACBC, Zanethemba HBC staff and management have learnt various skills. The support from SACBC has helped Zanethemba HBC and the community of Madadeni and surrounding areas to build a better life for children who are from resource-scarce households and those affected by AIDS and TB.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO BE NOTED FOR THIS PERIOD

Site	Achievements
<p>Ahanang Parish Based Care Project – Johannesburg Archdiocese</p>	<p>253 MVCs (141 girls and 112 boys) reached with a variety of services. 229 children received food supplements and 21 were assisted to set up and maintain vegetable gardens for better food security. 144 children received educational support HIV Testing Services inclusive of TB Screening were given to 70 Children and those that tested positive were referred to clinics for treatment and followed up for counselling and treatment adherence.</p>
<p>OLSH Outreach Project – Tzaneen Diocese</p>	<p>292 MVCs (189 girls and 103 boys) reached with a variety of services. 140 children received food supplements and 62 were assisted to set up and maintain vegetable gardens for better food security. The tropical climate in Nzhelele is very conducive to gardening but because of the stigma related to garden work, only the desperately poor pursue gardening. 148 children received educational support in the form of School Uniforms HIV Testing Services inclusive of TB Screening were given to 8 Children and exclusive TB Screening was done with 29 children who showed symptoms. None of the children tested positive for HIV. 20 children in the programme are already on ARV treatment. During weekly activities at Nzhelele parish, the children are educated about the infection, symptoms and prevention of HIV and also the dangers of engaging in sex at an early age. The rate of teen pregnancy is lessening.</p>
<p>Sizumndeni Care Centre – Mariannhill Diocese</p>	<p>Sizumndeni reached 187 Children (82 girls and 105 boys) with a variety of services in this period. Provided nutritional supplements to 187 children. The majority of the children that attend after school activities are undernourished, this was discovered after taking their weight and height to calculate their Body Mass Index and some of these children are on ARV treatment. All the vegetable gardens that were previously started are maintained and caregivers check on them regularly. Assisted 176 learners with homework 138 children got tested for HIV and 6 guardians got tested along with their children All 285 children were screened for symptoms of TB using a questionnaire We are proud to report that all the children registered in our programme attend school and are progressing very well. The packs of sanitary towels; soap, tooth paste and other cosmetics are helping to keep the children, especially girls at school. The garden at the centre is flourishing. Children are eating fresh vegetables from the garden. The gardening training given to the children and their involvement in the big garden at the centre has enabled them to have confidence at their homes, taking care of their gardens. 81 children were provided with school uniforms and blankets through once-off funding from SACBC.</p>

Zanethemba Home Based Care – Dundee Diocese	164 Children (88 girls and 76 boys) were reached by Zanethemba in this period. 158 children were screened for symptoms of TB using a questionnaire and all screened negative for symptoms of TB. All the children registered in our programme attend school and are progressing very well. Beneficiaries are taught to make rosaries and leather covers for missals and books, these are then sold to parishioners as a means of strengthening household income for beneficiaries.
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CHALLENGES

The crackdown on the provision of HIV testing services by the department of health has made it difficult to reach the community members who have no access to clinics and has negatively affected the programme.

Lack of funding to support income generating activities is also a stumbling block identified by the four sites.

Procurement of school uniforms exclusively through Pep Stores due to financial compliance issues, restricted the sites because the said chain store does not carry the different colours that the various schools use.

Sizumndeni and Zanethemba both reported that in spite of their efforts to educate children about HIV and the dangers of engaging in sex at an early age, the rate of teen pregnancy is still continuing to rise.

STATISTICS

Diocese	Children Reached	Gender		Nutritional Support		Educational Support				Health					
		Female	Male	Food Gardens	Food Supplements	School Uniforms	Stationery	Homework Assistance	School Attendance	Referral to clinic	HCT	ART Initiation	TB Screening	TB Treatment	TB Treatment
Johannesburg	253	141	112	21	229	143	144	127	93	16	70	17	70	0	0
Tzaneen	292	189	103	62	140	148	0	11	11	3	8	0	29	0	0
Mariannhill	187	82	105	187	187	81	0	176	176	0	0	0	187	0	0
Dundee	164	88	76	0	160	160	0	160	22	0	0	0	158	0	0
Total	896	500	396	270	716	532	144	474	302	19	78	17	444	0	0

SUCCESS STORIES

Zanele Ndlovu from Section 3 Ezibayeni was left with two orphans Sinenhlanhla Ndlovu (13) and Samukelisiwe Ndlovu (13) and her daughter. She did not have an I.D book and the job to support her family. Zanethemba gave her food parcels to sustain them and we accompany her to apply for an ID and she got it. Samukelisiwe Ndlovu is now receiving government grant.

Through your funding, Zanethemba was able to help the Ndlovu's with food, school uniforms, clothing donated by care workers and the community. Zanele Ndlovu is now able

to buy food for her family because she is working now for Zanethemba HBC under Extended Public Works Program (EPWP) which is managed by Zanethemba HBC.

From Nzhelele:

In May 2016 we conducted the retreat for guardian at The Ultimate. We have selected 17 guardians who they have a serious challenge from their families. During the retreat one guardian from Tshirolwe by the name Mrs Musekwa Mukumela in the age of 75 year has confessed about her plan to commit suicide.

She is taking care of three vulnerable children, where the mother passed way. She has raised those children by herself and now the life is getting tough and tough. She said “she cannot sleep at night; she wakes up during midnight thinking about the life she is facing in the house. The problem is her children whose they have their own families. They demand the old lady to buy whatever they what for them. When failing to do so they start to make troubles for her.

They issue was taken to the police and the protection order was issued to her children; the problem stills continue. There is no proper house; she is trying to make a better house for vulnerable children but is not easy because her children comes and demand things from her.

With the retreat we held, during evaluation she said” this retreat helps me a lots now I can see that I am not the only one who has the problem. There are other people who are facing with more difficult situation than me. I have learn a lot from this retreat and I won’t kill myself, as from now I am going to change my thinking.”