

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN TSHWARANANG RESOURCE CENTRE REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED MARCH 2009

Introduction

Our programmes for 2008 ran up to the third week of December. As a consequence thereof our planning sessions with the community groups only took place in the last two weeks of January 2009. Therefore our programmes for 2009 effectively started on the first week of February 2009.

STAFF APPOINTMENT

The HIV/ AIDS division has been joined by Sibongile Mbuya from Mlungisi, Queenstown. She is an inspirational and energetic young lady and competent to lead this division. She has been involved in HIV/AIDS work for the past 7years. To sharpen her skill, we approached the American embassy to donate funds for her study towards a Diploma in HIV/AIDS Management. The embassy gladly agreed to our proposal. Sibongile is now registered with MSC College.



We are thankful to the American Embassy for this sponsorship.
Sibongile Mbuya

STAFF RESIGNATION

The facilitator of the Sterkspruit computer project has resigned to follow up a nursing career with department of health. Arrangements have been made for her substitution. We wish to thank her for her short stay with us.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation has become a challenge for the centre. Because of the new developments in the diocese, the Centre Coordinator had to vacate the office he occupied in order to accommodate the Bishop's Vicar and the administrative staff. He is now accommodated in a small office and the rest of the staff is sharing a small open office next to a kitchen. The other offices that could alleviate this problem are currently occupied by Revd. Arends.

This situation impacts on the functioning of the Coordinator in that each time there is client referred for counselling, he has to avail his office and work elsewhere. Whilst appreciating the current accommodation challenges, one has to now and again raise the matter in order to demonstrate its urgency.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

DIOCESAN LOAN

Our financial statement always reflects a loan owing to the diocese. This loan emanates from services rendered by the diocese on behalf of Tshwaranang during the past difficult years. It must however be mentioned that at all times relevant Tshwaranang was not receiving any grant from the diocese.

We feel strongly that this loan could have been set off had Tshwaranang received a grant in-aid. We respectfully, with the concurrence of the board, request that this loan be written off as irrecoverable as funders are not prepared to fund loans.

Audit 2009 financial year

Books of account for the financial year 2008 will be delivered to the Auditors by the first week of April 2009.

HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

Proposed Diocesan AIDS Strategy

Two staff members participated in a workshop developing the new vision and plan for the diocesan HIV/AIDS strategy. We are convinced that the new plan, if adopted, would be a success as it appears to be all inclusive. We pledge our support for this initiative.

Home Based Care Training

Twenty volunteers completed their training on the 4 March 2009. This training was financed by American Embassy. These trainings contribute towards skills required to build sustainable responses and mobilization of society and human assets within our communities. Once again we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the American Embassy for reaching out to these communities.

Trainees who completed training



Health Kit Refills

Health kit refills has always been a challenge for our care workers precisely because clinics are supplied with limited stocks. We had to provide supplies out of limited budget which quickly dried up because of high demand. American Embassy, through the new partnership provided funds for the acquisition of supplies. Our care workers now fully comply with the health standards.

Reaching out to other community groups

During this period the head of the division was invited by the local Sinethemba HIV/AIDS Organisation to provide education on support and counseling of their caregivers who live with HIV/AIDS. She also educated them on treatment literacy and gynecological challenges that face women living with HIV/AIDS. Twenty-nine care workers benefited from this workshop.

Partnership with Social Development

This division has always been experiencing challenges regarding training of Orphans and vulnerable Children care workers on Psychological aspects. We have now entered into an agreement with Social Development whereby Social Development will provide training on psychological challenges facing orphans and Vulnerable Children.

STATISTIC ON HOME BASED CARE

Total no of Patients HCB/Palliative	996
No. New Patient received HCB/Palliative	71
No. of Positive Patient received HCB	104
No. of Positive Patient on ARV treatment	91
No. of Positive Patient screen for TB	60
No. of Patient on Pill count	139
No. of Patient on ARV	77
No. of Patient referred for ARV Treatment	21
No. of Patient referred for VCT	19
No. if Patient suffered from	
➤ Cardiac	81
➤ Epilepsy	74
➤ Cancer	86
➤ Acute Arthritis	102
➤ Asthma	71

Deaths : 14

Counseling: Females : 102 Males :51

ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

The number of households with orphans and vulnerable children has increased and places extra burden on care workers charged with this function. The renewal of the partnership between Tshwaranang and Africare came at the right time. Africare will support 24 care workers and provide other logistical material. This support will certainly reduce our financial burden and other resources. We once again wish that thank Africare for their unwavering support for this programme.

PARTNESHIP WITH AFRICARE

Africare, who has been in partnership with us since August 2007, has renewed the partnership for the current financial year. They will be supporting our Orphan and Vulnerable Children programme in terms of providing stipends for 24 care workers and logistical materials. We thank Africare for showing confidence in us.

OVC STATISTICS**Wards 22-25 _____ Gender Desegregation of Beneficiaries****Beneficiaries**

	Male	Female	Total
Total number of new OVC households the OVC caregivers has recruited in this month	28	60	84
Total number of OVC households the OVC caregiver is working with this month	16	26	42
Total number of new OVC the OVC caregivers has recruited this month			
Total number of OVC visited by the OVC caregiver this month	313	87	400
Total number of OVC visited by the caregiver at least twice a month	47	94	141
Total number of OVC visited once or not visited at all this month	180	197	377
Total number of OVC under your care that have dropped out of the program due to death and other reasons this month (de-registration form filled in?)			6

**Gender Desegregation of
Wards : 18 - 21****Beneficiaries**

Report Item Ward 18-21	Males	Female	Total
Total number of new OVC households the OVC caregiver has recruited in this month	3	6	9
Total number of OVC households the OVC caregiver is working with this month	194	202	392
Total number of OVC the caregiver has recruited this month	11	18	29
Total number of OVC the OVC caregiver has this month	269	289	558
Total number of OVC visited by the Caregiver at	345	472	817
Total number of OVC visited once or not visited at all this month	–	–	–
Reasons why some OVC visited were not visited at least twice this month:			
Total number of OVC under your care that have dropped out of the program due to death and other reasons this month (de-registration form filled in?)	6	12	18

PARRALEGAL PROGRAMME

This division remains committed in ensuring that the marginalized people freely enjoy their rights. The local state departments are beginning to recognize the capability of our staff. During the period under review, two staff members were involved in the Department of Social Development exercise of identifying children and family members who could qualify for social relief assistance.

SOCIAL RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS

We referred 413 applicants to department for assistance. The majority of our applicants had passed the test and subsequently received food parcels. The distribution of the food parcels began on the 3 March 2009. Because suppliers could not consistently provide quality food stuffs some of our applicants were issued with money vouchers. We monitored how the money was spent so as to avert misuse.



OTHER CASE WORK

During this period 55 cases have been reported and handled. Twenty five of these cases were school fees exemption applications. Interesting enough is that some of the applicants were from schools that had been declared "NO FEE SCHOOLS". This shows the extent of ignorance on the part of Departmental officials.

PARALEGAL STATISTICS

Cases	No:
School Fees Exemption	25
Foster Care	5
Emotional Abuse	3
Maintenance	7
Bursary opportunity	3
UIF Pension Benefit	4
Amended of Birth Registration	2
Child Support Grant	5
Disability Grant	1
Total	55

Drug Abuse

This programme has been shelved pending the appointment of a drug abuse officer.

COMPUTER PROGRAMME

Our Computer training programme has opened many opportunities for our youth and the community members at large. This division has marketed its self well, and this is evidenced by the big number of learners that have registered for the first 4 months. The level of demand for training is so high that we have been compelled to introduce classes on Friday which will focus on the people who did elementary training. Although this development would in the long run be difficult to handle, we are hopeful that our donor friends will enable us to acquire the services of a partime trainer.

The installation of minor equipment in Sterkspruit is almost complete and we hope to start classes by mid April 2009.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

Garden Project at St. Peter's Church



The consequences of HIV/AIDS have deepened the poverty levels to the extent that families' caring capacity for infected people and vulnerable children has been pushed beyond ability to cope. As church we have a responsibility to encourage families to look for other ways of mitigating the levels of malnutrition. To this end, vegetable gardens have been identified as the answer to this challenge.

Although it has been difficult to get parishes to start up vegetable gardens, St Peter's Ezibeleni Mothers Union has heeded our call. We provided them with seedlings and pesticides.

We are glad to report that they are progressing well. We will continue talking to other parishes to follow the St. Peter and St Barnabas example.

