

Programme Area Summary

Country: South Africa

Programme Area: Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) and HIV & AIDS 2005-2009

What is the aim of the programme area?

To reduce vulnerability of children in South Africa to the HIV&AIDS pandemic

Why VSO is working in this programme area and region?

In 2007 it is estimated that 1 million children have lost one or both parents due to HIV&AIDS. In January 2007 UNICEF announced in its new report that South Africa has the largest number of orphans due to HIV&AIDS in the world.

Issues regarding orphans and vulnerable children are: the lack of birth registration; lack of necessary documents to apply for social grants; the huge backlog in applications for social grants at Home Affairs; children dropping out of school; child headed households; need for life skills training; (lack of) heritage rights, health care and ARV treatment; teenage pregnancy; lack of provision to meet the basic needs of orphans and vulnerable children; such as food, school fees, school uniforms; and the need of psycho social support for orphans and other vulnerable children and their carers.

There is no geographical focus specific to provinces. The focus is applied around the types of disadvantaged communities partner organisations are rooted in/operate which are townships, rural areas and informal settlements which can be found in all the provinces in the country.

Key beneficiaries and partners

The key beneficiaries are children age 0-18 generally belonging to two groups: those who are vulnerable to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic because they are affected and/or infected by HIV&AIDS and those who are in socially and economically difficult circumstances that make them vulnerable to HIV&AIDS infection.

The key partners are the following, all of them are non-profit and/or community based organisations:

1. Moretele Sunrise Hospice, (partnership review)
2. Tateni Home Based Care, (partnership review)
3. Cape Town Child Welfare (CTCW), (partnership review)
4. Centre for Positive Care (CPC), (partnership review)
5. Sizanani/St. Joseph Care Centre
6. Ikageng Itireleng
7. Vutshilo Mountain School
8. Vaal AIDS Home Based Care
9. Age in Action
10. Ndlovu Medical Centre
11. HIVSA
12. Ebenezer Home Based Care
13. Children on the Move
14. Siyaphila Home Based Care
15. Far North Health Care (Mainly with EC Programme)
16. Cindi Network (Mainly with National Volunteering Programme)

Crosscutting partnerships

- Governance – working relationship with Department of Social Development
- Corporate Social Responsibility – accessed resources from Revlon and Anglo American

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- Social Movements – partner organisations are tied strongly with the home-based care movement and the elderly sector

Key objectives of the programme and the cross-cutting themes

To strengthen care and support services for orphans and vulnerable children (with a special focus on children infected and/or affected by HIV&AIDS)

Current Programme Activities

The core strategies of capacity strengthening of organisations working with orphans and vulnerable children are international volunteer placement and effective collaboration with these organisations.

RAISA and UK Sport fund the OVC programme. RAISA tools include national workshops, regional conferences, national and regional exchanges, support to advocacy and small grants. The UK Sport funded Community Sports Volunteering Project includes activities such as sports leadership training, facilitation skills training, networking, project planning, sports festivals and support to community sport and recreational programmes.

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

- 10 placements developed (5 new developed)

Workshops, training & conferences

- 11 national workshops conducted

Partner exchange visits/study tours

- Regional and National exchanges involving local partners and 1 international exchange organized by the NV programme

Providing grants and/or equipment for partners e.g. small grants fund

- Small grants awarded to OVC organisations/projects

Other partnership activities

- 2 funding proposals submitted on behalf of partner organisations. UK Sport and UBS.

What makes VSO work in these areas special?

- The programme has established a functional orphans and vulnerable children network that links different organisations working all over the country to share information and work with each other. Lately, it has taken on the role of propelling the programme work, which results in greater local ownership of the programme.
- The programme's strength on psycho-social support work such as memory work and hero books benefits orphans and vulnerable children greatly and impact on caregivers as well as children
- The use of sports (UK Sport programme) as part of the package of services on psycho-social support that can be provided to orphans and vulnerable children
- Partners outside VSO's orphans and vulnerable children network benefiting from VSO's work (e.g. school children receiving Memory work from Ikageng, other organisations within Gauteng DOSD network benefiting from Memory work training)