

Not just a quick fix

Sharing professional expertise and injecting modest funds will hugely benefit people in Lesotho living with HIV and AIDS, and people living with disabilities in South Africa. In January Skillshare International and the UK – based Tribal Group Foundation visited both countries to witness the positive changes taking place in the communities as a result of their partnership.

Lesotho

For one week in January, Kyle McGrath, Information Technology consultant from Tribal Technologies, piloted a short-term secondment to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Planning in Lesotho and the Mafeteng Hospital and HIV/AIDS clinic. She helped them identify their needs for monitoring and treating HIV and AIDS patients at a national level. Charles Karue Kibaara, long term Development Worker, met Kyle and will now advance the work they started with virtual mentoring support and technical assistance from Kyle in the UK.

Her one-week secondment was the first of its kind for Tribal and Skillshare International.

How did you make the most of such a short, intensive visit?

"Before departing, I researched the monitoring requirements for HIV/AIDS Anti Retro Viral Treatment and made email contact with Mr. Mokoena Lesenyeho, I.T. Manager for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. He described the wider context in which the proposed pilot at Mafeteng would take place – especially in relation to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Lesotho. I also corresponded with Ms Tisha Mitsunaga, WHO Technical Officer for Lesotho."

Who will benefit as a result of your visit and Charles' ongoing work?

"Charles is the key person now and his work should improve the way that data is collected and information is managed. I think my placement acted as a catalyst, to get a number of people focused on some very specific issues. The timing proved to be excellent as it was during Charles' orientation period, so he was able to meet everyone involved and understand their issues from the outset."

What do you remember most vividly from the secondment?

"During my first visit to the Karabong clinic – I asked the staff (nurse – and counsellors) if they could show me all their paper records in order to see if we could make any improvements to the system. They kept taking turns going out of the room and coming back with more record books, files and bits of paper ...and every time I thought they were finished, they'd think of something else – we piled them all onto the table and laughed about it together."



▲ Mafeteng Clinic staff and Kyle review the monitoring systems for the treatment of HIV and AIDS patients.



▲ Teaching English at the Ukubekezela project, central Durban. One of the Enable projects set up and run by volunteers.

South Africa

The Enable project is unique in its approach to providing education, training and development for people with disabilities in South Africa, an estimated 5–6% of the population. Skillshare International initiated a funding partnership between Enable and the Tribal Group Foundation, which means that for every £1 pledged by Tribal, Enable is guaranteed £4.

"We were overwhelmed by the high level of need evident in this sector of the community, but also how a comparatively small injection of resources can have a major impact on the everyday lives of these people, as well as their futures."

Martin Cumella, Chair of the Tribal Group Foundation

Returned Development Workers

What are they doing now?

In 2005 Greg Solomon worked with tribal communities in Uttaranchal, northern India, through Skillshare International India. In his first month as the Male Health and Primary Health Care Coordinator in Tjuwanpa, an Aboriginal community in central Australia, he is keen to make an impact. If the project is successful it could be extended to other communities.

"When I left this Aboriginal community a few years ago we were on very good terms. I presented at an interview with community members to ensure my philosophies and beliefs were in line with theirs of empowerment and ownership. I had been practising these beliefs for a number of years. My experience in India simply reinforced them and further increased my passion in this area of work.

So here I am, daunted by my roles and responsibilities on the one hand, but motivated and enthused by my acceptance back into the community on the other.

The Aboriginal Health Workers are my guides, my teachers. I am their student as they are mine.

We are not so much clinicians in the clinic ... our role is to implement Primary Health Care and Mens Health programmes, as well as provide mobile health clinics to remote community outstations. My position in India taught me more about the philosophies and practice of community development and the importance of involving people at the very beginning. Also, I'm now a better communicator, more aware of how to work with people where English is a third or fourth language, and conscious that what I say with my body language can have a greater impact than what I express verbally.

I like my job, it has a sense of achievement and growth both personally and professionally. Tomorrow however could be different, and if it is it would be nothing more than a passing hurdle, and hurdles are challenges where growth is stimulated."

▶ Greg Solomon now provides health care for Aborigine communities in central Australia.



Umoja ni nguvu, utengano ni udhaifu
Unity is strength, division is weakness (Swahili saying)

In this issue:

Photo competition
Capture a strong image and win!

Responding to Conflict

Coming up
Dates for your diary

Joint force for volunteer action

Development Workers

NEW

- Margarette Infante
Fundraising & Project Management Advisor, Namibia
- Stephen Otieno
Programme Advisor, Tanzania
- Asha Bai
Counsellor, Lesotho
- Dawndra Wilburn
EFL Teacher, Mozambique
- Ian Plaskett
Advisor to Managing Director, Lesotho
- Charles Kibaara
Information Officer, Lesotho
- Jean Yves Cherrault
Environmental Engineer, Swaziland
- Ian Draycott
Business Advisor – Renewable Energy, Botswana
- Cecile Cantraine
Occupational Therapist, Uganda
- Rebecca Lowry
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, South Africa
- Verdiana Malanguka
Resource Mobilisation Officer, South Africa

COMPLETED PLACEMENT

- Harriet Musoke,
Community Health Trainer, Tanzania
- Ashrafal Moyez
Dr Premilla
Dr Majhee
Dr Anil
All finished as Community Health Trainers, India

Coming up

19 Jan – 7 April: DfID consultation period for the third white paper on International Development. Interested in having a say? Visit www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/

13 – 15 March: GCAP conference, Beirut

22 March: World Water Day

7 April: World Health Day

15 May: UN Day of Families

5 June: World Environment Day

16 June: International Day of the African Child

20 June: World Refugee Day

JARGON-BUSTER – GCAP:

Beyond 2005 the **Global Call to Action Against Poverty** – which Make Poverty History was part of – continues to campaign. Skillshare International is dedicated to being part of this growing global movement, so look out for more news about the 'white band campaign' this year.

Ethical Dilemma

You are a health care worker in an isolated, poor, rural community. The rule is that you are available only for emergencies at the weekend. It is Sunday... You go to the clinic to catch up on paperwork. Local people see the ambulance parked there and arrive insisting on receiving advice and treatment... none of them emergencies. Do you treat them? Or do you turn them away?

Tell me: editor@skillshare.org
Find out what others thought in the next issue...

Skillshare International
News in brief...

Responding to Conflict with the right skills

Responding to Conflict and Skillshare International have constructed a project that tackles the numerous difficulties which arise during, or in the aftermath of, conflict.

Both parties believe the collaborative project is crucial. Simon Fisher from Responding to Conflict explains: "We are looking forward to working with Skillshare International... we believe this initiative is a major step forward in learning about how to bring about change and sustainable peace." Cliff Allum, CEO of Skillshare International, reinforces this sentiment and adds: "This is biggest single project we have ever had which is totally innovative in character."

The ACTS programme (Applied Conflict Transformation Studies) is one component of the joint Integrating Development and Conflict Transformation project which specifically caters for people looking to access graduate-level education on conflict transformation. The courses are flexible, based in Asia, East Africa and The Balkans, stretched over two years and broken down into six 3-4 month modules.

In the next issue, look out for how Development Workers will play a vital role in building the capacity of our partners in East Africa, Southern Africa and Asia.

For more information, contact lada.zimina@skillshare.org
Visit <http://www.respond.org/>

Inaugural Retreat

Just before Christmas, the first gathering and team building retreat for health workers and staff in East Africa took place in Lushoto, Tanzania.



▲ Front: (L to R); Emma Fuell, Christa Meyer, Lavanya and Jenny Kavuti.
Back: (L to R); Amos Kibire, Oliver Kantai, Kokku Suresh, Michael Kibure, Harriet Robbins, Sija Batchu, Evarist Momburi, Stephen O. Ojwang', K.P. Chandrashekar and Lillian G. Kissanga.

Leicester Africa Season

Over two evenings in November people from all walks of life came together in Leicester to discuss international development issues. The evenings were organised by Leigh Holland and Jonny Gutteridge from Skillshare International as part of "Leicester Africa Season."

Corporate Social Responsibility was the first topic and proved such a hotbed of discussion it paved the way for a follow-up evening in March. The second evening featured a presentation by Professor Mike Silverman of the Leicester - Gondar Link. Professor Silverman spoke about the project that he helped found, which links members of the Tropical Health Education Trust, Leicester, with the Gondar College of Medical Sciences in Ethiopia (<http://www.thet.org/ethiopia.cfm>). Each event sparked off passionate debate - about what makes good aid and the current significance of history, namely colonialism and slavery, in the public perception of development.

Let's hope these were the just the beginning. If you are interested in similar evenings, contact Jonny on 0116 257 6615
jonny.gutteridge@skillshare.org

On the beaches of southern India

Earlier this year Katie Junor, International Programmes Officer, visited southern India to see how the post tsunami project with the Coastal Education and Cultural Trust (CECT) was going. This is a snapshot of the visit in her own words:

The little girl, Merlin Mebisa, is from a village called Kottipadu in the district of Kanyakumari where CECT and Skillshare International have provided catamarans, nets and out board motors to families who depend on fishing. Self help groups and a fishing co-operative have also been set up and we have provided volunteers with health training. Disaster preparedness and alternative skills training (such as decorative candle making) were also part of last year's programme. This year the project aims to continue in much the same way, but it will also include house building and repair work for those who are still living in temporary sheds.



Skillshare says G'day!

In a triumph for mutual co-operation and hard work, a truly international and innovative partnership between Australian Volunteers International (AVI) and Skillshare International has been forged in Southern Africa. Late in 2005 both organisations signed a memorandum of understanding which places them at the forefront of a unique working relationship.

This pioneering alliance also helps Skillshare International better meet the needs of its partners because the pool of potential Development Workers will expand - as long as the placement criteria match with AVI's objectives.

Dennis Lane, AVI Programme Co-ordinator in Pretoria, South Africa reports: "January has been a busy month ... we've set up systems that will ensure good information sharing among the offices. Two volunteers have arrived for Swaziland and Malawi and have spent time adjusting in both the Regional Office and in the country where they'll be working. Also a Country Programme Officer has started work in the Swaziland Office." Traditionally AVI has specialised in distance management of volunteers. However the Australian government now stipulates that its international volunteers must have in-country support. In Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Malawi this is where Skillshare International steps in.

Currently Skillshare International does not work in Malawi, but this partnership could open up new options. Emma Judge, formerly based at our Leicester office and now an independent photo-journalist living in Malawi, is contracted to handle all in-country support to volunteers entering the country. She says her responsibilities range from "dealing with problematic fridges to talking to the Department of Human Resources to find out what has happened to delayed visa applications." She meets new volunteers in Lilongwe, organises their three-day induction course and contacts them regularly during their placement. "I've realised that just by phoning them, even if it's to tell them that nothing has changed, they still feel better. They know they are not alone."

Water Words

At the opening of the Hawane water project in Swaziland, a poem was dedicated to the difficult times and the joy the community felt at finally seeing their reward for three years of hard work. This is a short extract:

**"From afar it was mission impossible. To others it was a pipe dream
To others it was a white elephant
Indeed they were saying the project will fail..."**

**"Without cooperation this project would not be completed,
Without commitment this project would never progress
Without patience our dream would not be accomplished"**

Written in Siswati by Comfort S Tele, translated to English

Senelisiwe Ntshangase and Cliff Allum from Skillshare International, local MP T.T Dlamini, and Mrs Nxumalo Chairperson of the Hawane Water Committee officially opened the project in January.

Make a difference... take a photo

Decisive moments, fleeting faces, an everyday activity or a technicolour tribute...

Why not enter your quality images into our brand new photography competition?

Themes

Reality check

Capture a slice of your life as a Development Worker - in action with your counterpart or in the community.

Places and faces

Show us who you meet and where you are.

Living impact

Show us how your work is making a difference.

Skillshare International prides itself on capturing strong, positive, accurate images of development work and the people touched by our activities.

As well as being featured on the front covers of our major publications, the winner - wherever you are - will also receive an A1 full colour poster (594 mm x 841mm) of their winning shot!

Prizes also for the two runners-up.

**Competition deadline: 31 May 2006.
So take them and send them in quick!**

Terms and Conditions

It's FREE and open to all photographers

Submit up to 10 images per person.

Digital resolution: 3 - 4 megapixels (minimum).

Black and white/colour slides or film accepted.
Minimum print size: 7"x5" (17.5cm X 12.5cm).

Please include original slide or negative.

Please include a caption for each submission and your contact details.

The judges' decision will be final.

By entering this competition you are giving Skillshare International permission to reproduce the images you submit to us in our publications and publicity.

You are also confirming that you have complied with the NGO code of practice on images and messages relating to international development. (see www.skillshare.org/photocompetition.htm)

Always receive the subject's permission before taking their photograph.

Respect their right **not** to be photographed.

**Send your prints and slides to:
126 New Walk, Leicester,
LE1 7JA, UK**

Email: editor@skillshare.org

Skillshare International
126 New Walk
Leicester LE1 7JA UK

Tel: +44 (0)116 254 1862

Fax: +44 (0)116 254 2614

Email: info@skillshare.org

www.skillshare.org

