

Oxfam Southern Africa and HIV/AIDS

Funding target : £13,000

Summary

This proposal is to enable Oxfam to continue its work in communities devastated by HIV/AIDS by engaging and training four more Social Workers to be based at key centres in Pietermaritzburg.

Background

HIV/AIDS has become the region's single biggest killer with prevalence rates of 50% in some areas. The severe consequences are already being felt now with:

- Changes in the population demographics
- More orphans in the community
- More sick people in the general population
- Fewer adults of working age in the population

Oxfam's goal is to prevent new HIV infections and to help families and individuals affected by HIV/AIDS to lead normal lives in their communities. Oxfam is currently funding a programme focusing on prevention and care by building the capacity of local partners. This is being achieved by funding the recruitment, training, management and support of HIV/AIDS counsellors, in order to provide a counselling service where poor people will have access to the appropriate information, services and support.

The project is based in Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal province. This area is at the epicentre of the AIDS pandemic with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in South Africa. It is estimated that between 80-100,000 people are infected but that as few as 10% are aware of their HIV status.

Objectives

To respond to the problem of HIV/AIDS in this area by targeting the increasing numbers of rape survivors by engaging and training four Social Workers who are based at 2 local hospitals, a Rape Crisis Centre and Police sexual assault unit. They provide emergency assistance and accurate information to rape survivors, in particular information regarding HIV infection.

Activities

To engage and train four Social Workers who:

- Provide quality counselling to rape survivors
- Ensure survivors are offered PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis – anti Aids treatment for women and girls who have been raped)
- Ensure pre and post test counselling
- Provide HIV negative clients with appropriate information
- Ensure that HIV positive clients are given appropriate information, support, treatment and follow-up
- Support survivors of rape regarding their legal options
- Provide access to a Women's Refuge if necessary
- Take part in an on-call system to provide an after hours service
- Will liaise with Childline on issues relating to children and undertake training to work with children



South Africa – Country facts

- Population 43 million
- Life expectancy is 45 years
- 5,000,000 people are currently living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa.
- Life expectancy for someone with HIV in Southern Africa is less than five years.
- An estimated 25% of pregnant women in Southern Africa are infected with the virus.
- Oxfam has worked in South Africa for over 30 years.

Outcomes

- Increase capacity of current service by engaging 4 more social workers
- Provide access to appropriate services at 4 further key centres in the community
- Expansion of service by introducing out of hours 'on-call'
- Reaching more rape survivors
- Ensure safety of women by providing refuge at the 'Haven for Battered Women'
- Enable HIV- clients to protect themselves and their partners

Funding request

To engage 4 new counsellors to be based at 4 strategic locations..... £13,012
(based on exchange rate of £1 to 12.74 ZAR)