

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 rape counsellors who are training as assistant 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
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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 with a particular emphasis on the interaction between GBV and HIV. 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. This will be achieved by engaging and training four rape counsellors who will be based at 2 local hospitals, a Rape Crisis Centre and Police sexual assault unit. To provide emergency assistance and accurate information to rape survivors, in particular information on the prevention of HIV infection.

Activities

Training four rape counsellors who will:

- Provide quality counselling to rape survivors
- Ensure survivors are offered PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis – treatment to prevent HIV infection in 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 down from over 60 in the mid 90's
- 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 rape counsellors

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)

Oxfam registered charity No. 202918

