



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE GOOD OF ALL

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AFRICA UNITE

Africa Unite is a non-profit organization formed in response to concerns and frustrations voiced by young adults about crime, xenophobia, unemployment and lack of education and opportunities. Initially started in 2001 as part of Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) it became autonomous in 2004. Our programmes include Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, HIV/Aids Education, Human Rights Peer Education, Life skills for Unemployed Youth, Maths and Science Homework Support and a Savings Scheme.

MISSION

Africa Unite strives towards the achievement of a united, prosperous Africa in which all people live together harmoniously and peacefully. It is our belief that refugees from other African countries and South Africans should work together for the future good of all, especially children and youth.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

FOR THE GOOD OF ALL

Africa Unite strives to build a united, prosperous Africa in which all people live together harmoniously and peacefully. We work towards achieving this goal through various community projects aimed at equipping people to take charge of their own lives. Our projects are mainly aimed at vulnerable children and the youth, but we also remember our elders and we continuously work towards strengthening ties between Africans from various regions. We run these programmes:

- Baobab Centre for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Adolescent SRH and Life skills Project
- Life skills for Unemployed Youth
- Masiphakame Maths & Science Homework Support Project
- Sisonke Savings Scheme
- Human Rights Peer Education

While understanding the significance of our work we try to bring as much enjoyment to our projects as possible. For example, every year Africa Unite's youth treat young children and honour their elders for a day.

On these days children and senior citizens from various communities in the greater Cape Town area are taken on an outing that ends with each receiving a gift. Children who may otherwise not experience the elation of being fussed about so

get the chance to feel that they belong and that they are wanted. While the senior citizen outing sees representatives from the various communities do a short presentation on their neighbourhoods. This allows them to connect with elders outside their areas and share their experiences. Another example of how Africa Unite promotes well-being for all is by providing platforms where national and foreign national residents can interact, like the friendly soccer match between a home team and an away team consisting of foreign nationals.

OUR PROJECTS

The Gugulethu District in the Western Cape is characterised by shack settlements, high unemployment, and one of the highest crime rates in South Africa. The number of Aids orphans and child-headed households is growing, leaving children vulnerable to abuse and increasingly receptive to criminal activities.

By focusing our projects on young people in this area who are unemployed, still attending school, orphaned or otherwise vulnerable, we aim to minimize the adverse effects of their circumstances. We aim to increase their chances of leading healthy and fulfilling lives by providing them with a caring environment and opportunities they would otherwise be denied.

Baobab Centre for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

The Baobab Youth Centre, based in the Methodist Church Hall in Nyanga, gives assistance to orphans and vulnerable children when seeking grants, food vouchers, counselling, career guidance and skills training. Children come to the centre after school and during the holidays to participate in a host of activities. On average the centre services 75 children and we aim to grow this number to 100 in 2009.

Children also need to be nurtured so that they can grow and develop mentally and emotionally. To give the children a sense of belonging to a loving family we celebrate once a month all the birthdays of that month. A total of 45 children enjoyed their birthdays in this manner this year.

Some challenges

Given the high levels of unemployment and the resulting low levels of income in the area, alarmingly high numbers of children go without food. To address this immediate need the Department of Social Development issued us with food voucher we could give to needy children. Although this initiative helped to alleviate the problem, it also put the recipients at risk of becoming dependent on the vouchers. To counter the risk of dependency Africa Unite opted to teach entrepreneurial income generating and saving skills.

Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health and Life Skills

Through peer education workshops, youth in high schools are engaged in promoting a positive life style and advocating behaviour change. The workshops offer life skills and sexual and reproductive health skills training to prevent teenage pregnancies and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The project's activities fall into three main categories:

- Academic
- Extracurricular
- Peer education

Although not immediately obvious, these activities were carefully chosen for the specific purpose of increasing safer sex practices and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Academic activities such as English, Maths and Computer Skills allow orphans and vulnerable children to stay focused on their education with the goal to complete their studies and find employment, thus breaking the cycle of poverty which is such a big factor in the perpetual spread of HIV/AIDS.

The extracurricular activities were included to stimulate creative skills and to provide a channel where these young people can express themselves comfortably. Drumming,

Drama and Dance classes keep the children occupied and away from unwanted influences.

Lastly, the peer education activities directly attempt to address the issue of sexual and reproductive health

education. This part of the project has a self-sustaining component because the trained peer educators in turn train other learners to become peer educators and so reach further into the community. This year two training camps took place and a total of 45 orphans and vulnerable children as well as 55 peer educators were trained.

An unexpected but positive outcome of the project's activities was that it led to the formation of another activity: Workshops for teenage parents.

International AIDS Day

Youth and staff of Africa Unite took part in commemorating International AIDS Day through an awareness-raising campaign. At stop streets youths in red t-shirts distributed AIDS awareness packs.

Life Skills for Unemployed Youth

Training workshops on Personal Development (Self-esteem), Effective Money Management, Customer Relations, Career Guidance, Employment Laws, Professional Job Seeking Skills and Individual CV's, Introduction to Computers.

South Africa faces an enormous unemployment rate. The problem is particularly concentrated among the country's youth, for whom lack of experience is all too often compounded by lack of skills. The result is growing numbers of young people with severely limited access to employment and even more limited means to effect change.

With this in mind Africa Unite sought to empower poorly skilled or unemployed young people between the ages of 18 and 30 with life skills and job placement assistance.

Through its Life Skills for Unemployed Youth Programme we offer skills training that focuses on:

- Personal development
- Relationship building
- Money management
- Job seeking skills
- Map reading
- Basic Conditions of Employment Act

After completing the training the trainee is expected to be able to identify and solve problems and make decisions based on own life situation.

In addition to the skills training we also help youth compile CVs, we organise placements for practical work experience, and we make every effort to address individual learning obstacles. The idea is that by offering both skills training and supportive services we improve marketability and self-confidence and thus prepare these young people for job and career opportunities.

The Life Skills for Unemployed Youth Programme is supported by Woolworths, Edcon, Platinum Hospitality, Metro Rail and Umsobumvu Youth Fund.

We are proud to say that 90% of the young people participating in this programme have successfully found jobs.

Masiphakame Maths and Science Homework Support

Learners from disadvantaged communities in the Western Cape often attend severely under-resourced schools, and many struggle with math and science subjects in particular.

The project aims to make learners aware of the importance of science subjects and the role they play in the economy of a country. Two qualified tutors give Maths and Science lessons and help with homework after school at high schools such as Mandela High in Crossroads. They take learners on field trips to apply the subjects in natural environments, or to use the science labs at Universities, Technikons and businesses from the Private Sector. In this way, learners are exposed to the practical application of the subjects in different contexts.

The two tutors are both foreign nationals tying in with another one of Africa United's aims: To facilitate opportunities for refugees and migrants to use their knowledge, skills and expertise to benefit in South African citizens. It is our goal to achieve a 90% pass rate for Maths and Science in the townships.

Sisonke Savings Scheme

The Sisonke Savings Scheme aims to promote a culture of saving amongst young people. It is a joint venture between young South Africans and refugees living in Cape Town.

Over the 2008 year the Sisonke Savings Scheme has shown considerable progress. One of the fundamental achievements was the granting of funds by South African Micro-Apex Fund (SAMAF) an initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry. These funds enabled the project to move to its own office at the Idasa Building in Cape Town.

Through the partnership with SAMAF, we were able to provide three services to historically disadvantaged communities:

Micro Enterprise Development Fund – for on-lending to households who earn above R1500 per month and also those household who depend on micro-enterprise for their livelihoods

Poverty Alleviation Fund – for on-lending to micro-small income generating activities including home improvements loans and study loans

Capacity Building – Aimed at equipping and capacitating micro-enterprise

In addition to the services we offer the growth of the Sisonke Savings Scheme resulted in job creation for four unemployed youths at the office.

Great achievements

The Sisonke Savings Scheme also disbursed more than 90 loans varying from business, household and study loans, to the value of R105 000.00.

In partnership with Red Door and Business Place, we conducted training on entrepreneurship and business skills to more than 50 members.

Another highlight of the year was that we managed to double our number of savers in the areas of Khayelitsha, Mfuleni, Blue Downs, Philippi, Nyanga, Gugulethu, Langa, Masiphumelele and Hout Bay. They collectively saved more than R65 000.00 during this year.

Human Rights Peer Education

At Africa Unite we offer a Human Rights training course for Peer Educators. Participants come from various Cape communities and spend three days in intensive workshops. The training focuses on the understanding of human rights and countering xenophobia. We cover the following topics:

- General Introduction to Human Rights and Human Rights Education
- International and National statutes protecting and promoting human rights
- Migrant and refugee rights in SA
- Understanding xenophobia
- Facilitation skills

At the end of the workshops, participants are given a certificate of completion. They then go back to their communities to conduct similar workshops with their peers in different areas such as schools, churches, mosques and other appropriate places.

Peer educators at the forefront

In May 2008 the country was shocked by a series of nationwide attacks on foreign nationals. More than 60 people died, hundreds were injured and a further 60 000 were displaced. Africa Unite did not hesitate to act and promptly issued a press statement condemning the attacks.

Our peer educators were sent to assess the camps set up by local government to house the displaced. Their investigations

showed that lack of knowledge about human rights blocked talks between refugee leaders and government mediators.

A workshop with police officers in Khayelitsha resulted in a working relationship between Africa Unite and the Khayelitsha Police so that more people could be educated on human rights.

As the xenophobic attacks took place the peer educators initiated marches condemning these actions.

There has been an increase in requests for assistance human rights education. We welcome these opportunities even though they bring with them the challenge of funding the activities of our peer educators.

OUR ROLE IN MEDIATION

Africa Unite has a long relationship with communities in Cape Town and surroundings and has developed numerous relationships with community leaders, community-based organizations and governmental agencies.

As early as 2001, we were already contracted by the City of Cape Town to mediate in conflict between locals and refugees in Du Noon, after four foreign nationals were killed and many others fled the community. The mediation involved 10 months of negotiations between the community and South African Civic Organisation leaders.

Africa Unite also mediated when approximately 27 Somali-owned businesses were attacked, ransacked and destroyed in Masiphumelele. . The intervention included training in Human Rights for both nationals and foreign nationals. At the successful conclusion of the mediation intervention the Department of the Premier funded a Human Rights Day celebration. The event was attended by the Premier of Western Cape, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, The Chairperson of Human Rights Commission and other guests.

Again in 2008, when the xenophobic attacks flared countrywide, Africa Unite mediated between Masiphumelele residents and foreign nationals who had fled the community and were accommodated in the Soetwater emergency camp. The mediation resulted in the return of many foreign nationals to the Masiphumelele community.

Subsequently, we were invited to attend a conference by Sikusile a Durban-based NPO to help develop a strategy for

the reintegration of refugees in Kwazulu Natal communities. An article about our work was published in Perspectives and we were honoured to serve on the panel for Social Justice Human Right and the Rights of Migrants at a Social Dialogue and Tolerance Conference organized by the Department of Home Affairs.

Although we had some successes, there still is a lot to be done. We believe that it is crucial to address these issues through dialogue and learning opportunities. In doing so, Africa Unite hopes to promote an understanding of human rights for all, regardless of citizenship or nation of origin.

OUR FINANCES

Financial statement for the year ending 31 December 2009.

	2008 R	2007 R
INCOME:	2,345,360	1,044,207
Grant in Aid - Broadline Africa	-	75,000
Department of Social Service	1,337,074	491,750
SAMAF - Grant	100,000	-
DKA (Austria)	59,918	67,992
Coroaid	802,759	217,576
Other Income	45,608	191,889
EXPENSES	2,177,546	1,004,569
Accounting fees	-	7,850
Auditors fees	14,500	13,000
Bank keeping fees	73,150	39,439
Bank Debt (Previous)	17,921	-
Bank charges	18,099	15,547
Depreciation	26,132	11,127
Interest Paid	4,441	-
Office expenses and refreshments	10,983	7,860
Postage and telephone	50,809	30,181
Printing and stationery	23,960	30,153
Rent	57,227	20,205
Repairs and small assets	3,670	-
Total administration overheads	299,397	176,311
Conference, workshops and seminars	355,193	377,429
Covertara - Soap Kitchens	1,000,099	-
Feeding scheme	-	93,106
Other project expenses	34,507	34,920
Marketing & Recruitment Costs	7,477	-
Salaries and wages	377,318	366,045
Staff training and development	16,387	9,178
Travel and accommodation	46,278	43,380
Total project related expenses and disbursements	1,878,154	828,058
NET SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD	167,814	39,838

A complete copy of the annual financial report can be requested from the Africa Unite offices.

OUR THANKS

We give thanks to our funders and partners whose generosity and support made our work possible for 2008.

Funders

Breadline Africa

CORDAID

Department of Social Development – Gugulethu District

Dreikönigsaktion Austria (DKA)

South African Microfinance Apex Fund (SAMAF)

Partners

Edcon

Metro Rail

Platinum Hospitality

Umsobumvu Youth Fund

Woolworths

OUR HARD WORKING PEOPLE

The staff of Africa Unite who so tirelessly work to successfully complete the projects for 2008:

Management

Zoe Nkongolo Director

Life Skills for Unemployed Youth and Job Placement

Haroldene Hector Career Guidance Adviser

Sisonke Saving Scheme

Vusi Mandengwane Manager
Mpuni Dyantyi Field Officer
Nomasomi Renene Field Officer
Asanda Mgaxa Administrator

Orphaned and Vulnerable Children

Ntombi Mcoyi Manager
Pelisa Manyisane Psychologist
Vusi Ndabeni Psychologist
Nomsa Sunduza Administrator and Care Giver
Lolwake Mbeyeka Care Giver
Sive Makwetu Youth Educator

Homework Support

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Tendai Chipanga Tutor

Finance and Administration

Tafadzwa Mabika Bookkeeper
Veronica Taylor Assistant Bookkeeper
Lunga Sigidi Administrator

Human Rights Peer Education Program

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Fahiema Mohamed Peer Educator
Abigail Peters Peer Educator
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