



## Annual Report - 2014-2015

'toward's building human rights communities'



*“Nothing will give me more fulfilment than the knowledge that we have sacrificed to put our youth in a position where they can decide the future of our country on the basis of equal opportunities.”*  
- Nelson Mandela



# Vision

a united prosperous Africa in which all people live together harmoniously and peacefully.

# Mission

Africa Unite is a human rights and youth empowerment organization that works with citizens, refugees and migrants to prevent conflicts, enhance social cohesion and promote socio-economic development.

# Strategic Objectives:

- To build united human rights communities
- To empower children and youth in Africa in order to achieve peace and stability
- To promote self-sufficiency towards the realisation of socio-economic rights
- To build the long-term sustainability of the organisation



## Annual Report

2014-2015

*'toward's building human rights communities'.*

"Nothing will give me more fulfilment than the knowledge that we have sacrificed to put our youth in a position where they can decide the future of our country on the basis of equal opportunities."-

Nelson Mandela

Africa Unite – is Celebrating more than 10 years since its establishment, reflecting on its successes and challenges. Giving us a glimpse of the future strategies...

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:



***For more than a decade ago Africa Unite (AU), a human rights and youth empowerment organisation, has been working with South African citizens, refugees and migrants to prevent conflicts, enhance social cohesion and promote socio-economic development.***

Although my reflections will focus largely on the past two years gone, Africa Unite's work over the past decade has grown in leaps and ground, with critical strategic shifts in its strategy strengthening our interventions through partnerships and collaborative actions.

Although the organisation operates largely in South Africa, its work has since 2014 extended to other African countries in the region – broadening our vision and operations through partnerships reaching countries such as Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and including Kenya in 2015. ***Our vision of 'a united prosperous Africa in which all people live together harmoniously and peacefully' is slowly becoming a reality.*** This vision captures the essence of how we see our growth and development in the future. We are poised to realise this!

AU has also identified lobbying and advocacy for human rights as one of its strategies towards pro-poor policies that aim at fighting poverty and inequalities, nationally, regionally and globally. We have recently joined the South African Networks on Inequalities (SANI), a network of civil society organisations working on issues of inequalities in South Africa. In 2014 and 2015 most of our activities attracted media attention such that on a monthly basis AU events were covered in the local newspapers and accompanied by radio interviews reaching more people.

Some of our highlights include participating in the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) gatherings, whereby the Africa Exchange Program was presented and became the focal point. In both structures the response

was overwhelming as it was indicated that this program is in line with the Africa Agenda 2063 adopted in 2014 under Organisation of African Union (OAU) and African Union (AU). The Africa Agenda 2063 galvanises and unites in actions all Africans and the Diaspora around the common vision of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa. According to both PAP and DIRCO, this plan cannot be achieved if young people are not involved because they are the important cog in the engine that will drive development in Africa. We believe that this programme is in line with the AU and or Pan African Parliament as both structures have allowed us to participate in their structures and give input in the youth participation aspect and in helping to facilitate grass roots engagement with their 2063 Agenda.

AU aims to increase the capacity of youth to build community agency and improve the confidence of youth. Especially, in fighting for human rights conscious communities. Youth peer educators' groups; AU school clubs '***my school is my community***'; Africa Exchange Programme; and other initiatives have been established linking community struggles of human rights and social cohesion, with campaigns mainly looking at transforming and building an understanding of '***human rights communities***'. We have thus sought to strengthen our ties with migrants, refugees and South Africans as well as extend our relationships beyond the borders of South Africa within the African continent. We have successfully piloted the idea of working beyond South Africa through the Africa Exchange Programme an innovation of ours.

We are equally proud of the work done by our Singamakhaliha Programme working with vulnerable children in various townships. This programme is growing from strength to strength not just working with children but also ensuring participation by parents and community members in the social well-being of children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to realizing our vision.

Zoe Tshikaya Nkongolo



*Africa Exchange Youth Peer educator from Kenya addressing young people on Human Rights Day*



*Young people from the Africa Unite school clubs picketing at the National Parliament against the abduction of more than 200 girls in Nigeria.*

## HUMAN RIGHTS FOR SOCIAL COHESION PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

Through its slogan, 'Building Human Rights Communities,' Africa Unite is committed to the equality of women and men and the elimination of inequalities and discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. In line with the above commitments, AU also works with both South African and foreign nationals. Currently South Africa is in a serious crisis with numerous service delivery protests in various townships and informal settlements, waves of xenophobic attacks, the call for immediate transformation

in sport and education and furthermore the 'Fees Mustfall' student's movement countrywide. These symptoms are undoubtedly the result of youth frustration deeply rooted in economic inequalities and lack of social integration. The youth have become a radical voice in the country testing the boundaries of democracy; we have witnessed the recent University student's protests in parliament, Union Building obliging all universities to temporarily shutdown. Although the government has accepted a zero percent fees increase for next year, the majority of the students are calling for 'Free Quality Education for All' to bridge the gap of inequalities in the country.

For the past year AU is operating in this above context which has a great influence on our current activities. Though the nation is faced with these challenges we are proud that our youth selected from different backgrounds and trained as Human Rights Peer Educators have become the centre of change in their respective communities and there is a great sense of ownership by them through their human rights information sessions, community conflict mediations, skills sharing, lobbying and advocacy and networking. Up to date AU has managed to train more than 500 young people from various communities.

During this past year our youth peer educators have successfully conducted 79 human rights information sessions, held 14 events including community dialogues and reached a total of 6 078 people in various communities on face to face interactions. Our work with people with disabilities has given us an opportunity to reach one of the marginalised groups in the communities and opened doors to form a partnership with the Cape Town Association for the Physically Disabled People.



**Local youth peer educators running a human rights workshop with the Somali community in Bellville Cape Town.**

## YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

We are currently running a 3-year Community Conflict Mediation project in communities such **Nyanga**, **Gugulethu**, **Philippi**, **Hanover Park** and **Delft**. The goal of the project is to strengthen grassroots capacities and build tolerant, inclusive communities in the **Western Cape**. We have capacitated our youth Peer educators in order for them to conduct community dialogues in targeted communities affected by crime, xenophobia, youth unemployment by bringing together key stakeholders (traditional leaders, local councilors, religious based leaders, police, community police forums, youth groups, women groups and refugees and migrants). The underpinning philosophy behind this intervention is that the answer lies within the communities.

These interventions have a great impact in the communities as indicated in the following examples:

In **Nyanga** one of the oldest townships in Cape Town the community dialogue was demanding a second police station to combat the crime in this area. While in **Delft** the support received from the police commander and local councilor to hold a public dialogue with the community is an attestation of how far AU has achieved into facilitating dialogues that lead to human rights conscious citizens and in promoting increased participation.

In **Europe**— an informal settlement near **Gugulethu**, with the support of the community leaders we have started a **campaign on clean water and decent sanitation**. These examples illustrate how it is fundamental for the stakeholders to own the intervention initiated by the youth and more importantly the sustainability of such interventions.



## Xenophobia and social cohesion

The recent wave of xenophobic attacks led to the death of 7 people, looting of foreign national's shops and leaving thousands of them displaced. For us this indicates and endorses the need for the human rights education in the country. To curb the evils of xenophobia in the country, our peer educators initiated a campaign during this period called, 'Xenophobia Must Fall' where they developed several posters, videos, interviews with media and took part in various marches in the country. In relation to this, we have been selected to participate in dialogues seeking solutions towards this phenomenon. Africa Unite is part of civil societies which were selected to work with the inter-ministerial committee established by the President J. Zuma in finding solutions to the scourge of xenophobia in the country. We see this as a great platform for AU to influence the migration policies.



*Photo above : Community dialogue with stakeholders in Philippi  
Photo below: Community dialogue with different stakeholders in Nyanga and the police*



*Backyard dwellers who are members of Seskhona People's Rights Movement in Philippi receiving certificates after attending a four day workshop on Human rights and the rights of migrants and refugees.*



*Africa youth peer educator taking part in an anti xenophobia march in Johannesburg with the poster developed in Cape Town.*

## Skills Sharing:

Recognizing that much of the xenophobic tension that exists in the townships is the result of perceived socio-economic disparities between South Africans and immigrants - Africa Unite has created a platform where skilled foreign nationals will be able to share their experiences and expertise with local youth in townships. 1 workshop was held in Langa and another one in Philippi where Somali business traders explained to the youth how they start their businesses with very little capital, because according to the Somali community business is not only about profit but requires discipline. In Langa 30 people attended and in Philippi 60 attended these sessions.

Through this initiative, AU seeks to encourage local youth to start their own businesses instead of waiting for government handouts – thus creating a friendly environment which may reduce xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals.

Therefore foreign nationals will not be seen always as people who are taking opportunities, but as people who can empower, share and contribute to the economy of South Africa.

## Voices of youth campaigning for transformation

In partnership with African Monitor AU has collected voices and aspirations of young people in South Africa through a campaign called Voice Africa's Future (VAF) which is running in 10 African countries with the aim of creating a platform that will enable youth to participate in the Post 2015 Development process. Through this initiative 12 000 voices and aspirations of young people were collected in South Africa (Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Kwazulu Natal). In September 2015 AU managed to bring 300 young people from rural and urban areas, high schools, tertiary institutions and from the disabled community to sit in parliament with various members of parliament, in order for them to handover these aspirations. Through parliament, these aspirations were given to member delegates who attended the United Nations General



*A Somali refugee sharing his entrepreneur skills in Philippi Brawn's Farm*

Assembly (UNGA) 70 in New York. The major issue is, how this global framework can be localized and influence the lives of young people to eradicate poverty, inequality, climate change and youth unemployment. This emphasised the critical role of youth as the drivers of transformation and the implementation of the new global development agenda.

In line with this global agenda, on the eve of the adoption of these goals, Africa Unite partnered with Action 2015 global campaign to 'light the way' in reminding global leaders attending the UNGA 70 to make sound resolutions and agreements and to commit themselves to the realization and proper implementation of the new Global Development Agenda. On this day 200 young people were mobilised by AU to light torches and candles as part of the global action.



***Africa Unite Peer educator in Johannesburg meeting with the public prosecutor where she signed the youth petition in support of the youth aspirations collected during the Voice Africa's Future Campaign***

We featured in the global video which was developed for this occasion. This campaign also calls for all governments to make funds available in order to support the proper monitoring and implementation of the SDGs. AU was also involved in a picketing campaign during the World Economic Forum's 25th meeting in Africa held in Cape Town. The purpose of this picket was to raise awareness on illicit financial flows in Africa because Africa loses more than US\$ 50 billion annually. This money can be used to improve quality education, youth unemployment etc. This event was covered in many local newspapers.

This year we have managed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pan African Parliament Youth Caucus. The memorandum is to see how Africa Unite can partner with the PAP to extend its human rights education among the youth in other African countries.



***More than 300 young people submitting their voices in the National Parliament.***

### **Sexual and Gender Based Violence**

A series of gender based violence workshops were conducted where two schools were identified (Phakama High School in Phillippi and Sithembile Matiso in New Cross Roads) and one Community in the informal settlement called Europe. These workshops/ sessions were conducted by our peer educators. Eight workshops were held with the scholars and non scholars in township. The major focus was to involve young boys in the reduction of gender related violence. The teachers and learners were grateful for such an opportunity and encouraged AU to conduct more awareness sessions in the community as gender related violence is highly prominent in townships.



*Children entertained by Springbok's Rugby player during MANDELA Day*



*Children enjoying school holiday programme*

## SINGAMAKHALIPHA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE

### Aims and Objectives

The goal of this program is to provide holistic, psychosocial support, to vulnerable children in townships, it intends to develop their confidence and their ability to hope – to dream – gives them a future and empowers them in life. We want to build resilience and coping skills in our children so that they can face a wide range of social problems such as domestic violence, alcohol abuse, poverty and unemployment, child-headed households, sexual and gender based violence, HIV/AIDS, and community violence, including xenophobia-related violence.

Based at the Gugulethu Sports Complex, the program caters for vulnerable children from the following areas Gugulethu, Kanana, Nyanga and Europe informal settlement.

We currently have 459 children who have been registered in the programme coming from Gugulethu, Nyanga, Kanana and Europe Township, however, we have 130 children that regularly attend our programme.

Their gender breakdown is as follows:

Girls 215

Boys 244

To achieve its objectives the program has a comprehensive set of activities and interventions as follows:

### Children's developmental programme

The children's programme continued and services provided as follows:

Children fed (150) As the children come to the programme straight afterschool and are hungry, whilst others hardly have food within their

home due to their parents financial circumstances refreshments are provided to the children at the different venues.

Home work support (80 Children)- After-school homework support is given mainly because most of the children are not able to get adequate assistance at home due to various challenges that they are encountering at home. It was facilitated amongst the 7-10 year old children

Life skills (130 Children) –Lifeskills Education support for the children is facilitated through a variety of psycho-social approaches to cultivate healthy relationships, learn communication and for conflict resolutions.

Book reading (130) – Most of the children have challenges in reading and writing English, hence book reading gives them an opportunity to improve and learn in a friendly environment.

Arts and culture (130) is being developed as an added dimension in the Africa Unite programme, using sport, movies, guest speakers and games to help children relax, play, and develop socially.

Therapeutic sessions (6) – Counselling services are available to individual children, along with family counselling support. Children will be provided with specialised attention and access to a social worker for one on one therapeutic session and are provided with guidance and assistance.

Child Abuse awareness workshops (130children) and (100 Adults) – In communities such as Nyanga and Gugulethu, so often children are physically and sexually abused and are hardly aware of their rights. Children are taught the different forms of abuse and how to report cases of abuse. The children are also have friendly facilitators who they have built a trusting relationship with and are free to share information about their lives. Parents are also equipped in identifying abuse and the behaviour of abused children in our child abuse awareness workshops and parenting skills trainings. Community members are also empowered to report child abuse anonymously.

## HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

Three support groups were established in the following areas of Nyanga, Europe and Kanana with a total number 60 Adults and 40 children.

As part of 16 Days of activism our Adult support groups had information sessions focused on the abuse of women. These sessions focused on the link between Gender Based Violence and HIV/ AIDS infection.

We are also proud to announce that our organisation was certified as a child protection organisation early this year by the Department of Social Development due to its effort and work on advocating for the rights of children and youth.

In all the above children activities, Human Rights are central to the programme and are incorporated into every activity. The awareness of human rights has contributed to our agenda of empowerment and development as human beings. Children have learnt respect for one another, even those who seem different (eg. refugees, physically or mentally disabled, different genders or sexuality), and the values of community and dignity. Children who have been bullied or discriminated against – even in their own families – have discovered what it means to find acceptance and belonging, and this has greatly impacted their self-esteem.

We believe that the values of human rights, and human dignity, can be carried by the children into their families and communities.

Outings and excursions are also conducting through this programmeencouraging children to learn about the environment, heritage and surroundings

**AFRICA UNITE****DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>R</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>1,847,927</b>	<b>2,040,116</b>
Department of Social Development	229,695	216,692
DKA(Austria)	486,929	354,985
Lotto	0	484,000
CCFD	0	291,026
Other Income	1,131,303	693,413
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>-1,695,745</b>	<b>-1,587,688</b>
Accounting Fees & Bookkeeping Fees	32500	32500
Auditors Fees	25431	20520
Bank Charges	15295	12996
Depreciations	61343	29255
Insurance	20304	19622
Office Expenses And Refreshment	5794	2715
Postage and Stationery	46498	34825
Printing and stationery	47469	11742
Rent	55083	59505
Total Administrations Overheads	309,717	223,680
Activites,Events And Workshops	646253	809817
Marketing & Recruitment Costs	25885	18100
Salaries And Wages	605424	493360
Travel And Accomodation	108466	42731
Total Projects Related Expenses And Disbursements	1,386,028	1,364,008
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFECIT FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>152,182</b>	<b>452,428</b>

Auditors: Mr. Mbekeni  
IRBA Number : 472123  
Cape Town

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

The activities of Africa Unite are slowly changing the lives of everyone especially young people by becoming the key drivers of this change, not only locally but continentally. We are very thankful to everyone who has made a contribution to make our vision of a united and prosperous Africa a reality.

Special thanks to:

### **Friends for Africa Unite**

O'Molloy family  
Marita McComiskey  
Kuen family

### **Funders:**

CCFD France  
DKA-Austria  
Department of Social Development  
Lotto  
Wakefield Rotary Club  
Grace Hotel

### **Board Members**

Vincent Williams  
Nonhlanhla Chanza  
Ken Mutuma  
Tanya Shanker  
Jean de Dieu Bara  
Thobani Matheza  
Emily Mokoena

### **Staff Members**

Ntombi Mcoyi  
Brilliant Nyambi  
Silindokhule Hlazo  
Sive Makwetu  
Haroldene Thsienda  
Nobesthu Siko  
Faith Manchidi  
Zethu Sinxeke  
Garren Van Wyk  
Amamkhele Mgogo  
Tafadzwa Mabika

### **Our regular peer educators**

Siyabonga Madikane  
Abdikadir Mohamed  
Asiphe Funda  
Faith Tererai  
Mandisi Mtizi  
Sanelisiwe Ntuli  
Katlego Kope  
Sharai Mutyambizi (In Zimbabwe)  
Grace Mageka (Kenya)  
Harry Mhango (Zambia)  
Rahma Bajun (Tanzania)  
Adam Anthony (Tanzania)

### **Interns**

Charity Whyte (USA)  
Jamin Kuen (Austria)  
Stephan Kreiner (Germany)  
Casper Koemans (Netherlands)  
Raphael Mimra (Austria)  
Johannes Berner (Austria)  
Sebastian Frost (England)  
Renske Tituler (Netherlands)  
Soukayana Maqdache (Netherlands)  
Elisabeth Winkin (Belgium)  
Anouk Veentra (Netherlands)  
Joris ten Brink (Netherlands)  
Illaria Minucci (Italy)



*We are very pleased with the contribution that was made to Africa Unite. This program and its activities will not have happened without your assistance*



#### Contact details

Africa Unite  
IDASA Building  
6 Spin Street Cape Town South Africa  
Tel: 021 46146551  
Gugulethu Office  
Sport complex  
Email: [Info@africaunite.org.za](mailto:Info@africaunite.org.za),  
blog: <http://africauniteblog.wordpress.com>

Produced by NONI Change Management Consultants (Pty) Ltd