



Learn to Play, Play to Learn!

***Promoting Learning through Play for Vulnerable Children
in Swazi Communities***



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Project Summary

Project Title:	Promoting Learning through Play for Vulnerable Children in Three Neighbourhood Care Points in Selected Swazi Communities	
Location:	Communities in Ezulwini, Lobamba and Bethany, Hhohho Region, Swaziland	
Beneficiaries:	Girls and boys of pre-primary, primary, and secondary school-going age	
Duration:	April 2016-June 2016	
Budget:	USD 5,936.00	SZL 93,426.00
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Map of Swaziland



<Source> <http://www.geographicguide.com/africa-maps/swaziland.htm>

Introduction

The All Out Africa Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation (n° RT/7151) established in 2006 based in Ezulwini, Swaziland. The Foundation strives to improve the well-being of vulnerable children and communities and contribute to wildlife conservation through capacity development and education.

Working alongside our volunteer travel projects we work hand in hand with local communities to address the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC), as well as work for the conservation of threatened species through conservation research.

The Foundation's social development work comprises of Sports Development, Child Sponsorship, Child Care, and Building Programme. We take a holistic approach to improving the lives of vulnerable children by working closely with Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) which are community-based care centres serving as the first line of support for OVC of pre-primary school age by providing them with care and support in a protective environment.

The proposed project is aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable children of pre-primary age in selected communities by enhancing their learning opportunities through play by equipping the NCPs with outdoor play areas. Play is physical activity that is fun and participatory, unstructured and free from adult direction. It is also the most effective way through which young children learn, as the contemporary American Professor of Psychiatry, Kay Redfield Jamison said, "Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity". Early years of a child's life are the most critical time for a child's development, and can set the foundation for healthy development and lifelong learning. This project will enhance the learning experiences of vulnerable children at NCPs and contribute to their healthy development.

Situational Analysis

The number of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) is currently estimated at 200,000 in Swaziland due to the high HIV and AIDS prevalence rate which is at 26.5% for adults between the ages of 15 and 49. The epidemic has also led to the breakdown of traditional support systems of the extended family and community, exacerbating child vulnerability. In order to respond to the needs of vulnerable children, communities established Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) to provide basic care and support for vulnerable children of pre-primary age. These NCPs are care centres, some of which are equivalent to non-formal pre-schools providing some form of early childhood education. With 63% of the population living below the poverty line, pre-schools which charge USD 250.00/year on average for school fees is unaffordable for many poor families. As a result, attendance in Early Childhood Education in Swaziland is extremely low at 33% and many vulnerable children attend NCPs instead of formal pre-schools (UNICEF, 2012).

Problem Statement

The project addresses the problem of lack of learning opportunities for children of pre-primary age attending community-based care centres or NCPs. NCPs, which many vulnerable children of pre-primary age attend, do not have qualified teachers, have high caregiver-child ratio, and in many cases also lack adequate play facilities and play materials, and as a result, children have limited learning opportunities.

Rationale

Every child has the right to play, as articulated in Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Studies have shown that children of pre-primary age learn most effectively through play by exploring the world around them. Early years of a child's life are the most critical time for his/her development, and can set the foundation for healthy development and lifelong learning. Play is associated with communication, self-directed learning, developing motor skills and socialisation skills. It is also a powerful tool which ensures the healthy development of children physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively. By equipping the NCPs with outdoor play areas, children will have improved opportunities to learn through play.

Project Description

The project will construct outdoor play areas at three NCPs in selected vulnerable communities to promote self-directed unstructured learning through play amongst the children to contribute to their healthy development.

Project Goals

Objectives

The project objectives are to:

1. Enhance the capacity of NCPs to provide quality education opportunities for vulnerable children of pre-primary age by building outdoor play areas.
2. Promote the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of vulnerable children and enable them to acquire important lifeskills to help them reach their full potential.

Expected Results

- 3 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) have newly established play areas complete with a jungle gym and a sand pit.
- At least 90 children (49 girls and 41 boys) have access to child-friendly outdoor play areas.
- At least 90 children (49 girls and 41 boys) have improved skills in socialization, language and motor skills.

Strategy

Building playgrounds will allow children to learn effectively by engaging in self-directed outdoor play with minimal adult direction and will enhance their learning experience at the NCPs.

Geographic Coverage and Beneficiaries

The three play areas will be constructed in Neighbourhood Care Points in three different communities in the Hhohho Region near Ezulwini as follows:

Name of NCP	Enrolment		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Ekuzukekeni	12	18	30
Enkhanini (new)*	20	20	40
Mlindazwe	9	11	20
Total	41	49	90

*This is a newly constructed care centre, and the enrolment is an estimate.

The total number of beneficiaries are at least 90 vulnerable children (49 girls and 41 boys) of ages between 3 and 6 from the abovementioned communities.

Activities

- Purchase building materials
- Mobilize community members and volunteers to assist with construction
- Build play areas complete with a jungle gym and a sand pit

Monitoring and Evaluation

Activity Description	Indicators	Means of Verification
Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have a strong foundation for healthy development and lifelong learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of boys and girls from the NCPs performing well at primary level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Informant Interviews • Child monitoring • Observation
Outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children at the NCPs have improved access to learning opportunities through play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of boys and girls with improved motor, language and socialization skills. • # of boys and girls achieving developmental milestones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation • Key informant interview with teachers and guardians.
Outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of boys and girls engaging in outdoor play activities increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of boys and girls engaging in outdoor play activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation • Key informant interviews with teachers.

Staffing

The All Out Africa Foundation Building Coordinator will manage the project, and will work with local community members and volunteers, as well as All Out Africa's international volunteers to implement the project.

Conclusion

Children have the right to play and it is the most effective way through which young children learn. This project will create opportunities for children to achieve their development milestones and acquire important lifeskills to enable them to reach their full potential.

Project Budget

Description	Unit Cost (SZL)	Frequency	Unit Measure	Total FA	Qty	Total	
						SZL	USD
Materials							
Cement	90,00	11	Bag	990,00	3,00	2 970,00	188,69
Gumpole 75/100 2.4m	50,00	6	Piece	300,00	3,00	900,00	57,18
Gumpole 75/100 3.0m	70,00	8	Piece	560,00	3,00	1 680,00	106,73
Gumpole 75/100 3.6m	95,00	8	Piece	760,00	3,00	2 280,00	144,85
Gumpole 75/100 4.2m	110,00	14	Piece	1 540,00	3,00	4 620,00	293,52
Gumpole 75/100 6.0m	160,00	14	Piece	2 240,00	3,00	6 720,00	426,94
Corrugated Iron 0.27mm/0.610 x 3.6	120,00	5	Piece	600,00	3,00	1 800,00	114,36
Timber Black Cross 50 x 76 x 4.8m	100,00	3	Piece	300,00	3,00	900,00	57,18
Timber Black Cross 38 x 152 x 4.8m	145,00	4	Piece	580,00	3,00	1 740,00	110,55
Timber Black Cross 38 x 152 x 6.0m	185,00	18	Piece	3 330,00	3,00	9 990,00	634,69
Chain 6mm x 2m	135,00	6	Piece	810,00	3,00	2 430,00	154,38
Thread Bar Galvanized 1000 x 12mm	40,00	8	Piece	320,00	3,00	960,00	60,99
Nuts Galvanised 12mm	30,00	10	Piece	300,00	3,00	900,00	57,18
Washers Fenders 12 x 45mm	45,00	20	Piece	900,00	3,00	2 700,00	171,54
Sisal Rope 12mm x 30m	650,00	5	Roll	3 250,00	3,00	9 750,00	619,44
Plaster Sand	850,00	2	Load	1 700,00	3,00	5 100,00	324,02
River Sand	850,00	3	Load	2 550,00	3,00	7 650,00	486,02
				Subtotal		63 090,00	4 008,26
Transport							
Vehicle Mileage	4,00	200,00	Km	800,00	3,00	2 400,00	152,48
				Subtotal		2 400,00	152,48
Staff Time							
Building Coordinator	150,00	15,00	Day	2 250,00	3,00	6 750,00	428,84
Foundation Manager	200,00	15,00	Day	3 000,00	3,00	9 000,00	571,79
				Subtotal		15 750,00	1 000,64
Admin							
Bank Charges (5%)	4 062,00	1,00	Time	4 062,00	1,00	4 062,00	258,07
Admin Fees (10%)	8 124,00	1,00	Time	8 124,00	1,00	8 124,00	516,14
				Subtotal		12 186,00	774,21
				Grand Total		93 426,00	5 935,58

*USD1.00=SZL15.74

*SZL1.00=ZAR1.00

Implementation Plan

Activities	Apr				May				Jun			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Week												
Purchase and deliver materials for Enkhanini NCP	█											
Digging and putting poles into the ground	█											
Roofing	█											
Building of ramps		█										
Assembling the remaining components			█									
Purchase and deliver materials for Ekuzukekeni NCP				█								
Digging and putting poles into the ground				█								
Roofing				█								
Building of ramps					█							
Assembling the remaining components						█						
Purchase and deliver materials for Mlindazwe NCP							█					
Digging and putting poles into the ground							█					
Roofing							█					
Building of ramps								█				
Assembling the remaining components									█			