

December 2018

FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICA - Rita Beaumont, APD Food Security & Healthcare

This month we look at the work of clubs in beautiful South Africa. There are eight clubs in the country and it is impossible to tell you about all of the excellent project work being carried out but, here is a snapshot of activities demonstrating how by working with other organisations we increase our impact in the community.



SI Durban provided the orphans at the Helping Hands Orphanage with warm blankets. The club raised £900 and blankets were purchased and distributed to the children via the "CareGrannies" at the very basic orphanage.

They keep the children warm enabling them to have a good night's sleep ready to go to school the next day, helping them to make the most of a small opportunity to gain an education and empower them to eventually escape the cycle of poverty. Blankets were also donated to help street children and the homeless in Durban as part of the Mandela Blanket Drive. The club worked collaboratively with the company LVS engineering who distributed food packs and juice on the day.



SI Pretoria-Tshwane received a donation of boxes of fabric from Sway Textiles that enabled them to make clothing for patients of Weskoppies Psychiatric Hospital.

The women in the closed wards of the hospital receive very little support from families or the government and the club was made aware of the urgent need for clothes to be provided.

Members delivered 58 tops and 40 skirts to one of the closed wards for winter wear and short-sleeve tops ready for the summer. The patients were thrilled with the beautiful, brand new clothes they received - sadly for some this is the only clothing they own.

SI Cape of Good Hope have a long established project in partnership with the Pick n Pay Supermarket Chain. Each year they run a one-day Seminar for 100 Grade Eleven Girls from both privileged and underprivileged schools throughout the Cape Peninsula with the agenda focusing on how to build a positive future for themselves in spite of their socio-economic circumstances. Pick n Pay provides the venue and facilities for the full day Seminar which takes place annually on the Saturday nearest to Woman's Day in August. The programme includes "Dare to Dream", "Social Media and Me", Self Defence - being street-wise, "My Sexuality", "Starting my Own Business", "Dress for Success", "Building the Future together", a Career Faire and teamwork activities. The Day is organised by a club sub-committee and all club members assist on the day.



Douglas Murray Home for the Elderly

SI Cape of Good Hope have also worked with MAID (Make An Immediate Difference) TRUST who helped fund the purchase of two storage tanks (JOJOS) plus all the necessary fittings for the tanks to function properly for the Douglas Murray Home for the Elderly.

Access to Clean Water and Sanitation in South Africa can be difficult, especially in the Western Cape Region, which has been experiencing severe water shortages. Residents are only allowed 50 litres per day for general use, including drinking, sanitation, sewerage and washing. The Home has a Borehole and water will be pumped into these tanks for use in the toilets. When there is rain this will also fill up the storage tanks. The MAID Trust Fund has entrusted the club with the distribution of funds on an annual basis since 2010, the only stipulation being that the beneficiaries must use the funds to make an immediate difference to their situation.

Ladies just look what we can achieve when we work productively with a partner!

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An On-going Conversation - A Closer Look at 16 Days of Activism

Nisha Ghosh - APD Violence & Conflict Resolution

Yes, it's that time of the year when orange is the password.

[Orange the World: #HearMeToo - The theme for 2018](#)

The colour orange is a key theme unifying all activities, and activists reinforce the commitment to a world free from violence for all women and girls everywhere. Orange slogans, clothes, banners and even landmark buildings are illuminated in vibrant orange colours bring global attention.

With 'Leave No One Behind' as the mantra of transformative 2030 Agenda for the SDGs, [16 Days of Activism](#) has gathered momentum. First initiated in 1991 by the Center for Women's Global Leadership Institute, at Rutgers University in the US. It is used as an organising strategy by individuals and organisations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25th November, the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#), to 10th December, [Human Rights Day](#).

25th November - CEDAW - The [Convention for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women](#), defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of ...nullifying the recognition,.... of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms through support, condemnation and legislation.



#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

27th November - Violence against Indigenous Women and Tribes - Multiple forms of violence that indigenous women and girls endure globally. The importance of education for empowering young indigenous women to seize the knowledge of their rights is a major issue, and governments have to respond to the structural exclusion and prejudice that exists towards indigenous women, primarily through investment in education.

29th November - International Human Rights Defenders Day - Launched in 2004, this international campaign recognises the need for protection of women human rights defenders who are activists advocating for the realisation of all human rights for all people. Women fighting for human rights defending women's rights face specific violations as a result of their advocacy or their gender. It is a day to commemorate activism, and the impact of abuses by state and non-state actors.

3rd December - Violence Against Women with Disabilities - Women and girls with disabilities are 10 times more likely to experience violence and face multiple forms of discrimination. Violence is a means of power and control, thus such women are seen, as needing to be controlled and lacking the ability to be independent. Their rights have not been acknowledged.

7th December - Discrimination Against women in Rural Communities - Rural women make up over a quarter of the world's population and are the majority of the 43% of women in the global agricultural labour force. Engaging rural women in developmental activities can both unlock the economic potential of communities and support lives that have been hedged in by rural practices such as child marriage and FGM.

10th December - Human Rights Day - This day is celebrated, in honour of the adoption of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations. It is often said that women's rights are human rights. Many of the ambitious targets, set by the global community through the (SDGs), will not be realised if women's rights are not given their due. All human development and human rights issues have gender dimensions. UN Women focuses on priority areas that are fundamental to women's equality, to unlock progress.

Soroptimists this year during the 16 days of Activism do join the conversation!

Days of Interest in December

- 1st** World Aids Day **2nd** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery **5th** International Volunteers Day
- 10th** Human Rights Day 25th November - **10th** 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence

