

SKILLS ACROSS THE WORLD



MISSION STATEMENT

Working and Living together to achieve growth
through the sharing of Skills and Culture

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING ORGANISATION (IVTO)
WORKSKILL AUSTRALIA

'Skills Across the World' WorldSkill Volunteers

Background:

Commenced in 1989 the Skills across the World (SAW) initiative calls on Skill Olympians to volunteer to work in small groups with communities and young people in selected development sites around the world.

Drawing on the potential within the WorldSkills movement the project supports development and addresses in small stages the social and economic difficulties facing communities in developing nations. Projects in Zimbabwe have centered around re-vitalising schools, building classrooms, repairing and constructing furniture and building toilets. Each project responds to the needs identified by local communities with the materials funded through aid and volunteer organisations and assistance from local communities, who make bricks and supply labour. In Liechtenstein SAW has been working on the construction of demountable, transportable housing with Kosovo refugees.

Meeting Needs – community volunteers

A key purpose for the project is skills transfer with each community being required to nominate a number of people to work and learn alongside the international volunteers for the entire period of the project. This strategy has proved a recognisable benefit of SAW projects and community members have the opportunity to progress from a trainee status to that of a mentor.

In the two years of operation more than 69 community members have been trained by 19 volunteers laying the foundation skills in bricklaying, carpentry and related building areas. Each community is left with enough tools to repair and maintain the work undertaken and to embark on additional projects when the SAW team departs.

Meeting Needs – SAW volunteers

It is also a requirement that the experience clearly meets the needs expressed by the young volunteers within the WorldSkills movement. The 13 SAW volunteers in Zimbabwe were asked at the beginning of their involvement to identify a range of benefits that they hoped to gain from their experience in Zimbabwe. At a review session at the end of their stay the overall level of group satisfaction expressed in terms of achieving their stated goals and meeting expectations was a very convincing 84%.

Where it all Started

In 1998 the first International Skill Volunteers Project took place in Makwe Village, a remote rural community in Southern Zimbabwe.

The team was made up of five volunteers, two carpenters, a bricklayer, a plumber and health worker from Canada, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Australia. They were joined by seven volunteers from the Makwe community.

With the support of scores of Makwe residents they built a new classroom, built 30 tables and 60 benches for students who previously worked on the floor, and built a block of 12 squat toilets.

The project was a great success and with some improvements based on experience in the field, was expanded in 1999 to encompass three new initiatives including a partnership project with PLAN a major international aid organisation.

Skills Across the World Project 1998 Makwe Primary School

People and Places

- 1 Community
- 5 Skills Across the World Volunteers
- 4 Countries
- 7 Community (Makwe) Volunteers

Products

- 1 classroom built
- 12 toilets built
- 30 school tables built
- 60 school benches built

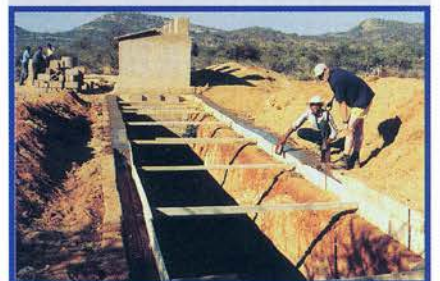
Skills Across the World Projects 1999

People and Places

- 8 Communities
- 14 Skills Across the World Volunteers
- 5 Countries
- 4 Makwe Volunteers
- 58 Community Volunteers (Zimbabwe)
- 8 Kosovo Volunteers (Liechtenstein)

Products

- 3 classrooms built
- 8 classrooms repaired
- 3 cottages for refugees built
- 2 storerooms
- 14 toilets
- 169 school tables built
- 53 school tables repaired
- 253 school desks repaired
- 238 new school benches built
- 35 school benches repaired
- 45 school stools repaired



Above:
Students toilet block
at Lushowkwe



Above:
On the job training with
volunteers at the Plan
International Project -
Mazibiza '99



Above:
U.K volunteer taking a
class at the Primary School.



Above:
Furniture task force in action.



Above:
Community volunteer
at Mazibiza School.

Information About Skills Across The World For Volunteers

What sort of qualifications do I need?

We are seeking well qualified, highly skilled young people, but equally important is your attitude, flexibility and desire to work closely with the other international volunteers as part of a team and most importantly, with the community in which you are placed, particularly to help develop skills in the local young people.

If you don't already have a first aid qualification you must be prepared to undergo a recognised first aid course before departure. Sporting and musical skills and attributes will be put to good use and if you have lived or worked with young children, or taught at any level that will be a bonus as well.

Where might I be going?

In 2000 the majority of projects will be in Zimbabwe with a possibility of another in Kenya or Kosovo. Details of the projects are being finalised but the strategy is to return to regions where teams have already made some inroads and also to open one or two new projects.

When do you want the volunteers?

We are planning two intakes in 2000. The first in February/March and the second in June/July.

How are the Teams chosen?

Teams of 3-5 people, depending on the project are headed up mostly by an experienced volunteer who takes up the appointment several weeks before the rest of the group arrive. Multi national, multi skilled groups are matched up according to the project needs and the mix of skills and interests among the volunteers.

How Long are Volunteers Expected to Stay?

Current volunteers have indicated that to get the best from the experience volunteers should be prepared to stay for at least four months, dependant on the project.

Are there any contractual arrangements?

Volunteers would be required sign an agreement that will cover issues such as roles and responsibilities, health and safety issues and team responsibilities prior to their being accepted into the program

How Do Teams operate in the Community?

Day-to-day responsibility will reside with the nominated team leader in each group and the team will be responsible to the team leader onsite. The team will be working closely with a committee from the local community who will be making decisions regarding the direction of the project.

The team leader will be required to document the project's progress and for involving the rest of the group in collaborative decision making processes. The team leader will be responsible for the general conduct of the group.

Who will cover the cost of my travel and accommodation?

Ideally each IVTO member country will be responsible for arranging to cover the cost of return economy air travel from their participant's home city to the selected project.

Volunteers will be met and accommodated, along with other team members, as guests of the local community in which they are working. Accommodation is basic and volunteers will usually be required to bring sleeping bags and mats, a torch, swiss army knife, music, books, basic eating utensils.

You'll be expected to share the meal preparation, laundry, shopping and the house/camp maintenance with the other volunteers and in most instances will be eating the local food.

What should I take in the way of tools?

Every SAW volunteer is expected to take his/her own basic tool kit and additional tools (maybe second hand) for community volunteers to use and to leave with the local communities. This is an area where we ask you to use your initiative in gathering these tools and in making arrangements to transport them to your host country. We can give you more ideas about this once your involvement is confirmed.

What can I expect day to day living to be like?

Most places have no electricity or running water. Water is drawn from local bores. Local transport is unreliable and some of the teams have access to a project vehicle which is managed by the team leaders and can be utilised on a negotiated basis on weekends. There are nominated drivers and a code of conduct is applied regarding use of the vehicle as local roads are dangerous. It seems that these 'difficulties' are part of the fun for the international volunteers as it is certainly not like home!

Communication with home?

Mostly you will be several hours from a large centre and will only have the opportunity to make contact with home on a weekly or fortnightly basis. With the Internet opening up in most places email seems to be the most effective means of communication through internet cafes. Sometimes you can operate mobile phones from the larger cities.

What money will I need?

Each participant will be provided with a living allowance of around US \$150 per week negotiated by their IVTO member organisation. This will provide enough money to purchase food, have the occasional weekend outing and will ensure that you are able to undertake some additional activities whilst in your host nation.

What are the Health requirements?

These change from country to country and more specific information will be provided according to your placement. However, all volunteers are required to be fully immunised and we suggest you seek the advice of a qualified doctor prior to your departure. We also suggest that you should be fit and healthy prior to departure and have no existing condition that would require limitations being put on your involvement. Precautions should also be taken against Malaria in African countries.

What sort of Insurance will I need?

It is a requirement that volunteers have full cover for illness, accident and luggage and evidence of this must be produced before departure.

What travel documents are required?

Everyone requires a current passport. Each country has its own VISA requirements so we suggest that you talk with your local consulate or a travel agent once you have been accepted into the project.

Security?

There are no security problems associated with the communities where the projects will be centred.



Left:
The team
Zimbabwe '99

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SKILLS ACROSS THE WORLD 2000

SECTION 1 APPLICANT DETAILS

Name: _____

Country of Residence: _____ Trade or Occupation: _____

Full Postal Address: _____

_____ P/code: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: Male: ☐ Female: ☐ PLEASE TICK ONE

First Language: _____ Other Languages: _____

SECTION 2 WORK HISTORY

Please outline briefly your work experience. This will help in matching your skills and experience to a particular team project. Please include CV with application.

SECTION 3 SKILLS AND INTEREST

Tick area/s of experience:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricklaying | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinetmaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting/Decorating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welding experience | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor mechanics | <input type="checkbox"/> Experience of total building construction | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing/nurses aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

Please give details of any experience in training or teaching others (formally or informally):

Travel experience in your own country and/or overseas:

Other skills and interests (eg. music, sport, hobbies, clubs, travel):

When might you be available in 2000 (Please tick)

JAN ☐ FEB ☐ MAR ☐ APR ☐ MAY ☐ JUNE ☐ JULY ☐ AUG ☐ SEPT ☐ OCT ☐ NOV ☐ DEC ☐

Statement on why you want to join an International Skill Volunteer team:

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you are interested to volunteer please return the following application form by fax or mail to:

Glenn Brasen - Project Manager or Kerrie Stevens - Program Director, Skills Across the World, Level 2, 13-15 Smail Street, ULTIMO 2007 AUSTRALIA Phone: 612 9212 5800 Fax: 612 92121533
Email: g_bras@yahoo.com Email: kerrie@dsf.org.au

When will I receive more information?

We will contact you again at the end of January.

- ☐ Visit the Skills Across the World website at <www.dsf.org.au> projects.
- ☐ Videos are available on the Skills Across the World Projects for 1998 and 1999 from your national Skill Olympics Organisation.