

MALAWI WORKCAMPS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL (MWAI)

WORKCAMPS AND VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS PROGRAMME FOR 2010

INTRODUCTION

What is AYISE?

Active Youth Initiative for Social enhancement (AYISE) is a non profit making, non political partisan, non governmental youth serving organization based in Bangwe township in the city of Blantyre.

AYISE was established in October 1995 and legally registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of the Laws of Malawi in July 1997.

The organization work under several objectives, which include promotion of youth sexual and reproductive health, environmental protection, conservation and rehabilitation, youth economic empowerment, promotion and protection of Human Rights and Democratic principles and Youth/Volunteer exchanges through work camps and volunteer placements.

Details of who we are and what we do in general can be obtained from www.ayisemw.org

THE WORK CAMP AND VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

In 1999 the Danish Association for International Cooperation (MS) sent the Executive Director of AYISE Mr. Marcel Chisi to Zimbabwe for a work camp regional planning meeting for the Southern Africa Work camps Association (SAWC)

It is there that the director got exposed to the concept of work camps. SAWC then agreed that a work camp organisation or programme be established in Malawi.

However, it got established in the very meeting that Ms Demelza Benbow, a British national had already formed an organisation to that effect but it hadn't taken off the ground. The organisation was known as Malawi Work camps Association International (MWAI).

The Director was then advised to link up with Ms Demelza Benbow upon return.

Indeed, upon return, a meeting between Ms Demelza Ben bow and Mr. Marcel Chisi took place where it was agreed that the MWAI programme be merged into AYISE'S programmes and hence the beginning of the AYISE-MWAI programme.

The MWAI programme in AYISE is responsible for coordination of volunteer or youth exchanges and deployment on short term, medium term and long term placements. The programme also runs work camp projects. A work camp is one of the development techniques, which encourages the local communities to do things themselves in order to improve the standards of living on social, economical, cultural and physical factors. In other words it is a volunteer based project, which provides services to local communities to carry out tasks that would otherwise not be possible.

AYISE MWAI PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The MWAI Programme is working under the following objectives:

1. To assist in community grassroots development.
2. To encourage the spirit of voluntary services as a force in the search for democracy, peace, equality and personal development.
3. To enable youth and communities to encounter different cultures hence developing solidarity and national and international understanding.
4. To support work camp NGO's and volunteer travel between them, particularly those in Southern Central Africa.

What kind of work is involved?

Work camps are organized in different communities according to the needs of each and every community. However our main areas are construction, renovation, environmental conservation, childcare (orphanages) and education and sports.

Food and Accommodation

Food and accommodation is provided but mainly comprised of African dishes but sometimes volunteers are asked to prepare different dishes from their homes that are enjoyed in their countries of origin. Volunteers cook for themselves (self-catering) using the rota (time table) that is always made by the volunteers themselves at the camp.

Accommodation also depends on the site of the camp. In Blantyre City where we are based, Accommodation is usually in the AYISE's guest house which is in the AYISE Office Compound. In the rural areas, volunteers sleep on mats using sleeping bags in church buildings, school blocks etc. We usually provide portable mattresses to make sure volunteers are comfortable even in situations of less livelihood facilities. However, during **VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS**, accommodation is at the Guest house unless others are volunteering with our partner organisation where accommodation is arranged with the partner. AYISE still inspect the accommodation to ensure that it meets the set standards so that the volunteers reside in a safe and clean environment.

Work camp participants

Volunteers that participate in our camps are either males or females from different countries across the world. They may be of different age groups, education cultural and

economic background, race and abilities. We are a non discriminatory organisation so we welcome any volunteer who meets our application requirements.

However the basic requirement is that they should feel confident to apply for a Job they are comfortable doing. If it involves painting they should either have some painting knowledge or the will power and eagerness to learn.

What to bring?

A strong sleeping bag, working gloves, boots, family and friend's pictures, any traditional dances or attire, National flags and any other thing one think may be of some help or can be shared with friends.

How much is the participation fee?

The work camp participation fee for all our short-term projects is U\$270. However the costs for Long or Medium Term Volunteer placements will be indicated and will depend on the length of the placement and the nature of the placement. This is normally discussed with each volunteer or their sending organisations on case by case basis.

MTV Projects in 2010

Much as AYISE develops work projects, it is not possible to address scope of work needs of volunteers and as such we always ask our would be volunteers to also share with us what they want to do and if we see it is within our work domain, then we go on to discuss and make necessary arrangements with such volunteers. Our experience has been that most volunteers also see other areas of interest while already here and they sometimes feel they could have done something better. It is therefore encouraged that volunteers who feel the planned Medium Term placements do not meet their needs and expectations, they should try to contact us to see possibilities of organizing a placement to match with the needs by including other work areas they may be interested in.

ENTERTAINMENT

AYISE strives to keep the volunteers entertained throughout the period of volunteering. When volunteers are coming as a group, a welcoming party is organized with contributions from both parties and other self financed parties and outings or clubbing is done to various places of entertainment in the city so that the volunteers are always refreshed and ready for tasks they have.

Work Camp Activity Cost

ACTIVITY	DURATION	DATES	DETAILS	COSTS
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Airport Transfer	On Arrival	Arrival Day	Two way transfer	20 US Dollars
Camp Registration	Arrival to Malawi	Upon arrival in Malawi	Caters for Camp preparation, subsistence and administrative costs.	200 US Dollars
Orientation	On Arrival	One day before the project	-Expectations -Team building, cooperation, confidence games & problem solving games. Slums visit -Detailed camp information.	30 US Dollars
Transport	Contribution to transport costs of the work camp	Throughout the period (normally 2 weeks)	Fare to and from work camp site	20 US Dollars

Participation in consecutive projects

Volunteers wishing to extend their stay by volunteering on another project will be required to pay only the camp registration fee of US\$200 since the orientation and airport transfer shall already have been paid for in the first camp

Other important issues

Changing money

Changing money on the black market is a serious offence in Malawi. This can only be done at the banks that are almost everywhere here in Malawi. You can also change in Forex Exchange Bureau. Currencies that are easily exchanged in Malawi are The US Dollar, Canadian Dollar, and British pound, Australian Dollar, Euro, South African Rand and Botswana Pula. Other currencies are also exchanged but we encourage volunteers to have the above mentioned currencies.

Addresses

In Malawi we do not have street names everywhere. There are only found in cities but in most communities where we work, streets and houses are not named and numbered such that places are located using name of locations, bus stages, and markets and so on.

LOCATION

Malawi is in Southern Africa and shares borders with Mozambique on the South, Southeast and Southwest, Zambia in the Northwest while Tanzania in the North. It is one of the developing countries. The city planning however does not have street names in the townships except in the city or town centre. Since we are located in a township, it is not easy to trace us using physical address. This is why we encourage all the volunteers to indicate the means of transport they have used when coming to Malawi, at what time it was expected to arrive and at which airport or bus main depot/station.

In the event you arrive at the airport after flight schedules without possibility of letting us know, we encourage you to do the following. Take a taxi from the airport to Mount Soche Hotel and drop in the car park. Ask for public pay phones booths and make a phone call on the numbers therefore there are no exact physical address but once you arrive at the airport you just phone or get a taxi to Blantyre (Mount Soche Hotel) and then phone to our offices on the following numbers/address below. If we are aware of the arrival date and time for our volunteers, we welcome/meet them at the airport.