

MALAWI WORKCAMP ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL (MWAI)

WORKCAMP AND VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS PROGRAMME FOR 2011

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 other wise 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 resides 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?

International: The work camp participation fee for all our short-term projects is US\$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
Blantyre Airport Transfer (Lilongwe available upon request and additional funds)	On Arrival	Arrival Day	Two way transfer	35 US Dollars
Camp Registration	Arrival to Malawi	Upon arrival in Malawi	Caters for Camp preparation, subsistence and administrative costs.	270 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	35 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\$270 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.

POSTAL ADDRESS

AYISE MWAI Programme,
P.O. BOX 90588,
BANGWE, BLANTYRE 9,
MALAWI.
Blantyre city Malawi,
+265-9-95 14 95

PHYSICAL CONTACT ADDRESS

AYISE Village,
Robert Mugabe Highway,
Bangwe Township,
Namiyango Area (near C.C.A.P Church)

Contact Persons:

Marcel Chisi,
Executive Director and
Dyson Maliro
Volunteer Coordinator
+265-1- 918-296
Tel: + 265-1-655-323
Cell: + 265-09-470-011

Email: dmaliro@ayisemw.org; ayisemain@ayisemw.org; marcelchisi@ayisemw.org; marcelchisi@yahoo.uk.org

For an application form please contact dmaliro@ayisemw.org or call Dyson on +265 8 88 630 491

WORKCAMPS AND PROJECTS FOR 2011

AYISE/MWAI - 01 TREE PLANTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

7th March -21th March, 2011

SCOPE OF WORK

The volunteers will work at the Bangwe Youth Centre (BAYOC) and the surrounding area planting trees at the youth centre and the area surrounding the youth centre. The work will include digging wholes where the trees will be planted, transporting trees from the nursery to different area of the youth centre where the trees will be planted, and the youth centre has 17 hectares of land.

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The volunteers will be accommodated at the AYISE guest house in Bangwe within the AYISE office campus and will be sleeping directly on the floors using portable mattresses that will be provided by AYISE. The volunteers will prepare their meals while at the youth Centre. The kitchen at the guest house will be used to prepare such food in a rotation order during the evening. Volunteers are therefore encouraged to bring recipes from their home countries for purposes of cross-cultural understanding and general integration of people from a diverse background.

LOCATION

The project will be located in Bangwe 15KM away from the Blantyre City Centre. The work / project site will be at the Bangwe Youth Centre which was built by AYISE and is still run by AYISE as well. AYISE is also located in the same community.

Volunteers will also be exposed to Blantyre City By night for two occasions.

AYISE/MWAI - 02 -INCLUSSION & CONSTRUCTION (Malawi Council for the Handicapped)

4th July -18th July, 2011

Number of Volunteers per each camp= 10 both local and international

WORK

AYISE works with different partners of development and these are either different local organizations or international organizations. This work camp will be at Bangwe weaving factory which is a company that only employs people living with disabilities.

With the effects of climate change rising it is now difficult for the factory to have running water all the time. This is making life difficult for the people who work here. The factory has water toilets and when water is not running they become unusable. Therefore, there is a need to have a pit latrine at this campus.

The work in this camp will involve transporting brick from where they will be delivered to the building site, mixing sand and cement and the actual building. AYISE will employ one builder to provide technical support during the camp.

This is a chance to work with people who are living with disabilities as Bangwe weaving Factory is a unit of the Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MACDHA). The factory was established in the year 1975 and was officially opened in 1976. The factory was initially open to train and employ people with disabilities in spinning and weaving craft. In 2000 MACDHA relocated three other workshops to Bangwe factory.

Bangwe Weaving factory is an accessible employment centre for persons with disabilities. The factory employs 140 people of whom 80% are persons with disabilities. The unit prides itself as the only dedicated employment centre for persons with disabilities in Malawi.

Working at this factory will give both local and international volunteers an opportunity to positively interact and work with people living with disabilities.

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AYISE/MWAI 03 WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEER WORKCAMP-LAKE MALAWI NATIONAL PARK

DATE: 1st August -10th 2011

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 15 (BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL)

The activity will take place at Cape Maclear of the Lake Malawi. Lake Malawi National Park was declared a World Heritage Site largely for its aquatic diversity. Lake Malawi is the largest Rift Valley Lake in the Southern part of Africa.

Lake Malawi is a lake that was formed naturally million of years ago due to the sinking or lapsing of the earth crust.

The camp will involve creating awareness –first among the National and International World Heritage Volunteers through a three day workshop on the importance of conserving World Heritage sites and the importance of Lake Malawi as a world heritage site.

The Work camp will also involve training of local tour guides so that they include the world heritage importance of Cape Ma Clear in their interaction with international tourists.

The third activity will involve sensitization of the community around the site of the need and importance in conserving the World Heritage sites.

Then the project will concentrate on building a toilet so that the place becomes user friendly as its difficult to use this place without such a facility.

The work will also involve some painting and fixing the entrance gate to the lake Malawi national park forest area.

Finally the project will help build synergies among actors involved in world heritage site management and use of which includes the Ministry of Tourism, National Parks and Wildlife, National Commission of UNESCO, Department of Youth, National Youth Council of Malawi and AYISE as the implementing agency, the site management institution and the communities.

Accommodation – In youth Hostels around Cape Ma Clear. These hostels are small houses built to accommodate volunteers and some tourists. They have very basic tools and materials.

Food will be prepared by volunteers in a rota.

For those interested to volunteer while enjoying life, then do not miss this Workcamp which will take place by and in the lake with World Heritage Fish.

This is the volunteer work camp that will have more than 10 volunteers and so we are inviting volunteers for this very exciting camp.

AYISE/MWAI 04 PAINTING OF THE BANGWE YOUTH CENTRE SUMMER HUTS AND TERRACES AS WELL AS DRAWING MURALS AT THE TERACES OF THE BASKET BALL AND VOLLEY BALL PITCHES

Dates: 5TH -15 August 2011

Number of Volunteers: 8

AYISE/MWAI 05 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DATES: 1th August to 10th September 2011

SCOPE OF WORK

AYISE's Bangwe Youth Centre facility was established in 2005 with support from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The youth centre is one of the early initiatives that came to the mind of the founders of AYISE as a mechanism to address many of the problems the youth used to face and still face to this day. It is framed on the adage that an idle mind is the devils workshop. AYISE as an active youth movement thought of establishing the youth centre to created space for young people to be active in activities that enhance their welbeing and at the same time contributes to national development.

AYISE believes that while it is practically difficult to create employment for every youth, it is relatively easier to provide space where every young person will find an activity that suits their interests.

AYISE further believes that lack of youth centres in an environment where unemployment is high would mean condemning young people to drug and substance abuse, sexual immorality leading to teenage pregnancies and HIV and AIDS, petty theft of items in public facilities and general vandalism.

We feel the youth centre also offers space to young people to develop healthy relationships as contrasted to relationships where the meeting places are dark corners, strategic road junctions or thick bushes.

In an effort to confront these pressing issues, AYISE designed and constructed the Bangwe Youth Centre which contains a modern resource room capable of hosting up to 60 participants, an ICT Training Centre which offers training in computers an general ICT to the youth and adults who are working but did not have the opportunity to learn computers. In addition, the Centre also boasts a restaurant, summer huts, a pavilion, a library, a grass football pitch, and concrete surface netball, basketball and volleyball courts.

The work will involve clearing the grass (bushes), planting flowers, grass and some ornamental and fruit trees at the youth centre. Volunteers interested in environmental issues are encouraged to apply for this project. It will be about beautifying the youth centre premises.

It will also involve maintaining the rubbish bins made of drums which were fixed at Bangwe Youth Centre two year ago and have since been damaged. There will be painting of the drums, mending the connection bolts and all the necessary maintenance work that may be required as well as installing the bins into the soil.

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers will sleep in the main Guest house which is located in the AYISE head Office campus. The volunteers will sleep on student beds with mattresses. And will use the facilities of the main guest house.

FOOD

The volunteers will prepare food by themselves in a rotation order. However, on some days, food may be prepared for the volunteers to carry as packed meals to be used for lunches. In the evenings, volunteers will prepare own meals. On the other hand, volunteer for this project will have a day trip to Mulanje Mountain where they will see the third largest mountain in Africa and be treated to some clubbing taking place in Blantyre city on one occasion.