

Teaching Management Plan

Kenya



Overview

Company Mission

Our mission is to encourage young people to volunteer for worthwhile work in developing countries. We expect that doing this kind of voluntary work will in time become the norm. As more and more people join us, we aim to create a multinational community with a passion to serve, learn, understand, teach, inspire, and be inspired.

Teaching Programme Mission

Our Teaching programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support within disadvantaged schools and communities to reduce inequality in education. Through our volunteers, we aim to empower underprivileged students by improving their future prospects and equipping them with the skills needed to actively engage in a multinational community.

Background Information

Despite impressive economic growth in the last two years, Kenya is among the world's 40 poorest countries, ranking 147th out of 187 countries in the 2014 Human Development Index. Inequalities are wide with the top 10% of Kenyans earning 44% of the national income, whilst the bottom 10% earns less than 1%. Poverty has a severe and long-term detrimental effect on a community. There is often an increase in drug use, mental and physical abuse, as well as disease. According to UNICEF, more than 10% of Kenya's 15 million children are orphans. There are increasing numbers of centres and orphanages to meet the basic needs of these children. However, financial constraints and understaffing mean that these children often do not receive the emotional and educational support they need.

In 2003, primary education was made free for everyone. However, implementing free primary education has been a matter of political expediency rather than a well thought out and planned reform. As a consequence, the education has been of poor quality, classrooms suffer from overcrowding (the current teacher-pupil ratio lies at 1:47 according to the United Nations Development Program) and there is a lack of teachers and learning materials. Slow learners fall behind and absenteeism has increased. A firm educational foundation during the early stages of childhood is vital to ensure that young children can succeed and thrive when they enter primary school. Due to this, much of Project Abroad's work in Kenya revolves around education, even in our care centres.

Partners

We focus on building strong partnerships with carefully selected placements that help vulnerable populations in Nanyuki. We work under the Ministry of Education, which puts forward the national curriculum for our teaching institutions to follow. This curriculum is comprised of the syllabi, year-long schemes of work, guidelines and a comprehensive national examination.

Goals

In order to work towards our Teaching programme mission, we have set the following goals to achieve in the placements where we send our volunteers:



2. Improve English

It is becoming more important for the next generation of Kenyans to be completely fluent in English in order to secure employment. In Kenya, both English and Swahili are the official languages so children need to be competent in both in order to be successful. If English is not focused on at an early age, the children struggle and fall behind when entering primary school. In order to give children the best opportunity, Projects Abroad focuses on improving the level of spoken English and reading and writing skills.



1. Improve the safety and cleanliness standards of the learning environment

Many of the placements we work with do not have the time or resources to implement or sustain good basic hygiene practices. The children often come from very poor homes where cleanliness is not a priority. We want to ensure that all the children learn about the importance of washing their hands, brushing their teeth and keeping themselves clean. By introducing routines and teaching them the importance of these practices, volunteers will be able to limit the number of health problems children may experience later in life and prevent the spread of illnesses.



3. Encourage learning through creativity

Often the notion of using play and creativity as an approach to promoting learning in Kenyan schools is rare and, in some subject areas, completely unknown. Yet it is important to inspire the children we work with to nurture their imagination and creativity throughout their lives. By introducing new teaching aids different from the monotony of traditional teaching methods, volunteers should hope to encourage independent thinking and inspire confidence in their students.

Resources

Human Resources	Physical Resources	Online Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average 15 volunteers per year• Projects Abroad global staff teams• Placement staff support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects Abroad offices• Placement materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer Resources Database• Myprojectsabroad website

Financial Resources	Intangible Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly budgets for overall operations• Donations to specific projects or placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reputation in destination communities• Goodwill; genuine desire to help• Expertise

Projects Abroad provides a range of resources for each of our programmes. These fall into four interdependent categories:

Human: Volunteers themselves are our most crucial asset in achieving our goals. Through their creativity and energy, all of our ambitions can be realised. Another central support team is our extensive network of Projects Abroad staff worldwide, dedicated to supporting volunteers and achieving our company mission. We also depend greatly on the staff in all of our placements; whose support guides volunteers through their daily activities.

Physical: Projects Abroad has offices in all of our destinations, where volunteers can come to speak to staff or attend workshops. There are also office materials and placement supplies available to volunteers.

Online: The Volunteers Resources Database and myprojectsabroad website provides vital support before, during and after their placements.

Financial: Funds for all of Projects Abroad's work come solely from volunteer placement fees. These are distributed via monthly budgets, to ensure fair allocation of funds for each destination. Occasionally volunteers may also send donations directly for a specific placement or project.

Intangible: The good reputation of volunteers in local communities is what makes our work possible. This reputation has been earned over years of dedicated volunteer contribution. This is supported by the combined knowledge of our extensive staff network. With over 700 staff across every continent, we are proud to be a diverse and accomplished team.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Placement visits
Volunteer workshop sessions
Staff meetings
Volunteer Resources Database
Feedback evaluation

Physical monitoring: Through placement visits and workshops, volunteers are in frequent contact with staff members, who will observe and advise them. Staff participate in regular meetings to discuss best practices within and between destinations.

Online monitoring: The Volunteer Resource Database is a platform for staff and volunteers to share and develop ideas.

Feedback evaluation: Feedback from placement staff, Projects Abroad staff and volunteers is continuously gathered and used to inform future plans.

Location of Placements

Nanyuki Preparatory, which is approximately 500m from Nanyuki town centre. Volunteers can either walk or bike to the school, depending on where their accommodation is.

