

Care Management Plan

Samoa



OVERVIEW

Company Mission

Our company mission is to make it the norm for young men and women from developed countries to live and work as volunteers in a developing country; they should work on projects which have a clearly favourable impact on host-communities. In this way, we will continue to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve and to inspire.

Care Programme Mission

Our Care programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support, care and protection to disadvantaged children and vulnerable groups to enhance their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development.

Background Information

Although school enrollment is high and Samoa is on track to achieve universal primary education, access to schools in remote and isolated areas remains problematic. A lack of suitably qualified teachers and inadequate instruction materials, limited infrastructure and sanitation facilities, combined with low levels of parent-community involvement are key barriers to improve primary education outcomes. Weaknesses in education management and information systems resulting in poor education planning and budgeting also impact negatively on primary education. Other key barriers included absence of policies promoting multi-grade and mother-tongue teaching, and there is a lack of strategies to meet the needs of out-of-school children with disabilities. Preschool attendance rates are low and fewer than half of all children attend formal early learning opportunities.¹

Partners

Projects Abroad Samoa was registered as an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) in October 2012 under the Samoa Charity Act through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.

We have partnerships with all relevant government ministries such as the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry for Women, Community and Social Development. We also work directly with a number of private and state-run educational and care facilities, such as Fiamalamalama School for the Disabled, Samoa Victim Support Group, kindergartens and preschools.

¹ http://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/overview_1858.html

GOALS

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

(1.) Improve English literacy

English and Samoan are the official languages of the islands, however Samoan is by far the most widely spoken particularly in rural communities. Therefore many children starting kindergarten have not had any exposure to the English language. In Samoa's fast developing tourism industry, a good command of English can substantially increase an individual's employment prospects. Learning English at a young age can greatly increase a child's language ability, so we focus on kindergarten and Class 1 to introduce English in fun and interactive ways. Targeting children at this age will give them the valuable head start that they need.

(2.) Increase numeracy

Having basic numeracy skills is vital during the stages of early education. Focusing on kindergarten age, we aim to introduce fun and practical ways of using numbers to help each child understand the importance of numbers in everyday life. Maths is a core subject in the school curriculum, so creating that interest in the early stages will vastly improve children's abilities throughout their school years.

(3.) Promote early childhood development

Early childhood is the period from birth to eight years of age. It is critical to a child's cognitive, social, emotional and physical development.² Early education and preschool programmes enhance children's language and maths test scores, behavioural skills and long-term educational attainments.³

Systematic measurement of early childhood development has multiple benefits. We aim to assess each child in the fields of physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Slow development can hinder a child's chance in primary school and lead to problems in later years. We look out for early signs of child abuse or neglect, learning difficulty or disability. We will be able to recognise these needs and provide essential resources to support these children and their families.

(4.) Raise awareness of healthy living, the environment and family planning

Most of the women and children who come under the care of the Samoa Victim Support centres have either run from or been forced out of their homes. Many who have suffered sexual abuse are also left with unwanted pregnancies and lack the support they need to look after themselves and their family. Providing education on safe sex and sexual health will help enable individuals to make informed decisions and live a healthy life. Along with the help of Samoa Victim Support group and our partners in the education and care sector, we aim to increase awareness about issues that in the past have been considered taboo topics.

Giving basic health and hygiene education and advice helps to prevent unnecessary sickness and gives them a stronger starting point from which to rebuild their lives. Teaching children about basic hygiene should start at an early age, so we will also be promoting health education in kindergartens.

(5.) Improve the quality of life for those living with disabilities

In Samoa there is still very limited access to specialised disability care. Samoa has adopted an inclusive education system whereby all children with disabilities should have the opportunity to be included in all levels of education, from early childhood education (ECE) through to university or vocational training courses. However, the reality is that most schools lack the training, facilities and resources to address the individual needs that many children suffering from physical or mental

² [http://www.unicef.org/lac/Inequities_in_Early_Childhood_Development_LoRes_PDF_EN_02082012\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/lac/Inequities_in_Early_Childhood_Development_LoRes_PDF_EN_02082012(1).pdf)

³ http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099079922573/ECD_LAC.pdf

disabilities require. Those with disabilities can be marginalised and have severely restricted opportunities in terms of securing employment and quality of life. By providing one-on-one support and academic and vocational training, volunteers give more specialised and worthwhile treatment to those most in need. By having most people in the communities involved in awareness programmes on disabilities, we hope to reduce the stigma.

RESOURCES

- a. 40 – 50 (average) Care volunteers per year
- b. Two x Projects Abroad Staff members
- c. Myprojectsabroad resources (www.projects-abroad.co.uk/resources)
- d. Weekly workshops/ discussion sessions conducted by staff
- e. Guest speakers from various NGOs and partners
- f. Volunteer-led workshops
- g. Books, stationery, games, PCs and Internet access in the Projects Abroad office
- h. Financial capacity for community work, volunteer support, etc.
- i. Support and partnership with partner organisations staff and communities

LOCATION OF PLACEMENTS



MONITORING & EVALUATION

- a. Regular feedback from Care placements and other partners including weekly volunteer/staff/placement meetings
- b. Onsite visits by staff
- c. Annual report from Projects Abroad Country Director
- d. Feedback from Projects Abroad staff
- e. Volunteer workshops/ discussion sessions – attendance, feedback and significant outcomes to be tracked each week by staff
- f. Volunteer Debriefing forms and End of Placement Feedback forms
- g. Early Childhood Care and Development: Overall developmental status of children recorded after six months. Analysed by placement, area (motor, social, cognitive) and age. Results are compared with international standards. Based on this data, more resources are focused on problem areas
- h. Biannual Placement Evaluation Feedback
- i. Test results

Projects Abroad			
Care Programme - Samoa			
	INDICATORS	MONITORING (MEANS OF VERIFICATION)	ASSUMPTIONS
Company Mission: (the change we want to see in greater society)			
Our company mission is to make it the norm for young men and women from developed countries to live and work as volunteers in a developing country; they should work on projects which have a clearly favourable impact on host-communities. In this way, we will continue to create a multi-national community with a passion to serve and to inspire			
Care Programme Mission: (the change we want to see for the target group)			
Our Care programme mission is to provide sustainable educational support, care and protection to disadvantaged children and vulnerable groups to enhance their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development	2014 is the implementation and mind-set changing year. Head Office-led status reviews will take place every 3 months. We expect to have the foundations of the new Care programme in place by the end of 2014	1. Onsite visits 2. Placement staff feedback 3. Projects Abroad staff feedback 4. Volunteer feedback (DQs & EOPF) 5. Children feedback 6. Test results	1. Number of volunteers does not drop considerably 2. Number of volunteers with a good grasp of English does not drop considerably 3. Political and civil stability in the countries we work 4. No natural disasters that could affect our work
Goal 1: (what we want to achieve)			
IMPROVE ENGLISH LITERACY			
	Actions: (the tasks that need to take place to achieve the goal)		
1.1	Each volunteer to hold 1 Reading Club (after school reading class) per week at their placement		
1.2	For a minimum of 1 hour per week, research and document new learning and teaching aids. Produce at least 2 new resources per month		
1.3	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis		
1.4	Set small goals and targets for each child		

1.5	Record on a weekly basis activities and resources that are successful with the child			
1.6	Work with teachers to improve classroom rules and methods of discipline			
1.7	Create visual learning aids on the placement walls and make sure these are updated bi-monthly			
Goal 2:				
INCREASE NUMERACY				
	Actions:			
2.1	For a minimum of 1 hour per week research and document new learning and teaching aids			
2.2	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis			
2.3	Set small goals and targets for each child			
2.4	Conduct one-on-one lessons for those who are struggling with basic numeracy			
2.5	Each volunteer to hold an after school or lunchtime Maths Club each week at their placement aimed at the slowest learners			
2.6	Work with teachers to improve classroom rules and methods of discipline			
Goal 3:				
PROMOTE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT				
	Actions:			
3.1	Carry out 4 remedial classes per month for those identified as needing extra help with activities			
3.2	For a minimum of 1 hour per week research and document new learning and teaching aids to focus on the 4 key areas of ECD			
3.3	Design and initiate 4 mini-campaigns per year			
3.4	Run bi-monthly workshop for volunteers on early childhood development, especially attachment theory			
3.5	Create weekly activity timetables to focus on 4 key areas of ECD			
	i. Physical - morning exercise, sport and dancing			
	ii. Social - introduce team games and group activities			
	iii. Emotional - meditation and counselling			
	iv. Learning - classroom activities			
3.6	Volunteers to have weekly meetings with the caregiver to assess what the placement needs for the following week			
3.7	Introduce creative activities to help develop motor skills			

3.8	Ensure no child is left by themselves for a substantial length of time			
3.9	Create team games where all the children are included			
3.10	Create visual learning aids on the placement walls and make sure these are updated every 3 months			
3.11	Engage children in regular games and activities to improve their attention span			
3.12	Create a lead volunteer system where the experienced volunteer advises and mentors the new volunteers			

Goal 4:

IMPROVE HYGIENE LEVELS OF THE CHILDREN

	Actions:			
4.1	Give monthly lessons to children about brushing their teeth and the importance of basic hygiene			
4.2	Each day allocate a time to check placement is clean and safe (no harmful object or hazards)			
4.3	Create and carry out a daily cleaning roster for each placement			
4.4	Create a weekly games programme to make cleanliness fun			
4.5	Do basic hygiene checks 3 times per day (before meal time and bed)			

Goal 5:

RAISE AWARENESS OF HEALTHY LIVING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND FAMILY PLANNING

	Actions:			
5.1	Run 1 sexual health workshops each month			
5.2	Establish a health education programme to include sex education, diet, nutrition and fitness			
5.3	Create monthly workshops that focus on single and teenage mothers and educate young men and women on how to avoid unwanted pregnancies			

Goal 6:

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

	Actions:			
6.1	Run 1 workshop or community presentation per month to promote disability awareness in communities and schools, in order to reduce any negativity or stigma attached			
6.2	Introduce a record keeping system for each placement and maintain it for each child on a monthly basis, including profile of child, learning ability, preferences, dislikes, etc.			
6.3	Introduce creative activities to help develop motor skills			