



MALAWI WORKCAMPS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL (MWAI)

WORKCAMP 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.

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.

Projects in 2010

Much as AYISE develops work projects, it is not possible to address all the needs of volunteers 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 placements do not meet their needs and expectation, they should try to contact us to see possibilities of organizing a placement to match with the needs.

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.

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.

PHYSICAL CONTACT ADDRESS

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

Contact Persons:

Marcel Chisi,
Executive Director and
Christopher Misuku,
Programme office r.
Tel: + 265-1-655-323 / +265-1- 918-296
Cell: + 265-09-470-011 / +265-9-95 14 95

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

WORK PLACEMENTS FOR 2010

AYISE/MWAI – EDUCATION TEACHING PLACEMENTS IN SCHOOLS SURROUNDING BANGWE-Date: (March –May, July – Sept, Oct – Dec 2010)

WORK

The volunteers shall teach English, Mathematics, Science, Arts, Music, Geography, Social Studies, Agriculture, and sports etc in primary schools in Bangwe and surrounding communities'. The schools are private owned but still requires some kind of support in terms of teaching staff.

Volunteers will choose subjects they are comfortable with and will teach along with a local teacher considering that the volunteers may not have been trained as teachers and that the pupils may be troublesome.

AYISE is a child rights organisation as such it does not accept volunteers who have had cases of abuse with children to work in child related projects.

FOOD

The volunteers will buy their own food but a care taker will be available in the guest house to prepare meals. This allows the volunteers to buy food of their choice whenever necessary. The caretaker has served in the guesthouse for four years now such that she is acquainted with most of the European dishes but always eager to learn other recipes from the volunteers.

ACCOMMODATION

At AYISE office guest house in Bangwe. There are showers and flushing toilets in both residing places. There are currently two buildings that host 10 bunk beds in total and accommodating a total of 20 volunteers. Plans are underway to turn another building into a guest house so that we should be able to host 30+ volunteers at a period.

AYISE/MWAI 02 WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN VARIOUS SPORTS GAMES AT BAYOC. DATES: March – May, May July, Aug – Sept, Oct-Dec 2010

WORK

The volunteers will work at the Bangwe Youth Centre (BAYOC) in the children's corner and facilitate a number of sporting activities including training the youth in computer operations. Those with a desire and skills to work at sports facility should apply to this.

FOOD

The volunteers will provide for their own food. The kitchen at the guest house will be used to prepare such food stuff. At the Youth Centre, the volunteers will either take their packed meals or go to the nearby local market or buy food from the small café at the centre.

ACCOMMODATION

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LOCATION

At the Bangwe Youth Centre in Blantyre.

AYISE/MWAI 05 WORKING WITH THE DIRECTOR ON RESOURCE MOBILISATION & HELPING PROGRAM STAFF WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES. JAN – DEC 2010

WORK

The work will involve working with the Executive Director to help him with resource mobilization tasks and would at times work with programme staff in executing some project activities. At the moment AYISE is implementing a project on Youth Governance and other projects are in the pipeline and would start early 2010. This requires volunteers who are in social work or have a deep interest in this field. AYISE believes in sharing and feels that involvement of volunteers in the tasks above enhances the sharing spirit.

Volunteers may choose any period within the year to work with us on this. We are very flexible on this area.

FOOD

The volunteers will buy their own food but a care taker will be available in the guest house to prepare meals. This allows the volunteers to buy food of their choice whenever necessary. The caretaker has served in the guesthouse for four years now such that she is acquainted with most of the European dishes but always eager to learn other recipes from the volunteers.

ACCOMODATION

Volunteers will sleep in the Guest House which is located in the AYISE head Office campus. It is a relatively small house that can accommodate up to 10 volunteers sleeping on two bunk beds in each room

LOCATION

The volunteers will be working within the office campus of AYISE in Bangwe.

AYISE/MWAI 8 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT- ESTABLISHING A TREE NURSERY & PLANTING OF HEDGE AND TREES TO DERMACATE THE YOUTH CENTRE FROM THE PUBLIC LAND 21-31 AUGUST, 2007

WORK

The work will require establishment of a tree nursery at BAYOC so that we plant more trees at the centre and be able to supply the surrounding communities with tree seedlings for planting in the homes and along the river banks as a response to global warming and climate change impacts. The planted trees & hedge at BAYOC will also act as a boundary between BAYOC land and that of the public.

FOOD

The volunteers will provide for their own food. The kitchen at the guest house will be used to prepare such food stuff. At the Youth Centre, the volunteers will either take their packed meals or go to the nearby local market or buy food from the small café at the centre.

ACCOMODATION

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LOCATION

Bangwe Youth centre which is 3 kilometers from the AYISE head Office.