

How can I Support the Certificate Course?

For the next enrolment in September, 2014, we would like to continue to expand the base of those able to access the Certificate Course, so that more people working with vulnerable children and youth in the region can acquire much needed skills and knowledge.

The cost of the Certificate Course is US\$1500 per student, which includes all books and mentor sessions.

If you are a government, company or organisation we invite you to sponsor selected applicants.

If you are an organisation working with vulnerable children and youth you can sponsor staff or partner to enrol in the Certificate. This will build your organisation's capacity to provide improved professional services to children.

"The programme is very beneficial to our country." -- Commissioner for Social Welfare Department, Mr. Dunfold Makala, Tanzania

In Malawi, teacher Judith Karaonge says that instead of punishing students coming late to class, she now finds out what problems they face at home which may be affecting school performance. "Now I'm able to call them, to counsel them, to assist them," she tells us.



Who is REPSSI?

We are the leading African psychosocial technical support organisation. REPSSI's vision is that all communities and families nurture, protect and empower their children and youth.

In thirteen countries of East and Southern Africa, REPSSI partners with governments, development partners, international organisations, academic institutions and NGOs to provide programmes that strengthen communities' and families' competencies to promote the psychosocial (emotional and social) wellbeing of their children and youth.

Several million children are being reached by REPSSI partners in over 1000 project sites across the region.



More information

For more information about the Certificate Course, and how you can support students to enrol, please contact:

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For more information about the Certificate, also visit: www.repssi.org or email info@repssi.org

The Situated Supported Distance Learning CERTIFICATE COURSE IN COMMUNITY-BASED WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH



"The programme changed my perception and understanding about children's work! It is not only a matter of interest, talent or experience but it is a profession, with legal and ethical repercussions."
~ Certificate graduate, Tanzania



All across Africa...

There are dedicated men and women who provide care and support to millions of children and youth in their communities. Many short, ad hoc courses are offered to these community workers, but until now there have not been any relevant qualifications available to them.

The Community Based Work with Children and Youth (CBWCY) Certificate is an innovative response to a regional demand for quality training in child and youth work, and specifically social and emotional (psychosocial) support, child protection and promotion of children's rights. It helps to make sure that vulnerable populations receive professional care and support they are entitled to.

What is the Certificate Course?

The course was developed by African academics with support from UNICEF ESARO

and is quality assured by the University of KwaZulu Natal. It is delivered in more than ten countries in East and Southern Africa, with local academic institutions and support from REPSSI, UNICEF and REPSSI partners, by situated, supported distance learning which means that student on it:

- Do not leave the communities in which they are working, or stop their work

- Study from six hard copy modules and write 12 assignments which are set by the University of KwaZulu Natal and marked by an academic institution

- Meet with a group of other students for one day every three weeks for a workshop that is facilitated by a trained mentor

An independent assessment of the pilot, conducted by the South African Institute for Distance Education, found that the certificate:

- Is an excellent, well-designed distance education access programme;

- Uses an innovative learning and teaching model that combines learning materials, mentor support, and continuous assessment.



In Tanzania, the Certificate has prompted Winfrida Mwashala to transform her institutional orphanage for 30 children into a community care programme reaching more than 9000 vulnerable boys and girls.

Who is the Certificate Course for?

The Certificate is designed for people working with children and youth. Students are community workers, community caregivers, programme officers, teachers, police and social workers, who work with children in a variety of organisations in East and Southern Africa.

In 2009, the first year of the Certificate, 500 students were enrolled in 8 countries. In 2012, 1394 students were enrolled in 12 countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe



How is the quality assured?

The Certificate is academically rigorous in design, and is quality assured by the University of KwaZulu-Natal. An independent assessment, conducted by the South African Institute for Distance Education, found that the Certificate:

- is an excellent, well-designed distance education access programme;

- uses an innovative learning and teaching model that combines learning materials, mentor support, and continuous assessment.

A recent review of the UNICEF Children and AIDS Regional Initiative has said the Certificate *“provides an exciting and innovative approach to developing the capacities of carers of vulnerable children in the region... most impressive.”*

Why is the Certificate Course important?

The CBWCY certificate is designed for people working with children and

youth. Students are community workers, community caregivers, programme officers, social workers, health workers, teachers and police

1429 students from ten countries graduated in the first two cycles of the CBWCY certificate. More than 1300 were enrolled in the third cycle.

Our graduates are professionalising the field of community-based child care, and mainstreaming child protection, psychosocial support and community mobilisation principles into their work.

Many graduates have moved from voluntary positions to paid staff as a result of their qualification. All are still working with children, and most have remained in the same community after graduating.

The importance of the course is reflected in the phenomenal graduation rate (88-89%) and the commitment of the mentors and students, some of whom travel long distances to attend study sessions.

A review of the UNICEF Children and AIDS Regional Initiative found *“the Certificate provides an exciting and innovative approach to developing the capacities of carers of vulnerable children in the region most impressive.”*