

What is this project about?

This is a social development report covering an internship at New World Foundation (NWF) located in Lavender Hill, Cape Town.

The report looks at:

- relationships between youth unemployment, poverty and inequality in SA;
- provides analysis of related National policies;
- unpacks how NWF operates with regards to its community programs, staff development, and strategic partnerships; and
- considers strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities for NWF.

This study also explores people-centered development and how it can be supported by social development professionals within NGOs.

The research

The internship took place over a 12-week period, focusing on NWF's work in Lavender Hill.

Information was collected from participation in a number of NWF's youth programmes; personal interviews with NWF employees and observation of NWF meetings. Relevant literature helped to interpret the information.

The design of the approach placed importance on flexibility; it aimed to account for Lavender Hill's social unrest as well as the fluid dynamics of NWF's working process.



Children receive skills training and lavender plants at an education session at NWF.

What you need to know:

A student intern can assist an organisation to develop a new programme, collect useful ideas or assess current work.

People are not statistics. Narrowly focusing on economic development does not foster the ability of people to engage meaningfully as active citizens. People-centered development requires us to realise that people need to be active agents in the development of their own lives and communities.

The research findings

- Authentic partnerships between NGOs, public and private organizations are important for sustainable impact
- Modelling a learning organization structure and concentrating on hiring local community members contributes to building effective capacity
- Programs aimed directly at personal development of youth and young adults can help address social exclusion
- To help the effectivity of workshops and training, widespread or innovative advertising is required, as well as assessment of what is limiting people's ability or willingness to attend

Using the research

The study contains material on theories around the non-government sector, social and human development, which can help development practitioners deepen their knowledge.

It also provides an in-depth study of the structure and workings of NWF. Outside of assisting NWF or anyone needing to gain an understanding of the organisation, this study can offer great insight for others working in areas defined by social exclusion, poverty and violence.

The project was completed in **December 2014**.

Want to know more?

A Social Development Masters student, Miriam Kanengoni, completed this study through internship with NGO New World Foundation. She was supervised by Dr Margaret Booyens. The internship report is available on the Co-op website.

Keywords: Social Development, New World Foundation, NGO, Human Development, Youth unemployment, Poverty.

To **reference** this Project Portrait, cite UCT Knowledge Co-op as the author.

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The Knowledge Co-Op at the University of Cape Town

The UCT Knowledge Co-op aims to make it easier for community partners to access UCT's skills, resources and professional expertise. It helps initiate joint projects that benefit both the community partner and the university. The Co-op links community groups with appropriately qualified staff and students at UCT, and supports both partners throughout the project – from initial planning to final product.

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