



The 'Angels' Project

Hi Everyone!

Greetings to you all! We are all excited in this part of the vineyard, and looking forward to a busy and successful 2001.

“Why the ‘Angels’ project?” you might ask. Well, Danka is the author of this particular saying – but we all agree with her. From the outset it has seemed as if angels surround this project! Everything in respect of the project that *could* have possibly gone wrong went *right*, and everything that should have gone right went *very right*! We believe that Prof has managed to put together a productive team who will make a meaningful contribution to the project; the Project House and Offices, apart from having the capacity to adequately house us all, are within walking distance of each other and are pretty close to the Department of Community Medicine - many other such ‘angel-directed’ coincidences have convinced us that angels are hovering over the project.

For the first four weeks of our Bulletin we propose that we just get to know each other – hence each week, apart from the general news, we will focus on one particular member of the team. In time, with a little help from our fellow Zimbabwean Danka (whom we have loaned to Battelle), we hope to acquire Polaroid and digital cameras so that we can include photographs in our newsletters [*hint, hint ...*]. It then follows that it would be great to receive similar information and photographs from our friends at Battelle.

Let's get the ball rolling.

Greetings,

Sherla

The Zimbabwe Team

A warm welcome to those who have joined us at the beginning of 2001 and before. The current Zimbabwean team is comprised of the following:

Chikuse, Patricia	Data Analyst
Chiringa, Chiringa	Ethnographer
Darrell, Tanya	Housekeeper
Gandi, Moses	Gardener
Greenland, Sherla	Project Manager
Mateta, Patrick	Laboratory Manager
Mudhokwani, Petronella	Research Nurse
Mutepfe, Gift	Driver
Mutsindiri, Reggie	Head Nurse
Ndimande, Gugulethu	Head Ethnographer
Nhambudzi, Wellington	Security
Nhira, Shingirai	Ethnographer
Nyamhuda, Monica	Research Nurse
Rodgers, Luanne	Lab. Technician
Sagonda, Faith	Ethnographer
Selman, Winston	Driver
Terera, Gertrude	Ethnographer
Whytehead, Sharon	Lab Administrator
Woelk, Godfrey	Co-Principal Inv
Yon, Mark	Admin Assistant
Yon, Penny	Project Secretary

... and New Appointments

From the end of January 2001, we have pleasure in welcoming the following :

Chigodora, Dorcas	Research Nurse
Mangwiro, Sihle	Research Nurse
Muhwati, Bevelyn	Research Nurse
Nyerenyere, Irene	Research Nurse
Paradza, Elizabeth	Research Nurse
Yasini, Martin	Driver

Personality

of the Week

Reggie Mutsindiri

Head Nurse

Born 24 February 1969 in Mberengwa, Zimbabwe, Reggie is third born in a family of five. She is happily married to Naison Moyana and they are blessed with a 4-year old son, Jeffrey.

After primary and secondary education in Redcliff and Kwekwe, Reggie underwent her nursing training at Parirenyatwa Hosiptal in the capital from 1989 to 1992. The following year, shw went into research, where she has remained in various capacities over the years, mostly in Reproductive Health and HIV/Aids related programmes.

Reggie took a short break from research work to utilise some of her diverse qualifications, and worked as an Administrator for a local NGO.

Her experience in research has taken her to Amsterdam University (Qualitative Data Analysis/Kwalitan Programme), the Phillipines (Madihol University for a course on Anthropology in Health & Health Care) and more recently to the US (Assessment and Biological Sample collection).

Reggie intends to continue in research, and also pursue a degree in Psychology, on a part-time basis.

Good Luck, Reggie!

IN THE FIELD

After the ethnographic training provided by Danka and Cynthia, the team were well equipped to tackle the Acasi Pilot which took place from mid-December with 60 subjects in a cross-over design. Forty-five of the 60 had exit interviews. The data from the Acasi has been sent to RTI for analysis as this will indicate to us whether we will be using Acasi or CAPI in the pre-baseline survey. Currently the ethnographic team consists of 5 individuals who are undertaking ethnographic interviews, and the other members of the team are transcribing the exit interviews. Other than this, we are in the process of staffing up, particularly in recruiting more nurses and getting into gear for the pre-baseline study in February – the excitement is almost tangible !!

In Conclusion . . .

Zichire's "Intervention" goal has gone beyond aiming to reduce HIV/STD risk ... for example many of our young people are 'at risk' economically where jobs are very difficult to find – Zichire offers hope to at least some of these young people; the cost of training has become beyond the reach of many Zimbabweans at this time, and again Zichire's strong thrust towards training provides the staff with training opportunities which they may not otherwise have had.

Finally, a story which has illustrated to us that Zichire's 'Intervention' has, and we hope will continue to, change lives in a positive way. Winston, one of Zichire's drivers, although a qualified boiler-maker, has been unable to find employment for quite some time. Consequently he was unable to offer his lady love marriage – which needless to say upset her. She gave him an ultimatum "marry me or else!" He felt that he had no option but to go the "or else" route – and then Zichire's "Intervention to reduce heartbreak risk" happened. Watch this space for a happily-employed Winston's invitation to come over and help him celebrate his wedding.

The Angel project, indeed!

Compliments of the

Season

and sincere wishes for

a meaningful 2001

from all at

ZiCHIRe

Zimbabwe