

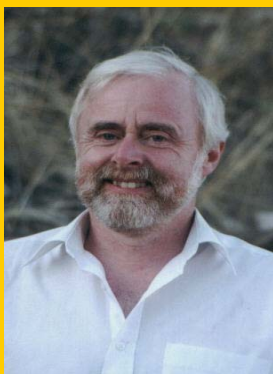
Collective Approach to HIV/AIDS Programmes in Namibia

The Joint Consultative Council (JCC) is the umbrella body for organisations supporting small business development in Namibia. Skillshare International supports the JCC by providing a development worker funded through our PPA with DFID. Andrew Harris' placement enables him to meet local needs by working with the JCC, the Namibia Network of Aids Service Organisations (NANASO) and the Namibia NGO Forum (NANGOF).

During previous placements with Skillshare International, Andrew had already worked in different ways with each of these organisations and his current placement builds on this experience to further develop the capacity of the organisations to be effective umbrella bodies. The organisations were at different stages of development; NANASO had recently recovered from a serious organisational crisis in 2002 and NANGOF suffered a similar organisational and financial crisis in 2001. A key task for the development worker was to assist the Co-ordinator with the final steps of the recovery plan and help her to define and implement an effective role within financial constraints.

As a result of Skillshare International's development worker placement:

- NANASO has published a significantly extended directory of members, with a directory in the pipeline for NANGOF;
- NANASO has been able to commence a second annual study of the work of civil society organisation's contribution to the HIV/AIDS work in Namibia;
- NANASO has engaged in a regional study of funding flows to civil society organisations;
- JCC, NANASO and NANGOF continue to develop their annual planning and monitoring processes. They previously lacked the capacity to achieve this.



Andrew Harris

In addition to mentoring the three National Co-ordinators, Andrew supports the organisations to use their membership databases more effectively. He has also worked with them to develop communications systems that inform and update their members and monitoring & evaluation systems. *"Working across three organisations has some challenges", says Andrew, "each organisation would probably prefer undivided attention... But the results are valuable to all the organisations and are typically dealing with issues better tackled on a collective basis, with the sum being greater than the parts"* he concludes.