



East Africa Programme Strategic Directions

Regional Context

In East Africa the gap between the poor and the rich is widening. In some countries especially those heavily affected by HIV and AIDS they have experienced a fall in life expectancy over the last decade, some as low as 47 years*.

The overall responsibility for improving health and development lies with national governments. However, in a world of increasing globalisation, actions at national level have to be complemented both at regional and global levels.

Recently increased emphasis has been placed on health and poverty reduction as precursors to socio-economic development. This idea has been manifested in several conferences and expressed in international development goals. The global commitment in the form of the Millennium Development Goals is just one case.

The human development indicators in the table below illustrate statistics in the East African countries that Skillshare International works in, current and proposed. The statistics relate closely to the Millennium Development Goals.

	Burundi	DR Congo	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	Sudan	Tanzania	Uganda
Population (millions) 2004	7.3	55.9	75.6	33.5	7.9	35.5	37.6	27.8
Population below national poverty line (%) 1990-2003	36.4	---	44.2	52	---	---	35.7	37.7
Net primary enrolment ratio (%) 2004	57	---	46	76	---	43	86	---
Gross tertiary enrolment (ratio of female to male) 2004	0.38	---	0.35	0.61	---	0.92	0.41	0.62
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)2004	114	129	110	79	133	63	78	80
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) 1996-2004	25	61	6	42	---	87	46	39
Prevalence of HIV (% ages 15-49)2005	3.3	3.2	---	6.1	0.9	1.6	6.5	6.7
Population with sustainable access to an improved water source (%)2004	79	46	22	61	29	70	62	60
Official Development Assistance (ODA) received per capita (US\$)2004	48.2	32.5	24.1	19	---	24.8	46.4	41.7

Table 1 - Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2006

Background to Skillshare International Working in East Africa

Skillshare International had, in its former embodiment as Skillshare Africa, previously only worked in Southern Africa. In July 2000, Action Health joined Skillshare Africa. Consequently there was a geographical broadening of the programme. This partly included the expansion to the East Africa region.

Action Health had already been present in Tanzania and Uganda involved in the placement of volunteer health trainers. After the birth of Skillshare International, a programme was also established in Kenya. The focus of our programmes in these three countries was predominantly in the health

sector, however programmes have since expanded to cover other areas of Skillshare International's priority sectors.



©Skillshare/Murray White

Mothers in Tanzania collecting mosquito nets

Regional Strategic Objectives

Geographical focus

In East Africa, Skillshare International's activity has been focused in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda with Tanzania having our largest programme. We understand that there is potential to add value through working with partners and communities in other countries in East Africa.

In the next five years we will:

- *Research the potential to expand our programme activity to other countries in East Africa.*

Health

Sector Background:

East Africa has very high figures of mortality and morbidity. In 2004 the infant mortality rate ranged from 63-133 per 1,000 live births in the region* with an average of only 44% of births attended by skilled health personnel*. The prevalence of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria along with other diseases is high

in the region with a HIV prevalence of on average 5.1% in 15-49 year olds in 2005*.

People with disabilities in East Africa are socially and economically excluded. As a result there is need for low-cost appropriate treatment for people with disabilities.

In the next five years we will:

- *Support regional and country specific partners to improve the provision of quality health care amongst communities on maternal child health, malaria control, HIV and AIDS, disability, reproductive health and access to water.*
- *Enhance and strengthen the capacities of partners to improve health and medical services through sharing skills with professional volunteers.*

©Skillshare/Murray White



Development worker Helen White administering vitamin A in remote Masai communities

Environment

©Skillshare/Murray White



Collecting water in Tanzania

Sector Background:

There is a high percentage of the population in East Africa without basic services, like water provision, tarmac roads and health care within rural areas.

The maintenance of sewer lines and waste collection is also a problem and poses a large health hazard to the urban populations.

In the next five years we will:

- *Promote environmental conservation and management, by amongst other methods, advocating for reduced human-wildlife conflict and lobbying for local communities to benefit from tourism and mining.*

Education and Training

Sector Background:

A number of countries in East Africa including Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya have declared free and compulsory primary school education in the last few years. Such a sudden increment in the number of school children poses some challenges including the quality of education, teachers' capacity to cope and the schools' capacity to mobilise funds to continue with development activities.

There are still several factors that make it difficult for all children of school-going age to access education. These include school-associated costs, bereavement, living in an indigenous or nomadic community, or even stigma attached to disability or HIV status.

There was an average 62% primary enrolment across the East Africa region in 2004*. Girls in the region are not receiving education at the same rate as boys, although the ratio varies from country to county it still shows a gender inequality.

In the next five years we will:

- *Support partners to implement early childhood development programmes*

to provide ample investment for early enrolment and a reduction in drop out, improving educational status amongst indigenous communities in Tanzania and Kenya.

- *Promote vocational skills and training to the youth who are unable to join mainstream formal education.*
- *Promote alternative teaching and coaching to children within nomadic communities in the region.*



©Skillshare/Cliff Allum

A child at a primary school in Kamwokya, Uganda

Economic Empowerment

Sector Background:

An average 41% of the population in East Africa were living below the national poverty line (could not afford food on a regular basis) in 1990-2003*.

This figure reflects a situation where poverty remains a major problem, particularly in rural areas. These figures reflect regional averages

which may mask certain pockets that could actually be worse off.

In the next five years we will:

- *Support partners within the region to develop innovative 'wealth creation' projects that promote economic development, especially amongst women and the youth.*

Peace Building

Sector Background:

The East Africa region, along with many other regions in the continent, has seen violent conflict between different political forces.

Peace is essential for social and economic development. Strengthening peace building and conflict transformation initiatives are paramount to development from community to national levels.

Skillshare International has been working with Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA,)

supporting peace building initiatives and strengthening the capacity of peace networks in the region.

In the next five years we will:

- *Continue to support peace building initiatives and strengthening the organisational capacity of COPA to deliver its vision and purpose.*
- *Promote learning between peace building and development organisations in the region.*

Other Objectives

In the next five years we will:

- *Develop effective strategic leadership for Skillshare International partners through instilling management and leadership skills.*
- *Engage partners in sharing best practices amongst themselves, especially through EANNASO country networks on HIV, and the cross-border Maasai project.*
- *Develop lobbying and advocacy issues that partner organisations need to address to influence policy change at the national level.*

Kenya Office

PO Box 34679, GPO 00100,
Office No. 9, Lenana Road
Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel/Fax: +254 20 38 65511

Email: eastafricainfo@skillshare.org



East Africa

Registered Charity number 802576
Company limited by guarantee 2447107

www.skillshare.org

*All statistics were collated from the
UNDP Human Development Report 2006