



Letter from the Executive Director Elizabeth Bara

ASAP has faced numerous changes during the past three months in our operating systems and program expansions and now look forward to the phenomenal opportunities that have created themselves for the greater good of ASAP and the communities that we serve.

ASAP is featured on Social Edge (A program of the Skoll Foundation) with my interview as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer entrepreneur. We are thrilled to be a part of such a marvelous initiative for social entrepreneurs. You can hear the interview at www.socialedge.org. Social Edge is a great place for those interested in social issues to network and share resources. This is also our first interview that officially announces the merger of ASAP Africa and On Safari Trading Company.

That's right... you may now support ASAP's work to eliminate poverty through On Safari Coffee Initiative (A project of ASAP) and buy the best fresh roasted coffee around as an excellent fundraiser for any organization - with no up-front costs. This merger has been in the works for awhile and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to combine both of our passions and increase the social benefit. Read more details about our coffee fundraising program at www.onsafariasap.org.

Another new initiative is our partnership with Gems of Africa www.gemsofamericagallery.com. We just had an "Experience the Soul of Africa through the Heart of Art" fundraiser on July 13, 2007. The funds from this event will go towards our Rural Family Nutrition Initiative in Zimbabwe to provide the participating 300 families with drip kits. We are selling authentic art work made by participants in our carpentry training center as well as eloquently designed pieces from all over Africa.

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Savings Club Success Joseph Miti

Surviving in Zimbabwe without formal employment during these harsh economic times is a great challenge, especially for young women. With an early marriage and a young family, women struggle even to meet the most basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, school fees, and medical costs. Zimbabwe's economic decline makes life even more difficult as inflation rates reach an unbelievable almost 5000%.

Born in 1983, Lucia Tongoona struggled to complete her secondary education as both her parents had passed away. The only alternative for her was to get married to a young man from her village who had completed his schooling two years earlier. When they began their new life together, they didn't have anything except the meager gifts relatives had given them at their wedding.

Lucia gave birth to her first son in May, 2002. Five months later, she heard of the ASAP Kufusa Mari project.

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Insights from ASAP Africa Staff

What I Learned on my Summer Vacation

Stephanie Marienau

While I have been in Zimbabwe, I have had the unique opportunity to witness all of ASAP's projects in action and see first hand how much of a difference these initiatives are making in local communities. So what have I learned from this experience? Well, I learned how to cook in a fireplace when there is no electricity, how to ride a bike in a skirt, how to *not* get thrown out of the back of a truck on a dirt road, how to make friends with people I can't talk to, how to eat sadza (the country's staple food) with my fingers, how to do this crazy handshake that all Zimbabweans seem to know, and even how to speak a little Shona. But my most important lesson was discovering what my role is in ending poverty.



Marty (ASAP's IT Intern) learning to cook in a fireplace with no electricity.

Many of us think that Africa is a continent in crisis and if we would only send a dollar a day, 50¢ a week, or whatever amount the next non-profit quotes to us, we could feed, clothe, and provide shelter for everyone who is sick, hungry, or hurting. Some element of this is true. Africa is in the

process of development and needs the assistance of countries that have already crossed the bridge into the first world to help them in this process, both morally and financially.

Letter from the Executive Director

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Last but definitely not least, ASAP Africa is honored to be the recipient of the Best Cooperative Project award in partnership with Rotary Peachtree City. Rotary International chose our Literacy Project that sent a total of 30,000 books to rural schools in Zimbabwe as the winner of the Best Cooperative project.

It has been such a privilege to work in partnership with the Rotary Club and we look forward to future endeavors together.

As the energy of summer increases, we at ASAP will shine our light brighter than ever before. Thank you to all of those that have supported ASAP thus far and we look forward to your continued support!



Yet, Africans are not the helpless creatures in peril that we so often see depicted on television or in non-profit brochures. What I have seen while I have been here is a group of people who are intelligent, educated, motivated, and highly capable. Zimbabweans know that they want to see change in their lives and they are ready to make it happen themselves.



Kufusa Mari women celebrate the success they have achieved on their own terms

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Savings Club Update

Kufusa Mari for Kids

Collins Mutsvairo

Kufusa Mari (KM) savings clubs in Nyanga have resulted in the formation of Junior savings clubs. Participants have been teaching their children the methodology of saving money and engaging them in small income generating projects but these Junior savings clubs were not well coordinated. The women requested to have well defined Junior Kufusa Mari clubs, so in March ASAP launched a Kufusa Mari Junior (KMJ) pilot project for Nyanga at Nyautare primary school. During the launch workshop it was agreed that ASAP 's 'Bridge The Gap' Cluster Coordinators (C.Cs) should train the pupils for four consecutive days with the assistance of KM cluster facilitators (CFs) and KMJ patron teachers. Ministry of Education officials present at the launch have expressed their appreciation of the project as it teaches pupils basic business skills and self-reliance.

Nyautare, Shiri, Saunyama, Nyatate, Mapako, Nyabeze and Tamunesa primary schools from Nyanga West are going to participate in this pilot project. Mr. Paul Mundete BTG Nyanga East CC has already conducted four days of training for 56 pupils at Nyautare. Seven savings clubs have been registered and have saved \$Z 438 000 at their first saving session. More pupils are reported to be joining in. In July, Field Officer Daniel Fombe will expand the KMJ project into Nyanga East.

The pupils at Nyautare plan to use the money they save to buy school supplies, pay school fees, and conduct buying and selling income generating activities.

We hope that the pupils involved in Kufusa Mari Junior will learn useful skills through this project, including record keeping, financial mathematics, and self-reliance. The success of the pilot project is expected to result in the projects' expansion to other schools in the Nyanga District.



Zimbabwe by the numbers

21% of adults
infected with
HIV



4,530%
inflation



80%
unemployment

Life expectancy

36 years

Zimbabwe

78 years

United States

All New Projects!

Stephanie Marienau

This is an exciting time for ASAP Africa. Four new collaborations are just starting up, giving ASAP a unique opportunity to grow and expand its reach to more beneficiaries in Southern Africa.

All four new partnerships are expanding on the highly successful Kufusa Mari platform. Two of these collaborations, one with Plan International and the other with CARE and Swedish International Development (SIDA), will expand the existing methodology to a larger geographic area including Mutoko and Mutasa Districts in Zimbabwe.

With Catholic Relief Services, ASAP is implementing a new project to help out-of-school adolescents in Nyanga and Mutasa District find meaningful occupation by giving disadvantaged adolescents a chance to change their lives' direction. The program will encompass the Kufusa Mari savings methodology, livelihood training, youth education through sports (YES), and education for those who wish to complete school. Over the course of the next three years, ASAP and CRS will work together to empower these young people to take control of their own lives.

Finally, Concern Worldwide is working with ASAP, Family AIDS Caring Trust

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Savings Club Success

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Lucia joined Kufusa Mari and formed a savings club with four other members. After saving and lending to each other for three months, they had all managed to secure loans and begin income generating projects. As a result of her initial income, Lucia managed to buy a goat, two chickens and a bed. After seeing her

success, her husband came to support her activity.

Five years later, Lucia and her husband have added to their livestock and household items. They have built a new hut and a granary. Most importantly, they have enough money to pay for their son's school fees and uniform so that he can go to kindergarten.

All New Projects

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(FACT) Nyanga, and local hospitals to implement a new project to fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Katerere Ward. The program is three-pronged. The hospitals will focus on treatment and home-based care for those already infected, while FACT will work to educate others in the area on how to avoid contracting the disease. ASAP's role is to implement Kufusa Mari within the same populations of people to help them raise their standard of living. Alleviating poverty is a crucial step in fighting AIDS.

Each of these exciting new collaborations brings fresh opportunities for ASAP to reach out with expanded and empowering benefits.

Recent Events

June 26, 2007: Elizabeth Bara's interview with Social Edge
www.socialedge.org

July 1, 2007: ASAP Africa and On Safari Trading Company officially merge. The coffee company will now be called "On Safari Coffee Initiative – A Project of ASAP" with a focus on supplying coffee for fundraising.
www.onsafaritrading.com

July 13, 2007: Experience the Soul of Africa through the Heart of Art
www.gemsofafricagallery.com/events/index.html

What I Learned on my Summer Vacation

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As a member of the developed world, my role in ending poverty is as simple as it is difficult: to listen. Listen to the story of an impoverished widow. Hold the hand of a child orphaned by AIDS. Be human with one another. Listen to what the communities themselves identify as their needs and then assist them with what we can provide: the training and resources they need to achieve their own goals.

It is this kind of development that ASAP promotes. Field officers and project managers are themselves members of the communities they serve. They respect and listen to the participants because those participants are teachers at their children's school, members of their church, their neighbors, and their friends. The development that happens here bubbles up organically from the communities themselves rather than arriving artificially from abroad.

It is a gift to us in the developed world that we get to participate in restructuring a world where poverty exists only in history books. Zimbabweans are ready to see that happen. Are we ready to do our part?

Read more about Stephanie's journey at



Stephanie and Netsai Chikohomero after a Kufusa Mari graduation field day.

A Self-Help Assistance Program

189 Fulton Court
P.O. Box 2275
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Phone:
770-632-7451

E-Mail:
info@asapafrika.org

Mission
To cultivate self-reliance
in Southern Africa

Visit us at:

www.asapafrika.org

www.onsafariasap.org