

Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs
Community Development Fund

Final Evaluation Report

ALTA Literacy Tutors Association

Project Title: ALTA Prison Literacy Programme		
Approval Date: January 30, 2004		Project Start Date: February 2004
Planned End Date: March 2004		Actual End Date: November 2005
Total Project Costs:\$ 308,694	CDF Funding: \$134,454	Group Contribution ;\$174,240
Actual Expenditure to Date: \$ 102,840		
Date of Visit: February 08,2006		
Persons Interviewed: Ms Salazar, Education Officer Mr Don Renaud, Alta Tutor Mrs Wendy Voss Alta Coordinator Inmates from the various levels		
CDF Personnel on visit: Nerle Robertson, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		

Project Objectives

To continue to provide literacy instruction to 245 inmate students comprising 75 at the Maximum Security Prison

To conduct a refresher training for tutors who are inmates of the Maximum Security Prison

To provide material and supervision for one literacy level for the Adult Literacy Programme and the Youth Literacy Programmes

To provide the inmates with an opportunity to be exposed to literacy instruction which will enhance their job skills and employability upon release. Further, achieving basic literacy instructions will empower these inmates and drive their development

Effectiveness/Relevance:

The ALTA training since 2002 has the capacity to take in 75 persons. The number of inmates currently registered in the programme is fifty-seven, distributed in the various levels as follows:

Beginners 17

Level 1 18

Level 2	16
Level 3	6

On average 30 to 40 persons attend the classes. The highest level of absenteeism is in the Beginners class. On the day of the visit only six of the 17 persons attended the class. The classes are taught by tutors, also prisoners who had previously been ALTA graduates. These tutors are also exposed to Refresher classes. There are usually four tutors to each class particularly at the Beginners level where more intense attention is needed.

The prisoners interviewed gave the following reasons for wanting to participate in the ALTA program:

- To be able to write basic requests for prisons visits
- To be able to write letters
- To be able to read
- To be able to read sufficiently to improve their education
- To be able to use the time on their hands

Four of the participants of the programme stated that they had been able to complete the School leaving examinations with distinctions and credits and have either completed the CXC examinations or are preparing for the examinations. Persons have gained passes in up to 5 CXC subjects. Two persons are preparing to write two subjects at the Advanced level, one of which is Computer Science.

Persons have been able to gain CXC subjects after two years of the ALTA programme.

Constraints

A major constraint identified by the tutors is the fact that the prisoners are not always brought to the classes by the prison officers. Also, when they are brought late the time for the class is shortened.

Efficiency:

According to the prisoners the Education Officer at the Prison who initiated the classes was committed to the programme and closely monitored the attendance and tutors. .

The project was also monitored by the ALTA Coordinator who visited the prison regularly to witness the teaching. One of the tutors also had responsibility for the records and these are detailed in the Final Report. They clearly give the number of beneficiaries and the extent of the benefits to the prisoners.

IMPACT

Following the training the prisoners continue to benefit in the following ways:

- they become ALTA tutors
- they further their education
- they have improved self esteem and confidence
- they are able to better utilize their time
- they look forward to reentering society and have plans for positive integration.

SUSTAINABILITY

The training of tutors within the system ensures that there is a cadre of tutors available for the classes.

The commitment of tone of the Prison authorities augurs well for the sustainability of the project.

CONCLUSION

The ALTA Prison Literacy programme is providing a second chance for men to get an education and become positive contributors to the society on their release. There is evidence that the preparations are for specific careers. A concern echoed by some of the men was the absence of a place where they can reside after their release, thereby giving them the opportunity to reintegrate into society. There is an obvious need for a halfway house for the ex prisoners if this attempt at education and change is to be sustained.

Signature and Date of Report