

# Pre-School Orphan Teaching & Community Project: VILANCULOS, MOZAMBIQUE



*At African Impact, we see ourselves as the on-the-ground AFRICAN SPECIALISTS in volunteering. We were founded over 5 years ago in Zimbabwe and have our head office in Cape Town, South Africa, with supporting operations offices in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. To date we, together with our project managers out in the field, have had the privilege of sharing Africa with over 3,000 volunteers who were determined to make a difference in the amazing communities and conservation areas in which we work. And they did... and so can you...*



**African Impact**

PHYSICAL ADDRESS 6 Carlton Close, Noordhoek, 7985, Cape Town, South Africa.

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**Project Location:** The rural coastal town of Vilanculos, Mozambique, a short boat ride from the World Heritage Site of the Bazaruto Archipelago.

**Project Age Limit:** Minimum 18 years, maximum decided on potential participants' health.

**Required Experience:** For this project no specific experience is required. An interest in teaching and enthusiasm with children and young people is encouraged alongside a good command of the English language.



### Project Highlights:

- Teaching in a rural pre-school through songs, games and crafts
- Local orphanage involvement and youth development
- Build houses for individuals and families in critical situations using local materials and traditional methods
- Teaching English and life skills to a keen and motivated group of young adults and adults
- Optional once a week training sessions with our youth soccer team, aimed at keeping teenagers off the streets and out of trouble
- The opportunity to learn some basic Portuguese and Xitsua, the local Mozambican language
- Immerse your senses while you learn how to cook traditional Mozambican cuisine at a once monthly Cultural Day

*"The whole experience was absolutely incredible. It was uplifting, rewarding, challenging, grounding, heart-breaking and soul-destroying in equal measure. To see the absolute joy on the faces of the children when we arrived to spend time with them or the opportunity to do something creative, was incredible. This is why I WILL do it again and why I would encourage anyone who is thinking about doing this sort of thing to stop thinking about it, and go and do it."*

**Stuart Neath, UK**

### Project Achievements so far:

To date, African Impact volunteers contributed over 33,932 hours to community development in the Vilanculos area of Mozambique. Our project structures, together with the support and advice of our charitable foundation team at The Happy Africa Foundation, are continuously assessing our work and project strategies to ensure that these hours are meaningful with measurable outcomes.

The African Impact project in Vilanculos, Mozambique has succeeded in facilitating HIV testing and awareness for over 450 members of the Vilanculos community. At the rural preschool we have built a full new classroom, a large vegetable garden, a kitchen, a toilet facility, and a new shady veranda for the children's eating area. We have also repainted the interior of the existing classrooms to provide a bright and fun learning environment. Our home-building project has provided approximately 25 new homes to those without the means to build for themselves, and a house for the night guard/caretaker of the pre-school. We have also enrolled approximately fifty students in our English language school and established a language club within the local community, who are all amazingly keen and dedicated learners.



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### **More about our Vilanculos Pre-school and English Teaching Programme:**

This project has a very rural and tropical feel involving various aspects of community and development work in and around the coastal town of Vilanculos. We support a number of different community development initiatives. We spend our mornings at a rural preschool and most afternoons teaching English. When you are not teaching or planning the English lessons, you will be involved in a number of other exciting and rewarding community initiatives.

The projects are always evolving so are likely to be at different stages upon your arrival. Volunteers should be prepared to be involved in a wide spectrum of project work as things progress, all of which help move the projects and the people of Vilanculos towards a more sustainable and positive tomorrow.

### **Rural Pre-School Learning Centre – A Escolinha de Boa Esperanca – The School of Good Hope**

African Impact first started working in partnership with the School of Good Hope in November 2007, with approximately 25 children enrolled. Since then we have been working alongside the teachers and developing it to where we now have over 70 learners on our books. The volunteer role at the pre-school is fundamental for the development of the children. You will be involved both in the classroom generating new and exciting ways to learn and interacting with the children at break time. Volunteers visit the pre-school every morning (Monday to Friday) and will teach their own class in small groups of about 8 children. Your role at the pre-school is as a teacher, preparing the children for their next step into primary school, and involves the following:



- Singing and dancing with the children in English, Portuguese and Xitsua
- Developing the children's imagination and creative skills through crafts such as painting, drawing and colouring
- Teaching basic lessons about colours, numbers, letters and knowledge of the world in English, with the assistance of a translator
- Giving the children the opportunity to let off some steam through fun games and structured physical education classes
- Helping to prepare the lunch for the children
- General upkeep of the school to keep it a pleasant environment in which to learn
- Some basic work at the preschool farm, aimed at providing a source of sustainable income for the preschool



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*After having spent the morning at the Preschool, you will help out the local community through a wide array of projects in the afternoons and these are outlined below:*

### **1) Teaching English Project**

For two afternoons a week we currently teach English to a group of about fifty students split into groups depending on ability, ranging in age from young to middle-aged adults. Volunteers are responsible for designing and delivering the lesson plans, which are always interactive and fun with the use of flash cards, games, objects and

worksheets. Volunteers encourage active participation from the students by reading out loud, role-playing, writing on the board and participating in educational games. The English lessons are free for the students and open to anyone from the community at-large. They offer an amazing and rare opportunity for the people of Vilanculos to increase their knowledge of English, which greatly increase their chance of securing employment in Vilanculos' growing tourism-based economy.

Please note that a full range of level abilities are taught in these lessons. Volunteers should arrive with a solid, strong, comfortable and confident working knowledge of English grammar basics (this is a

good opportunity to brush up on your English language skills!). Your role as a volunteer will include:

- Planning fun, interactive, and challenging lessons for the students
- Conducting lessons with the help of a translator in a patient, dynamic, creative, inspirational and passionate manner
- Assigning and correction of homework assignments
- Getting to know an amazing group of individuals with an inspiring dedication to learning

### **2) Orphan Care and Development**

We travel to an orphanage twice a month on a Saturday afternoon to visit the children that live there. As a volunteer you will be involved in the following:

- English and Portuguese lessons with the children with the assistance of visual aids and a translator
- Developmental playtime where the children get to learn new games and play with toys to which they wouldn't normally have access
- Teaching basic lessons about colours, numbers and letters
- Constructive sports games such as frisbee and football
- Giving the children the one on one care and attention that is so critical for their development



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### 3) Rural Home-Building

Cyclone Favio hit the Mozambican coast in February 2007 and devastated much of the local area. African Impact was involved in the initial relief work and assisting international aid agencies. Through our local contacts we have continued with rural home-building for those who do not have the means to build for themselves (monetarily or physically). We work in close conjunction with community leaders to assess the most critical housing needs and then act accordingly.

We are currently managing to build 1 home approximately every 2 months (dependent on volunteer numbers!). They are simple and rustic structures typical of construction in the Inhambane Province.

The work is sometimes challenging but always rewarding and offers an amazing insight into rural Vilanculos as well as the chance to meet and form working relationships with members of the local community. Other building projects that we undertake include refurbishment at the preschool, such as new classrooms and amenities.

### 4) Language Club

Saturday mornings are spent running and supporting a language club, an informal learning group open to the community surrounding the volunteer camp. The students that attend include young children, young women, and adults, all of whom perhaps have missed out on other formal learning opportunities. The language club is an amazing opportunity for these individuals to pick up some English that can help them procure employment and therefore a more stable lifestyle. Also, what better way to get to know and form close bonds with your neighbours than learning together? You will be involved in:

- Playing creative language learning games, such as bingo and pairs game to encourage fun learning
- Arts and crafts as a means of increasing vocabulary, with themes such as sea-life and the animal world
- More formal English lessons with advanced students, keen to further their education in their spare time
- Singing in English and Portuguese



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## 5) Other Community Projects

There are a number of other community projects that we are involved in the afternoons. These include maintaining the farm at the pre-school, painting projects at the pre-school to make it an exciting place for the children to learn, beach clean up days and a cultural day once a month at one of the project's translator's family home. This is to help the volunteers get immersed and learn about traditional Mozambican culture.

### Join our Facebook Group!

For up-to-date news and photos from the community projects in Mozambique, or a chance to chat to previous volunteers, why not join the African Impact Mozambique group on Facebook.

Alternatively check out the latest news on their blog at: <http://ai-mozambique.blogspot.com/>



### Project "Day in the life of a volunteer":

Here is how a typical day in the life of a Mozambique teaching volunteer might take shape. Please note that your itineraries may differ from this, depending on your own experience and the number of other volunteers on the placement at the same time; this is simply to give an example:

**07:00** Get up, eat breakfast, and start getting ready to depart for your project

**08:00** Head off to the Pre-school

**08:15** Start your work at the pre-school. You will teach a basic lesson to a small group of children, play with them at break time, followed by story time and then assisting with the children's lunch

**12:00** Lunch break. You will be picked up from the school, and taken to your volunteer camp, where lunch will be waiting for you

**14:30** Start of your afternoon projects

**17:00** End of the working day. You will be picked up from your project and taken home, where all the materials used during the day are put away

**18:30** Dinner at your volunteer camp



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### Project Cost Includes:

- Project Fee: this is financing that goes directly back into the project with which you are involved. This project fee facilitates funding for items such as teaching materials, sports equipment, supplies, etc. as well as the development of the actual programme.
- Transfer from Vilanculos Airport to the project accommodation in town
- Orientation and introductions to project work upon your arrival
- A monthly cultural day involving an insight into the traditional lifestyles of the local area, including traditional food, dancing, and singing.
- All daily transportation to and from the project
- Full board and lodging which includes 3 meals a day at your volunteer accommodation
- Assistance in your projects by various staff and project managers
- Full support from African Impact and your coordinator throughout your time at your placement

### Project Cost Excludes:

- Personal travel insurance for the duration of your placement, which must include cover for evacuation and repatriation
- All transport by air or bus to Vilanculos
- All items of a personal nature, such as curios, gifts, clothing (work and other)
- Email/Internet and telephone calls
- Soft drinks, wines and spirits
- All visas for border crossings (on extra excursions)
- Any excursions over and above your planned itinerary with us in Mozambique

### Project Orientation:

Upon your arrival in Vilanculos an African Impact representative who will escort you to your new 'home' will meet you. Once you have settled in, you will receive further information on the current status of our programme involvements in the local community. You will be given a detailed Welcome Pack, which will contain all the important information you may need. You will also receive a local SIM card to help get in touch with family and friends back home.

You will be orientated to the area that you will be living in, taken around the local town and visit the areas in which you will volunteer. In the next few days, you will visit the project sites and be introduced to the relevant project staff, translators and volunteer coordinators with whom you will be working closely.



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### **Project Support:**

Throughout your stay in Vilanculos you will have the support and guidance of our project staff and coordinators. They are part of our greater African Impact support team, and will provide you with competent 24-hour field support and assistance.

### **Project Accommodation:**

You will be staying at our rural camp in rustic yet comfortable thatched A frame bungalows, located just a stone's throw from the beach. Each bungalow sleeps 6 (they may be unisex!) and has its own en-suite bathroom with toilet and shower. The volunteer camp shares some facilities, including a swimming pool with the other guests staying at Aquia Negra Lodge. There is a restaurant and bar area as well where volunteers can enjoy some after dinner dessert, a drink before bed, or just some socialising in the evenings.

Members of our African Impact team are based within walking distance of the volunteer camp, and are always available to offer any assistance or support you may require during your stay with us.

We find that volunteers living together and working closely together with their projects co-ordinator is the surest way of guaranteeing their safety and being able to attend to their most pressing needs. For this reason, we expect all volunteers to stay only in the accommodation provided for them and do not allow volunteers to spend nights away in the town or nearby villages, unless they are away on pre-arranged sightseeing excursions. In addition volunteers are not allowed visitors to stay over in the camp without the prior agreement of the project manager.

### **Project Meals:**

You will be provided with three meals a day.

Breakfast is on a help-yourself basis and usually consists of cereals/porridge, toast, tea and coffee. Lunch and dinner are full meals, and will be cooked for you by our volunteer cook at the volunteer base. On Saturday nights volunteers and project managers all go out for some local cuisine. It is a great social experience and will offer you a chance to experience a variety of authentic Mozambican dishes.

Please advise us of any specific dietary requirements or food allergies before you arrive. Please also remember that you will be on a rural placement and food will be quite simple, but plentiful and nutritious.



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## Project Getting There:

You will be met upon arrival at the airport by an African Impact representative, who will then transfer you to the volunteer accommodation, approximately a 15 minute drive.

You need to arrange your flight into Vilanculos International Airport where you will be met by a member of the team wearing a company T shirt (look out for the African Impact logo!). We highly recommend Pelican Air as the most reliable flight option and can be booked online at [www.fedair.co.za](http://www.fedair.co.za) (Federal Airlines trades as Pelican Airlines).

## 10 Reasons to volunteer in Mozambique:

1. Coastal, we're right on the beach!
2. Variety of projects, from pre-school to building to teaching English to Orphan care work
3. Volunteers really become part of the local community
4. The project is very rustic and rural, a taste of the real Mozambique
5. Mozambique is so rich in culture, we're exposed to it daily
6. We live in a small, friendly, close-knit community
7. The Bazaruto Archipelago is so close, and makes for an incredible day trip out
8. Learning Portuguese and Xitsua are a challenge, although so rewarding once people have mastered a few words....
9. Proximity of camp, on the beach, a 25 minute walk from town, perfect!
10. The Mozambican dish MATAPA! You can't describe it, you just have to try it...mmmmm

## Spare Time Travel Highlights:

It would be unforgivable to be living in such stunning scenery without exploring your surroundings! Here are some of the highlights for you to do in your spare time:

- Sailing Dhow Safari to the Bazaruto Islands (US\$60 per day) - Includes snorkelling equipment, National Parks fee and a seafood lunch cooked for you from the dhow on the beach)
- Deep Sea fishing excursions (US\$300 for a full day)
- Snorkelling excursions (US\$60 per day)
- Horseback rides on the beach US\$45 for a basic 2 hour ride or US\$55 for a ride to local fishing village where a fantastic lunch is provided with coconuts, matapa and freshly caught crab.
- Eating out at fantastic restaurants that can either give you a taste of Mozambique or a taste of home for around USD10!
- Open Water 3-day PADI Certified Scuba Diving Course (US\$530). If you are interested, we can arrange the details and it can be easily incorporated into your volunteering stay.

*Please note that prices given are a guideline only and are subject to change.*



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### Some helpful notes:

- We have found in the past that the more you as a volunteer put in to your involvement, the more you will get out. You are welcome to contact a member of staff to find out how you can best prepare for your stay to assist the local community.
- During school holidays volunteers will run a “holiday club”. Activities may not be as structured as usual but there will be plenty of work to do.
- The project will be closed for the months of December, January and February each year, reopening on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- Please also understand that our projects are continuously evolving, being improved, and adapting to the needs of the local communities that we are involved with, so involvement areas do change from time to time. Rest assured your work will be necessary, rewarding and exciting. We invite you to be more than a tourist...



### Our Partners

**The Happy Africa Foundation** [www.happyafricafoundation.org](http://www.happyafricafoundation.org) African Impact is proud to have been instrumental in the establishment of The Happy Africa Foundation in 2007 and continues to be one of the Foundations major supporters. UK Registered Charity Number: 1123529.

The mission of The Happy Africa Foundation is to empower the African people through the support of community and conservation based initiatives that operate at grass roots level.

We are proudly affiliated to the UK-based **Know Before You Go** campaign that promotes education and knowledge-sharing amongst travellers.

African Impact is delighted to have been nominated as a **2009 World Travel Awards Finalist** and see this as exciting recognition of our position as African specialists in Volunteering, with over 5 years experience in sharing Africa with travellers who have a passion for making a difference.



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