

## **LIFELINE & RAPECRISIS PMB PROJECT UPDATE APRIL 2005**

Dear Trade plus Aid

I thought that I would give you an update of what is happening right now. We are expanding enormously, we are currently training in Mpophomeni, a township about 25 kilometres from here. We are also starting training in Centocow, a rural area about 135 kilometres away (tucked away in the Drakensberg), we do however have good contacts there and the rate of rape and domestic violence are disturbingly high. We have also developed good relationships with the local Department of Education, Psychological Services, they have agreed to let us address their training of grade 4, 5, and 6 teachers (a total of 62 workshops this term) and we hope to reach in the region of 1500 educators. We are currently talking about working together with the department to develop an afternoon workshop for educators, focusing on how to prevent children become abused and abusers.

I am in a situation where I just cannot keep up. We still have a counsellor at the local Crisis Centre for adults and one for children. We are working on empowering the staff at the hospitals so that we can withdraw our staff, as funding is a huge problem. The good news is that we are also negotiating with the Department of Health to set up Crisis Centres in the Province. Unfortunately the Department will only pay a fee for consultations (not a salary), not for training or supervision. Our vision is to get seed money to start Crisis Centres (like the one in Centecow) and then hopefully once they are up and running the counsellor will see enough clients to earn a decent salary. The Department are also prepared to pay for the supply of Care Packs - which we cover right now for this area and sponsored locally (by ABSA bank).

We also have several research projects on the go, some with local psychology students and one with students from Ottawa University. We hope to publish in the SA Medical Journal soon.

Please contact me if you need any further information.

Thanks for your continued support !!

Yours

Fritse Muller  
Rape Crisis Co-ordinator