

# AFRICA UNITE: SINGAMAKHALIPHA

Masters Internship  
Oceane Gonthier



# Summary

- The context of Africa Unite and Singamakhalipha
- My work in the organisation
- Critical evaluation
- Limitations and recommendations



---

# THE CONTEXT OF AFRICA UNITE AND SINGAMAKHALIPHA

# Introduction of the organisation

## Africa Unite

- CBO created in 2001
- Promote social cohesion and socio-economic development
- By and for the youth

## Singamakhalipha

- Holistic programmes
- Build resilience and provide a safe space for the children
- Raise awareness

# Statistics to understand youth exclusion in the Gugulethu district

## Employment

- Employment - 60%
- Income - 70% less than R3200

## Education

- Completed Grade 12 - 31% and 37%
- English as main language of learning – 65%

## Health

- HIV prevalence (15-49 y.o.) - 19%
- Women (15-49 y.o.) – 25%

Source: STATS SA 2018

# Policy framework and Governmental response

## National Youth Policy (2015-2020)

- Recognises challenges faced by the youth
- Lack of solutions and concrete actions

## National Youth Development Agency Act (2008)

- Encourages youth participation
- Lack of a bottom-up approach

## Government's response

- Gap in responsibility
- Funding organisation and programme



# MY WORK IN THE ORGANISATION

# Objective 1: Understand the organisation mission's and objectives, how to achieve them and what barriers do they face

Youth's well-being, social inclusion and social justice

- Sen's Capability Approach
  - Capability (opportunity)
  - Agency (role and freedom)

Provide social opportunities and tools to develop life skills and to take responsibility of their future



- Understand the organisation and its mission
  - Staff meetings, meetings with partners (clinic, etc.)
- Understand the challenges that they face
  - Funds & resources (costumes), context (holiday camp)
- Understand how the staff overcomes the challenges
  - Trainings (HIV/AIDS), creativity (holiday camp)

# Objective 2: Understand the children's socio-economic context and how it impacts their social opportunities

Impact of inequalities on children's daily life

- Sen's Instrumental Freedom
  - Social opportunities include quality education, access to health care, social services, inclusion in employment, etc.

- Understand the children's perspectives
  - Regular interactions to discuss their dreams and challenges
- Understand the children's communities
  - Participate to a door-to-door child abuse awareness campaign in Kanana
- Have a meso perspective of the Gugulethu District
  - Search for statistics about education, health, etc.

# Objective 3: Use alternative activities to discuss traumas and challenges that children face in their daily life

Mental and physical health, to ensure youth well-being

Need to open conversations about it and provide support

- Nduna and Jewkes (2012)
  - Mental health and risky behaviors (substance abuse, risky sexual behaviors, violence)

- Develop art skills in drama, dance or fabric painting
  - Helpful for their professional future
- Develop soft skills (patience, resilience, hard work, respect)
  - Helpful for their personal development and professional future
- Discuss traumas (abuse, teenage pregnancy, drugs, etc.)
  - Provide knowledge and individual support

# Objective 4: Identify children that have difficulties in education and support them with English and Maths sessions

Support children to reduce inequalities and the risk of drop-outs.

- Heaton et al. (2014)
  - Dysfunctionalities inherited in education system
  - Classicism
  - Lack of resources (number of children per class, material for learning, after-school activities)

- Support children that face challenges in maths and English
  - Passing a test, create adapted worksheets (following SA curriculum)
- Support the Grade 1 in maths
  - In isiXhosa, ability to work alone and to ask for help
- Prevent exclusion from education
  - Provide individual support, follow the children's progress

# CRITICAL EVALUATION

Write numbers from 20 to 50:

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32  
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44  
45 46 47 48 49 50 — — — —

Calculate:

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$5 + 2 = 7$$

$$2 + 2 + 2 = 6$$

$$3 + 3 + 3 = 9$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 = 6$$

$$4 + 5 + 6 = 15$$

$$3 - 1 = 2$$

$$2 - 1 = 1$$

$$5 - 2 = 3$$

$$8 - 2 = 6$$

$$6 - 3 = 3$$

$$10 - 2 = 8$$

$$10 + 8 = 18$$

$$9 + 3 = 12$$

$$12 + 4 = 16$$

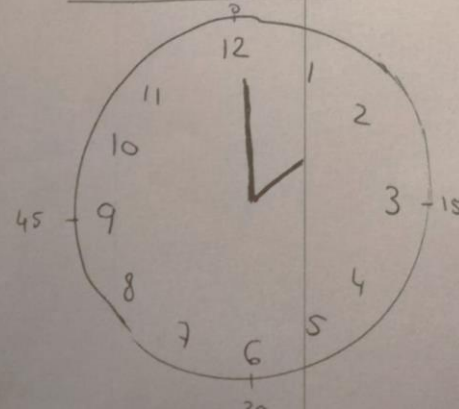
$$18 + 2 = 20$$

$$20 + 5 = 25$$

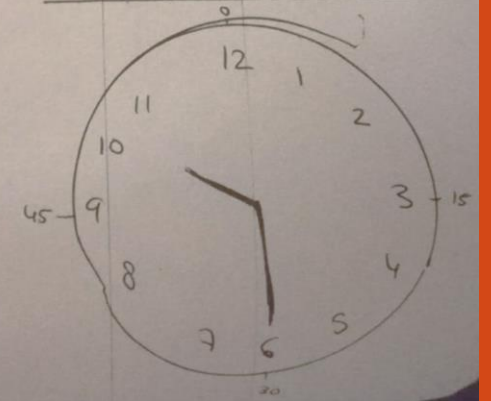
$$26 + 1 = 27$$

What is the time?

it is 2:00:



it is 10:30





# Creativity, Flexibility and Accuracy

## Creativity

- In the form of the activities (how)
- In the content of the activities (what)

## Flexibility

- When activities did not go as planned
- When the difficulty was higher than expected

## Accuracy

- Respond to actual needs
- Involve the most appropriate and most suitable people

# Language

## In the office

- First language in the workplace
- Sense of hope and optimism

## In the programme

- Helping the children
- Conflict with perpetuating the legacy

# Holistic Approach – Social Development, Social Work and Education

## Bottom-up approach

- Knowledge of field workers
- Inform policy-makers and social development workers

## Combination of professions

- Social work, social development and education
- Use different fields as resources

# LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

---

## Time Frame

- 12 weeks
- Once a week
- Observation time

## Resources

- Funding
- Partnerships
- NGOs and Social Work

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- Evaluation of challenges
- Evaluation of outcomes
- Clarity and impact

# CONCLUSION

---