Humanitarianism: Design Thinking Across the Disciplines

Honors Course, Spring 2012

- What is Humanitarianism?
- history of humanitarianism
- social issues
- economics
- non-profit / for-profit
- cultural issues
- contemporary role of humanitarianism
Humanitarianism: Design Thinking Across the Disciplines

- What is Design?
- Design Thinking
- Appropriate Technology
- What does this mean if I am not a designer?
Village Life Outreach Project

Uniting Communities to Promote Life, Health and Education

Village Life Outreach is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2004. Village Life is the result of Cincinnati-native Dr. Chris Lewis who did a residency in rural Tanzania in 2002 while in medical school and became committed to doing all that he could to benefit these communities.

Village Life Guiding Principles:
• Partnerships
• Sustainability
• Community
• Collaboration

www.villagelifeoutreach.org
Rorya District of Tanzania, East Africa

Serving communities in need
a need for healthcare
This is Elvis Osira, a 24-year-old farmer in Roche. When his wife went into labor with their first child, they had to walk 6 hours on rough roads to reach a hospital where they could receive the medical attention required to ensure the health of the mother and child. The Roche Health Center is being built for Elvis and all of the other villagers of Roche, so that they can have access to the basic health care that all people deserve.

Life expectancy in rural Tanzania is 46.3 years
“Village leaders identify their own needs,” Dr. Chris Lewis, VLOP Founder, explains. “Then we strategize with them on how to solve those problems together. This buy-in solidifies the idea that they are going to do their part. It’s a ‘hand up rather than a hand out’.

VLOP’s “hand-up” approach is illustrated by one of their most successful initiatives, the Water Filtration Project. When villagers identified lack of clean water as a premier issue affecting health and well-being, VLOP worked with them to develop and implement sustainable solutions like slow-sand filtration. VLOP provided training in filter construction and maintenance, and villagers have now build over 400 filters in the region.

There is no regularly available source of clean water for the villagers. Most water is collected from ground sources that are often shared with livestock. Many of the health issues are a result of this lack of clean water for drinking and sanitation. As a result, water filtration and disinfection was recognized as critical elements of the work of the VLOP Life Committee.

“The program is totally sustainable,” Lewis says. “We rarely have to infuse any funds. Instead, each village organized a water committee that goes to other villages to teach people how to build these filters. The last time we gave money to the water committees was to buy each of them two bicycles so they could travel to the other villages.”

This “sustainable” methodology profoundly impacted our approach to every aspect of the design of the health center.
VLOP communities

Serving communities in need

Our partners in Tanzania, the Shirati Health, Education and Development (SHED) Foundation are based in Shirati. We stay in Shirati and do outreach in 3 villages - Burere, Nyambogo, Roche.
VLOP communities

Shirati

Our partners in Tanzania, the Shirati Health, Education and Development (SHED) Foundation are based in Shirati.
VLOP communities

Burere
VLOP communities

Roche

The site for the health center is in Roche Village, Tanzania. Roche Village:
Altitude of 1,132 m (3,717 ft)
Latitude: 1°12’S
Longitude: 34°02’E

The base of operations when VLOP is in Tanzania is in Shirati, about 20km from Roche in a similar microclimate.

Significant Topographical Features of Shirati and Roche Village include:
Lake Victoria to the Northwest
Mountains to the Southeast
VLOP communities

Roche
Health

HEALTH Challenges:
• Life expectancy at birth is only 46.3 years.
• Malaria kills 1 million people each year.
• 1 in 5 children above age 5 use mosquito nets.
• HIV accounts for 160,000 deaths each year.

We believe that by illuminating and joining the struggle against disease and malnutrition in Africa, we also strengthen our own local communities by exemplifying the ideas of humanitarianism, service and social responsibility.

2009 at a glance:
• 400 mosquito nets distributed
• 1000 patients treated in mobile clinics
• 3 workshops to teach local health volunteers about malaria, diarrheal disease and pregnancy

HEALTH Projects:
• Mosquito Net Project
• Mobile Field Clinics
• Schistosomiasis Prophylaxis
• Child Health Initiative
Education

PROJECTS:
- Nutrition Project
- The Pen-Pal Program
- The Education Sponsorship Program
- The Teacher Professional Development Program
- Bicycle Project

Village Life partners with primary and secondary schools in the villages of Roche, Nyambogo and Burere to improve educational opportunities in the region by promoting professional development of village teachers and improving access to educational resources such as textbooks, paper and writing utensils.

The Nutrition Project provides an inexpensive, high calorie, nutritionally balanced lunch to primary school students in Roche. Uji, a grain-based porridge, was modified and calorically optimized with assistance from nutrition students at The University of Cincinnati College of Allied Health.

2009 at a glance:
- 50,000 lunches provided
- 20 bicycles donated
- 15 secondary education scholarships funded
- 300 pen pal letters exchanged
Life

American household consumes approximately 350 gallons of clean water everyday. In rural Tanzania the average family has access to only 14 gallons of highly polluted water every day for drinking, cooking and washing. Running water and sewage systems are non-existent. Consequently, water sources are primarily made up of surface water, such as ponds and shallow wells, and are polluted with fecal matter.

LIFE Challenges:
• 51% of rural Tanzanians have no access to clean water.
• 57% of rural Tanzanians have no access to sanitation.
• Intestinal disease accounts for 1/3 of all deaths.
• 1 in 2 children under age 5 years have a diarrheal illness.

2009 at a glance:
• 100 water filters built
• 2 latrines dug
• 2 wells built
Roche Health Center

Goals

1. DESIGN FOR ALL by providing a Health Center that addresses the needs of all members of the community
2. DESIGN FOR EDUCATION by incorporating teaching and learning into every area of the health center
3. DESIGN FOR REPRODUCIBILITY by creating buildings using locally available materials and construction techniques
4. DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY by minimizing energy usage, natural resources and material usage
5. DESIGN FOR PERMANENCE by producing safe, durable, repairable buildings
6. DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE by incorporating flexibility and adaptability
Roche Health Center
long-term masterplan
Roche Health Center
early visions
Roche Health Center
design development
Roche Health Center

design development
Roche Health Center
design development
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Honors 2011

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Humanitarian Design
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Schedule:
- Weeks 1-2  Humanitarian Design
- Week 3    Village Life Outreach Project
- Weeks 4-5 Design a proposal to benefit VLOP
- Weeks 6-7 Develop implementation plan
- Weeks 8-10 Production
- June 11-26 travel to Tanzania
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Tanzania Schedule:
• June 6    depart CVG
• June 8    arrive Nairobi, Kenya
• June 9    drive to Shirati, Tanzania
• June 10-17 on-site work in TZ villages
• June 18-20 safari, return to Nairobi
• June 21   return to CVG
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Bibliography
• Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time by Greg Mortensen
• Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder
• Design Like You Give a Damn: Architectural Responses to Humanitarian Crises by Cameron Sinclair and Kate Stohr
• Expanding Architecture: Design As Activism by Bryan Bell and Katie Wakeford
• Change by Design: How Design Thinking Can Transform Organizations and Inspire Innovation by Tim Brown
• Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa by Dambisa Moyo and Niall Ferguson
• Earth Democracy; Justice, Sustainability, and Peace (and others) by Vandana Shiva
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