

Poverty Activist – 12 months programme

The Poverty Activist programme has 3 periods

- 5 months international studies, actions and preparations for the service period;
- 6 months work in your Trio at a Humana People to People project in Africa or India;
- 1 month Bringing It to the Public

The first period: Learn, Share and Act

During the 5 months training, you will educate and prepare yourself in many different ways for your job as a Development Instructor. The programme consists of a number of subjects, which will be useful for you - as a solidarity worker and as a modern human being. Using DmM, a modern method of teaching, based partly on computer learning, you are linked to a network providing access to more than 20,000 pages of text and tests for all subjects taught at the school.

The headlines of the first period of 5 months, month by month:

1. Study headline: War and Peace. Action headline: Activists for Peace. Fighting with the poorer in the UK.
2. Study headline: Global Warming and Climate Change. Action headline: Garden Farming. Participate in local environmental actions
3. Study headline: World Economy. The Debt Trap. Action headline: Building action to improve living conditions for students at CICD
4. Study headline: The Fight against HIV / Aids. Human Rights. Action headline: STOP HIV. Spread the word - find someone to follow in your footsteps.
5. Study headline: Poverty and practical Development Aid Action headline: Improve the economy for CICD and future Development Instructors - improve the clothes collection
 - About half of the time is spent on your own studies in subjects such as: History, Geography and Sociology, where you learn about the history and culture of Africa, Development Aid, Teaching and Psychology, Portuguese (if you go to Angola or Mozambique), Chichewa (if you go to Malawi), Sports, Health and Hygiene. You also learn a number of practical skills - such as constructing a latrine or making compost.

- About a quarter of the time is spent on special courses in various subjects held by the teachers, participants or others. The entire team join these courses.
- About a quarter of the time is reserved for experiences. Both your own ones and the ones that you plan with your team and the School.
- During the 5 months training, you and your team will establish partnerships and get donations and economic support for the training course. There are many ways of doing this - the main one is selling our magazine about the school and our work in Africa and India in major cities around United Kingdom.
- Studying the countries you are travelling to.
- Forming Trios to work together at the project in Africa or India.
- Choosing the project to work at in period 2 in Africa or India – be it Child Aid, Farmers Club, TCE, DNS, OWU or helping to start up something new.
- Building up the collective foundation by running the school and the team together.
- Training practical skills to be used in period 2 working at the project as a TRIO.
- Running the school together with all aspects such as physical work, cooking, cleaning, maintenance, sports, Garden Farming and healthy food.
- Building up stamina, physical strength and courage for being an appropriate and Active Development Instructor

The second period: Service Period with Humana People to People

The Project Work in Africa or India takes place in co-operation with Humana People to People (www.humana.org). In this period, you can work with projects such as...

- Teacher Training Colleges / Educating teachers for rural areas.
- Vocational schools for young people.
- Schools for street children.
- Preschools.
- Sanitation and hygiene in rural areas.
- Tree planting campaigns.

- Raising funds for social projects by forming partnerships and selling second hand clothes and shoes.
- Stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS (following the programme TCE/Total Control of the Epidemic).

This is the most challenging and exciting part of our programme. You and your teammates set off to live for six months in a developing country. Our partner (HPP) has a long history of running projects around the world and provides leadership to our students. In turn, as a development instructor, you work with the community to empower them to work together toward sustainable solutions for their lives. You will be applying all that you learned in Period One during your Service.

- Ready for doing the work needed at the project, bringing plans and materials from the preparation period. Getting to know the people at the project, the vision and idea of the project and the many concrete tasks to be carried out.
- Acquiring skills in information work: making interviews, taking notes and pictures, writing summaries and reports, recording video film to be used in the next period.
- Living together with the people at the project, being a good example of living a humble life while improving things with small means to better the daily life.
- Planning how to carry out the actions prepared in the preparation period: building preschools, starting Garden Farming, doing literacy campaigns, carrying out prevention actions against malaria, teaching about big issues of our time at DNS, teaching English at OWU, starting up income generating activities and much more.
- Developing the project with its productions, its routines and its actions, more members, better implementation.
- Holding one Open Sunday each month, preparing the topics, the entertainment, the organization and mobilization of the people..
- Mobilising people for community actions.

The third period: Bringing it to the Public

This period is based at CICD with a programme for conclusions, evaluation, information and action.

Bringing it to the Public is an important period in the programme to evaluate the experiences gained at the project and to use them to raise awareness by spreading information and

knowledge. It is clear that the work of a Development Instructor is extremely important for the projects and communities in which they have worked. However it is also clear that after their work is done, there is much more needed to better the lives of the people in the communities.

- You return to CICD with your head and heart full of what you have achieved in Africa or India and of the people you have met and befriended. You start with a conclusion in the team. What did we achieve? Are we happy with what we achieved? Can we pass some good advice on to the next team? The next 3 weeks are spent spreading information about what you have done, about Africa and India, about your project, about poverty...
- You have had discussions about this period in both 1st and 2nd period, so you are well prepared – you have lots of photos, films, interviews, statistics, songs etc. Maybe you brought African or Indian clothes back with you.
- You write newsletters and articles for the CICD website, maybe you make a leaflet for enrolling the next team that will follow up on what you have done.
- You will of course make presentations for the other teams at CICD. Make a lively presentation aimed at primary school children and visit local schools.
- Make a presentation with the headline “Take action against poverty — volunteer in Africa or India!” and visit different places to show it.
- Make a colourful exhibition about your work and present it at secondary schools, colleges, fairs or festivals. The sky is the limit for what you can do during this period.
- Also, you will be having discussions about your future in the team. How can we use what