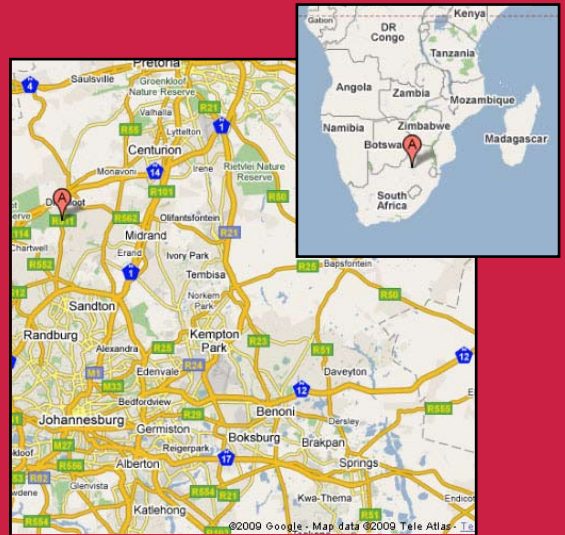


Oasis South Africa is the South African member of a global family of interdependent organisations delivering innovative community-based healthcare, housing, youth and development projects in eleven countries. Oasis South Africa is focussing on the exciting new housing development Cosmo City in Diepsloot, and the surrounding informal settlements north-west of Johannesburg.

The story of these settlements began in the mid 1990's when thousands of people migrated from embattled rural areas to Johannesburg in search of work and a better quality of life. When people failed to find work, they began to build makeshift homes on unoccupied land across the urban outskirts. As rural urban migration began to increase, the informal settlements also began to expand without any provision for solid housing infrastructure, sanitation, health care and education. Diepsloot is now the major settlement in the area providing a makeshift home to more than 150,000 people who continue to endure rampant poverty, high crime rates and very low levels of trust and social capital.

In response to this ever increasing social problem, the South African government unveiled the Cosmo City initiative. The goal is to provide a combination of free, subsidised and private housing to create an economically integrated and diverse community. If successful, the Cosmo City model will be used to eliminate all informal settlements across South Africa.

Based in the heart of Cosmo City, Oasis South Africa believes there are people committed to transforming themselves and their communities to be found everywhere, no matter how marginalised and isolated a community may be. By seeking out these individuals, Oasis is able to empower them through a range of community projects and effectively build this new community from the ground up.



HEALTH PROJECTS

Oasis believes that health and wellbeing extends far beyond just the absence of disease to encompass the promotion of healthy lifestyles and giving people the ability to make positive choices and live life to the fullest. To support this belief, Oasis developed an innovative Community Wellness program which provides home-based care to people suffering from HIV, TB and other common diseases, health education, and preventative primary health care services including immunisation, family planning and ante-natal care.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Oasis is also addressing the issues facing youth unemployment. Through a year long Bridging Program, Oasis is able to provide school graduates with the skills and knowledge required to assess study or work opportunities. The program features 6 months of teaching and a further 6 months of mentoring along with a range of after-school and holiday activities to help young people develop.



EDUCATION PROJECTS

Oasis believes the key to their community's future is the availability of high quality education. Their Pre-School Program provides training and support to existing pre-school facilities that range from iron shacks to basic buildings. The School Support Project is currently focussed on equipping educators responsible for Life Orientation teaching which provides critical life skills, career guidance and confidence to deal with social challenges.

