AMOS26

The Amos Trust, working with the South African charity uMthombo in Durban, South Africa and the application for funding is supported by Burford Quaker Meeting.

This three-year project is aiming to get 100 street women and their children a year off the streets and off drugs. The project will provide food, toiletries and emotional support to street-connected women in Durban, South Africa, many of whom will be addicted to drugs and will support these women to detox and move off the streets. Many women live in abandoned buildings or temporary tents and their families are often resistant to take them back, perceiving them as bringing shame on the family.

In 2021 uMthombo provided accommodation for women to ease their transition off the streets, now the programme consists of a combination of support so that women can either return to their families or live independently. This year, because of South Africa's high youth unemployment rate the project has begun supporting women to set up their own businesses.

Work is planned to take place in three stages:

Camp 1: Detox - a two-week detox camp held at a game reserve outside of Durban to help women detox from substances. They will initially take medication to flush the substances out of their system, followed by a seven day natural detox. Withdrawal is challenging and for some it is too difficult.

Camp 2: Counselling and Healing - this camp, also held in the countryside, will provide one-to-one and group therapy sessions so women can start to heal and address their trauma.

Camp 3: Independent living and employment - normally around 10-12 women a year make it to this stage. Some women will return home to their families, others will live in rented accommodation, with their children, with food provided for up to six months. Business skills training and start-up kits will help them set up their own businesses in areas including catering or hair and beauty. This is a good option as youth unemployment in South Africa (15-24 year olds) currently stands at 59%.



