



Interview with David Torres, Director of Special Projects at mothers2mothers (m2m) in Cape Town, South Africa.

While traveling around the world with his family on a sabbatical from his role as a Managing Director at JPMorgan in London, David was introduced to m2m, and worked as a volunteer in Cape Town for two months. After returning to London, David decided to end his 22-year career in banking and join m2m as a permanent staff member.

In 2009, Fellow Cynthia Schweer supported the team of m2m as Financial Analyst.

Why did you decide to participate in the program?

What were your expectations?

"m2m is run by a management team with a wide variety of work experiences and backgrounds. We are an interesting combination of private sector business and finance professionals on the one hand, and public health and medical professionals on the other. It is part of our culture to 'think outside the box' when we look for human resources to contribute to the m2m programme and management team.

m2m has a history of working with mid-career fellows from the corporate world. Our expectation is that fellows will work and perform at the same level as any other senior employee of the organization.

We had high expectations for our LGT Venture Philanthropy fellow, and were thrilled to find in Cynthia someone who had both Not-for-Profit experience and experience in Management Consulting and Systems Implementation."

Which of your fellow's qualities were most valuable to you?

"Cynthia is comfortable working as a generalist across our program and finance departments. Cynthia is adaptable, she knows how to listen, she can work comfortably in a fast-paced environment, she is a quick learner, and most importantly, Cynthia is a great team player."

What tasks and responsibilities were you able to delegate to the fellow?

"Cynthia has been helping with the implementation of a new accounting software system. She has also been conducting a set of cost-benefit analyses of the m2m program. In a related project she will also assist the Department of Strategic Information and Technology with adapting the m2m implementation model for lower prevalence / population density settings. Cynthia was a perfect candidate for these jobs given her combined NGO and Management Consulting background. Cynthia's work has been central to several very important presentations to the m2m International Board of Directors."

What results did you achieve together?

"Cynthia's experience as a management consultant and as a procurement systems specialist at Starwood have allowed her to bring a new and interesting perspective to our ongoing strategic planning process.

Her quantitative skills and experience with sophisticated financial modelling have also proven invaluable in assisting with our conversion to a new accounting and reporting system, and helping us devise templates for budgeting and conducting cost-benefit analyses of the programme.

Cynthia has also been very involved in producing financial / budget reports and strategic presentations for the management team and the board of directors of m2m."

Would you recommend this program to others and why?

"We would unreservedly recommend this or other similar programs to others. In a growing and evolving organization, human resource capacity is often at a deficit in critical programme and management areas. Tactical use of third party expertise has proven to be a transformational experience for m2m over time."

mothers2mothers (m2m), Cape Town, South Africa



Problem

In parts of Africa, up to 75% of babies born to HIV+ mothers stand to lose their mothers to AIDS-related illnesses. Without intervention, more than 25% of these children will themselves inherit the virus. By 2010, an estimated 18 million children in Sub-Saharan Africa alone will be orphaned by HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Solution

- m2m aims to reduce the transmission of HIV from mothers to babies, and to keep mothers healthy by increasing their access to health-sustaining medical care
- m2m hires mothers living with HIV (mentor-mothers) to educate and support new HIV+ mothers to learn how to live with HIV/AIDS
- It uses education and empowerment tools to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS during and after pregnancy, combat stigma within families and communities, support a mother's adherence to medical treatment, and reduce the likelihood of AIDS orphans.

Impact

Impact m2m	2007	2008	2009e	2010e	2011e
HIV+ Mothers reached annually (in thousands)	50	150	300	600	750
Mentor mothers employed	300	1000	1600	2500	3300
Active sites	155	460	600	1130	1500
Active countries	2	7	10	12	15