

ASSOCIATION POUR PERSONNES EN LARMES

(APPEL)

Report of Project for the construction of ARCH Training Center funded by MMIF

Who we are?

APPEL (Association Pour Personnes En Larmes) is duly registered NGO in Mauritius since 2006.

What problem we want to address?

There are many homeless living on the streets in Mauritius who are exposed to hunger, violence, poor health and bad weather (cold winter, rain, cyclones and flooding). The main reasons for homelessness are extreme poverty, disrupted families, addictions, unemployment, poor education, absence of job skills, etc. Most of the homeless are male adults, but we observed that teenagers and young women with children are increasing recently. There is only 1 night shelter in Port Louis with limited capacity (30 beds) but do not provide opportunities for rehabilitation and social reinsertion.

Our activities

APPEL runs a residential Rehabilitation Centre and Halfway House (ARCH Center) for homeless (males) in collaboration with the Government since 2013 with a capacity of 40 beds on 24/7 basis. The rehabilitation programme is divided into 3 Phases over 8 months where beneficiaries have extensive training/ capacity building to enhance employability and economic autonomy.

The training is done within the Training Center during Phase 2 where beneficiaries learn many hard and soft skills such as pastry, cooking, hairdressing, beauty care, wood/metal works, arts & crafts, etc. However, the certificate of attendance is not a officially recognized by the MQA (Mauritius Qualification Authority); the sole agency Government agency mandated to validate any training. APPEL intends to register ARCH Training Center to be certified by MQA once the construction is completed.

APPEL also runs ARCH Café, a Social Entrepreneurship initiative aimed to sell mainly delicious food items prepared by empowered beneficiaries in the Training Centre at very affordable price for poor communities to be able to buy. This is a not-for-profit activity but aimed at empowering and providing employment and income to beneficiaries.

APPEL Approach

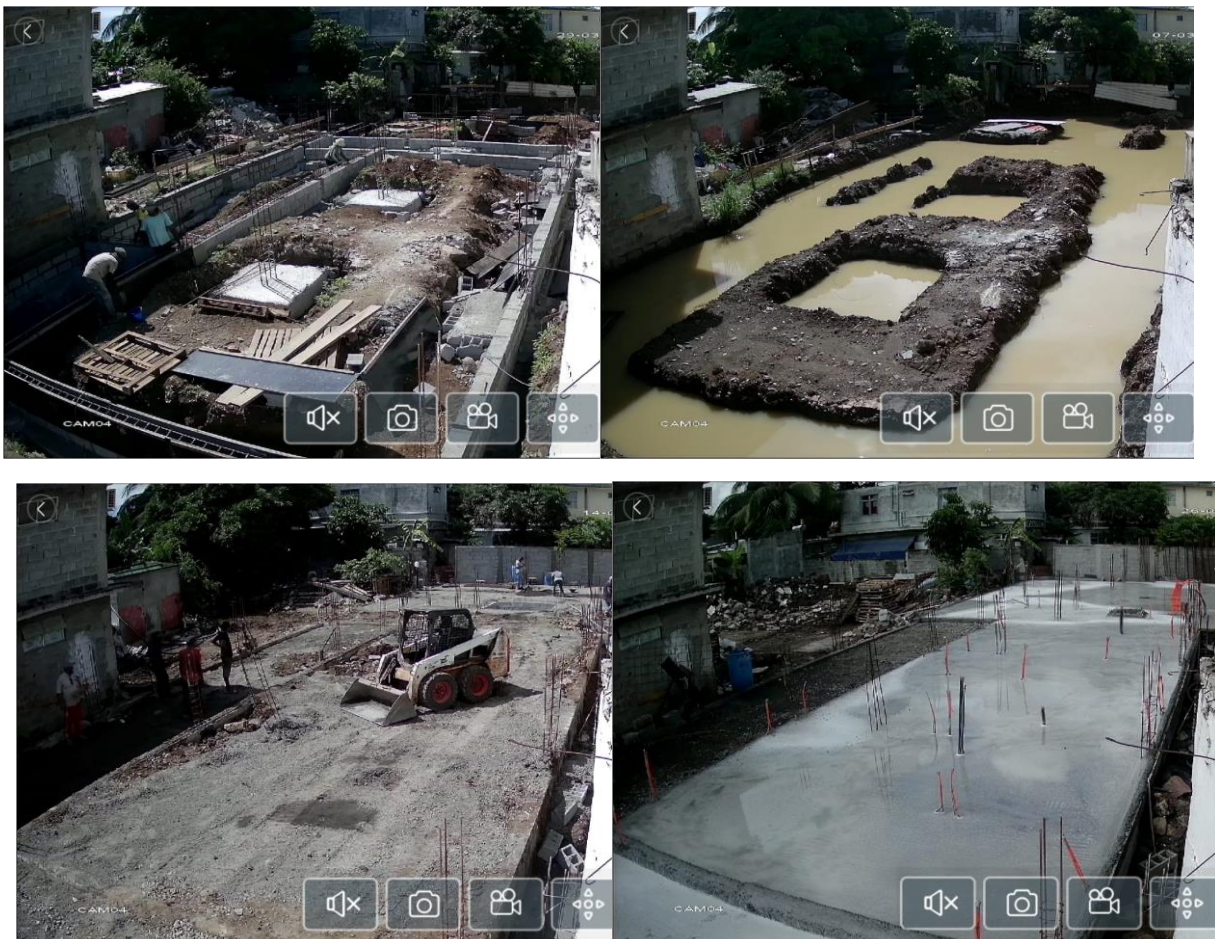
APPEL purchased a plot of prime freehold land situated near the city center in Port Louis through fund raising five years ago. APPEL received funding from MOL Mauritius International Fund (MMIF) to start the construction of ARCH Training Center. APPEL has started construction works of about 600M² (G+1 Floors) to relocate the present ARCH Training Centre/ Café to offer more training/ employment opportunities to homeless men and vulnerable women/ children in the locality.

This Project will help to address the present bad situation and remove the burden on the government and NGOs to take unnecessary risks to reach and provide them social assistance. Today there is a huge mismatch between the demand and supply on the labour market. Lots of people don't have a decent job because they are not qualified, and many organisations have a shortage of qualified workers. The Training Center will be the linkage between the trainees and the future employees.

Further this project will work towards enhancing to promote the following SDG Goals:

1. GOAL 1: No Poverty
2. GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
3. GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
4. GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
5. GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
6. GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
7. GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Pictures below show the progress of works for the construction of ARCH Training Center





Pictures below show how the building would look after completion of ARCH Training Center



Outcome of the project

APPEL will target at least 40 male homeless and 30 vulnerable women/young beneficiaries who will directly benefit from the services of the ARCH Training Center every year to enhance their employability. Once they are trained, rehabilitated, and reintegrated into the mainstream, they will become more autonomous. These beneficiaries will be recruited from the streets/ localities of the main cities/ towns in Mauritius but mainly those living in the Capital City of Port Louis.

Once they have acquired the hard/ soft skills through the ARCH Training Centre they will be enabled to become employable and start earning decent living to allow them to rent a house or reconnect and care for their families.