



WFMT BUZZ

From the desk of Dr. Anita L. Swanson



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Greetings WFMT members!

This month we have the pleasure of hearing from our **Africa Regional Liaison, Mr. Nsamu Moonga.**



So much is happening in Africa at the moment. Here I share some news from South Africa, Nigeria and Chad.

Nsamu is reporting from Southern Africa

We are still in the thralls of devastating floods that left more than four hundred people dead and thousands displaced in the KwaZulu Natal Province of South Africa. Additionally, multiple cyclones wreaked havoc in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique regions. Mozambique continues to struggle with a raging war with insurgents in the northeastern region of that country.

The only training programme for music therapy in Africa, at the University of Pretoria, has taken the next step in its development by admitting the first PhD candidates in 2022. The

candidates, Sunelle Fouche, Dannielle McKinnon, and Nsamu Moonga, benefit from the tutelage and supervision of the renowned Drs Carol Lotter and Andeline dos Santos. Music therapists have been involved in collaborative projects in research and community engagements. In the past year, we have had webinars where we shared research results from various projects, such as the UNICEF project. We are grateful to international music therapists who shared their expertise at our November 2021 symposium.

Bethan Lee Shrubsole is reporting from Chad:

I have found seven Chadian musicians interested in learning more about music therapy. I have led two music therapy workshops for them, with one programmed every month, covering the foundation of music therapy and practical techniques of therapeutic interaction. The hope is that one or more musicians may want to train in another country and maybe start a music therapy centre one day here in Chad.

A clinic that incorporates music, speech and language, and physiotherapy for children with disabilities started in October 2021. The clinic affords any child with disability access to therapies to help with their conditions. Apart from physiotherapy, there is no other help for children with, for example, autism, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy or other developmental delays in Chad. So far, over 20 children have attended the clinic at Guinebor 2 hospital, N'djamena, subsidised by Medic Assist International. Along with individual therapies, the children partake in an open group music therapy session with their parents, taught skills and advice to help their child's development at home.

Olayinka is reporting from Nigeria:

The Music therapy Association in Nigeria has faced some challenges, but members are trying so hard to ensure that we remain functional. We are currently working with the Nigerian Girls Guilds Association to help develop music therapy programs for their projects - Elderly Social Care Center, Special Needs centre, and the Girls Shelter. We hope that our involvement in these projects and centres will promote international collaboration and facilitate the inclusion of these centres as international internship sites for music therapy interns who are willing to work in Nigeria.