



Zach Lager

As ThinkImpact's Country Director for South Africa, Zachary Lager brings more than 8 years of experience of living and working in Southern Africa. Zachary's passion for community development and social enterprise stems from his extensive work and volunteer experience in grassroots development projects around the world (Costa Rica, Nepal, Brazil, India, Mozambique and South Africa). Of particular interest to Zachary is how the power of cross cultural interaction can bring meaningful insight and change at both a deeply individual level as well as at a larger collective level.

Prior to serving as ThinkImpact Country Director in South Africa, Zachary started his own non-profit organization in 2011 (Local Development Catalyst Network, LDCN) which focuses on fostering community development in rural Mozambique. Having served as a volunteer for a large development organization in 2010 in Mozambique, Zachary recognized a strong disconnect between rural Mozambican needs and the mainstream development industry's response to those needs. As such, Zachary's approach is more people centered and seeks to promote and foster a form of development that builds on local skills and resources, empowers local communities, and supports meaningful and sustainable projects. In addition to his work at a community level, Zachary has also developed a network of like-minded projects and partners around the world to help promote and amplify his work to bring about larger scale change.

Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, Zachary moved to Southern Africa in 2009 after graduating from University of Richmond with a dual degree in International Studies and Latin American Languages (Spanish and Portuguese). Zachary is currently completing his Masters Degree in Sustainable Development at the Sustainability Institute, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. In addition to his community development work, Zachary has completed his Permaculture Design Course and spends much of his time either in garden or in the kitchen cooking. Finally, Zachary is an avid outdoorsman and finds a deep enjoyment and connection to the mountains and has been lucky enough to climb two of the seven summits of the world (Aconcagua and Kilimanjaro).