

## TransCape NPO

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TransCape NPO is a connected community comprising of holistic, healthy and empowered individuals in an optimally developed and fairly managed sustainable environment.



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3 MONTH PROJECT  
UPDATES,  
JANUARY-MARCH 2019

# Health Projects

## HIV counselling

Zintathu, our HIV counsellor, worked at the local schools, the clinics and in-home based environment for the last 3 months. She covered 7 different schools and worked with 221 children and teenagers. She gave HIV/Aids education, encouraged the pupils to test for HIV and gave advice about safe sex and teenage pregnancies. Alcohol and drug abuse were discussed.

Zintathu conducted weekly visits to 2 local clinics for health education and HIV testing. She counselled 5512 people and tested 192 patients. She worked with two Home Based Care groups and led 2 educational workshops with 22 members.

3 small scale community awareness days were held and Zintathu managed to educate 113 people about HIV/Aids.



## Cataract surgery

Zintathu facilitated 18 patients to be screened for cataract and transported to Zithulele hospital to undergo surgery. All were successful.

## Sanitary pads

6 sewing ladies are making reusable sanitary pads. They have been waiting for the material they ordered a while ago. That's why they didn't make any pads this year yet.

## New vehicle for HIV

TransCape has managed to raise enough money to buy a little Suzuki Jimny 4x4 for our HIV counsellor to reach even the remote parts of our communities. We bought the car in February 2019.

## Patient transport projects

Sibongile Masiso, our designated driver for the emergency patient transport project, transported 16 patients to Canzibe hospital since January 2019 to end of March 2019.

It is a well needed project and service TransCape is offering to emergencies like deliveries of babies, strokes and accidents.



In June 2017 Eastern Cape Health Crises Coalition was formed. The coalition is a group of 17 organizations and individuals who are deeply concerned by the deepening crisis in the Eastern Cape and its results, including increased morbidity, death and violation of a range of constitutional human rights. One of the concerns is the Emergency Transport and Medical services. TransCape is one of the organizations driving the reporting of incidences in our rural area. The Coalition has taken the department of Health to court and applies a lot of pressure to get Patient Transport in place.

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# Educational projects

## Mdumbi and Nonkqubela preschools

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of January we started preschool again for 2019 at our beautiful new school building. After last year's Grade R graduation at Mdumbi Preschool, we still have 23 children of 2018 left who moved up to Grade R now. We admitted 31 new children for Grade 0. In total we have 31 boys and 22 girls.

In the beginning of the year it was hard for the Grade 0 to say goodbye to their parents in the morning. Some of them suffered of separation anxiety and their parents had to stay with them until first break time.

After just one week the kids settled in and they felt safe and content. Headteacher Noluto teaches the Grade R's. She is assisted by our new teacher Nonny and our German volunteer Tina. Nokubonga is in charge of Grade 0, she gets assisted by our Dutch volunteer Rianna.

At Nonkqubela preschool, we have 34 children registered for 2019. 16 boys and 18 girls. The school has got one headteacher, one assistant teacher and Julia, our volunteer from Germany. Ntombovuyo, our head teacher, enrolled in Masikhule teacher's college in Mthatha under a scholarship of TransCape NPO. She wants to further her education in Early Childhood Development. She completed Module 1 and 2 already and she has another 6 modules ahead of her. By the end of the year she will achieve NQF level 5.

The preschools are a real lighthouse to the community as their children get a very good start in language, numeral and life skills!

## Afterschool enrichment report

Afterschool is a program that develops children from the Mankosi community in Maths and English. In these past three months, we made many changes to our afterschool program.

### Admission Forms

In January we started giving every child an admission form to give to their parents. The reason for us to include the parents in this program is that we want them to be involved to see the progress of their children by attending this program. We got good responses from the parents.



### Sports and Snacks

The afterschool program is not just about studying, that's why we offer them sports activities and snacks. The children come straight from the formal school to afterschool, that is why we offer them something to eat first. It is also important that children are active. In the previous building, we had a playground where our children could play different kinds of sports like netball and soccer.

In the new building, we don't have a playground for the kids. We want to offer active activities for the children, that's why, during the three-week holiday, we offer three days where children will play games, sports and arts and crafts.



### Gifts

During the closure (December 2018) we gave 15 children schoolbags, shoes, shirts, jackets, and socks. These children didn't have these items. They used it in January this year and they were happy and even their parents thanked Transcape for their good job.



From January to March the number of students has increased from 25 to 50 children. In order to attract more children, our plan for the next months is to install wi-fi so we can use computers. We also plan to build a playground.



## Tshani Junior Athletics Club

### Update

This year saw Tshani A/C expand our focus inland to an area called Qolweni at the request of our esteemed Headman. At first, we were skeptical as we knew how hard it would be to find a coach in the area as dedicated as Moyisile. We met with Moyisile and he agreed to take it on himself to go and coach the children from the area, track and field and also trail running. Qolweni is 6.5 kilometres from Mdumbi and Moyisile runs there every Monday and Wednesday to go and train the youth and often gets back home in the dark. He coaches our regular kids on Tuesday and Friday at the TransCape Education Centre, where the Qolweni youngsters come and join as well.

They are a vibrant group of kids and extremely talented. On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019, Moyisile and Troy Gifford accompanied 10 athletes from Qolweni to go and participate in the Human Rights Day Run in Ngqeleni which is the nearest town. We took 6 boys and 4 girls, and they were all entered in the 10km race.

### Achievements

They did very well and our oldest youth Sinethemba Maxhoba got home in a time of 34:08. This is incredible as he finished in the top 10 a mere 3 minutes behind the winner. All our athletes run barefoot and they said that the tar road was very hot under their feet. The junior runners also did very well and two of our boys came 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The girls also came 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. For their efforts they received prize money of R300.00 for 4<sup>th</sup> place and R200.00 for 5<sup>th</sup> place. They could not believe it and immediately went to the shops to buy school shoes and school bags. It was very humbling to witness.



### Challenges

- Tshani Junior Athletic Club is currently looking for a donor to take on the club's operational costs including the stipend for Moyisile.
- Nutrition is still a problem and we would like to source a cost-effective nutritional supplement for our runners.

### Conclusion

There are plans for Moyisile to do an introductory course in computer literacy. This will help the project strive towards the goal of community ownership. Tshani A/C is an amazing project filled with talent, healthy fun and laughter and as child growing up, what more do you need.

### Scholarship program

2019 has 4 scholarship students.

Abonga Mapinyose and Masidiso Pitso are attending school at Dalindyebo Highschool in Mthatha. Both of them are in Grade 11 now. They are doing well, but both of them are struggling in Math and Life sciences.

They are working hard on overcoming their difficulties. At the present moment, Matsidiso wants to become a nurse and Abonga is interested in becoming a Pharmacist or a Psychologist.

Sibusisiwe Siya passed grade 12 last year and has applied to many universities to enter into a course in public relations or public management. Unfortunately, she has not been admitted yet due to lack of spaces. Furthermore, she has applied to many colleges as well as they admit after the 1st semester as well. If she can't get in then then she will have to take a gap year and hope to get in next year.

Musa Jampo is happy in his new school in Maclear. He realized that the standard of schools can be very different between the rural area and town. He has to work very hard to catch up! He is playing rugby and attends all the school sports. He loves the technology classes and is very happy to have access to computers now. He still wants to become a computer program or web developer.

### 2018 scholarship students

Athabile Gebengana is happy studying business management in Grahamstown Midland college since January 2019. Her course is going to be 18 months long. Then she will have to undergo an internship of another 18 months to earn her degree.

Philiswa and Awethu left the scholarship program at the end of 2018 due to underachievement. They are both attending local schools now.

## Social projects

### Children in Need project

The CIN program helps children and their parents by obtaining IDs/ birth certificates and by supplying money for primary items such as clothes and blankets, by buying food and providing school supplies. In these three months, we focused on supplying the children with some primary items.

### New clothes

Last month, we arranged for 25 children to receive some clothes. We helped the parents to buy their children some items like blankets, mattresses, and clothes because they did not have enough. The parents and their children appreciate that.



Sanele, his baby brother and his mother received new clothes and a new mattress.

### Trip to home affairs

After Easter, we will have a trip to home affairs to request IDs and Certificates. There are a lot of children who do not have IDs and Certificates and they do not get a grant; others leave school that destroys their future. The reason for the children to not have IDs and certificates is that some do not have guardians because they are orphans, for them it is difficult to go to home affairs.

### Cinga received a uniform

In the previous report, we wrote that as Cinga will change schools, she will need a new uniform. The family does not have enough money, so we bought her a uniform. She was happy and her family was very happy too. We expect that she will need winter clothes soon and we will be happy to provide them.



To summarize, we are doing a very good job with the people we help, but we lack the financial resources to help everyone. In the future, we will try to make people be independent. For example, we hope to give one family a fence to make their own garden to get something to eat or start a small business.

### Agroecology

Since May 2018 TransCape NPO started to train a group of local farmers from the Mankosi village in agroecology. Farmers have received reproducible vegetable seeds. They received a package of 29 different seed varieties to test seed production and agroecological principals in their own gardens/fields. We organized workshops and small trainings on agroecological principals, for example soil

conservation, plant combination, etc. in order to pass on knowledge about agroecosystems and environmental mechanisms. Participants were trained in seed productions and implementation of seed banks. Farmers who received the seeds were supervised and gradually trained by a French volunteer with expertise. A local community member, Thulani, has been trained to assist the farmers and do follow ups.

Our greatest need are highly qualified scientists from diverse disciplines (ecology, geology, sociology, economy, etc.) and agroecologists to teach, mentor and supervise the transition into agroecology. Indeed, agroecological systems require strong understanding of environmental and socio-economic mechanisms. For example, to implement an integrated pest management (IPM), we need to understand local ecological mechanisms. In agroecology, those knowledge acquisitions are always the fruit of integrated and participatory research processes.

So far, agroecology experimentation in Mankosi has only been done with vegetable production. But maize is the main cultivation for many local farmers and this is where chemical products are systematically used. To reach the goal of decreasing chemical use, the project and its trainings need to extend to maize production for which a skilled agronomist/agroecologist is needed.

# Mdumbi Green Fair

We have some unfortunate news. The Mdumbi Green Fair festival has been postponed until further notice due to challenges which would result in a poor event. With the value of all our wonderful people, the artists, beneficiaries and especially sponsors being at the top of our collective minds, we chose to postpone the event rather than deliver a disappointing end product. Rest assured the team is working hard behind the scenes to ensure the event will deliver on its entertainment and impact promise. The new date has not been agreed upon yet, please do have patience as rescheduling requires a high volume of planning with all stakeholders and the consideration of other event dates in order to pick the most suitable date.



**The TransCape team would like to thank you for your ongoing support! We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you!**

**Lots of Love**

**Your TransCape Team**

