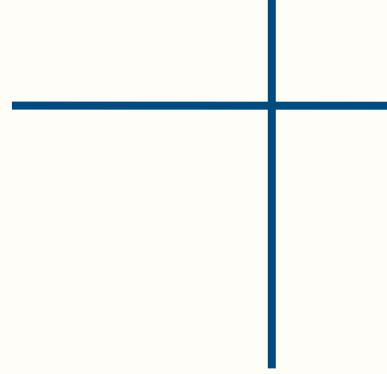


A photograph of a young child with dark, curly hair, wearing a blue and white checkered school uniform. The child is sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors, holding a bright blue bowl and eating. The background shows a blurred outdoor setting with a brick wall and some greenery.

# TransCape Education Projects Reports July-December 2020

TransCape NPO

Compiled by  
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## Introduction

TransCape NPO was established in 2004. Since then, Education is a primary focus as we see it as a catalyst to escape poverty. The education projects have grown from a small afterschool enrichment class run by a volunteer in the church building to a center with Preschools, Afterschool Enrichment and Computer classes, a Scholarship program, and Skills Development Center for the Youth, employing 4 teachers and 2 facilitators.

Having implemented projects in rural communities over several years, TransCape has learned that the approach to education has to be developmental. We know that Education cannot exist on its own, but has to be linked to the wider life of

the children, their families, and communities. Projects must include nutrition, health, and income generation if they are to have any real lasting impact on the children. TransCape works in the most holistic way possible to make sure that the whole of the community grows healthily and sustainably.

## Mdumbi Preschool

Mdumbi Preschool is part of the Early Childhood Development program of TransCape. The capacity for this project to change lives is significant as the emotional, social, and physical development of children shapes the adults that they will become.

Fifty-one children between grades 0 and R attended during 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Mdumbi Preschool was closed from March to October. We were only able to invite the Grade R class back to school in October to prepare them for Grade one in 2021.





Nokubonga and Nolutho our dedicated teachers since 2008, divided the class of 25 into two groups in order to maintain social distancing and provide as much safety as possible for children of this age, who find the protocols difficult to maintain. Transcape also purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), soaps, sanitizers, surface disinfection and made provision for social distancing in and outside the school.

Despite the challenge of social distancing protocols, while the school was able to function Nolutho and Nokubonga followed a wonderful curriculum to engage the children. Early literacy, numeracy, various social skills as well as gross and fine motor skills were transferred through playful learning activities.



The parents and teachers met on 18 November to discuss the graduation ceremony for Grade R. Traditionally it has been regarded with great enthusiasm

and attendance, with the whole community coming out to watch the little ones. However, due to circumstances, it was decided that a small gathering was best with only parents and teachers in attendance. Despite this, we made the best of the situation and celebrated the achievements of our children and teachers with decorations, refreshments, and music. Everyone enjoyed the children dancing and there was pride all around when the children received their certificates.

In December, we held interviews for the next intake of pupils for 2021. Nokubonga and Nolutho were pleasantly surprised by the number of children who applied. We have been able to provisionally accept 60 children. We will review this number as the situation with Covid 19 becomes more clear. We commit to keeping an open mind and remaining flexible to serve our community as best we can.

## Nonkqubela Preschool

Nonkqubela preschool is a satellite preschool in another village of Mankosi. TransCape supports the preschool with a stipend for the teacher, stationery, cleaning materials, and learning materials.

TransCape helped with upgrading the infrastructure of the Preschool in September. We installed a toilet, purchased paint for inside and outside, as well as a new fence to keep the animals out, and the children in.

Unfortunately, Nonkqubela school was not able to reopen in October. The teachers and the parents in that village were too afraid of the Covid-19 virus. They decided to wait for 2021 to reopen the school.

We would like to thank all our supporters from the bottom of our hearts! We are very grateful for all you do for our children in Mankosi!

# Afterschool Enrichment program



## Introduction

The afterschool program started in 2008. The purpose of this program is to help the children of Mankosi village to improve in school. This afterschool year started on the 15th of January. We are helping the students to improve in English, Mathematics, Art, and craft and also helping them with their homework. Moreover, we are playing educational games. With these games, children are developing thinking skills and improving brain development.

## After-school project

Andisiwe our afterschool teacher re-opened the program in the first week of August as the numbers of infections dropped and it felt safe to open the education center again.



The number of students dropped to 25 from 55 students at first and then the numbers recovered to 45 students. Andisiwe split the groups into smaller groups to maintain social distancing. Firstly Andisiwe gave them masks and taught them about Covid 19.

Andisiwe continued teaching them the lessons according to their curriculum from the formal school. She also helped them with their homework on different subjects. Since the exams were on the way and the time was not on our side,



Andisiwe decided to focus on preparing her students for what they needed to know for their exams. Andisiwe selected one outstanding student from the Grade 9 class to receive a scholarship through Transcape. Nolutho Maxhoba will be going to a good school in Mthatha in 2021.

All other afterschool children who attended the program in 2020 passed their exams well and were promoted into the higher grades.

Andisiwe encountered a lot of hopelessness amongst her students, because of the havoc the pandemic has caused in the school year. Andisiwe encouraged them to keep on trying and motivated them to attend afterschool classes with her regularly.

On the 14th of December, Andisiwe organized a little party for the Afterschool children. She made them yummy sandwiches, they had biscuits, icecream, and cool drinks to celebrate the end of the academic year. They played games and had a wonderful art and craft activity. The kids enjoyed it a lot.

## Volunteers

Andisiwe usually has 2 German volunteers to help her in the Afterschool program. Unfortunately, the volunteers had to go home because of Covid-19. We are expecting a new round of volunteers in September 2021. Until then Andisiwe has to cope by herself.

## Way Forward

Children walk a great distance from their home to the government school in Mankosi. To make it easier for the children who come from far, we will organize a taxi which will take them back home after Andisiwe's classes. This will enable

more students to attend the Afterschool program. Schools will open again on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

## Scholarship program

### Introduction

The scholarship program selects promising students from the Afterschool enrichment program and provides them with the option to go to a better school in town to do Grade 10-12 and one tertiary years. In 2020 we supported 4 students. The project is managed by Andisiwe Masiphule.

### Masithembe Masiphule

Masithembe Masiphula started his first-year scholarship year, with TransCape, in January 2020. It has not been an easy year but luckily the school we chose for



him, St Martin' s, is a private school and they were able to open up earlier this year in July 2020 again. Due to the social distance regulations, the students attend only 3 days a week, alternating with other students to prevent overcrowding in the classrooms. TransCape made sure he is equipped with a smartphone and data to stay in contact with their teachers and receive lessons, learning material, and feedback on their off days.

We are happy to report that Masithembe passed his grade with 49%. He was able to improve his performance a great deal once he got used to the new environment. He was promoted to Grade 11.

The school will start on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January again. Masithembe will remain at the boy's hostel, he resided in 2020. The hostel management promised up to start providing food and good care for Masithembe again.

## Gcinakazi Ntloko



Gcinakazi Ntloko started her first-year scholarship year, with TransCape, in January 2020. It has not been an easy year but luckily the school we chose for her is a private school, St. Martin's, and they were able to open up earlier this year in July 2020 again. Due to the social distance regulations, the students attend only 3 days a week, alternating with other students to prevent overcrowding

in the classrooms. TransCape made sure she is equipped with a smartphone and data to stay in contact with her teachers and receive lessons, learning material, and feedback on her off days.

We are happy to report that Gcinakazi passed her grade with 51%. She was promoted to Grade 11. The school will resume on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

## Abonga Mapinyose



Abonga had the most difficult time in his school Dalinyebo Highschool doing grade 12 and writing matric. This school was very unorganized and disruptive. Often Abonga would be sent home because of Covid-19 and then called back to only find out that the teachers were on strike and barricaded the school.

Transcape supported him by printing his study materials, so he could study at home.

The Highschool gave him a tablet in the middle of term 3 to help the students to stay in contact during school closure. That was a great improvement. Abonga wrote his trial exams in September and he wrote his final exams in December. We will get

his results at the end of February 2021. The Department of Education in South Africa is struggling to coordinate the marking of the matric papers. They are



anticipating further delays due to 900 marking officials not showing up because of the surge in Covid-19 infections.

That means that the university year will also start late and we don't know what will happen to the academic year with such huge delays. Abonga wants to study IT and he has applied to a few colleges and NASFAS, the financial aid organization for SA students.

## Sibusisiwe Siya



Sibusisiwe Siya is studying Public Management in the TVET college in East London. She was doing her 3. Semester and this was her last year with us, as a

scholarship student. The college resumed classes on campus on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2020, after a long break due to Covid-19. She has been studying hard and she passed all her subjects with flying colors. She will continue studying and she will complete her degree in Public management next year. After that, she wants to study journalism which was always her dream, but never managed to get into the course.

Sibusisiwe is very grateful for all the help and support she was giving by TransCape and her donors!

## Nolutho Maxhoba



Nolutho is going to be our new scholarship student for 2021 for the next 4 years. She is 15 years old and lives with her family in Luqolweni village, Mankosi.

Currently, she is attending Sikhoma Junior School in the village. She also joined the After-School Enrichment program with Andisiwe, at the beginning of 2020. Andisiwe noticed her straight away because of her enthusiastic and respectful manners. She is super clever and Her favorite subjects at school are

Maths and Science. She is interested in accounting but didn't have a chance to study it yet. She wants to be a Social Worker and when I asked her why she responded that she would like to help the poor people in her village. She said most poor people don't have ID's and that they can't access a grant. She wants to be of service in her community. As a second choice, she would like to study business and become an entrepreneur and own her own business. Her mother has got a Spaza shop at her house and she helps her in the shop. She also does the cleaning and the cooking at home as well as help in the garden. Nolutho has got 4 brothers and 3 sisters. One of her older brothers is disabled and lives at home. She has got one younger sister who is 13 years old. Otherwise, all the other siblings are older than her. Her father was a mine worker in Johannesburg but is at home and unemployed now. Her mother is also at home and besides the spaza shop they don't have another income. One of her sisters is employed as a domestic worker in a house in Mthatha. The other sister lives in her village and is married. Her hobbies are netball and running.

Andisiwe found a very good school in Mthatha for her, which was recommended by another teacher. The name is Ikwezi Technical Skill Center. Nolutho had to undergo an assessment and passed it to be accepted into the school. She will start on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January. Andisiwe organized accommodation for her close to the school. It is safe and clean and the hostel mother seems nice. She will have to cook for herself though.

## Conclusion

Because of the terrible surge of new infections in South Africa we don't know what is going to happen in schools in 2021. We just need to be flexible and tolerant and take every issue in our stride.

# Skills Development Center

## Introduction

SDC deals with youth unemployment and poverty. It is empowering youth to take care of themselves. It will offer individuals programs that provide them with insights into the possibilities of job opportunities and a sustainable income. This way the Mankosi youth will provide for themselves and gain confidence in the community.

This document is intended to give an update on what has been done so far. My name is Khanyisa Hlohla, one of the managers of SDC.

## Building





We are very excited to announce that we were able to start building our Skills Development Center. The center will accommodate the office for the managers, a small shop to sell our products, a classroom for the Adult Education and Training program, and the sewing workshop.

The design of the building was drawn by 3 architects from the Netherlands, who volunteered their time for this project. The sun and wind conditions of the location were considered to make this building a sustainable entity. Daniel Mvumbi, project manager of the SDC, is the building manager who is in charge of receiving goods and communications between the builder and the architects. Sandiswa, an engineer from our community was laid off because of Covid and she volunteered her time to help us with quantity surveying. David our head builder is very skillful and did the casting of the foundations and building the walls. We employed another 4 laborers to dig the foundation trenches, mix the cement, and bring sand and water. The building process took 8 weeks, over June and July 2020.

Between August and January, we engaged in more fundraising activities and we can resume building the roof in February 2021.

## The sewing project

Nosphelele and Nolethu are well-trained seamstresses of the Skills Development Center. They already learned so many techniques including how to work with an electric sewing machine and overlocker. The sewing ladies have made two graduation gowns so far. They are now busy learning how to make graduation hats. The sewing workshop is a powerful learning space to bring experts,

teachers, and learners together and create a sustainable income for the youth of Mankosi. Next year the sewing ladies will start sewing graduation gowns for preschools around Mankosi.

Siwe, a young guy from the community received sewing training and was a potential candidate for a Microfinance loan. But unfortunately, he started drinking alcohol again and is not reliable enough anymore.

## Adult Education Training

Since January 2020 we partnered with the Department of High Education to host Adult Education Training, AET. We have a great group of 17 young adults studying NQF level 4 at our center. This level will equip them with a Umalusi Certificate which can open doors to TVET colleges and tertiary education.



After Covid 19 lockdown eased, we opened our training center in August again. TransCape made sure that we had all the protective equipment to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. We supplied all our students with masks as well and practiced social distancing.

Our students wrote their trial exams in September 2020 to prepare for their finals. They did very well in their trials. On the 10th of November, they started their final exams. 17 students needed to be transported to the examination center which is 15 km away. TransCape organized special transport for 8 days. All students completed writing on the 27th of November 2020. We will get their results hopefully by the end of January.

Khanyisa started with the advertising and registration process for 2021 in November.

AET will resume on the 27th of January.



## Driver Licence program

Daniel Mvumbi is our manager for the Driver's license school and Microfinance program. We are happy to report that he passed his practical driver's license test in September 2020. He is the proud owner of a license now. We observed that all community members with a driver's license have a job. We identified this skill to be of paramount importance to become employable. Next year we will start courses to enable applicants to become capable drivers of cars and even trucks.

## Agroecology

The Mankosi Agroecology Program started in 2018 after a survey in 2017 in the veggie-gardens of the Mankosi inhabitants. This program focused on public awareness on agroecology principles to lead the community into cultivating in an intensified but sustainable and healthy way under the scope of tackling food insecurity and underdevelopment.

It was designed to adjust agroecological principles to the local ecological, economical, and sociological context. Individual assistance to farmers and families in their veggie-gardens was implemented. They would experiment with those principles for example integrated pest-management, crop rotation, green cover, mulch, and other moisture saving processes, seeds production, and selection.

This program has a long-term vision and forms to be the base for a broader resilience program that would tackle the food system of the community by ensuring a sustainable agroecosystem aligned with the socio-economic capacities.



The SDC is facing some challenges in developing the agroecology project. Unfortunately, we needed to let one of our team members go. Daniel took over the agroecology project.

The inland village of Qolweni approached the SDC for help, to establish a commercial vegetable production site. The area is very hilly and difficult to farm. The community members identified a 1 ha piece of land that is flat and has access to a small freshwater stream as an ideal site. It is communal land and the headman gave green lights to use the land. The Qolweni people are good farmers but the standard of education in the area is very poor. The group of community members who want to farm is mostly over 40 years old.

Qolweni community identified a young lady from their midst, Naledi, to go for training in basic agriculture skills. The training was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and taught original and fundamental agriculture practices. They also elected a farming committee of 5 people to represent the group of 40 farmers. This committee will be driving the progress of the project and make decisions. At the moment the group is busy looking for someone who can help them with their business plan. Naledi, Daniel, and Astrid also went to see another partner organization in our area that runs a successful agriculture project, to get an impression on affordable irrigation systems and nursery management. It was very informative and we received valuable advice and contacts.

As we didn't manage to obtain funding yet for Agroecology, we decided that we can help the Qolweni people with a Microfinance loan to establish their business. Daniel will facilitate the training.

## Conclusion

Because the COVID-19 is still present in our country and our building is not finished yet some of our projects are going slowly. Despite everything, I would like to thank our donors for helping us in this hard time with this disease that has caused so much hardship in our country.

We would like to thank all our donors and sponsors for their support!

Without you, this wouldn't be possible.

Yours Astrid Gifford

Treasurer of TransCape NPO

