



TRANSCAPE Skills Development Center July-Dec 2019

Transcape NPO

Compiled by

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"May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears." - Nelson Mandela.

Introduction

We see in the Mankosi community an incredibly complex unemployment crisis that has been taking hold of generations. We also see powerful and inspiring people who need help to get out of poverty, those people give us the hope for an honest South Africa and giving us the courage to make the Skills

Development Center a success.



The main goals of the Skills Development Center

The Skills Development Center operates within four skills which is: Sewing skills, getting your driver's license, Agroecology and Computer literacy. Our goal is to create a center which offers the right tools, guidance and inspiration to empower the youth of Mankosi and to create a sustainable income.

Together with our community, project managers and mentors we created a curriculum which is closely connected with the desires and needs in Mankosi community.

Development in the curriculum between June 2019 - December 2019

The Skills Development Center (SDC) has a unique curriculum that offers a 5 step tool, to guide a participant towards an income for life.

The five steps towards a sustainable income.

1. Own an idea

Very little infrastructure and industry in the area makes it challenging for the local youth to find jobs or even have a good business idea. To think out-of-the-box and a great amount of creativity and inspiration is needed. We have brought in young entrepreneurs who have the same background to share their stories and hold workshops about their learnings and success. Furthermore, professional creatives will hold workshops to broaden horizons and open minds.

2. Define idea & skill

This is about analysing the idea, target groups, select appropriate skills and creating an adapted learning program. Our team will mentor and guide the participant to refine the idea and highlight what is needed and expected.

3. Learning program

Our aim is that the learning programs are no longer than one year per participant. We will focus on building the businesses and/or arranging internships in the work environment at the same time.

4. Microfinance/ Career guidance

Start-up capital can be obtained through micro-finance, when the candidates are ready to establish their businesses. CVs can be sent out and job readiness workshops held.

5. Sustainable job

We feel responsible to give guidance and conduct follow-ups with all businesses and job placements. Close monitoring is key especially for the new businesses. Early detection of any kind of issues and problems is important and can be contested in time.

Within every step of the curriculum we assist with hard skills and soft skills. With hard skills we mean the practical skills like learning how to speak English or how to use a sewing machine. With soft skills we mean how to be on time for a job interview or how to deal with responsibility. Our goal is that the SDC will test and professionalize the tools in place, within the hard - and soft skills to provide maximum guidance for the participants.

Progress June 2019 - December 2019

The building

The need for a building is high. We need a good place there we can meet, have workshops, keep our materials and tools safe. It is also important that there is a place where people with the same interest can come together so they can learn from each other.

At this moment the sewing machine of the SDC are going around the village, and the machines get unnecessary damage.

To make this building everything we need it to be; we are starting a collaboration with Sophie and Sven two young architects in The Netherlands who are committed to make a suitable design and be in charge of the building process. Sophie and Sven are passionate about sustainable design and they agreed to design the Skills Center for us! We feel incredibly lucky to work with these two talents and inspired to see how they used their skills for a good cause.

Our aim is to start building in the next 6 months. The design will be ready in the beginning of the year 2020 and we need time to start a funding campaign.

Sewing skills

We are working together with a professional fashion designer named Lisa Sikuza from Mthatha. Lisa is talented and passionate about rural sewing skill development and gives short trainings for a good price.



Nomandla and Nosphelele, two women living in Mankosi community, joined the team to develop the sewing program. We chose them because they are young and had previous experience in sewing. Twice they received training from Lisa and learned how to work with an electric sewing machine and over locker machine. They are able to

make men's and women's trousers and a bag. The goods are sold online via our website <https://skillsmankosi.wixsite.com/skillsdevelopment> and at Mdumbi Backpackers. This creates a little bit of income for the SDC.

Goal for the next 6 months will be to continue to train Nomandla and Nosphelele in a way that suits their family life and the needs of the Mankosi community. For

now, the focus lies in training Nomandla and Nosphelele and make them comfortable with the machines and the new techniques. One of them can start teaching other people soon so we can test our curriculum.

Driver Licenses

Daniel Mvumbi was elected to head up the management of the Driver Licence skills courses. He has previous experience in driving cars and trucks but still needs to do his driver licence. He went to write his first test, which is a theoretical exam on paper to obtain the learner licence. He unfortunately failed his test by a very small margin.



He will try again in the beginning of 2020.

Agroecology

Thulani Gxala has been selected to head up the management of the Agroecology courses. He has had previous training through an international volunteer who came to get the project started in 2018. In the end of February 2020 Thulani will be visiting the organization Biowatch in Mathubatuba. Biowatch challenges the industrialised food system and advocates agroecology as the ecologically sustainable alternative that protects and builds biodiversity, is empowering to farmers, and promotes food sovereignty – local community control over our food and the way it is produced. Thulani will be observing the exciting farming community for one week. Furthermore, Thulani is on a waiting list to attend a Permaculture course in Cape Town in April 2020. Here we will gain necessary knowledge of sustainable and integrated systems to produce food.



Computer skills

Khanisa Hlohla was nominated to manage the computer courses, which will be outsourced. A SETA company from Mthatha will be holding the 2-week courses and giving out certificates to confirm the attendance. The project bought a laptop for Khanyisa and she is busy attending lessons with Mirthe on a weekly basis.

The challenges

Because of the lack of professionals who would like to teach or community we always struggle to find the right people who would like to use their skill for a good cause.

We see an unemployment crisis which is not easy to solve with only a certificate. This means the challenge is more complicated which is sometimes scary, but it also gives us strength to do the right things the right way.

We still don't have access to electricity at the site where the SDC will be build. We will have to run the workshops with a generator until the government implements electricity.

Way forward

With our challenges in mind we always keep our eyes and ears open for collaborations and we hope to connect more professionals to our programs. Next to this we do our best to stay close to our community. We believe in their knowledge, needs and experiences. We drive towards a program which is exactly

what our community needs it to be and we are not afraid to make changes if needed.

Thank YOU!

We thank everybody who helped us come this far. Without you this was never possible and we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts for it. We hope to make you proud next year and we drive to make lives better in Mankosi community with less youth unemployment.

Yours Mirthe Vos

Project Manager