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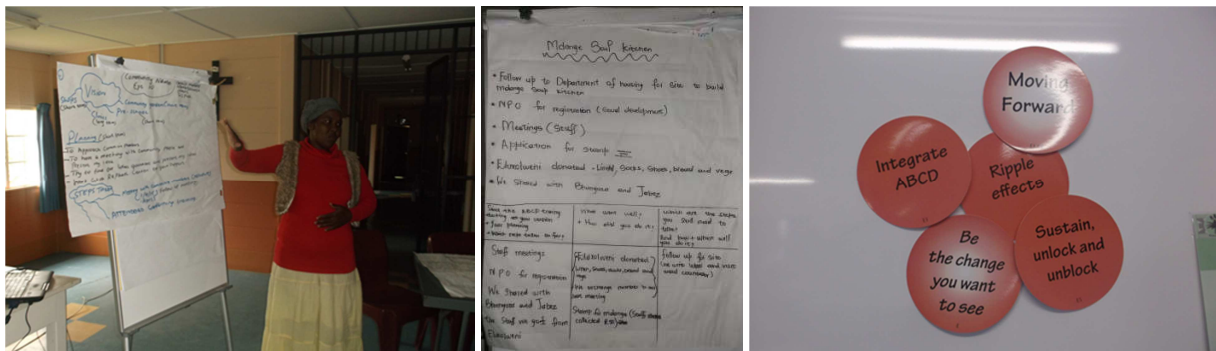


ABCD Forum -1

Report

Coordinators: Masonwabe Ndunda (Assumption Development Centre), Nondumiso Pinyana (Raphael Centre), Anne Löffler (Raphael Centre)

Date: 14.04.2015



Report by: Anne Löffler

Background ABCD Forum

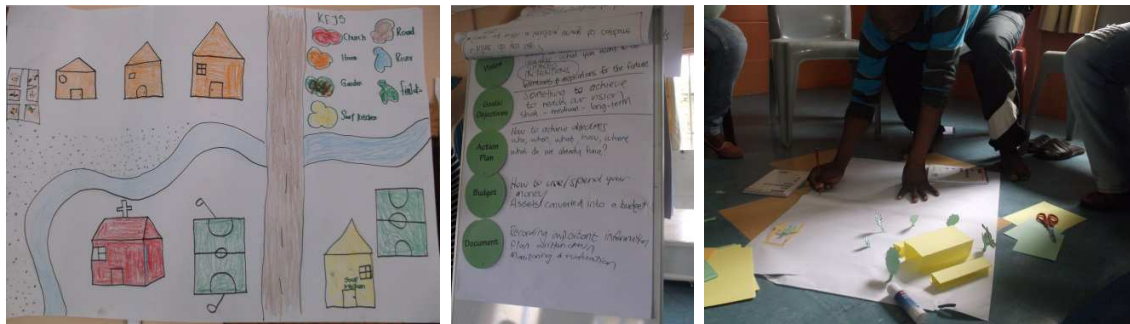
There are many small businesses and initiatives in Grahamstown. Some are providing similar types of services and in some ways there are those who are complementing each other in skills, work and products they offer to the local market. They all know and experience similar challenges (e.g. difficult funding situation, unstable cash flow, insufficient resources to survive financial crisis). Because they are small enterprises and established in different areas they mostly do not know about each other. Also, they are not aware of the potential that resides in a strong network. Here, we saw a great possibility for local community entrepreneurs and initiatives to collaborate in multiple ways, for instance: applying together for funds, and/or supporting each other with goodies, with knowledge and/ or with skills. These ways of vital community networking we regard as potential drivers of community growth.

Furthermore, “developmental work” and external community support used to happen in ways where ideas of local development were imposed onto people in a “top-down-approach”. This has been disempowering and patronizing citizens. In consequence, most of these “external” projects and initiatives could not grow roots and finally failed as they were not much understood and supported by local citizens. We think that if people analyze and plan the desired progress themselves then change can really happen.

And finally, we observed that after workshops and trainings have been held to people, there should be a follow-up procedure to see how and if people apply what they had learned. We found the forum an appropriate tool for pursuing progress in a way that gives people pride and ownership over their projects as well as skills and knowledge to share with one another.

The forum is supposed to deliver a structure for networking and support amongst community initiatives, enterprises and individuals. We hope that people use it as platform for combining assets, exchanging assets, for sharing ideas and providing mutually advice. So far, members of the forum are Mdange Soup Kitchen (Transit Camp), Ibhunguza (Jozza), the Farm Animal Centre for Education (FACE), on member of the Assumption Development Centre knitting group and some individual women (parents) living in Extension 10 and Transit Camp.

The forum was started after the recent Asset Based Community Development training which was held at Assumption Development Centre from the 24th to 27th February.



Project Overview

Project Title: ABCD Forum

Project Start Date: 14th April 2015

Projected Finish Date: 16th September 2015

Budget Information: Rand 572.00 per meeting (planned for two meetings per annum: 1,144.00)

Project Coordination: Masonwabe Nduna - phone: 046-637 1147 – email: ndunam60@gmail.com /
Nondumiso Pinyana – phone: 046-6228831 – email: ndumi@raphaelcentre.co.za / Anne Löffler – phone:
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Project Objectives:

The aim is people taking responsibility and ownership (abundance and freedom) over individual and community change by means of a vital community network.

Objectives:

1. To provide a platform for people to network and support each other in bringing positive change to their lives and to their neighborhoods
2. Giving company and support during “Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) in practice” (e.g. regular meetings to keep motivation and hope alive)
3. Forum members taking over leadership/ being champions of ABCD in their neighborhoods and throughout Grahamstown
4. Inspiring new forum members for ABCD : paradigm shifting and pro-active local development

Approach and Process:

People with ABCD training background attend different project groups. New members who have no ABCD knowledge yet will receive an ABCD introduction (see appendix 1) and an invitation to attend the next ABCD training done by Ikhala Trust and/ or Raphael Centre. For now, the meeting routine will convey:

- a. Groups are revisiting their visions, checking situation of their plans and mobilised assets + decide which next steps to take
- b. New Forum members are given an ABCD-introduction and recruited for ABCD training and business skills training
- c. Report from groups to the whole forum
- d. Decision for date, venue and chair of next meeting

Group leaders and coordinators from Assumption Development Centre and Raphael Centre meet in advance to plan the forum meeting. Initially it was intended to hold two ABCD Forum meetings per annum. So, Raphael Centre planned the 15th April and the 16th September 2015. However, the first meeting date had changed to the 14th April. Furthermore the ABCD forum decided to already meet after

the National Arts Festival again which will be 21st July 2015. It is to assume that the forum decides to meet a couple of times more than originally anticipated.

ABCD Forum Meeting - Process and Outcomes

1st ABCD Forum Meeting: 14th April 2015 9.30 am – 12.30 pm at Assumption Development Centre

Agenda 14th April

Time	What	Who
9.20	Ice breaker: Appreciative inquiry	Ndumi
9.30	Welcome & apologies	Masonwabe
	Plan for the day/ purpose of today (asking groups to sit together, but all new people please meet Ndumi and Anne in the "ABDCD area")	Masonwabe
	Story "two wolves"	Ndumi
9.45	Groupwork in projects: groups preparing their report back on activities according to their project plans etc. (How far are we, what to do next, assets mobilised so far...)	Masonwabe
	ABCD introduction	Ndumi and Anne
10.30	Presentations and Discussion (15 mins per group)	Ndumi and Anne
11.15	Forum matters:	
	- Introducing and discussing ABCD Forum concept draft	Masonwabe and Ndumi
	-	
11.45	Closing:	
	- New date, venue	Ndumi and Anne
	- Chair the next time?	
	- Check out (What stood out for you today?)	
	Evaluation Training	Ndumi



Masonwabe welcoming to the 1st ABCD Forum 2015



Ndumi reading the story of "The two wolves"



Group work

Attendance:

Out of 22 invited people there were attending eight people – all women. From all three project groups (Mdange Soup Kitchen, Ibhunguza – Makana Park and Extension 10 – community garden) which were formed at the last two ABCD training days all were presented at the forum. However, only one group had its leaders attending. Extension 10 – community garden was missing both of its group leaders and only was presented by one woman. However, she found support by Phumeza Mdingi (Mad about Art) and one woman from the knitting group (new member). Also the Ibhunguza – Makana Park group was missing its leaders and therefore worked without their vision and planning documents. Two mothers who live in our focus areas – one from Transit Camp and one from Extension 10 attended the forum. In addition, there were three new people present: one woman who participates in the Assumption Development Centre knitting group as well as two people from the organisation FACE.



Highlights:

After Masonwabe gave a warm welcome Ndumi did read "The story of the two wolves" to warm-up mind sets for "ABCD thinking". In the first part of the gathering the project groups started working on their presentation. We gave them some guiding questions which were supposed to help reflecting on the recent steps taken and future planning (see

Story of the two wolves:

One evening an old Apache told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people

He said: "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all.

One is evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is The Spirit. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Apache simply replied: "The one you feed..."



appendix 1). The questions were: 1. Since the last ABCD training and looking at your vision and planning, which steps have you taken so far? 2. What went well and how did you do it? 3. Which are the steps you still need to take and how and when will you do it? At the same time, in the ABCD area, Ndumi and Anne gave to the three new members an

introduction to Asset Based Community Development: To open-up the newcomers' minds for appreciation and asset based-thinking Ndumi started with the stories of "community A and community B". Anne followed with introducing the idea behind paradigm-shifting. Subsequently, Ndumi and Anne made the group familiar with the different forms of assets and then - together with them - defined ABCD. The introduction was closed with presenting the ABCD-course outline. We promised to make contact via email and invite all three to our next ABCD training – which we thought we can manage to facilitate in late August this year.

The presentations went very well. In appendix 2 they are outlined in detail for each group. Each of the groups could inform about little steps ("low hanging fruits") they could accomplish and seemed very motivated to embark working on following little milestones. Unfortunately, FACE had to leave after the ABCD-introduction but promised to introduce their initiative at the following meeting.



As we started late, there was no time left to discuss the forum concept and the idea of developing a forum-logo. This will be part of the following meeting in July.



Evaluation and Way Forward:

The attendance can still improve. Less than 50 percent of the ABCD training group took part in the forum. Out of five adults/ parents from our focus areas families (all from different households) who participated in the ABCD workshop only two attended the forum meeting. We need to make sure that we offer lifts from the Ghost Town area up to the meeting venue as the distance is far and there are no taxis operating in Ghost Town. What was disappointing was that there were group leaders missing from two groups during in the preparation meeting and the forum. As they are in possession of the contact details of their group members as well as the vision statement and planning, perhaps it was not surprising that only few people from all three projects arrived to take part in the forum.

The Extension 10 project group which was only presented by one woman did formulate a slightly new vision and added to the community garden (as a short term goal) a preschool and shops and as long term milestone the establishment of a clinic¹.

¹ Extension 10 is one of the youngest living areas in Grahamstown with newly established houses but still misses proper infrastructure

However, with great pleasure and excitement we witnessed stories of success which had evolved since the last ABCD training: One of the focus-area parents attended Umthathi training (gardening) and has called local community leaders to meet and discuss starting a community garden. One other parent living in the focus-area households started offering hairdressing and plans to save R100 per month so that she can afford embarking on her matric next year. Mdange Soup Kitchen and Eluxolweni have been exchanging assets to help each other.

So, we are confident people started thinking in ways of linking assets, sharing assets, exchanging assets to get closer to their visions.

[Next meeting Tuesday, 21st July 2015 from 9 am until 12 pm at Mdange Soup Kitchen:](#)

To the next meeting we will invite our new ABCD forum members who – so far - were from FACE and the Assumption Development Centre knitting group. In the same way as all other groups they will be given space to present their project, aims and objectives and steps taken, etc. However, as they have not received ABCD training yet we need to prepare their questionnaire (guiding questions) in consideration of this and also should coach them wisely while they prepare their presentation.

Furthermore, we need to guard proper space for approaching forum matters, such as are discussing the forum concept, further ideas to create a vibrant meeting routine, and we would like to suggest the idea of developing a forum-logo.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Role	Name/ position	Organization	Contact Information
Project and group coordination	Masonwabe Nduna	Assumption Development Centre	046-637 1147 ndunam60@gmail.com
Project and group coordination	Nondumiso Pinyana	Raphael Centre	046-6228831 ndumi@raphaelcentre.co.za
Project and group coordination	Anne Löffler	Raphael Centre	046-6228831 anne@raphaelcentre.co.za
Project Support and Assistance	Zodwa Goje	Raphael Centre	Zodwa@raphaelcentre.co.za 046-61228831
Project Support and Assistance	Henry Michaels	Raphael Centre	046-6228831 henry@raphaelcentre.co.za
Project Support and Assistance	Nomfundo Tobi	Raphael Centre	046-6228831 nomfundo@raphaelcentre.co.za
Project report & budgeting	Anne Loeffler	Raphael Centre	anne@raphaelcentre.co.za 046-6228831

Group Presentation

Material/ equipment: ABCD training discs E Moving forward E1-E5

Guiding questions:

- ✂ Since the training – referring to the vision and your planning, what have you done so far? Which steps did you take?
- ✂ What went well? / And how did you do it?
- ✂ Which are the steps you still need to take? And how and when you will do it?
- ✂ Please make another overview with the next steps you want to take until meet again (after Festival)?

What (activity)	By when	With whom	Assets present	Assets to get
....

ABCD Introduction (“ABCD introduction corner”)

What	Who	Material
Story Community A + B: participants read	Ndumi	Story community A and B Flipchart, paper and markers
Paradigm and shifting mind-set (way you see life)	Anne	disc B, B1 – B3 + B5
Assets	Ndumi	A1-A5
Human Assets	Ndumi (Anne assists with writing)	chart 4.2
What is ABCD?	Ndumi	chart 1.1
ABCD course outline	Anne	

Mdange Soup Kitchen:

- ✂ Since the training – referring to the vision and your planning, what have you done so far? Which steps did you take?
 - Following up with Department of Housing for site to build Mdange Soup Kitchen
 - NPO registration (social Development)
 - Staff meetings
 - Application for stamp
 - Eluxolweni donated linen, socks, shoes, bread and vegetables
 - We shared with Bhunguza and Jabez

- ✂ What went well? / And how did you do it?
 - Application for stamp (and staff members collected R50)
 - Eluxolweni donated linen, socks, shoes, bread and vegetables
 - We exchanged numbers at our last meeting

- ✂ Which are the steps you still need to take? And how and when you will do it?
 - Follow up on site (we write a letter and visit ward counsellor)

- ✂ Please make another overview with the next steps you want to take until meet again (after Festival)?
 - n/a

Extension 10:

- ✂ Vision: Community garden, pre-school, shops (short term) - clinic (long term)
Planning for short-term:
 - To approach community members (sharing vision and find support)
 - Try to find local government and present my idea
 - Work with Raphael Centre to gain support

- ✂ Since the training – referring to the vision and your planning, what have you done so far? Which steps did you take?
 - Meeting with community members on 1st April 2015 (Noludwe)
 - Attended gardening training

- ✂ What went well? / And how did you do it?
 - n/a

✂ Which are the steps you still need to take? And how and when you will do it?

Shops:

Step	who	assets	Until when
Approach people (who wants to start business) and discussion	n/a	n/a	Start 20 th April
Discuss my idea with Masonwabe to gain support			

Community gardening:

Step	who	assets	Until when
Meeting with local government to identify sites	n/a	n/a	n/a
Identify members from the community who are passionate about gardening	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach Umthathi for training	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach municipality for gardening equipment	n/a	n/a	n/a

Pre-school

Step	who	assets	Until when
Start with what I have!! start after care in my house	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach municipality about your idea	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach Umthathi for training	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach Raphael Centre about your idea	n/a	n/a	n/a

Pre-school

Step	who	assets	Until when
Start with what I have!! start after care in my house	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach municipality about your idea	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach Umthathi for training	n/a	n/a	n/a
Approach Raphael Centre about your idea	n/a	n/a	n/a

Clinic

Step	who	assets	Until when
I will discuss this with my local government and will take it from there!	n/a	n/a	n/a

Ibhunguza (Makhana Park):

✂ Planning:

- To go the Municipality so that we can get a side in order to make a park

- Bhunguzas focusing on traditional dance
- Community understands our vision (Makana Park)

- ✂ Since the training – referring to the vision and your planning, what have you done so far? Which steps did you take?
 - n/ a

- ✂ What went well? / And how did you do it?
 - Most people were interested and wanted to join us
 - Most people wanted to help us starting organizing park
 - The municipality is even interested in to donate chairs (benches?)
 - As Bhunguzas we collected children and taught them traditional dance

- ✂ Which are the steps you still need to take? And how and when you will do it?
 - We need to fundraise and buy t-shirts for Bhunguza children
 - We will look for chairs (bench?) and we will paint them (Makana Park)
 - We will cut tires and paint them (Makana Park)
 - We want to plant grass and also trees for shade