



Raphael News 2018 - 2

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Funding: During the second term of 2018 we were generously gifted by The Emthonjeni Trust. They are our funder for many years. Also, we were very grateful for the kind award by St. Cuthbert's church in Scotland. Besides, we would like to thank all individuals who have shown continued support for our work!

Strategy and Leadership: To advocate ABCD and our work, we presented our Siya Sonke project at the annual Rhodes University Community Engagement Symposium in May. Approximately 30 academics and practitioners attended our session. We gave a brief introduction to ABCD and presented our new short movie which features three individual stories of change.



Media and Branding: The local newspaper Grocott's Mail published an article about our training in Asset-based Community-driven Development with High School youth in June this year: "ABCD ... at the Raphael Centre" (available at <http://www.grocotts.co.za/2018/07/09/abcd-at-the-raphael-centre/>).

Health Testing Services (HTS) Programme:

HIV, TB and STIs: From January until the end of June, Zodwa and Nomfundo tested for HIV and screened for TB and STIs 1161 people. In October last year, the National Department of Health announced that "it is imperative to test more men and adolescents for HIV and rapid linkage to treatment to move more to epidemic control" In the past, men have been the minority among voluntary testers. However, in the first half the year, 48% of all testers were men, and more than 65% of all testers were youth. Besides we are happy to report that we could successfully implement our fast-tracking procedure for all positively diagnosed individuals with local clinics. All of them could be initiated with ARVs within five working days.

HIV, TB and STIs: Also, our team facilitated 79 eye screenings at the Youth Hub in Joza community (for two days in the week). 12 individuals were referred to our medical partners from Dr Davies Optometry. The eye-screen covers an eye-sight check and retina scanning. Zodwa says: "The retina-photographs can show if a person has diabetes, high blood pressure or is in the late stages of HIV. If not discovered and medically treated then each of these three conditions can lead to blindness. Next to TB, HIV, High Blood Pressure and Diabetes have a high prevalence in our area! We really hope that we can help to prevent unnecessary blindness in our community and contribute to more equal access to basic eye care and health".



Khanya: During the second term, our team engaged 277 learners from Nathaniel Nyaluza Secondary School (Grade 8 and 9) and CM Vellel Primary school (Grade 7) with discussions around reproductive health and teenage pregnancy, self-confidence, 'healthy' friendships, and HIV-prevalence in their age-group. Besides, essential elements of these conversations were myths and realities about HIV. Recently, one of the principals mentioned that since we have started 'Khanya' at his school in 2016, the incidences of teenage pregnancies dropped and invited us to come back to work with their learners.





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Asset-based Community-driven Development (ABCD) Programme:



ABCD Training: This year, we started making our ABCD course available for High School learners because we believe it is beneficial for personal growth and pro-active engagement with future life plans. At the moment, we focus on schools which are attended by our Siya Sonke children and youth and their close friends. In June, we facilitated our 3.5 days ABCD training course with 38 learners from Khutliso Daniels, Nombulelo, Ntsika, Mary Waters and T.E.M. Mwretyana High School. The learners concluded the workshop with specific ABCD-project ideas which aim at improving the learning environment at their schools.

Siya Sonke: In May this year, Nomaxabiso called a meeting with all our Siya-Sonke learning partners. This meeting set the spark for the formation of five divisions and activity groups: Catering, farming and gardening, early childhood development, sewing and knitting, and small snack trading businesses. All of them are composed of women who wish to assist each other in formalising their initiatives and to teach each other their skills. Nomaxabiso says: 'At this stage, the groups are supervised by us on a monthly basis to assist with planning, networking and further ways in which they wish to explore to reach their goals.'



Siya Sonke: Siya Sonke Children and Youth - Child Protection Month: Together with two Master students from Rhodes University Psychology Department, our colleague Sanelisa facilitated activities such as mapping people of trust and love as well as assertiveness skills to identify and prevent physical and emotional abuse with the younger group (7 to 10 years of age). Our teenager and youth group worked on three critical topics which relate to local teenager issues: 1) intergenerational and transactional intimate relationships ('blessers' or 'sugar daddies') – its consequences but also alternatives ways to deal with limited resources at home, 2) ukuthwala (forced marriage), and 3) teenage pregnancy (project report available). Besides, the youth was provided with a session on Children's Rights and Responsibilities.



Siya Sonke story of the term: Nomakhaya is a young single mother, who is our learning partner since 2016. She lives with her elderly mother and small daughter in Extension 10. After the ABCD-training, she had the idea to establish a little catering service with a small group of other people. But they encountered challenges in synchronising their time capacities. We revisited her personal asset-inventory, and it inspired a new idea: she found that her garden around her house was a perfect resource to grow a little poultry business. Recently, she proudly shared with us that – due to the great community support – she could sell enough chicken to make a profit in the last three months.