



# Annual Summary Report 2020

## RDSP Prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you for the opportunity to serve  
Your people throughout Southern Africa.  
In particular, we commit ourselves  
And our resources to assisting Rural  
Communities.  
We ask you to continue to grace us with  
Your gifts of energy,  
Creativity, integrity and compassion,  
So that we can bring hope where there is  
none  
And help people to reach their full  
potential.  
Lord, protect us as we travel,  
Take care of our loved ones  
And bless us and those who support us in  
our work.  
We look forward to the day  
When all communities no longer live in  
isolation and poverty,  
But prosper in Your peace and love.  
We ask You this in love and faith.

Amen.

St. Isadore, Patron of Rural communities.

## Looking Back! *The Year of Simple Acts of Kindness.*

Upon reflection of 2020, we are reminded of many who lost family members, colleagues, friends, jobs, homes and livelihoods. Yet, we are reminded of how many people rallied together to help and serve others even though they themselves needed help. We are reminded of simple acts of kindness that helped many through the storm that caught us unawares. RDSP experienced its own losses and we are reminded of what we had to let go of: our 'new' office space, sadly saying goodbye to three of our longstanding staff members, saying a final farewell to a true development pioneer in the Northern Cape, Quinta Titus (NAMKO) and Vincent Neussl, Misereor Country Officer. Although challenged by resources, RDSP has achieved much more than expected, although far less than was planned. With the country being under some level of lockdown for most of the year, we had to think creatively in order to serve the most vulnerable in the rural areas where we work.



Quinta Titus (right), NAMKO

We embarked on a survey to help us grapple with the 'new normal'. We quickly adjusted, adapted and found ways to serve, other than our core work. This report serves as a summary of RDSP's work in 2020.

**A BIG thank you to all our rural CBO partners for their efforts in helping us reach those who needed our support!**

# Substance Abuse & Addiction Training

Parishes and CBOs in the Diocese of Oudtshoorn attended a training course on Substance abuse and addiction in George. The aim of the training is to equip participants with knowledge and skills to address substance abuse in their communities.



# Good Governance Training

10 CBO's attended the Good Governance Training in De Aar, Northern Cape in February 2020.



# Substance Abuse & Addiction – Info Talk Methodology



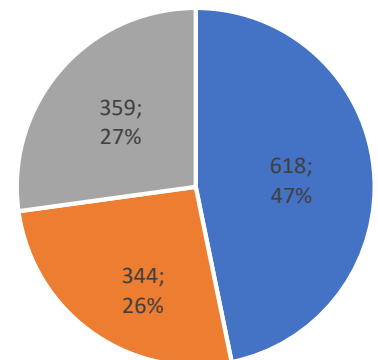
Participants were trained to present the different information talks using the methodologies and resource packs. It also equips participants with basic facilitation skills to enable them to present the information talks more confidently.

*Most participants indicated that they had implemented the information with their closest relatives and friends who were experiencing addiction problems. They shared that they were comfortable sharing this information with people they trust.*

# Rural COVID-19 Relief Project

The **Misereor Emergency Covid-Relief Fund** enabled us to reach out to the rural Western, Eastern and Northern Cape in partnership with our local community based organisation network. From June to August 2020 food parcels/ food vouchers, hand sanitizers, face soap and face masks were distributed amongst vulnerable community members. 26 Local women produced face masks and earned an income. A rural ECD centre received food parcels and face masks. 30 Face shields were provided to a preschool (Grade R) class in a rural farm school.

Beneficiaries Reached



- Western Cape
- Northern Cape
- Eastern Cape



# Feeding the Hungry - during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Publication: Standard (Worcester)  
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020  
Page: 18

## Local communities grateful for a hot meal each day

As the bitterly cold weather swept across the Western Cape, bringing widespread rains and snowfalls on the Ceres mountains, the communities of Bella Vista, Nduli, including Vredebes, Prince Alfred Hamlet and Ceres, are grateful for the promise of a warm meal each day.

With funding from the Perdekraal Wind Farm, local NGOs are extending their programmes and increasing their efforts as the cold spreads in the area.

"We are collaborating with four NGOs in the area that have been providing meals to five allocated communities, with the promise of offering at least one meal to 500 community members for five days over a four-week period," said Jo-Anne Brown, Economic Development Manager at Perdekraal East Wind Farm.

The project commenced on Monday 7 September. Food parcels had previously been provided in collaboration with the Department of Social Development to the most vulnerable in these communities.

Warrick Alexander and his team at Witz Events Network is responsible for implementing a programme, aptly named Feeding our Communities with Hope, which the local wind farm's funds are helping to sustain.

He explained: "With the Covid-19 infections reaching a predicted peak, many are less focused on the hungry tummies and frustrated households of communities, with grandmothers having to make a plan for when the next meal is coming from."

"So this funding is not only helping us feed our people with food, but provides hope and dignity."

Other NGOs that are providing community support are Vrolike Vinkies;



A man receiving a warm meal thanks to an initiative to feed those in need in Ceres.

Witzenberg Justice Coalition in collaboration with Rural Development Support Programme.

Said Brown: "At the beginning of lockdown we worked with the Department of Social Development to fund food parcels to 150 households within our partner communities as well as to farms in the Karoo area, which provided meals for about a month, to more than 400 people."



RDSP in partnership with the Witzenberg Justice Coalition provided **1816 meals over 20 days** to the vulnerable in the community of Ceres. This initiative was funded by the Perdekraal East Wind Farms. Community volunteers cooked and served the meals to the community daily.



## A thankful heart...

KJ, 50 years of age, with her daughter 32 yrs old and her two young children were sitting at the table with a small candle because she did not have money to buy electricity. They didn't have anything to eat that evening so the soup and bread were highly appreciated. All Katie could say was thank you... God bless you!



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## Campaigns to support rural families...

RDSP embarked on a social media campaign to raise funds for **face masks and hand sanitizers** where it was desperately needed.



2 The Southern Cross, April 29 to May 5, 2020

LOCAL

## Campaign to supply facemasks in Eastern Cape

BY ERIN CARELSE

**I**n the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Rural Development Support Program (RDSP), an associate body of the Southern African Catholics Bishops' Conference, has started a campaign to supply families in the rural villages of the Eastern Cape with facemasks, to aid in continued efforts to check the spread of the virus.

The NPO, which serves various regions, has been working in the Eastern Cape for over 15 years and in the past six years has been operating a satellite office in Bisho.

RDSP staffer Nosakhetho Mpush, who knows and understands the local communities and runs the work in the province, explained that the organisation started the campaign on April 20, because it saw the need for hygiene items in neighbouring villages due to the pandemic.

Ms Mpush has identified three villages where there is a great need: Bhalasi Location, Tyutu Location and Ilitha Township in King William's Town.

"The unemployment rate is very high in these villages and many people depend on the elderly and child support grant only. They live in small

houses or shacks where there are about five or more in one household, and there are no taps in their yards for water," she explained.

"Some family members have to go to public healthcare centres and collect their grant payouts—places where they need to wear facemasks. When I inquired why they do not follow the instructions of wearing masks, they said they cannot afford to buy them, and access to the shops where they can buy them is difficult," Ms Mpush said.

A major concern is that residents could easily get the virus and spread it to their families without intending to.

"Soon it is going to be grant paydays, so they will be at high risk for contracting the virus if not equipped with masks and hand sanitisers [due to the limited access to water]. Besides having limited food during this Covid-19 pandemic, they have the added burden of keeping themselves and their families safe and protected," she noted.

Nomthetho Kwinana, 49, who was born and bred in the rural areas of Keiskammahoek where she is currently based, makes the cloth facemasks with the help of her neighbour. She charges R20 per mask.

"Due to unemployment and unfore-

seen circumstance, in 2001 I started to make use of the skill that I have as a seamstress to put food on the table. Now I am sewing facemasks due to this Covid-19 pandemic," Ms Kwinana said.

She explained that the masks she makes are safe because they comprise three layers to ensure the virus cannot be spread easily.

"This project helps me in making sure we are living in a protected community. This pandemic has caused distress to self-employed people like myself; now at least I get to use my skills and keep myself busy by making facemasks," Ms Kwinana said.

To date, the RDSP has raised R8 600, which means that they will be able to supply 430 people with masks. It hopes to reach many more rural people through this initiative.

The organisation would also like to supply communities with hand sanitisers, and asks for donations for these as well.

The banking details are: Standard Bank Sea Point branch, account number 071059210, account name Rural Development Support Program. The reference is Covid-19 Response.

■ For more information on the campaign, contact Faith Brown on 071 095-3156 or faith@rdsp.co.za

The Rural Development Support Program, an SACBC associate body, is campaigning for funds to supply Eastern Cape rural families with facemasks and hand sanitiser in the continued effort to check the spread of the coronavirus. Nomthetho Kwinana (right), with the help of a neighbour, is sewing three-layered cloth facemasks for sale.



**Global Giving Campaign** – Nomfuneko received an oven from the donations and she could use it to serve her local community during the pandemic. COVID-19 brought with it many hardships for families especially those in the rural communities that RDSP serve. The plight of basic food grew by the day. It is against this backdrop that the Global Giving funds were provided to community based organisations in the Northern Cape that is part of RDSP's network, to provide for the needy.



## Gift-a-Granny Campaign...



The Gift-a-Granny campaign was initiated by 88 year old Margaret Pothier in early May 2020 when the effects of the Coronavirus lockdown were really starting to be felt. Margaret explained:

*"I was always taught to help others and the thought of people going hungry during this COVID-19 pandemic keeps me awake at night. It is always the elderly and children who bear the brunt of a crisis such as coronavirus. No child should go to bed hungry. I want to help in particular older women, who have arthritis like me, and who need food to take their pain medication".*

Margaret set about making peanut butter sandwiches and hard-boiled eggs to be distributed by non-profit organisations that work in her local township, Masiphumelele, and amongst poor communities. Through a Back-a-Buddy fundraising campaign, Margaret soon raised a staggering R36 498. Because Margaret is the mother of an RDSP board member, RDSP agreed to be the conduit for these funds as a registered NPO.

By the end of September Margaret, with some help from the rest of the family, had made an amazing **2 325 sandwiches** and **1 098 hard-boiled eggs**. She also added **fresh fruit**.

## RDSP Partnering for Greater Impact...



# Covid-19 Impact Survey...

RDSP embarked on a **survey** to determine whether rural community based organisations (our target group) are still operating, would continue to operate as well as look at what the 'new normal' would like like to deliver our core work. We share our very interesting responses below.

Questions Responses 32



## RDSP Covid-19 Impact Survey

We would like to find creative ways to do our current core work, and to prepare for future work in the "new normal". Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Email address \*

Valid email address

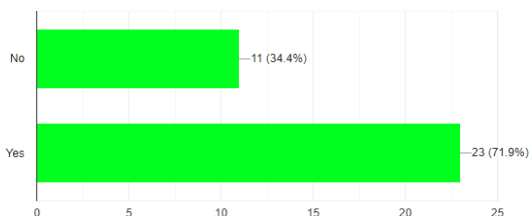
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## Responses

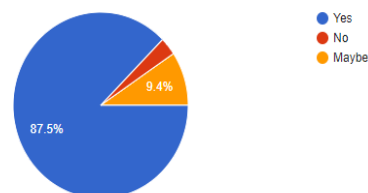
4. Has your Organisation been operating during the pandemic?

32 responses



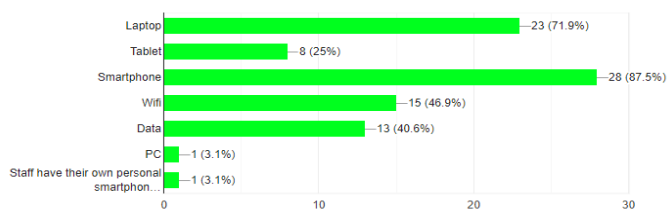
8. Will you still be able to operate after lockdown?

32 responses



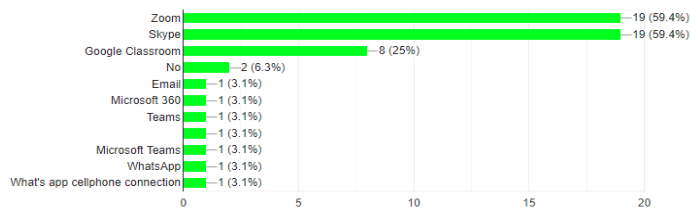
10. Does your Organisation/ staff have access to any online resources? You can tick more than one box. If you tick other, then please specify.

32 responses



11. Are you or anyone in your Organisation familiar with online platforms or resources? You can tick more than one box. If you tick other, then please specify.

32 responses



# Strategic Planning Training

CBO's from De Aar and Britstown attended Strategic Planning Training in August 2020. Due to COVID regulations, RDSP could only accommodate a limited number of participants. Training was supported by the Sibona Ilanga Trust and Misereor. RDSP continues to provide off-site support to organisations who might need it.

*Some comments from participants:*

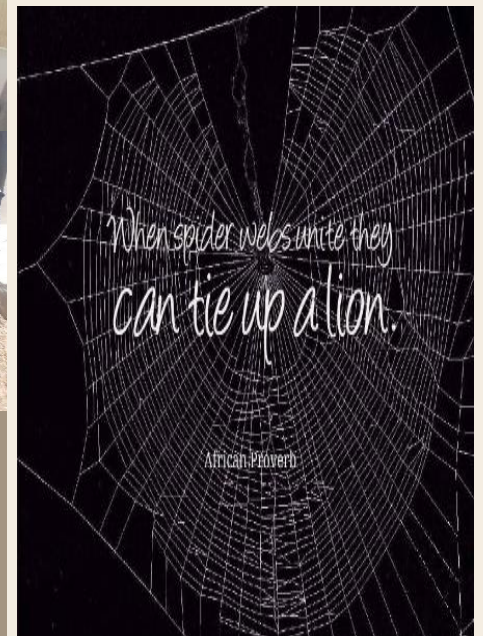
- A strategic plan is an important document.
- I never realised that we must also look at external factors influencing our organisation.
- I now understand the difference between a project and a program.
- A mission statement is not just a list of objectives but it states the results.
- Our mission and vision cannot just be words but it must reflect our passion.
- Our vision and aims guide our fundraising.



## 16 Days of Activism – Witzenberg Justice Coalition

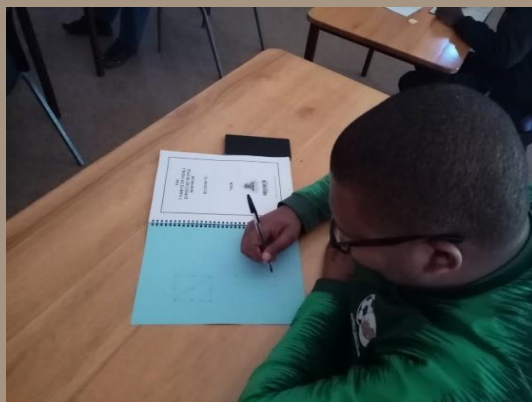


The 16 days of Activism, No Violence Against Women and Children provided an opportunity to work with members of the Witzenberg Justice Coalition at Boontjiesrivier, Wolseley. The day's discussions focused on how cultures and social conditioning perpetuate gender inequalities and the consequent abuse of women and children at a personal and societal level. We also challenged the group to think about how they can be an activist in their homes, communities or work.



# 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Training

A very successful 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Training took place for priests from the Diocese of Kimberley, Bethlehem, Keimoes-Upington, and Kroonstad. Training took place in September 2020 at John Paul II Centre in Bethlehem.



## Primary Prevention Education Through Stories – Oudtshoorn

*POPPETS TRAINING - Program of Primary Prevention Education Through Stories, a prevention program developed by SANCA. It is focused on children aged 5-9. It teaches basic puppetry skills to enable participants to present the 9 stories.*

The training took place in Oudtshoorn during September 2020, and was attended by 12 participants from the following Organisations:

- St Nicholas Parish
- Family in Need Organisation
- Real Life Commit – Oudtshoorn
- Dysselsdorp Community Aftercare-Dysselsdorp
- St Mary's Parish Rosemoor George
- Knysna Alcohol and Drug



# Final Thoughts...

A **huge thanks** to all our **donors and funders** for their support during the challenging year of 2020. To our longstanding partner **Misereor**, we want to extend a special word of thanks. To **Missio**, the **Sibona Ilanga Trust**, The **Bishops' Lenten Appeal** as well as the **Perdekraal East Wind Farm Trust**, we want extend our gratitude. We pray for everyone and for all your continued support to our work.

## RDSP's Key Focus Areas are:

### 1. Rural Organisation

#### Development Programme

Rural Community Development Organisations receiving individually designed training and mentoring from RDSP have increased organisational effectiveness enabling them to improve their impact in communities.

### 2. Rural Youth Workers/Leaders Development Programme

Youth workers/leaders in rural communities participating in RDSP's programme develop the emotional maturity they require to realise their potential, work effectively with youth, and be change agents in their communities.

### 3. Rural Substance Abuse Programme

Rural community groups receiving comprehensive training and mentoring in the field of substance abuse from RDSP implement services to assist those affected by substance abuse in their communities.

### 4. Rural Gender Based Violence Programme

Rural community group members participating in RDSP's programme develop their personal understanding of GBV, strengthen their interpersonal skills and assist those affected by GBV in their communities.



**Rural Development  
Support Program**

### Contact us:



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[www.rdsp.org.za](http://www.rdsp.org.za)



RuralDevZa



## God Bless!

We want to extend our warmest appreciation to all of our **family and friends who volunteered** to help us reach those who needed assistance. **Thank You!**

