



Annual Summary Report

2021

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 Resilience.

To sum up the global shared experiences of 2021, wordsmiths used the word 'resilience'. Resilience entails hope, faith and possibilities. South Africans have shown such resilience during a tumultuous year of the pandemic lingering, looting and loss of life, national elections, vaccine rollout and a 'red-list' travel ban imposed – to name but a few.

RDSP's 2021 year was also full of hope, faith and possibilities. Amidst COVID-19 restrictions, we moved steadily ahead with our core work, whilst also doing our part towards increasing the vaccine uptake in the rural parts of the Cape Winelands, Western Cape. With GBV soaring alarmingly during the pandemic, it is no surprise that's where 50% of our work was focussed. A survey done in the Witzenberg municipal area shockingly highlighted the fact that 98,1% of women surveyed were either victims themselves or knew someone who has fallen victim to GBV.

We said goodbye to a longstanding Board Member, Anne Stafford who resigned. She was instrumental in ensuring good financial systems and oversight. We also welcomed two new Board Members, Kerry Söderlund as Treasurer, and Tanya Arendse.



Mary Lack

We said a sad final farewell to our dearest friend and biggest supporter Mary Lack, who died at age 92. Rosanne Shields writes: "She believed in long-term solutions to poverty, based on structural changes, and had a great affinity in particular for women caught up in painful situations. Venture up to Namaqualand in the Northern Cape and you will meet many people who knew and deeply respected Ms Lack. As a volunteer and longtime board member of RDSP she carried out dozens of field trips there and to the Eastern Cape."

"R.I.P. dear Mary. I will always treasure the memories of our field trips. Thank you for your selfless contributions to the development sector and especially your contributions towards RDSP. Always in our hearts." – Brenda Snyders, RDSP Director

Positive Parenting Skills Training

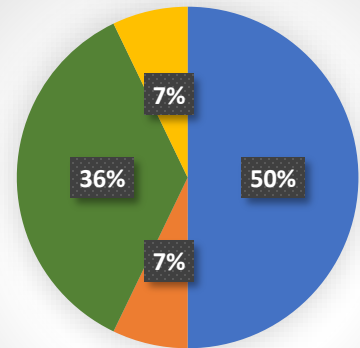
Participants from the Knysna Drug and Alcohol Centre, Family in Need, Real Life Commit, The Dysseisdorp Community Aftercare Centre, and St Nicholas Parish successfully completed the Parenting Training hosted in the Diocese of Oudtshoorn.

Participant's comment on what they learnt: *"Words are very powerful; it can break the child or build the child."*



RDSP Processes 2021

50% of work done was in the GBV focus area



- Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- Substance
- Capacity Development
- Youth Leadership

Substance Abuse...

Is a **key social crisis within rural areas** exacerbated by the geographical isolation of communities, high poverty rates and lack of prevention and treatment resources.



Knysna Alcohol and Drug Centre - POPPET show for Grade R class at Knysna EDUCATION Centre



Dysseisdorp Community Aftercare - Substance Abuse Awareness Info talks were delivered to Gr 5-7 and POPPETS (Awareness through a Puppet show) to Gr 1-4.

LIFE 1,2 & ABCD Training



Participants from 6 Organisations based in Nababeep, Okiep, Steinkopf, Bergsig and Port Nolloth in the Northern Cape attended the training.

AIMS OF LIFE 1:

- *To understand and learn to have a concept of oneself and accept oneself.
- *To set personal values & build assets/skills.
- *To build the capacity to effectively cope with the demands of life.
- *To develop healthy relationships & team work.
- *To learn tools & methodologies to use in everyday life.

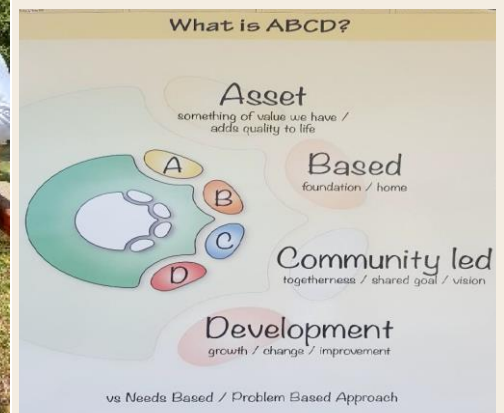


AIMS OF LIFE 2:

- * Present Strategies to cope with workplace issues and fears.
- * Develop Strategies to cope with, prepare and manage change.
- * Assist participants in financial planning & budgeting according to life styles.
- * Awareness of Employment Equity and Policies.



ABCD TRAINING:



Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention...

Support Group Formation

Organisations in the DOCKDA network presented their "road map" for their support groups. The aim of the support groups is to address GBV and the cross-cutting issue of Substance Abuse. Prevention and/or Support Groups are planned based on the needs of the particular community.



Trauma Debrief Skills

Witzenberg Justice Coalition members attended a 4-day Trauma Debrief Training. The women were from Tulbagh, Wolseley, Bella Vista, PA Hamlet as well as Op die Berg [Koue Bokkeveld].

Feedback from the Facilitator:

After sessions the group of women understood each other better. There was this calmness, a different atmosphere. All of them said that they could share this with others. A lot of the women used the correct terminology they learnt. They could also normalise their trauma with others, to say that it is normal to feel this way because you went through trauma.

The journaling was also a success. The women learnt to journal and they still keep journaling. A lot of women don't have anyone to talk to and the journaling helps. One woman bought a journal for her daughter when she said she is very angry. She told her to write it down and journal.



In 2021, Statistics South Africa released a report, Crimes Against Women in South Africa, indicating that **one in five women (21%) had experienced physical violence by a partner.**

GBV

'**Femicide** is five times higher in South Africa than the global average, with **South Africa having the fourth-highest female interpersonal violence death rate** out of the 183 countries listed by the WHO in 2016.'



Women from Tulbagh, Wolseley, Bella Vista, Prince Alfred Hamlet and Op die berg attended GBV training with a focus on **the role and responsibilities of the South African Police (SAPS) & the Courts**. Thanks to **Up to Me** who compiled the training information booklet.



RDSP and the Witzenberg Justice Coalition worked together to determine what the effectiveness of the SAPS and the Courts are in assisting victims of GBV, by means of a survey.

Of interest below:

- **98,1%** of women interviewed were **victims of GBV** themselves or they knew someone who was/ is a victim.
- **50,4%** indicated that there are **no safe houses** in their communities for GBV victims.

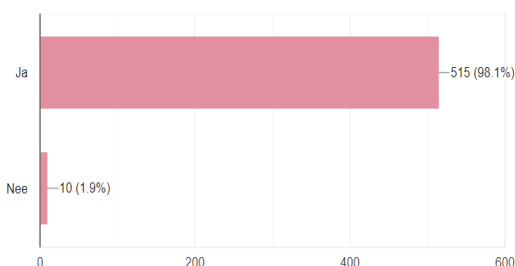
Why did you or someone you know not lay a charge?

(taken from results of Survey)

- Was **afraid**
- Was **unsure**
- I was **uninformed**
- Was **threatened and assaulted**. She experienced it before when she made a charge against him. Nothing happened when I made a charge.
- She was **threatened** to withdraw the case. She **felt bad** about it **because her dad raped her**. She does not want to do that to her dad.
- She is **unemployed** and her **husband is the only one working** for the family

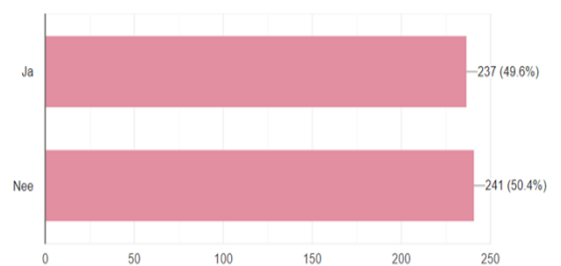
Was jy of iemand wie jy ken al 'n slagoffer van GBV?

525 responses



Is daar veiligheidsplekke beskikbaar vir GBV slagoffers?

478 responses



Strategic Planning

As part of RDSP's own income a 2-day strategic planning session was held for the new SGB (School Governing Body) of Apex Primary School in Eersteriver, a new primary school that is being implemented using WCED's new pilot partnership programme.



Entrepreneurship Training

The aim of the training was to build the entrepreneurial knowledge and skills of rural youth in the Northern Cape so they can harness their strengths and assets to earn sufficient income to lead independent and dignified lives.



Poverty Stoplight Interviews...



Poverty Stoplight interviews were conducted with **68 farmworkers and their families** on Monteith, Groenhang, Krabbefontein and Transpalmiet farms in Grabouw. The aim was to assist families to understand what their poverty status is and to assist them to map choices for a brighter, stronger future.

The six dimensions of poverty in the survey which contain important statements about our lives were assessed:

- *Income & Employment *Health & Environment *Housing & Infrastructure
- *Education & Culture *Organisation & Participation *Self-Awareness & Motivation

Vaccination Challenge Project

In partnership with the DGMT and the Discovery Trust RDSP was selected to promote and advance the uptake of the vaccine in the Cape Winelands District Municipality. In a collaborative effort between the Comprehensive Health Services Department, Partner Organisations & Volunteers pop-up vaccination sites were done, door to door mobilisation & Vooma weekends were promoted.



We would like to thank the following organisations and their volunteers who partnered with us to ensure community roll-out:

- *Change Agents SA
- *Women on Farms
- *ACVV Touwsriver
- *Witzenberg Justice Coalition

Capacity Assessments

Capacity Assessments were done with Community Based Organisations from Kimberley, Ritchie and Riverton. The aim was to assess the capacity of the organisation on terms of the seven capacities for organisational sustainability. Also, to identify key capacity elements to focus on for organisational strengthening/ growth.

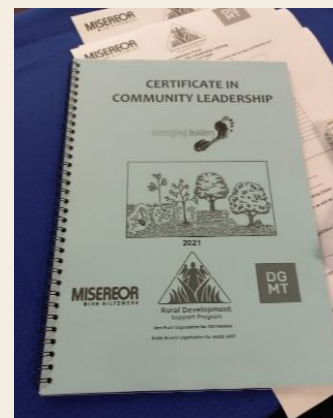


Certificate in Community Leadership Training (CCL) - Kimberley

This training course made participants realise that they have the potential to be leaders and that leaders are not just people who are managers or people of authority in the community.



This transition began with the discussion whether leaders are made or if leaders are born. Participants were asked to write in their books their own definitions or understanding of the role of a leader and who they identified as a leader. This was so that they could review this at the end of the day in order to reinforce that everyone is a leader and that each one of them indeed has the potential to be a leader and to lead themselves. For most of the participants they became aware that they needed a personal behaviour change from making use of the various types of poverty thinking to that of thinking like a leader, using the seven leadership mindsets.



Final Thoughts...

As always we would like to extend a **warm thank you** to all our **donors, funders** and partners for their support during 2021.

- Misereor
- Missio
- The Sibona Ilanga Trust
- SACBC Lenten Fund
- DG Murray Trust
- Discovery Fund
- Anne Kreitzer Will Trust
- Elex Khanyisa
- Solidarity Fund
- DOCKDA



God Bless!

We want to extend our warmest appreciation to all of our **Board Members, Staff and Associate Staff Members as well as our CBO Organisations** whose commitment is praiseworthy.

Thank You!



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 inter-personal skills and assist those affected by GBV in their communities.

Contact us:



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Support Program**



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RuralDevZa



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