



**Rural Development  
Support Program**

# **RDSP ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2024**



# Director's Message

**Brenda Snyders**  
RDSP Director



## Planting New Seeds

2024 has been a year of planting new seeds—seeds of insight, collaboration, and transformation. At RDSP, we believe that meaningful change begins with understanding, and this year marked a pivotal step in our journey to address one of the most pressing challenges facing our communities: substance abuse.

In 2023, RDSP partnered with SAAPA and SANCA National to launch a comprehensive initiative aimed at understanding the depth and impact of substance abuse within the communities of the Lesedi Solar PV Project. This collaboration combined research, community engagement, and policy analysis to design a locally grounded intervention strategy.

The findings were sobering. Substance abuse services in the area are scarce and unevenly distributed. Prevention efforts rely heavily on basic awareness talks, often lacking training and follow-up. Treatment and aftercare options are extremely limited, leaving many without sustained support. These gaps revealed both an urgent need and a powerful opportunity—to strengthen community-based services and build local capacity.

The research also illuminated the broader social consequences of alcohol misuse: family conflict, neglected responsibilities, and violence at local outlets, with men bearing the brunt of these harms. Alcohol use was closely tied to unemployment, legal issues, and social hardship. Practices such as sending children to purchase alcohol further exacerbated the problem. These insights underscored how substance abuse interacts with systemic challenges to undermine community well-being. Despite existing regulations, enforcement gaps and permissive practices—such as long hours of sale and allowed advertising—limit their effectiveness in curbing alcohol-related harm.

Out of this work, a five-year strategy was born: Strengthening Community Champions for Substance Harm Reduction in the Lesedi Trust Communities. This strategy is our commitment to nurturing local leadership, building resilience, and fostering sustainable change.

An unexpected but vital outcome of this process was the recognition of the need for Organisational Strengthening among local organisations. During the NPO Stakeholder Mapping, it became clear that for community champions to be truly effective, the organisations supporting them must also be equipped with the right tools, systems, and governance structures. This insight has led to a parallel focus on building the capacity of local organisations—ensuring they are resilient, responsive, and ready to lead change from within.

As we reflect on the seeds planted in 2024, we are reminded that growth takes time, care, and collective effort. These seeds represent hope—hope for healthier communities, empowered individuals, and a future where every person has the support they need to thrive.

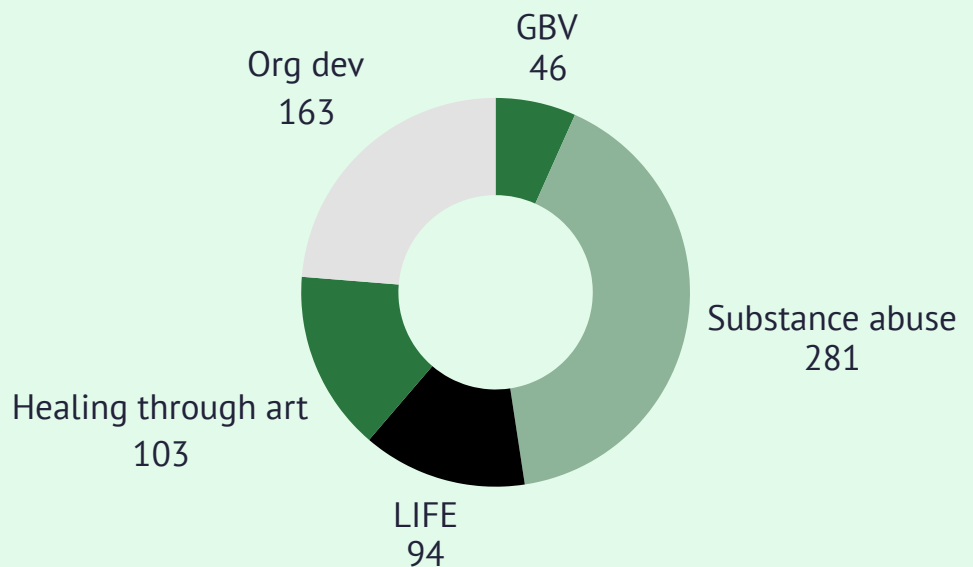
**Let us continue to nurture these seeds together.**



# Year in Review

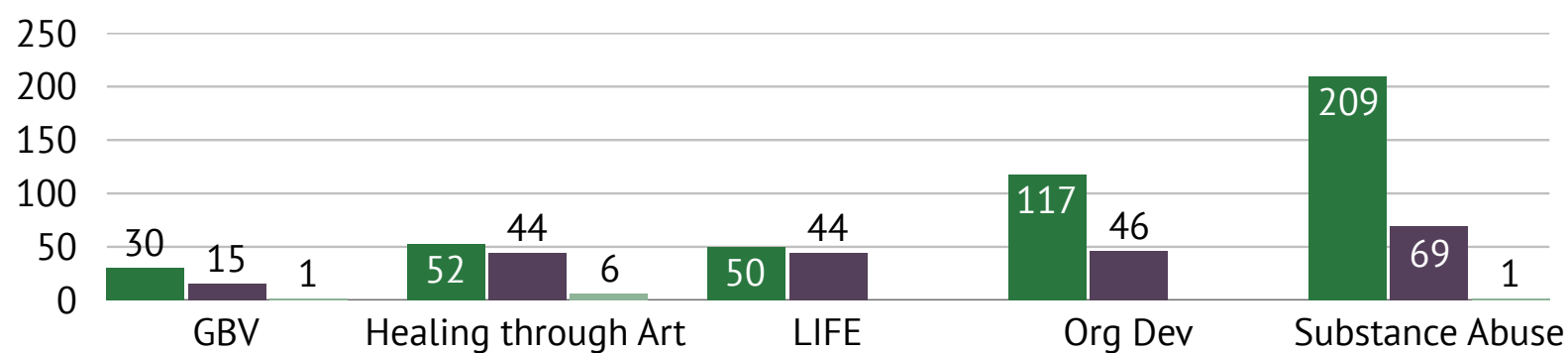
## 2024 Reach per programme

In 2024, RDSP completed 41 processes, attended by 687 participants



## 2024 Reach by gender

Females Males Non binary



**67%**  
**Female**

**47%**  
**Youth**

# Organisational Development

Organisational Development aims to improve CSO's capacity in six specific areas, namely:

- Leadership and Management
- Governance, Staff and Volunteers
- Project Planning,
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Finances
- Fundraising and Resources

A highlight in 2024 included partnering with the Initiative for Community Advancement and offering capacity assessments in the six key areas to a group of NPOs in the Bergrivier Municipality.

This process gave the NPOs insights as to where they needed to work to strengthen their organisations, and gave ICA the insights of how best to support them moving forward.



In November 2024 RDSP trained CBOs in the Northern Cape on the Good Governance module of organisational development reaching 22 participants. This group is a part of the Lesedi Solar Park Trust group - RDSP will be working with them until December 2026.

After the training all participants (100%) indicated that they had increased knowledge of:

- Policies and procedures
- Constitutions
- Legal compliance

91% also indicated that they gained skills like those needed to develop policies.



# Substance Abuse Prevention

RDSP offers several modules of training under the Substance Abuse Programme. These include understanding substance abuse and dependency, POPPETS (Programme of Primary Prevention - Education through Stories), Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, Substance support group formation and Substance abuse prevention information talk methodologies.

In February 2024 RDSP ran a POPPETS training in the Namaqua region of the Northern Cape, here's what one of the participants had to say:



”

The participant can't stop talking about the POPPETS training received from RDSP. He felt that the training gave a new sense of life and purpose, as a previous drug user Reagan knows first hand the effects of substance abuse but indicated that he learnt so much through the training enabling him to help his community as well as his own children. At first, he didn't understand how a puppet show could be helpful but by the end of the training he loved it. He said that the training showed him how he can help himself and the people around him and for this he is very grateful. Reagan has delivered many puppet shows to Grade R and Grade 1 in his community.

In August 2024 RDSP ran a substance abuse and addiction training in the Northern Cape with a new group of CBOs from Kgatelopele and Tsantsabane, this training was followed in September by a Substance Abuse Info Talk Methodology training.



# LIFE123

The LIFE123 focuses on life skills, it consists of three modules, LIFE1 focuses on personal development, LIFE2 on work readiness and LIFE3 on entrepreneurship.

In 2024, we saw CBO staff members from Richtersveld and Namaqua in the Northern Cape get trained to become LIFE123 facilitators.

## Project cycle

Train 8 CBOs on training and facilitation skills for the LIFE123 programme as well as drumming

Each CBO recruits 5 youth aged 17 - 25 (40 youth in total)

CBOs deliver the LIFE123 programme to the youth over 5 days

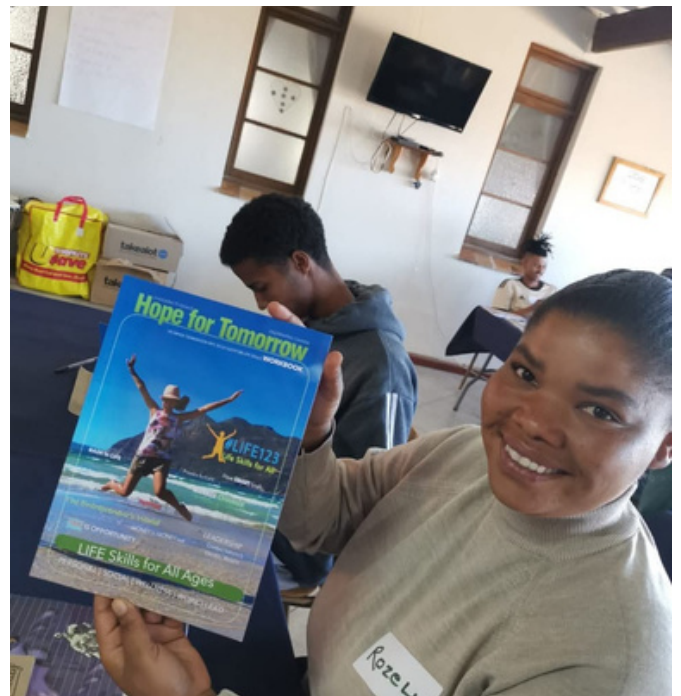
RDSP observe and offer coaching and mentoring



Perceived benefits of the programme included:

- Self-confidence
- self-awareness
- budgeting
- Employment / CV skills
- Learning to trust others
- Interpersonal skills
- Communication skills
- Leadership
- Problem solving

“ Our communities really need this, especially for us whose working with these people, there is so much pain in our communities and LIFE123 is just one tool we can use to assist, there’s a lot of ground that needs to be covered here ”

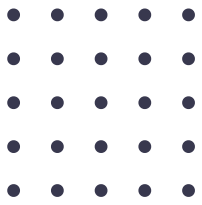




# Lesedi Solar Park Trust Partnership

In 2024 we partnered with SAAPA and SANCA National funded by Lesedi Solar Park Trust, to begin implementing a substance abuse prevention project in the Danielskuil, Postmasburg, Groenwater, Lime Acres and Skeyfontein in the Northern Cape. We collectively delivered 16 processes in 2024 including substance abuse and addiction training, organisational development, policy strengthening, substance abuse withdrawal management and mentoring.





# Final Thoughts



## In Loving Memory.

Cathy Mostert passed away in July 2024. She was a dedicated member of the GBV Healing Through Arts group in Namaqua and will be sorely missed.



A note worthy accomplishment in 2024 is that one of the CBOs we are working with through this project - Saving Lives Danielskuil - received two containers for their aftercare as well as a Christmas bonus upon referrals from RDSP.

The picture below shows the old building structure, whereas the pictures to the right show the new building structure as well as the new flushing bathrooms with a septic tank set up.

We're so grateful to have seen this transformation.



**New building**



**Old building**



**New bathroom**



# Thank You

As always we would like to extend a warm thank you to all our donors, funder, and partners for their unwavering support in 2024, without you our work would not be possible - thank you!

- Ann Kreitzer Will Trust
- Helga Blake Charity Trust
- Lesedi Solar Park Trust
- Misereor KZE
- Mukuru Shared Service
- SACBC Lenten Fund
- Global Giving



## 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.

## Contact Us



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