



zenzele  
itereleng



PROJECT  
**REPORT** 2019

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE THRIVING RURAL COMMUNITIES**

## ABBREVIATIONS

Labour Sending Areas ▶ **LSAs**

Lefa La Rona Trust ▶ **LLR**

Zenzele Itereleng ▶ **ZI**

Non Profit Organisation ▶ **NPO**

Baphuduhucwana Production Incubator ▶ **BPI**

Grain Farmer Development Association ▶ **GFDA**

Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development ▶ **NMI**

Retired Healthcare Personnel Organisation ▶ **RHEPCO**



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## ABOUT ZENZELE ITERELENG

Zenzele Itereleng (ZI) is a development agency facilitating the building and empowerment of rural communities through strategic social investment, resource mobilisation as well as lobbying and advocacy. The non-profit organisation aims to advance the development of independent sustainable thriving rural communities. ZI was founded in 2013 as a beneficiary of the Lefa La Rona Trust (LLR) established by Anglo American Platinum for the ultimate benefit of communities from labour sending areas (LSAs).



## ZI PRINCIPLES

- Focusing on upliftment and sustainable development in the key labour sending areas of Anglo Platinum
- Remaining an independent entity from Anglo Platinum, government and other institutions
- Maintain a sustainable and empowered structure to deliver on an integrated benefits model in identified benefit areas
- Empowering the local communities through appropriate representative structures to undertake initiatives to benefit communities in the long-term
- Sustainability of the labour sending communities beyond the life of the mine

## REFLECTIONS & GREAT EXPECTATIONS



### Joseph Tiisetso Matsau

Chairman

When we started out five years ago, our goal was to make a difference in the communities that helped establish South Africa's mining industry, the backbone on which this country was built.

We chose in particular to help improve health and education by reducing hunger in the former labour sending areas (LSAs) in Southern Africa, through support to former miners, their widows and their children and grandchildren.

We extended our work beyond South Africa's borders because we recognised the vital role played mostly by two of our neighbours in building our mining industry – Mozambique and Lesotho.

The choice of our goals was driven by a desire to ameliorate the situation of those communities in despair, with steadily falling standards of living, occasioned largely by the inability of families to feed themselves. We noted that this had the ripple effect of deteriorating health status, as well as poor education outcomes in children. At Zenzele Itereleng we prize the value of food security in improved health and education, as Madiba prized the value of education in fighting poverty.

Our partnership with the Nelson Mandela Institute for instance seeks to improve teaching standards in some of the poorest communities in South Africa today, providing an opportunity to break generational poverty in far flung places from the Eastern Cape to Limpopo.

The pensions of many of the former miners were never enough for when they left employment, and we feel it's important that they be assisted to acquire other skills for survival. In this way, Zenzele Itereleng can become a new engine for development and leave a lasting legacy.

As we address these challenges, we recognise the importance of helping these communities keep up with the on-rushing digital revolution and economy, hence our partnerships in the rural areas to provide WI-FI coverage.

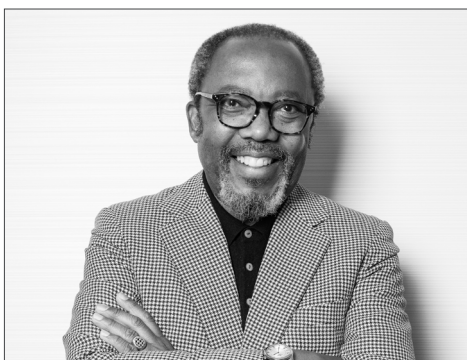
In the past few years we have learnt to stand, walk and run but more importantly along the way, we have picked up many important lessons because of our people-driven approach. From the onset, we have been clear that the people we seek to help understand their own problems better than we do, and thus must lead the search for solutions.

So, as we begin the second half of a decade working with these communities, our goal is to ensure that we build stronger capacity within them, to better articulate their challenges to potential partners, for, as the Tanzanians say, two ants do not fail to pull one grasshopper.

My ultimate dream is that together with like-minded partners, we play the role of facilitators and catalysts for sustainable impact-development. Our project in Taung with the famers (page 9) illustrates an excellent model of partnerships and high-impact development initiatives and strategies.

It is my hope that this gets replicated in every place where we have a footprint.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Joseph Tiisetso Matsau**

Chairman and Independent Director



**Ntombholanga Mqushulu**

Independent Director



**Bongwiwe Mnyande**

Independent Director



**Ernest Kwinda**

Independent Director



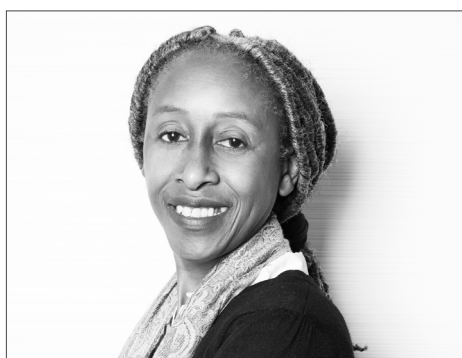
**Lorato Mogaki**

Founder Director



**Mehran Muhajir**

Founder Director



**Buhlebenkosi Phiri**

ZI Operations Manager

## IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY



**Reza Barden**

**LLR Operations Manager**

Zenzele Itereleng was founded five years ago by Lefa La Rona Trust (LLR), Anglo American Platinum's chosen vehicle to confer real benefits to the communities around its mining operations and those from labour sending areas.

LLR is a product of Anglo Platinum's Alchemy project, a multi-billion-rand broad-based economic empowerment ownership scheme under which nearly 1 million host community members and labour sending area communities, through the Alchemy Trusts and ZI Non-Profit Company, became shareholders in a major mining operation.

For ZI's board of directors, the starting point was to outline its own vision based on the Alchemy mandate – to promote "Sustainable and Thriving communities, Through and Beyond mining". The directors had to break down what this would mean for its communities in the Eastern Cape, North West, Lesotho and Mozambique. Add to this, the challenges between the long list of community needs and the limited funds allocated from Anglo American Platinum dividends.

For the first two years ZI hit the ground running with a focus on programmes supporting women, education and food security. Upon review of its work, which is a continuous process, ZI has undertaken to go beyond distributing its dividends as grants and redefine and enlarge its mandate to being a development facilitator. Working together with the LSA communities, the organisation has reworked its strategy with sustainability and impact at the core of its mission.

The vision to build thriving communities is a daunting task which requires creative thinking to achieve this bold and audacious vision. In the development of its implementation strategy, the ZI team wanted to design its mission for impact and not as an incidental outcome of the work in the communities. The NPO adopted a community centric approach to its projects to ensure communities co-design their sustainable futures, buy-in and increase the chances of success.

The long-term vision for ZI is a 30 year plus mission to build credibility and a track record. It's important for ZI to be invested in the lifecycle of communities. To achieve this, ZI has realised it cannot do this alone but needs partnerships with like-minded organisations to increase capacity and reach.

ZI has adopted a multi stakeholder approach. Partnerships are pivotal and central to the process of building thriving communities. There are many companies and organisations who would like to access hard-to-reach rural communities but have no access. Zenzele Itereleng is already present in some of these areas and has experience implementing projects with important lessons learnt along the way.

Zenzele Itereleng has great expectations for its mission to BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AND THRIVING RURAL COMMUNITIES. With the right partners and support from its communities this will be achieved.

## FROM THE GROUND UP



### Buhlebenkosi Phiri

ZI Operations Manager

Learning never stops.

When I started out with Zenzele Itereleng two years ago, I inherited a strategy that sought to empower women, improve access to finance and support food security initiatives in the former mining labour sending areas; noble goals in themselves but largely uninformed by the needs of the communities.

So we began listening to our communities and soon learnt that there were challenges in communication not only in languages but in the articulation of the requirements of those in need. Engaging the stakeholders became of utmost importance, asking questions about the influencers in those communities while remaining apolitical, seeking the input of the locals be it in the OR Tambo District of Eastern Cape, Greater Taung Local Municipality in North West, the Gaza Province of Mozambique or Lesotho.

So when it came to the type of projects to be implemented, we gave access to local organizations that previously would have been passed over in favour of either the big international NGOs, or other well-known organizations.

That gave us inclusivity and insight that we would never have had by going the traditional routes. So we were able to support organisations like Grace Vision and their fantastic work restoring the eyesight of some of the poorest members of our communities and the Retired Healthcare Personnel Organisation (RHEPCO), a group of retired nurses offering nursing care to the sick, training community caregivers and supporting referral systems to clinics.

We have learnt in the process that communities are complicated and that what you might have thought the people needed isn't necessarily so.

So now we have come to accept that it is actually better to respond to data that adds value to the communities' lifecycle when it comes to the type of programs to be implemented. What's key is to respond to the needs of the communities and support them. And with that has come the realisation that we need partners that walk with us as we drive our vision because we can't do everything on our own.

We have also learnt that project-centric approaches have severe limitations, so our focus should be a community-centric one that ensures communities co-design their sustainable futures. Our work will never be finished until those communities are sustainable and thriving.

So, in future we will be very deliberate about who we work with, how we work with them and how we assess the return of investment for the benefit of our communities.

Long may the lessons continue.

## OUR WORK

### BUILDING THRIVING RURAL COMMUNITIES

We are a development agency facilitating the building and empowerment of rural communities through strategic social investment, resource mobilisation as well as lobbying and advocacy.

We currently operate in the mining industry to enable, develop and support sustainable economic growth in the following labour sending areas and rural communities:

#### South Africa



- **Eastern Cape**

- King Sabata Dalindyebo
- Nyandeni

- **North West**

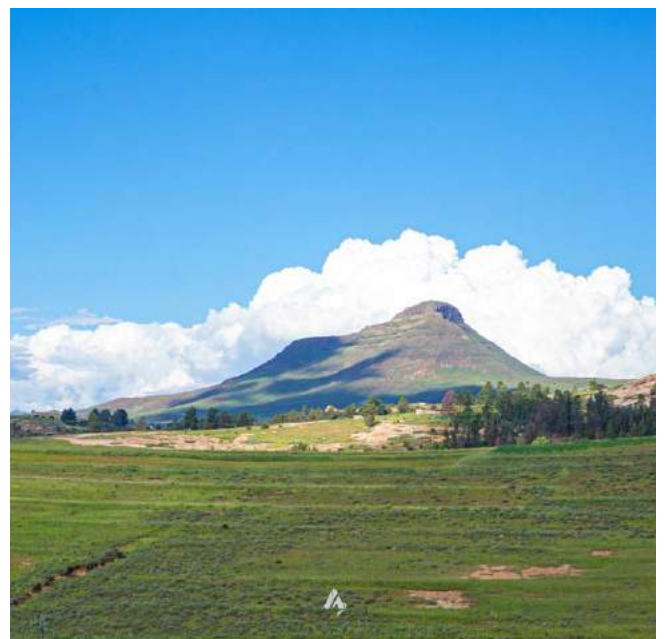
- Greater Taung Local Municipality

#### Mozambique



- Gaza Province

#### Lesotho



- Maseru
- Butha Buthe
- Mohale's Hoek
- Leribe
- Berea

## » NORTH WEST

### TAUNG FARMERS FIND STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



Johannes Sima, 97, has one last wish before he dies.

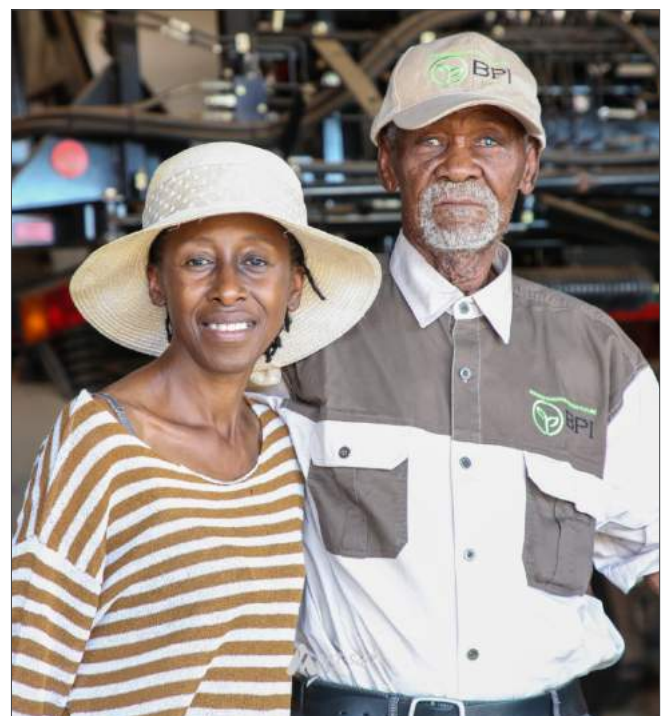
“I have a farming habit that I must pass on to my children, my grand-children and their children,” he says fervently, his eyes shining brightly even in the midday sun. “We have suffered for too long without assistance.”

The assistance Sima sees as the salvation of his dreams is the Baphuduhucwana Production Incubator (BPI), formed by small-scale farmers seeking economies of scale after years of struggle. An initial group of four has been joined by 53 others in the last three farming seasons, attracting support from Zenzele Itereleng, Heineken, SABMiller and Tiger Brands among others.

The brainchild of Ipheleng Bonnanye, the group has gone from managing their single 10-hectare plots to a combined 687.5 hectares this season, from which they hope to produce 4,365 tonnes of wheat, at an average of 6.35 tonnes per hectare, at par with some of the best commercial farming production outputs.

Apart from the farmers' sweat and support of their funders, the dream has been enabled by Leading Edge, a technical and marketing company, founded by Noel Bastiaan, a passionate supporter of transformation, particularly in agriculture. In three regions, Bastiaan and his agency are supporting more than 150 black farmers with 3,500 hectares under cultivation.

“I have been farming for most of my life but I was unable to make any money because of ever rising costs. So, we formed a team and asked for assistance from Leading Edge,” Bonnanye said at Rethuseng, one of three plots the group is farming in the North West province. “BPI enabled us to plant what we want. We grew from eight hectares to 220 hectares and now it's 687.5 hectares. It's been amazing growth and for the first time in years we are looking at a profit from our work.”



Buhlebenkosi Phiri - ZI Ops Manager & Johannes Sima - BPI farmer



Irrigation farming in Taung goes as far back as 1939 when farmers were given 1.7-hectare plots to support their families growing maize and pumpkins, part of the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme which now runs for some 812 kilometres off the Vaal River, connecting 1,250 farms, the largest such scheme in the country.

During apartheid, the Bophuthatswana homeland government increased the plots to 10-hectare holdings, support which continued when democracy came in 1994 in an area generally seen as having some of the finest soils for barley and sorghum.

A 2014 masters study by Gabriel Ekobi Acha found small scale farmers here face major challenges including lack of market access, lack of capital, water pricing, competition from established farmers, lack of transport, theft of crops and the absence of institutional structures to better organise and manage their affairs.

Though hamstrung by a lack of financial resources, the local government has been supportive of the farmers' initiative and has offered capacity building and facilitated their growth as part of its strategy to tackle high unemployment, particularly among the youth where it's estimated at 48 percent.

“They are doing a great job,” Tlhaletsi Makuapane, director of the Greater Taung Local Municipality says. “We are a small municipality and we don't have the capacity or expertise and so we appreciate their presence here and the role they are playing. It will help address the high unemployment rate and boost the local economy.”



## ZENZELE ITERELENG BRINGS FREE WI-FI TO TAUNG

The community of Greater Taung now has free WI-FI access thanks to development agency Zenzele Itereleng's R2m investment to provide connectivity to this rural community in South Africa's North West Province.

The infrastructure project includes a community portal and free WI-FI which enables residents to access a wide range of development resources on the portal including health information, educational support and available employment opportunities. It also makes it possible for entrepreneurs to communicate with their customers.

"The importance of WI-FI access in driving economic development and social inclusion is critical in this digital age. We cannot afford to leave any communities behind," says Joseph Matsau chairman of ZI.

"In considering the content we took careful consideration to incorporate practical steps towards empowering our communities to counter multi-dimensional poverty, be relevant in moving towards the 4th industrial revolution (4IR) and allow communities to self-organize according to their unique needs."

The Taung WI-FI portal is user friendly and includes a step by step video tutorial on how to register, access and navigate the portal and development resources. The content caters for all ages from young children to the elderly.



The jobs portal page shows jobs available locally in Taung as well as in the province, region and nationally. Under education, locals are able to access reading books, curriculum support and free 'future-ready' 4IR relevant courses supported by IBM and Microsoft. For SMMEs, the site offers financial and legal literacy guidance, information on funding opportunities and available tenders.



## VILLAGE SITES

Greater Taung	▶	Taung Library
Greater Taung	▶	Nthapeleng Primary School
Mokgareng	▶	Thuso Primary School
Mokgareng	▶	Mokgareng Secondary School
Maphoitsile	▶	Maphoitsile Primary School
Maphoitsile	▶	Bokgosing Secondary School
Greater Taung	▶	Rea Aga Service Station
Lokaleng	▶	Kgotsietsile Lethola Secondary School
Pudomong	▶	Podimoe Secondary School

## TAUNG WI-FI RANGE OF CONNECTIVITY



# LESOTHO

## ZENZELE ITERELENG RESCUES LESOTHO SCHOOLS



Matumelo Lenela, principal of Qholaqhoe Primary school, has no doubt about the driver of the stellar performance of her school in the last few years.

“From the time the borehole came the results have improved because the kids are no longer moving around looking for water,” Mme Lenela says matter-of-factly from her office which also serves as her classroom and storeroom.

Qholaqhoe, set on a slope in the mountains in northwest Lesotho, must rank as one of the country’s poorest schools, housing 131 kids in two concrete built blocks. Because there are not enough buildings, some classes are hosted in a rondavel meant for an evangelist while others use the church building, stoking conflict with parishioners.

But by far the school’s biggest problem lay in the lack of a consistent supply of water, says Mme Lenela, who has been at the school for more than a decade. For years the school relied on one water tap which was shared with the community because of persistent droughts in the area.

A 2014 Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment (LVAC) found 86 percent of households in the southern lowlands had no access to clean and safe water, rising to more than 90 percent in the Senqu River Valley in central Lesotho. In most of these areas there are thousands of mostly damaged hand pumps.

At Qholaqhoe school, the conflict over water culminated in a physical fight in August 2015 when Mme Lenela says a villager assaulted a pregnant school teacher because he didn’t want her to fetch water from the pump.

“We were shocked beyond words,” Mme Lenela recalls of the fight which was also witnessed by science and maths teacher Molieho Moneuoa.

“The frustration was everywhere,” Moneuoa says. The problem also meant the school couldn’t supplement its food allocation and teachers spent large amounts of time looking for water in the village, she says.



The school's fortunes changed a year later when Zenzele Itereleng funded the construction of a borehole that now provides water as part of its programme to help alleviate hunger and poverty in former labour sending areas in Lesotho.

“We are extremely grateful for what they have done for us as we had children going to fetch water from as far as a kilometre away,” said Reverend Motoho Esau Goduka, who oversees the school on behalf of Lesotho Evangelical Church which built the institution in the 1950s. In 2014, ZI targeted the repair of 200 boreholes. By the end of the programme in 2016, 193 pumps had been replaced or repaired with price increases and cost increases accounting for the shortfall, says Mabokang Mxakaza, Thembalethu Development Programmes Coordinator. Five hundred and twenty-four water minders were trained, with 3,220 people accessing clean water.

In Butha Buthe district, seven new boreholes with new hand pumps were drilled with the overall programme providing safe drinking water for 1,807 learners.

At Botha Buthe Camp School, the situation was more dire. With 1,378 pupils and 24 teachers, the Principal Hlompho Mpati, said pupils had to use water from the nearby stream when shortages hit the school during the last drought. Apart from hygiene concerns, the effort took a toll on teachers and students.

“Not only has the borehole saved us money but it has also meant more time in class for teachers and students. We have also revived our garden and now we are able to teach learners practical lessons and supplement our resources because the water from council is very expensive. The borehole has made a huge difference.”

Zenzele Itereleng's input has also drawn strong support from the Ministry of Education and Training, which has struggled to fund all the school's requirements.

“We are very grateful as a Ministry for this support because the roll (enrolment) is very high here. Climate change has affected us badly but we need more than one,” says Masetla Bocha Klantsi, an inspector based in the Botha Buthe district. “Even now the water isn't enough.”

Mpati says what could also help alleviate the situation would be a tank to store the water for distribution around the school.

For now, the best ‘thank you’ came from a Grade Seven learner at Botha Buthe Camp: “Without water there is no life. You made us priority like a parent.”

## SEPHEO OFFERS HOPE TO YOUNG LESOTHO WOMEN

### THIRTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD LERATO TŠIAME'S CHILDHOOD AND TEENAGE YEARS WERE DIFFICULT.

Born in Qacha's Nek near the border with South Africa, Mme Lerato, never got a chance to build a relationship with her mother as she passed away at an early age. The last in a family of four, she was raised by her father and aunt. She had a tough childhood, culminating in a pregnancy at 18. That was compounded by the family rejecting marriage with the father of her child.

Faced with complications during her pregnancy, Mme Lerato was forced to move closer to Maseru to be closer to a hospital. So, a difficult childhood was followed by an even tougher start to adulthood.

One day while at the shops she saw a poster offering training for young women at Sepheo, a non-profit organization based in Maseru.. Upon further inquiry she was signed up. Some life skills training and early childhood development courses later, she had found her compass. For the first time in her life she discovered her purpose: a passion for children. She felt worthy.

Hers is one of many positive stories of how Sepheo is changing lives. Established in February 2019, Sepheo is one of the projects funded by Zenzele Itereleng in Lesotho. Sepheo encompasses a skills development centre for women without a formal education, a full-time bridging primary school for girls, a library and a tutoring and aftercare project.



Since August 2019, some 241 women aged 16-40 have been trained at the centre. There is a waiting list of about 254.

"This training changed my life. Before I came here, I did not know I was valuable, and I did not know anything about raising children. Because of my childhood, I thought nothing good would come out of my life," she said in an interview at Sepheo.

"Something changed in me during the training and I began to love myself and discovered that I also love children. After completing the training, I was given a time slot on our church radio station. I now teach others what I learned at Sepheo. I am hearing many testimonies about other people's lives changing."



Lerato Tšhame



## TO-DATE, THE CENTRE HAS ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING



### EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

In the last year 161 young women have completed the ECD training programme which is gaining an extremely positive reputation in the community with many pre-school owners and community members looking for childcare minders approaching the centre for references.



### CATERING TRAINING

Sepheo initiated an exchange programme with Good Shepherd Sisters (a centre for teenage mothers) where Sepheo is currently training 32 teenage mothers and Good Shepherd Sisters is in turn training 59 women from Sepheo in catering and kitchen management.



## » EASTERN CAPE

### GRACE VISION GOES 'DEEP RURAL' EASTERN CAPE FOR VISION

When the "call" came, it took Donovan Thorrold three days to decide to drop a profitable multi-million-rand optometrist business in swank Cape Town for the Eastern Cape backwaters.

An initial sense of the idea on a Thursday, followed by a chat with his wife on Friday was cemented by Saturday when he met his old friend John Rae, the Chief Executive Officer of Grace Vision, who happened to be at Canal Walk that weekend.

And thus began a partnership that, for no charge, has eye screened more than 100,000 people, performed 1,800 cataract operations and dished out over 18,000 pairs of glasses in the Zithulele area, southeast Eastern Cape in the past seven years, more than 60,000 of them children under 13 years.

"It felt like a calling for my wife and I," Thorrold said as he took a break from screening villagers who had come to Zithulele Clinic. "We felt like we should go and when John happened to be in Canal Walk that day and we had the discussion, we decided we should take it."

"I feel like what we do makes a difference among people who have very little access to good quality healthcare."

And that's Grace Vision. Established in 2008 and known then as Mercy Ships, the non-profit organisation seeks to provide high quality primary eye care in what Rae describes as "deep rural" South Africa amongst the poorest people who would otherwise never have afforded it. It estimates about 400,000 South Africans are already blind, with an estimated 240,000 blind from cataracts.

Zenzele Itereleng funded the Zithulele programme covering a catchment area of more 130,000 people. The area has a high elderly population with Rae estimating almost every adult will need reading glasses for chores like herding cattle, cooking, washing and reading.

When Rae and his team arrived in 2012, the area had a surgery backlog of four and half years. Today, that backlog has been wiped off and anyone who presents themselves at their clinic and lives around the area is able to get cataract surgery.



Donovan Thorrold from Grace Vision with a patient



“We believe this is the only rural place in the country that can boast such an achievement,” Rae says. In neighbouring Kwazulu-Natal, more than 8,000 people are waiting for cataract surgery at state hospitals largely due to antiquated equipment.

The achievement is in no small part due to Grace Vision’s supporters, chief among them Zenzele Itereleng which has donated about R5 million since the work began. That money was used to buy two trucks equipped with eye medical equipment, four mobile eye units and two screening units and a third truck which operates as a fully equipped mobile kitchen.

Other funds have been used to build staff accommodation and employ the NGO’s staff, all of whom are locals.

“It’s a big deal,” Rae speaks with passion when he talks of the NGO’s work and the difference that it has made in the community. He says anecdotal evidence shows that children, particularly girls, are forced to drop out of school to look after adults who become unnecessarily blind due to cataracts.

Rae shares the story of one young man who as he describes it, “couldn’t see an inch from his face”. At 17, he was a recluse and couldn’t read or write. After being screened, he was given glasses, went back to school and now he is in Grade 7. “It broke our hearts to see him.”

We met grandma Mopasile Ncothovu, 81, at Zithulele clinic when she came in for her review.

“When I went blind, I couldn’t cook, I couldn’t even bath and wash my things and my husband and grandchildren had to help. Now I can cook for myself and my grandchildren. I can look after myself.”

Rae wants the programme to grow beyond the Eastern Cape rural areas to other provinces in the country. “Our objective is to restore sight to everyone who comes to us. We want to see the eradication of avoidable blindness in communities that we serve, and that’s deep rural.”

For Donovan and his wife, it’s an opportunity to serve.

“We are very happy and settled here. It’s not about money.”

## THE SUN GOD HELPS BRING MUSIC, SECURITY & HEALTH TO SUNNY EASTERN CAPE

If you want to see Bra Makesi Gwadiso in a good mood, you need to come on a Saturday at 12:45pm. For then he will be listening to his favourite programme and humming along to his favourite tunes on Umhlobo Wenene, the SABC-run IsiXhosa radio channel.

“You don’t know Lavuthi lbhayi uGudla,” he asks incredulously as we sit down for a chat at his brother Chief Landela Gwadiso’s homestead at the top of the hill from where one sees a stretch of Africa’s southern bottom and the start of the vast blue sea that forms part of the Indian ocean, and further west and south, the Atlantic and Antarctica seas.

Makesi has recently been reconnected with his old masikandi music programme courtesy of Go, a rural solar programme that has lit up some of the Eastern Cape’s darkest corners, funded by Zenzele Itereleng. The music takes him back to his younger days when he worked as a drill operator in the platinum mines in Rustenburg, northwest of Johannesburg.

“I have had to listen to it from other people’s homes,” Makesi says. “Now I can’t miss it and I can also listen to soccer and politics. I understand what they are saying.”

Power is a big deal in the Eastern Cape, South Africa’s poorest province with 40 percent living in poverty. Just 13 percent of all homes use electricity for heating in a province with the highest number of children without both parents, according to the Institute for Race Relations. Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) figures show it also has the second highest proportion of adult poverty at 67.5 percent.

Its health indicators, particularly in OR Tambo District and neighbouring Alfred Nzo, are amongst the worst in the country: about six percent of homes have piped water and less than one in ten homes have flush toilets. Ninety-five percent of households have no medical aid, and 60 percent of them are headed by women, the majority of them pensioners.

So, when Zenzele Itereleng came calling with its off-grid solar electrification programme, Chief Mpumalanga Gwadiso was elated. “It could not have come at a better time. We were looking for projects that would benefit individuals and communities. You can see what the terrain is like here.”



**Bra Makesi Gwadiso**

The scheme comes in four packages: Go 1 which is free, provides lights and a small charging unit while Go 2 adds a small radio to the lights package. Go 3 combines the first two packages with a television set while Go 4, which costs R250 rand per month comes with a fridge which appears to have brought with it problems of capacity.

But for Chief Gwadiso, these are surmountable problems after the darkness of the past. And besides, there are still many other households that have no access to power of any kind.

“There was nothing before and for some there is still no hope,” he says. “So when the first packages arrived, I felt like liberation had finally arrived.”

To-date the programme has benefitted more than 100 households, in three of the district’s 12 administered areas. The Chief most prizes the improved security that has come with the greater lighting provided at night, the ability of children to study and power provided to homes which enabled use of fridges for the first time, for many people.

“For the first time I don’t have food wasted and I can take my children outside after dark,” says Nopelo Masenene, a mother of four. “My children are benefitting a lot. We really appreciate that.” With power slowly coming to the province Chief Gwadiso is starting to dream.

“I want (the Eastern Cape) to be an area of choice in terms of tourism. I am working on it.”

## NMI FINDS RURAL FRIENDS TO UPLIFT EDUCATION IN MQANDULI, EASTERN CAPE

If Andile Ndzendze, councillor of Ward 28 in KSD, had his way, he would replicate the Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development's (NMI) Gwebinkundla project in every school in his ward.

The story of Gwebinkundla Junior Secondary School makes it easy to see why. The two-block school, on the outskirts of Mqanduli District, Eastern Cape is one of the best performing schools in the district, thanks in no small part to the support of NMI, a trust established by the late liberation icon to help break the intergenerational poverty through education.

“I want this programme in every school,” Ndzendze says in the modest offices of the Principal, Albertina Nothenjana. “There is progress in every sector: it’s changed the mindset of the teachers and our community. It’s very important that it continues.”

What Councillor Ndzendze is referring to is the input of the NMI in programmes such as early grade teacher training in bilingual literacy and mathematics to ensure children learn to read and write with meaning in the early years and community literacy focussing on empowering parents to support their children’s education.

Gwebinkundla started off with mud structures in 1994 when parents, frustrated by the absence of a school in the area, took matters into their own hands. With government and NMI support, infrastructure has improved over the years, and with it, teaching resources. But it is the support of NMI that Principal Nothenjana values the most.

“We are a champion in this area. NMI has helped us progress through programmes such as Ilima (parents support) and our teachers have been through the quarterly training,” she says. “NMI has been a true friend of this school. They have helped improve academic performance from both teachers and pupils, especially in science and maths.”

When Zinyaswa Zuma-Yako claps her eyes on Buhle Phiri, Operations Manager of Zenzele Itereleng, she hugs her like a long-lost friend. But in truth, the two women have known each other for a couple of years, brought together by a quest to help poor Eastern Cape kids attain quality education.

The two women’s happy reunion on this cold winter morning is the function of a bond that transformed one of the Eastern Cape’s poorest schools into a strong contender for best performer.

ZI has been one of the key supporters of the school, assisting in building infrastructure, teacher training and the development of extra curricula programmes. The trust has ploughed about R1.4 million in support of rural education in the region.

Zuma-Yako is teacher support Coordinator at NMI, a role she has occupied since 2017. A former teacher, she has seen the transformation of Gwebinkundla and other schools from problems such as poor teacher performance and pupil indiscipline.

“Our results have been impressive,” she says with pride. “It’s the additional support that is making a difference. The training has helped widen the experience of the learners because our classrooms are print-rich.”

It’s a view heartily shared by Vuyiswa Matshanda, a 28-year teacher veteran.

“I have seen the improvement over the years and it’s actually helped me enjoy my teaching. I come motivated and I am sure my learners enjoy it too.”



## MOZAMBIQUE

### ZENZELE ITERELENG REACHES OUT TO CHIBUTO'S WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

When Victoria Valenti Mundlovu's husband died complaining of chest pains four years ago, the 55-year-old had no choice but to turn to the streets to raise her eight children.

She sold anything she could afford to buy – rice, tomatoes, firewood – to put food on the table, clothe and educate her children. That yielded about 30 metical (R7) a day, barely enough to get by. Donations also helped along the way.

“It's been very tough,” says Mundlovu, who is now left with five children at home, a two-roomed house in Chibuto, Gaza province, about 220 kilometres northeast of Mozambique's capital Maputo.

Mundlovu's husband had worked for years in the South African mining industry – she does not recall who he worked for or what he mined but her story echoes that of thousands other mining widows from former labour sending areas (LSAs), the source of miners for South Africa's gold, platinum and diamond mining industries since the late 1880s.

It's a gap that Zenzele Itereleng is trying to close along with helping communities develop self-sustaining projects

Teba, the former gold and platinum mining recruitment agency, has a 1.3 million electronic database of miners from Southern Africa, including 139,000 that hailed from Mozambique. The majority of those came from Mozambique's southern provinces, particularly Gaza.

We meet Mundlovu and 30 other widows at the ground-breaking ceremony for a community centre Zenzele Itereleng has committed to build to house various activities for the women including assisting orphans of former miners. The Centre will be managed by Associação Cross Moçambique (ACM) an integral Catholic ministry that serves the needs of orphans, vulnerable girls and destitute elderly through nutrition, education, preventative health care and spiritual support.

A chance chat with one of the widows who was assisting orphans so enthused Zenzele Itereleng Operations Manager Buhle Phiri, that she pledged further support for the project. But she is insistent this will be driven by the women themselves and not some official sitting in an office far away from the community.

“ZI is excited to support children and women,” she says as the women showed their appreciation through an impromptu song and dance at an update meeting. “We wanted to do something different to what other donors are doing. Not in Maputo but in Chibuto. The ideas of what the centre does must come from the women and locals. We are partners.”





**Work in progress on the community centre**

Buhle is also excited about the prospect of exploring a partnership with Eduardo Mondlane University in addressing some of the social issues plaguing the Chibuto community.

Some three million rand was spent building the centre, helping create jobs in the local community.

Joseph Francisco Langa, the Gaza representative of ACM, says the organisation wants to see the beneficiaries who include widows, children of former miners and women with husbands still in South Africa, standing on their own.

“There is real hunger here,” he says. “We want to help these women learn different skills – sewing, agriculture, computer literacy etc. We want them to be self-sufficient and we hope the centre will go a long way in helping them look after their children and close the gap to those with resources.”



Currently ACM is helping more than 250 women and children with 60 of those being widows of former miners.

Angelica da Victoria Micas, a mother of four whose husband is in South Africa, was among those celebrating the launch of the centre. She also doubles up as a volunteer worker.

“There are many needs here for orphans, the disabled and the elderly. This will help us to help them.”

For Mundlovu, the possibility of being able to run a small business properly for the first time in her life, is a welcome opportunity.

“I am very excited,” she says, determination written all over her face. “I want to have my own small business from farming and sewing. Let it come before we die!”



**Artist's impression of the completed community centre**



## FROM CHICKEN FARMER TO ENGINEER? YOUNG MOZAMBICAN MOTHER DARES TO DREAM



**Nomsa Manuel Matsonbe**

Nomsa Manuel Matsonbe, 20, a mother of one, doesn't hesitate when asked what she would like to study should she get a second chance to study at university: an engineer!

Fatherless and pregnant at 18, the shy looking young woman is adamant school and raising her two-year-old are her top priorities.

“My dream is to become an engineer and come back and help my family and community,” Nomsa says. “I hope I can raise enough money through my hard work in this project.”

The project Nomsa is referring to is a nascent chicken farming venture being pushed by the Mozambican Mine Workers Association (AMIMO), a grouping which looks after the interests of Mozambique's large former migrant miners in South Africa.

In Samora Machel location, Chibuto in Gaza Province, the organisation has teamed up with Zenzele Itereleng to support more than 30 widows of former mineworkers, their dependants and others who are still working in South Africa's mining industry.

“We want to attract funding from other organisations,” Buhle Phiri, Zenzele Itereleng's Operations Manager told the beneficiaries who had come for an update on the project which the trust has been supporting since 2017.

It's a second attempt by the association's Gaza office to help the widowers. A farming project failed, bogged down by government bureaucracy, water and land ownership disputes, says Pedro Abilio Mondlane, the local representative.

“There were just too many problems hence the decision to relocate,” says Mondlane. “We need to strengthen their livelihoods here.”

ZI has already spent just over a million rand, helping to put up the initial building for the chicken project where AMIMO hopes to eventually run five broiler chicken cycles whose output will be sold by the widows and other beneficiaries, helping augment incomes. The main market will be the local community.

It has certainly raised hopes within the community. Admire Pongueia (61), is a former South African gold miner who quit his job after contracting tuberculosis. A three-year pension payment quickly ran out after he built a house and bought a truck which he is now battling to keep on the road.

“Business isn't good here and I can't feed the children properly,” he says. “If this project succeeds then maybe I will be able to look after my family. I can't go back to look for a job. They say I am too old.”

Asked if he was aware of the R5 billion rand gold industry settlement for miners who contracted silicosis in South Africa's gold mining industry, Pongueia says he is unable to raise the money to go to Maputo to claim. It's a story repeated by other ex-miners gathered here.

South Africa's Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), has identified the same problem, finding many miners are unaware of their rights and the available social protection mechanisms. Supported by the European Union, LHR, Amimo and the International Organisation for Migration in 2015 ran an 18-month education campaign to help miners and their families.

In the meantime, many like Maria Joaquim Mafuela are struggling on as best as they can. The 63-year-old mother of four lost her husband to a rockfall in the Western Areas gold mine in 1991. She has since battled to keep them in school and like many here, hopes the chicken project will offer a way out.

“I just hope it will help me start my own business. We have nothing.”

# FINANCIALS

## ZENZELE ITERELENG PROJECTS

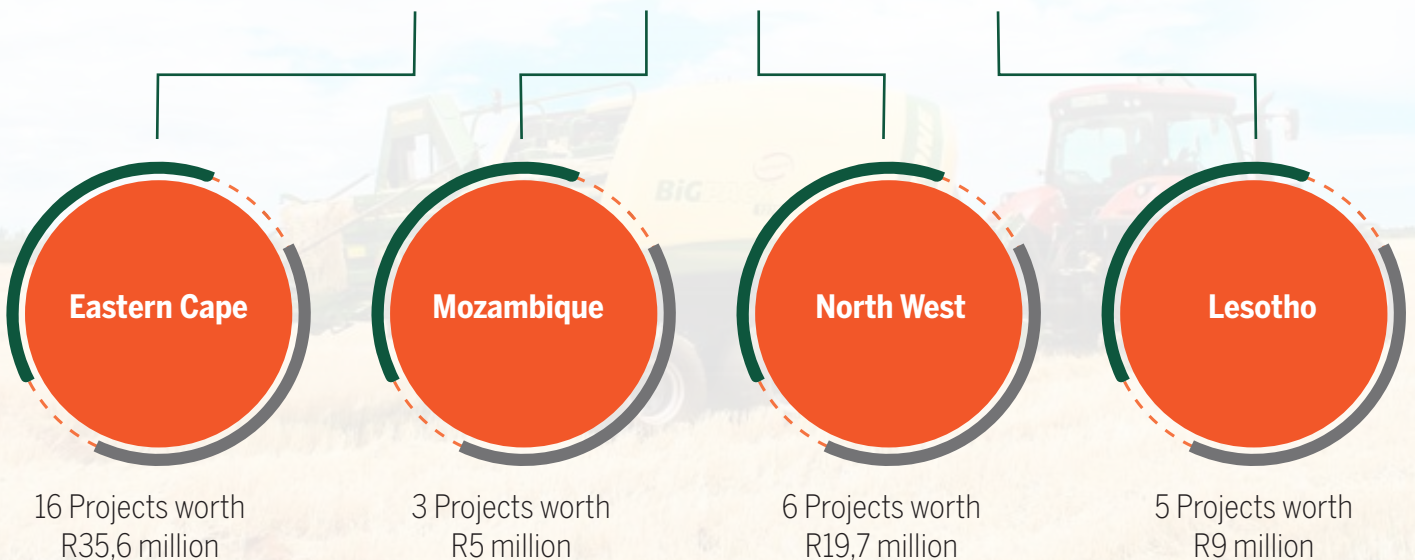
2013 - 2019



# 30 PROJECTS WORTH R69,3 MILLION



## PROJECT SPEND PER GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



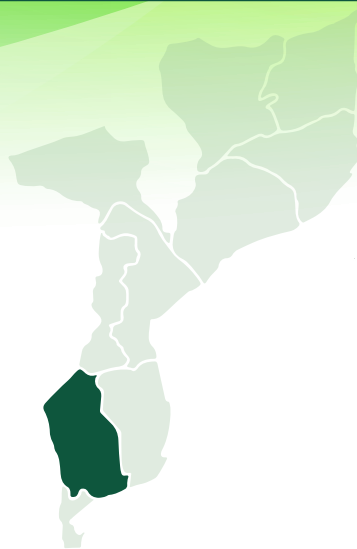
## OR TAMBO DISTRICT - EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE



YEAR	ORGANISATION	PROJECT	COST
2013	Ntinga OR Tambo Development Agency	Food security	2,000,000.00
2013	King Sebata Dalindyebo Municipality	Food security	1,000,000.00
2013	Umtata Child Abuse Resource Center	Children's rights. Access to social services	1,175,683.00
2013	Mercy Ships - Mercy Vision (now Grace Vision)	Health: Mobile clinic and staff accommodation	1,550,000.00
2013	Khululeka Community Education Development	Education: ECD teacher training	507 000.00
2013	Retired Health Care Personnel Organisation	Home Based Care and Maternal and Childcare	165 000.00
2013	Rural Education Access Programme	Eastern Cape to access tertiary education	640 000.00
2013	Donald Woods Foundation	Health: support HIV/TB programme	9,000,000.00
2014	Axium Education	Education: Procurement of technical equipment – tablets, computers; data projectors	300 000.00
2014	Khululeka Community Education Development	Education: ECD Practitioner training	540 000.00
2014	Mercy Ships (now Grace Vision)	Health: Eyecare Project - accommodation for medical staff and patients	1, 550 000.00
2014	Retired Health Care Personnel Organisation	Health: Home Based Care and Maternal and Childcare Project	350 000.00
2014	Rural education Access Programme	Education: Support qualified students from rural Eastern Cape to access tertiary education	685 000.00

YEAR	ORGANISATION	PROJECT	COST
2014	Umtata Child Abuse Resource Centre	Education: support students from rural Eastern Cape to access tertiary education	1,915 000.00
2016	Cresco Multi-Grid Solution	Power: installation of offgrid solar electrification to 250 households	5,500,000.00
2016	Retired Health Care Personnel Organisation	Home Based Care and Maternal and Childcare Project in the Mayden Farm Catchment Area. The primary objectives of the programme are to provide quality home nursing care; to assess patients' response and promote compliance to treatment; and to detect health problems early and refer accordingly.	858 135.70
2018	Grace Vision	Health - Mobile kitchen and bakkie	R1,800 000.00
2018	MTYU	Construction of a shearing shed for 76 sheep farmers in Mtyu	1,200 000.00
2018	Nelson Mandela Institute	Education: Bilingual Foundation Phase Teacher Network for Rural Teacher Development	1,399 262.00
2019	Nelson Mandela Institute	Rural Network of Demonstration Schools for Early Grade Learning	R3 330 863,00
2019	Siyakhana Growth and Development	Food Gardens, Water and Sanitation	R3 209 500,00

## GAZA PROVINCE - MOZAMBIQUE



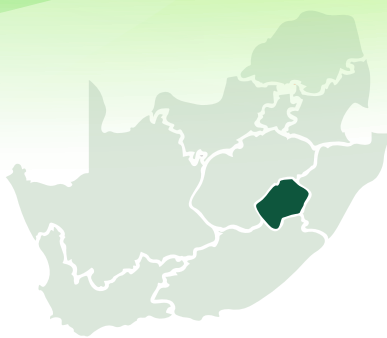
YEAR	ORGANISATION	PROJECT	COST
2017	AMIMO	Supporting former mineworkers in Mozambique through food security and income generating activities	1,034 219.00
2019	ACM	Skills training: Construction of a multipurpose centre in Chibuto, Gaza Province	3,000 000.00
2019	AMIMO	Food security & Entrepreneurship: Supporting former mineworkers in Mozambique through food security and income generating activities	900 000.00

## GREATER TAUNG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY - NORTH WEST



YEAR	ORGANISATION	PROJECT	COST
2017	Thembaletu Development NPC	Boer Goat Farming	2,289,375.00
2017	Thembaletu Development NPC	Vegetable Farming Cooperatives	1,969,000.00
2019	Thembaletu Development NPC	Boer Goat Farming	R2 794 000,00
2019	e-Mbizo	Telecommunications: Installation of a community wifi development platform	2,080 500.00
2019	Leading Edge	Agriculture: supporting sustainable small and emerging farmers with inputs	4,812 000.00
2019	Footprints Foundation	Youth empowerment: Supporting girls and boys clubs in schools to curb drugs; teenage pregnancy etc	1,000 000.00
2019	Leading Edge	Agriculture: Supporting emerging farmers with inputs	4,750 000.00

## LESOTHO



YEAR	ORGANISATION	PROJECT	COST
2013	Lesotho Water Infrastructure	Water security	2,606 075.00
2014	Thembaletu Development NPC	Agriculture: assist farmers scale	1,193 000.00
2017	SWAALES	Food security: Supporting communities with food security initiatives Entrepreneurship: supporting income generating activities	2,519,330.00
2018	Thembaletu Development NPC	Food security Entrepreneurship: supporting income generating activities through savings and loan schemes	2,022 350.00
2019	SEPHEO	Multi-Purpose Centre for Women	R665 120,00

## PARTNERSHIPS

We would like to acknowledge and thank the different companies and organisations we partner with in the communities we operate.

### OUR CO-FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS



### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS



**ZENZELE ITERELENG LOGO**

zenzele  
itereleng

This is a strong and bold logo showing the strength of Zenzele Itereleng's vision and mission to mobilise resources for the upliftment, empowerment and development of thriving rural communities.

Two hands are cupping a blossoming tree. Hands are a symbol of support, nurturing, building, hard work representing Zenzele Itereleng as an assistant, enabler helping communities grow, thrive and stand on their own (sustainability). The earth tone orange represents the rich land and heritage where the communities come from and live off while the green represents a calming counterbalance, a peaceful tone symbolising renewal growth and hope.

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE THRIVING RURAL COMMUNITIES



### CONTACT DETAILS

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