



HEIFER NEWS



In partnership, striving to end hunger and poverty in South Africa

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Special Thanks

*Let there be heifers
everywhere.....passing on
the spirit, the goodwill
and the gift.....*

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Achieving Global Standards

By Marisia Geraci, Executive Director

Recently, Heifer International developed a set of programmatic quality standards that embodies 65 years of knowledge, practice and success. These standards are meant to clearly define what makes a Heifer project unique and ensure all Heifer offices are adhering to Heifer's uniqueness. The standards set out to answer the question- How does Heifer's work differ from the thousands of other non governmental organizations in South Africa and globally? Heifer International then developed a tool which outlines the standards and assesses core areas mentioned below and many others.

Areas that are core to Heifer's work globally and in South Africa include:

- significant involvement from the communities in development and planning of the project
- intensive training on areas such as values based planning, group dynamics and management, gender sensitivity, Heifer's 12 Cornerstones, improved animal management, vegetable gardening and many other areas
- commitment to pass on offspring and skills to other needy families in the community
- detailed monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project

This Standards and Programme Quality Assessment tool was recently piloted with Heifer International South Africa in June 2010. Of the 50 plus offices around the world, we were the very first to undergo this assessment to ensure our programmes met global Heifer

standards. Two international consultants came to South Africa and spent considerable time with staff, board and in the three Provinces in which we work- KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo and Eastern Cape. They held focus groups with nine of our active projects- hearing and seeing first hand the impact Heifer International South Africa has made in their lives. They visited households in order to get an even deeper understanding of whether or not we are enabling sustainable community development.

While the final report will not be ready for several weeks, the consultant's initial debriefing indicated Heifer International South Africa is indeed achieving the global standards set out by Heifer International! In many areas of the assessment, we got the highest rating. We are very pleased with the outcomes of the assessment and are proud to convey to our stakeholders that we are accountably using the resources given to have the greatest impact possible in our communities.

Though the assessment findings were very positive, we will not sit idly by. We will continue in our quest for excellence in serving rural communities in South Africa so that they may have a better future and no longer face the shame and misfortune of hunger and poverty.



Marisia on a project visit in the Eastern Cape.



Address

PO Box 1770
Hillcrest, KZN 3650

Telephone

+27 31 777 1374

Email

info@heifer.org.za

Website

www.heifer.org.za

MASINCEDANE PROJECT - EXIT AND POG CEREMONY - by Vusi Mpokeli, Eastern Cape Programme Manager

It was a poignant yet proud moment when, after working with the members of the Masincadane Project for over five years, we said our farewells at the exit and Passing on the Gift Ceremony, which was recently held at Kwelerana Village.

Mr Welile Malotana, on behalf of the project members, thanked Heifer International South Africa for all they had done to help them. It had all started when members from three nearby villages approached the organization for their assistance. After receiving training, they were given chickens, goats and plant seedlings to start homestead gardens. The livestock multiplied and despite the challenge of limited water in the area, the project has become very strong. In fact, the founding members will be involving their children in the work in time to come. The members felt confident that they would be able to overcome any problems they might encounter.

Two of the project members, Mrs No-Amen Mazuza and Mrs Nomthunzi Mzoboshe, shared their experiences. They said once they had become involved in the project, they were able to change their lives for the better. They were able to buy household necessities and with the money Mrs Mzoboshe now earned, she was able to send her son on a computer course. He will be receiving his Diploma soon.

Mr Mzukisi Makinana, representing Heifer International South Africa, addressed the gathering advising that the members' strength lay in their unity. Together they could achieve great things and the organization was always there to give them advice.

The Passing on the Gift Ceremony was a joyous occasion and 16 goats were given to eight very excited families.



Members of the Masincadane Project in joyful celebration

In conclusion, project members expressed their gratitude

"We are too much grateful and would like to express our sincere thank you which is coming deep from our hearts. I am happy that Heifer has not abandoned us but would like us to fly as free birds in order to be able to do things on our own."

We wish the members every success and as the concept of Passing on the Gift gathers momentum know that the community will benefit.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD WORKSHOP by Sthembiso Gasa, KwaZulu Natal Programme Coordinator

Recently, in Zambia, representatives from five Southern African countries where Heifer International is active (South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe) attended a two week workshop facilitated by Tango International Consulting. All of our Provincial Managers attended, and I was lucky enough to be part of it all.

The aim of the workshop was to improve our ability to assess, develop and implement a holistic approach towards sustainable livelihood systems for our rural poor. During the first week the learning was theoretical and in the second week we learnt to implement what we had been taught.

We discussed the problems, such as the impact of HIV and AIDS and gender inequality on community development, and were given

strategies to overcome these challenges. The importance of obtaining secondary data from social, economic and environmental sources was stressed. Once the theory was in place we went out to six villages to put what we had learnt into practice. Those findings will help the Heifer Zambia and Malawi Teams to put forward proposals to implement projects there.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:

Wesbank for its generous grant of R350,000.

Imperial Cargo Freight Solutions who donated R20,000 to help our work. When we phoned Daphne Meyer of their offices to thank them for their support, Daphne said "It is nice of you to thank us, but from our point of view we believe it is a privilege for us to be in a position to do so". This fits in with our concept of passing on the gift like a glove.

Ms Nadya Cohen who generously supported our work and said "I have much respect for the work you do - the right balance between need and dignity; community and assistance, listening, hearing and responding.

Space, cost and data protection prevents us from listing all of our kind donors by name, but we would like you all to know that your support of our work has been fantastic and we send our thanks to each and every one of our donors.

