

Olifants Catchment Changing Practice: Khulumani Local Activist's Project

Water, land and energy security for food growing and livelihoods

About the organisation:

Khulumani Support Group is a membership-based organisation of more than 100,000 victims and survivors of apartheid-related gross human rights violation in South Africa. Started by survivors testifying at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Khulumani has become a globally recognised movement spearheading healing and memory, the struggle for reparations and active citizenship in countries transitioning out of conflict.

In the past two decades we have worked alongside each other as we journey towards facing truth, memory and healing. We have sought justice against multinational corporations that profited off aiding and abetting the apartheid regime. We have rebuilt our lives through agriculture, and entrepreneurial projects. We have worked towards public accountability. And above all, we have sought justice and reparations for our members who experienced the harshest brutalities of the apartheid system.

Our change project will be focussing at a Primary School named Jack Morare Primary School, which is situated in Tafelkop just 21km away from the town of Groblersdal. The school is still reached after ten years by a gravel road. During rainy seasons it is hard for teachers to drive to school as the road is easily eroded.

Clean water is also a challenge at the village. Fortunately the JoJo water tank company donated two tanks for the school and they are able to harvest rain water during rainy seasons. Most of the learners are from disadvantaged households and have lost one or both parents and are left in custody of their grandparents.

RDP houses have been built for the poorest households. Unemployment is a major problem and most families depend on government grants for subsistence.

On the 19th of May 2017, we met with the school staff to discuss our “change project.” They agreed to allow us use of a piece of land in the school premises where we will focus on assisting the school with developing a vegetable garden which will not only benefit the school but the community as well.

The challenging part is that the soil at the school is not fertile and will need supplementation with humus and compost. Also the fencing around the school will need to be repaired to keep animals away from the garden.

The teachers have agreed that once the garden is implemented, they will help with mobilising the learners to take good care of the garden. We think we will need an adult, preferably a community member to take care of the garden during weekends, school holidays and whenever the learners are writing examinations.

As Mrs Matsepe, a member of the Eco-School Committee at the school explained that they used to grow beans to make the soil fertile until the livestock from around the village got into the school premises and destroyed their plants. A proper fence will have to be our priority for the garden. The challenge of the soil not being fertile enough can be overcome by producing compost and mixing it with soil.



Meeting with staff at the school



Viewing the site for the vegetable garden



The fencing that needs repair to protect the site from livestock





Name & organisation / Network / Community	Position	Contact Details	What do they think of the change project?	What challenges do they see?	Type of support / involvement they can offer	The project in the context of Khulumani's work
1. Thomas Mabelane Jack Morare Primary School	Principal	0793581505	Beneficial To the school	No challenge	Mobilising the community to help with hands.	
2. Joshua Thaba Khulumani Support	Activist	0765222749	Good idea	Lack of resources	Find sponsors	

Group						
3. Kamogelo Magampa Community member		0726727077	Go for it	No challenge	Willing to come and assist with hands	