



HAND IN HAND
ZIMBABWE

2021 NEWSLETTER



Our Goal is to build socio-
economically resilient
COMMUNITIES

VUSANANI SELF HELP GROUP(SHG) AIMS FOR THE SKY.

2021



The members have also managed to buy 21 hens and 3 pigs for breeding and are in the process of building a 8m x 5m pig sty that will at least house 10 pigs.

Winning a seed grant worth USD\$1333.00 at the first phase of the Lupane district Market Linkages Project (MLP) competition has enabled poultry and pig farming -focused Vusanani Self Help Group(SHG) members to embark on a lifelong journey of attaining their dreams.

After clinching the second prize the 12 all-female group members from Ward 14, Lupane district have finally fulfilled their dream of building a 8m x 3m fowl run with a capacity of housing 100 chickens.

The members have also managed to buy 21 hens and 3 pigs for breeding and are in the process of building a 8m x 5m pig sty that will at least house 10 pigs.

The group's journey started when the women joined forces with Hand in Hand Zimbabwe in 2015 and the organisation took them through a

six-month training in which they were taught six (6) business modules.

From the knowledge they gained from the trainings, the group then decided to form their poultry and pig venture.

To ensure they establish a fully lucrative enterprise, Hand in Hand Zimbabwe took the group through extensive coaching and mentoring, look and learn tours and technical skills trainings on pig farming and poultry production.

After all the mentoring and coaching, the group performed extremely well hence winning the second prize position.

The group has in the past month managed to sell 75 chickens at USD\$5 and they currently have USD\$375 as savings. To date, they have 45 chickens including the ones they received from Hand in Hand Zimbabwe. Although



THE GROUP MEMBERS SHARE INCOME FROM THEIR POULTRY SALES

members of the SHG have not sold any of their 14 pigs, they plan on selling them for USD\$50 each once ready for the market and they are expecting some of the pigs to drop piglets in the next few months.

The group members share income from their poultry sales quarterly with each member receiving as much as USD\$80. The hardworking women have also bought five cows and are planning to buy seven more so as to give each member a cow. The support they have received from Hand in Hand Zimbabwe has enabled the SHG to penetrate a lucrative market as they sell their products to a local hotel, community members and shops at the district service centre.

To increase their income base, the group has also established a horticultural garden and are into Internal Savings and Lendings (ISALs) where each member contributes

ZAR50 per month.

In an interview, one of the women Sheila Sibanda (54) said the enterprise has immensely transformed the lives of group members as they are now financially stable.

“We never thought women could actually do business and earn money but with the help of Hand in Hand Zimbabwe, we are now successful business owners.

“We can now afford to take care of our families and we have managed to build houses for two of our group members who lost their houses due to heavy rains,” she said.

She commended Hand in Hand Zimbabwe for the modules trainings and guidance citing that it has greatly contributed to the growth of their enterprise.

The group has matured to an extent of spearheading the formation of another SHG, called Vusanani 2 which is made up of 12 youth.



PASICHIGARE GARDEN HANDOVER CEREMONY



Hand in Hand Zimbabwe (HiHZim) officially handed over a two (2) Hectare garden to Pasichigare Self Help group in Ward 7 Chikomba district, as part of the organisation's desire to equip communities with sustainable enterprises that will in turn improve livelihoods.

This comes after Hand in Hand Zimbabwe has been actively involved in revamping the garden for the 10-member group under the auspices of its Community Upliftment Project (CUP).

Present at the handover ceremony were various stakeholders from Government line ministries and the local leadership, who commended Hand in Hand Zimbabwe for its interventions in the district.

Members of the group could not hide their joy citing that the much-needed help they received from Hand in Hand Zimbabwe through business trainings, the installation of a solar-powered borehole and the erection of a fence, had greatly aided them.

The group members, who previously struggled

to earn a decent living in the semi-arid region said their lives changed for the better after getting support from the organisation.

Although the group was originally formed in 2014, their venture only began to bear fruit in 2017 when the members came into contact with HiHZim.

The organisation swiftly erected a fence and installed a solar water pump for the group



when the members had completed their trainings. Within a short space of time, the group increased production as they were no longer reliant on wells and natural rainfall, which has become erratic in the country over the last two years.

"We are grateful for the assistance we received from HiHZim. The organisation has helped us turn a dry patch of land into a viable horticultural enterprise.

"Before we had a solar pump, our production was very low because we had to use drums to ferry water to irrigate the plants from the community well," said Veronica Mukonza, the group's chairperson in an interview.

"We used to get as little as USD\$10 per month from our produce but to date, we get up to USD\$70 per month," she said.



The group's blossoming garden has a variety of horticultural crops such as potatoes, beans, chomolia, cucumber, onion, okra, butternut, cabbage, maize and tomatoes among others.

Veronica said on a good month the group receives a profit of USD80 from selling their crops and although they share the returns in December, part of the income is reinvested back into the business. "Before we met Hand in Hand Zimbabwe, life was hard but now things have changed, instead of incurring costs of trying to sustain the garden, we are now making profits and our livelihoods have improved.

"The organisation has also helped us with market linkages and our crops are on high demand from local villagers, local stores and business centres," she said.

Apart from helping members of Pasichigare garden, the installation of the solar-powered borehole has also aided the community and a local school as they can now easily access the precious liquid



LIMUKANI GARDEN AN OASIS OF HOPE IN SHURUGWI.



A thriving garden in the semi-arid area of Ward 5, Shurugwi district is proving to be an oasis of hope for villagers in the area.

Set up in October 2019 after the members had undergone entrepreneurship training from Hand in Hand Zimbabwe, proceeds from Limukani garden have greatly aided 18 Self Help Group (SHG) members, who previously struggled to earn a living in the region.

Members attest to the fact that their lives changed for the better after getting business training and technical support from Hand in Hand Zimbabwe.

Since then, the group has successfully set up a 50x125m horticultural garden and achieved great milestones such as establishing viable markets and maintaining a consistent supply of the market which led them to winning the first prize at the first phase of the Hand in Hand Zimbabwe Market Linkages Competition

(MLP).

The group's blossoming garden has a variety of horticultural crops such as chomolia, onion, carrots, butternut, sweet cabbage and tomatoes which they sell to schools, local vendors and approximately 50 households in Dlodlo village. The group also sells some of its vegetables at Chachacha Growth Point and Shurugwi district.



The group members earn a decent income from their hard work as each member has been allocated 32 planting beds and can sell produce worth USD53 per month.

One of the group members Edith Mahu (62) said the earnings from the horticultural venture have enabled her to taste financial freedom.

“We were living in abject poverty but Hand in Hand Zimbabwe came and gave us hope.

“Monetary challenges are now a thing of the past for us, domestic disputes caused by the lack of money have since ceased.

“To top that we are now healthy as we now get nutritional vegetables from our garden,” she said.

Hand in Hand has been actively involved in supporting the passionate group as it installed a solar powered borehole and erected a fence for the group under its Community Upliftment Project.

The group was also awarded inputs worth US\$ 1000 to enhance productivity of their garden under the patronage of the Market Linkages Competition (MLP) in March 2020.

Part of the inputs they received included seeds, wheelbarrows, knapsack sprays, watering cans, spades, shovels, picks as well as cement and IBR zinc sheets for the construction of the pit toilet at the garden.



NKAYI SELF HELP GROUP SETS UP A LUCRATIVE BAKING ENTERPRISE.



The Hand in Hand Zimbabwe business modular trainings and the Market Linkages Project competition prize money have greatly aided Kukhanya Self Help Group members from Ward 22 Nkayi district in scaling up a lucrative baking enterprise.

From these notable interventions, the group which is made up of nineteen (19) women and one (1) man has successfully built a bakery and a kiosk for their baking business. The group is enjoying brisk business as it has secured a market for its products at five schools, two stores and 50 households in Dandadema village.

Before meeting Hand in Hand Zimbabwe in 2017, group members say they were struggling to make ends meet as they lacked business acumen to run their individual enterprises and had no group enterprise. After joining Hand in Hand Zimbabwe, the eager to learn group members went through the organisation's business modular trainings and various technical skills training for their individual enterprises. The group identified an opportunity for a baking enterprise in the community in which they established and further received a technical skills workshop on baking. As the baking enterprise boomed, their business shrewdness captured the hearts of the Hand in Hand Zimbabwe Market Linkages Competition judges and the group was fortunate enough to win the second prize.

From the USD1000 prize money they won, the group received inputs such as building material and baking ingredients and this enabled them to build a bakery and a kiosk as compared to the earthen structures the group previously used.



The group members specialise in baking products such as plain buns, cream doughnuts with their best seller being bread. The group sales an average of 300 loaves of bread per week with a loaf selling for USD\$0.50. The group realises an average of US\$1000 per month from sales of all their products.

Members of the SHG pay themselves US\$120 every quarter and this has greatly transformed their livelihoods

In an interview with a member, Joyce Dube said group members' lives have improved for the better after receiving Hand in Hand Zimbabwe's support.

"Our lives have changed significantly; we are grateful for the support we have received from Hand in Hand Zimbabwe.

"Personally, the interventions have empowered me as I can now pay school fees for my grandchildren and provide other household essentials," she said.

Although the COVID-19 epidemic has affected their business, group members say they

remain hopeful that things will get back to normal soon.

The optimistic group has not stopped business operation as they still supply bread to the local community clientele.

Group members are also active members of an Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) group and this has aided in sustaining their individual enterprises. They contribute US\$3 per month to the group ISAL.





**IKUSASA LETHU SELF HELP GROUP (SHG)
ON A MISSION TO END POVERTY**

Ikusasa Lethu Self Help Group (SHG) from Ward 16, Gwanda District has successfully unleashed their business potential into sheep production and baking, a move that's set to improve their livelihoods.

The group which is made up of 8 members sprang into action after joining Hand in Hand Zimbabwe (HiHZim) in April 2019 following a sensitization meeting conducted by the organisation. Shortly after joining the organisation, under the Jobs Creation Program (JCP), the group went through entrepreneurial skills training which aided them in opportunity identification hence their decision to venture in sheep production.

The group then pulled resources together which they used to buy 10 sheep. Members say they decided to venture in sheep production because sheep are easy to handle, generally require little input and are very profitable.



To date, the group has managed to sell two (2) sheep for ZAR400 to local buyers and currently has a stock of 27 which they plan on selling after 6 months to business centres and the local community.

After noting that sheep takes time to mature, the group decided to venture on a baking project which has impressively turned into a burgeoning enterprise in their ward due to demand of their baked products.

The group members mainly bake meat pies, rock buns and plain buns. Each rock bun ranges from a price of ZAR10-30 according to size while plain buns are ZAR20 for six (6) and meat pies are ZAR10 each.

Ikusasa Lethu have so far made ZAR1120 from their sales since May last year and have since used part of the money to buy an oven to increase production and meet market demand of their products

Group members said they are yet to get paid from their business ventures but have greatly benefited from Internal Savings and Lendings (ISALS) where they lend each other money at a 10 percent interest per month.

They noted that the ISALS have boosted their individual enterprises and improved their livelihoods. They also commended Hand in Hand Zimbabwe for the business trainings, citing that the knowledge they received has transformed them into successful entrepreneurs.



MBOMA CLUSTER MAKES GREAT STRIDES IN PEANUT BUTTER MAKING BUSINESS



After undergoing Hand in Hand Zimbabwe's modular training on Food processing and branding, Mboma cluster members from Bulilima District have mastered the art of packaging and branding their peanut butter product.

As a result of this, the 13-member group now boasts of increased sales and a bigger market base. The group which was formed in October 2020 launched its peanut butter-making enterprise in June 2021 following a sensitization meeting conducted by Hand in Hand Zimbabwe (HiHZim).

In an interview recently, the Group's Chairperson said members were motivated to start their enterprise after they received valuable lessons from Hand in Hand Zimbabwe on how to fight scarcity using local resources. He said the HiHZim modular trainings, gave the group a third eye of seeing things (opportunity identification) as they were encouraged to utilise the local natural resources efficiently in creating enterprises.

To reduce the cost of production, the group members decided to grow their own peanuts. Still in their mentorship journey with Hand in Hand Zimbabwe, the group was taken through marketing trainings, which encompassed pricing, promotion, place and product. This enabled the group to penetrate internal and external markets which include community members, local stores and Bulawayo.

Since the product launch in June, they have managed to sell seventy-five (75) 375ml peanut butter bottles at ZAR25 each.

Although they haven't started sharing the profits from their enterprise, the group members are confident that once they start sharing, the proceeds will help them meet their financial obligations.

At the moment, the cluster is working on acquiring a modern peanut butter grinding mill to improve production and quality.

The group also targets to extend its product line to include mealie meal.

The adage "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" resonates well with the group's growth strategy.



HIHZIM IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT DRIVE



In their quest to earn decent incomes and improve their lives, seven (7) youth from Chirumhanzu district have successfully set up a lucrative detergent-making enterprise.

According to one of the group members Ruvarashe Zimuto (34), their prospects of a bright future had dimmed as they did not have any source of income but a silver lining only appeared two years later when they heard about the Hand in Hand Zimbabwe Motivated and Entrepreneurial Youth (MEY) Project.

“We struggled to pay rent and cater for the needs of our families. We felt helpless as we failed to support our husbands who tried to provide for us with the little income they got. “In a bid to fight off poverty, we ventured into different enterprises hoping to generate income that would be sufficient for our households but it was all in vain as we lacked knowledge on business management. After joining Hand in Hand Zimbabwe in

February 2020, Rujeko Star Club members went through trainings on health, motivation and entrepreneurship and were inspired to venture into detergent making.

“The business training was very helpful and insightful for us as young women. We are now working towards a better future for us and our families as we can now run a profitable business,” Ruvarashe said.

To date, the Star Club is running a successful detergent-making business that produces dishwashing liquid, toilet cleaner and foam bath.

They produce 100ltrs of each detergent per month and they package it in 500ml to 750ml bottles. After deducting money for monthly business expenses, each member receives an income of USD\$75 per month.

Recently the young women had an opportunity to be linked to a market, through a 2-day market fair conducted in Mvuma town and as a result, they supplied a locally based supermarket called Saru with 48 bottles of liquid soap.

They are hoping to penetrate large markets such as Spar, OK and Pick Pay within the Midlands province.

“Our aim as a group is to expand our market base as we are tirelessly searching for much bigger and lucrative markets,” Ruvarashe said.





CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

ADDRESS: 73 Heyman Road, Suburbs, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Tel: +263 8677114443 / +263 9 231047-8 / 250388

website: www.handinhand.co.zw