



REPORT

Presented to:

HER EXCELLENCY

RADHA VENKATARAMAN

High Commissioner

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA

20 October 2020

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RISE

The Imprint of Humanity

HOME GROWN BIG BEND – NKILONGO PROJECT

OBJECTIVE:

To support and ensure continued food security and sustainable income for the women farmers in Big Bend.

Through the generous financial support of the High Commissioner of India, Ms Radha Venkataraman, the Nkilonko project received funding towards the objective of constructing a storeroom at Mahlabaneni Community Garden for the women farmers in Nkilonko, Big Bend. The storeroom will be used to store farming inputs and garden tools collectively used by the women farmers.

RECAP

To recap, the Mahlabaneni, Gamula and Encumaneni vegetable gardens project, under the RISE Home Grown pillar, is located in the Nkilonko area in Big Bend in the Shiselweni region of Eswatini. The project proposal sought to provide securing funding to jointly benefit more than 1000 people inclusive of the women farmers and their households. The funding would be used for the following for each garden:

- i. Purchasing farming inputs – Tools & Seedlings
- ii. Construction of Storerooms
- iii. Farming Training
- iv. Business Management Training

On securing funding, the women would immediately begin farming, which was targeted to start in August 2020. The project date was then revised to September and ultimately October, with a targeted ending date of 30 November.

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) was solely responsible for the water rehabilitation by installing irrigation systems across all three gardens, which was one of the pre-requisite for farming to commence.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

The project aims to support about 100 women overall across the 3 gardens located in the three areas.

Each woman supports between six to ten people at her homestead. The total expected beneficiaries of this project was between 600 to 1000 people in rural Eswatini.

Nkilonko Indvuna (Regional Headman) is Sandziso Mamba oversees the three gardens and works in conjunction with three Bucophos (Regional Councillors) for each area namely:

Garden 1 – Mahlabaneni : **Bucophos:** Jabulani Mbhamali

Garden 2 – Gamula : **Bucophos:** Mbonga Ndzinisa

Garden 3 – Encumaneni : **Bucophos:** Sabelo Mthombo

Introducing Garden 4 – Lukuntfu : **Bucophos:** Bongiwe Gulwako

PROGRESS UPDATE

FUNDING:

NDMA has since advised that they have completed the water rehabilitation for the gardens and we await to receive a formal status report from them.

We are pleased to report that the High Commissioner of India donated towards the project by fully funding the construction of 1 storeroom at Mahlabaneni Community Garden, which partially relieved the full budget, therefore, additional funders were approached for the balance. As a result, the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the British High Commission also supported the project.

The Mahlabaneni storeroom construction started on 5 September and has been completed and already being utilised. The official handover ceremony will be graced by the High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Radha Venkataraman at a date to be confirmed.

As stated, additional donors include the British High Commission and the Republic of China (Taiwan), who donated rice to the Nklongo community which was received by the Member of Parliament Timothy Myeni.



Taiwan in Eswatini

August 28 · 🌐

梁大使及韓健豪公使再度應史國國會傳統選區委員會主席Hon. Timothy Myeni邀請，來到位在Nklong Inkhunda選區贈送當地民眾來自臺灣的1.2噸白米及3張輪椅還有我們當地採購的40份農產品綜合驚喜包還有25公升清潔洗手液！

#TaiwanCanHelp

#TaiwanIsHelping

Ambassador Jeremy Liang and Minister-counselor Mr. Oliver Harn conducted another tour and represented the Embassy to visit MP Timothy Myeni's constituency in Nklong Inkhunda and presented 1.2 tons of rice from Taiwan, as well as 40 bags of assorted food parcels, 3 wheelchairs and 25L of hand sanitizer!



RISE-Chief Executive Founder, Celiwe Dlamini with Gamula Garden; boMake Makama, Nkhosi, Mamba



Mahlabaneni Garden Storeroom under construction

GARDENS:

The planned start date of August was postponed due to awaiting receipt of the British funds hence activity could only commence on receipt of the funds on 9 October 2020. In the interim, to sustain themselves some of the women started planting maize from their own resources which they sell to vendors who resell it as boiled or roasted maize to the general public. The Mahlabaneni women were happy to have the storeroom built as they are now able to store the maize and other farming inputs.

Update as follows:

Garden I - Mahlabaneni

Located on the Big Bend-Lavumisa road, opposite US Distilleries, progress at this garden has been positive as the Water Irrigation system was installed and completed as advised by NDMA.

The women opted to start planting maize whilst waiting for funding to purchase the vegetable seedlings as they wanted to take advantage of the farming season as they had already fallen behind. They would still like to grow the vegetables after they reap the maize in December subject to funds available.

1 x Storeroom has been constructed courtesy of the High Commission of India.



Garden 2 - Gamula

The garden is at the Gamula community of Nkilongo, not far from the Big Bend-Lavumisa road. It has access to the main road.

Gamula garden experienced water challenges due to the borehole engine pump, which NDMA has been attending. As a result, no farming activity has been done. Indvuna Mamba has since made a provisional intervention of which interim water was secured on 14 October 2020 from the community pump to be linked to the 4 water tanks and the farming tools including hose pipes purchased with the British funding received have been connected to the main pipes for some farming activity to commence.

The women have also opted to start with immediately planting maize as they can reach a portion of the garden with the current water scenario. When NDMA has fully sorted out the irrigation system they shall then be able to farm on a wider scale.



Garden 3 – Encumaneni

This garden is in the very remote area of kuSabeni, comprises of 30 beneficiaries.

It was active between 2006-2016 when the dam they were using was silted and could not hold water anymore. In 2017 World Vision installed a borehole with a hand pump, which makes it difficult to irrigate the garden as water availability is a challenge.

They cultivate mostly with their hands and added an extra 2 hectares to the initial 1.5 hectares.

Since the initial visit by the RISE team in July, chieftancy dispute dynamics that erupted in this area have resulted in all planned activity being halted at this garden.

...Introducing Garden 4 – Lukunfu...

In October, Celiwe was invited to attend the Nkilogu Inkhundla Council meeting chaired by Indvuna Sandziso Mamba. The Council meeting was also attended by MP, Timothy Myeni and the various Bucopho for the regional areas. At this meeting she was briefed on the Chieftancy dispute and that the Council had taken a resolution to look for an alternative garden that could be supported by the British funding. The garden they had decided on was Lukunfu Garden

ACTIVITY UPDATE

The following activities were planned for the re-establishment of the three gardens of which the status update is now for only 2 gardens being Mahlabaneni and Gamula as Encumaneni is currently on hold to be diverted to Lukunfu Garden:

No	ITEM	ACTIVITY	BY	TARGET DATE	STATUS (October)
1	Land Preparations	Tilling, Water and source and fencing	NDMA and the Associations	Mid-July	-Partially Completed
		Land Preparation	Ploughing the land with tractors to create individual gardens, farming to start after the water scheme installation is completed.	End of July	-Mahlabaneni Complete -Gamula (WIP)
2	Farming Inputs	Seedlings, Tools, Storage	Each association to submit a list of the inputs required.	End of July	-1 x Storeroom complete -1 x Storeroom (WIP) -Mahlabaneni Tools Complete -Gamula Tools Partial -Seedlings pending

3	Marketing	Secure Markets	The members will secure markets and determine additional vegetables to grow for supply. Current large buyer is NAMboard. Nkilongo Indvuna through the area Chief will pursue approval for roadside stalls.	End of July	-Pending
4	Training	Training	RISE facilitators will conduct short courses on farming and business short courses to support the growers. The training will also happen during the farming season and follow COVID-19 regulations.	During the farming season	-Pending funding
5	Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring and Evaluation	RISE team will monitor that the farming inputs are delivered to the 3 gardens and formally received by the Indvuna or Bucopho and that farming resumes.	End August	-2 x site visits have been undertaken on 3 Sept & 13 Oct and project progressing accordingly as funds received as per this report
6	Reports	Reporting	Project Reports: The team will produce two reports: mid-term and end of project reports. The report will be available for the donor and will include narrative and financials.	Mid-term: after the first training End of project: After first harvesting	-Mid Term progress report submitted 19 October 2020.

CONCLUSION

On behalf of the RISE Home Grown Nkilongo project team and community, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the High Commissioner of India for the financial assistance provided thus far.

We remain committed to our endeavour to assist these women farmers in order to provide food security and generate a sustainable income for themselves to provide for themselves and their families.

By supporting the Nkilongo Home Grown project, you are helping to alleviate poverty and empower the women towards self-sufficiency.

Thank you for partnering with RISE it continues to be an absolute pleasure engaging with yourselves to have made all this possible.

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END – THANK YOU