



LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT PROGRAMME (LISUP-4) E-NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5, 2017

Background of the project

Support from the Ministry of Land Reform (MLR) allowed for the continuation of the Livelihood Support Programme (LISUP phase 4) for the three resettlement farms in Omaheke as from 2015 to date. The DRFN continued co-ordination, technical and Infrastructure support to those farms under MLR funding.

LISUP funding has ensured the ongoing provision of seeds and training amongst other agricultural inputs, maintenance of the solar pumps, maintenance of machinery such as the tractors, in addition to the personnel costs associated with the project. The LISUP also facilitates regular community meetings and monitoring visits between the DRFN and communities on the farms.

In-depth discussions between MLR and the DRFN led to the LISUP project being extended with funds provided up to 2020 for the DRFN's continued co-ordination and technical support role to these farms.

DONKERBOS-SONNEBLUM

Description of project Activities

The communities of Donkerbos-Sonneblom are the furthest and most remote community that the project is supporting. These communities are mainly engaged in the following activities: animal husbandry (goat's project), household gardening, harvesting of devil's claw, Crafts production with support of OMBAA arts and bush clearing activities.

What has been achieved thus far?

Donkerbos: Four (4) Committee and 3 Community meetings conducted during the quarter. Community informed about financial constraints experienced by LISUP 4. Committee training postponed to next quarter due to other community related activities.

Summer crops successfully harvested maize, beans, pumpkin and watermelon from community garden and home gardens.

Water points, requisition for solar pump and panels for the new borehole accepted by MLR and borehole rehabilitation process to start as soon as equipment is available. Pietse pos and Sonneblom waterpoints supplying water to respective communities. Donkerbos receives water from Pietse pos by use of a local vehicle in a 1000lt water tank twice a month. The local primary school is provided with water from one of the two boreholes occupied by two Herero farmers every week, the Ministry of Education is funding that process.

The **Goat Project** has been operating without support from LISUP for 3 months, 5 Kapaters were stolen and a case opened with the Police. Number of goats down from 64 to 43, community members pledged to be more involved and take responsibility in terms of monitoring. The state veterinary services to support the project through training and mentoring services.

Crafts project

The project is managed by Omba Arts Trust and logistical support provided by LISUP staff. It is going strong with 58 producers receiving income on a quarterly basis. The group produces ostrich eggshell and wooden beads which are used in products by Skoonheid and Drimiopsis craft groups. Six (6) sizes of ostrich beads have been introduced in the past 10 years. Products to the value of N\$29 500.00 purchased from the group in May, next purchase planned for August 2017.

Other IGA, traditional dance performed for tourist visiting the settlement with Waki Wilderness and cultural tours. Sixteen (16) community members formed a cultural dance group and received payment of N\$ 4700.00 paid for 3 dance sessions performed over a period of 4 months.

The **main challenge** has been to visit the community and provide mentoring and monitoring services due to lack of funds. Providing Donkerbos with water has been difficult.

Planned way forward:

- Rehabilitation of new borehole
- Relocation to new site for goats
- Veterinary support for goat project
- GRN mobile clinic visits
- Census to update data of number of humans and animals on the farm
- Camp fence repair
- New Committee training

SKOONHEID

Description of project Activities

The community of Skoonheid is better off compared to the other three in terms of leadership structures as they have a recognised traditional Chief living in their midst and there are also better organised when it comes to the implementation of project activities. The community is mainly engaged in the following activities: animal husbandry, household gardening, brick making project, silo's production, Crafts production with support of OMBa.

What has been achieved thus far?

Summer Crops harvested, winter Crops not planted due to funds released middle May.

Three **community meetings** Skoonheid currently operates without a committee. All project activities with Skoonheid are on hold until they have elected a functional committee.

Crafts

The program is managed by the local Doctor together with two assistants and provide income to over 60 women monthly. The project which is called "San Alive" was started in 2008 and produces glass and ostrich eggshell beaded bracelets and necklaces. N\$13 057.00 worth of products purchased from the group.

Challenges

- Community dynamics are very strong, leading to friction amongst community members which directly hampers the implementation of project activities
- Water situation remains a challenge, with some people having preferred access over others

Planned way forward

- Committee elections
- Summer Crops/ Gardening activities
- Solar repairs + maintenance
- Identification of alternative income generation activities

DRIMIOPSIS

Description of project Activities

Drimiopsis is a diverse settlement and also the largest of the 3 farms the project is supporting. Besides the agricultural activities covered under the LISUP there other activities that community members engage in such as: Crafts, minor construction/repairation works, security services, teaching and piece-works.

What has been achieved thus far

- Census conducted
- Committee send out donation request letters to local markets in support of the cleaning campaign.
- Stolen solar panel successfully recovered.
- 2 Committee and 3 community meetings held

Crafts

The "Hand in Hand" Craft project supports 14 women of which 5 are over the age of 55. They produce beaded cloths, Christmas baubles, necklaces and bracelets. All products are marketed through Omba.

Logistical support is provided to the group through the DRFN office.

One administrative workshop held and management structures changed and new leader elected.

Sales figures for the quarter has been negatively influenced by non-productivity of Donkerbos. Income for quarter, N\$2 821.00

More information on the Crafts projects can be found on the Omba Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/OmbaArtsTrust/>

Challenges

- Community dynamics
- Tending and weeding of gardens
- Water supply controls

Planned way forward

- Committee training
- Clean up campaign

Highlights thus far?

- Successful harvesting of summer crops from home gardens. All farms still harvesting maize.
- An area cleared at Donkerbos to start up a Living museum, traditional dancing and show casing of San cultural live style to tourists with 16 members of the community. IGA in collaboration with Waki Wilderness and cultural tours - Gobabis
- Drimiopsis committee complete census, list of animal quantities and number of households available.
- Mopane worm harvested as IGA by several community members in Drimiopsis and marketed in Gobabis.

Cross cutting issues

Funding constraints

Due to the current budget cuts being experienced, the project has had to reduce support to the 3 farms in addition to minimising project activities. The DRFN has been advancing costs for salaries, rent, vehicle & running costs a situation which is placing the organisation in dire straits.

First National Bank of Namibia: Engagement of N\$100,000 pledged towards training in basic agriculture and conservation agriculture.

International student support: One student from Denmark supported to do thesis, visited all 3 farms. Thesis based on Mopane worm as a IGA for the communities. Initiative to be investigated further.