



## LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT PROGRAMME (LISUP-4) E-NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3, November 2016

### Background of the project

*Support from the Ministry of Land Reform (MLR) carried on from 2015 into 2016, in the form of the continuing Livelihood Support Programme (LISUP phase 4) with a majority of San resettlement farms in Omaheke. The DRFN continued co-ordination, technical and infrastructure support to those farms under MLR funding, and the Finnish Embassy in Namibia provided co-funding for the Goats Enterprise Development (GED) project in Donkerbos-Sonneblom.*

*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-SONNEBLOM

#### 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 devils claw, crafts production with support of OMBAA arts and bush clearing /fencing activities.

#### What has been achieved thus far?

The **Goats Enterprise project** has been operating without funding since end September 2016, the financial challenges are obvious as the goat herders have not been paid their salaries for two months. The impact of the training received has been demonstrated through successful vaccinations and the day to day management of the kraal. The goats number currently stand at 89 & 20 kiddies died since last report (14 August 2016). The veterinary office in Talismanus has been approached to provide support to the project through provision of training, mentoring and monitoring services

**A Community Meeting** was held for the first time in 2016 (11-12 November) and various issues concerning the farm and community was discussed. The community is currently in the process of electing a new farm management committee.

A letter was directed to Mr Kaurivi on 11 October as directed by the steering committee to request assistance with a tractor and support services to the Goat Enterprise project & the feedback received was that **DAPEES** is short of tractors in the region.

**The water situation** is still critical which puts pressure on water supply to the Primary School and Donkerbos community. A team led by Mr Humavindu (MLR) consisting of MEAC, W&T, RWS and DRFN visited Donkerbos and Vasbyt on 19 September, to investigate the situation of the 2 water holes drilled for supplying water to the Primary School. A meeting was held with community members and the local Principal to understand the situation on the ground. The German Special Initiative is not able to assist the community with upgrading of water infrastructure as they had already spent resources on drilling the borehole that remains out of reach for the community.

**Water point rehabilitation** process has started but remains a challenge because Donkerbos is remote with no network and the problematic borehole conditions. Pietse Pos borehole increased yield, the Donkerbos bore hole still does not provide water for the community while Sonneblom borehole also have stopped pumping water. The current direction is to rehabilitate the new borehole and move the Donkerbos community to the new area. Relocation will reduce pressure on the Sonneblom borehole therefore providing more water to the school and give the farmers an opportunity to make use of other areas on the farm for grazing.

### Crafts project

The Omba Arts Trust (OAT) visited the farm and ostrich eggshell beads and wooden beads was purchased from 53 producers. Due to the drought and water conditions some of the producers had left the farm to visit family therefore not all ostrich eggshell quantities distributed could not be purchased. The next purchase will take place in March 2017, having the timeframe in mind a meeting was held with the community to discuss quality control, expected production based on orders and management of cash received. Omba cautioned the beneficiaries to keep in mind the timeframe until the next purchase and spent their money carefully.

Products to the value to N\$ 55 000.00 has been purchased from Donkerbos and artist payments made for 18 000 Namibian dollars.

The **main challenge** has been the water shortage at the farm, absence of a committee to manage systems which has been in place and the drought which affected the community. Draught relief food delivery has been erratic therefore based on the above overall morale of the farm has been very low. Omba Arts has also raised concern on the issue of **alcohol abuse** in the community and its negative impacts on their operations.

Planned way-forward:

- Tractor for ploughing needs to be sought
- Naankuse visits to continue
- Drought Relief efforts to be strengthened
- Seed and Diesel supply
- Operationalisation of new borehole
- Relocation to new site for goats
- Veterinary support for goat project
- GRN mobile clinic visits

## 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 OMBAs.

### What has been achieved thus far?

Two community meetings have taken place and the community agreed to elect new community committee or replace vacant positions. One information assessment meeting attended community to share needs on summer crop planting. A joint trip took place between MLR & DRFN on 7 November to conduct community needs assessment.

Harvested onions are being marketed and sold through Plaas Kombuis in Gobabis.

Diesel was supplied to the community and land preparation has commenced at the home gardens as well as the communal gardens.

### Challenges?

- Removal of water meters/water connections by the local leadership
- Failure of the current borehole pumps, to meet the required yields. These need to be replaced or repaired in due course.

### Planned way forward

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



## DRMIOPSIS

### Description of project Activities

Drmiopsis is a diverse settlement in addition to being 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?

- Information assessment meeting with community
- Updated database of all current actively cultivated plots
- Delivery of diesel for ploughing activities

### Challenges?

- Community dynamics do not allow for cohesion amongst the community members
- Damage of the solar panels & garden infrastructure
- Co-funding required to implement alternative income generating activities
- Growth of settlement poses risk for successful project implementation
- Poor agricultural productivity due to lack of water, poor planning & mismanagement of resources such as seeds

### Planned way forward

- Solar repairs and maintenance
- Summer crops planting/ Gardening activities
- Strengthening of existing committee structures
- Sourcing of additional marketing opportunities for crops
- Clean up of settlement & improved waste management strategies

### Highlights thus far

Reintroduction of community meetings and collective planning within the community

Naankuse health outreach to the Donkerbos community

Good revenues generated from the crafts project especially in Donkerbos

Repairs and replacement of solar infrastructure at Donkerbos

Bush clearance of 16ha to allow for settlement in Donkerbos

Harvesting and sale of produce from Skoonheid in Gobabis

### Cross cutting issues

Alcohol abuse is a serious problem in Donkerbos and is hampering the success of the crafts projects because as soon as the crafters get paid, they spend most of their hard-earned earnings on alcohol. Consequently, alcohol abuse compromises their already vulnerable health situation, making them less productive.

Without additional budget support or co-funding from other projects, the DRFN with the current MLR budget is not able to resolve all the current water problems being experienced on all 3 farms.

Research:

A student from NUST (Gabriel Hatutale) completed a mini-thesis on Skoonheid. The topic of his research was: *Assessing the effectiveness and sustainability of a donor funded community.*

Final report is pending approval from NUST before it can be shared.