



LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT PROGRAMME (LISUP-4) E-NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4, 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-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 devil's claw, Crafts production with support of OMBAs arts and bush clearing activities.

What has been achieved thus far?

Donkerbos community elected a 16-member committee in December 2016, refresher training will be provided to the members.

Summer crops were only planted in January 2017 due to unavailability of a tractor in December. Maize, pumpkin, watermelon, cow pea seeds provided through LISUP4 has been planted in the community field.

Borehole rehabilitation has started with Sonneblom and Pietse pos waterpoints and provides water to respective communities. Donkerbos receives water from Sonneblom by use of a local vehicle in a 2000lt water tank twice a week. 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 new borehole will be rehabilitated as soon as funds are available from MLR.

The **Goat Project** is managed by 3 herders with LISUP support. Eight (8) "Kapaters" and 3 rams are earmarked for sale in April 2017, the income will be used to pay the goat herders and purchase vaccines. One mature female goat was bitten by a snake and another died after giving birth. Initially 10 "kapaters" were earmarked for sale but one had to be sold to purchase vaccine for ticks and another died due to tick infestation. The total number of goats currently is 64. Community awareness and support of the project is steadily growing and is evident with increase in requests for purchase of rams. The state veterinary services were approached 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.

Ostrich eggshell was provided to the group in November 2016, next purchase is planned for March 2017

The **main challenge** has been to source a tractor to plough the community garden eventually the Otjimbinde Councillor's office brought a tractor on the farm in January. Donkerbos is still without a functional waterhole and will have the problem until the new borehole has been rehabilitated.

Planned way forward:

- Seed and Diesel supply
- 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
- Winter planting
- 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 successfully planted and some community members are already harvesting crops.

Three **community meetings** took place to date in order to elect a community committee, despite assistance and support from the Governor and Deputy Director the community could not come to an agreement as to who should be elected. 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 bi monthly. The project which is called "San Alive" was started in 2008 and produces glass and ostrich eggshell beaded bracelets and necklaces.

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

- New **community committee** elected
- All 3 **community gardens** planted with summer crops and **youth garden** converted into a rain fed garden.
- Community committee successfully sourced **clean-up campaign** materials from MoHSS in Gobabis.

Crafts

The "**Hand in Hand**" Craft project supports 14 women of which 5 are over the age of 55. It is managed by 2 leaders with support from Omba Arts Trust. 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. Group income figures are currently not available. One product development workshop was facilitated by Omba Arts trust in February in collaboration with a Finnish designer and photographer who specializes in close-up images of ice.

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

- Census, to create updated database of all beneficiaries and animals on the farm
- Winter crops planting/ Gardening activities
- Committee training
- Clean up campaign

Highlights thus far?

- All 3 communities have planted their summer crops and some have already started harvesting.
- Good rains have been reported on the 3 farms, alleviating the water constraints as community members could harvest rain water and the rains decreased their dependence on borehole water for irrigation.
- The community of Donkerbos is becoming self-sufficient in terms of running the goats project, in the absence of any project support.
- The community of Drimiopsis took the initiative and sourced sponsorship towards their clean-up campaign.
- The communities of Donkerbos and Drimiopsis have elected new committee members.

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.

Proposals submitted

Two funding proposals have been submitted in order to secure co-funding for the LISUP project as the MLR budget is not sufficient for all envisioned project activities.

The Bank Windhoek Social Investment: funding support to provide training over a 6-month period, to improve the poor breeding characteristics of goats and cattle, and increase effectiveness of community investments by improving knowledge around purchasing and selling of livestock.

Addax and Oryx Foundation (Swiss NGO): 2-year funding support for improving Agricultural Capacity in the 3 farms.