



KWAKHA INDVODZA

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August/September Newsletter

Executive Director's Foreword

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter where you can read all about Kwakha Indvodza's recent work, news and upcoming events. The contents of the July-August edition focuses particularly on KI's "Social Responsibility" pillar. Often more nebulous and difficult to define than our other programme areas, our focus on social responsibility platforms lie at the heart of all of KI's work and makes it unique among other programmes. After all, Kwakha Indvodza itself started as an act of social responsibility and over the years, we have designed our programmes specifically to awaken that same mixture of duty, pride and empowerment in our emajaha. Since 2012 we have run projects, or elements of projects which mentor men through violence prevention, leadership, crime prevention, knowledge of the law and the importance of fatherhood.

In July, I was particularly proud to see over 50 KI emajaha and staff join peaceful marches in Manzini, Mahwalala and Nhlanguano to take a stand against the ruthless killings, assaults and harassment which has come to light in every sector and every corner of our country. Our emajaha marched with determination and with passion in a way that made members of our team, many of whom have done this work for several years, emotional with pride. It was not only encouraging to see so many young men actively pursuing social justice within their communities but believing that their voices mattered: that without them, the collective outrage at this brutality would be quieter and easier to ignore. Together with hundreds of women and girls, the young men of Kwakha Indvodza said:

"We will defy the stereotypes of our gender. We will not become a statistic. We will be better men than those who came before us."
Please join me in congratulating these brave young men.

This edition also shines light on the KI Carpentry Apprenticeship Project, one of our most promising new interventions. Our

Carpentry Apprenticeship Project brings together out-of-school and out-of-work young men and offers them training, mentorship and the life changing opportunity to change their lives and those of their families. As you will read in page 3, as well as lining the pockets and boosting the skills-sets of these young men, this project makes a valuable contribution to the learning environments of thousands of primary school learners, giving them the best opportunity to learn and thrive. These young men demonstrate a different type of courage. The courage to make something of yourself when all around you see disinterest and lack of opportunity. The courage to learn something new and the courage to work hard to make your dreams a reality.

Both these groups of emajaha have made a proactive, informed choice. The choice to be brave and stand up for themselves and for others. As a founder, nothing makes me more proud.

Happy reading!

Gender-based violence is everyone's business!

Over the past years, Eswatini has made significant strides in introducing legislature that would protect the rights all emaswati against sexual offences and domestic violence. The country however still faces increased reports of gender based violence. Our national newspapers, this year have had a rising number of headlines about the rape and killings of women and children in Mahwalala, just a few kilometres outside of Mbabane, as well as other areas across the country. It is widely believed, however that an even greater number of cases still go unreported. Recently, brave Swazi women have been sharing stories across the internet about how they were raped, assaulted or molested by men who they considered to be colleagues, friends or family. This proves the magnitude of GBV in our country and how difficult it is for survivors of abuse to come forward about such traumatic experiences in a society that is often concerned about protecting the reputation of the perpetrator.

This culture deliberate disinterest, of being blind to gender-based violence and distancing ourselves from the subject must end. Gender based violence is everyone's business and we should fight to ensure that our country is safe and violence free. This subject has for years been viewed as an NGO or UN issue, it is time that we all take responsibility (Media, Corporates, and government parastatals), we all are affected.

To this end, it is vital that we include men in discussions against gender based violence as they are often perpetrators and less commonly (and even less commonly acknowledged) the victims. From an early age men are often socialised to believe that dominant behaviour towards a woman is what makes you a man. These stereotypes have proven to be harmful to both women and men, ending relationships and destroying families. Through our social responsibility projects, Kwakha Indvodza aims to encourage men to take a stand and become agents of change to end violence and abuse and to understand the benefits of a violence-free home, family and community.



KI Emajaha showing their messages during one of the KI marches against GBV

On the 6th and 15th of August Kwakha Indvodza emajaha (young men and boys mentored by KI) took to the streets of Manzini and Mbabane to march against GBV and say 'NOT ON MY WATCH', 'NOT IN MY NAME'. These marches were coordinated by Kwakha Indvodza and partners to remind emaswati that violence should never be tolerated and that the building a stronger, safer, more inclusive society is everybody's business. It is encouraging to witness young men become actively involved in pursuing social justice and becoming agents of change in their communities. Gender based violence should no longer be a hidden horror swept under the carpet (tibi-tendlu). Survivors deserve tangible support and there should be no excuse for inaction.

Join us in promoting and strengthening values that support non-violence and challenge social norms that condone violence.

KI Emajaha views on Gender Based Violence

Melusi Dlamini- Mahwalala Chapter



Learning about GBV has changed my perspective. I now understand that being a male does not mean that I am superior to females. We need to know that violence is never a solution to conflict and that it can only make the situation worse. Beating woman is wrong and men need to stop! I appreciate the lessons that we have had on the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, most of came here with knowledge we absorbed from the public, that the Act was here to support females, this education has helped us understand it better and know that it is also there for us males

Sifiso Dlamini- Mahwalala Chapter



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Mayibongwe Maphalala - Msunduza Chapter



Gender Based Violence does not have to be physical abuse, GBV can be verbal and emotional. I believe that men and women need to unlearn a lot of social norms which often lead to GBV. The violence and killings of women needs to stop, as men we need to rid ourselves from the mentality that says females are inferior to men and begin to see ourselves as equals.

Mbongeni Shongwe -Siphocosini



What happens to woman or girl in my community affects me. What happens to other boys and men affects me. We are all responsible for one another, therefore let us treat one another with respect. We cannot be silent when we see our fellow sisters being abused, we need to take action. The SODVA has also taught us that being silent is wrong and one can be charged for not reporting violence. -

Giving Back Through Desk Repairs

Well-equipped and furnished classrooms are fundamental to the high performance of students. Learning in the right environment is proven to dramatically increase student focus, involvement, and stimulation. Through the Social Entrepreneurship and Income Generation (SEIG) programme, Kwakha Indvodza has to-date repaired 981 desks through the programme's Carpentry Apprenticeship Project.

Kwakha Indvodza's Social Entrepreneurship and Income Generation (SEIG) project equips young men and boys with tools, skills and necessary guidance to generate a sustainable income. Through workshops and our carpentry and welding apprenticeship programmes, participants are equipped with entrepreneurship and vocational skills to 'kick-start their own small-business venture, or to be gainfully employed elsewhere.

The Carpentry Apprenticeship Project has given thousands of children the opportunity to have a conducive learning environment within which to reach for their full potential. While improving the learning conditions in schools, Carpentry Apprenticeship Project the also gives our Emajaha the opportunity to actively perform social responsibility, one of KI's main pillars. Under the guidance of a master carpenter, our apprentices gain valuable formal and on-the-job training in carpentry as well as their first taste of formal employment and an income to sustain themselves and their families.



Desk tops before repairing



After repairs

With the support of; The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Liaison office, Changing Futures and Swaziland Schools Project, the project this year has successfully refurbished desks in 6 primary schools in the Hhohho and Manzini Regions. This is projected to impact the lives of over a thousand young people as they get to experience learning in improved conditions. The Emajaha involved in this project also get to learn the value of working to benefit not just themselves but the society at large, while getting the opportunity to sharpen their carpentry skills, earn a trade reference gain exposure for future work in the communities around them.

EU SITE VISIT

Kwakha Indvodza (KI) in partnership with the European Union in Swaziland (EU) is implementing a 2 year project titled, "Litfuba Ngelakho: Preventing Vulnerability by Empowering Communities to Better Care for at risk youth". This intervention will leverage on KI's expertise to engage young men and boys at three critical points in their lives; before (through community based prevention programs), during (in partnership with His Majesty's Correctional Services) and after (supporting ex-offenders through reintegration into society) they've come into conflict with the law. Over the project's duration, KI will engage 3120 young men in 6 communities (Mahwalala, Msunduza, Makholweni, Mbhuleni, Siphofaneni and Mathendele) as well as through sessions at HMCS facilities, Vulamasango High and Malkerns Young Persons Centre.



The EU Ambassador posing with Emajaha during her site visit

The project holds weekly life skills trainings to young men in their various communities and the selected corrective centres. During these weekly life skills trainings, qualified trainers through a youth friendly approach help participants develop self-awareness and decision making skills. From this training emajaha (young men) acquire better communication skills and learn to resolve conflicts peacefully. The project is also tailored around KI's three pillars including lessons on social responsibility, financial responsibility and male health.

Furthermore participants are given comprehensive life skills courses which encourage positive masculinity. Activities focus on gender based violence, criminal records and HIV/AIDS as possible consequences to alcohol and drug abuse. The curriculum allows young men the opportunity to reflect on gender norms in an environment where patriarchal norms are prevalent and violence against women and girls is high. The curriculum encourages self-introspection to achieve personal development among young men. Each participant enrolls for three months, attending both Lisango sessions and structured sessions.

On the 23rd of August, the Litfuba Ngelakho, Mahwalala Chapter had the honour of being visited by H. E. Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés; EU Ambassador to Eswatini. During her visit Her Excellency got to interact with the emajaha and shared a few words of wisdom with them. She expressed how encouraging it was to hear young men talk openly on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), stating that this meant that the young men took their lessons seriously and encouraged them to stay away from violence and to respect others. "Always have respect for the rights of other people, girl or boy. I am happy to hear you talk about the importance of sexual consent, this is very important information you are learning and I hope you all apply it."

The ambassador's site visit was ended off with a family photo of Her Excellency, staff members of the European Union, Kwakha Indvodza staff and emajaha.

Programs In Action



Emajaha and the Community from Mahwalala during the March against GBV and the murders of women and children.



Emajaha pose with thier messages against GBV and Drug abuse



Lijaha responding to a question posed by the DPM during the GBV march held at Mbabane West.



Afternoon session at Makholweni Chapter



Emajaha during desk repairs at Ezulwini Catholic Primary School



Lijaha cutting wood during a desk repairs apprenticeship



Emajaha and KI staff during a social responsibility activity at Makholweni Care Point



Lijaha posing a question to mentors during a Mahwalala Session



Emajaha during a session at Siphocosini

Our Current Partners

Kwakha Indvodza is funded by a number of bilateral, governmental and grant making organisations. The stories and projects featured in this issue are currently funded by the following partners.



Upcoming Events

- *Tuberculosis In the Mining Sector Project Launch - 25 October 2019 - Siphofaneni enkhundleni.*
- *Lihawu Male Mentoring Camp*
- *Litfuba Ngelakho Project Clean up walk*
- *KI Community Health Days*
- *Men's Day - 19 November*



24042265



info@kwakhaindvodza.com



[@kwakhaindvodza](https://twitter.com/kwakhaindvodza)



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