

# KI DIGEST Q2

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 **KWAKHA INDVODZA**



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## Kwakha Indvodza and Mbabane Municipal Council partner for Entrepreneurship Training

**K**wakha Indvodza, in partnership with the Mbabane Municipal Council, hosted a transformative entrepreneurship training designed to empower young entrepreneurs from Mbabane. The week-long program provided a practical, hands-on learning experience aimed at unlocking business potential and building a strong foundation for sustainable success in today's economy.

### What the program covered

Participants engaged in a robust curriculum that combined theory with real-world application, including, business plan and proposal writing, crafting compelling plans and persuasive pitches to attract partners and funding. They also tapped into artificial intelligence and its applications in small business, exploring how AI tools can streamline operations, enhance customer experience, and drive growth. Brand creation and market positioning was also explored, defining brand identity, messaging, and strategies to stand out in a competitive marketplace. They also looked at resilience in entrepreneurship, building mental and strategic resilience to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. Additional practical sessions included, marketing fundamentals, financial literacy, customer discovery, and lean start-up methodologies.

Participants gained hands-on skills to draft actionable business plans, proposals, and investor-ready pitches. A digital edge through AI-enabled tools and tactics tailored to small enterprises. Participants also gained a stronger brand and market presence by developing clear positioning and compelling branding. Resilience and adaptability to weather setbacks and pivot effectively. Network and mentorship opportunities with experienced practitioners and local leaders.



*Entrepreneurship training participants on their graduation day*

This initiative is more than a training course; it's a catalyst for local economic growth. By equipping young business owners with practical skills and strategic know-how, Kwakha Indvodza and the Mbabane Municipal Council are laying the groundwork for vibrant, sustainable enterprises that can contribute to job creation and community development. The collaboration plans to expand the program in the coming months, inviting more aspiring entrepreneurs to participate and benefit from expert guidance, peer learning, and access to new resources. Attendees left with a clear roadmap, a toolkit of essential skills, and renewed confidence to launch or scale their ventures.

## A Bold Step Forward in Lubombo

In a vibrant display of regional solidarity, The YES Project, in partnership with the European Union, gathered leaders and change-makers in Siteki for a dynamic forum that highlighted the pressing challenges faced in Eswatini's communities. This was not just a meeting of minds, but a blueprint for action.

### A Forum Shaped by Voices That Matter

The agenda was intentionally broad, tackling both everyday struggles and long-term aspirations. Key threads included, **Gender-based violence (GBV)**: from awareness to accountability, participants explored community-led strategies that protect survivors and transform norms. **Water scarcity**: rural water access was put at the front line, with proposals to safeguard livelihoods and health in arid regions. **Human rights and health, including SRH**: Conversations emphasized dignity, access, and education as foundational rights for all people. **Unemployment and economic opportunity**: The forum steered toward sustainable jobs, entrepreneurship, and skills development to empower youth.

Esteemed panellists represented a spectrum of organizations with deep roots in community work, these included; Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse, Swaziland Rural Water Supply, Youth Enterprise Fund, and Swaziland Rural Women's Assembly – Sicandvulo Sabomake. They each brought innovative ideas and concrete solutions, turning high-level discussions into tangible next steps. The emphasis was not only on identifying problems but on co-creating pathways to resilience and opportunity.

### From Conversation to Action: Pilot Plans and Seed Grants

A standout feature of the forum was the launch of pilot action plans designed to empower local communities. These plans map practical steps for creating sustainable job opportunities for job seekers and aspiring entrepreneurs, empowering youth through targeted skills development and mentorship, and strengthening community-based initiatives that build local resilience. To keep momentum, an informative agenda booklet was distributed, outlining the next steps for collaboration and implementation. The gathering also celebrated a seed grant winner from the region, underscoring how small, well-directed investments can catalyse big changes.



*Some of the practical activities that were done during the pilot action plans*

### Why This Matters for Lubombo and Beyond

This gathering marks more than a regional narrative; it is a commitment to a future where women and youth are central actors in development. By weaving together government, civil society, and grassroots organizations, the forum built a shared understanding of priorities and a coordinated path to progress. Key outcomes included: a concrete set of pilot actions tailored to Lubombo's context, strengthened networks among local leaders, youth, and women's organizations and a documented roadmap to sustain momentum beyond the forum.

The YES Project and its partners are poised to translate dialogue into durability. Next steps involve implementing pilot action plans with local communities, tracking impact through community feedback and measurable indicators, and scaling successful initiatives to neighbouring regions through shared learnings.

## **Trainings for seed grant winners**

The Yes project, backed by the European Union, has implemented comprehensive training programs for seed grant recipients. These winners received targeted capacity-building across a range of critical areas, including financial literacy, logo design and branding, social media marketing, early childhood care and development, workplace compliance, and entrepreneurial soft skills. These trainings were instrumental in supporting the winners on their business development journeys, equipping them with practical tools, strategic know-how, and the confidence to scale their ventures. By strengthening financial management, brand identity, and online presence, while also ensuring compliant operations and people-oriented skills, participants are better positioned to sustain growth, create impact in their communities, and translate seed funding into viable, sustainable enterprises.

The trainings are important because they build capacities that equip winners with actionable competencies, reducing start-up risk and accelerating progress. They promote sustainable impact by aligning grant outcomes with long-term business health and community benefits rather than short-term gains. They enhance market readiness by improving product-market fit and operational readiness, thereby increasing the chances of securing further investments or revenue streams. Finally, they foster empowerment and confidence by building self-efficacy among entrepreneurs, enabling them to make informed decisions and lead their ventures effectively.



*KI staff and seed grant recipients posing for a group photo after one of their capacity-development trainings*

## Litfuba Ngelakho (KNH) – Kwaluseni Inkhundla Update

A lively and productive reporting, reviewing, and planning session unfolded in Kwaluseni Inkhundla, bringing together a diverse mix of stakeholders who share a collective commitment to community well-being. The event drew in Libandla representatives, community leaders, project staff, and dedicated partners, all converging to celebrate progress, reflect on learnings, and chart a path forward.

One major highlight from the gathering was the Progress showcased with heart and data. Attendees were treated to a comprehensive look at KNH's health outreach, educational programs, and community development efforts, where storytelling sessions highlighted real-life impact- children receiving preventive education and health check-ups, adults engaging in health literacy workshops, and partners collaborating on sanitation and safe-water initiatives.



*Community members during one of the community development trainings*

The session also shone a spotlight on partners whose steadfast backing has been a cornerstone of KNH's work. Their contributions, ranging from technical expertise to on-the-ground resources have accelerated progress and amplified our impact.

The gathering reaffirmed KNH's commitment to transparent reporting, open communication, and accountable governance. Participants discussed practical steps to strengthen feedback loops, monitor outcomes, and share progress with all stakeholders. There was a clear consensus that sustainable development requires ongoing collaboration with community groups, schools, health facilities, and local authorities. Plans are taking shape to expand outreach reach, deepen health education, and scale successful programs in a culturally responsive manner.

With a solid foundation laid, KNH is poised to deepen its impact in the Kwaluseni constituency, the focus remains on child welfare, community well-being, and transparent, accountable processes that invite broad participation.

### **Empowering Emajaha through Peer-Led, Child-Participatory Curriculum**

In a transformative wave of learning and leadership, our KI curriculum sessions are shifting the center of gravity from traditional lectures to peer-led, child-participatory experiences. The aim is clear, empower emajaha to take the lead in activities, shape their own learning journeys, and express themselves with confidence. By placing peers at the forefront of facilitation and content delivery while chapter staff serve as supportive partners, we foster an environment where emajaha feel valued, heard, and capable of guiding their own growth.

This quarter, our Mbikwakhe chapter hosted a dynamic round of curriculum sessions for 74 Emajaha from Logoba and Mhlaleni. The sessions were marked by collaboration, curiosity, and a shared commitment to practical, real-world learning. A standout collaboration came with the Royal

Eswatini Police Services from Matsapha, who led a focused session on gender-based violence (GBV). Their input anchored essential conversations in safety, respect, and proactive community engagement.

Empowerment in action: Madam Siniketiwe Simelane delivered a compelling message that adolescent boys and young men have a pivotal role in challenging harmful gender norms. Her leadership illustrated how young people can become catalysts for positive change within their communities. Madam Siniketiwe Simelane emphasized a core principle; abuse is never acceptable. She reminded emajaha that everyone has the right to feel safe, respected, and supported in all spaces.

The sessions equipped emajaha with practical indicators of GBV and the profound impact it has on individuals and communities. By understanding the signs, learners are better prepared to respond with care and courage. Emajaha were encouraged to report concerns early, reinforcing a culture where seeking help is a strength rather than a weakness. Early action can disrupt cycles of violence and protect those at risk.

The peer-led format empowered Emajaha to take ownership of their learning experiences, building confidence in public speaking, content delivery, and collaborative problem-solving. By engaging with law enforcement professionals on GBV, Emajaha gain practical tools to navigate sensitive topics, advocate for themselves and peers, and model protective behaviours in their communities. The sessions set the stage for ongoing, community-centered education that continues to elevate youth voices, fosters mutual respect, and anchors gender equality as a lived value.

As we move forward, we will continue to refine these participatory sessions, expand peer leadership opportunities, and deepen partnerships with local services that share a commitment to safe, inclusive, and empowering communities. Our goal remains steadfast: nurture Emajaha into empathetic leaders who champion dignity, protection, and equality for all.



*REPS representative leading a focused session on gender-based violence (GBV) with Emajaha*

## Engaging the Manzini Region in Positive Fatherhood and GBV Prevention

Litfuba Ngelakho (UNFPA) led a dynamic Lisango session in Engabezweni and Ludzidzini with Emajaha, delivering a thorough exploration of positive fatherhood, GBV prevention, and men's health. The program unpacked a range of understandings of manhood, called out resistant norms that contribute to GBV, and mapped out specific, actionable strategies for fathers and communities. Highlights included mentorship programs, respectful and open communication, bystander intervention, and coordinated health and wellness resources. The session also emphasized measurable outcomes and meaningful partnerships to sustain momentum. Collectively, these efforts aim to advance healthier families, reduce GBV risks, and foster a more equitable and safer environment for everyone.



*Emajaha having their discussion during Lisango Session*

This project is building momentum by hosting sessions in multiple communities around the Manzini region, with a targeted focus on Ezulwini, Ludzidzini, Lozitha, and Ngabezweni. The aim is to reach traditional leaders and to sensitise young people about GBV issues and how they can best protect themselves and their families. By engaging traditional authorities, the program seeks to align cultural leadership with contemporary standards of respect, safety, and health. Simultaneously, youth-focused discussions provide practical tools and literacy around GBV, healthy relationships, and self-advocacy.

The initiative emphasizes tangible outcomes like improved communication within households, reduced instances of GBV, and stronger community support structures. By partnering with local leaders, health practitioners, educators, and civil society organizations, the program seeks to build sustainable systems that can endure beyond individual sessions.



*Group picture of Emajaha and facilitators in one of the Lisango sessions in the Manzini Region*

## Reaching Every Voice, Promoting Mental Wellness

The Bhoboka team has been on a mission this quarter, to tear down barriers to mental health support and ensure that every person can access the care, conversation, and community they need. Through a nationwide slate of outreaches, we have been busy spreading awareness about the Bhoboka app and the simple, powerful act of speaking up for one's wellbeing.

With mental health services often out of reach, Bhoboka is dedicated to removing distance, stigma, and hesitation. Our outreach events are designed to meet people where they are, in markets, schools, workplaces, clinics, and community centers, so help feels local, familiar, and within reach. A core goal of every outreach is to create spaces where people feel seen, heard, and understood. By encouraging open conversations about mental health, we are normalizing help-seeking and reinforcing that reaching out is a sign of strength. We have been spotlighting the Bhoboka app as a practical tool- an easy, confidential way to connect with trained listeners, resources, and support networks. Participants are guided through the app's features, from immediate chat options to guided self-help resources.

### The Rising Need: GBV, Suicide Prevention, and Community Support



*KI's Counsellor distributing the #BhobokaEkse pamphlet during one of the outreaches*

In many communities, the rise in gender-based violence (GBV) and suicide rates underscores the urgency of accessible mental health care. Bhoboka's response is twofold: **Immediate access to conversation:** People facing distress can connect with non-judgmental, trained counsellors who provide a compassionate first line of support. **Pathways to ongoing help:** Beyond crisis moments, Bhoboka connects users with longer-term resources like therapists, support groups, safety planning, and local services empowering them to take steps toward safety and wellbeing.

We joined forces with community leaders, health centers, and youth networks to co-host outreach events, expanding our footprint to rural and underserved areas. Through anonymized testimonials, we have heard how a single conversation sparked a chain reaction, people choosing to seek professional care, call a friend, or enrol in a support group. New user enrolments grew as more community members learned about Bhoboka's privacy safeguards, user-friendly design, and culturally sensitive resources.

### How You Can Get Involved

Download and explore Bhoboka if you haven't yet, get the app <https://www.ki-bhoboka.com> and discover how it can be a lifeline in moments of distress and doubt. Spread the word, share Bhoboka with friends, family, and colleagues. Awareness is the first step toward reducing stigma and increasing access.

# Register on our **Application**



Convenient | Safe | Interactive | Educational

BHOBOKA EKSE is a project focused on making **mental health services** and resources easily accessible and available to everyone anytime, offering support, tips, and tools to help **improve overall well-being**.

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*A Poster shared and distributed by KI, allowing easy and convenient registration on the BhobokaApp by simply scanning the code – can be found on KI's Social media pages or website and in physical copies*

# **AUTHORS**

## **Chief Editor**

**Nokwanda Msibi**

ACT Officer

## **Editor**

**Gift Dlamini**

Programmes Manager

## **Sub - Editors**

**KI Team**

Programmes Team

## **Graphics**

**Sibonakaliso Zikalala**

Graphics Designer



**Thanks for reading, your time and  
attention mean the world to us.**