

KID DIGEST

NEWS
LETTER

QUARTER 4

2024-25

Youth and women Empowerment
Support (YES) Project

Litfuba Ngelakho:
The Chance Is Yours (KNH)



Social Entrepreneurship and
Income Generation (SEIG) Project

#BhobokaEkse
Let's Talk About It



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Empowering Local Communities: COSPE grants E 1,037,913.35 to 22 winners from 16 communities

Overview of Applications

In collaboration with COSPE under the YES project, we are excited to share the results of our recent seed-grants selection process, where 235 applications were received from 16 different communities. The submissions included 75 collective proposals and 159 individual business ideas. Each application was meticulously reviewed to ensure compliance with our seed-grant guidelines, utilizing a comprehensive business proposal template called the “Expression of Interest,” available in both Siswati and English.



Participants from the Mangcongco Community with their Business Plan writing and entrepreneurship training certification

Application Review Insights

During the review, 20 applications were flagged as disqualified, with only two stemming from collective efforts. Notably, many applications came from individuals not participating in the YES program. One collective proposal was rejected due to its members not meeting the age requirement, as the group included a 42-year-old male among those not involved in YES.

Jury Selection and Methodology

To facilitate the selection process, we assembled a diverse jury of six judges from reputable organizations including YERF, CFI, World Vision, ENIDC, the International Trade Centre, and ENYC. This panel, composed of four males and two females, was chosen for their expertise in business development and potential for future collaboration in supporting local business ventures, including loans, grants, and mentorship opportunities. After formalizing their commitment with signed appointment letters and a confidentiality declaration, the judges developed a selection methodology on October 17, 2024.

Selection Process

The selection process took place over three days, from October 21-23, 2024, at COSPE Manzini, where the judges convened for in-depth discussions. Upon completion of their evaluations, individual and overall selection reports, along with a selection database, were compiled to identify the winners. In the final report, a total of 22 winners emerged from the 16 communities. These proposals not only received the highest scores but also exhibited



Seed grant winners posing for a group picture with their cheque

significant potential for success and a positive impact on both the local community and economy. Among the winners, 18 proposals were submitted by organized groups, while 4 were from individual applicants. Collectively, the 22 business ideas represent the aspirations of 108 applicants, including 51 women, 38 young women, 12 young men, and 7 men.

Emphasizing Inclusivity

While the YES project primarily focuses on empowering youth and women, we also encourage mixed-gender participation in group applications, underscoring our commitment to inclusivity. Importantly, our criteria stipulate that in collective proposals, at least 50% of the members must be YES participants, ensuring that those most directly involved in the program benefit from our support.

No#:	Business Name	Business Idea	Community	Composition	Score (%)	Capital
1	Vuka Godloza Piggery	Piggery farming	Godloza	Collective	81%	E38,910.00
2	Heavyhorn	Butchery	Malanti	Collective	76%	E39,000.00
3	Z'ncee Fast Food	Restaurant/Fast Food	Lwandle	Collective	75%	E29,200.00
4	Sisekelo Setfu	Piggery	Malanti	Collective	75%	E38,980.00
5	CW Grace	Tutoring services with printshop & internet café	Siphocosini	Collective	73%	E73,378.00
6	Story Time Pre-School	Pre-school	Nhlambeni	Collective	73%	E76,000.00
7	Rise & Shine Vegetables	Vegetables farming	Tikhuba	Collective	71%	E39,000.00
8	Sekusile Poultry Farm	Layers/eggs production	New-Thulwane	Collective	71%	E38,935.50
9	Angy's Block Yard Investments	Concreted building blocks	Mndobandoba	Collective	71%	E71,745.50
10	CBY Investments	Traditional attire making & rental	Nhlambeni	Collective	71%	E11,055.00
11	Sisonkhe Vegetables	Vegetables production	Sandleni	Collective	68%	E38,998.00
12	Mhlaba'awugcini Dairy Farm	Milk production	Ntandweni	Individual	68%	E39,000.00
13	Senzokuhle Mobile	Mobile money services	Siphocosini	Individual	68%	E20,000.00
14	KaShali Gcama Mfati Day Care	Day care	Ka-Shali	Collective	68%	E75,750.00
15	KaShali Gcama Mfati Rentals	Catering equipment rental	Ka-Shali	Collective	68%	E76,000.00
16	Sifiso Setfu Bakery	Baking	Lwandle	Collective	68%	E39,000.00
17	Hlobisoso Botique & Mobile Money	Fashion & financial services	Ntfonjeni	Individual	66%	E43,450.00
18	The Game Zone	Entertainment	Nkoyoyo	Collective	65%	E75,967.35
19	Futhi Investment	Nursery	Mpandeni	Individual	63%	E20,000.00
20	Senzelweyinkosi Cattle Feedlot	Cattle feedlot	Mpandeni	Collective	63%	E39,000.00
21	ShikitelaTransport	Public/school bus	Mangcongco	Collective	58%	E76,000.00
22	The Hope Farm	Vegetables farming	Madulini	Collective	57%	E38,542.00
Total						E1,037,913.35

A total of **E317386.67** was paid to 20 seed grants winners in December 2024 as per their requests, sparing Story Time Pre-School (Nhlambeni) and Shikitela Transport who have operational facility issues to sort, and requisitions issues respectively.

Profiling of Seed Grant Winners

The KI Project Coordinators and Business Mentors conducted on-site profiling and assessments at the business locations proposed by the 22 seed grant winners. This process aimed to verify the declared assets and the viability of the intended business setups. In addition to the winners, two other potential candidates from Ntandweni and Mndobandoba, who placed second in their communities, were also profiled. Although the initial target was to award 16 winners from 16 communities, the budget allowed for an additional 6 winners, coming from the communities of Lwandle, Ka-Shali, Nhlambeni, Siphocosini, Malanti, and Mpendeni.

Business and Administration Training



Seed grant winners during the four-day business and administration training

A four-day business and administration training session was held at SISEMA for the 22 winners, with a total of 26 participants (two per group for the four groups with more than 10 applicants). This training was predominantly facilitated by KI and Business Mentors, with contributions from external facilitators such as Likusasa Letfu and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Trade. The primary objective of the training was to equip youth and women with essential business management skills, including record-keeping, bookkeeping, marketing techniques, and cash flow management, as well as guidance on how to legally formalize their businesses.

On the final day of the training, the winners were awarded seed grants totalling over a million Emalangeni (**E1,037,913.35**) by the YES Project Manager and KI Executive Director.



YES Project Manager and KI Executive Director presenting the cheques to the winners



A close up picture of the cheques that were awarded

Community outreach

The YES project in collaboration with COSPE Southern Africa hosted a regional agenda meeting marking a significant step towards addressing the numerous socio-economic challenges facing the communities of Mpendeni, Madulwini, Godlodka, and Etibondzeni kaShiba in the Shiselweni region. This event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, indicating a collaborative approach to problem-solving that is essential for effective community development.



Community Members and stakeholders present at the regional agenda meeting

Key Issues Addressed

- 1. Youth Unemployment:** One of the most pressing concerns discussed was the high unemployment rate among the youth in the region. With limited job opportunities and skills mismatch, young people are struggling to find sustainable employment. The meeting likely explored initiatives that could enhance vocational training and create job opportunities tailored to the local economy.
- 2. Healthcare Access:** The lack of access to healthcare services is another critical issue highlighted in the meeting. Communities in this region face significant barriers to receiving basic medical care, which affects overall public health and productivity. Discussions may have revolved around strategies for improving healthcare infrastructure, increasing health education, and ensuring that services are accessible to all.
- 3. Land Crisis:** The land crisis represents a complex challenge, often tied to issues of ownership, distribution, and agricultural productivity. This is particularly vital for communities reliant on farming for their livelihoods. The meeting likely facilitated conversations about land reform and sustainable agricultural practices to ensure that communities can thrive.
- 4. Increasing Number of Orphans:** The rise in the number of orphans without homes further exacerbates the social issues in the region. This demographic requires immediate support services and long-term solutions to ensure their wellbeing. Discussions may have included the establishment of foster care systems, support networks, and initiatives to involve the community in caring for vulnerable children.

Collaborative Contributions

The involvement of representatives from various sectors, including the Shiselweni Regional Administration, Ministry of Education, members of Parliament, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, and organizations like the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) and Young Heroes, highlights the multi-faceted approach needed to tackle these challenges.

Grant Award

The meeting concluded with the awarding of a seed grant of E175,450 to representatives from the four communities, the grant is meant provide immediate funding to implement proposed solutions and improve the standard of living in these communities.



Seed grant winners posing for a group picture with their cheque

SEIG Introduces New Training Initiatives for Emajaha Participants

In a major step towards enhancing agricultural skills within our community, Kwakha Indvodza, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Veterinary Office, has rolled out an impactful training program aimed at empowering individuals in modern farming techniques.

The journey began with a comprehensive training on broiler production skills, held at Fonteyn. Seven enthusiastic Emajaha participants engaged in a two-day theoretical class at Mbabane Library, where they delved into the essential aspects of raising broiler chickens. This training covered vital topics including the construction of suitable poultry houses, preparation for the arrival of day-old chicks, equipment needs, various types of feed, brooding procedures, vaccinations, and the intricacies of dressing and selling broilers.



Emajaha participating in practical sessions on broiler production

Following the foundational training, participants eagerly embraced a series of practical sessions. A local broiler farmer in Fonteyn was engaged to provide hands-on experience, allowing participants to apply their learning in real-world farming scenarios

Building on this momentum, Kwakha Indvodza also organized an advanced training program focusing on grafting, budding, and cuttings of both fruit trees and ornamental plants. Thirteen participants underwent a week-long session under the guidance of Cophelo Shongwe, a qualified horticultural professional from the University of Eswatini.



Emajaha participating in grafting, budding and cuttings of both fruit trees and ornamental plants skills training

The first day of training was dedicated to imparting vital theoretical knowledge, including safety guidelines for using agricultural tools. In the following days, participants took to the field to hone their skills, conducting hands-on demonstrations and practicing grafting techniques within a well-designed shade-cloth structure—an accomplishment they built together during their practical sessions. The culmination of this training program was marked by an inspiring graduation ceremony, featuring the Indvuna Yenkundla from Mtfongwaneni, who honoured the graduates with words of encouragement and support.

These initiatives are just the beginning of a broader project aimed at empowering our community through sustainable agricultural practices. Kwakha Indvodza remains committed to nurturing local talent and fostering innovation in farming, paving the way for a more prosperous future. Stay tuned for more updates as we expand our offerings and continue to develop essential skills within our community!



Emajaha posing for a group picture after their training

KI's Inspiring Contribution to St. Michael's Primary School: A Step Towards Empowering Young Learners

In a commendable stride towards enhancing educational opportunities, KI, under the SEIG program, recently completed a significant community service initiative by repairing and donating 157 desks to St. Michael's Primary School. This meaningful contribution reflects KI's dedication to improving learning environments and supporting the future generations.

A Community Effort Led by Talent

The desks, which have been meticulously restored, were crafted by our talented apprentices, who honed their carpentry skills through the SEIG program. This initiative not only provides essential furniture to the school but also demonstrates the power of vocational training in creating job opportunities for local youth. The apprentices, having gained valuable hands-on experience, now have a tangible example of their skills and a meaningful way to contribute to their community.



One of the apprentices vanishing a desk during the desk repairs at St. Michael's Primary School

Celebrating the Donation

The desk donation ceremony was attended by a distinguished group of guests, including KI's Executive Director and Chief Inspector Mr. Dlamini. Representatives from the REO's office, the school board, and enthusiastic students also participated in the celebration. Their presence underscored the importance of collaboration among stakeholders in the education sector and reaffirmed our collective commitment to improving the academic landscape for our children.

During the event, the excitement was palpable as students shared their gratitude and eagerness to utilize the new desks. They recognized that comfortable and functional furniture plays a crucial role in enhancing their learning experience. The initiative not only improves the physical learning environment but also instils a sense of pride and ownership in the students, encouraging them to strive for academic excellence.

Shiselweni Desk Handover

7 March marked a significant milestone in community collaboration as we celebrated a heartfelt desk handover, showcasing the incredible partnership between **Kwakha Indvodza** and the **Swaziland Schools Project**. This inspiring event highlighted the dedicated efforts in refurbishing **282 desks** for both **Evelyn Baring Primary School** and **Franson Primary School**, bringing renewed hope and comfort to the students who will use them.



Keith Fossey from SSP making his remarks during the desk handover event

The day was further uplifted by the presence of **Keith Fossey** from the Swaziland Schools Project, who shared his heartfelt joy in witnessing the tangible positive impact these renovations have had on the community. Reflecting on the extraordinary partnership with Kwakha Indvodza over the past seven years, Keith emphasized the transformative power of

collaborative efforts towards a common goal. In a moment of generosity, Keith announced an extra donation of **50 chairs** to Franson Primary School, deepening the project's impact on students' learning environments.

Each refurbished desk represents a significant step towards a brighter future for our youth, and we take pride in being part of this journey. The collective efforts of both organizations not only aims to enhance educational facilities but also inspire and uplift our communities.

As we look forward to innovative initiatives on the horizon, we will continue to work together to make an even greater difference in the lives of our children. Together, we can inspire change and pave the way for a better tomorrow!



Apprentice painting a desk frame during the repairs at Franson Primary School

The Impact on Learning Conditions

At KI, we firmly believe that even the smallest contributions can make a lasting impact. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to fostering an environment where children can thrive. By providing essential learning tools, we aim to empower students to pursue their academic goals with greater focus and determination. Improved learning conditions, such as access to proper desks, can lead to increased participation and engagement in the classroom, ultimately supporting better academic outcomes.



Partners from SSP posing for a group picture with the school committee, students and the apprentices

PSS Home Visits in the Manzini Region: A Personal Touch in Support Services

This past quarter, our Psycho-Social Support undertook a series of impactful home visits in the Manzini region. Conducted with compassion and purpose, these visits were aimed at providing tailored assistance to our clients, enhancing the quality of our services, and fostering stronger connections within the community.

Understanding Needs Through Home Assessments

We conducted a total of four home visits; each focused on different yet interconnected objectives. A significant portion of our visits aimed to assist clients who are physically handicapped and unable to make the journey to our office. Recognizing the challenges they face, our team was able to deliver essential services directly to their homes, ensuring that they receive the support they need without added stress or hardship.

Conflict Resolution and Family Support

In addition to individual client support, we also focused on family dynamics and conflict resolution during our visits. Some families expressed the need for guidance in navigating interpersonal challenges. By addressing these issues directly in their home environment, our team provided interventions designed to foster understanding, open communication, and reconciliation. This approach not only promotes healthier relationships but also reinforces our commitment to the emotional well-being of families in the community.

Assessing Living Conditions for Tailored Assistance

Another crucial aspect of our home visits involved assessing the living conditions of certain clients. Gaining insight into their day-to-day environments allows us to tailor our support more effectively. Whether it's connecting them with community resources, providing material aid, or suggesting strategies for improvement, understanding their circumstances enables us to craft a comprehensive support plan.

Commitment to Lasting Change

These home visits represent an integral part of our mission to deliver personalized, compassionate care. By engaging directly with our clients and their families, we are not only addressing immediate needs but also working to create lasting positive changes in their lives.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to enhancing our support services through continued engagement, empathy, and understanding. Together, we can uplift those in our care and foster a healthier, more resilient community. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to making a difference!

What is mental health and why is it important to take care of one's mental health especially for us men?

Mental health is an essential aspect of overall well-being that affects how we think, feel, and act. It influences how we cope with stress, relate to others, and make decisions in our daily lives. It is just as important as physical health, yet it often gets overlooked, especially in men. In many cultures including the Swazi culture, men are conditioned to suppress their emotions and avoid discussing their mental health struggles. This can lead to unaddressed mental health challenges, which can ultimately harm their quality of life.

Taking care of one's mental health is crucial for everyone, but especially for men, as the societal pressures they face often discourage them from seeking help or expressing vulnerability. Men must recognize that it is okay not to be ok, and asking for support is not a sign of weakness but a step toward strength. Prioritizing mental health can lead to healthier relationships, better stress management, and a more fulfilling life. Let's break the stigma and encourage conversations about mental health, so that every individual, regardless of gender, feels empowered to seek the help they deserve.

— **Mayanda Dube** - Bhoboka Project Coordinator/Counselor

Counseling

In counseling you are helped to explore your concerns, difficulties, challenges and develop more satisfying and achievable goals.

A Counselor

- Will be trust worthy
- Will respect your confidentiality
- Explore your emotions, thoughts and behaviour
- Help you to plan and set goals
- Listen to you carefully and sensitively
- Improve your relationships

Benefits of Counseling

How counseling will help you?

- Improved self-confidence
- Better relationships
- Increased assertiveness
- Stress relief
- Ability to set boundaries
- Trauma resolution
- Less anxiety

Before Counseling **After Counseling**

Counseling can help you to voice and face up to your thoughts and feelings rather than bottling them up inside, which may lead to depression, anxiety, stress and ultimately mental health issues. Through talking, you will have the opportunity to reflect and process your feelings and thoughts at your own pace.

Counseling Services

Individual counseling

To work on issues related to stress, anxiety, anger, relationship issues, work related issues or any other personal concerns.

Family counseling

Provide counselling for the family members to deal with conflict and to be source of support.

Mental health disorder

Identify any mental disorder and refer to medical practitioner.

You can also have your counseling session online, whether via whatsapp texts, voice or video call. It has never been so convenient! Get the Help you need Today!

#BHOBOKAEKSE #LET'S TALK ABOUT IT # YOU ARE NOT ALONE

The pamphlet that is distributed during outreaches to promote BhobokaEkse counselling services especially for men

Litfuba Ngelakho: Strengthening Bonds and Building Futures

Innovative Curriculum at Youth Correctional Facilities

Kwakha Indvodza has established a strong partnership with His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) through a Memorandum of Understanding that has fostered a meaningful change within the nation's youth correctional facilities. Currently, KI is implementing the Litfuba Ngelakho Program, which delivers an innovative curriculum at Vulamasango and the Malkerns Young Persons Centre (MYPC). Guided by HMCS staff and officers, these sessions adopt an open, youth-friendly approach, creating a relaxed atmosphere where young individuals can learn and interact freely. This initiative intentionally provides the youth with a respite from their structured daily routines, promoting rehabilitation and countering the self-discrimination often experienced by incarcerated young men. All activities are conducted in accordance with HMCS protocols, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for the participants.

Family Fun Day: Strengthening Family Support Through Corrections

In December 2024, KI, in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation, successfully hosted a Family Fun Day themed "Strengthening Family Support Through Corrections." The event aimed to foster connections between parents and their children in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. Over 150 parents attended, making the day a resounding success.

The event was graced by the Commissioner General, who emphasized the vital role of strong family support in the rehabilitation process. In her remarks, she highlighted that the most precious gift parents can give their children is love, a sentiment beautifully reflected as students engaged with their parents and loved ones throughout the day. This initiative not only reinforced family bonds but also showcased the importance of community involvement in supporting the rehabilitation of young individuals.



One of the many families that were present during the family fun day

KNH donor site visit

Kwakha Indvodza had the honour of hosting a delegation from the KNH for an enlightening site visit on February 17. The day commenced with a warm meet-and-greet at His Majesty's Correctional Services, where Senior Superintendent Mr. Rainy Dlamini provided valuable insights into the correctional system and its operations.

Following this engaging introduction, the delegation moved to Vulamasango, where the Litfuba Ngelakho Program is currently being implemented. This program is dedicated to empowering individuals through rehabilitation, and it serves as a beacon of hope for many.

During their visit, the KNH team engaged in meaningful discussions with rehabilitation officers, exploring both the challenges and successes faced in their important work. These conversations were instrumental in identifying innovative strategies to enhance collaborative efforts, ensuring that the Litfuba Ngelakho Program continues to make a lasting impact on the lives of those it serves.

The visit underscored the commitment of both Kwakha Indvodza and KNH to fostering a supportive environment for rehabilitation and community empowerment. Together, they are paving the way for transformative change in the lives of individuals within the correctional system.



Delegation from KNH with Vulamasango rehabilitation Officers and KI Staff

Kwakha Indvodza Hosts Engaging Quarterly Feedback Session on Mental Health and Gang Awareness

On February 28, Kwakha Indvodza held a transformative Quarterly Feedback Session for career guidance teachers from various schools in the Kwaluseni Constituency. This event marked a significant step forward in addressing pressing issues within the educational community, with a particular focus on mental health and the rising challenge of gangsterism in schools.



Ongoing teachers' training on mental health and Gang awareness

The session, facilitated by the Phumelela Mental Health Organisation, provided a valuable platform where educators could explore the importance of mental well-being in their roles as mentors and guides for students. Mental health has become an increasingly critical concern in today's educational landscape, and the collaboration with Phumelela aimed to equip teachers with practical strategies to support their students' emotional and psychological health. Teachers engaged in meaningful discussions about the challenges students face, sharing insights and learning how to create a more supportive environment within their schools.

In addition to the mental health discussions, REPS led a session addressing the alarming rise of gang groups in the Kwaluseni area. As schools report a surge in gang-related activities, it has become imperative for educators to recognize the negative impact of these groups on child welfare and the overall safety of the learning environment. The REPS presentation provided teachers with understanding and strategies to combat this growing concern, fostering a collaborative approach to ensure that schools remain safe havens for learning.

Teachers expressed their gratitude for the platform created by Kwakha Indvodza under the KNH project. Many highlighted the importance of coming together to share experiences, challenges, and solutions with colleagues from other schools. This collaborative spirit not only strengthens professional ties but also builds a united front in tackling the difficult issues that affect students' lives and learning experiences.



One of the teachers present during the training expressing his gratitude towards the program

As the session concluded, it was clear that the efforts of Kwakha Indvodza are making a positive impact on the Kwaluseni educational community. By focusing on mental health and the prevention of gangsterism, KI is helping to create safer and more supportive environments for students. This Quarterly Feedback Session exemplified the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing among educators, setting a strong foundation for future initiatives aimed at enhancing student welfare and academic success.

Together, as a united educational community, we can foster resilience, empower our teachers, and ultimately, enrich the lives of our students. The journey towards a brighter, more secure future begins with conversations like these, paving the way for continuous growth and improvement.

BIRTHDAYS WE CELEBRATED IN THIS QUARTER

M KWAKHA INDVODZA



Tom Churchyard
Founder and Board Member

Happy Birthday to you

www.kwakhaindvodza.com



**Wishing you continued success, good
health, and happiness in the year ahead.**

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