



NDA

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BEST PRACTICE PUBLICATION

BOMME KE NAKO COOPERATIVE

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Background

The project started in 2005 as a brain-child of two women who then sold the idea to other women in the community of Vergenoeg. The project is located at Vergenoeg village which falls under John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality of Kuruman in the Northern Cape Province. The project then started with 10 members after being approached by these two women and currently operates with 16 project members made up of 13 women and 3 men.

The intention of the project was to economically empower the community of Vergenoeg, particularly rural women. The project has established vegetable garden and its produce are used to assist needy and destitute families in the community. The cooperative was allocated 1.5 hectares of land to enable the production of vegetables and donate some of their produce to the needy and poor families identified in the Vergenoeg area. Furthermore, the cooperative operates as a Care Group which looks after Orphan Vulnerable Children, Abused and Vulnerable women. It also advocates for the ordinary community members to access social services rendered by various government departments such as SASSA, Home Affairs etc.

APPROACH

In identifying and profiling the needy families, the cooperative members used a door-to-door approach where they introduced themselves and the services they intend to render to the community of Vergenoeg. Due to this community mobilisation approach, the cooperative managed to profile the families and required interventions. The services that they rendered to the community were amongst others to check how many orphans are there, assist with birth certificates and access of ARVs to those infected members.

This process of community mobilisation is planned, carried out and evaluated by the cooperative and community on a participatory and sustained basis to improve the health, educational and well-being levels so as to enhance the overall standard of living in the community. The initial approach was door-to-door but due to the cooperative being well known in the municipality, people now approach them for assistance with different social services, grants, and access to health services.

Since its inception, the cooperative members talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about what they have achieved in helping the communities. The cooperative has won many awards which some of them were rewarded in a monetary value, but due to their passion in community development, the cooperative did not keep the monies for themselves but rather bought food parcels for the identified needy homes around Vergenoeg.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CO-OP

- ❖ To advocate and lobby for material support to vulnerable groupings in the community with emphasis on women and children;
- ❖ To establish a referral system between Government and community members;
- ❖ To provide nutrition and food security to Vergenoeg community and surrounding communities;
- ❖ To provide destitute and impoverished families with free vegetables and solicit food donation for those families;
- ❖ To create jobs in the community through income generating activities, such as sewing and gardening;
- ❖ To look after the welfare and well-being of Orphan vulnerable children in the community;
- ❖ To be an extended arm of Government with regard to service delivery at community level, especially around social issues.
- ❖ Provide moral and social support to the community members and ensure that they receive assistance from different Government departments.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ The cooperative managed to establish a vegetable garden to address food insecurity issues in the community;
- ❖ Facilitated poor persons burial of destitute and impoverished families by requesting municipality to arrange pauper funerals for those identified families;
- ❖ Assisted people infected with HIV/ AIDS to access ARV treatment and their children to obtain birth certificate as well as Child Support Grant applications.
- ❖ Assisted victims of disasters to receive disaster relief fund;
- ❖ Refers raped victims and people with disability to Department of Social Development;
- ❖ Ensures that TB patients go to clinics for regular check-ups and complete their treatment;
- ❖ Provide care for the elderly, especially during pension-payout where they some meals while waiting for their grants;
- ❖ Assisted with identifying Foster Parents to an orphan which was not taken care of by the extended families.
- ❖ Partnered with different Government departments and some private sector where they donate food and old clothes to the poor;
- ❖ They built a two roomed house for an old woman that did not have shelter;
- ❖ Have a centre where they cook for the elderly, community workers and pre-school children who come to have meals at the centre on a daily basis.



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