

**Soweto 14th of October 2020**

## **Good Morning and Greetings from Soweto, South Africa**



The Year 2020 is almost gone and we can't believe that this October was the first time that we travelled to our villages of Macubeni since February. As we all feel it, Covid-19 has changed the world and for us as Utho Ngathi it's a tragedy on many levels. We have not been able to place Day Old Chicks into our Inclusive Chicken and Vegetable Farm since the end of 2019 but the saddest situation is that we couldn't visit our people with disabilities and their families. This is a challenge for us as an organisation and for the people. Our support was reduced to sending Sanitizer Products and Masks to protect persons with Disabilities and their family members against this hard hitting virus. While traveling through the villages last week we have seen many more "fresh" graves and heard from people, telling us how many more funerals were happening in the last 6 months. Many of those people who have passed away were bread winners for their families and this makes this tragedy even harder. We didn't expect to hear so much about Corona in the remote villages of the Eastern Cape, this Virus has definitely changed our world.

To play a role in preventing the spread of the virus we also made sign boards for people to read that nobody can enter our Inclusive Chicken and Vegetable Farm and the community hall without a Face Mask.



We are thankful that we could travel with Heinrich from Evonik Africa. His presence and input in all discussions with our people in Macubeni is highly appreciated and very helpful to all the developments and also in solving some of the problems we face at times.

We had planned our trip long ahead of the journey. We had loaded a trailer with furniture. The German Chamber of Commerce Johannesburg and Corteva South Africa had donated some furniture, which we were happy to carry and donate to Family Dasi. Their House had burned down 2 months ago and all their belongings burned to ashes. The family of 7 people now lives in a small 1-Room House and this furniture will help tremendously, also with encouragement, showing that we from Utho Ngathi didn't leave them alone during these painful times.





We are excited that Afgri had donated 1 Ton of chicken feed and 220 day old chicks. Our Pick-Up was loaded with the ton of feed and Masauso went to the Province of Limpopo to pick the 220 day old chicks at 5h in the morning on the day he travelled to Macubeni, just a few minutes after they hatched.

Ten hours later he arrived with all 220 day old chicks still alive and waiting to be fed and getting the well-deserved water in our chicken house.



It is always very interesting to engage and communicate with our people in the different villages of Macubeni. Life is definitely slower, but people in rural villages also know what they want. A rural area like Macubeni has not many activities, there are no projects to impact the rising poverty. Our inclusive chicken and vegetable Farm is, even now after 5 years, still a good example, that it is possible to develop community projects. It is hard work, takes a lot of organisational skill and we always realise, that we are dealing with a rural community with a very different culture, traditions and a very different perspective on life in general, but we are still there and so are our people in Macubeni.

This trip to Macubeni was another “Eye Opener” as Heinrich called it and we made sure, we did everything we had to do, to continue impacting the communities and continue developing our Inclusive Farm to become a sustainable economic development even for persons with disabilities in the 18 villages of Macubeni.



We had the great opportunity to visit 2 persons with disabilities and see how they are now included in their families and well cared for. Siemens South Africa had donated a specialised motorised Wheelchair with a trailer. Through our life journey program, Thandeka received this amazing vehicle. Thandeka will have the great chance to deliver our produce from the Inclusive Farm into other surrounding villages and through that, improve her poverty stricken livelihood. We had given her the first practice session and will follow up on her skills during our next trip to Macubeni in November.



Driving through the different villages, we always admire the beauty of this part of the Country, but we also see and feel growing poverty. It is heartwarming to enter a house with a child with disability, we met first time 2 years ago and now find the Kid well



cared for and developed, despite his severe disability. Iminathi is a fighter and we, together with his family, will continue supporting his fight to survive and develop.



OPEN INVITATION: We would like to invite you to visit our office and Inclusive Vegetable Farm Soweto, and if you have a few days, please join us on one of our trips to our Villages of Macubeni in the Eastern Cape Province

**Greetings from the Utho Ngathi Team**