

Soweto March 2021

Good Morning and Greetings from Soweto, South Africa

Middle of March we had again the opportunity to travel to our Villages to Macubeni. The Covid-19 Infections are really down to low numbers in South Africa, so it was at least safe to have some meetings with our Staff Members and visit a few people with disabilities in the different villages.

We could not sleep in the Village as we felt it was still not safe for us as Covid-19 took many lives in the 18 villages of Macubeni. Sleeping in Queenstown gave us a good rest after the long 8 hours drive from Johannesburg. I travelled with my colleague Rendani and we felt good to be out of the big city of Johannesburg for the 1st time after 6 months and to see and feel the open beautiful country side was very good for our soul and spirit.



After arriving in Queenstown we have to drive another Hour to reach the gravel road to our village area and you can see the beauty of this mountain area and as soon Ducks, Goats, Cows and plenty of Sheep greet you on the roads, that time you know you arrived in Rural South Africa.



After 6 months we were able to get Day Old Chicks again from Queenstown and they were placed on the 8th of March. We are planning to do some cycles with only 100 chicks, as it is still difficult for our staff to travel around the villages and the smaller number of chicken will be easier and faster to sell. We just wish our expected 3rd Wave won't be too hard on us, otherwise there will be more lockdown regulations and the work in the villages will be interrupted, again. Our staff is looking after the chicks and with some more guiding talks from Rendani we hope that the mortality stays low and the chicks grow fast to the point of sale.



Such staff meetings with our people in the villages are very important. We can discuss challenges (usually more than positive developments), but we also give our people a lot of motivation, showing them we are there for them and taking some of their burden and problems of a tough life in rural South Africa.

We are glad that we had the opportunity to visit some families with persons with disabilities. These visits are most important to us as Utho Ngathi, as we can see how much people with disabilities developed and benefitted from our project implementation and presence in the villages.

Seeing the poverty levels in rural areas are always heartbreaking and of great concern, especially now that the Pandemic has made this situation much worse.

We are thankful to Evonik Industries for their continuous support to our Inclusive Poultry and Vegetable Farm Macubeni. This support is now even more important as we facing costs we didn't have before the Pandemic. With these poverty levels in the villages and poor urban areas, it became more essential to support children with disabilities and their families with nutritional food items to help their development. We can see that it is much more difficult for families to put food on the table every day.



Here a few photos of our Home Based Care Program in the 18 Villages of Macubeni



We have some good news: Our supervisor of the Inclusive Farm Project, Mum Dasi was able to build a new house for her family. We had reported that her entire house had burned down last year. The family was devastated and we helped with some donations towards the rebuilding of the family home. We were excited to see the new house being build and nice to see it is now even bigger than the previous house, Well Done Family Dasi.



We have developed a **Fundraising Campaign “Soap for Africa”**. With the funds raised, we are able to produce thousands of Masks and hand out Soaps, Sanitizers and our colorful Cotton Masks to many families also in Macubeni, to give a better protection for our people against Covid-19.

Donations can be made to our Soap for Africa Campaign as we will need this products during these difficult times of the Pandemic. If you like to donate some Money for this campaign please reference “Soap for Africa

Greetings from the Utho Ngathi Team