

MEDIA RELEASE

CASE STUDY: BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH DIALOGUE CIRCLES IN RUSTENBURG EMPOWERING NGOS TO ADDRESS GBVF THROUGH COLLABORATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Rustenburg – 11 December 2024: In response to the increasing gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) rates in Rustenburg, Khulisa Social Solutions established a coalition of four NGOs in September 2024. The goal was to create a collaborative effort that would maximize outreach to GBVF victims and address systemic challenges affecting marginalized communities.

The coalition consisted of the following organizations:

1. Ikemeleng Environmental Justice
2. Alke Foundation
3. Meropa Healing Foundation
4. Primmy Care Club

These NGOs were experiencing operational challenges that limited their effectiveness. In response, Khulisa conducted a needs analysis to identify gaps in their capacity and offered training to enhance their ability to run dialogue circles independently. The dialogue circles were designed to foster open conversation, provide psychosocial support, and connect victims with relevant resources.

Since the coalition's inception, the NGOs and Khulisa collectively conducted 10 dialogue circles, reaching a total of 395 participants. Topics covered included youth and teen issues, farmers' concerns, women's empowerment, child maintenance, unemployment, and GBVF. Through information-sharing programs and GBVF presentations, an additional 600 people were reached.

Creating a Multiplier Effect

When NGOs are properly capacitated, they can create a multiplier effect to amplify their impact. Key strategies include:

- **Expanding Reach:** Empowering community leaders and facilitators to replicate dialogue circles in new communities.
- **Training More Facilitators:** Building a network of trained individuals who can lead dialogue circles independently.
- **Strengthening Referral Systems:** Ensuring consistent and quality support services across regions.
- **Promoting Collaboration:** Encouraging partnerships among NGOs to share resources and knowledge, increasing collective impact.
- **Sustaining Impact:** Enhancing organizational management and operational skills to ensure long-term effectiveness.

Potential for Greater Impact

If each NGO conducts just one dialogue circle per month, the coalition has the potential to reach 1,920 people annually. With a multiplier effect, this reach could expand to as many as 5,760 people per year. This demonstrates the significant impact capacitated NGOs can have in addressing GBVF and fostering social cohesion within their communities.

Conclusion

This coalition highlights the power of collaboration, capacity building, and community-based interventions. By equipping local NGOs with the necessary tools and training, Khulisa Social Solutions is helping them create a multiplier effect, enabling them to reach a critical mass of vulnerable people and drive meaningful, sustainable change in Rustenburg's communities.

Our gratitude goes to the SRMCDT (Sibyan Rustenburg Mine Community Development Trust) for the support they have given us for over two years in addressing the causal factors of social dysfunctionality through NGO and other stakeholder partnerships.

ABOUT KHULISA SOCIAL SOLUTIONS

Khulisa Social Solutions is a non-profit organization dedicated to driving social change through innovative and evidence-based programs. With over 27 years of experience, Khulisa works to build safer, healthier, and more inclusive communities by addressing systemic inequalities and empowering individuals. From restorative justice initiatives to community capacity-building projects, Khulisa's mission is to create sustainable impact and provide vulnerable populations with the tools they need to thrive.

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