

IKWEZI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Manager's Greeting!



Linda fikeni

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

It has been a pleasure and privilege for me to join Ikwezi as from April 2022. I am grateful to God to have been invited to share a space with all of you during this time of unusual circumstances created by COVID-19. Ikwezi, like many other organisations, is in a time of rebuilding, making sure that, even after this pandemic, we stand together and move forward with helping and supporting our children to make sense of their lives in the midst of all these unfamiliar circumstances.

I fully believe that our God, who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly and beyond what we ask or imagine, will lead and carry us always!



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:7 NIV"

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A. OPENING WORD

In 2020, the President of the RSA declared a “national state of disaster” which was followed by a national shutdown of the country as a result of the outbreak of Covid-19 Virus. Throughout the period of lockdown, most institutions were closed and some working remotely. Many lost their loved ones, many lost their jobs and many institutions did not survive the pandemic.

We are so grateful to God that post Covid-19 pandemic, Ikwezi is still open for ministry, that God has still opened an opportunity for us to serve Him in the community. It is indeed by His grace and His grace alone! We give all glory and praise to Him!

B. PROGRAMS

1. BIBLE STUDIES

Gcobisa re-opened the Children’s bible study beginning of the year 2023. Children only came a few times and stopped coming. We then opened a WhatsApp group for caregivers to remind them to send children to the office. It has been going well since then.

KIDS BIBLE STUDY



CAREGIVERS BIBLE STUDY:

When the office opened in 2021, Cecelia started the staff bible study which was happening on Wednesdays. This went well. Cecelia always felt that there was a challenge with growing the bible study because of the language barrier.

When Linda joined Ikwezi, the bible study for both the staff and caregivers was then handed over to her to run. There was quite a good pick up because Linda can speak both English and Xhosa.

At this time the bible study was moved to Friday so as to accommodate volunteer Child Field Workers. It was later moved to Thursday because the CFW asked, since they are also caregivers, so, instead of having it on separate days, everyone attends on Thursday.

We keep a register to monitor attendance. It started slow as people were still afraid to come out because of the virus. However after some around April this year, it really picked up nicely, caregivers attend every Thursday. We sometimes have prayer meetings and pray for the caregivers needs as requests comes.





STAFF PRAYERS

Morning prayers are continuing everyday at 10AM

2. AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK PROGRAM

Another program that started slow when we opened. Children are now aware that it is back and they have started coming, especially the ones attending high school. It is very helpful that the staff members have formed good relations with the children, it makes them to be able to come and seek help.

Having a spare PC has been of great help as well for those who need to type their assignments and they can use Wi-Fi at the office for their research. All this is done with the supervision of staff members.

We have now added reading lessons for the little ones. It is fairly new but it shows signs of growth. This initiative was started by Boniswa, the Sponsorship-Coordinator.

3. KIDS HOLIDAY CLUBS AND OTHER EVENTS:

WOMENS DAY CELEBRATION:

As part of Ikwezi's strategy to care for their staff members and volunteers, a breakfast celebration was held to give thanks for the service they give at Ikwezi. We shared the Word, reflected on the work they do as Child Field Workers and Linda gave a word of motivation to the CFW as they continue with the good work.



WE THEN HAD A GREAT BREAKFAST PREPARED BY MEN WHO VOLUNTEERED TO COOK FOR THE LADIES.

MARCH 2021 - FEBRUARY 2023

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We closed the year 2022 with a Christmas Party. Children received vouchers to buy Christmas clothes and some sponsors sent Christmas gifts as well.

We had Pastor Fikeni share the Word with the kids and caregivers.

We also had the Board Treasure, Mrs Khulela and she shared a word of encouragement with the children and caregivers, motivating them to work with Ikwezi as we try to make a difference in their lives.

Children then played games outside, we played music and the kids danced, it was a wonderful experience after having waited so long because of COVID-19. They had hamburgers and party packs afterwards, prepared by their mother, Cecelia!



IKWEZI VISION: *Creating a world of hope for orphans in Langa through a sponsorship program.*

MARCH 2021 - FEBRUARY 2023

KIDS OPENING DAY

We officially opened and welcomed the kids to the year 2023!

We took time to get to know each other, played games and had food!!

Above all of that, we got time to sit down and share the Word of God with each other. We talked about the love that Jesus has for us and how He also wants us to spread love one to another.



A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER: JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER JOHN 13:34, ESV

CAREGIVERS OPENING PRAYER AND BREAKFAST

We officially welcomed our caregivers back with a powerful prayer session. We took time in the presence of the Lord and prayed for all our children, the caregivers, the staff members and volunteers, our sponsors and the entire community of Langa. We prayed for all the programs for the year. We asked God for guidance and His blessing over Ikwezi.



After prayer and sharing of the Word, the caregivers then enjoyed a nice breakfast which was kindly prepared by the IDP volunteers. All praise and glory to God our Father who have been with us and kept us till this far.



"And I am certain that God, who began the good work in you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns Philippians 1:6 NLT"



MOTHER'S DAY

In celebration of Mother's day in May , the Volunteers and staff members had cake and tea and the CEO thanked them for their service at Ikwezi.

KID'S HOLIDAY CLUB



**KIDS CLUB
FACILITATORS,
READY TO
START THEIR
WEEK!**



In June, we hosted our very first Holiday club after Covid-19! From the 26th-30th June, we had about 120 children attending the Kids Club. A group from Hats and Glasses, a Christian Leadership Development Program for youth, came and stayed in the House with some of our Children who went for training in Kuyasa to also be facilitators in this event.



This event focused on leadership development, relationships and bible study through games and group discussions.

Kids had fun and were also fed throughout the week. All praise and glory to God! We had caregivers volunteer to assist with the cooking for the children. It was really great to see everyone come together to serve God like that.



"Every child deserves a champion - An adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." RITA PIERSON

CAREGIVER'S WORKSHOP 1



On July 29, we hosted a Caregivers Workshop. We had Pastor Mdolomba from Mzothando Family Counselling Ministry.

This event focused on caregivers and their struggles in the parenting journey and how to help them to form better relationships with their children. The event was a huge success. The turn out of caregivers was amazing and some even came with their neighbours. This meant that we did not only touch the lives of those who are part of Ikwezi but the community as well. The caregivers then felt that time was limited and there was still a lot of things they needed to talk about. They then proposed a second session with Pastor Mdolomba.

He agreed to come again. He then suggested that one session with the parents and one with both parents and children would be recommended in this case. The caregivers received the recommendation with open hearts and they were grateful that Ikwezi opened this opportunity for them and their kids.

Love Life Hall was already booked for the kids club that was going to be in October, so after these discussions, I contacted Mrs Khulela and Cecelia and we all agreed that this was urgent and therefore needed our attention quickly. We then decided to use the booked dates for these follow up sessions. City of Cape Town was able to change dates to the 7th and 14th October.

CAREGIVER'S WORKSHOP 2

On October 7, we hosted the second session of the parents workshop. In this session, Pastor Mdolomba allowed the caregivers time to just talk about things they are struggling with. Caregivers took time to share their stories. What was clear after this session was that, for the last session with the kids, we need someone who is going to talk on the issue of drug addiction because it came up a lot on the discussions.

Pst Mdolomba closed the session by sharing a few points on how to create a better environment for children to be open to you. Secondly, how to deal with a problem some child (setting good and healthy boundaries for children to learn)

CAREGIVER'S WORKSHOP 3 COMBINED SESSION



Linda opened with Prayer and shared the Word.

On this day, we had both caregivers and children. The first Speaker was Mrs N. Ngcime, a Christian Counsellor. She shared on her journey of raising a child who is not biologically hers. She encouraged caregivers to rely on the Word of God for wisdom and strenght and to always try to not overcompensate in an attempt to make the child feel more loved.



We also had Mrs Zuki Buwe. She is a Minister and mother who has a child who has been living with the drug addiction for over 20 years. She shared her testimony and how it has affected them as a family. She spoke a lot on how to give tough love in situations like that. She and her husband, because of their journey with their boy, felt that the Lord was calling them to serve Him by helping other families who are going through the same.



They have started support groups for parents in some areas of CT like Gugulethu, Heins Park and Langa. They are helping young people who need help to quit using drugs by helping them get into rehab. They are working with organisations around cape town that deal with such matters.

We formed a partnership with them, to start a support group here at Ikwezi with Mrs Buwe running it.



We also had separate sessions with the boys and girls. One of our members, Mr Ntuthuzelo Nyoka addressing the boys



One of the guest speakers, Mrs Noxolo Ngcime addressing the girls. She has volunteered to have sessions with the girls from time to time

MARCH 2021 - FEBRUARY 2023

HERITAGE DAY

Ikwezi celebrated Heritage day.

South Africa is very diverse culturally. We celebrate this day as a country remembering the cultural heritage that make up the population in South Africa

We served "amagwinya" and chicken livers for lunch, one of the most loved dishes in Cape Town!



Staff members with some of the kids



Caregivers in their traditional attire!



Children and parents came dressed in their traditional attires representing the different cultures. We are Africans!



With the help of our "Children Leaders", kids practiced and performed traditional dances. We even had a Choir singing for us. I was so proud to see how our kids have grown



MARCH 2021 - FEBRUARY 2023

CLOSING EVENT 2023

Today, the 4th of November 2023, we had our Closing function. We had our Chairman, Mr Luvuyo Dwaba opening the event with prayer and words of encouragement to the caregivers, staff and children as it is time for holidays. We gave a report of what has been achieved since Ikwezi opened after the Covid-19 shutdown. We introduced the new Board of Directors.



The staff prepared a nice lunch for everyone to enjoy and some gifts for the children.



Board Chairperson: Pastor Luvuyo Dwaba sharing the Word of God with the caregivers and the children.



We received sanitary towels and toiletries from St Johns church and we issued these to the children.

4. SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We have children who are sponsored locally – with code IDP

We have kids sponsored internationally – with code WCLA

ACTIVE KIDS ON OUR ROLL

IDP KIDS: 15 as of October 2023

WCLA KIDS: 106 as of October 2023

DEACTIVATED KIDS

(We have had quite a number of children who were deactivated from the program for different reasons.)

IDP KIDS: 07

WCLA KIDS: 14

One of the changes that were as a result of Ikwezi having been reviewed by the Board, to find better ways to grow the organisation, was the new way to run the sponsorship program. Previously, children received Shoprite stamps quarterly, Ackermans and Mr Price vouchers every year end, as part of Christmas celebration and Stationery vouchers every beginning of the year.

The challenge with this, was that, money would be spent even on kids who didn't really have funds in their accounts. Some sponsors give little or no money at all in some months but those kids received equal to every other kid.

The decision was then made to revise how the giving is done. Instead of spending equal for every child, it was decided that each child must spend what is in their account as they receive from their sponsors.

Another decision was to introduce gift cards/vouchers instead of Shoprite stamps. The caregivers forward their requests to the office and we load the G/cards for the amount they request depending on how much the child has in their account. These G/Cards can be for food, uniform or clothing. We did this to eliminate the amount of hard-cash used on monthly basis.

We had a meeting with the caregivers to explain the new changes to be implemented, there were a lot of questions but the Board Treasure, Nomvuyiseko Khulela and the Chairman Nkosinathi Sixabayi explained why these changes needed to be made.

MARCH 2021 - FEBRUARY 2023

This was done also as a way of empowering caregivers and being transparent in how we do things. Caregivers can now come to the office to check how much does the child have and are able to make decision according to the child's needs.

It took a while for the old caregivers to adjust to the new way of doing things. It was challenging and difficult at first for them to accept it but we have come a long way and we are landing in a very good place as the organisation. For the new ones, it was much easy as the only knew this way of doing things.

Sponsors have continued to give on monthly basis. and we have been able to continue helping the children with what they need.

In August 2022, Horizon invited us to send 75 applications and we sent them. We decided to first apply for the ones who are locally sponsored, those who still qualified age wise, and then added new applications. Since then, 58 children out of the 75 have been sponsored by Horizon.

C. PERSONNEL, GOVERNANCE, SERVICES, SPONSORS AND AFFILIATIONS

IKWEZI STAFF

Feb 2021:- Feb 2023 - There were 4 staff members (on fixed term contract)

April 2022:- A new CEO was appointed - fixed term contract

Feb 2023:- 3 staff members were let go and one resigned

March 2023:- New CFW was appointed - 3 year fixed term contract

May 2023:- New Sponsorship Co-Ordinator was appointed - 3 year fixed term contract

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We currently have 4 Volunteer Child Field Workers

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

Ikwezi contracted with LW James Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd to provide

accounting services on monthly basis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Nkosinathi Sixabayi was elected to act as an interim Chairperson for 3 months or until such a time when a permanent one is elected. Mrs. Nomvuyiseko Khulela was appointed to be the third director of the board. Invitations were then made to Mr. Luvuyo Dwaba and Mr. Ntuthuzelo Nyoka to apply for membership at Ikwezi with the intention of nominating them to serve in the Ikwezi Board. They were approached and they accepted. Mr. Luvuyo Dwaba for Chairperson and Mr. Ntuthuzelo Nyoka for General Secretary.

SPONSORS

Horizon International
Members of St Johns Church in Bothasig

AFFILIATIONS

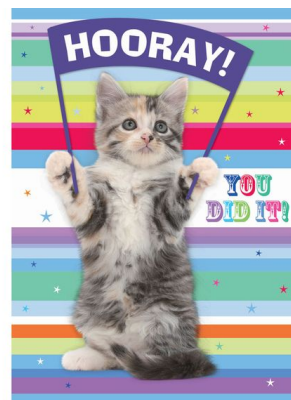
CONNECT NETWORK

"Connect Network is a collaborative network of NPOs and churches working together for women and children at risk, to see communities transformed in South Africa."

CELEBRATIONS!!!

For years, Ikwezi did not have office spaces and was depending on renting out the space from the Presbyterian church in Langa.

By the grace of God Ikwezi Development Projects now owns the title deed to the property situated in 70 Umnga Crescent Lang, cape Town.
All glory and praise to God our Father.



D. CHALLENGES

The donations from our local donors, have not been coming in monthly, we depend mostly on the funds coming from Horizon International. This means there are children whose accounts are on minus and we often have to go to the Child Ministry fund, which, on its own, does not have much. Ikwezi needs to fundraise as soon as possible.

E. CLOSING REMARKS!

When I joined Ikwezi I had no idea of knowing what lay ahead of me. It was a new and different space altogether from what I was used to. The journey to where we are now was not easy but it was one that

required patience, love and care. Today marks exactly 1 year since our last closing function and indeed stones have turned. Relationships have been formed and they have grown. Love is shared between myself and the caregivers and children. I am grateful to God for this.

I am so grateful to the Board, the support and love you showed me has been amazing. You all have been patient with me. God bless you.

To the staff members, my A-Team, you guys are the best. God bless you!

**GOD REMAINS SEATED ON HIS THRONE FULL OF POWER AND
DESERVING OF ALL GLORY HONOUR AND PRAISE!**

CAREGIVERS BIBLE STUDY:

When the office opened in 2021, Cecelia started the staff bible study which was happening on Wednesdays. This went well. Cecelia always felt that there was a challenge with growing the bible study because of the language barrier.

When I joined Ikwezi, the bible study for both the staff and caregivers was then handed over to me to run. There was quite a good pick up because I can speak both English and Xhosa.

I started teaching on the book of Genesis, the story of Abraham. I started from Chapter 11, looking at his background (genealogy). I am still continuing with the story of Abraham. I have taught on his call from God and the promises God gave to him. I have taught on how we sometimes have to wait on God, holding on to the promises that he gave us, knowing that even if the wait does not make sense to us, God is faithful to complete the work that He has started in us. During the waiting period, we see in this story that, we sometimes forget what God has promised because of the long time we have waited. We then try to make things happen in our own efforts but we end up messing up even more. However, because God is a gracious God, he digs us out of the very holes we dug ourselves in.

So, the idea here, really is not just to run through verse by verse, but as we sit and pray and read the Word, we can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and we allow time for Him to move in our midst. During these sessions, the Holy Spirit leads us to different scriptures in the bible as He ministers to our different needs.

There has been amazing change in how the caregivers respond to the love Jesus has for us and the Word of God. Our Prayers have intensified. We have had testimonies coming from the caregivers about the power of God at work in their lives.

A lot of caregivers would often feel that Jesus doesn't really care about them otherwise they would not go through these painful things that they go through. Teachings from scriptures like 1 John 2:1-2 have been really affirmed the love of Jesus and that it was not only for His disciples that he died, or for people who believed in the time of John but He died for the sins of the world. Everyone who receives Him, receives the right to be his child. Everyone. John 1:12-13.

TESTIMONIES !!



The lady standing with Cecelia here is **Mrs Mpondo**, and the child in the photo is Iminathi. He is in our program.

This day, she was testifying that when she met Cecelia, this boy was 3 months old. Mrs Mpondo had just buried her daughter and left with a baby that she had no idea how she was going to take care of. She then met Cecelia and life began to change for her.

She testified of the times that she would come to the office and just starts crying but Cecelia would open her bible and starts to read and encourage her. They would spend time praying and when she left the office, she would feel a weight lifted off her shoulders. She thanks God for Cecelia and Ikwezi.

She then continued that she recently came to the Bible study, this time her heart was heavy because of one of her children who is addicted on drugs.

When she came to the office, it was on a Tuesday, there was no bible study but normal staff prayer meeting. We usually have caregivers join us in these as well. I opened a scripture in Lamentations 3:22-23. We may face a lot of challenges in our live, but they don't finish or consume us because of the Lord's mercies and His compassion towards us.

We may go to bed feeling that we are done, we can't make it to the following day but God's mercies are new every morning, causing us to wake up and face yet another day. I couldn't go on as I felt the Holy Spirit move amongst us, everybody was just praying and we just all continued to pray.

Mrs. Mpondo then asks to see me in my office, she then shares with me her problem with her drug addicted son. I shared with her Hebrews 11:6. I said there is nothing she can do about her son's condition but God can do all things. Lets stand together in prayer and continue seeking Him and believe that He will come through for her.



This day she was also testifying about how God has brought so much change in her life. Her son, who was no longer staying home, who slept under the bridge, who was stinking, whom neighbours wanted dead because he was stealing from them! her son was home, it had been a full month now. She was so happy and she said, " I remember very well when Linda spoke words to me that gave me hope and when she prayed with me, God is good"

This is Gcobisa Ntshewula, a field worker at Ikwezi. In her own words, " I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve at Ikwezi, it has helped me to really focus on my walk with God. The Word that is being taught here has helped me grow so much, I now have more interest in learning about God's Word." She has even influenced her kids to attend the bible study, one of them now even volunteers at Ikwezi from time to time.



This is Mrs Mtshiselwa, one of our caregivers. When she started coming to the Bible study, she sat at the back and did not really say anything, but she just kept coming. In August she, she came to me and asked for a meeting to which I agreed. When we met, she shared a very deep and sad story about her childhood traumas. She told me that up until that time, she had never shared her pain with anyone

She said, she had been coming to the Bible study and frankly she just came because it was a requirement and she thought I was too young and didn't trust that I could minister to any of them. However, as she came, she decided to really listen and she knew that she was there for a reason. After that I continued to have sessions with her, we prayed and I encouraged her through the Word of God. I invited her to church, she came. One Sunday she gave her life to God. On the 18 of November, she was being baptized.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY

We opened the Children's programs for the year in March and we read in the book of John 13:34.

The Bible studies continue on Fridays after school. We have done the following stories:

- The greatest gift: the story about the birth (Luke 1&2), death (Luke 23) and resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Mark 16). We taught about how Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins through His blood. The journey between the time of his birth and the the time of his resurrection.
- The story of David in 1Sam 17, how a young boy defeated a mighty warrior because he trusted only in God and he defeated Goliath.
- The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Even though Joseph was rejected by his family because of his dreams, God was always with him and at the end his family knew that what God had spoken through his dreams had come to pass. We covered Chapter 37-50. Painful things happened to Joseph but great things happened as well because God's hand was with him.

These stories, have a lot of teaching in them. It always takes us a while to do a story because in between we allow children to ask questions. We give them an opportunity to say how they relate to the people in the stories and we teach some more. We teach how to apply scriptures in real life.

This is Baby Limnandi Sishuba

She says "Bible studies have helped me so much, especially the story of Joseph. I feel encouraged to continue trusting God to bring change in my life no matter how painful it is to wait". Limnandi has grown so much during these sessions, she has come out of her shell. She now volunteers to facilitate bible themed games for the little ones. She says she loves it.

