



COVID-19 Relief for Vuvulane, Report
07. May 2020 – 07. December 2020



1. Overview

It has been an extraordinary year but one that has shown us that when we work in unity, a lot can be achieved. As an NPO, we have tried our best to live up to our mission of serving the interests of the children of Vuvulane. It would not have been easy without the amazing assistance that we received from friends, international donors and the community.

The following organizations and businesses; UNDP, UN, Solidarity Eswatini, Boxer Supermarket, Simunye Plaza, Business Eswatini, Lowveld Signs, and WFP in partnership with Save the Children have been key players in making sure that our covid response is a success. The greatest of gratitude goes out to them. Our previous two reports, stated in depth, all the various aspects covered by the donations.

Offering hot meals for the children, in the community, has continued. The number of hot meal recipients has declined, which is good, as it is an indication of families being able to offer food to their children. We are pleased to also announce that there hasn't been a recorded case of COVID-19 within the Vuvulane community, thus making our efforts even more encouraging.

2. Donations Overview

During the COVID 19 period (07. May 2020 – 07. December 2020), the number of meals served are 4764. Family food hampers distributed in Vuvulane, to date - 334 (Approx. SZL500.00 each).

Monetary Donation (SZL)
287,096.27
Expenditure (SZL)
286,984.77
Current Balance (SZL)
111.50

Please note, line by line monetary donor names are only available, on request, to auditors as most of our donors prefer anonymity. The expenditure's line by line info and the non- monetary donations list are available, on request, to donors and auditors.

We are not out of the woods yet, we still need a lot of monetary donations to fulfill our goals for 2021, which include the continuation of the Low Cost Eco Housing Project, the vegetable garden's sustainability and the implementation of sustainable job creating enterprises.

3. Sustainability Interventions

The backyards food gardens, which were made possible by the UNDP and Solidarity Eswatini are a great success as food was grown, organically, harvested and consumed by the various families.



We also received a donation of 60 free range chickens, from two individuals, who made it their wish for the donation to be a startup business for 3 women that live in the Mgidza, Vuvulane community. A large chicken coup was setup for them and chicken feed is being donated to them until the chickens are ready to be sold. We

hope that the money that they will gain from selling the chickens will allow them to expand the business and allow for a portion of their sales to go into a community purse that will assist in allowing 3 more women to start their own small business.



The World Food Programme (WFP) came to tour our Covid-19 response projects and also meet some of the community members, so that they could fully understand our situational needs. Since their visit, we have had a lot of food donation from them (please see the non-monetary donations list for specific items donated), especially maize meal, rice, beans and cooking oil, which offer a lot of relief for our food program. Currently, WFP will be piloting a self-sustaining project, together with us, in Vuvulane, within the month of December. They will be providing us with maize seeds, veg seedlings, fencing, irrigation pipes and fertilizer. These inputs will allow us to have our own maize meal supply for our soup kitchen, thus minimizing our reliance on handouts.



The United Nations Resident Coordinators Office has offered a Covid 19 response intervention donation, which we are still awaiting, that is targeted towards assisting the youth in Vuvulane. The donation will be in the form of 4 Tablets, 1 Laptop, 1 Projector, 1 Printer, 1 Digital SLR Camera, 1 year wireless internet subscription (to allow for free WiFi access for the community). We believe that such a donation will assist the youth and the community in bridging the digital divide and making sure that the youth of Vuvulane have equal access to online opportunities of furthering their careers.

On the 13th of November, we also had the Hon. Minister of Sports Culture & Youth Affairs, Bacede Bulunga visiting our project sites in Vuvulane. It was a great honour, as the board secretary, Khulekani Msweli, was his official tour guide.



Hon. Minister Bacede Bulunga

As we had reported in our previous reports that we have engaged a tech developer, Mzwakithi Shongwe, as we believe it is now the time to have a more anchored web presence that can be the one destination that offers full access to all current and past activities. Having had the largest fund raising drive, since our inception in 2012, it also became apparent that our donors would prefer an ease of access to our activities, on top of our Facebook page which has been a good source for sharing and archiving our activities, and simpler ways of making online donations. The website www.vovcof.org is live but we have not yet made a public launch as we were having difficulties with finding a suitable credit card payments handling software that will be compatible with our Eswatini location. A company, known as DPO, has been engaged to be the online donations intermediary thus able to accept all major international forms of payments. We will have the entire website ready to launch just before Christmas, this year. We also have a new logo, service donated pro-bono by Mbongeni Dlamini, which is all a part of our new online digital presence.

We are also hoping to engage the services of an auditor, within the coming months, so that we can continue to offer confidence, to all of our donors and partners, that we are an NPO that fulfills its mandates in an honest and transparent manner. We did request pro-bono or minimal payment, for the service, but we have not received any responses. We will have to budget for the service so that it can be done soon.

We received a number of requests from various young people that have started NPO's that are grassroots community focused, to receive some form of assistance in how to best run their organizations, having seen how well we have been running VOVCOF. To fulfill best practice, our board member Khulekani Msweli, is tasked with mentoring three organizations (Hands of Paul, Mbutfu Community Centre and Zoey Gina Foundation). Through a donation made by Sivivane (www.sivivane.org NPO registered in the US started by emaSwati within the diaspora – Khulekani is a member of it) a donation was made towards the three NPO's that we are mentoring. The hope is

to see more organizations that work with grassroots communities thrive within their missions, to a point where there is no longer any need for those organizations to exist.

With all that said, we do hope that these sustainability interventions will at least offer us better positioning in dealing with the major issue of food. That will then allow us to focus 2021 on other community projects, which have been left hanging – such as the Low Cost Eco Housing Project.

4. Conclusion

We welcome our new board chairperson, Mr. Troy Dunn who has been a member of VOVCOF and a consistent donor, for many years, together with his wife Belinda. We hope that he will lead diligently and foster new ideas that will bring us closer in fulfilling our mission. We would also like to welcome Mrs. Elizabeth Zwane as a new board member. Elizabeth has been heading the operations of the soup kitchen for many years and we believe that, as a board member, she will be able to guide us into better understanding the day to day nutritional needs of the children. A really big thank you to all of you, our donors, friends and partners, for being true beakers of hope during this extreme time of need. We will continue to fulfill our mission and be held accountable and transparent throughout all of our activities.

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