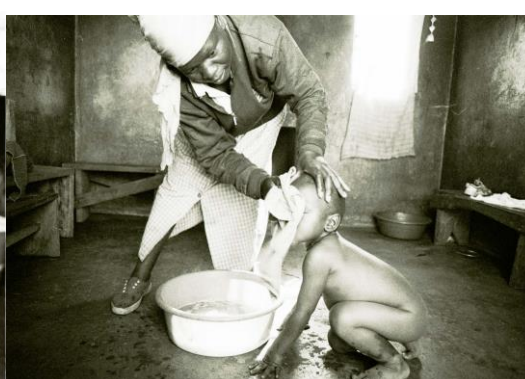


NKUZI

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Chairperson's Report: Ms. Tanya Mungulwa

Current South African Context:

For the very first time the minister of Rural Development and Land reform conceded that his department is bankrupt and sitting on a deficit of R580 million which it owes to farmers who agreed to sell their farms for restitution. These concessions came during the parliamentary debate of Mr. Gugile Nkwinti's department. Majority of these offers to purchase date back to four years ago when recession was not even on the picture. The situation just proves that notion of the inefficiency of government and the lack of a political will to address the land question in South Africa. It is also a vindication for Civil Society's long held view that the market driven land reform is bound to fail.

Beneficiaries of land reform have been set up for failure a case in point is the concession given by the minister of rural development and land reform that they could not provide the R1billion promised as part of the post settlement support. There are land reform beneficiaries who are still owed grants dating back to eight years ago. The state of affairs is exacerbating poverty by halting productivity on the farms, Gross Domestic Product is affected and as a result the Local Economic Development (LED) of regions is affected. Those families who derived their livelihood from the farming activities are no longer working due to low productivity or no productivity at all.

The dream of realizing food sovereignty continues to be a pipe dream with the reality that small scale and emerging farmers are experiencing in South Africa. Nationally government is not putting lot of resources into agriculture related research as expected, and as a result this makes our competitiveness with other farmers across the globe difficult. There is a need for a home grown solution for problems encountered by the local farmers. If urgent attention is not given to this scenario food security and safety might be at risk.

On the mining front the government of South Africa through the Department of Mineral and Energy has given over twelve thousands new mining licenses. The process was done through the government's Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) which is exclusive to the politically connected individuals with the ruling African National Congress (ANC). They do not follow the environmental laws of the country hence a lot of environmental injustices experienced by the poor rural communities. A case in point is the mining activities carried out by Coal without proper procedures and furthermore mining close to the international heritage site called Mapungubwe in the Limpopo Province. The mining activities were brought by the communities to the courts since the government is in cohorts with them. The communities successfully secured a court interdict declaring their activities illegal and to desist from them until they have met all the requirements.

The poor people living in rural areas' tenure is still insecure in the light of the constitutional judgment given by the constitutional court concerning the Communal Land Rights Act (CLARA). The Act's intentions were to provide some security to this vulnerable in terms of the laws.

However a challenge was lodged against it as being discriminatory to vulnerable groups such as women, children and the disabled. The Act was declared invalid and unconstitutional by the supreme law of the country.

The freedom of speech in South Africa is under threat more especially with the proposed Media Tribunal; which is known from the neighbouring country Zimbabwe. Amongst the arguments the ruling ANC is bringing forward is that the media has got an agenda against its leaders. In essence they do not want the public to know about the land injustices going on around them and their cohorts with big business and their tenders. The next target is going to be civil society organizations like Nkuzi and its sister organizations who are working around lobby and advocacy.

ADVOCATING & PROMOTING LAND REFORM

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SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Lobby for and facilitating appropriate support from other structures such as government and business

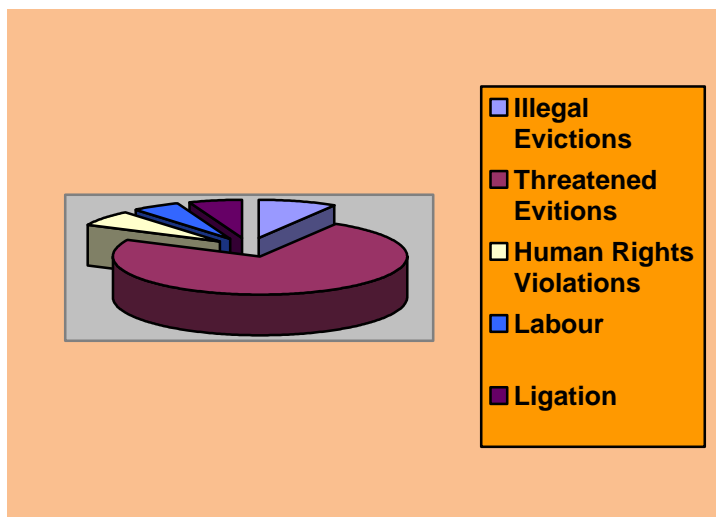
For this current year 2011 we have been able to find two new partners Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality and the Department of Agriculture working within the municipality. They are providing services to two of Nkuzi projects in the area namely, Mabodibeng Dairy and Glen Cowie Vegetable Cooperative respectively. An access road has been surveyed and contractors appointed by the municipality, additional water supply was also provided by the municipality. The Department of Agriculture besides providing a technical support they have just organised an exchange visits for the dairy beneficiaries to go and see a fully fledged dairy, and they have commissioned an architect to design a dairy facility which they will fund until completion. The Limpopo Business Services Agency (LIBSA) continued to assist Nkuzi with capacity building and the registration of projects as cooperatives.

The previous Nkuzi partners are still there namely, the Capricon and Vembe Distric Municipalities and also with the Local municipalities of Molomolle and Makhado Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry University of Limpopo, Limpopo Business Support Agency, Progress Mills and Luffa Hatchery and Makhodo Hawkers

Indicators	Achievements
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	Association.
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Farm Dweller Programme



DESCRIPTION	3 rd & 4 th REPORT
Illegal Eviction Cases	0
Threatened Evictions	148
Actual Evictions	56
Human Rights Violations	0
Labour Related	36
Referrals for Litigation	54
Resolved Cases	60
Unresolved / Pending	54

Strengthened networking relationships	Strong working relationships have been fostered with Advice and Constituency offices, and in particular with the SAPS and Local Municipalities.
Implementation by government	2 workshops on the ESTA was done in Kromdraai and Baltimore 45 and 56 participants were reached. The workshop in both areas included member from municipalities
100 farm resident communities have been capacitated around the ESTA and are aware of resource available for secure tenure and settlement options	421 farm dwellers were reached and on their rights to the land they occupy and even more by way the 9 radio talk shows that were conducted with community radio stations.
Decrease of evictions in area of operation	20% of this programme has been dedicated to evictions. 60 % of victims were restored through negotiations
Farmers follow legal route for evictions	60 % of the cases reported Nkuzi brought farmers to the negotiation table.
Farm dwellers refuse to be illegally evicted	100 % of the 160 cases reported threatened evictions were avoided because farm dwellers refused to leave the farms.
Mobilised farming communities take action to improve situation on farms and they demand their rights as and when required to do so.	Farm Dwellers were mobilized to participate in the South African Human Rights Commission's and Poverty Hearings.
Cooperative partnership with government	
Farm Dweller women and children are vocal about their rights and decrease of women and child abuse on farms	Farm Dwellers are in deed more focal about their rights and Nkuzi's exposure of women and child abuse on farms, have resulted in a drop of these abuses in it area of operation.
Farm dwellers are properly represented in Court and other related litigation matters	Cases of 4 Farm Dwellers have been prosecuted though not successfully. 4 are significant for us since most of the farm dweller cases ever reach prosecution stage.

Indicators	Achievements
Better working relationship with government	<p>Nkuzi continues to play an active role in the National Reference Group (NAREG) which was established as a follow up to the National Consultations on the Green Paper on Land Reform. Nkuzi Law Clinic was requested to suggest amendments to Section Four in the Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA) which must be presented to the National Reference Group for further engagements.</p> <p>The organization is still serving in the Tenure Security Working Group established by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) to advise the minister on tenure security issues so that possible confrontations could be averted earlier.</p> <p>The legal unit continues to serve on the board created by Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) to popularise the work of CCMA to remote areas. Nkuzi continues to be a member of the steering committee on the summit with the topic “towards a better life for vulnerable workers” which includes farm workers / dweller, a project embarked upon by the National Department of Agriculture.</p>
Co-existence farm workers / dwellers and farm owners	<p>Nkuzi’ involvement at the level of Tenure Security Working group of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform is to ensure the tenure security of the farm dwellers is protected. In the Working Group there are two unions representing land owners namely, Transvaal Agricultural union (TAU) and AgriSA. The spirit that is driving the Working Group is to create harmony within the farming community.</p> <p>Nkuzi’s intervention continues to be firstly to bring the different parties together to look for solutions for their problems.</p>
Increase in the number of cases resolved through	Nkuzi continues to pursue negotiations

negotiations and other dispute resolution mechanisms.	approach when dealing with disputes on farms. One of the lessons for this year has been that commercial farmers do not want to be dragged to the courts, they prefer resolving the matters out of court and this has made our work easier and less costly. A case in point is a relocation of a farm worker in the Tzaneen Local Municipality whom the organization has secured R80 000 for alternative accommodation mostly such settlements ranges from R15-20 000.
Increase in the number of cases resolved through negotiations and other dispute resolution mechanisms.	With Nkuzi' involvement in the National Reference Group (NAREG) together with commercial farmers' unions this boosted our profile and standing amongst commercial farmers as an organization that pursues harmony as opposed to misconception that existed earlier about Nkuzi being too confrontational
Improved working relationship with other stakeholders	Amongst the partners we have been working with namely; Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), and Regional Land Claims Commission (RLCC) we added a new one the Department of Labour whom we are implementing their health and safety campaign on farms especially targeting women workers.

Type Of Case	Number
Land claims	10
Access To Graves	14
Eviction	13
Access To Grazing	5
Access To Graves	13
Threatened Eviction	9
Labour	9
Projects	3

Exhumation	2
Relocation	3
Miscellaneous	21
Total	93

Type of cases	Number
Eviction	34
Access to Graves	14
Burial Rights	0
Access to Grazing	02
Access to water	14
Land Claims: Redistribution	7
Labour	47
Criminal/Civil/Maintenance/Pension/other cases	08
Threatened evictions	64
Clients advised only	262
Consultations	56
TOTAL	508

Policy and Research

Indicators

ALRI manual

Achievements

Nkuzi continues to popularize the ALRI manual by sharing its lessons with other municipalities to ensure replication and knowledge cross pollination.

We have been successfully been appointed as part of the Stakeholder Forum in the Lepelle Nkumpi Local Municipality after we have responded to their advert on the local news paper. This is another opportunity which the organization will use to expand its influence on

Alternative policies and learning documented and presented government

Communities employing actions and strategies that brings about meaningful change in their lives

land matters and to ensure that land issues are not excluded from the municipal budgeting processes.

The IDP review process will be starting around October and hopefully by then we should have organized our claimants the area to participate in that processes meaningfully.

A baseline study was conducted in Monsterlus and Luckau farms respectively as part of pre-settlement. This exercise was carried out on the properties the Catholic Church want to donate to the tenants who lived there for many years. This report is still being discussed with the Church and after receiving a go ahead it will be shared with other stakeholders

Seven community members approached Nkuzi to be assisted in making an application to the courts to challenge the imposed tribal levies of the traditional leaders. The non-payment of this levies make it impossible for rural people to get documents which are needed when an individual is applying for bank accounts and official documents from home affairs. We have roped in the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) to present arguments and we will remain attorneys of record. The case has been filed at the North Gauteng High Court we just awaiting a trial date. The traditional councils are funded by the premier office with monthly administration funds and communities feels that there is no need for them to pay any fees for

assisting with administration since it is covered by the government.

GENDER

Indicators	Achievements
Gender is integrated within Nkuzi at a work place and within the communities it serves.	Nkuzi has realized many difficulties that are faced by women with regards to occupational safety, hence it approached the Department of Labour to partner on a campaign to educate women farm workers about safety matters at work as part of empowering them to can fight for their labour rights. The campaign is covering the entire Limpopo Province and two workshops out of five have been conducted already for a duration of five days
Men's changed behavior in favor of women's rights and Emancipation.	Amongst the Nkuzi constituencies there is gender harmony and this is evident by the way men have accepted our women project officers the same like male counterparts.
Women fully partake in decision making and drivers of community development initiatives.	Nkuzi has established a working relationship with Victim Empowerment Programm (VEP) to tap into their experience on working with gender based violence and the first interactive session was during staff bimonthly planning in which gender based violence session was held with staff. This was prompted also by the number of cases in which our female employees experiences domestic violence in one way or the other.
Women are vocal about their rights and are challenging Stereotypical relationships that abuse and undermine them	
The balance of power and control in relationships between men and women have shifted to more equitable relationships based on mutual respect.	The next step is to establish support groups with our communities since, the police are reluctant to take domestic cases from victims who are not eloquent

Women have access to land and are the owners of land, they are also actively engaging government and are able to articulate their concerns and interest more confidently and assertively.

Communities speak out and act against family and gender based violence and are willing to assist and support victims and survivors.

enough. Reports that we normally get are, police are not interested instead they will ask you questions that will make you appear guilty. Furthermore not trained personnel to deal with gender based violence available at police stations; statements are taken in full view of everyone coming for different things in the charge office. Establishing support groups will ensure that victims are psychological prepared and supported to stand the pressures that comes with the type of cases.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Indicators	Achievements
To facilitate Training Of Trainers (TOT) on Climate Change issues	Two Nkuzi staff and three community members were taken to the Training Of Trainers (TOT) for two days, it was facilitated by Southern Africa Gender Climate Change (GCC)
Increased awareness around impacts of Climate Change on emerging	Three workshops were conducted with small scale farmers to make them aware about the impact of climate and what it is. It also went further to make them aware that they also can play a part of in reducing emissions as farmers. The total number of participants was 154.
Nkuzi beneficiaries participate in the COP 17 proceedings	We were able to take 54 participants to participate in the parallel session during the COP 17. The platform also provided a time for sharing experiences from other emerging farmers in developing countries. Much might not have been achieved by politicians as anticipated but the level of mobilization and awareness raised on climate matters was very impressive. There is a need to build on it and

	ensure that municipality develop their own mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of Climate Change on the farmers and women in particular.
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A N N E X U R E S

Sustainable Livelihoods

Munzhedzi Pfano Poultry Project

Pfano poultry project is situated in Munzhedzi restitution project. Pfano poultry project was established in 2002 with the aid from Nkuzi Development Association and Muzhedzi community with 17 members (15 women and 2 men) in 2003. Today Pfano has 5 full time members who are all female. Currently the farmers are engaged in poultry production. There is a 400 – 500 caring capacity poultry house. There is also a cleared land where beneficiaries are intending to produce vegetables (cash crops) such as cabbages, beetroot, spinach, peppers etc. The said cleared land is used for maize production under dry land. The rest of the area can be used for further agricultural development.

Market

Currently farmers are engaged in poultry production, which they sell to the villagers at about R40.00 per chicken and to hawkers at about R30.00 – R35.00 because they buy at bulk but they are intending to venture into commercial farming.

Therefore Nkuzi Development Association is going to engage all relevant stakeholders, extension officer who service the area, Agricultural Value Chain Economist and land Reform Advisor to assist with market related information.

Previously Pfano poultry project used to buy their one day old chicks from La Chicks in Makhado which is about 30 km from the project at about R475.00 per box containing 100 chicks excluding transport, usually they buy two to three boxes but they complain about the quality of the chicks that they got from them suspecting that they are pre mature chicks as they die easily and as Nkuzi we advice them to change the market and suggestion was made to buy from Lufafa Hatchery which is situated in Tzaneen at the same price of R475.00 per box including transport.

Recent intervention

March this year they were having a serious marketing problem and they needed an urgent marketing strategy as they were starting to run in loss as the chicken where

consuming much food and they were already on for market but their regular customers were not keeping their promises. As Nkuzi we intervened.

We analyzed the situation in order to identify the problem, and we found that there were lots of chicken on the market by the time, the price of the chicken was also the problem, resulting from unfair competition between commercial and emerging farmers when it comes to marketing practices as others were selling at a lower price. At Pfano they were selling their chickens for R40 per chicken and R35 when buying on bulk, while others like white commercial farmers were selling for R28 per chicken.

We came with a strategy of saying we are approaching hawkers, especially those who sell chickens at pay points, to sell chickens for the Pfano poultry project and then will only pay later. We managed to get four hawkers who are interested on the deal.

Future plans

A chance for sharing business knowledge, ideas and experience lies in bringing the chicken ladies together with the women of the NDA women's project in Maila. They are financed by government and attended courses in book keeping and agriculture. This might bring new ideas to the Munzhedzi ladies. After sharing this idea with both women groups a joint meeting is set for July 13. This is an official date set by the DoA as part of their extension program. So the DoA as well as other regional projects will attend, which provides excellent networking opportunities for Pfano.

In African culture December is a special month in which families come together, and chicken are on high demand on that time so as Nkuzi there is a targeted market for Pfano and Shimange poultry projects. Meetings are going to be held between Pfano, Shimange and the potential buyers in the near future to agree on terms and conditions of the deal.

Furthermore there is a bigger plan of the department of agriculture in cooperation with a well known chicken enterprise retailer from the province. Nkuzi will be monitoring this process with the department of agriculture which is going to include all emerging farmers dealing with poultry production.

Farm Dweller

AGNES LEBIPI AND THREE OTHERS / MOSIMA INVESTMENTS

This is a case involving Agnes Lebipi, her daughter Christina Lebipi, Edith Mpheroane and Rosmelia Keetse. This case is protracted and involves processes of labour issues and evictions. The case began in 2008 when Agnes and the other three were dismissed from work allegedly due to their refusal to partake in a training workshop. They won the award at the CCMA for compensation, but Mosima Investments obtained a Review Order at the Labour Court, unbeknown to us and to Agnes Lebipi and the others. In around March 2010 all four received notices of Eviction from the farm owners.

Agnes and Edith began residing on the farm while they were children in around 1965. They were raised there, learned to work on this farm, got married and became parents on the farm. This is arguably the only home they know. Christinah was born on the farm together with her 05 (five) siblings. She already has three children and has lived on the farm her entire life. Rosmelia arrived on the farm in 2000 from Bochum. Their case is basically a form of persecution by the current owners, who were allegedly raised by Agnes and Edith.

We are currently in the process of bringing an Application for Rescission of the Review Order of the Labour Court due to the fact that when it was done, neither Agnes and the other three, nor their Attorneys were notified or aware of the Application. We also await process from the farmers on the Eviction Application. This case seems far from over.

Research: (Status of children on farms in South Africa)

1. Summary

This will be a study of children living on farms in Limpopo province of South Africa. It is an attempt to understand the perspective of children living on farms. The research was conducted around Limpopo province in the Vembe and Waterberg District municipalities and specifically within the Makhado and Blouburg Municipalities. Children who speak the three dominating native languages of Limpopo province namely: Sepedi, Tshivenda and Tsonga were interviewed. The age of the children was between seven (7) and fifteen (15) and both female and males were interviewed.

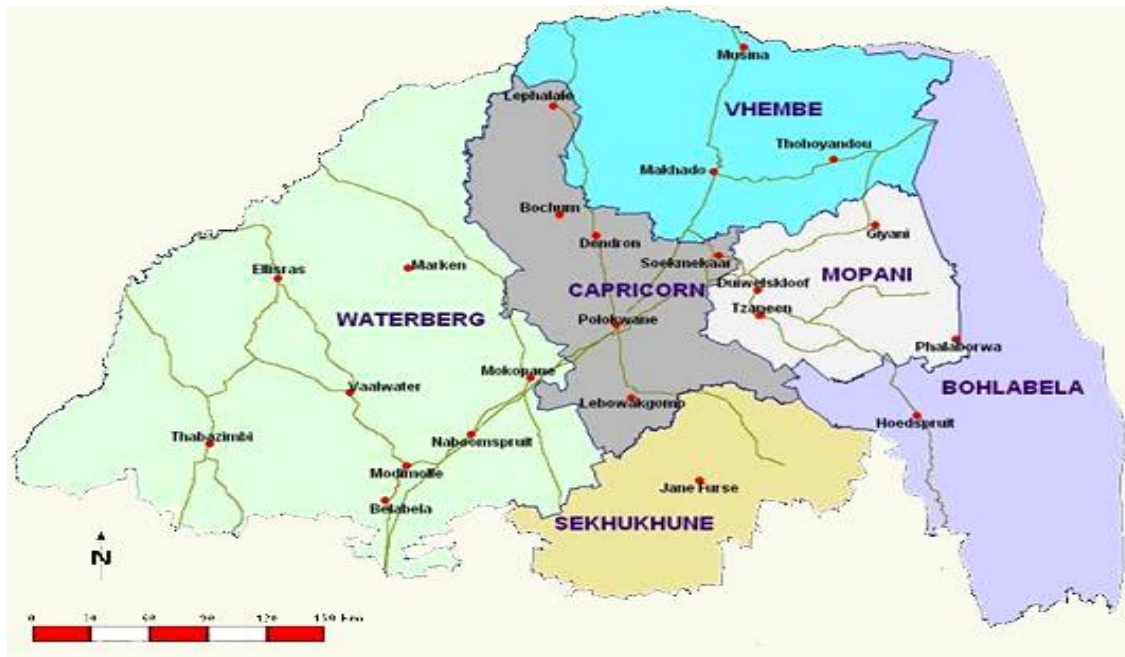
Children were interviewed about their experience of in the farms and general issues that affect their day-to-day activities. Individual and Group discussions with the children were conducted. Parents, farm schoolteachers around the targeted areas were also interviewed to find out their view on the issues of children on farms.

2. Problem statement

Child labour is perhaps the most disturbing and insidious practice associated with children living on farms. There is much evidence to suggest that children living on farms are being systematically exploited. Until 1988, farmers were entitled to withdraw children from farm schools to work on their farms. Now more than 15 years of democracy despite, being illegal the practice continues.

It is not only child labour that can be associated with children living on farms there are other number of things that directly and indirectly affect their livelihoods. The hardships children face is enormous. The extreme poverty conditions they live under, their parents' precarious tenure on land, and poorly resourced police services that are unable to deliver prompt assistance to children who may face sexual, physical, emotional and financial abuse from their superiors, all affect the enjoyment of children's right to life of dignity as enshrined in the South African constitution. This study attempts to understand the perspective of children living on farms.

3. Description of the study area



Limpopo province is situated in the northernmost part South Africa it borders onto Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana, making it the ideal entrance to Africa. During the apartheid era its population was divided along ethnic lines. This was done through the forced location of people, based on their ethnic classification, into the apartheid created Bantustans of Gazankulu, Venda, Kwadebele or Lebowa.

Limpopo Province has the fourth largest population in South Africa and is estimated at 5.5 million of which 54.6% is women, 45.4% is men and youth at 39.4%. 97 % of the population is blacks. It is considered to be a poor province with approximately 87% of its people living in rural areas and with 23% of households having no access to piped water. The unemployment rate is at 48.8%, the HIV infection is at 21.5 %. Unemployment in the province is estimated at 35, 6%. The area is mostly over-crowded former Bantustans or on farms owned by white farmers.

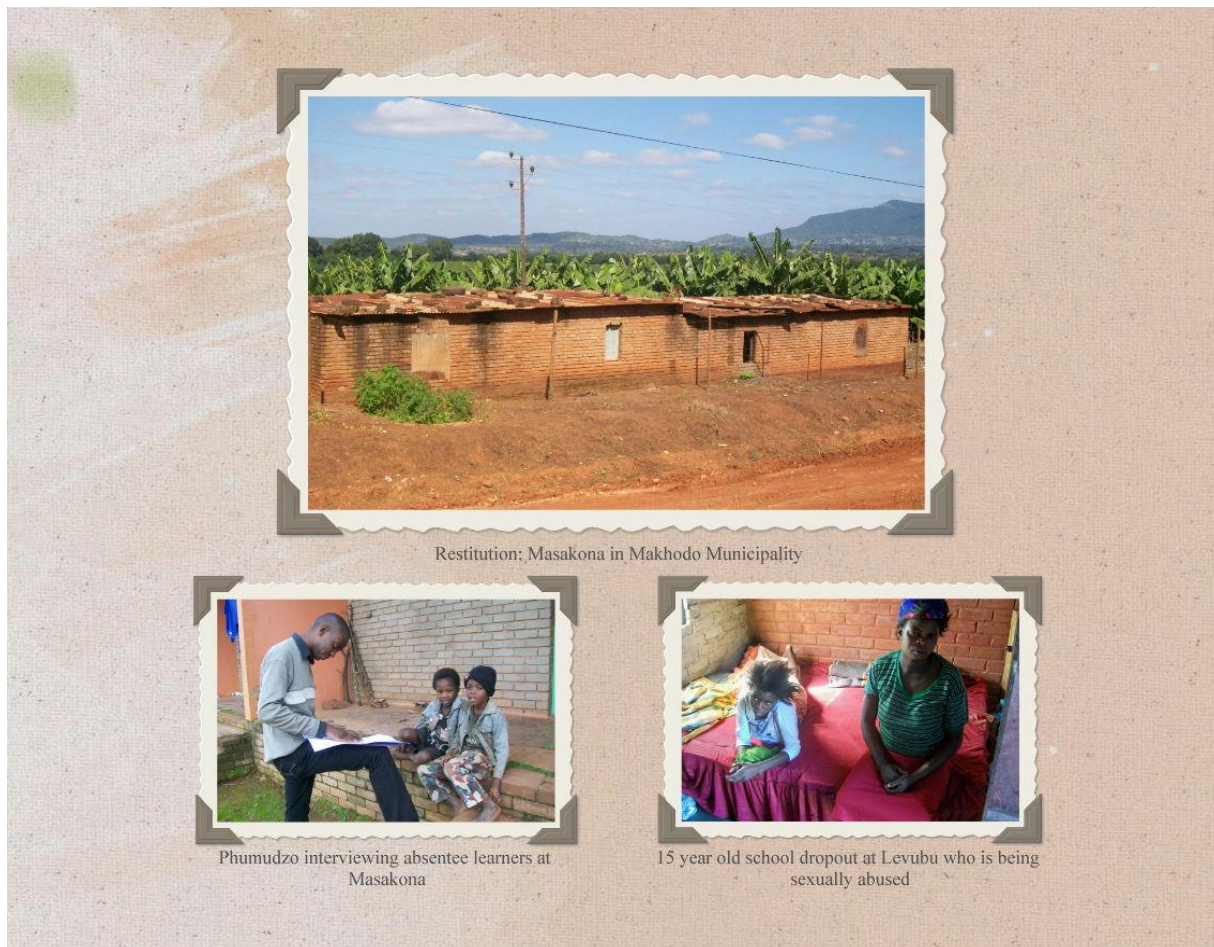
The province, which is predominantly rural, is divided into five district municipalities, namely: Capricorn, Mopani, Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Waterberg. Each district municipality is further demarcated into five local municipalities giving a total of twenty-five. We concentrated on the Makhado and Blouberg Local Municipalities.

Makhado Municipal Area

Makhado Municipality is located in the northern part of Limpopo Province that is the most northerly province in South Africa, bordering Botswana in the west, Mozambique in the east and Zimbabwe to the north. The total municipal land area is 1,600,000 ha and the total population of Makhado is around 490,000. According to Statistics South Africa, 23% of the population is economically active and 77% is economically inactive. The majority of the population lives in rural areas and rural areas are the most underdeveloped. The largest percentage of the rural black population between the ages of 15 – 65 comprises women. This can be attributed to the fact that many men are involved in migrant labour. A large proportion of the population is youthful indicating faster population growth.

The economy of Makhado can be considered a dual economy, as it comprises two distinct elements i.e. the sophisticated economy of the town Makhado (formerly Louis Trichardt) and surrounding commercial farms on the one side and more informal economies and peasant agriculture of surrounding villages and townships. Most of the rural people are resident in those areas, which were part of the former Gazankulu and Venda homelands. The biggest industry in Makhado is agriculture (including fruit production, forestry, livestock, maize and game farming), tourism is also seen as having potential for the future, and the service sector based around government services and retail shops contributes significantly to the local economy.

Makhado is a rural municipality with a vast area of farmland and as a result there are many farm dwellers mostly living with insecure tenure on commercial farms. These are the farms from which the majority of the people in the municipal area were removed under the previous apartheid government's racially discriminatory laws and practices. These communities are now living on communal land, which they do not have full ownership of, it is state land held in trust by the minister of agriculture and land affairs on behalf of the black communities. In this area research was carried on a restituted farm called Masakona, Levubu



Blouberg Munipal Area.

The Blouberg Municipal area covers an area of approximately 5054sqkm. The area will increase after the formalization of the incorporation of Tolwe and Vivo within the jurisdiction of Blouberg. The Blouberg area is situated plus minus 95km from Polokwane. It is an area that covers a wide geographic area right up to the Botswana border. As the Limpopo Province and Capricorn District in particular is a territory characterized by high levels of unemployment and chronic degrees of household poverty, the Blouberg area also has the country's lowest levels of income. The Blouberg area has **18** wards with a population estimated at 161 322.

The inhabitants of the area are mostly the Bahananwa people, Batlokwa people, and a small portion of Vha-Venda, as well as Afrikaans and English speaking in the rural farms. The area has a rich history of physical resistance to the early 19th century Boer colonial incursion. The introduction of the Bantustan and trust systems met with unabated community disapproval. The consequences of this particular stance resulted in both the central and Bantustan governments starving

the communities around Blouberg of basic infrastructures and related development needs. Hence, it is today one of the least developed regions of the province. The main agricultural practice is growing of bananas, and other citrus fruits.

A large percentage of the population is still under 21 years of age. This will mean a lot of social spending. The said number of people will pose an economic challenge to the Municipality, as jobs will have to be created to absorb the ever-increasing number of entrants to the job market. The youth represents quite a substantial number of the unemployed and that means a very high dependency ratio. This is mainly due to migration to towns and cities of which Gauteng is a popular destination.

Poverty levels at Blouberg are very high. This brings with it a number of social factors. A large number of households survive with an annual income that is under R18 000-00. One of the biggest problems is the migrant labour system. In the past women headed a substantial number of households as men had to go and make a living elsewhere, particularly in Gauteng. The trend nowadays is for households to be headed by children, as women also tend to go after their husbands. This has had a negative social impact on the lives of the children as they have to grapple with independence and the effects of the moral decay prevalent today.

(Source: Blouberg IDP 2007/8)

The majority of the people in Blouberg are illiterate. This large number of people comprises children as they make up the largest percentage of the population. In this area research was conducted with children on three farm schools: Baltimore, Saltlake and Tolwe. These farms were in close proximity of each other (20 km radius) and easy accessible.



The fundamental challenge for land reform is delivery of land at scale and ensuring improved livelihoods through creating and enabling environment for new land owners to succeed with land based economic activities. The delivery of effective services to meet this challenge is hampered by the current institutional arrangements governing the delivery of services by the state. Land reform is the responsibility of the National Department of Rural Development and Land (DRDL). Falling under the DRDL is a provincial land reform office that deals with tenure reform and redistribution. Agriculture and the delivery of agriculture support services are handled by a provincial department of Agriculture that is accountable to a provincial cabinet and legislature. The municipality (local government) is responsible for development coordination, some infrastructure programmes and the delivery of other local services such as water and electricity. Municipalities are supposed to coordinate development in their areas through Integrated Development Plans (IDPs)¹, but the current IDPs in most municipalities, including Makhado, say almost nothing about land reform and definitely nothing about services to farm dwellers. Also involved in the critical issues of water delivery is the national Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. Currently there is little effective coordination between these various state institutions let alone coordination with other non-government structures to service the farming communities effectively.

4. Methodology

¹ Integrated Development Planning (IDP) is one of the key tools for local government to tackle its developmental role. It is meant to arrive at decisions on issues such as municipal budgets, land management, promotion of local economic development and institutional transformation in a consultative, systematic and strategic manner.

The approach was to have individual interviews followed by focus groups discussions and they the primary target. Focus group discussions were also conducted with parent, and teachers. It was difficult to children on farm, but easier to get them at schools. It also created opportunities to interview the teachers. The principals were kind enough to let us interview the children during breaks. With the parent it was more difficult for most of them are working during the day, but we were able to get sesanla workers, unemployed and pensioners.

5. Results of Interviews

This research was conducted with 25 children- aging 7 to 15, 13 male and 12 females, 6 parents, and 6 teachers.

5.1.1 Displacement and eviction of farm dwellers

Due to the insecure tenure of farm dwellers most of them are due to leave from one place to some become displaced out of their own choice and where forced or evicted off farms by the owner or person in charge. In a study conducted by Social Surveys and Nkuzi in 2005 it was found that “of the 4.2 million that were displaced from farms, 12% found accommodation on other farms with the remaining 3.7 million having left the farms all together” (Wegerif, Russel and Grundling 2005:43). The survey also found that the women and children that are directly affected by evictions. It further found that almost half of the children are under the age of 18 (Wegerif, Russel and Grundling 2005:49). It was not surprising to find in this instance that most of the children have moved at least once in their lives, mostly more than twice. Mr. Mabitsi Matome from the school in Tolwe said that their experience was that those children who left school because of evictions never come back to ask for transfer papers or they were never contacted by other schools for transfers or references.

5.1.2 Lack of Transportation

80% of services are inaccessible because of distance. 90% children are walking to school more than 8 km.- The majority of children (15) walk to school and it takes them more than 30 minutes. In Tolwe this the main reason for dropping out of school and absenteeism during winter. Walking these distance are very dangerous and parents fear for their children who fall victim to sexual abuse, kidnapping for ritual purposes and now more so for trafficking them for prostitution. To go town they either hitch hike or catch a lift that can be very expensive.

5.1.3 Health

Most of the children have been affected by flu and to a lesser extent tonsillitis. Half of the children knew about HIV/AIDS, but in Masakona Levubu none of the respondents knew anything about the disease.

In Saltlake and Nante Baltimore they get service by a mobile clinic, but in Tolwe and levubu they have go to the nearby clinic. The nearest clinic is between 1 and 5 km, which can be accessed by the majority of children still the majority needs to walk to the clinic.

They never go to private doctor and might see one the hospital that are between 50 – 120 km far from where they live.

5.1.4 Infrastructure and Basic Service Provision

The 75% of the children live in zozos (shacks) and Baltimore and have no access to electricity, the 65% of them get water from communal water tanks and at times those tanks go empty for more then 2 days. The municipality bring water with water-truck and fill the tanks by pumping from the truck into the tanks. On all farms they use pit latrines or the bush. At Tolwe school they are have flush toilets. Although the school building at Tolwe is better it needs, like both the school at Saltlake and Baltimore, serious upgrading. At Saltlake the office is under a tree.



5.1.5 Basic Nutrition

The main meal for all children is lunch that is served at school. All teachers agree that it is the motivation that keeps the children at school. At Saltlake and Baltimore there is little to non dropouts since this is for the majority the only filling meal the kids will have. Pap is the common food. Hardly any parent is producing food but instead buy food such as maize, flour, tinned foods and vegetables from local shops and the nearest owns.

5.1.6 Households

The average family consists of 8 members, mostly sharing a room in a shack and 75% of them sleep on the floor. Household income is earned by working on the farms. Only 1-2 households' members are working.

6. Findings

The environment of children living on farms is not conducive for their development in its totality. They have a few if any role models that act as catalyst for their own advancement. In Tolwe, e.g., a tavern is just outside the school yard where they see their dropout peers drinking and having 'fun' and having money while they must toil in school. They live under extremely harsh conditions that make all of them

want to leave the farms for a 'better' life in town. Although, according to teachers and at their own admission many of the older children are working on farms anyway. The children at Baltimore and Saltlake only have their peers who join them to school for that valued meal and do not have such a high dropout rate. However none of the teachers at all the schools could vouch for any learner who has made it beyond matric. As a result even the schools are not a state to encourage advancement beyond its dilapidated books and walls.

The children are constantly exposed to exploitation and violence of the owner towards the farm dwellers and violence by both the parents and neighbours, which are most of the times not appropriately, addressed and often find themselves to be victims.

The children's rights are directly affected by the insecurity of tenure of their parents and have seen their lives at times rudely interrupted and find themselves uprooted to start a new life of uncertainty and insecurity, which may include the end of their schooling career. Two such cases happened in Tolwe.

Schooling is the most severe problem, especially distance to schools and food insecurity in two of the schools most affected is the schools at Saltlake and the children living in Levubu because they have to walk long distances.

In the focus group all of the children saw themselves furthering their studies tertiary level. Some saw themselves being doctors, teachers, police officers, teachers and nurses.

Food security: is limited due to lack of dietary diversity and vitamins.

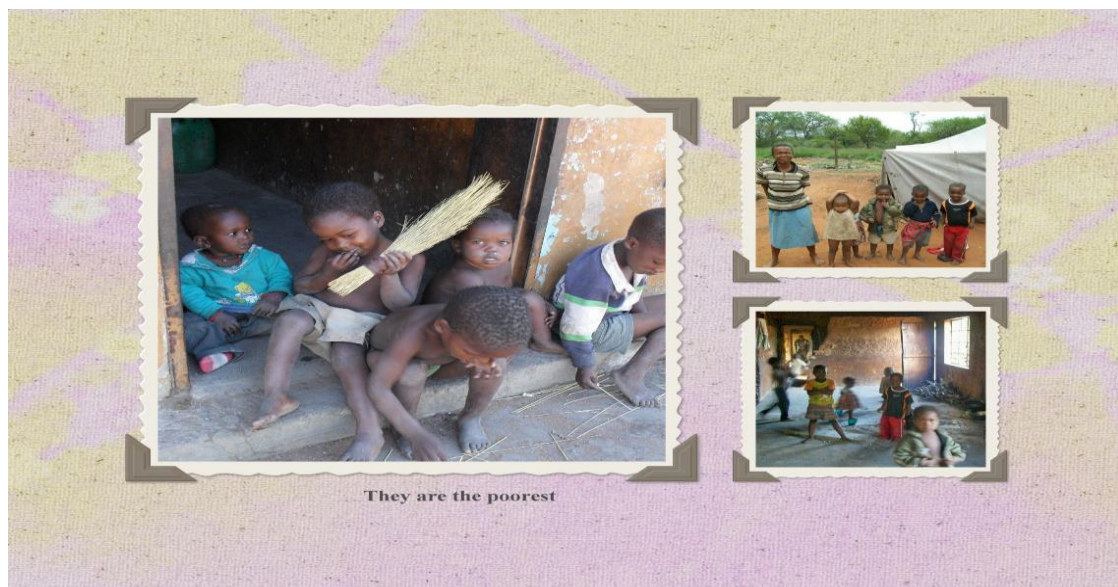
None of the owners of the land has contributed to the improvement of live of these farm dwellers:

The beneficiaries of the restituted farms in Masakona and Levubu: are without proper support from government and are struggling to keep land use activities alive for themselves

(they have also been ran in their strategic partner) that they give little to no attention to farm dwellers and their condition on their farm. It was the only farm where two of the interviewees were not attending school.

In the case of the redistributed land for Nante Baltimore the families there were only given land on their eviction by the then named DLA with no infrastructure development or any other support other than tents and two water tanks 10 years ago. They work on a seasonal basis and some times have nothing to feed their families with. They now live in an old shop and shacks. They are still awaiting development promised to them by government. To add to their misery they have to at times do without water for 2-3 days since the municipality provide them with water only every two weeks. These children don't wash themselves on these days and their parents can't cook for them and thus the school becomes their only salvage. The children generally possessed only one set of clothing for uniforms and were mostly without shoes. They were certainly the poorest of the groups that were interviewed.

On the Tolwe and Saltlake private owned land some of these children had it better (the Tolwe ones more than the Saltlake ones). But this only the case in as their parents do not clash with the farmer. These children have all indicated that they would leave the farms as soon as it was possible to go and stay in town. These children are staying further from school than others. When it come to nutritional status The children looked better fed and dressed than others in this regard Tolwe would be first, Saltlake second, Masakona third and Nante Baltimore fourth.



7. Recommendations

To Government

Devise strategies that will proactively acquire land and developmental support that will create conducive and secure and safe environment for farm children to grow up in.

To strengthen and implement laws that will guarantee the creation of such an environment on and off farms.

To improve existing infrastructure, transportation and access to basic service to acceptable humane standards of living

In order to address the school infrastructure backlog, three main steps need to be employed by the Department of Basic Education namely: continually tracking and quantifying the backlog; develop an appropriate and new national policy and legislative framework – including planning, prioritising, and establishing benchmarks against which progress can be measured and lastly an effective and accountable implementation plan.

Farm Owners

To commit working with the government to make the strategies for land reform to pay off.

To adhere to laws that will help to create an enabling environment for development the full potential of children on farms

To improve infrastructure, access to basic services for and honouring of rights of farm dwellers

8. Conclusion

In part, it is in the historical context of apartheid that the on current situation on these farms must be understood. However it has been sixteen years since the political transition with little significant progress having been made with respect to the inequalities that exist on these farms and urban areas. There is a significant body of research that demonstrates a clear link between improvements in school infrastructure contributed to improved learner performance.ⁱ The hardships that farm children endure is inhuman and totally unacceptable, for no child should be subjected such atrocious conditions. These problems are not new and are well documented and government is aware of it. These children also have dreams for betterment in their lives It is for government together with civil society and all other actors to truly work for the improvement on live on farms for **our** children. The continuation of this important work is a must since we have only begun to unveil the circumstances that these children face and we have not start to make a difference yet. There is a need to make further linkages to: social protection, education and food security. There is also a need to deepen our knowledge base, widen the scope of the reseach, building links to government and other sectors and to develop thought about how to faicilitate the organisation of children.

ⁱ This was findings from surveys conducted by the Sother African Consortium for Measuring Education Qaulity (2005)

It is important that all relevant stakeholders, including those living on farms like parents and neighbours, work together to improve the living conditions of children living on farms.