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Founding Director's Report

Lillian Masabenza, Founding Director: Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network



Lillian Masabenza, Founding Director:
Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network

Making a Difference

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” – Nelson Mandela. Through its holistic, integrated and inclusive programmes, Mhani Gingi strives to empower the voiceless marginalised individuals of our society. Leaving a lasting legacy for the future generation requires ensuring that the youth of today are educated, while those who did not have the opportunity of being educated are given the necessary skills. The petal illustrative diagram depicts the Mhani Gingi integrated approach.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

In 2014 Mhani Gingi celebrated 10 years. The theme of the celebration was based on the shrub, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, which obtained its name because the same flower changes colour from being purple the first day (Yesterday), to pastel lavender (Today) and almost white the third day (Tomorrow). Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a dream; all we have is today. Mhani Gingi has used yesterday's lessons by always engaging fully in the present in order to achieve tomorrow's dream.

Women's Innovation Trade Fair (WITF) 2014: CTICC 6 – 8 March

“Igniting Economic Possibilities”

“It always seems impossible until it's done.” – Nelson Mandela again. More than 500 local and international women attended this interactive and inclusive event. These women at all levels of entrepreneurship shared valuable learnings and experiences, formed linkages and partnerships, and conducted trade with one another over the three days. One of the highlights was the Survivor's Walk, which marked the International Women's Day on 8 March. One of the international delegates remarked, “Having been a delegate at many international events and rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous, this is the first event I have been to where the wonderful people at grassroots are included. Has this ever happened in S.A?”

Accomplishments and Accolades

- **Flagship Environmental Programme:** In the fight to alleviate hunger, 25 community gardens have been established, resulting in 50 community gardeners being trained. Pick n Pay Foundation and General Mills together with United World Wide funded the programme. One Centre of Excellence has been established in Gugulethu to promote organic propagation of vegetables in the communities; three more will be established in the coming year. The year 2016/17 will also see 25 deaf people being employed at a Mhani Gingi agricultural initiative in collaboration with a farmer in Paarl and the Department of Social Development. Meanwhile, 25 young offenders will be trained in farming methods to prepare them for when they are released.

- **Hanging/Vertical Gardens:** These were established at Mhani Gingi Nursery, RCS Group offices, and Langa Cheshire Home for Disabled Adults sponsored by Soroptimists in the United Kingdom.
- **Showcasing Social Enterprises:** Mhani Gingi and ClayDezign joined forces to train six women. They designed salt-and-pepper sellers based on an Ndebele Bride design. The Cape Grace Hotel used it as gifts for their VIP guests. The group also joined the Potters Association of South Africa. Ten social entrepreneurs had the opportunity to sell at various Mhani Gingi-organised markets. One of the highlights was the highly successful market where they sold at the event of 300 International Women's Club ladies, each for not less that R3 000! Twenty women from the club also visited the various Mhani Gingi projects and made more purchases.
- **Financial Workshops:** A group of 25 women attended Financial Management workshops funded by LegalWise.
- **Social Responsibility:** Mhani Gingi works extensively at the level of Early Learning Centre Education.

Quantitative Outcomes

Year	Number of ECD Centres	Impacted Practitioners	Impacted Children and Families	Vegetable Gardens Established
2013	4	14	200	5
2014 / 2015	6	25	294	5
2015 / 16	14	57	600	5

80% of students will be promoted to the next grade level

100% of learners will be safe and secure

Organic Rose Geranium Farm Proposal

- The unique Rose Geranium Farm proposal, which included involving five wheelchair-bound disabled people, took Mhani Gingi to Copenhagen, Denmark, in September 2015 to compete among 50 finalists of the University Startup World Cup Competition. This programme will be implemented in 2016/17.

1.6 Million Health Club SA Launch

- 150 people, including the Swedish Ambassador HE Anders Hagelberg, attended while the Guest Speaker was Professor Karin Schenk-Gustaffson, Professor and Senior Consultant in Cardiology as well as Founder and Chair of the Centre of Gender Medicine at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. For the Women's Month celebration in August, 300 women attended an event with the theme of Empowering Women with Wellness.

Accolades

- July 2014 – Speaker at TEDxUFS. Theme: Change Tomorrow Today. Topic: Solving chronic poverty through sustainable economy.
- July 2015 – CEO Most Influential Women in Business and Government awards, Country and Regional.
- September 2015 – Finalist in the University Startup World Cup 2015, run by Venture Cup, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Gratitude

On behalf of Mhani Gingi Trustees, staff and volunteers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funders and all those who supported Mhani Gingi in kind during this period. All what we have done would not have been possible had it not been for your support.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences go to the families of:

- Dineo Tsotetsi, who was a House Mother at Langa Cheshire House of Disabled adults, who tragically passed away in a car accident in November 2014.
- Boniswa, who started Siyaphila Early Learning Centre and was very passionate about taking care of little ones.

Organisational Management and Staff

MHANI GINGI SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK



Lillian Patricia Masebenza:
Executive Director
and Social Entrepreneur



Nonhlanhla Penelope Jali:
Trustee — Strategy Consultant



Joan Helen Wright:
Trustee — Teacher, KUMON



Tabisa Mahlathi:
Flagship Programme Co-ordinator



Dr Earl Jeffrey Starr:
Trustee — Quality Management
Consultant, SIMCON

Board Members

1. Lillian Patricia Masebenza: Executive Director and Social Entrepreneur
2. Joan Helen Wright: Trustee — Teacher, KUMON
3. Nonhlanhla Penelope Jali: Trustee — Strategy Consultant
4. Dr Earl Jeffrey Starr: Trustee — Quality Management Consultant, SIMCON

Staff and Senior Programme Managers

1. Lillian Patricia Masebenza— Founding Director and Flagship Programme Manager
2. Joan Helen Wright — Social Responsibility Programme Manager
3. Tabisa Mahlathi— Flagship Programme Co-ordinator

Mhani Gingi Organisational Profile

The Power of The Collaborative Collective — Creating Human and Economic Wealth Together

Who we are

The Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network was established in South Africa in August 2004 by Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza, and officially launched in April 2006. Lillian sees her social entrepreneurial organisation becoming a renowned leader in providing innovative solutions and business opportunities aimed at alleviating poverty within the global society.

Vision

To be a renowned leader in providing innovative solutions towards eradicating poverty within the global society, aligned to the South African National Development Plan guidelines, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Mission

Empowering individuals to make informed decisions and improve the quality of their lives through the 'Power of the Collaborative Collective'.

What we do

Mhani Gingi focuses on collaborative, collective impact to tackle social challenges for sustainable change. We understand that large-scale social transformation comes from collaboration and better cross-sector co-ordination rather than from the isolated intervention of an individual organisation. We actively partner with communities, like-minded organisations and government to generate true alignment and powerful results.

The 'Power of the Collaborative Collective'

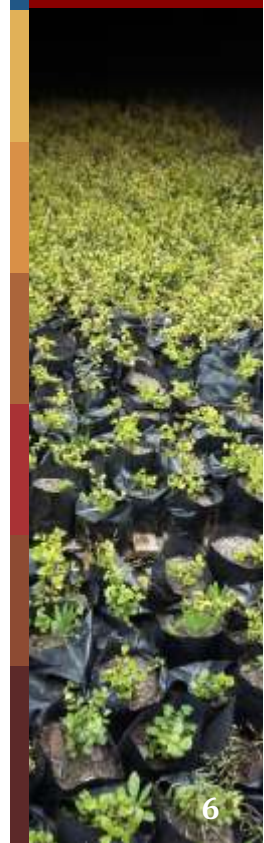
By leveraging the 'Power of the Collaborative Collective' Mhani Gingi empowers individuals to realise that through working together they become more influential — in respect of social impact, relationships, skills, finance and negotiating power!

Who we work with

Primary target group: Marginalised women; youth who are unskilled, under-skilled or unemployed; vulnerable groups such as children, people living with disability, and the aged.

Secondary target group: Businesses and corporations, locally and internationally; individuals running their own businesses; governments; academia; international collaborators and partners; sponsors, grant makers and philanthropists locally and internationally; social entrepreneurs.

We link the latter to our primary target group, which represents a considerable and untapped market of opportunities.





What is unique about us

Mhani Gingi provides tailor-made training modules, coaching and mentorship to help change people's mindsets and improve their skills set. Network members are encouraged to apply their newfound skills to 'use what they have' to improve their relationships, businesses and the communities they live in.

Mhani Gingi's programmes

Mhani Gingi leverages its three programme areas to address the social challenges at their source. Programmes are focused on three main initiatives:

1. Flagship Programme — Environmental Sustainability: The Flagship Programme promotes better nutritional practices at all levels to enhance direct and immediate access to food by the most needy. Through the development of community gardens and environmental awareness initiatives, it is hoped that as communities are taught how to produce and eat healthy food, more and more opportunistic diseases, caused by lack of nutrition, will be eradicated. Hence promoting living by the mantra of 'Prevention is better than cure!'

2. Network Member Initiatives — Enterprise Development: The Network Member Initiatives strive to eradicate chronic poverty through the provision of business and technical skills necessary for members to produce high quality products and services. Mhani Gingi actively promotes these products and services and provides linkages to institutions, both nationally and internationally, to open up new markets, strategic partnerships and funding opportunities.

3. Social Responsibility Programme — Social Upliftment: To ensure that we grow an adult society where there is self-belief and self-esteem, we need to start with the youth. Our Social Responsibility programme has an ambitious mission to implement practical initiatives at *every* stage of a person's life, from "*infancy to tomorrow's independent society*". We focus on caring for our vulnerable groups, particularly on Early Childhood Development and the youth, to equip young people of all ages to listen to their heart, believe in themselves and find their voice.

Mhani Gingi Values

Branch: Programme
Network Initiatives
(Enterprise Development)
Skills, Training, Networking

Branch: Programme
Flagship (Environmental Sustainability)
Mhani Gingi Nursery
Mhani Gingi Centre of Social
Entrepreneurial Excellence

Branch: Programme
Social Responsibility
(Social Upliftment)
Childcare, Education, Aged

Seed: Vision
To be a renowned leader
in providing innovative
solutions towards the
eradication of poverty

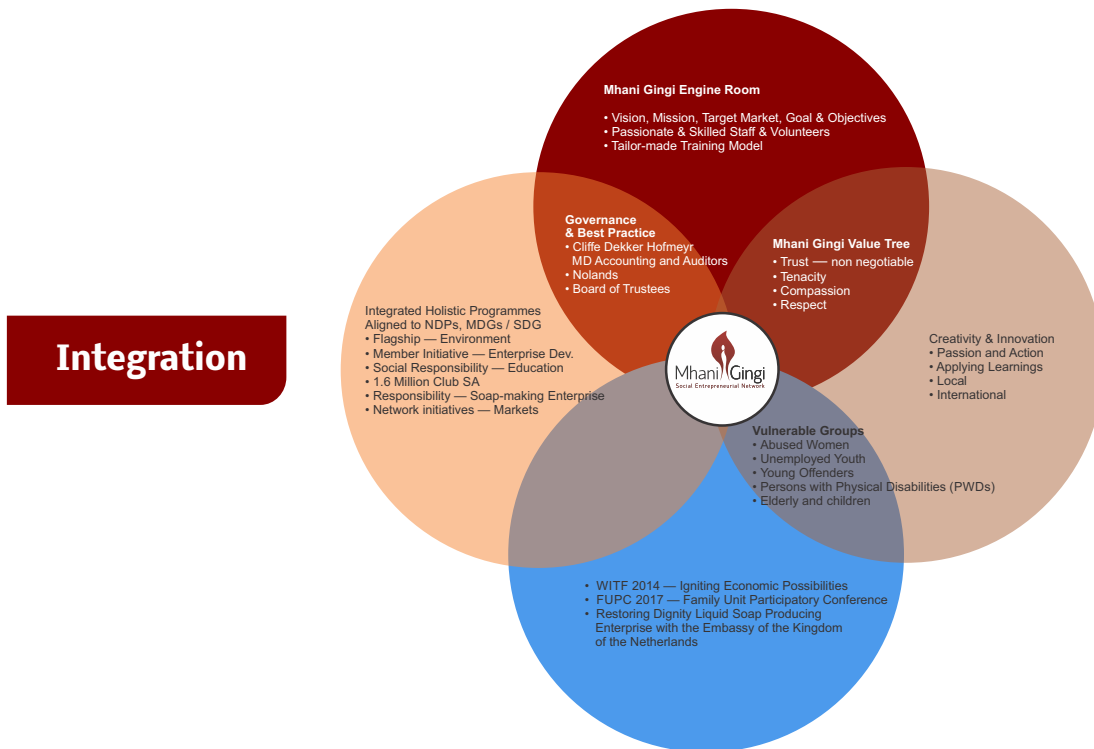


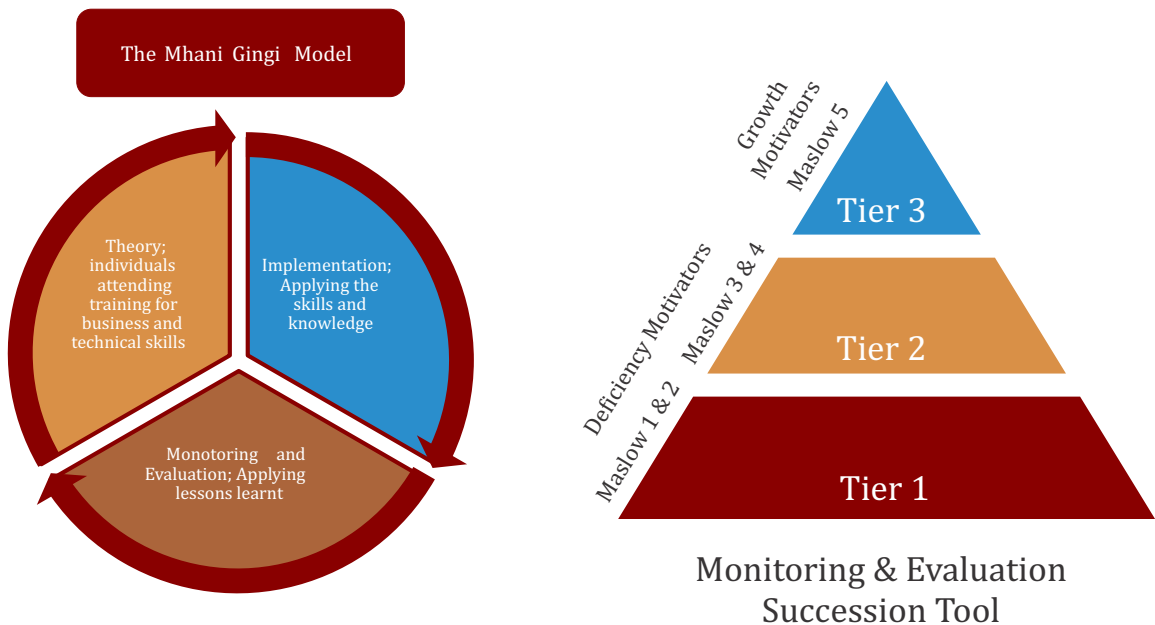
Trunk: Organisational Structure
Communication, HR, Finance etc.

Tap Root System: Values



Organisational Diagram





Flagship Programme

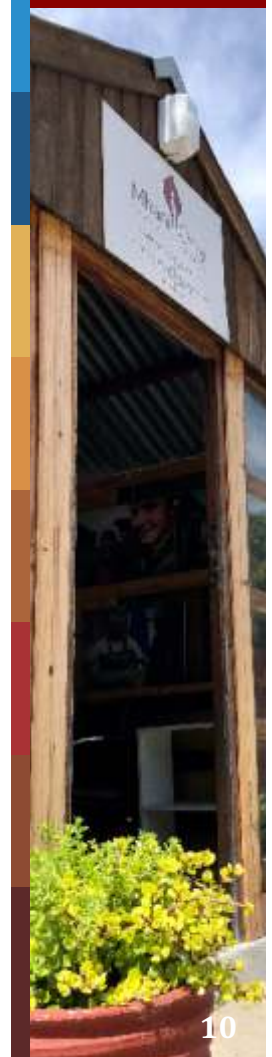
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The year 2018/2019 was a very challenging yet exciting year for Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network, working with 25 physically disabled people from three different Cape Town communities, reports Mhani Gingi Project Manager and Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme, Tabisa Mahlathi. In this regard the Mhani Gingi Trust acknowledges the significant contribution from the Department of Social Development, via the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) of the National Department of Public Works, towards ensuring the impact of the Flagship Programme. The programme is dedicated to Mhani Gingi's environmental and health efforts. For the previous decade, the Mupine cottage at the Old Mutual Head Office in Pinelands, Cape Town, was home to the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Seedling Nursery and its staff. This was a wonderful starting experience and opportunity provided to Mhani Gingi by Old Mutual, as part of their social responsibility efforts. In that space, organically propagated seedlings to vegetables were produced and the organisation managed to put Mhani Gingi Nursery's name 'out there' at some of Cape Town's fresh produce and craft markets. These outlets included the Old Mutual Monthly Staff Markets in the shopping mall at Old Mutual Business Park.

Since relocating to the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Athlone, Cape Town, the Mhani Gingi Flagship Programme established the Centre for Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, which was officially opened by the former Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, the Honourable Ms Barbara Thomson, in 2018. Plans instituted during 2019 to expand the programme to the surrounding community and to empower more people from the communities with whom Mhani Gingi works will continue into the year 2020.

Two ministerial visits in one year

Being honoured by the visits of two Government ministers and their delegations to the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence during 2019 was very exciting for the Flagship Programme, said Mahlathi. This honour served to validate the importance of the efforts of the organisation towards sustainable and healthy lifestyles for vulnerable groups in the wider Cape Town area.



Honourable Minister Lindiwe Zulu visits Mhani Gingi to showcase the Sustainable Livelihoods approach

A highlight of the year for Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network was the visit of the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, and an entourage of officials to the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence on the day of the Minister's Budget Vote on 11 July 2019. The entourage included MECs for Social Development, a representative from the United Nations, and officials from the Department of Social Development. The Honourable Minister identified Mhani Gingi for the site visit to celebrate and showcase the sustainable livelihoods approach practised by Mhani Gingi because sustainable livelihoods formed the theme of the Minister's Budget Speech.

The dignitaries toured Mhani Gingi's facilities at the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, which include the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery and the Restoring Dignity Liquid Soap Producing Enterprise project for survivors of domestic violence. There are also three growing tunnels, a hot house for propagation, a ground vegetable garden, herb cultivation, and a vertical garden which enables people in wheelchairs to participate in urban agriculture.

The Honourable Minister's Budget Vote Speech delivered in the National Parliament outlined her department's plans and budget allocations for the year. In her Budget Speech delivered the following week, on 25 July, the Honourable Minister explained the theme, 'Working Together to Empower Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods'.

'Sustainable Livelihoods' approach

"Sustainable livelihoods is about creating a conducive environment for individuals, families and communities to enhance their capabilities and sustain themselves now and in the future. This will be fully achieved when every South African is able to reach their full potential," she said.

Founding Director of Mhani Gingi, Lillian Masebenza, commented after the visit: "The Honourable Minister Zulu's visit was very special for us because it was validation of Mhani Gingi's Sustainable Livelihood approach, which is rooted not only in our National Development Plan but also in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, her visit was the first of two ministerial visits to Mhani Gingi in one year.

"During her visit the Honourable Minister praised the work that Mhani Gingi is doing amongst vulnerable groups. She also praised the groups themselves — the Persons with Physical Disabilities (PWDs) from Uitsig Community; Blouville School for Learners with Special Needs (LSN) in Retreat; and women survivors of abuse — for taking responsibility in restoring their dignity. Because of this accolade, Mhani Gingi has been linked with the Agency for Social Development, whom we are now supplying with vegetables and herbs," Masebenza said.

"We also have an opportunity to employ six beneficiaries at the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, via the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), facilitated by the Department of Social Development. We teach them propagation skills, how to start and maintain a vegetable garden, and correct, healthy plant-based cooking. We are not only promoting a healthy

lifestyle by helping to prevent diseases of affluence in the vulnerable communities, but also addressing the problem of unemployment,” she said. Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme, Tabisa Mahlathi, reports that the reason for the honour of a visit by the Honourable Minister of Social Development, on the day of her Budget Vote, was because the work that Mhani Gingi does as an organisation inspired the Honourable Minister. “Mhani Gingi pursues inclusivity in the sense of doing urban agriculture with people with physical disabilities through food gardening. The Honourable Minister's Budget Speech on Sustainable Livelihoods in the National Parliament on 25 July was aligned with the work of Mhani Gingi and Ms Zulu also invited the people with physical disabilities from Uitsig Community to be Guests of Honour in Parliament as the Honourable Minister delivered her speech.

“The beneficiaries were very proud and honoured by the Honourable Minister's invitation. Most of all, they felt they also belonged to the society as people with physical disabilities face many challenges which often impact on their self-esteem.”

Vulnerable communities

Mhani Gingi promotes sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable groups within poverty-stricken communities of the Cape Flats, including women and children, youth at risk at the Goodwood facility of the Department of Correctional Services, and people with disabilities. As a result of lack of suitable space from which to operate, the organisation is presently situated on a piece of unused land at the premises of the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Athlone, Cape Town.

The Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence also showcases Mhani Gingi's innovations to promote inclusivity for people with physical disabilities in gardening.



Nurserywoman Vuyiseka Tekwana (left), and Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza, at the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence.



Western Cape Minister of Health tours Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence

Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network was honoured by a second ministerial visit in 2019 when the Honourable Minister of Health of the Western Cape Government, Dr Nomafrench Mbombo, on 2 September 2019 visited the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence which promotes healthy lifestyles in alignment with the WesternCape on Wellness (WoW!) programme of the Department of Health in the province.

“We introduced the Honourable Minister to the group of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) from Uitsig Community and their group leader, Vanessa Baadjies, who maintain food gardens at the Uitsig Community Hall surroundings and at the Uitsig Primary School. Also present were those who garden at Blouville School for Learners with Special Needs (LSN) in Retreat, accompanied by their principal, Cordelia Romes,” said Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director of Mhani Gingi.

Tabisa Mahlathi, Project Co-ordinator who also manages the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, demonstrated the correct way of planting vegetable and herb seedlings — in which the Honourable Minister participated. Also showcased was how the Mhani Gingi space is wheelchair-friendly and the Uitsig group are able to work on the vertical gardens while sitting in their wheelchairs.

The planting session was followed by stretching exercises led by Dr Frederick Marais, Deputy Director: Increasing Wellness at the Western Cape Government Department of Health, and his group. Dr Marais spearheads the WoW! wellness initiative promoting a healthy lifestyle in the province. "The reason for the visit of the Honourable Minister and Dr Marais was to guide the gardeners with physical disabilities from Uitsig Community on how to do daily exercises to stretch their bodies. He also educated the group on the importance of maintaining their own food gardens as the food that is sold in the supermarkets is not as healthy as in olden days when more community members were planting their own food," Mahlathi said.

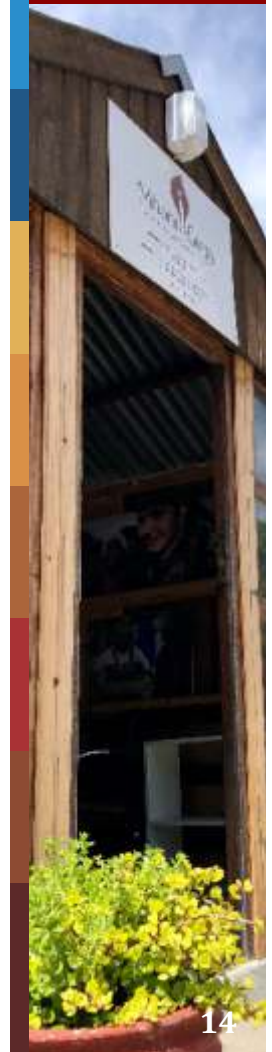
Dr Marais also donated WoW! T-shirts and caps to the Uitsig Community group, which they were able to take with them when they later competed in the annual Wheelchair Challenge OCC Race in George in the Southern Cape. 2019 was the first year in which a woman from the Uitsig Community group competed in the wheelchair racing event.



The group of gardeners with physical disabilities from Uitsig Community with the Honourable Minister of Health of the Western Cape Government, Dr Nomafrench Mbombo.

Peter Sampson and Adrian van der Merwe of the group have won gold and bronze medals in numerous of the competitions in which they race as members of the Mandla Sport4Change organisation. Sampson first competed in the race in 2014.

Flagship Programme



FROM THE LEFT: Mhani Gingi Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza (left), with the Honourable Minister of Health of the Western Cape Government, Dr Nomafrench Mbombo. The Honourable Minister (in the WoW! T-shirt) on her visit to Mhani Gingi.

Mhani Gingi 'health champions' trained in healthy plant-based cooking by WoW!

Members of Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network received training in healthy food preparation when they attended a Healthy Plant-Based Cooking Course for Wellness Champions of the Western Cape Government's WoW! (WesternCape on Wellness) programme on 4 to 8 February 2019. The five-day course was attended by Vuyiseka Tekwana of the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery and Founding Director of Mhani Gingi, Lillian Masebenza. The course was delivered to 16 Wellness Champions from Cape Town communities and focused on the health, environmental, global and economic benefits of healthy plant-based eating. A variety of presenters provided input on health-related topics and the participants received practical cooking lessons. These were delivered at the Private Hotel School of the Capsicum Culinary Studio in Salt River, Cape Town.

The WoW! programme includes 'health champions' from the community and community-based organisations in the Western Cape who help to promote healthy, active lifestyles. After the Train-the-Trainer course, each WoW! Wellness Champion was required to train at least 10 other people from their community group.

This resulted in a follow-up when Mhani Gingi trained 20 people from Uitsig Community, Ravensmead, in healthy plant-based cooking techniques, in order to implement knowledge gained from the WoW! training. The group of people with physical disabilities from Uitsig Community who attended the training are partners and beneficiaries of Mhani Gingi. They maintain community food gardens at Uitsig Community Centre and at Uitsig Primary School under the supervision of the Flagship Programme. The community also make crafts. Mhani Gingi connects the community to markets for the vegetable produce and crafts.

“The workshop was very helpful to add value to the gardening produce from Mhani Gingi's community gardening activities and also links to our own healthy lifestyle efforts which include the goal of promoting healthy nutrition,” said Masebenza.

Community food production

The Flagship Programme provides skills and support to about 10 other community gardens on the Cape Flats and in the greater Cape Town area, situated in available spaces at schools, churches, community-based organisations and institutions with whom Mhani Gingi forms partnerships in an effort to help vulnerable communities to produce food for consumption and to generate an income for themselves. The Mhani Gingi Nursery provides the training, seedlings for the gardens, and other support such as compost.



Western Cape Department of Agriculture provides agri-processing skills training

Members of the vegetable gardening team and the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery situated at the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence attended training in agri-processing delivered by Gareth Williams of the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute Centre from 27 to 29 May 2019. The team from Mhani Gingi who attended the training consisted of Founding Director of Mhani Gingi, Lillian Masebenza; Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme, Tabisa Mahlathi; and Vuyiseka Tekwana and Nomawabo Damsese from the Mhani Gingi Nursery.

The training was delivered at the Head Office of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture at Elsenburg. The Mhani Gingi team learned how to make yoghurt, chutney, cheese, apple juice and jam. They also baked brown seed bread and classic French baquette loaves — and mastered how to grind herbs and spinach leaves to powder. The training was “extremely beneficial” and Mhani Gingi's plans to implement agri-processing of the produce from its vegetable gardens are already at an advanced stage, Masebenza said.

Once Mhani Gingi has acquired a tailor-made steel container for the food processing facility at the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, food packaging and processing activities which have already commenced at the Centre of Excellence can be increased. The training centre at Elsenburg would provide mobile services to deliver the produce, Masebenza said.

Water tanks donated to Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence for harvesting rain water

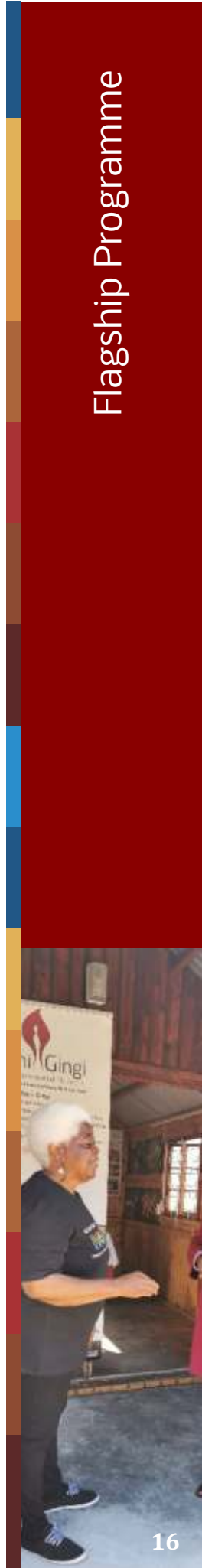
Three water tanks were installed at the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. Two of these tanks hold 10 000 l of water each and have been connected to buildings at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children to collect rain water during rainy seasons. The reason for the donation



Vuyiseka Tekwana (left) and Nomawabo Damsese from the Mhani Gingi Nursery.



Lillian Masebenza, Founding Director (left), and Tabisa Mahlathi, Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme.



Flagship Programme



was the high salt content of water from the well point at the Centre of Excellence. This prevents Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network from planting the quantities of fresh produce that the organisation would like to grow. The Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery and ground vegetable gardens, growing tunnel and hothouse are situated at the premises of the Saartjie Baartman Centre in Athlone, Cape Town.

Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme for social entrepreneurs promoting a sustainable food system

Mhani Gingi participated in the pilot Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme designed to support social entrepreneurs and innovators who are working towards a sustainable and equitable food system. Oribi Village is an innovative movement that promotes and supports social entrepreneurs based in Cape Town and its surrounding townships who are driven by social and environmental responsibility.

Over the year 2019, Oribi was privileged to see the ongoing success of their first cohort of seven entrepreneurs focusing on the food system, according to Partnerships & Strategy Manager of the Oribi Village Team, Louis Prevost. This had led to a fruitful partnership with the Southern Africa Food Lab and the University of Stellenbosch, with whom they teamed up to create a 100% tailor-made incubation food system programme — supporting and connecting entrepreneurs, organisations and innovators working toward a more sustainable and equitable food system.

According to the Oribi Village website, difficulties facing the South African food system arise from questions of availability, access, affordability and the quality of food, among a range of issues. “Oribi is essentially working on connecting the loose value chain of informal agri-markets to more formal systems, or creating entire new short-value chain market systems through the integration of quality monitoring, supply, retail and production solutions, addressing three main challenges,” Prevost said. The three challenges were:

1. **Operational excellence**, the main objectives being the improvement of productivity, efficiency and quality to meet the rising demand for food and to tackle the global challenge of food security and food waste.
2. **Supply chain orchestration**, including the vulnerability of the agribusiness' value chain, useless intermediaries and the difficult access to markets for some buyers and small sellers.
3. **Transparency**, implying the monitoring for product safety, social, and environmental, responsibility.

Founding Director of Mhani Gingi, Lillian Masebenza, was a winner of the First Edition of the Oribi Dinner for Change on 26 June 2019. This is a pitching competition for entrepreneurs organised by Oribi. The prize was a video on Mhani Gingi's work which was shot by Eksê Lens from Khayelitsha. The competition was against Umthunzi Farming Community and Ubuhle BeNdalo food gardens, both fellow Oribi incubees. Masebenza also had an opportunity to share her work on Cape Talk radio station.

The incubation programme held a Closing Event on 12 November 2019 at Food Jams in Salt River, Cape Town, to celebrate the achievements and innovative solutions that changemakers on the programme worked on — and to award certificates of achievement. The evening included a cooking session while the changemakers themselves supplied the ethically and locally sourced food that was enjoyed. Among the guests were the Swiss Ambassador and Consul General.

Lillian Masebenza was interviewed on the Afternoons with Pippa Hudson show on Cape Talk radio on 7 November 2019 on the topic of Mhani Gingi's involvement in the first Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme. Listen to the podcast at <http://www.capetalk.co.za/podcasts/127/afternoons-with-pippa-hudson/262116/greener-living-oribi-village-helps-entrepreneurs-with-food-system-solutions>.

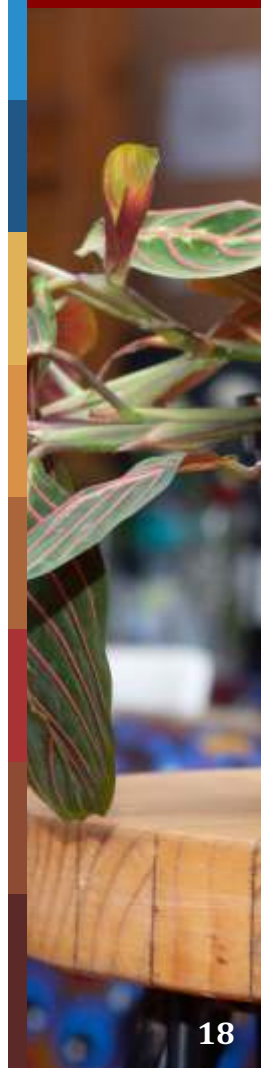
Flagship Programme



Mhani Gingi partner and gardener from Uitsig Community, Peter Sampson (in the cap), at the Closing Event.



Participants on the Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme.



REPORT: "Project Kwanza Facelift"

Report by Dr Earl Starr, Mhani Gingi Trustee

Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence established at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children aims to provide a nodal focus point that will distribute vegetable and herb seedlings and fresh produce to the surrounding communities in Athlone. In June 2019, Kwanza Sands Minerals provided funding that would provide a level and firm paved surface to accommodate the gardeners with physical disabilities (PWDs) during their daily activities.

Initial delays in July from the welcome winter rains meant that the project kicked off only later in the month, when the two Wendy houses were relocated and the ground preparation for the tunnels and paved surfaces was completed. The collage of pictures below displays the challenges of construction work in conjunction with a fully operational nursery to maintain the supply of seedling and produce to communities.



Movement of Wendy houses.



Sand preparation for pavers.



Paving and edging underway.

With the final phase of paved surface levelling and edging completed in October, the construction project ended in time for the new season planting during the warmer spring and summer months. This then strategically poised the site for the key projects planned for 2020 that include the launch of the value-add agri-processing facility and *SPEKMania* — our new environmental project using our social enterprise model in harnessing the unique properties of the indigenous spekboom climate change fighter.

Facelift

Below are pictures taken across the site to display the significant improvements, both visually, and, more importantly, allowing wheelchairs accessibility for the PWD gardeners who can now be accommodated across the majority of the site.



Re-arrangement of sheds will allow installation of a container for food-processing.



Pathways for gardeners in wheelchairs have been extended.



The area around the entrance is much improved.

Enabling abled and disabled

Mhani Gingi will be forever grateful to Kwanza Sands Minerals for the donation of the paving which has made life easier for both abled and disabled beneficiaries of the organisation who work at the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, reports Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme, Tabisa Mahlathi. Prior to the new pavement, there were many challenges due to the sandy soil type in the Western Cape, which created an additional difficulty for wheelchair users trying to move around during the windy season. Those seated on wheelchairs have been enabled in mobility and enabled to participate in urban gardening at the Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence, since the pavement is designed to be wheelchair-friendly and to accommodate everyone working at Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery and in the ground food gardens.

Mhani Gingi launches new environmental programme to combat climate change

In line with Phase 4 of development of the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence established at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Athlone, Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network during 2019 introduced cultivation of the wonder plant, *Portulacaria afra*, or spekboom, which helps significantly to combat climate change. Mhani Gingi is cultivating the plants for sale in different sizes, volumes and applications — both for domestic home planting and ornamental use, as well as for coffee shop and restaurant table applications. This project developed by Mhani Gingi Trustee, Dr Earl Starr, and a technical expert, will lead Mhani Gingi's initiatives contributing towards reducing the negative effects of climate change.

Mhani Gingi is championing the spekboom in its vision as a fighter against climate change specifically because of the plant's exceptional carbon storage capabilities, enabling the plant to help reduce harmful gases in the atmosphere that are ruining the quality of the air people breathe. The community of gardeners with physical disabilities at Uitsig Community, who are partners and beneficiaries of Mhani Gingi and maintain community food gardens at Uitsig Community Centre and at the Uitsig Primary School, supported by the Flagship Programme, crafted containers for the spekboom plants from recycled materials. These were sold at markets in Cape Town during December 2019.

“We South Africans are waking up and realising that our carbon economy, based on oil and coal, is wrecking our beloved Earth. Our cars, Eskom, and the fuel industry are pumping out carbon dioxide much faster than the planet's trees can absorb it as has been the case for millions of years,” said Mhani Gingi's technical specialist, who conducted extensive experimentation with the volumes, packaging and care of the product range of spekboom that Mhani Gingi is offering for sale.

A positive response to combat climate change

“Most of us feel helpless to make a difference as our politicians deal with their own priorities. Yet there is something we can do. We can become one of the millions of people around the world who are cultivating plants to help absorb the excess carbon dioxide problem. South Africa is blessed with a very special and unique plant.

“Our good news and exciting message for you is that the incredible South African plant, the spekboom, can help solve this challenge really well.”

“Our good news and exciting message for you is that the incredible South African plant, the spekboom, can help solve this challenge really well. And it's easy to grow. This amazing plant has a dual action leaf system, so it absorbs carbon dioxide faster than the Amazon Rain Forest, day and night, sunshine or cloud. This is why we want every South African to grow one or perhaps many of these incredible bushes,” reports Mhani Gingi's technical specialist.

The young spekboom plants for sale packaged in small bottles, with beading around the neck and displaying a card with a message, will be marketed at restaurants and hotels on coffee tables. Other mature spekboom plants and products packaged in different containers crafted by the gardeners from Uitsig Community will be marketed primarily at the Rondebosch craft markets. The women of the Restoring Dignity Liquid Soap Producing Enterprise project which is also situated at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, and is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, will fashion the beaded strings for attaching the messages and care instructions to the spekboom products. The markets also provide an opportunity for Mhani Gingi to conduct market research on customer reaction to the new products. Annual events such as Mother's Day and the festive season will be targeted for marketing and sales. Biodegradable and compostable packaging is used for marketing and selling the seedlings as well as the different sized and aged plants.

“Like you we are also passionate about preserving and repairing the environment and we do it by persuading people to plant spekboome,” said Mhani Gingi's technical specialist. “We, at Mhani Gingi, are organising for our local communities to grow plants from cuttings so we can deliver them to you for you to cultivate your own 'Amazon Rain Forest'. Join the Spekboom Revolution and become part of the solution to this catastrophe that our lifestyles are causing. If you did nothing when you knew what you know now, what will you tell your grandchildren when you hand over an Earth destroyed by our carbon economy?”

Caring for the environment

"Mhani Gingi has taken up this new spekboom project to take more care of the environment. We are very excited to be starting this initiative and to hear about the wonderful capacity of this wonder plant and what it can do for the environment," said Project Manager and Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme, Tabisa Mahlathi. "We are also excited by the fact that this plant takes minimal effort to look after. We are hoping for a fruitful outcome and positive response from the public and other people we will be approaching to join us in this campaign," she said.



A customer buys a planted spekboom at Rondebosch market.



Stages in the experimentation with spekboom plants for sale.



Planted spekboom are sold in mini jars.

REPORT: “Project SpekMania”

Report by Dr Earl Starr, Mhani Gingi Trustee

Commonly known as 'spekboom' (directly translated as 'porkbush'), the wonder plant, *Portulacaria Afra*, is indigenous to South Africa. It serves as food for elephants and other wildlife in its native habitat of the Eastern Cape and can grow up to 6m tall. Once considered just an ornamental bonsai plant outside of its home range of South Africa, the shrub is rapidly gaining attention for its exceptional carbon storage capabilities. Popular claims are that spekboom thickets can store 20 kilograms of carbon in every square metre of vegetation, or 200 tons of carbon per hectare ... that's equivalent to taking 37 cars off the road for a year!

Aligned with our environmental pillar under the Flagship Programme, Mhani Gingi has championed the spekboom in our vision as a fighter against climate change specifically because of its ability to store more carbon than tropical rain forests. Looking at more short-term benefits to our network members, we will build on the existing model of community vegetable gardens to further empower communities towards sustainable livelihoods. The support from funders for seedling tray donations to our community gardeners will in turn provide a steady supply of spekboom into the initial two resale channels:

- Bulk seedling sales for private gardens and public open spaces, and
- Mature potted plant sales in handcrafted baskets from crafters with disabilities at the Uitsig Community Centre.

Strategic positioning

Strategic positioning for the Spekboom supply chain includes:



On the supply side ...

Aligned to our successful vegetable seedling tray donation model over the past five years, we will further extend our supply chain to include the community gardeners who form part of our network. This is supported with our provision of horticulture and business skills to the identified buy-back suppliers in the community, allowing us to broaden our product offering.

On the demand side ...

The product offering complements the three market channels, so allowing the Private-Public-Partnership with identified collaborators to create climate change awareness and deliver entrepreneurial and job creation opportunities. Further plant offerings are being trialled to develop the third market channel to make the spekboom accessible to all in the community and create even more awareness of climate change impact on our daily lives.



The following pictures display an already steady supply from local gardeners and the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence nursery that is gearing up for steep growth in demand.



A steady supply of spekboom is sourced from local gardeners.



Growth in demand is anticipated.

Various reasons contribute to the popularity of the spekboom and make it an ideal plant for businesses and private individuals wanting to play their part and do something for climate change. Initial sales indicate that the product offerings illustrated are popular with customers. Further bulk sales via on-line ordering are being scoped to deliver a spekboom to the doorstep of ALL climate change fighters in our country.



Coffee table display.



Premium product offering.



Bulk supply.

Collaborations

Western Cape on Wellness (WoW!)

The meeting during 2019 between Mhani Gingi and Dr Frederick Marais, Deputy Director: Increasing Wellness at the Western Cape Government Department of Health, and leader of the WesternCape on Wellness (WoW!) initiative led to a fruitful collaboration around health and promoting healthy lifestyles in the community. The partnership resulted in the training of Mhani Gingi staff and beneficiaries in how to prepare healthy plant-based meals. In addition, Nurserywoman Vuyiseka Tekwana obtained certification as a WoW! community Health Champion. Through the partnership with WoW!, Mhani Gingi attempts to create awareness among communities on how to lead a healthy lifestyle through their gardens and by doing exercise.

Umthunzi Farming Community helps Mhani Gingi supply restaurants

Involvement in the Oribi Village Food System Incubation Programme for social entrepreneurs had further positive spin-offs for Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network through the many fruitful collaborations that resulted from involvement in the course. Through the programme, Mhani Gingi's Flagship Programme was connected to fellow incubees, Umthunzi Farming Community. The drive behind Umthunzi Farming is to help small-scale farmers in townships on the Cape Flats to sell their produce to restaurants. The organisation assists these farmers in the community to sell their vegetables by supplying restaurants on their behalf.

Since September 2019, Mhani Gingi has supplied Umthunzi Farming with fresh vegetables and herbs three days a week. This ensured that Mhani Gingi was able to sell all of the produce harvested from the ground gardens and undercover cultivation at the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence in Athlone without wastage. The collaboration also helped to generate funds to run and maintain the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery.



The Mhani Gingi Nursery team preparing produce for collection by Umthunzi Farming Community.

University of Marquette Office of International Education

The Flagship Programme is grateful for the assistance received from student volunteers from Marquette University who are directed to the organisation through Melikaya Ntshingwa, Director of the South African Service Learning (SASL) programme, a project of the institution's Office of International Education. These internship students from the university based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the United States of America often provide skills and knowledge that Mhani Gingi does not have as well as bringing benefit to the organisation through the students' exposure to advanced technology. In this regard the long relationship between Marquette University and Mhani Gingi has benefited the organisation in immeasurable ways. "Words alone can never explain how thankful we are to Melikaya Ntshingwa and his team," said Tabisa Mahlathi, Co-ordinator of the Flagship Programme.

Tsogo Sun Hotels provides a rare opportunity for our beneficiaries

On Mandela Day on 18 July 2019, Mhani Gingi together with the group of beneficiaries from Uitsig Community were invited by Tsogo Sun Hotels for lunch at the Southern Sun Waterfront Hotel in Cape Town to celebrate the legacy of former President Nelson Mandela. This rare opportunity of an outing for the beneficiaries from Uitsig, who have physical disabilities and maintain food gardens at Uitsig Primary School and at Uitsig Community Centre under supervision of the Flagship Programme, was appreciated by Mhani Gingi and the Uitsig group. The organisation hopes to pursue further such partnerships in the hopes of expanding markets for the fresh produce and colourful crafts and sewing that are produced by Mhani Gingi's beneficiaries, as well as the Restoring Dignity soap products that are popular with international embassies located in South Africa.



Challenges

During the summer of 2018, the Mhani Gingi Organic Herb and Vegetable Seedling Nursery experienced the very challenging problem of discovering that water from the well point is too salty to be used as irrigation for the cultivation of food crops. Mhani Gingi entered into negotiation with the Department of Agriculture for assistance to drill a borehole or to buy a filtration mechanism to remove the salt from the water. The organisation is also seeking a donor to supply or fund JoJo Tanks for water storage that can be filled monthly as well as serving to harvest rainwater in winter from the surrounding gutters at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children. This water could then be used to dilute the salty well point water during summer months.

Mhani Gingi seeks land to expand its activities

Another problem is that Mhani Gingi has been trying for years to obtain land to establish the Mhani Gingi Nursery and to expand its programmes. This is difficult to do at present considering the small piece of land on which the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence is situated in terms of its collaboration with the Saartjie Baartman Centre in Athlone, Cape Town.

Markets for the sale of crafts

A further challenge is to obtain access to a market for the crafts and sewing produced by the beneficiaries with whom Mhani Gingi is working. An outlet is needed where the group with physical disabilities from Uitsig Community can showcase their beautiful wares which include sewing and baskets. Transport is also needed, to deliver these crafts and fresh produce to the markets.

A constant challenge faced by the organisation is finding funds to pay Mhani Gingi Nursery staff.

New paving helps with mobility for wheelchair users

Before the new pavement was laid by Kwanza Sands Minerals during 2019, there were numerous challenges due to the soil type in the Western Cape being sandy. This made life difficult for wheelchair users to move around during the windy season.



FROM THE LEFT: Before the laying of pavement, wheelchair users had difficulty moving around. Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza (far right), surveys the work in progress.

Network Member Initiatives

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Restoring Dignity Liquid Soap Producing Enterprise

Mhani Gingi', when translated into English, stands for a caring, industrious woman who is always looking for lasting solutions to social problems. In 2016, Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network secured funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to sponsor a two-year women's empowerment project, Restoring Dignity, hosted at the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Athlone, Cape Town. Out of this emerged a practical, soap-making course with the objective of assisting previously abused women to become financially independent.

This was the birth of the Restoring Dignity Liquid Soap Producing Enterprise project, moving women survivors of domestic violence from dependence to independence, and restoring their dignity. During three years since launch of the Restoring Dignity soap-making project, three products have been born. These are:

1. Natural hand liquid soap
2. Regular hand liquid soap
3. JAGA dishwashing liquid.

1. Natural hand liquid soap

Natural hand liquid soap is 'handmade with love', using saponified sunflower oil and water — saponified meaning combining sunflower oil, an acid, and potassium hydroxide, an alkaline. Then natural vanilla or eucalyptus fragrance is added.

This amazing soap takes six days to make. It is carefully and scientifically made to give your hands and body that gently nourished feel. This soap is really good for your skin as it leaves a fine waxy protective film on hands and body. The aim with this product is for everyone to be encouraged to use it because it is eco-friendly, contains no unnatural sodium laureth sulphate, contains no petrochemicals, and uses no artificial colouring. This product is already being supplied to two shops in the Cape Town area and one Airbnb.



The objective is to supply this natural product to more shops, hotels, schools and Airbnbs. The product can be bought in 500ml and 5l bottles.

2. Regular hand liquid soap

The regular hand liquid soap product is very popular with the Netherlands Embassy. This is an everyday hand liquid soap. Again, the aim is for everyone to buy it for their bathrooms and cloakrooms. This range is very colourful with lemon, lavender, rose, sandalwood and sea breeze fragrances. The product can also be bought in 500ml and 5l bottles.

3. JAGA dishwashing liquid

JAGA dishwashing liquid is the newest edition to the soap range. The Restoring Dignity project proudly introduced this amazing product in July 2019, and what a success it has been to the range. Yet again the aim for the product is for everyone to use it, because every home finds a place for dishwashing liquid. The product has also proven of much help in the poorer communities, as it is much more affordable than other dishwashing products. The feedback that was recently received indicates that the JAGA liquid is of better quality than some of the other dishwashing products on the market.

Eco-friendly

With the packaging of the dishwashing liquid, mostly re-used or recycled bottles are used in an attempt to maintain a friendly and clean eco-system. Customers can also return empty bottles for refilling. This product can be purchased in 500ml and 5l bottles.

Price list

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Natural soap 500ml | ZAR55.00 |
| • Natural soap 5l | ZAR250.00 |
| • Regular soap 500ml | ZAR45.00 |
| • Regular soap 5l | ZAR120.00 |
| • Dishwashing liquid 500ml | ZAR9.00 |
| • Dishwashing liquid 5l | ZAR85.00 |

Outlets for the natural soap product in Cape Town

- Cape Colab, an outlet for locally handmade creations, Pinelands
- Casa Mila guest house, Newlands, and Airbnb
- Shop Zero green products outlet, Woodstock
- SouthSouthNorth, Woodstock.



Marketing of the dishwasher product

Members of the group of Mhani Gingi partners and beneficiaries from Uitsig Community who maintain community food gardens, buy and re-sell the dishwasher in the community. Another Mhani Gingi partner buys and re-sells the product in Athlone, through Spaza shops, in the community, through taxi drivers and at their own stalls. The dishwasher is also popular with The Salvation Army who buy it for their own use, and their staff.

Markets

The soap products are marketed at wellness events and at fresh produce markets in Cape Town.

Training

A member of the soap factory during 2019 received A2B Responsive Leadership training from Trustee Joan Wright in Personal Hard Wiring and entrepreneurial skills.

Contacts for placing orders

Founding Director, Lillian Masebenza. E-mail: lillian@mhanigingi.com Mobile: +27 082 465 4687.



Marquette University internship student, Chris Modini, labelling spekboom plants.



Marquette University internship student, Elise Olwig, at the Mhani Gingi Centre of Social Entrepreneurial Excellence.



Bead attachments for the SpekMania range are crafted in the soap factory.



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