

# WOZA MOYA

— NEWSLETTER —



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LIFE, HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY

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## WOMENS MONTH

August is Women's Month and every year South Africans celebrate National Women's Day on the 9th of August. This isn't just another public holiday, it's an opportunity to pay respect to the women who stood together to fight against laws that not only affected women, but all people of colour in South Africa.

However, the scourge of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in communities like Ufafa Valley is still high and many cases are often not reported. The enforced lockdown in 2020 saw a sharp increase in GBV in our community. On the 10th of August, Woza Moya invited all women to attend a very exciting awareness event held at Mashakeni Community Hall, led by our two young women staff members (Snethemba & Hlengiwe Ndlovu) who are currently in the DGMT fellowship programme. One hundred and sixty women gathered together to discuss and share ideas on how they can support each other to fight this issue. It came out from group discussions that men have to play a meaningful role in contributing to the eradication of GBV. These contributions include actively changing behaviour and stereotypes that play into the toxic masculinity that is ever present in our community. Furthermore, the women of Mashakeni Village are saying the whole community of Ufafa Valley should be united in exposing perpetrators and not normalise gender based violence.

Thanks to Babalwa Jaca (Female professional social worker from **LifeLine**) who have partnered with us and ensured this event was a success.

'Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo' (You Strike a woman, You Strike a Rock)



## MAMA SYLVIA VISITS WOZA MOYA

This month we welcomed Mama Sylvia Mwila Luneta from Kinderfonds MAMAS for her first site visit since Covid. The women from the Ufafa Valley have been remarkably busy with their gardens and as there is little rain this time of year, most people cannot plant because of a shortage of water. These women are working hard together to fight against the challenges of planting in dry soil. Sylvia visited two incredibly beautiful gardens of women who not only plant for eating but also for selling so that they can support their families.

## HANDOVER CEREMONY OF CERTIFICATES

Woza Moya in partnership with Lungile Mchunu Consultancy awarded 73 certificates to Ufafa Valley youths who attended the victim empowerment accredited training. This skills programme is accredited by the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) with 11 credits. All the youths who were found competent were excited to receive their NQF Level 2 qualification since most of them only have a matric qualification. We feel this training was necessary to develop the skills needed for our youth, in particular to better support victims of Gender Based Violence and to build their CVs.





## HELPING WOMEN ACQUIRE ASSETS AND CREATE WEALTH

In 2015 Woza Moya started groups of women saving R2 every day. Masakhane Self Help Group is one of eight that were established. Today this group has 18 female members. They meet once a week focusing on financial savings and management. This year the group decided to start selling building sand in the community but this idea was not successful due to a lack of suitable infrastructure. This resulted in a big loss to the group as sand was sometimes washed away if there was heavy rain. One of their members who has some skills decided to teach them how to make floor polish that they will sell in the community. Their product is made up of disposed waste and can be made in various colors like red, green, and black. Their business is doing very well. Siyanibongela Makhosikazi!!

## ALSO IN AUGUST

- Student support team hosted **CAO** Application drive. This was an opportunity for matric and post matric students to in apply in different high learning institutions.
- The Community Advisory Council held a successful meeting.
- We had a virtual board meeting.

