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INTRODUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND

In response to a call made by the City of Johannesburg Environment, Infrastructure and Services Department to service providers to implement the Eco-Guides Project in regions A, B, C, D, E, F & G.

Tondanani Development Focus understands that this project is aligned with the City's GDS 2040 vision with special attention given to community development with a strong focus on addressing youth unemployment and environmental degradation. Tondanani Development Focus also understands that the Eco-guides project will serve as a supporting structure to implement the Bontle ke Botho (BkB) campaign.

This was submitted to address the scope of work, deliverables, methodology, scheduling and costs required to achieve the objectives of the Eco-Guide project. The Eco Guide project is an initiative of the City of Johannesburg Environment through the Expanded Public Works Programme EPWP with the intention of educating people more especially Youth in our communities about the issues and factors surrounding environmental care. This will be done through various and vigorous public awareness campaign which adopts various themes per month on issues related for that month. The programme operates in broader Joburg areas such as Soweto, Midrand, Eldorado Park, Orange Farm, Cosmo City Diepsloot and Alexandre township.s

SCOPE OF WORK AND OBJECTIVES

Environmental Education & Awareness is crucial in the reduction of air pollution, mitigation against climate change impacts, management of waste, water management among other environmental challenges. The project is aimed at inspiring, supporting and empowering 350 unemployed youth of Johannesburg to take part in positive actions on issues related to environment and sustainable development. The main role of the Eco guides is to:

- Educate communities on how they can individually play a role in creating cleaner and healthier environment.
- Educate communities on waste management.
- Educate communities on water management and effective use of grey water and rain harvesting.
- Educate communities on climate change and its impacts on the environment.

ENGAGEMENT

The project started off with the inception meeting that took place Traduna office. In attendance were 4 municipal officials and the representative from Tondanani Development Focus. The meeting took place on the 01 July 2013, see minutes of the meeting attached.

The selection process started with site visits in all the areas that have been identified by the municipal official. There were 7 sites that have been identified by the City.

All the 7 regions were visited and the programme was introduced to all. Areas visited, included communities like in Eldorado Park, Cosmo City, Diepsloot, Alexandre, Orange Farm and Soweto in Jubulani/Mapetla. The other areas that were identified by the municipality were done through the City Parks - The Wilds met with Molly, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens – where we meet with Mrs Kogie, Johannesburg City Parks were a meeting between the team and Mrs Moosa Rametse took place. The first site visit was done on the 2nd of July 2013 to the Soweto. On site the Service provider was introduced to the Communities and a brief introduction of the programme was done.

The areas that were identified agreed to provide a certain number of participants who all together should be in the region of 350 participants. In some communities, there were also leaders that were identified by the Youth Desk who also provided a great deal of help in the recruiting process. There were two groups of youth who were identified, one from particular communities and also through the help of the existing organisation.

PARTICIPANTS

There are 343 participants that are registered with us. The registration was done through “Contract” between “a participant” and Tondanani Development Focus. There are 239 women and 104 of male participants. At least 95% provided with all the information that is needed, including the bank accounts and addresses. There are those who did not have bank account at all, although during the training on the first week, we invited the bank to come over and the participants opened accounts with the bank.

TRAINING

Training was conducted at the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens in Emerentia, we were provided with a training hall and also the open space for conducting our. There were two aspects covered during the training, one was theory which was followed by actual practice. The programme started with an intensive training from the beginning of the July. There were facilitators from all areas of education. During the training, the youth were also taken to visit the Johannesburg zoo to learn on how to interact with nature. The trip was about various environmental issues with regards to animals and plants.

Training was done indoor in the Johannesburg Botanical Gardens and also outside.



Outdoor training for the drama and poetry group and also the indoor training



Training at Botanical garden.



Intensive training:

This initiative started with a 7 day intensive training on the 08 - 16 July 2013. A group of about 180 young people between the ages of 18-35 converged (*all of them were bussed in from their respective communities*) at the Botanical Gardens in Emerentia for the pilot phase with the purposes of equipping the young people to be ambassadors' on "Environmental awareness, Basic Ecological knowledge/Ecosystem, Conservation Management, Natural Balance and Climate change". A holistic approach or method was used in tackling the number topics mentioned above and a variety of personal growth related topics, such as: *'Who Am I; My Talent; Potential; Character; Attitude is Power and Basic Facilitation & Presentation skills.'* A lot of their time at training was also invested into challenging issues that sharpened their artistic personality. This was done through drama, poetry, song and dance, as a vehicle method they will use in conveying their message on their field.



Region F Eco-Guide

Region F Eco-Guides training was implemented on the 9th of July 2013 at JBG EE Centre, where the Eco-guides were trained by JCPZ EE staff on JCPZ mandate, and EE projects within City Parks. Moreover different presentations were conducted on different topics which included Environmental Education, Biodiversity Loss, Climate Change and Open Space Management.



Introduction and Background – Day 1



Molly in Region F Eco Guide in training



The engagement with youth in the hall



IMPLEMENTATION

Process & Roll-out:

After the training the groups were sent back into their respective communities with the aim for them “to make a road by walking it”. Communities that are involved include: Orange Farm, Eldorado Park, Soweto - Alexandra, Diepsloot, Cosmo City and Midrand – Ebony Park. All the young people rolled-out with the “Mandela 67 minutes” of doing good service in their communities.



The activities particular targeted places in their townships to celebrating with the old Aged home, feeding those that are in need, and performing in (drama, song, poetry and dance) in different events around the township. The Eldorado Park team joined forces with Orange Farm for the events of the 18 and in return the Orange Farm group graced an event staged at Eldorado Stadium on Saturday 20 July 2013, and likewise the Midrand crew joined forces with Alexandra on the 18 July.



Orange Farm Group in Eldorado park



The Eldorado park group

By the 26 July, all the groups in their respective areas would have visited at least 2 schools and presented a full on production and an environmental awareness talks, the areas visited include local clubs, Malls, Street corners and a number of other relevant areas. The groups have started to make good in-roads with the local ward councilors and community leaders and the business communities as some of them have begun to play a vital role in the project while realizing its importance and the positive impact it is bringing.



Engagement with the School kids during the Eco-Guide performances

The approach used to roll-out the program is a self-propelling and innovative approach. This gives the Eco-Guides the ownership to run and dream for new ideas and approaches that are informed by their respective township needs. That is also with the guidance of the trainers and the coordinators on the ground.



Environmental awareness, food production and capacity building programs and projects

Through working with the Eco-Guides a total 2469 beneficiaries were reached through environmental awareness raising initiatives that included holiday programmes, exhibitions, clean-up campaign, community workshop and Surveys on waste management and climate change.

Status of current projects underway

- Exhibitions on Waste Management and Open Space Management were implemented at Joubert Park, Alec Gorshel Park, Rhodes Park, Attwell Garden Park, End Street Park, Peter Rhodes Park etc. in Region F reaching 286 beneficiaries.
- A survey activity on Climate Change was implemented in the following parks and streets in region F: End Street Park, Pieteroos Park, Joubert Park, Hillcrest Park, Noord Street, Edith Cavel street etc. reaching 766 beneficiaries
- Waste Management survey was conducted at Pullinger Kop Park, Joubert Park, Alec Gorshell, and Hillbrow Barracks in Region F.
- Holiday Programmes on Waste Management were implemented at Uthando Centre, Help Us Day Care, and Down Town Pre School as well as at the following parks in Region E and F: Joubert Park, Nugget Street Park, Royal Park, Alexandra Park, End Street Park etc. Reaching 785 beneficiaries
- A door to door Litter and Illegal dumping survey was conducted at Rosettenville to find out what is root cause of illegal dumping at Rosettenville Park and 135 houses were reached.
- Schools and community vegetable gardens site visits were conducted by the Eco-Guides to check the status of the gardens developed.

Implementation in Alexandre.

- Alex fm – clean up Tuesday (Introduce the Eco-Guide programme)
- Mandela day celebration (18 July 2013)
- 1st School's educational session – Skeen Primary



ALEX FM – Clean up Tuesday

Shomang Sebenzani Development Initiative has a working relationship with Alex fm thus we managed to set up a prime time interview session where the Eco-Guide programme was introduced to community members. We gave community members information about who the Eco-guides are and what we're here to do thus they must assist us by effective participation.



Our Eco-guide on air on prime time show @ Alex fm – telling the community about the Eco-guide programme and initiative.

MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS (18 July 2013)

Shomang Sebenzani Development Initiative got invited to 4 functions on the day which we all attended and we were afforded the opportunity to perform for the audience at Ithlokomeleng Care of Old Aged. We invited our sister Eco-guide members from Midrand to participate in our Mandela day celebrations as they had no yet planned anything. We had the honour of being escorted by our Ward Councillor **Chris Mabunda** as our guest for the day in all our activities.

We got invited to attend four functions, namely:

1. Boikhutsong flats
2. Phase one
3. Itlhokomeleng Old Age Home
4. Ucedolwabantu

At each of these functions we gave an educational poetry, dance and singing performance of what

1st SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL SESSION – Skeen Primary



Our Eco-Guide facilitators went to one of the best environmental performing and award winning school's in Alexandra Skeen Primary School. They gave out environmental material from Dept. of Environment and Environment whilst giving poetry, music and song renditions then had a question and answer session with learners.



Our Eco-Guides makes the kids to dance and sing with them as they learn in a fun filled way

PURCHASE

All the items for all the participants were bought. The uniform – Short and Long Sleeves T-shirts, boots, two piece of overall, the carry bags, stationery and everything else that will make the project possible. Of all the 350 participants, they received two types of Shirts, one long sleeve and a short sleeve. They also received a two piece overall.

CHALLENGES

Drop outs.

We had a minimal of drop outs from the second day. 11 participants dropped out during the first week of training, but they were replaced.

Finances and Stipends

One major challenge that we were faced with was regards the payments of the eco guide. It was found that most of the guys did not have any banking details what so ever. This made some payments to be delayed. Some provided details of closed accounts, invalid banking accounts.

It was resolved that they must go back to the bank and verify their account.

CONCLUSION

This is a very exciting project that was done in a short space of time. Firstly, the recruited youth showed interest in the project that made it so interesting to be part. They also showed interest in working with the environment. They also indicated that this has been a blessing to them.