

Soweto 14th of September 2020

Good Morning and Greetings from Soweto, South Africa



Inclusive Chicken and Vegetable Farm Macubeni

There is so much to report about, sadly we also have some bad news. 4 weeks ago, we had 24 of our Layers stolen. The thieves had cut the chicken houses open and stole the chicken. After this incident our staff had called for a community meeting and the community was addressed. With a bit of force and strong words surprisingly 20 of the Layers were put back in the chicken house that night. The news got worse that week. Suddenly one afternoon one of our staff member's Family home burned down and "nothing" could be saved. Everything burned in the house of Mum Dasi and we are just thankful that no live was lost and nobody was injured. There were 7 people staying in the house with 4 children under the age of 7.

We had put some efforts in to collect some suitcases full of good second hand clothes and we had transported them to the village area last week. Now the family is discussing about rebuilding the house, as even the walls are not usable any longer.

This is a very serious problem and if it hits a family very hard, who is already living in very poverty stricken circumstances. Besides these sad setbacks we are excited that our layers made it through the cold winter and our egg production is now back in full swing.

Our next trip to Macubeni will be beginning of October. Our lockdown regulations allowing us to travel between provinces and we feel we can risk a trip to our villages.

The numbers of Covid-19 Infections are decreasing in South Africa so we are busy planning our 3-day visit to Macubeni.

I can tell we miss those amazing mountain roads, the scenic drives through the remote villages and our people. We also want to show support to our staff member during this time after losing all their belongings.

We have received some donations of Furniture from the German Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg and the Company Corteva Agriscience, which we will carry to Macubeni to donate to Family Dasi, which they can use after they have rebuild their family home.

Utho Ngathi Disability Projects is always motivated to develop Projects for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and for the betterment of their livelihoods in rural and semi-urban areas in South Africa and Zambia. To achieve this integration even in our Southern African Society, we have developed various projects in agriculture besides our Inclusive Chicken Farm Macubeni.



Another Inclusive projects is our Inclusive Vegetable Farm Soweto which is located next to our Office in Orlando East, Soweto. The project is managed by 4 young people, 3 of them with a disability. I can tell you our spinach, beetroot and peppers grow particularly well, because our people always do their best to look after the vegetables.





We also have space around the greenhouse and there we have planted lemon trees. We had been able to harvest lemons and they were really tasty and healthy, especially in tea in these Corona times.

OPEN INVITATION: We would like to invite you to visit our office and Inclusive Vegetable Farm Soweto, and if you have a few days, please join us on one of our trips to our Villages of Macubeni in the Eastern Cape Province.

Greetings from the Utho Ngathi Team