



*Sowing dreams. Growing hope. Changing the future.*

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## **SOHO IMPACT STORIES**

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This report is a description of the before and after interventions that Seeds Of Hope Outreach: Eswatini has been making from the generous donations of supporters around the world. SOHO's programs consist of The Outreach and Marikamp Feeding Program; Hope Discovery Learning Center Preschool Program with Feeding; and Arts and Crafts Social Enterprise Program. In addition to managing these programs, SOHO has assisted families in food distribution through food parcels, and assisting families to start their own vegetable gardens, helping orphaned children to enroll in schools.

## B. SOHO STRATEGIC MISSION, VISION, & OUTCOME

SOHO's strategic mission for SOHO is to strive towards self-sustainability, and engage in innovative local funding opportunities. Currently, existing US funding have assisted SOHO's vision to plan and implement programs of excellence such as the preschool program Hope Discovery Learning Centre, to provide assistance and funding for families to become self-sufficient through growing their own crops, and to champion the power of arts and crafts as a force of transformation that will provide skills enabling the impoverished to enter the commercial market.

## C. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACT

### 1. GRANDMOTHER GRACE KHUNENE

Introducing Grandmother ("Gogo") Khunene of 16 children:



- Matriarch Gogo Khunene is the grandmother of 16 grandchildren whose ages range from 6 months to 12 years old. She is the caretaker of many orphaned children who were abandoned by their parents either because they could not afford to support them, had to seek employment, or passed away from HIV. Due to the stigma associated with HIV, we could not ascertain the prevalence of HIV within the family.



- Prior to SOHO's assistance this family was in need of clothing, food, and some of the older children could not enroll in school due to a lack of funds. With the generous support of donors, we initially provided assistance through food parcels (*pictured above*), distributed clothing, and eventually donated gardening tools, seeds, and built a fence in order for the family to grow their own food. The start-up garden (*pictured below*), will support the orphans by growing their own spinach, cabbage, and onions. In addition, two of the children were enrolled into high school, and SOHO purchased uniforms for them.





## 2. NQOBILE SHONGWE

Introducing Nqobile Shongwe, mother of two boys.

- The two young boys (*pictured below*) are Nqobile Shongwe's children. This family lives in abject poverty. Both the mother and children used to visit dump sites to look for food, and clothing. The mother's situation was compounded by the fact that she is mentally unstable and exhibits many insecurities, such as the treatment of her children, and the belief that her neighbors dislike her, and spread rumours about her.



- Through the assistance of SOHO, the Shongwe family has received clothing, shoes, a monthly stipend for accommodation, education support, and food parcels until SOHO could not continue. (*See below*)



### 3. GRANDMA EMELINA KHUMALO

- Grandma Khumalo is the caretaker of 12 grandchildren whose ages range from 4 – 12yrs old. Most of the children are girls. Four of the children share the same surname, and Grandmother Khumalo was experiencing difficulty feeding the children. She decided to walk with the four children to their father’s home to get him to look after the girls. Due to his own poverty the father could not take care of the girls so the very next day he dumped the girls at the nearest bus stop, and abandoned them. Upon hearing of the girls plight, their grandmother collected the girls and decided to protect them against possible trafficking, or being sold into prostitution, as had been the case with the mother of the children who had disappeared to South Africa and never returned.



- SOHO:Eswatini assisted Grandmother Khumalo with food parcels and paid for the education of two children (a boy and a girl), who were not enrolled in high school. Once the food parcels budget was depleted SOHO assisted the grandmother by donating gardening tools, seeds, and repaired the fence in order for the family to grow their own food. The start-up garden (*pictured below*), will support the abandoned children as they grow their own spinach, cabbage, and onions.





#### 4. NCAMISO SIMELANE

- Introducing Ncamiso Simelane, an orphan who lost his father in the year of 2022. His mother was unable to pay for his school fees. Through donations received from generous donors, SOHO has assisted Ncamiso by paying for his school fees. Not only has Seeds Of Hope Outreach helped Ncamiso, but several other families through providing them with clothing, school uniforms, and paying their school fees.



- Ncamiso is a very bright young man who has demonstrated academic excellence as can be seen in his last high school Certificate of Academic Excellence (*below*). Ironically, English is Ncamiso's second language, with Siswati being his birth language, yet he has managed to earn the "Most Outstanding Learner in English Literature" this year, a very proud achievement.



## 6. NOMCINDISO FAKUDZE FAMILY

- Nomcindiso Fakudze is a very young mother of three children. The Fakudze family live in abject poverty as is demonstrated by their mud and stick home (*in the picture below*). Her husband is an unemployed construction worker, and is much older than Nomcindiso. The young mother is not mentally stable, yet she has a humble predisposition and the family had no means to support themselves, or send their children to school.



- Seeds of Hope Outreach has assisted the family with food parcels, clothing distribution.



- Thanks to donations from funders, SOHO was also able to help the family start a vegetable garden (***pictured below***), in which they have started to grow spinach, cabbage, and onions on the land adjacent to their property.

