



ZIMELE 

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY SELF-RELIANCE
NPO nr: 054-826

Annual Report
March 2011 to End February 2012

What is Zimele?

Zimele is a unique non-profit organization which seeks not only to meet the daily needs of South Africans in the Kwazulu Natal region today, but also to build the physical, financial, and emotional infrastructure of their lives to improve the entire region.

While there are many non-profit organizations which seek to feed the people of this area we believe it is imperative that each individual learns to feed themselves. We also believe that each individual must accept and embrace the responsibility of providing for themselves, their families, and their nation. "Zimele" is Zulu for "I am standing on my own two feet."

Our promise to the women we help:

- ◆ We will try to understand your problems,
- ◆ We will explore your needs,
- ◆ We will identify your skills,
- ◆ We will teach you self-respect and new skills,
- ◆ We will link you with others to give you the confidence to improve your life.

Our promise to those who support us:

- ◆ We will explain our vision and our needs,
- ◆ We will identify how you can help us,
- ◆ We will keep you informed of our progress and
- ◆ We will encourage you to meet the people you have helped.

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Director's Report

When I founded Zimele in August 2006 I was driven by a passion to help Zulu women from the communities of KwaZulu-Natal have a life of prosperity, both on emotional and financial terms. I was fortunate to come across the Zulu word "Zimele", which means "to stand on one's own two feet". The word spoke to the heart of what I wanted this organisation to be all about.

Since January 2007 we have attempted to confront the root causes of poverty. We are currently working with 1200 women to restore their self-respect, provide skills training, create financial awareness and develop micro businesses through a network of community support. This programme is successful in empowering women. They are enabled to break out of a cycle of dependency, leading to financial independence and the development of a confident voice with which they can join the wider community.

We have succeeded in changing lives. It is an absolute joy to see these women start Early Education programmes for the little children in their communities, as well as a computer school that provides employment to orphaned young girls. They are caring for the sick and the elderly and making creative plans to keep teenagers busy so as to eliminate the problem of teenage pregnancy.

But within the South African context, much more needs to be done, and I am hoping that Zimele can also become instrumental in **reconciliation** on dif-



Zimele receive the 2011 Institute for People Management (IPM) Award for uplifting the lives of women in rural communities in KwaZulu Natal.

ferent levels: reconciliation within broken families, in broken communities and across broken cultural relationships between Black and White societies. I love seeing families and communities restored, but my greatest pleasure is when Black and White people come together to become true friends and support each other.

Thank you to the dedicated team at Zimele for your commitment and your outstanding work. Thank you to our donors who believe in us. And thank you to the women in the Zimele Communities who open their homes to us and trust us to be part of their journey toward self-reliance.

Rosetta Stander
Founder/Director



Students successfully completed a 3 months course at Imbokodo Computer Centre.



Self Help Group Report

In 2011 Zimele continued to implement the Self Help Group programmes in the communities of Swayimane and Winterton, and then successfully extended the programmes to the area of Mtubatuba.

There were a number of highly effective training programmes that Zimele staff conducted with participants to enable them to productively address some of their social-economic challenges. Below are some of the highlights of the year:

- ◆ **17** new Self Help Groups were formed with **182** members mobilized to save and start income generating businesses. Their total savings were **R8 697**. The average loan amount was **R150**. The total loan amount was **R5 217**.
- ◆ **49** existing Self Help Groups were strengthened in Swayimane and Winterton with **588** members continuing to save and improve their businesses. For the year 2011 their total savings were **R88 000**, loans amounted to **R138 870**, and the total number of loans **512**.

The accumulative statistics by the end of 2011 were as follows:

Savings:	R 295 057.95
Loan amount:	R 489 873.00
Total number of loans:	3 279

Increased social-economic services in local communities

The Self Help Group programme also saw the establishment and successful development of a number of economic and social projects. Among these projects were the Farmers' Association and the Imbokodo Computer School, both of which were established with full and proud ownership by the women. The Computer School ran two weekly classes with a total of 42 students from the wider community. This project also provided employment for one of the vulnerable children of the Orphaned and Vulnerable Child Care project. The project was an initiative of the Ithembanani Cluster.

Other economic activities among programme participants included: Trading - buying and selling in small shops (spazas); Agricultural implements; Hiring out

(stoves, pots and plates, chairs, tables); Event decorations and catering; Food processing (jams and chutneys); Sewing and Craft; Tourism and much more.

The social project showed tremendous growth with the following new projects starting up:

- ◆ The Siyazama Crèche, one of the 3 crèches on the programme, got a new building through the sponsorship of Zimele partners. The children, women and the wider community were extremely grateful and excited about this. This crèche has been running for 3 years with 30 children per year.
- ◆ The Thembanani Cluster with its Orphaned and Vulnerable Child Care Project extended care to 5 more households with the additional funding that it got from Zimele partners, bringing to a total of 15 households every 6 months. To date the project has provided care to **81** children in **45** households.
- ◆ Following extensive awareness-raising through training on HIV/AIDS among the eight Clusters during the year, there was an overwhelming response in the Clusters and Self Help Groups to respond to the scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Sinothando Cluster continued to serve HIV/AIDS patients through its Home-Based Care Project. It also extended its project to children infected with HIV/AIDS. Initially the project targeted infected adults who are usually bread winners in households, but following their visits to schools the women realised that infected children faced huge challenges to comply with their medication because of their poor nutrition. The visits to schools came about as a result of an opportunity to apply for uniform sponsorship through their membership of CINDI (Children in Distress), an organisation facilitating a network of over 350 organisations across the KwaZulu-Natal province.
- ◆ The Sizanani Cluster started a life-skills project to more than 100 children, with a special focus on addressing the high levels of teenage pregnancy in the community. Cluster members did home visits to educate mothers/caregivers on issues of HIV/AIDS, STIs, and teenage pregnancy. They achieved this by engaging with children through life-skills workshops and activities pertaining to the children's areas of interest and talent.

Audrey Matimelo
SHG Programme Director

Craft Report

Product Development

One of the main objectives of the craft programme in 2011 was to expand the exciting activities already developed in Winterton to the Swayimane area. We continued to work with the 4 established groups of Winterton area crafters (Loskop, Thandanani, Amaswazini and iSibonelo groups). In total these groups represent 50 crafters. Training then expanded to Swayimane area, where we started with 3 groups and then expanded to 4, due to enthusiastic interest from the women. The total number of women involved in this area is 72 (the Qhubukela, Sebenzani, Vulamehlo and Senzokuhle groups).

◆ Winterton

The Winterton crafters received 7 training workshops in the beginning of the year and 8 training workshops later in the year. The groups learned to make a total of 9 products. These beautiful original products include: Heart Decoration, Christmas Tree Decoration, Star Decoration, Christmas Pack (2 of the Christmas Trees, Stars and Angels), Disk Ring, Brooch - Bird and Bird and Heart, Necklace - Birds, Necklace - Beaded Balls and Flower and a Handbag with felt blocks.

◆ Swayimane

The Swayimane crafters received 18 workshops in the beginning of the year and 10 workshops at the end of the year. The beautiful products that were made by the Swayimane groups are the following:

Toiletry Bag, Sunglasses Case, Necklace of Paper and Felt Disks, Necklace beaded daisy chain, Earrings, Tea-Cosy, Bracelet from Shwe-Shwe with felt blocks and a Key-ring with Felt and Seeds.



Crafts skills training



Zimele exhibition at SARCD Trade Show.

Business Training

The Winterton crafters were given the opportunity to learn business skills from a dynamic trainer involved with an organisation called the Business Support Centre. There were 3 workshops held, each workshop was 2 days long. The workshops were held in September and 33 women attended. The workshops covered the following business related subjects: Costing, Marketing, Budgeting, Tax and Types of Businesses.

Economic Development (Craft Sales)

The sales of craft product to our customers for the year 2011 was a wonderful R508,000.00! This is an extremely pleasing result for Zimele, as sales have increased by double for the same period in 2010 (sales were R247,473.37). Our highest selling product is still the beautiful Angel decoration at an amount of 974 items and sales of R15,000 for the year. Crafters were also well paid in 2011 with overall payment to crafters being an amount of R350,000.00. Again this amount is a huge increase from 2010 when, during the same period, an amount of only R128,793.61 was paid to crafters.

Julia Buss
Programme Co-ordinator



Agriculture Report

The group of women involved in agriculture have been and continue to be enthusiastic members of Self Help Groups (SHG's). Zimele empowers women in these groups through intensive coaching in self-confidence, assertiveness and community engagement. This is particularly evident in their increased ability and confidence to address the many challenges they face both as individuals and as part of an impoverished and broken community.

In 2011 certain SHG's started farming projects on their own initiative, using group savings. This, in turn, encouraged others to realise the wonderful opportunity provided. Individuals learned to take risks; for example increasing the area planted under a particular crop. Some failed and others succeeded, but despite this valuable lessons were learned by everyone. And Zimele subsequently implemented a three year capacity building programme to support the farmers.

In November an enthusiastic workshop was held with about 100 women who expressed a keen desire to increase their income from farming. With the support of Zimele, the women formed an agricultural association to help each other resolve common problems using their collective strength. Collective marketing



Zimele SHG women Farmer



The first potato harvest was a huge success

was seen as one of the major focus points for the new association. A committee of eight dedicated members was elected – representing all the Clusters in Swayimane. Individuals were invited to join the association through their Clusters by paying a joining fee of R50 and thereafter a monthly membership fee of R5.

The activities of the association and its members included:

- ◆ An exposure trip to Port Shepstone;
- ◆ Selling farming produce at a Dutch Reformed Church Fete;
- ◆ Supplying fresh produce to SHG/CLA projects; for example, the monthly food parcels to HIV/AIDS patients as part of the home-based care project;
- ◆ A group of 22 farmers found their own markets to sell their produce;
- ◆ Agri-Planner training for 15 women on agriculture as a business, and planning a seasonal calendar.

Since the successful launch of the agricultural association, Zimele was able to appoint an Agricultural Coordinator to provide support to the association. The emphasis is on building the capacity of the association, especially through the committee. This is done, in part, by working together on initiatives like fencing and a farmer's day. Training remains a priority. However it is a challenge to find appropriate training providers. The activities now tend more towards ensuring and improving production. Marketing remains a priority, but it is less urgent at the moment. In the future information on the members will be collected to establish a baseline, and effective systems will be put in place to monitor progress.

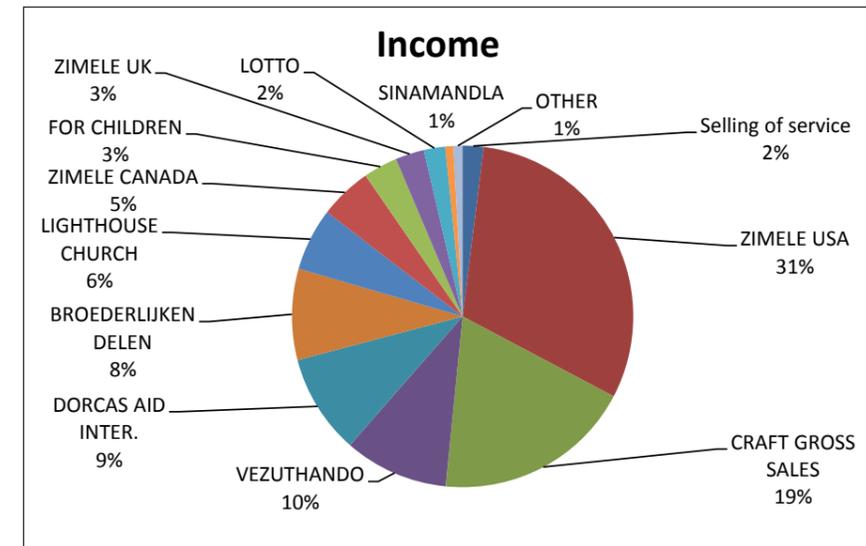
Hannes Mentz
August 2012

Financial Report

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the donors of Zimele for their support during 2011, and for their ongoing commitment towards the organisation. The organisation received funding from the following: Broederliken Delen, Vezuthando, Zimele UK/USA/Canada, Lotto, Sinamandla, For Children, Light House Church and a range of other small donations.

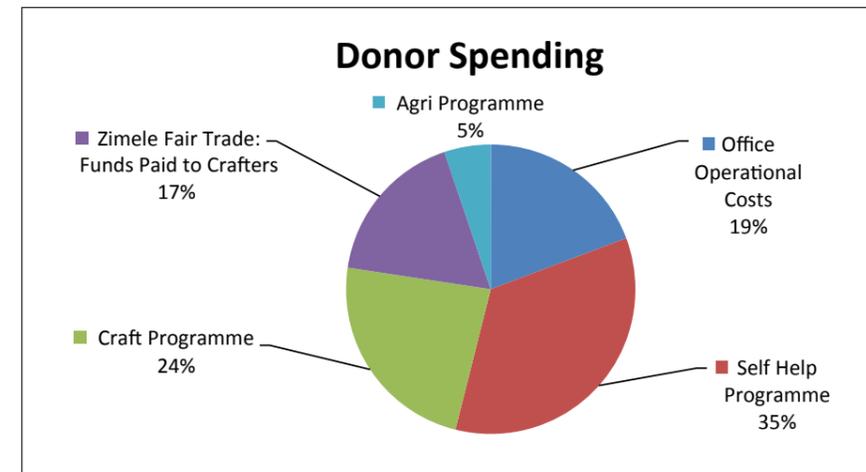
Our income for 2010/2011 was R2,545,059. The year started with a challenge as some donors delayed

transfer of funds due to the global financial crisis. We managed to pull through, though, and were able to secure a new long term funding contract with Dorcas Aid International. The contract with Broederliken Delen was not renewed due to their withdrawal from South Africa in December 2011. We were also successful in extending contracts with two donors for another three years.

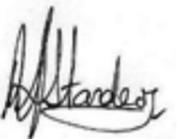


In 2011 a growth of 10% in income enabled us to change the lives of 800 women in three districts in KwaZulu-Natal. Left is a breakdown of how that money was raised and, below, how it was spent.

We were able to decrease our office operational costs and increase expenses in the Craft Programme by 24%, and in the SHG Programme by 34%. These expenses were mainly due to additional training workshops. In the Fair Trade Programme, crafters earned 12% more than the previous year.



Special thanks go to Margaret Joubert and Jenny Cherry for their financial management, and also to Rupert Buhr (CA) for the annual audit.


Rosetta Stander
Founder/Director



A personal success story

One of the most unassuming members of the groups we are training in Swayimane is our highest earner. Doris Ncobo began with Zimele in 2007 she was then married with 3 primary school girls and a boy in high school. At the time she was managing her household on a disability grant and child grants. In 2012 she started to sell meat to supplement her income and made R600 which is an extra R50.00 per month. Through the SHG savings groups she also borrowed enough to buy a stove, which made a big difference from cooking on an open fire with wood.

Doris started on the Craft Programme at the beginning of 2011. During the training Doris appeared to be shy and somewhat slow at what she was learning. Well, we were proved wrong! Doris persevered and became one of the best crafters and highest producers of her group. Doris consistently had the highest standard and amount of work. In June, she earned an amount of R870.00, which went up 30% in July when she earned R1185.00 and in August it increased to R1440.00 (something that well exceeds her yearly income from meat sales.) This income increased her ability to buy food and clothing for her school going children and pay for family health care needs.



Doris Ncobo - A Personal Success Story

The above photograph shows Doris at the center (at the back) with one of the products the group is making. Earlier in the year, she was part of the group that made earrings and now she is making a whole embellished tea cosie and once again she is excelling. It is exciting to see not just earning capacity increasing but the human spirit learning its potential and flying as a result.