

MSP IMPACT – CHANGING LIVES: A SCHOOL-BASED APPROACH TO CARE AND SUPPORT OF ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN



Lwana Nqobile at home: Lwana receives support from the Caring Together project

“Caring Together”: Reaching orphans and vulnerable children in Eastern Cape

Eastern Cape Province has the second highest number of orphans in South Africa and the number of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) needing care is set to increase over the next 15 years. The MSP-funded “Caring Together” project has developed a school-based care and support programme for OVC in 100 schools throughout the province, scaling up to 200 schools from August 2008.

Lwana Nqobile, a 15 year old orphan from Lusikisiki District, writes to the MSP of his experience of the “Caring together” project.

“ My name is Lwana Nqobile. On behalf of all Orphans and Vulnerable Children at my school I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who thought of the project of OVC.

I want to ensure you that it is working, for it has worked for us at school. I am staying with my aunt. My Aunt was about to give up, for she was not succeeding in registering me for foster care grant. The school principal Ms B.A Tshaka encouraged her not to give up. When the project came to our school, Ms Simkana (Caregiver) visited my home and encouraged my Aunt to give it a try, she also accompanied her to the offices.

“I am not going to stop schooling”

(Lwana Naobile)

As I am writing this report I am getting the grant. Not only I, but many in my school. We are preparing to open a bank account now in my name. This is something great we achieved.

A brighter future

Now my Aunt is not suffering anymore as I don't have parents. She can buy food to eat, clothes, school uniform and also invest for me to get better education. At this point I am not going to stop schooling, for my teachers and caregivers told us that if we drop schooling even the foster care grant will be stopped.

We are having a challenge at the end to build our homes, take care of our health, get better education and help those who are in need, not forgetting where I come from.

May God our Heavenly father be with all those who care for others in need, especially those who help us at school. Not forgetting our caregiver who helps us with homework and advice about the way we can handle our daily lives as young people and orphans.

I attached my photo and the photo of my home. We are also provided with vegetables and we are encouraged to plant vegetables even at our homes. We also thank the Department of Education for the Nutrition programme we get in our schools.

May God rightly bless you!!!!

Thank you.

Lwana Nqobile

Khotso J.S.S – Lusikisiki District

Grade: 9

Age: 15 years

THE MSP: AN OVERVIEW

The DFID-funded South Africa Multi-Sector HIV and AIDS Programme (MSP), is a multi-year initiative to reduce the number of new HIV infections and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS.

HLSP manages the MSP. www.hlsp.org