

## Stulwane Young Women Meeting – 02 May 2024

On the second of May 2024, a meeting was held in the Stulwane village, with young women from the area, from single mothers, young makotis and those with no children. The aim of the meeting was to get the young women working together to improve their livelihoods, share ideas and knowledge with each other and do something that will give them some income while they are in their homes. The meeting was attended by 29 people, with an age range of 20 to 49 years old. A lot of the attendees (about 80) are members of the VSLAs.

The meeting started by introductions from each of the women, briefly sharing what they are currently doing for living, what their dreams are and what has been a challenge to them that stopped them from achieving those dreams. From the responses, some are running small spaza shops (mostly for kid's snacks), making grass matts and selling them, retailing (buying clothes, bags and shoes and reselling), selling chickens and eggs, doing vegetable gardens and selling vegetables locally, beadwork, sewing and selling garments, baking and selling cakes for local ceremonies, while about 40% of the women are not doing anything.



Figure 1: Meeting with Young women from Stulwane.

A lot of the women who are already doing small businesses wish to expand and grow their business, but funds to expand seem to be a bigger problem, also getting a market and people who take on credit and never pay. One makoti (Nompumelelo Zondi), who is a member of the BLF and the VSLAs recently purchased a bigger sewing machine for her garment making business with money that she got from the savings groups and BLF, her

dream is to expand and get at least two more bopper machines so she can start teaching others how to sew as a business. Her story was inspiring to others who have not yet taken any steps towards expanding their businesses as Nompumelelo is as unemployed as them but managed to put together money from the VSLAs and BLf and bought herself a bigger machine.



Steering the meeting into the farming direction, 3 of the young women were interested in gardens and vegetable production for selling, they wish to start their own group for the garden where they will all put in effort, money for inputs and labour. They have a field and thinking of getting wood straws for fencing / to protect the crops from livestock. The women seemed to not know much about the Boschvelders, layers and broilers are familiar to them, so it was explained to them that the Boschvelders are more like traditional chickens but not traditional chickens, they are for both egg and meat production even though their egg producing capability is less than that of Layers but they are also good egg producers. 3 of the wome have had an experience with boschvelders, so they shared their experience with the meeting, sharing that they let them out of the house for some air, what

they feed them and how the egg production is going. The women loved the idea of these chickens.

12 of the women were willing to take and contribute money towards buying the Boschvelders individually. Asking them about doing it together (the boschvelders), the women believe smaller groups would work better than larger groups (maximum of 3 people per group), as they would be easier to manage and avoid free riding (in terms of labour and financial contribution for feed) and conflicts, also, smaller groups means reduced distance to chicken housing as the stulwane is separated into 3 sections which may results in others having to walk very long distances to monitor and take care of the chickens if they were in large groups. The groups would also include those that wish to have the chickens and are willing to contribute with money but do not have a housing for chickens in their homesteads. There are six (6) groups that were formed for Boschvelders, below are the group lists.

Stulwane- Young womens' Groups	Surname	Name	Proposed No of chicks/Group
1.	Dubazane	Nokulunga	25
	Mkhize	Eunice	
	Ndinisani	Zanele	
2.	Sibisi	Phumelele	25
	Zondi	Nompumelelo	
	Mlambo	Thembi	
3.	Hlongwane	Mbali	15
	Hlongwane	Thulisile	
4.	Dube	Hlengiwe	15
	Mpinga	Zwakele	
5.	Mazibuko	Nonkululeko	25
	Buthelezi	Zinhle	
	Dladla	Iondiwe	
6.	Dlamini	Lizzy	15
	Dladla	Nokwanda	
			110 x 4 wk olds

Name	Surname	Age	Activity Currently doing
Nompumelelo	Zondi	33	Sewing
Zanele	Ndinisani	36	Grass matts
Thulisile	Ndaba	48	Grass matts

Hloniphile	Sishi	39	Grass matts
Fisani	Dlamini	33	Grass matts
Nokwanda	Dladla	26	Beadworks and spaza shop
Neliwe	Hlongwane	41	Clothing retailer
Eunice	Mkhize	49	Clothing retailer, vegetables and atchar seller
Mbali	Hlongwane	42	tuckshop
Phumelele	Sibisi		Bakes cakes
Lizzy	Dlamini	23	poultry
Nonkululeko	Mazibuko	26	Eggs and frozen meat selling
Tshitshi	Gumede	39	Spaza shop
Andiswa	Duma	21	Trying/applying to get into tertiary
Thulisile	Mabaso	48	broilers
Thabile	Msimango	41	Retailing shoes and hand bags
Zinhle	Buthelezi	31	
Londiwe	Dladla	34	
Nokulunga	Dubazane	35	
Hlengiwe	Dube		
Zakhele	Mpinga	37	
Thembi	Mlambo		

9>35yrs

7<35yrs