

A young man with dark skin is sitting on a blue plastic chair in a small, cluttered grocery store. He is wearing a dark blue Adidas tracksuit with white stripes on the sleeves and legs, white sneakers, and a light-colored straw hat with a red band. He is looking towards the camera. The store has wooden walls and shelves filled with various products. To his left is a white chest freezer. Behind him are large bags of snacks like 'Sweet Chili' and 'Chippa'. To his right are shelves with boxes of 'TRIO' and 'HALLS' candy, and boxes of fruit like apples and pears. The floor is made of patterned tiles.

I M P A C T

2026
JANUARY TO JUNE



AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)



The **Savings and Loans Group** (SLG) established by the AIC has reported great success. The purpose of this SLG is to fund the AIC business and other AIC activities. The SLG meets monthly after the AIC meetings, and has been useful to its members for funding home renovations and individual businesses.



The AIC held a **business workshop** to assist G5 members with establishing IGAs. Since then some G5 members have reported selling fabric softener to their community members.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



Thabisile Khumalo joined ACAT in 2025. She says,

“Since completing my Basic Life Skills (BLS) training joining I have grown so much. Now I have my own food garden that feeds my family and generates income.

I also have a small business also generates income. I want to expand this into a well-known tuck shop in my community.”

Siyabonga Kunene says,

“I have used the knowledge and skills I’ve gained since joining ACAT to establish my agri-business. Because I have enough space, I sell my produce to the local community and also supply other small businesses. My plan is to grow this business by renting more land to plant spinach and cabbage seedlings.”



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



Noma Kunene had never gardened at all before joining ACAT. She says,

"I can no longer imagine my life without my garden. I count on it to feed my family."

I have also established my own perfume business, which assists me with my saving goals as I am now part of a local Savings and Loans Group."



Phetheni Macu used income generated through her vegetable garden to fund her budding poultry business.

She says,

"Previously I only generated income through my garden, but now I am so grateful for my broiler chicken business that is enabling me to wearn extra money."

AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)



The **Mnambithi 2 AIC** members decided to hold business workshops after their monthly AIC meetings to fund their AIC business. The AIC usually sells socks in winter, and were looking for business ideas that they could pursue during the warmer seasons. Some members have started selling fabric softener as part of their personal businesses.

*Mnambithi 2 AIC members, Simangele Xaba and Dudu Gumede, utilized a **specialized business workshop** in Watersmeet to advertise the AIC's biscuit business to the community.*

Prominent business owner, Mr. Cindi of Mahlaba Poultry, was also invited to speak on achieving success in business.



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



A **specialized business workshop** was held in Mnambithi to educate G5 and AIC members on the business registration process.

The Alfred Duma Local Municipality's economic development department was also in attendance to present funding and support opportunities to the attendees.

The local Department of Social Development also presented psychosocial support awareness to the aspiring business owners in attendance.



A member from Gudlintaba was invited by the AIC to inspire the 2026 BLS participants during the training. He spoke about the sector group's humble beginnings, from selling fast food at a local tuck shop, to currently owning two goats as a group. The sector group intends to also venture into cattle farming in the near future. The BLS participants were also invited to join the sector group.

AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)



As the body responsible for overseeing all community development programmes, the AIC is expected to lead by example in promoting sustainable development initiatives. One important aspect of this is the **Savings and Lending Group (SLG)**, which provides Community Volunteers (CVs) with an opportunity to save money on a monthly basis.

In this meeting, members conduct their savings activities, which take place after their monthly AIC meeting.

The group started the savings programme in 2025, and it continues to encourage a culture of saving, financial discipline, and mutual support among its members.



This **Savings and Loans Group (SLG) workshop** was conducted in the Mgangeni Zone. Most of the participants were not members of the 2026 development programme groups. This is because people do not usually join the savings group in the same year that they join the development programme. Instead, they often take time to observe how the SLG operates and assess its benefits before deciding to

join. Once they see that the programme is effective and beneficial, many choose to become members in the following year. For this reason, it is important to provide training workshops that explain how the SLG functions, including its rules, procedures, and the benefits of saving and borrowing within the group. These workshops help new members gain a clear understanding of the programme before they join.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Pamela Ngubane from Ntuzuma Zone joined the ACAT programme through the Collaboration component, and completed her Community Volunteer (CV) training in 2025. She then attended Basic Life Skills (BLS) training in May 2026. Pamela explains,

“Although I finished my CV training last year, I wasn’t motivated to start a garden. But this year, after the Basic Life Skills training, I understood the benefits of having my own vegetable garden – especially as someone who enjoys eating vegetables. Instead of buying the vegetables, my own garden will provide fresh vegetables for my household and reduce our need to spend money buying them from the shops.”



This **practical demonstration** of how to construct a **moisture trench** was held after the Basic Life Skills (BLS) training, where participants learned through hands-on experience.

Group members were taught how to prepare soil properly before planting to give crops the best chance for healthy growth and strong yields.

The session aimed to equip participants with practical agricultural skills they can apply in their own gardens and farming activities.

This **Basic Life Skills** (BLS) class was held in April 2026 in Ntuzuma Zone. The ACAT team always aims to be fully inclusive. They put it this way:

“We observed that facilitators were very supportive of learners who struggled with reading and following in their manuals. This approach made it easier for all participants to follow the lessons and stay engaged with the training.”



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



Because development programmes are about self-help and empowerment, a group of women came together with the goal of **learning sewing skills**. They approached Boni's Fashion Design to provide sewing training in their community. Each participant contributes R200 per month and attends training one day per week.



They comment:

“The training programme which began in March 2026 has been very beneficial in improving our sewing skills, especially for those of us who had no prior experience operating a sewing machine.”

Busangani Dladla joined the ACAT programme in 2025 through the encouragement of CV Sibongile Nzama.

After completing Basic Life Skills (BLS) training, Busangani commented:

“As a child I remembered helping my grandmother make beadwork. Because beads are now so expensive, I decided to use a natural material that is freely available. I collect it from areas near the river where it grows like grass. I dry the seeds, then make necklaces and other items to meet customer demands. Although my business grows slowly, it provides enough income for our basic needs. On average, I earn around R800 per month from selling my handmade products, which helps me put food on the table for my family.”



AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)

Highflats AIC members gathered for their monthly planning meeting to review progress, reflect on ongoing activities, and prepare for the month ahead. These regular meetings provide an important platform for coordination, decision-making, and strategic planning to ensure that programme activities are implemented effectively. Through collaborative discussions and shared planning, team members align their priorities, address challenges, and strengthen their commitment to supporting communities through sustainable development initiatives.



Philile Skhosana facilitates a Basic Life Skills (BLS) training session in Highflats, engaging participants in discussions aimed at building confidence, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihood skills.

The programme has gained significant support from community leaders, who recognize its potential to empower individuals and strengthen households. As a result, many local leaders are encouraging members of their communities to participate in the training. Their shared vision is to equip people with practical skills and knowledge that will enable them to work together in addressing poverty and creating a more resilient and self-sustaining community.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



This group member **Thembi Sosibo** from Nhlalwane zone in Highflats feeds her chickens while her grandchildren watch attentively. Through this daily activity, she teaches them the importance of caring for livestock and the value of hard work.

Thembi explains,

“These chickens provide both food and income, as I sell some of them to generate money for our household needs. This practical lesson helps pass on valuable knowledge about responsibility, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods to my grandchildren – who are the next generation.”



Phumzile Phungula from High flats carefully scouts her bean field for pests and diseases, putting into practice the knowledge she gained during one of the HFS workshops.

She says,

“The training we received emphasized the importance of regularly monitoring crops, as early detection of pests and diseases helps prevent serious damage and protects yields. By routinely inspecting my field, I am taking proactive steps to ensure a healthy crop and a successful harvest.”

“Phumzile’s commitment to applying what she has learned highlights how practical training is empowering farmers to make informed decisions, improve productivity, and strengthen their food security and livelihoods.”

– Wanda Zikalala (ACAT EC)



Zandi Mqadi from Nhlalwane stands proudly in her thriving vegetable garden, a testament to what dedication and the right knowledge can achieve.

Her journey began with a small demonstration-bed established during the BLS training, where she learned and applied organic farming techniques.

Zandi says:

“Seeing the healthy vegetables produced from that small plot inspired me to expand my garden. Now I cultivate vegetables on a much larger scale using organic methods learned through ACAT.”

I produce fresh, chemical-free vegetables for my household, while also supplying the local community. My flourishing garden reflects not only a successful harvest but also the confidence and skills I have developed through the training.”

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



Four members of a group of a five-member **Savings and Loans Group** have embraced the benefits of collective saving and financial planning.

The group stands out for its gender balance, as it includes both men and women working together towards a common goal. This is particularly encouraging, as development groups are often dominated by female participation. The two male members shared that joining ACAT has opened their eyes to new opportunities for personal and economic growth. They expressed their determination to improve their livelihoods and create a better future for their families through active participation in savings, income-generating activities, and community development initiatives.

Members of the **Savings and Loans Group** from Mhlabashane zone gather for their monthly savings meeting, where they contribute a portion of the income and profits earned from their various businesses and income-generating activities. They explain the purpose of their SLG group like this:

“These regular meetings encourage in us a culture of saving, financial discipline, and mutual support among members. By consistently saving together, our group is building financial resilience, creating opportunities for future investments, and strengthening household livelihoods. The savings scheme continues to empower us to manage our finances more effectively while working towards our individual and collective goals.”



Pretty Msomi from Phepheni believes in learning by doing. After completing the BLS course, she attended a Business Workshop, where she gained an understanding of the importance of bookkeeping. Although she had been running a business, poor record-keeping made it difficult to track her profits, and she was close to giving up. She recounts:

“Now I confidently keep accurate records. I am determined to grow my business. The training opened my eyes and equipped me with skills and confidence to manage my business more effectively.”



After completing the Basic Life Skills (BLS) training in May 2026, **Zinhle Dlamini** decided to take her first step into entrepreneurship. She says:

“By carefully saving a portion of my grant, I purchased stock, including chips and clothing, which I sell within my community. I am pleased with the progress I have made and I am committed to growing my small business through hard work and determination.”

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



The **Highflats women's sector group** participated in a strategic planning meeting to prepare for an upcoming business development workshop. The discussion focused on value addition, product quality, packaging, and market access. Participants explored practical strategies for marketing and selling their finished products, with the aim of generating income, strengthening household livelihoods, and promoting sustainable women-led enterprises within the community.

Jabu Cele (centre, green dress) joined the programme in May 2025 and has since demonstrated remarkable initiative and entrepreneurial spirit. Following her participation in a business and product development workshop, she began producing a herbal cough mixture to meet the increased demand for cough remedies during the winter season. Recognizing the shortage of medication at the local clinic, Jabu started supplying her cough mixture to community members, receiving strong support from local residents. Her small enterprise is steadily growing, and she currently produces approximately ten 220 ml bottles per batch. Through this initiative, Jabu is not only generating an income for her household but also contributing to the well-being of her community.



Inspired by a neighbour who successfully grows and sells vegetables using skills gained through AIC workshops, **Zandile Gumedde** decided to join the 10-day BLS training in High flats. After completing the course, she used leftover building materials from her house construction to build a tuckshop and start her own business. Zandile remains grateful for the training and continues to apply the lessons she learned. Her business is now providing an income for her household and serves as an example of how training can lead to sustainable livelihood opportunities. Zandile credits the training for equipping her with the confidence, knowledge, and entrepreneurial mindset needed to start and manage a small business. She still recalls many of the lessons covered during the training and believes that attending the course was a worthwhile investment of her time.



Siya Cele at Highflats describes the Basic Life Skills (BLS) training as:

"A lasting legacy that has been passed on to me by ACAT. Before attending the course, I had a strong desire to start a tuckshop business but lacked the knowledge on how to begin and was held back by the fear of the unknown. Through the training, I gained the confidence, practical skills, and motivation to take the first step into entrepreneurship. Today, I am proud to report that my tuckshop is doing very well and continues to grow, proving that the knowledge I received has become a meaningful foundation for my livelihood and future opportunities."

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



This group of women from Highflats at Magugu zone operates a Savings and Loans group and gather every two weeks for a **spiritual workshop** dedicated to studying and discussing the Bible.

These regular meetings provide a supportive space for reflection, encouragement, and spiritual growth. The participants shared that the sessions help them remain focused on their faith and strengthen their relationship with the Lord.

After each workshop, they take what they have learned and share scriptures and messages of encouragement with their families, extending the impact of the gatherings into their homes and communities. The group continues to play an important role in promoting unity, faith, and spiritual well-being among the women.

AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)

Extension Coordinator Wanda Zikalala facilitates a **Basic Life Skills training in Impendle**, guiding participants through both practical livelihood concepts and biblical principles. The training promotes holistic transformation by strengthening faith, encouraging stewardship of resources, and equipping community members with skills to improve their household well-being and create sustainable livelihoods.



As part of ACAT's "scrum approach", the extension coordinator Wanda Zikalala invited his colleague, Samke, from Mnambithi to facilitate a **specialised workshop for participants at Impendle**. This collaborative approach recognises the value of drawing on subject matter experts to share their knowledge and expertise, ensuring that participants receive high-quality, practical training. Samke's facilitation enriched the learning experience, encouraged active participation, and demonstrated the importance of cross-team collaboration in strengthening capacity and achieving meaningful learning outcomes.

The **Harambee Focus Group** training at Impendle was successfully conducted through the collaborative efforts of the Impendle AIC Team and their partners. The smiles and enthusiasm on participants' faces reflected the positive impact of the training, highlighting the value of working together to strengthen skills, build confidence, and support community development. The success of this training serves as a testament to what can be achieved through strong partnerships, shared vision, and collective action. It has laid a solid foundation for continued collaboration and ongoing support to empower participants and promote sustainable community development.



An **Impendle AIC team member facilitates** the workshop by writing key concepts on a flip chart during the training session. This participatory teaching approach recognises that people have different learning styles, and that many participants grasp and retain information more effectively when they can see it presented visually. By combining verbal explanations with written illustrations, the facilitator created an inclusive and engaging learning environment that encouraged active participation, questions, and discussion.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



Group members from Impendle are seen working together in a **community garden** as part of their efforts to fight poverty and improve household food security. The practical component of the Integrated Learning Programme (ILP) is what excites most participants, as it allows them to learn through hands-on experience. By applying skills directly in the garden, members gain confidence, share knowledge, and strengthen teamwork while working towards sustainable livelihoods. This collective effort demonstrates how practical learning can empower communities to take active steps in addressing poverty.



Zone Facilitator **Portia Dladla** from Impendle demonstrates the establishment of a deep trench garden as part of practical training activities. The session highlights hands-on learning, where participants are guided through effective gardening techniques to improve soil preparation and crop production.



Nombulelo Dlamini from Gomane Zone in Impendle proudly stands beside her thriving maize crop, showcasing the results of her dedication to organic farming practices. She attributes the healthy growth and vigour of her maize plants to the knowledge and skills gained through ACAT's training on sustainable and organic agriculture.

By applying organic farming methods, Nombulelo has improved the productivity of her garden while promoting environmentally friendly farming practices. Her success serves as a powerful example of how training, commitment, and the use of locally available organic resources can lead to improved household food security and sustainable livelihoods.



Sthembile Nyawose from Impendle Gomane zone cares for her sheep, an investment she made using money saved through her disciplined saving practices. Through proper animal care and management, Sthembile is building a sustainable livelihood while demonstrating the positive impact of savings, planning, and responsible resource stewardship.

Sthembile says:

“My commitment to saving has enabled me to acquire livestock, which serves as both a valuable asset and a source of financial security my household.”

This is a strong example of leadership through action, as the facilitator leads by example and actively engages with community members during the demonstration. Such practical sessions strengthen understanding and encourage participants to apply the skills in their own gardens to support food security and sustainable livelihoods.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



The Extension Coordinator, Wanda Zikalala, facilitates a **Savings and Loans Group (SLG) workshop** in Impendle. The training is aimed at strengthening members' understanding of saving culture and financial management, with a particular focus on encouraging them to save profits generated from their small businesses and income-generating activities. Through this initiative, participants are equipped with practical tools to improve financial discipline, build savings, and move towards greater financial independence. The workshop plays an important role in empowering community members to take control of their finances and work towards sustainable livelihoods.



Nokubonga Zuma, a 2026 Basic Life Skills graduate, proudly showcases her decoration business, which she started a year ago. Although she had a passion for the business, she struggled to attract clients and was on the verge of closing it down. Through the BLS training, Nokubonga gained valuable insights into customer needs, service delivery, and adding value to her products and services. She realized where she had been losing customers, and is now applying what she learned to improve her business. With renewed confidence and practical skills, she is optimistic that her business will grow, attract more clients, and compete successfully in the decoration industry.



Bongiwe Madlala, a local entrepreneur from Impendle operates her sweets and chips business, which she established after attending the Basic Life Skills training and participating in business development workshops.

Equipped with the knowledge and skills gained through this training, she successfully transformed her ideas into a source of income, contributing to her household's well-being and demonstrating the positive impact of capacity-building initiatives on sustainable livelihoods.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Bawinile Ncama, a 45-year-old woman from the Shibe Zone, lives with her family, including her two children and son-in-law. She joined the ACAT program in 2025. After completing the Basic Life Skills (BLS) training, she established a vegetable garden to help provide her family with nutritious food. Inspired by the business skills she gained through the program, she also started a bean-selling business. She sorts the beans according to their different colours and sells them in 500 ml containers at **R40 per container**. She says that members of her community regularly buy from her, and the business generates a profit of approximately **R1,500 per month**. This additional income has made a significant positive contribution to her household's financial well-being.



This was one of the **agricultural workshops** conducted after the BLS training, where participants received practical hands-on learning.

This particular workshop took place in the Ngunjini zone. 2026

ACAT participant **Wiseman Mhlamvu** is a pastor in his church and joined the programme in 2026 in the Mbangweni zone. He says he does not regret being part of the BLS training programme. Although he is already a pastor in his church, he shared that there was still a lot he did not know and had never had the opportunity to learn before. He considers it a blessing to have received this opportunity, saying that not only will he personally benefit from the training, but his church will also gain a great deal from the knowledge and skills he has acquired. He explains:

“Even before joining the programme, I was involved in farming as a retired person staying at home. But I have now gained much more valuable knowledge that will help me improve my farming activities. I have planted fruit trees, and when the fruit ripens, people buy from me, allowing me to make a profit of around R500. I also planted beans to feed my family. The training has encouraged me to farm in a more effectively.”



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



ACAT participant **Nelisiwe Cele**, aged 44, joined the programme in 2025 in the Mlozane zone. She says:

“Joining the ACAT programme has helped me greatly because it opened my eyes to the possibility of starting my own business and becoming self-reliant as an unemployed person. I started a fried chips business because I noticed that this is one of the products most people need and buy regularly nowadays. I was highly motivated by the business lessons I received during the BLS training. I gained valuable knowledge about business management, personal development, and how to live well with others. Also, studying the Bible in the way it is taught during the programme has helped me understand many things I previously did not know about the Word of God. The teachings are explained more clearly than I had experienced before in church, which has helped me to grow spiritually and encouraged me to attend church more regularly. Currently, I earn a profit of about R700 per month from my business. In the coming years I hope I will improve and grow the business further to where eventually I make a profit of around R5,000 per month.”



ACAT participant **Lusanda Sikobi**, aged 26, joined the programme in 2025 in the Shibe zone. He says:

“What motivates me most about farming is that I am able to sell the cabbages I plant, which currently earns me around R5,000.

Now, I need a larger piece of land, about two hectares, because the market I supply has a high demand for my cabbages.

Over the next few years, I want to become a successful farmer who is able to make a profit of more than R20,000. I have a great appreciation for the ACAT programme. It opened his eyes and mind to the understanding that a person’s success is in their own hands.”



This is a Basic Life Skills (BLS) training session held in the Ngunjini Zone, KwaMachi. It was the first BLS training conducted in 2026. The venues we use for training are not selected by ACAT, rather, they are agreed upon by the local AIC and the participants attending the training. In this case, the learners were seated together because there were only a few tables available for writing, and they needed suitable space to take notes and complete their activities.

AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)

The Loskop **Area Implementing Committee** team hosted a Basic Life Skills (BLS) training focusing on home food security and basic business principles, among other topics. The facilitators were dedicated and ensured that all concepts were clearly explained to participants.

There was also a 'practical day' where participants practiced the deep trench bed and planted some seedlings.

At the end of the workshop, a meal was prepared that reflected the lessons taught during the training, reinforcing the practical application of what was learned.



Thandeka Shezi, from Emqedandaba Zone in Loskop, attended the Basic Life Skills (BLS) Training in 2023. Although she already had a passion for business, she did not know how to turn her ideas into reality. The business component of the training gave her the confidence and practical knowledge she needed to get started. Thandeka remarks:

"After completing my training, I established a small kitchen business, where I prepare and sell food to members of my community. I have also improved my record-keeping skills, which helps me to manage my business more effectively. I am very grateful to ACAT for equipping me with the knowledge and confidence to start and grow my business."

Thobile Mngomezulu attended the (BLS) training with a dream of starting her own business. Inspired by the business training, she now sells fresh vegetables and fruit to her community and also maintains a small garden. She says learning about record keeping has been especially valuable in managing her business.



Nelisiwe Chonco from Thamela enjoyed the business studies component of the training because she has a strong passion for business. Since attending, she has started a small garden and a salon. Although her businesses are still in the early stages, she is confident that she will grow with continued support from the AIC team.



"I am so grateful to ACAT for equipping me with the skills to start a business and provide for my family"

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



Nokuphila Ntshingila from Thamela Zone attended the Basic Life Skills (BLS) Training in 2026. Although she already owned a business selling second hand clothing, she struggled with cash flow.

Nokuphila says:

“The training helped me understand where my money was going and how to manage it better through proper record keeping

As a result, I have improved my cash flow and have been able to increase my stock.”



Shonaphi Gumbi from Thamela Zone attended the Basic Life Skills (BLS) Training in 2026. Although she already had a small garden growing sweet potatoes, spinach, and cabbages, the training helped her realise that she could turn it into a small business.

She now sells her surplus produce to the community, generating an income for her household.



Nosipho Ndelu attended the Basic Life Skills (BLS) training because she was eager to understand business better. She says:

“I had a strong interest in starting my own venture and joined the training to build my knowledge. Since the training, I started making and selling floor polish. I am happy with my progress and I look forward to more workshops to help me grow my business further. I am also preparing for the summer season so I can begin planting.”

AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)

The **Mondlo Area Implementing Committee** meet every month to review what they have done each month. They discuss any new issues or mistakes they have made so that they can correct them quickly. They also save their money in their AIC Savings and Loans Group, and learn the skills to monitor other SLGs which operate in their area.



The **Masibambane Savings and Loan Group** from the Emondlo area was established in 2025 by members from different G5 groups.

They chose the name Masibambane, which means *"let's come together and help each other."*

True to their name, they now support each other and no longer need to use loan sharks. They can afford needs like school fees for their children and other household resources.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Slindokuhle Magubane from Mvuzini zone in Mondlo joined ILP in 2022. She says:

“After I put into practice what I learned through the ACAT training, I am now able to grow and sell vegetables from my garden. But that’s not all. Because of my skills, and my great love for my community, I trained to become a community volunteer to help others escape poverty.”



Zethu Sangweni joined the ILP programme in 2025. After completing the basic life skills training in the community, she started her own vegetable garden. She grows vegetables to support her family and sells the surplus for extra income. With training from her ACAT Extension Co-ordinator, Zethu began saving seeds, especially indigenous seeds which are perishable. She now leads in seed saving in her area.



Nomusa Tshangase, ACAT’s EC, is passionate about saving and preserving seeds. She collects indigenous seeds, and learns everything she can about them.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



Since joining the program, **Hlengiwe Magubane** has achieved a great deal for herself and her family, she started with a vegetable garden that generated the initial capital to set up a food stall in her community, and she has now established a business selling aprons. Hlengiwe does not limit the benefit to herself alone but also share the knowledge she has gained with her community.



Zandile Khumalo joined the programme in 2022. Thanks to the business skills she acquired during training, she started her own business weaving and selling mats for profit. As the head of a child-only household, life is no longer as difficult. She is now able to provide for her family.



Simphiwe Mbatha joined ILP in 2025. From ACAT's business lessons, she started her own business selling meaty bones. She buys them from the nearest butchery and sells them to the community. With the profit she earns, she saves in her local Savings and Loan Group.



Fezeka Buthelezi joined the ILP programme in 2025. After attending the training, she decided to turn her beadwork into a business. She says:

"People love beaded attire and buy from me. With the profit I earn, I support my family. I am also an SLG member."



AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)



The **Uqweqwe Area Implementing Committee** meet every month. The committee is made up of representatives from different zones and their focus is on improving the area. They share zonal challenges and work together to find solutions. They network with other stakeholders to support G5s and the community at large. They also attend war room meetings with local authorities. They say:

“Because we collaborate with partners in the area, we are included in their meetings. We believe that the church is part of the community and church members are community members. And the same applies to other partners. New skills and workshops are first introduced to the committee, and we in turn spread them into the community.”



Training workshops are arranged by the AIC - here Deli Ngidi (ACAT EC) teaches new group members how to start a business during their Basic Life Skills training. Deli says:

“Because these new groups have more youth, we teach them a variety of skills so they can create their own businesses. Our training begins with theory and is followed by practical demonstrations, like teaching them how to make organic cough syrup (which has no side effects). By creating these products, they are generating income and employment in the community to help reduce poverty. The youth were so excited that they said they would teach their siblings too, so they won't have to buy cough syrup from shops. They are also learning bookkeeping to track whether their business grows.”



This **group of community members** show their training manuals they received when they attended the Basic Life Skills to help them overcome poverty. They are taught a range of skills including spiritual development, home food security and nutrition, basic business lessons, and health education. What excited them the most is learning more about God and receiving their own Bibles, as this is the first time some of them have owned a Bible.

“In some churches only the pastor reads and explains the Scriptures. They said they will never forget ACAT for being an eye-opener to them. Although some already knew about God, they were not truly connected to Him. They have promised to continue teaching each other the skills from this yellow book.”

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

These are the **2026 BLS trainings from different zones** in the Mophela area. The area held 4 trainings in total, including one with a collaboration partner. Trainees were very happy, especially about receiving their own Bibles. Before this they had to share, but now each person has one. Learning to grow vegetables felt like “magic” to them because they were used to buying vegetables from shops. Most G5s have started their own gardens and help each other with the work. Since most members only income is from their government grants, they want to start Savings and Loans Groups to improve their finances.



This is the **group of 2Ks**. They are called 2Ks because they were born in the 2000s. After completing their BLS training, they support one another by starting gardens at their homes. Before working in the garden, they begin by reading the Bible and sharing reflections with each other. They shared that their parents are very happy to see them growing spiritually and helping with household work. The young people no longer spend their time on store verandas.



A **sector group** is a group of people with one shared vision who work together, for example in sewing, gardening, beadwork, baking, etc. In the photo below, they work on a garden at the church as many of them only have small plots at their homesteads, so they plant in the fenced church garden instead. This garden helps them feed their families with fresh vegetables without having to go to spend money. It also encourages unity and helps them get to know each other better. When someone in the group has a problem, they support each other to find solutions and pray for one another.

“Together we stand, divided we fall.”



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



Although the soil was hard, this group continues preparing their garden, because they have learned the **importance of soil preparation**. This shows the power of being in a group — you are not alone; you have brothers and sisters. After finishing, they check each other's plots to see if the job was done well.



This group joined the programme in 2025 and formed a **sector group** this year. They don't lose hope but tell themselves that one day they will come out of poverty. They meet twice or three times a month to learn different skills and help each member to have her own homestead garden. In addition, they have a big garden where they plant different veggies. Their goal is to supply the supermarkets and the nearby tuckshops, but are now affected by drought. Then meet every Thursday for scripture reading and prayers.



Funani Kweyama, 57, from Mbhijo 2 Zone, joined the Sizakala group in 2026. She is a very active and strong woman. Her husband passed away when she was young, leaving her with four children. She struggled to provide them with a better education and life and survived by working in other people's homes to feed her family. She says:

"If I had known about the ACAT programme earlier, I would be in a better position by now. The programme opened my eyes. Before this, I didn't know where or how to sell my beadwork or how to price it. People took advantage of me because I didn't understand bookkeeping. Now I am ready to re-start and am looking for markets to sell my work. During my break I also grew spiritually, by reading the Bible and sharing it with my children. I haven't planted a garden yet because livestock keep destroying it, so my next plan is to fence the garden first."

FOOD SECURITY AND INCOME GENERATION



Mathapelo Molefe, joined ILP this year 2026. She loves farming. After training, she applied what she learned and started a home garden. Though small, it shows she gained valuable skills.



After completing their BLS course, the members of Haladu groups decided to work together as a **sector group to develop a joint farming project**. Although some members don't yet have secure access to gardens, their aim is to grow together in agriculture. They see this sector group as a stepping stone toward their farming goals and they have a great hope that by working together, they will improve quickly, and be able to develop themselves and their families.



Selinah Motloung from Haladu Zone, Nquthu 1 District, joined the ILP a few months ago in 2026. After her BLS training, she embraced the lessons with both hands, especially in business practices and healthy lifestyle. She started a health and beauty cosmetics business for women, believing that many people value beauty. She says the business is doing well because she also learned business management and record keeping during training. She is very grateful for the knowledge she gained.



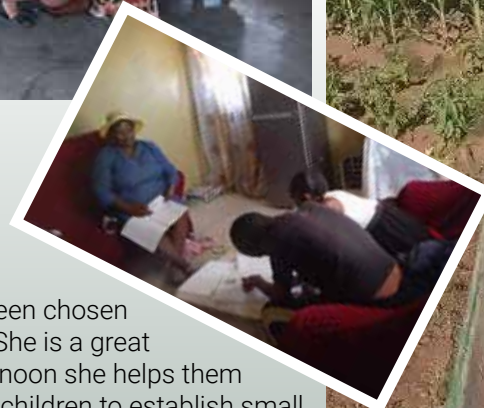
AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)

The **Sgalelekile Savings and Loan Group** from the Nquthu 2 area was established in 2025 by G5 members from different groups.

Their aim is to save earnings from garden produce sales and other small businesses. By joining together, they see it as good progress for them.



Ncamisile Buthelezi, a community volunteer, serves her community with love. She teaches others how to make hats and scarves from old clothes. For her, this is a strong business because her sales support her family's needs. She also spends time visiting elderly people at places like the local luncheon club. There, she teaches them crafts to keep their hands busy and help reduce their stress. Ncamisile is an active member of the Simunye SLG and has an amazing vegetable garden.



Happy Buthelezi (right) has been chosen as zone facilitator in Nquthu. She is a great asset to the youth. Every afternoon she helps them with homework and supports children to establish small gardens at home. Recognized as an outstanding farmer in her community, she also helps other community members with farming practices.



FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND INCOME



As part of Basic Life Skills training, **each G5 member receives seedlings** to start a garden at home. For many, this is the first step — turning new knowledge into practice, with something growing in the ground within days.



Sanarose Sbiya is 65 years old and from the Mathibelana Zone. She joined ACAT in 2025. She really enjoys working in the garden. After BLS training, she started planting in deep trenches and saw a clear difference in her harvest. She said she began making her own seedlings because they are too expensive. She now shares them with members of her G5 group.



Jabulisiwe Khuzwayo (83) from Saron Zone is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the programme. She is a proud member of the Sincengimpilo SLG. She makes dowels and belts from grass for sleeping mats, and sells them to street vendors and to people in the décor business. She uses the money she earns from this business for savings and to attend church conferences. What brings her great joy is that she still has her eyesight at her age, and she continues with this hard work.



Community Volunteer, **Senamile Kunene**, works in her home garden. Removing weeds is part of the good garden practice she learned in BLS training. By caring for her crops daily, she's ensuring better yields and sharing that knowledge with others.

Sipho Qwabe is 60 years old and a member of Masakhane group. After retiring from work, he joined the ACAT programme. He did not want to remain idle. He says many people who stay at home after retirement often fall ill because they do not use their bodies, making them more susceptible to disease. He is particularly passionate about planting fruit trees and tending to existing ones that previously bore no fruit but are now producing. Participating in the programme has been a great benefit to him.



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



The members of this Savings and Loans group in Ntumeni 2 are delighted with their savings and like to count their money to encourage themselves.

AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)



The **Area Implementing Committee (AIC)** team recently hosted a Basic Life Skills (BLS) training. Despite the very cold weather that week, participants were eager to learn and requested that one of the sessions be held outside in the sunshine. The AIC training team is passionate about seeing communities grow and improve. On the final day of the training, participants take part in a practical demonstration of how to establish a deep trench garden. This hands-on approach gives learners the confidence and skills to return home and immediately apply what they have learned, helping them improve household food security and livelihoods.

The **Area Implementing Committee team and Collab Series** members regularly host workshops together where practical farming solutions are shared and demonstrated. These workshops cover topics such as soil preparation, composting, weed control, pest management, and other sustainable agricultural practices. They also meet regularly to plan activities and support one another. By working together and sharing their different skills, knowledge, and experiences, they strengthen their ability to serve communities and promote sustainable livelihoods.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



Anele Njokwe from Okhahlamba joined the programme in 2025, from Mahlutshini Zone. Before the Basic Life Skills training, she felt her life lacked direction. Today, she has the confidence and skills to provide for her family and sells her surplus produce to neighbours, earning extra income. Anele's story shows how practical training can build confidence, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods.



Banenhlanhla Dlamini joined the programme in 2022. Before that she had done the YBLS as a teenage. Although she now has a full-time job, she continues to apply the skills she gained through the Basic Life Skills programme. She runs a small business buying and selling fresh vegetables and fruit, creating an additional source of income. Her business also benefits the wider community, as she purchases produce from other participants in the programme, helping to strengthen local livelihoods. Being part of the ACAT family has empowered Banenhlanhla to recognize business opportunities and develop an entrepreneurial mindset that continues to make a positive impact on her life and those around her.



Abenathi Zuma attended the Youth Basic Life Skills Training last year. She says:

"I especially enjoyed learning about God and developing business skills. I dream of becoming a businesswoman. Since the training, I started selling sweets at school and I am making a profit. I hope to encourage my friends to start a savings group with me."

Abenathi's parents are delighted with the positive impact the training has had on her life.



AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)



This **BLS training** session was, facilitated by **Simangele**, who also serves as a Zone Facilitator at Taylors. Through her leadership and guidance, participants are engaging in discussions that combine biblical principles with practical livelihood skills, promoting holistic personal and community development. The training equips community members with knowledge and tools to improve their household well-being, strengthen their faith, and build sustainable livelihoods. Simangele's commitment to empowering others reflects the important role community based ILP facilitators play in fostering positive and lasting change within their communities.



This **BLS training** is underway at KwaQanda Zone, where participants are actively engage in discussions and learning activities. Conducted in March 2026, the training aimed to equip community members with practical livelihood skills while strengthening their spiritual foundation through biblical teachings. Notably, most participants were young people, demonstrating a growing interest among youth in personal development, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Their enthusiastic participation reflects the important role that young people can play in driving positive change within their communities.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



Together We Win" is the message this newly trained group appears to be conveying as they work side by side to establish their gardens. Having recently completed their training, the group members are now putting their knowledge into practice through teamwork and mutual support. By working together, they are helping one another with land preparation, planting, and other gardening activities, ensuring that every member could start a productive garden.

Newly trained group members from Taylors are putting their Household Food Security (HFS) training into practice by planting vegetable seedlings at one of the members' homesteads. This practical demonstration provides participants with an opportunity to apply the knowledge gained during training in a real-life setting while reinforcing key gardening principles and techniques.



Group members work together to establish household gardens, supporting one another as each group member prepares and develops their own garden. Inspired by the Household Food Security (HFS) workshop conducted in their zone, they have embraced the spirit of cooperation and mutual support. By sharing labour, knowledge, and encouragement, the group is helping ensure that every member has the opportunity to start a productive garden. This collective effort demonstrates the power of teamwork in promoting household food security, self-reliance, and sustainable livelihoods.



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



A determined group member from Taylors proudly showcases her homemade vegetable atchar, made from cabbage, chillies, and other locally available ingredients. What started as a simple **income-generating activity** has grown into a valuable source of support for her household. By processing fresh vegetables into a marketable product, she has successfully added value to local produce while meeting the needs of customers in her community.

Her business is a testament to the power of entrepreneurship, innovation, and hard work. Using the skills and knowledge gained through training, she has transformed readily available resources into a sustainable livelihood opportunity. Her success serves as an inspiration to other group members, demonstrating that with determination and the willingness to apply new skills, small business ideas can grow into meaningful sources of income and household resilience.



Participants gathered during a practical business workshop, where they were taught how to **produce floor polish** as part of an income-generating initiative aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. This workshop forms part of a series of entrepreneurship and business development trainings designed to equip G5 members with practical skills that can be transformed into small businesses. During the session, the finished floor polish is demonstrated on the floor by Zone Facilitator **Simangele** (below), allowing participants to see the quality and effectiveness of the product firsthand. The demonstration helps participants gain confidence in the product they are learning to manufacture and market within their communities. By witnessing the practical application of the floor polish, participants are better able to understand its value and potential as a viable business opportunity.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



As part of our annual programme requirements, we conduct **Basic Life Skills (BLS) training** for ten groups each year. This particular BLS training session was held in the **Bombo Zone**.

Sizakele Khumalo, from the Nyonyana zone in the Mzumbe area, joined the ACAT programme in 2024. Although she is advanced in age at 65 years old and no longer has the physical strength she once had, she understands the importance of doing something with your own hands in order to survive. For this reason, she continues to plant amadumbe, which greatly helps by providing enough

food for her household. She explains that because her strength is no longer the same, she now farms mainly to provide food for her family at home rather than for commercial purposes.

Nosipho Duma from the Nyonyana zone joined the ACAT programme in 2024. She now has her own garden and says she truly enjoys farming because she has seen the great benefits of growing vegetables for her household. Since they are a large family and no one at home is employed, the garden has become very important as they are now able to get fresh vegetables from their own yard, helping them save the grant money they receive.

She also greatly appreciates receiving her own Bible and learning how to read and navigate it herself. She says she has become much more committed to her spiritual life and is very thankful to the ACAT programme for encouraging young



INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



ministry.

She is now confident in using and understanding her Bible, and she is also able to teach others about the Lord Jesus.

Zolile Mbhele from the Cabhane zone joined the ACAT programme in 2022 and began training as a CV in 2023. She says the programme has helped her greatly because it inspired her to start her own egg-selling business.

She began with 10 laying chickens, and although she started on a small scale, she is determined to grow the business by increasing the number of chickens she owns. She currently collects about 80 eggs each week, selling trays at R70 and individual eggs at R2,33 each.

Zolile explains:

“Before joining the programme, I felt I was simply passing time because I was not doing anything productive. However, after joining ACAT, I gained knowledge and encouragement, especially through the business lessons, which motivated me to stand up and improve my life. The Bible teachings also changed the way I see life, and gave me a new perspective. Because of the positive impact the programme has had on my life, I now encourage others who may

people to read the Bible and learn more about God. Nosipho says she is determined to expand her garden in the future so that she can eventually sell vegetables to members of her community.

Thandeka Mkhize, a CV from the Ndunge zone, joined the ACAT programme in 2020. After losing her husband, she started selling second-hand clothes in order to provide for her family.

The knowledge and support she received through the programme, especially from the spiritual lessons have greatly strengthened her



AREA IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE (AIC)

The **Area Implementing Committee** is committed to delivering high-quality Basic Life Skills (BLS) training that equips participants with practical knowledge and skills for everyday life. The training focuses on four key areas: food security, health, basic business principles, and developing a relationship with God.

The programme combines classroom learning with practical application. Participants spend time in theory sessions where concepts are explained in detail and are given homework assignments, particularly in the business component, to reinforce their understanding. The training concludes with a practical day in the demonstration garden, where participants apply the food security techniques they have learned, building their confidence to implement these practices in their own homes.

Beyond delivering training, the AIC team regularly meets to reflect, evaluate progress, and develop strategies for future activities. These planning sessions ensure that the programme continues to respond effectively to community needs and remains focused on creating lasting change. Through careful planning, dedicated training, and practical support, the AIC team is working towards stronger, healthier, and more self-reliant communities.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Ngitheni Zuma attended the Basic Life Skills (BLS) Training in 2024 and later enrolled in the Community Vision (CV) course at the ACAT Centre because of her passion for developing her community.

“I am grateful to be part of the programme and it has equipped me with practical knowledge and skills. I grow a variety of vegetables and crops, which provide nutritious food for my family. I also sell the surplus produce within in community, generating additional income. I really dream of expanding my farming enterprise so that one day I will be able to supply local shops with fresh produce.”



Phindile Dladla from Nqabeni Zone attended the Basic Life Skills (BLS) Training in 2024. Inspired by what she learned, she decided to start her own vegetable garden using the land she already had at home. Today, she grows fresh vegetables for her family and sells the surplus to community members, providing both healthy food and an additional source of income. Motivated by her desire to make a greater impact, she has since joined the Community Vision (CV) programme, where she is learning how to better serve and develop her community. At home, Phindile involves her family in gardening, and several neighbours have also come to learn from her, making her garden a place of learning and encouragement for others.

Sebenzile Dube from Msunduzi Zone attended the Basic Life Skills (BLS) Training last year. She was especially excited to learn about business and gained practical knowledge that inspired her to start her own income-generating activities.

Today, Sebenzile grows crops and vegetables, which she sells to members of her community. She has also started a small tuck shop where she sells snacks, with the goal of expanding it into a fully established shop in the future. She is particularly grateful for the bookkeeping skills she learned during the training, as they have enabled her to keep accurate records and clearly see the growth of her business. Sebenzile is encouraged by the progress she has made and looks forward to continuing to grow her enterprise.

