



*Richard Lipholo working on the Ha Nyenye Pig Project*

Field Report  
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Executive Field Officer



## Malimpo Feeding Programme

This programme was financed by Cathy Hayes and Triona O’Keeffe in December 2008 for 16 sick people who were nominated by Lepoqong Caregivers. The programme is planned for 18 months and it is anticipated that new people will continue to be added as funds are raised in Ireland; Lepoqong have a waiting list of names. The project delivers a basket of staple foods once a month at the cost of 11 euros a month. This food enables people to take essential medicines after a meal. A further 3 people were added to the programme in January as a result of funds raised by Teresa Moriarty and in February another person was added to the programme as a result of funding from Brid Brady.



*Mamosa Mothibel*

Since the programme began two people have died, one of those people was Malimpo Tsemame. Cathy and Triona have dedicated the programme to Malimpo as she was the first person they visited in Ha Maputsoe and the person who inspired them to start the programme.



*Makhotsa Qokolo*

The programme is caring for seven men, eleven women and one thirteen year old girl. The average age of participants is 48 years. Of the nineteen people fourteen are HIV positive and ten of those fourteen are also being treated for TB. Four people have no carer and five have a disability. In all there are fifty six dependents. The programme covers seven of the twelve villages.



*Teboho Letlaka*

Cathy and Triona were involved in the February food deliveries and were heartened to see that many of the recipients are responding to the extra food; patients have gained weight, are stronger, more positive about the future and in the case of two are now able to get into their gardens and were busy planting. Members of Ha Chonapase Pig Cooperative have built their first keyhole garden for Ntate Letlaka. Ntate was able to demonstrate that the plants in the keyhole are thriving whereas plants on the ground nearby were disappointing.



*Mamosa Mothibel*



*Maneo Litabe*



*Monaheng Makone & family*

## Ha Majele

The Loantsang committee is currently meeting in a one room house that has been loaned to the group; this is their third move. As a result of the torrential rains in January/February most of the mud constructed buildings are under great strain and the roofs are unstable. The group unanimously agreed that despite the great need in the village to support a feeding programme their need for a building is top priority. The group are compiling a list of very sick people in the village; they estimate that there are at least 100. Eight quilts were left with the group and a further delivery will be made when the group provide a prioritised list.

The group spent a morning taking part in some filming so that Bantry Friends of Lesotho will have a short film to show potential sponsors of the Community Development Centre the people involved in the project in Ha Majele,





Ha Maqele



Ha Maqele water source



Committee Member

some of the Loantsang clients in the village and the challenges that they face. The water hole pictured is over a kilometre from the village and is not a clean source of water.

Many of the Loantsang clients are too sick to make a meal and too weak to leave their beds so they rely on the volunteers and their daily visits. The committee are providing an essential service but often feel frustrated as their clients have little or no food, it is vital to get the top priority clients onto a food programme and build keyhole gardens so that they can avail of fresh vegetables.



## Lepoqong Care Givers

The Lepoqong Community Development Centre is utilised 6 days a week by the volunteer committee of ten people. Their two main initiatives are visiting the sick two days a week and providing a feeding programme at the weekend for the 67 children who are registered. The volunteers are eager that the computer room which currently has 5 computers should be used for training the young people in the 'Willing Hearts' group. The computer room will take another three computers thus giving eight young people an opportunity to take part in Popa Seaka's basic computer course. Currently stools are being made for the students.



Weekend games activities are in full swing, football and volleyball; the surrounding fence will need to be raised as balls are making their way into the neighbour's garden and small pits need to be dug to safely house the removable volley ball posts.



A bench is being constructed in the meeting room together with stools to accommodate three electric sewing machines for women who wish to sew during the week. The outside toilet needs to be rebuilt with blocks as the corrugated iron is disintegrating; there is just one toilet for children to use.

The 'Willing Hearts' group have had some success with their garden project; they are now going to learn how to construct keyhole gardens from Ntate Clifford. The group are all eager to go to Botswana on the winter school tour so they have been encouraged to start up a savings programme; a bank account will be set up and loan repayments deposited

together with earnings from sales of vegetables and construction of keyhole gardens for TTK. The group has two new members who are eager to start growing vegetables.

## 'M'e Matsepo's Sewing Cooperative

'M'e Matsepo's group had created fourteen quilts, and 34 crib sets. Matsepo is so pleased that TTK have provided a market for their products. The group currently have plenty of wool and are 'happy, happy, happy' to have work. 'M'e Matsepo is looking well and is no longer attending the hospital. Current rates of pay in the local textile



factories is R4 per hour; it takes 44 hours to complete a quilt including the material collection, cutting the pieces and making the blanket; thus the women are paid at the rate of R5.68 per hour.

The group's goals; they are now going to choose a committee, generate a legal constitution, open a bank account and start a savings plan so that they can plan for Christmas and January school fees. The group were in high spirits, working hard and very motivated. They are currently experimenting with some designs for bead bracelets with simple messages.



### Ha Nyenye Pig Project



Gabriel Fanta Matoba and Richard Lipholo have been working really hard and despite the torrential rain they have each managed to build two farrowing houses. Gabriel's two houses are not quite dry and need roofs and gates to finalise the construction. His sow is eager to take up residence. All of their piglets are totally tame and have dramatically increased in size since December. As can be seen from the picture Gabriel is also rearing some chicks.



Richard's farrowing houses are complete and ready for the sow to give birth this week, the second sow will deliver in May and the third in June thus the need for two more farrowing houses. Richard is advertising his services to help others in the community to start rearing pigs; both men are eager to construct keyhole gardens or indeed to provide training services to other groups. Loan outstanding R33, 000; the men are currently putting together an investment plan from the sale of pigs. TTK transferred R8,450 for farrowing houses and R2, 600 for pig feed in February.



### Ha Chonapase Pig Project

The meeting with the group took place during a storm which illustrated the difficulties of transportation over the past two months. The storm was so severe that one Bakkie had to be rescued by the TTK Jeep. The group have been endeavouring to build keyhole gardens for the Lepoqong feeding project but has encountered some difficulties along the way. Two of the initial three people that had been highlighted as priority cases are unable to have keyholes constructed as they are renting properties and there is no room to construct one. The group are reliant on hiring the TTK tractor and on their Chief to drive it to transport rocks. One keyhole has been successfully constructed and is making a big difference to the Lepoqong client.

In order to construct keyholes the following items are required; dung, cans, rocks, ash, sticks and transport. The group work as a team of 14 people and an analysis of the work and time involved in a single project was estimated at 16 hours to gather the materials, break the rocks and transport to the site. Total costs for construction is R800, this price includes transportation and diesel costs.

Issues identified by the group were; access to rocks, sticks and ash. Following a meeting with Chief Peter Rantoa the group now have permission to gather rocks and sticks and the group will burn dung to generate ash. The group's loan stands at R83, 442. The group have just sold 9 piglets and now have R6, 600 in the bank, it was agreed that this money will cover two months of feed. The group own 1 Boar, 5 sows and currently 11 piglets. Piglets are due on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, early May and June; the group is looking at an investment plan from the sale of pigs.



## St Monica's Primary School

All the teachers attended a meeting to plan the launch of the three new classrooms on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. The classroom suite will be opened by the Minister of Education, Hon. Dr. Mamphono Khaketla who will be accompanied by the Irish Ambassador, Paddy Fay. Other guests expected include the District Administrator, Education Officer, the Principals of the two neighbouring schools, two members of the school committee, the local MP, representatives of the Roman Catholic School Secretariat, the Parish Priest, Principal and local Chiefs and the Bishop. Irish visitors will include; Connor McHugh, a representative from Irish Aid, Eva Creely, a representative from Worldwide, representatives from Twinning the Kingdoms and three Transition Year students from Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne. It is anticipated that there will be 1300 guests attending the ceremony. St Monica's will cover the cost of the lunch for 1300 people and TTK will contribute R2,120 for the rental of a tent and VIP lunches. TTK transferred funds of R28, 525 for furniture for the classrooms in February.

## Morate Medium English High School

Ntate Isaac, Principal of Morate and Ntate Thaba Moseunyane, Chairman of the Board of Management attended a meeting to plan for the launch of the suite of vocational classrooms on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. The whole school will be involved in the launch and guests will include; the Minister of Education and Principal Secretary, the Irish Ambassador, representatives from Irish Aid and Worldwide, The Minister of Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the Board of Management, District Administrator, Senior Education Officer, Member of the Community Council, representatives of TTK and parents from Form A & B. Ntate Lenka plans to compose a song for the day which the choir will perform. The Chairperson of the Board will arrange media, TV, Radio and newspaper coverage.

## Qoqolosing

Following a meeting with TTK Field Officer in Maseru the Minister for Natural Resources and his Advisors met with local stakeholders in Qoqolosing on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February to view the proposed site for a fruit tree development. The Minister,



Ntate Mokhosi comes from the Leribe area, is familiar with the village and is enthusiastic about the potential of the area. The government's policy clearly states that trees can contribute significantly to the alleviation of poverty, provide livelihood security, environmental protection and enhance the participation of marginalised and disadvantaged groups and in particular, women, young people and people with disabilities. As a result the Minister has formulated a number of community



initiatives that will bring enthusiasm, participation and real benefits to the community in Qoqolosing. In his own words 'we will have a delicious and mouth watering project.'



The Minister and his Advisor laid out a clear plan to those who attended the meeting, he emphasised that he is excited to embark on a fruit tree project. 'Assessment tells me that Qoqolosing is a place of food production.' The proposed site needs to be registered by the chief of the village in Leribe. The Minister wants to start by empowering households in the village ensuring that each family has a peach tree outside their homes. If the community can plough 3-4 fields the community will be given seeds to plant the land. The Minister is prepared to build a dam for the village so that the fruit trees on the mountain side can be irrigated, other areas may be ideal for the planting of indigenous shrubs. Contours in the land for the prevention of soil erosion will be managed by the community and their work will be repaid in food packages of Mealie Meal. The Forestry Advisor will be giving the community advice as to how to prune

fruit trees so that they bear the maximum amount of fruit. The Minister will be providing a water storage tank and the government are providing assistance with a water collection scheme whereby ten neighbours get together and collect stones and sand and the Ministry will provide 50 bags of cement free. There is no limit to the amount of water containers that can be built. It is anticipated that the initial fruit farm would hold between 400 and 1,000 trees. A Pitso, public meeting, is planned with the Minister in Qoqolosing on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> April.



## 'M'e Mary's Sewing Group

'M'e Mary's sewing group of six women has reduced to three as three members have been working in the fields. Initially there were 11 people in the group; the challenge for them is to find a product that has a local market as they are keen to make a regular income. Currently they have purchased material with which to make children's traditional dresses. They hope to rent a 'shack' in town in which to sell the dresses; they are looking forward to Pippa Kearon's visit in April for advice and support.



'M'e Mary and her five day old grandchildren

## Sesotho Designs

Saeed and the women at Sesotho Designs are excited and enthusiastic about the association with TTK and are looking forward to Pippa Kearon's arrival in Lesotho in April to continue with business development and product design. Camara have a computer available for Saeed. Telephone line installation and monthly rental charges are exorbitant in Lesotho thus it would seem the best solution is to work with wireless broadband via a Vodacom dongle which will ensure that Sesotho Designs is ready for orders and regular inexpensive communication with TTK and international customers.



'The Scattering'

## Gift's Little World of Smiles – English Medium Preschool

Dee Fay has set up a Preschool for fifty children in a suburb of Maseru; her energy and enthusiasm is inspiring. She has mobilised funds from Ireland, and volunteers, including her son Niall, have renovated and painted a small building out of which a full Montessori programme is running on a daily basis. Dee has trained the two staff and spends her mornings with the children who are now greeting all guests in English. The children have a fully equipped class room and are engaged in developmental activities which they are enjoying enormously. For Dee it is a dream come true; the school is named after a baby whose mother died as a result of AIDS, fortunately Gift is negative and is much loved by Dee. The school is a testament to the commitment that Dee has put into her work in Lesotho; she has been working on the ground with children and orphanages since she arrived and has proved that one woman can make a real difference.



Dee Fay

## Twinning the Kingdoms Administrative Assistant

'M'e Moselantja has decided to focus her work on disability issues as a volunteer with the Reikhemotse Support Group in Ha Chonapase where she has been working with the Chairperson to put the constitution together and open a bank account for the group. The group plan to get an income by renting the Jeep; currently they have R750 in their bank account. St Monica's Primary School would like to hire the Jeep for a morning and evening school run; Ntate Mankoe is arranging for extra folding bench seats to be installed at the back of the Jeep. Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne will be renting the Jeep in April for the Transition Year trip; standing charge R300 per day and R2 per kilometre.

Twinning the Kingdoms has recruited Popa Seako as Part Time Administrator to support Ntate Mankoe, Project Coordinator. Popa is currently studying to re sit his English and Maths exams and is completing his Basic Computer course in Peka. Una Martin and Anne Delaney are continuing to sponsor Popa's next six month computer course, (R2, 570) to ensure that he has the opportunity to continue to upgrade his skills. Popa will be liaising with Anne Kiely, Company Secretary, on Monday of each week and emailing a financial report to her at the end of each month. Popa will compile the monthly project report for Ntate Mankoe and email to Eileen O'Leary. Popa's other duties will include working at the Lepoqong Community Development Centre facilitating computer courses with the 'Willing Hearts' group of young people and also the management committee, Ntate Mankoe and Popa will work as a team on the Malimpo monthly food deliveries. Popa spent six evenings training and will be working from the TTK apartment.



## Rainbow Broadcast

Ade Oke is the producer of the popular Radio Carlow 'Rainbow' weekly programme. Ade and his colleague Yemi Adenuga, a television and radio presenter travelled to Lesotho in February as recipients of the Simon Cumbers Media Challenge award in order to research a programme 'Singing Away the Sorrows'. Whilst in Lesotho they took the opportunity to visit Morate English Medium High School to interview Ntate Lenka, Choir Master and to record his choir. Eileen O'Leary joined them in Malealea to record and photograph 'Sesotho Sounds' and to give a background to the work that TTK is engaged in. The programme will be broadcast on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March with an accompanying exhibition of photographs in the Bernard Shaw Room, Carlow Central Library.



Yemi Adenuga & Ade Oke

## Sponsorships

TTK are liaising with Sr. Motilisa with regard to financial school support for children in need. Lepekola Kompi is happily settled into St. Luke's Preschool; his brother Sekeka is attending St. Luke's Primary School and is enjoying his classes. Tumelo Masitha is five years old and is deaf as a result of meningitis; he has just taken up a place at St. Paul's School for the Deaf in Leribe having been referred by the Special Education Unit. TTK will visit the school with 'M'e Masitha in April. Nteboheleng Mokooane is looked after by her grandmother, her father has passed away and her mother is sick, she is 6 years old. Nteboheleng has not been attending school because her grandmother was unable to pay the school fees. Khopotsa is thirteen years old, both her parents have passed away and she and her siblings are cared for by her elderly grandmother. Khopotsa has been very sick and unable to attend school this year, she has been operated on and she looks forward to returning to school as soon as possible she is a keen student.



Khopotsa Khatcha



Lepekola Kompi



Tumelo Masitha



Alina Marabe & her granddaughter  
Nteboheleng Mokooane

## Schoolnet Lesotho – Camara Technical Service Centre Association

TTK Field Officer Chairing the Board of this organisation, Ntate Sefali, Vice Chairperson, Mokhathali Sekota, Secretary, Malefetsane Nketekete, Member and TTK Project Coordinator Ntate Mankoe Member of the Board. This non profit NGO is based in TY and is a partnership focused on the delivery of computer hardware, software, internet services, computer electronic waste disposal, training and certification for the educational sector in Lesotho. The organisation carries out some of its activities with volunteers. One of the main objectives of the organisation is to provide affordable computer hardware and software to schools and other educational institutions around the country. Computers sent from Ireland are refurbished and training and support is provided for teachers and students. The organisation aims to become a recognised ICDL Centre. Initial revenues will come from the sale of computers and computer training. The CEO of the company is Mokhathali Sekota; the constitution for the organisation was signed in October 2008. Ntate Malefetsane works for the Department of Education in the National Curriculum Development Unit and has been a member of the NGO Schoolnet since its inception. Ntate Sefali is the Principal of a school.

The organisation received 825 computers from Ireland in 2008 and anticipates 1,700 in 2009 in four shipments. Computers are sold to schools in Lesotho for R400. It is estimated that 253 of the shipped computers will need maintenance; 83 needed maintenance in 2008. 100 students undertook a Basic Training course in 2008 and it is anticipated that 500 will avail of training in 2009. Total revenues generated in 2008, 34,444 Euro;



revenues projected in 2009 | 10.103 Euro. Currently 941 computers have been purchased by schools covering all ten districts of Lesotho.

The Board of Management will be meeting formally four times a year, (In 2008/9) April, July, October, January and keeping in contact via email SKYPE and SMS together with informal meetings when the TTK Field Officer is in Lesotho. The next Board meeting is planned in April 2009 and the CEO will present an Income and Expenditure statement. The Board is now looking at branding its identity and creating a PR plan together with creating a policy around the basic specification for computers being shipped to schools in Lesotho. Mokhathali, the CEO is currently working on his own which is limiting his ability to visit schools; a security guard was employed but has passed away so a new guard needs to be recruited.

Camara in Ireland provides volunteers in the summer to work in TY facilitating training courses both in the Hub and in schools and thus providing a source of revenue. Camara have also sourced funding to enable the first 100 students to be trained free for ICDL certification. Mokhathali is currently working on SA registration of the TY Centre as a training and testing site and is sourcing another building out of which to run the training courses.

## ther TTK Items

- Jeep and Bakkie insured until November 2009
- Bank charges will be waived once TTK sends a letter to NED Bank verifying that it is a registered charity
- Dr Jesse paid R280 to cover Lepokola's medical expenses
- Danny Rowan, from Irish Aid, Ireland, will be visiting St Monica's Primary School and the Loantsang Group on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, visit arranged by Ambassador Paddy Fay and facilitated by Ntate Mankoe
- Pulane Ramoabi currently living near to the Lepoqong Community Development Centre and available to facilitate management and financial training skills for local committees
- Theresa Moriarty has donated €2,000 towards the purchase of a play pump, monies to be transferred to TTK NED Bank account and paid to Dr Jesse as Chairperson of the Ficksburg Rotary Club. Recommended site for the Play Pump, the primary school at Qoqolosing which currently has no water. Note; each Play Pump costs 3,000 Euro, but purchasing one company provides 3 Play Pumps

*If you would like to volunteer your time in Lesotho or work within your community to raise awareness and funds to support one of these projects, please email Eileen O'Leary at [kerryarts@eircom.net](mailto:kerryarts@eircom.net) or telephone her at 00353 879213084. We appreciate your interest and your help. Thank You.*

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