

ABET Programme Report for the period 1 January - 31 December 2008

1. The ABET Programme and Learning Centres

ACAT has continued with the two ABET Learning centres operating in KZN, one in Mnambithi and one in Umzumbe. There were 24 learners enrolled at the centre at Mnambithi, and 14 at Umzumbe. Most of those enrolled are members of G5 groups and are involved with small business enterprises.

Olive Mbambo retired as ABET Co-ordinator for the Umzumbe area, and Sifiso Khumalo has taken over the role of ABET Co-ordinator for Umzumbe.

Modules being taught at the centres include:

- Basic Life Skills;
- Zulu Literacy (Asifunde);
- Language & Communication, L1, M1 and M2;
- Numeracy, L1, M1.

‘Learn with Echo’ continues to be used as a practical tool for literacy learning at both centres.

In addition to literacy and numeracy training, the centres also offer training in business skills. Indeed, 5 learners at the Mnambithi Centre have, in 2008, written and passed their Standard Test in Management and Entrepreneurship, Level 1, Module 3. Assessment of the learners is done by the ABET Facilitators and Co-ordinators, and monitored by means of visits to the centres, reports from the facilitators and the standard tests written by the learners.

2. Development of ACAT's Education and Training Materials

Although ACAT's core focus is determined by the training needs of the target group, a decision was taken at the end of 2007 to upgrade four of the ABET learning areas in line with the revised SAQA Unit Standards. It was further decided to write Facilitator Guides for Levels 3 and 4 of the Numeracy and Literacy manuals. Educator Guides have thus been compiled for the following ABET learners' manuals:

- English Language and Numeracy: Educator Guides for Levels 3 and 4;
- Zulu literacy: An Educator Guide has been compiled for Zulu Level 1. Learner Manuals for Zulu Level 2 have also now been written, together with an Educator Guide;
- Applied Agriculture: Since this series has shown slow sales, it was decided to not to continue with the Educator Guides for Levels 3 and 4. However, since the Level 3 Educator Guide is 70% complete, this will be completed during 2009.

ACAT's Partnership Series

The ACAT Partnership Training Series is designed for the training of Field Staff, Community Volunteers and community members, by ACAT or 'Partner' organizations. Particular attention is therefore being paid to the quality and integrity of these materials.

The following manuals have been completed (or modified) in 2008:

- Advanced Business Practices for Trainers (in Zulu);
- Advanced Business Practices for Entrepreneurs (English and Zulu);
- Modifications have been made to the Community Volunteer series;
- The CMC Courses 1 and 2, based on the Leadership Skills Course, have now been translated into Zulu. A 'pilot run' has been completed for each, and certain changes made. Two courses of CMC 1 and 2 are scheduled in 2009. This includes material from the "Implementation of a Development Programme", which has been re-formatted into the new CMC manual.

'Advanced Business Practices for Entrepreneurs' referred to above was introduced in 2008. Entrepreneurs seeking ACAT's R1000 loan are required to undergo training using this manual. In line with ACAT's policy of continuity and progression within its training materials, this manual follows on from the 'Basic Business Practices' taught during the Basic Life Skills course.

Two training courses were presented involving newly developed material:

- The Extension Methods course was presented to Extension staff members on 12 – 16 May 2008;
- The SAP Specialisation training was held, using material from the manual titled Sustainable Agriculture: Principles and Practices.

A start was made on a Home Food Security manual, which will be completed early in 2009.

Spiritual Development Series

Translation was completed in January and February 2008 for the following modules:

- Ephesians;
- The Beatitudes;
- The Eternal Christ;
- Breaking Poverty Bonds.

The 'Work Ethic' manual has been upgraded to align with a recognised SAQA Unit Standard, and is being used by Authentic Life, a partner organization, in their prison outreach programme.

3. Module Sales

Module sales for the period 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008 are presented below, alongside sales for the corresponding period in 2005, 2006 and 2007:

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total sales	683,583	185,698	413,555	198,418

Of the sales of ABET modules, Numeracy (English) accounts for 32%, Numeracy (Zulu) 15%, English Language and Communication 23%, Ancilliary Health Care (English and Zulu) 12%. Of the **R198,418** total sales shown above, programme sales account for **R89,698**.

The above totals do not include sales by Vivlia. Vivlia Booksellers are co-publishers with ACAT of the ACAT-ABET learner support materials to Government departments nationally, and Best Books to larger clients (other than Government Departments), such as the FET Colleges. Sales of modules through these two agents have declined drastically during 2008.

The ACAT website is to be upgraded in the near future, and will be used as a marketing tool for training materials. In addition to this, the upgraded Numeracy and Literacy manuals have now been allocated ISBN codes, which means they can be identified and located by libraries and learning institutions throughout the country.



R.T. Phipson
Education and Training Advisor

Date: 24 February 2009.
