

A young girl with dark skin and short hair is smiling and sitting in a field of large green cabbages. She is wearing a bright pink jacket and black leggings. The background shows a wooden fence and some outdoor items like a metal pot. The entire image is framed by a dashed white border.

Impact of ACAT's Programme on Children – the next generation

Report for the 6 months (January to June 2018)



Building into the future

Wandile Shange lives with his father, mother and sister in Gebedu, Richmond. He enjoys school, and is in Grade 8. He wants to become a policeman when he is finished school.

His father is unemployed, but does ad hoc building jobs in the community. His mother, an ACAT G5 member, has started her own baking business to earn income. She has taught her children to help her with their vegetable garden. Through their mother, and through their time at ACAT's Youth Basic Skills course, Wandile and his sister have really grasped the idea of self-help. Their garden provides them with the vegetables for healthy living – something their mother insists on.



Wandile enjoys working in the garden, but also helps his father with building. They are busy building a new house made from blocks, which is a great improvement over the mud house they are currently living in. This is a skill that will help Wandile earn income in the future.



Wandile's mother says:

"Life has not been easy, but I have seen God taking care of my family and healing us of ill health. I am so thankful for all the training we have received from ACAT".

Full of beans



Cousins **Khwezi Sibiya** and **Mihlali Tshona** live with their grandparents who are part of the ACAT programme. They are keen farmers who harvest fields of maize, beans and sugar cane. Vegetables, which they grow in their garden, are always part of their diet.

The family produces the food they need from their farming activities, skills which the grandparents are making sure the children learn. The children also benefit from a Sunday School that is run by their granny and operates

from their home. The children wash dishes, clean the home and keep in touch with the other children in the neighbourhood who they encourage to join their Sunday School! Granny Noluvo says:

"It really is you who have to take the initiative to fight poverty and to overcome it. You have to learn to become independent. I have seen the real benefits of savings too as it affects our agri-business. We are very happy and satisfied. Teaching the grandchildren how to work is a lot of fun!"





Growing business brains

Lungelo Ngubane (above left), is in Grade 9 and hopes one day to study to become a doctor. His mother Hlolisile is a single mother who looks after 6 children by herself. She has really taken the idea of business and savings very seriously.

When she joined ACAT she was trained how to start her own business, and she has now established a business selling snacks and groceries from a small shop at her home.

Hlolisile has taught Lungelo and the older children how to assist her with their business. Lungelo helps with sales, and since receiving business training at ACAT, he has discovered that he really enjoys the business. His mother is now also a member of a savings and loan group.



Lungelo's mother says:
"Ever since my children attended the Youth Basic Life Skills at the ACAT Centre, they spend more time at home and help me – especially with my Tuckshop business. I am really thankful for ACAT's training for myself and my children!"



Hair braiding business

Zanele Khumalo lives with her grandmother, sisters and relatives – there are 10 people in their household. Zanele is in Grade 11 and likes Maths and Accounting. She would like to become a Chartered Accountant when she finishes school.

Her grandmother has been in the ACAT programme for 4 years, and is very grateful for the difference it has made to their family as most of the

family is unemployed. They have established their own vegetable garden to provide food for the family and they sell thatch grass to earn income. Zanele has a talent for braiding hair, and she is able to earn pocket money for herself and her sisters.

Zanele's granny says:

"We are so thankful for Zanele's skills in hair braiding. People pay her good money as young as she is, and she is able to buy her own clothes, and help her sisters too".





Life is so much better

Rathabile Molefe lives with her parents and siblings in the remote area of Nquthu. Both her parents are unemployed, and have been members of ACAT since 2015. Rathabile's mother does temporary work when it is available, and her father sells airtime to earn money.

Rathabile is 10, and in Grade 5. She enjoys school, and likes poems and reading. Her

favourite subjects are isiZulu and English. She loves playing netball with her friends.

Her mother says she is so grateful for the privilege of being trained by ACAT as a Community Volunteer, as it has really helped her acquire skills to benefit her family.

They have established a small vegetable garden, and fenced it, using the coiled springs of an old mattress. She likes to encourage her children to take care of the garden so that they can learn how to live a healthy lifestyle.

She says:

"I am so grateful for having ACAT's training. Life is so much better around my homestead, with my family and with our health."





Motivated to produce

Phelelani Molefe

lives with his parents, brother and sister in the Ezintabeni area in Nquthu. He is 18 years old. His favourite subject is English and he loves to play soccer.

His mother is a group member and she has worked very hard to establish a vegetable garden because she knows the value of good nutrition.

She is an ACAT Community Volunteer, and has really worked really hard to implement some of the skills she has learned though ACAT.

She wants to change the status of her family, and to this end, she has established a small business selling clothes.

Phelelani's father is currently unemployed, and now he too has found vegetable gardening interesting and beneficial.

Phelelani's mother says:

"I am very pleased with my boys because they are always willing to assist in all home activities, especially in the garden. Phelelani became so much more motivated since he returned from the ACAT Youth course."



ACAT brought us hope!

Minihle Molefe (left) lives with her grandmother, sister and cousins. She is in Grade 5, and her favourite subjects are English and Life Skills. She loves to play netball and traditional games like hide and seek. Minihle's granny received basic skills training at ACAT, and now she generates income from a sewing business. She says:

"I am so grateful for ACAT's Basic Skills Training which I received. It bought us a lot of hope, and changed our entire home and lifestyle. I now run and manage a creche to service the community, and together with my sewing, it generates income to help us meet my family's needs."





Joy of fresh vegetables

Ntando Ngwenya lives with her parents and siblings. There are 7 members of their household. Both her parents are unemployed, but her mother is a G5 member and very committed to gardening.

Ntando enjoys schooling, but battles with academics. She loves music and netball. She works hard to help her mother to produce their own vegetables.

The family has been able to get a Jojo tank to save water, which has enabled them to keep their garden productive.

They say they have learned from ACAT encouraging them to save – be it water or money! They have found



that this saving advice from ACAT has paid off, as they can see improvements in their homestead and family.

They are also very active in their local church.

Thembi, Ntando's mother says:

"I always have the joy of having fresh vegetables which sometimes I sell to make small cash. Savings of money has really changed my mind and our lives. I am very thankful for ACAT!"



Transferring skills

Sphelele Ndumo lives with his grandmother, who is a widow looking after more than 8 grandchildren – some of whom are orphans.

They live in the Okhahlamba area and his granny has been in the ACAT programme for about 9 years. She has a few cows, sheep and goats which she sells when necessary to support her family.

Sphelele is in Grade 8 and would love to become an

artist as he loves to draw. He loves their livestock and his job is to fetch them and look after them. They use the kraal manure for gardening and also to fertilize their maize field. He loves to work in the vegetable garden, having learned his skills from his granny.

When he returned from the ACAT Youth Basic Skills Course, Sphelele started his own vegetable garden (right) and has been saving money from the sales of his produce.

His granny says:

"I am so thankful to ACAT, my Extension Officer and our Community Volunteers for motivating and encouraging us as a family to continue with ACAT's programme of self-help – all of us are benefiting from all activities."





Sustaining ourselves

Nikiziwe Njokwe lives with her mother, siblings and grandmother in Okhahlamba. She is 16 and in Grade 8. Her grandfather has just passed away, leaving a household of 6 people.

Nikiziwe's grandmother has been in the programme for the past 9 years, and is very active in gardening and raising livestock.

They have a productive vegetable garden and grow

maize in their field. When the maize is harvested, they grind it to make mealie meal.

They have a few goats which they sell from time to time – the granny invests her savings in a Savings and Loans Group. She says she uses her savings to help support her grandchildren with their school needs.

Nikiziwe and her sister help in their garden with watering, and they have seen the health benefits from eating nutritiously.

Their grandmother says:

"Being a widow is tough. But what I have been trained in by ACAT will sustain me and my family. I also know God will be with us. I will always be thankful to ACAT's Extension Officer and my group members."





We never go hungry

Philiswa Khoza is 16 and in Grade 9. She lives in a household of 10. Philiswa's grandmother supports the family with her pension and grants. She has been a member of ACAT for a long time, and has amazing farming skills, which have really enabled this family to survive the problem of unemployment.

The family work hard in the fields where they plant maize

which they grind to provide the family with food.

Gradually, over time, they have improved their homestead



to become more sustainable and now it also produces vegetables and fruit.

Granny says:

"We have never gone hungry since I joined ACAT. I rejoice that my grandchildren are following my example of working hard so that we can save money. Savings, and the knowledge I got from ACAT has benefited my entire family, and has enabled me to look after them very well."



Own my own business

Akhona Dumisa lives in the Ntumeni area with his mother, aunt, granny and cousins. His mother is not employed, but after she joined ACAT, she started her own business selling clothing and airtime.

His mother, Mpume, says ACAT has had a huge influence on her and her household. They work hard in their vegetable garden so they can eat healthily. Akhona loves to work in the garden and fetches water for it, and keeps it clean.

Akhona is now in Grade 9 and he likes maths, English, music and soccer. He wants to be a doctor when he is finished schooling. His mother says:

"I am always thankful for the training I received – now I own a small business, and can feed my family fresh food."





Benefits of hard work

Siphokazi Khumalo lives with her grandmother, 4 adults and her sister in the eMnambithi area. She is in Grade 5, and says she'd like to be a nurse when she grows up.

Her granny, Ntombifuthi, has been an ACAT Group member since 2010, and is now able to support her family with various agricultural activities and her sewing business. She is also an ACAT Community Volunteer Co-ordinator for the zone in which they live. She loves to

motivate others to learn how to help themselves and to use the resources around them. For instance, she has taught her family to collect and use dry cow dung (above) from their cattle as fuel when they cook food on a fire.

Ntombifuthi has a sewing business and is a member of an ACAT Savings and Loan



Group. She says:

"I have had a great influence on my family, grandchildren and neighbours since I joined ACAT. I am so grateful, because I have seen and enjoyed the benefits of hard work. I will never look back."

