

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

Report for the 12 months 2018



# A way out of poverty

**Khwezi Nxumalo** (above left) is 9 years old and lives in Ntuli Ward together with her grandparents and cousin.

Khwezi loves school especially Maths, English and Social Science! She says she wants to be a lawyer when she finishes school!

At the moment there are 5 people living at Khwezi's grandparents' homestead. Her family have been a part of ACAT's programme since 2013, and were initially trained by the ACAT Extension Officer to produce vegetables.

Her grandmother Noluvo has been trained by ACAT and is

now an ACAT Community Extension Officer in her area.

The family are all involved in producing enough food and vegetables to sustain themselves throughout the year. They have now included fruit trees – bananas, oranges, peaches and mangoes – around their home.

They also plant maize, and were able to harvest a wonderful onion crop this year.



Granny Noluvo says:

*When ACAT was introduced I thought it was a joke when they said that you could never go hungry! But later when I joined ACAT, I realized it was possible to never be hungry. ACAT is my family's way out of poverty.*



# A farming family

**Siyanda Silangwe** is 15 years old and lives in the Highflats area together with his parents and 6 children. He is in Grade 10, and his favourite subjects are history, natural science, isiZulu and English. He loves soccer and enjoys walking through the fields where his mother and father plough.

His mother has been an ACAT group member for over 8 years, during which time they have learned to produce food to sustain themselves. The whole family is involved in farming. They have fenced their vegetable garden, and this year produced a large harvest of potatoes.



Siyanda helps with the weeding and watering.

Through ACAT they have learned to save money in a Savings and Loan group, which Siyanda's mother says helps them to provide for their children.

*"I am so grateful to ACAT for the training they gave in vegetable gardening. We have also learned other skills, such as making shoe polish and cough mixture. We plant vegetables with a purpose of improving healthy lifestyle and savings".*





# Saving for the future

**Asanda Zuke** lives in the Highflats area. She is 7 years old and lives with her grandmother, mother and sister. She has just started school and enjoys learning to read and write. She also loves to play with her friends. She helps in the house by cleaning the floors and washing the clothes.

Asanda's mother is very motivated to produce food through vegetable gardening, and this season, harvested a

good crop of onions and other vegetables. They eat what they need from their garden, and sell the rest.

Nomvuyo, Asanda's mother says:

*"We have been in the programme for over 4 years, and have discovered that producing our own food really saves us money, and being a member of the savings and loans group really helps our family save for the future".*





# Using soil chases away poverty

**Simphiwe Khanyile** is 18 years old and in Grade 9. His mother died in 2015 – so he stays with his aunt and his extended family of 15 relatives in the Nhlazuka area.

None of his family are employed, so they survive through social grants and by selling their livestock and what they have produced from their fields and vegetable garden.

Simphiwe helps to look after the goats and cows, and with the vegetable garden. He loves maths and creative art,

and would love to become a teacher when he completes his schooling. He likes to play soccer and rugby. His aunt says:

*“Our family is so thankful for the ACAT training. We have learned that using the soil can chase away poverty!”*





# Rescued from hunger

**Mbuso Gumede** lives in the eThekweni area and is 17 years old. His father died when he was a baby, and his mother survived by working for her neighbours.

She joined ACAT in 2006 and since then, their lives have improved.

The family enjoys producing food from their vegetable garden, and also produces sewing and beadwork for sale. Mbuso has learned to sew, and is able to help his mother in her business.

They were able to fence their garden as a result of being a member of the Savings and Loans group, and they have found that proper fencing has enabled them to improve their harvests as they are now protected from livestock.



Mbuso's mother says:

*"I am very thankful that ACAT people encouraged me and my family. They rescued me from hunger and poverty. Now I am very motivated and confident to provide for our needs".*



# Training for success

**Thula and Kuhle Myaka** are twin brothers living in the Vulindlela area.

They are 13 years old and doing Grade 7. Khule enjoys Maths and English, whereas Thula's favourite subject is Life Orientation. They live with their grandmother who has

been in the ACAT programme for about 10 years. They have a productive vegetable garden and have planted crops of beans and cabbages to generate additional income. They say they "garden with the purpose of supplying the

local community with fresh vegetables to earn money".

Constance, their grandmother, says:

*"I always thank ACAT for one thing – for training me in door size vegetable gardens. These have enabled me to produce enough vegetables to feed my family and to earn money from the surplus. Now ACAT has helped me get involved with a Savings and Loans group where I have been able to buy a TV and furniture!"*





# Gaining opportunities

**Bakhona Sosibo** is 9 years old, in Grade 3 and lives with her family of 9 in Highflats. None of the adults are employed, so life is tough as they survive on social grants, temporary jobs and the sale of their livestock. They also plant crops in the family fields and sell any surplus.

Bakhona loves poems and playing games. She helps with fetching the cows and other farming skills. Her mother joined ACAT in 2016 and says:

*“Through ACAT I have been encouraged to save. The group also gives me an opportunity to share what I know, as I have been trained in Early Childhood Development and enjoy being involved in the Community Creche”.*



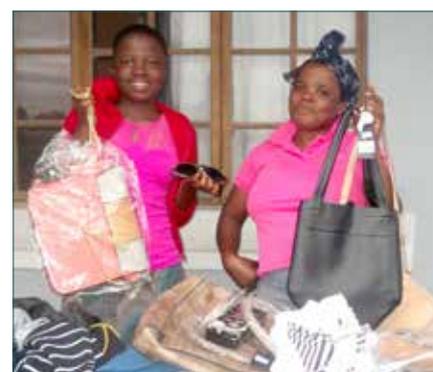


# Encouragement

**Andile Shange** is 13 years old and lives with her family of 5 in the Ntumeni area. The family has been in the ACAT programme for many years. They have a well fenced, established vegetable garden.

Andile's mother started a small business selling clothing, and Andile helps with collecting the money from their sales. They also sell chickens to earn money.

Andile attended the ACAT Youth Basic Life Skills course this year at the ACAT centre, and when she returned home, she helped her mother in her business, and encouraged her to make liquid manure to improve their soil fertility.



Andile's mother says:

*"When my daughter returned from ACAT, she shared what she'd learned there, and asked me to buy more seedlings so that we could benefit more from our vegetable garden."*



# Own initiatives

**Thokozani Ncanana** lives with his family of 5 in the Ntumeni area. His mother is an ACAT group member, is also involved with a savings and loans group, and she runs a business selling chickens.

Thokozani is in Grade 10 and enjoys school – especially English, Technology and Art.

He plays soccer and loves listening to traditional music.

The family has a well fenced vegetable garden, and Thokozane now has his own garden which he maintains.

He also helps with looking after their livestock.



Thokozani's mother says:

*"I am so happy with my son – especially since he returned from ACAT's Youth course last year. He has started his own garden and is still so helpful in our garden, and with our livestock and cleaning the yard".*



# Children are blessings

**Mlungisi Mbonambi** is 16 years old and lives with his family in the Ntumeni area. His mother has been part of the ACAT programme for many years. This year Mlungisi attended the Youth Basic Life Skills course at ACAT.

The Mbonambi family have a well established, fenced vegetable garden and try to practice a healthy nutritious lifestyle. Since joining ACAT they have also planted fruit trees and established their own businesses. Mlungisi's father is self employed as a driver – transporting people to town – and his mother sells Tupperware, is involved in the community as a very active ACAT G5 member, and runs her own "creche".



The children are involved in all the ACAT activities in the home – gardening, cleaning and looking after the goats and cows.

His mother says:

*"It has been such a blessing for us to be part of ACAT's activities in our community. We have had amazing benefits from implementing food security and savings!"*



# Dreams of the future

**Nqobile Zondi** (centre) is in Grade 10 and lives with her grandparents and 2 cousins. She enjoys school, plays ladies soccer, and would love to be a pilot when she finishes school. Their family has been involved in ACAT for just over 3 years.

Nqobile and her cousin attended ACAT's Youth Basic Life Skills course this year, and their grandmother says they have been so helpful since their return – with cooking, cleaning, planting and weeding. She says:

*“Vegetable gardening has helped our family to save money and provides healthy food for us. We also benefit from being in a savings and loan group – ACAT has taught us this good way of saving for our future.”*





# Increasing in knowledge

Sbusiso Mbambo is in Grade 11 and his family have been involved in the ACAT programme for over 10 years.

This year he was invited to attend the Youth Basic Life Skills course at ACAT and since then, he has implemented what he has learned.

He has started his own vegetable garden, and has used the training material he received during the course to increase his biblical knowledge as he is very involved in his church. He also helps look after the



goats, plays soccer and listens to traditional music.

Sbusiso's mother says:

*"When my son returned from his course at ACAT, he really worked so hard to establish his own vegetable garden – and now we are all enjoying his fresh vegetables!"*



# Stop hunger by using your hands

**Nombuso Mkhize's** family has been in the ACAT programme for over 6 years. She is now 14 years old, in Grade 8. Her favourite subjects at school are English and isiZulu.

She lives in a household with 20 relatives in the Nhlazuka area. Her family survives mainly through social grants and her grandfather's pension, as both her parents are unemployed. They plant maize and beans to feed their family, and supplement their income. Nombuso's grandmother says:

*"By using your hands you can stop hunger.*

*To overcome starvation, one must make use of your hands!"*

