

## Case Study



# BASF HOLDINGS' SA GRANT FOR KIDS HAVEN SUPPORTS HOME AND COMMUNITY GARDENS AROUND MARIKANA

In August 2021, BASF's South Africa division offered a grant (September 2021 - March 2022) to the Kids Haven project, an initiative opened in 1992 to provide a safe place for children living and working in the streets in and around Benoni in Ekurhuleni, in the surroundings of the Marikana region. The purpose of the grant is

- to improve the technical skills of home-based gardeners in vulnerable communities in the area to address the issue of food security,
- to train youth so that they can participate in the economy by growing adequate food they can sell to generate income, and
- to support vulnerable communities to take ownership to improve their lives by encouraging participation, networking, and collaboration between community members.


Kids Haven is assisting 410 home-based gardeners to plant and manage their own individual gardens to improve the food security and nutritional outcomes for these families. BASF's grant is mainly used to provide training to the gardeners and ensure an exchange of knowledge.

### Living conditions in the area

Kids Haven is in the CBD of Benoni town, a historic mining dormitory town east of Johannesburg in the Ekurhuleni metropolitan area, which

is characterized by apartment living, squatting in so called "hijacked" buildings, and some historic semi-detached housing. There are also homeless adults and youth in the inner city. Typically, multi-generations of family members live together in apartments. There are no open parks or safe spaces to play.

The Ekurhuleni metro is the fourth largest metropolitan region in South Africa with a population of an estimated 3.3 million people. Benoni has a population of 730,000 people (2019/20) and



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BASF Holdings South Africa is located in Midrand and represents the BASF Group in South Africa. The company delivers functional services to the various companies across the African continent.

is surrounded by townships and informal settlements. Kids Haven finds that the informal settlements, and residents who are in 'RDP' housing with backyard dwellers live difficult lives, faced with food insecurity, job insecurity, the influx of migrant families and xenophobic backlashes and high levels of violence including gender-based violence. These communities are stressed and traumatized. This is where the mission of Kids Haven ties in: to protect and care for children and support families and communities to be protective and nurturing places to raise children.

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated regulations from April 2020 severely impacted the health and well-being of these vulnerable communities. People were without access to income and immediately struggled to have sufficient food to eat. This has had devastating consequences for food security and household hunger.

Hence, investing into the creation of own food gardens was a top priority for the organization as an element to improve food security and strengthen the resilience of the community. The home gardens project had been started with 300 active growers through the help of another international funder, but the aim was to grow the number to 410 home gardens and to increase its outreach from four to five communities.

## Training of Garden Champions

Kids Haven now supports 17 Garden Champions – local growers within each community who assist at least 25 families in their neighbourhood. The role of the Garden Champion is to cascade expertise to other gardeners, while sharing news about their successes and challenges with Kids Haven. The grant also ensures that Kids Haven added short workshops on nutrition, financial literacy and family strengthening to complement the vegetable gardening. This aligns to Kids Haven's role as a child protection organization. The 410 families in the food garden project are empowered to be more food secure and to provide better protection and care to the children in their families.

The BASF grant focuses on formal training and is used to further develop the expertise of 410 home-based farmers living in five communities in the area:

- Marikana Informal Settlement (adjacent to KwaThema phase 3) – 160 families
- Windmill Park (Boksburg) – 60 families
- Chris Hani Settlement (between Daveyton and eTwatwa) – 80 families
- Mayfield (adjacent to Chris Hani) – 50 families
- Msholozzi Settlement – 50 families
- 10 youth within Kids Haven aftercare programme

Pre care	In Care	After care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach to homeless youth</li> <li>• Weekly <b>soup kitchen</b></li> <li>• <b>ECD centre</b> (the Kids Haven Preschool)</li> <li>• The <b>Teen Hub</b> safe space for inner city teens</li> <li>• Prevention, early intervention, and family strengthening activities</li> <li>• Community support, including <b>food gardens</b></li> <li>• Community Forum</li> <li>• Beneficiaries = average 382 individuals monthly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Child and Youth Care Centre</b></li> <li>• Social worker support</li> <li>• Legal framework</li> <li>• Care workers</li> <li>• Therapy</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Sport</li> <li>• Life Skills</li> <li>• Family services</li> <li>• Reunification</li> <li>• Beneficiaries = 206 children per annum with 155 'heads on beds' monthly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing support for children and youth reintegrated in the community after living in care</li> <li>• Intentional support to promote independence and resilience</li> <li>• Beneficiaries = average 100 youth per month</li> </ul>

## Activities completed to date

Kids Haven identified two suitable vegetable garden training providers - the Ekurhuleni Agricultural College in Putfontein and Buhle Farmers Academy in Delmas. Kids Haven selected Buhle Farmers Academy as the service provider for this group of Garden Champions. Buhle Farmers Academy offered an accredited short course specifically on vegetable production and offered weekly accommodation to the students. The Garden Champions are drawn from five different regions and stayed on site at Buhle for the duration of the training to minimize transport requirements.

## Course beneficiaries

20 participants from all five communities benefited from the programme, including the course organizer and project manager from Kids Haven, Leonard Ngobene. Ten trainees are under 35, nine trainees were between 35 and 40, and one trainee was older than 40. 75% (15) of the participants come from families where nobody is employed while the remainder of the families have members who complete odd jobs or part-time work.

This was the first accredited training course that any of the community trainees had attended.

The community beneficiaries expressed their happiness to be selected to participate in the training and believe that it will assist them to improve their own garden yields, and the yield of their community gardens. There is an expectation that they will be able to sell excess vegetables for profit. A few trainees expressed that they are also expecting that having this accredited certificate may give them some advantage in finding more formal employment.

To date, Kids Haven has used funding from BASF HOLDINGS SA to identify and secure suitable training for the Garden Champions. The Champions have a support role to help at least 25 other homebased gardeners in their area. They give advice, visit, and share information and provide feedback to Kids Haven. Kids Haven relies on the Garden Champions to support the needs of their neighbours so that the Organization can supply seeds, garden implements and any other item that the gardeners may specify. This system of collaboration is successful, and the Garden Champions enjoy their roles as identified leaders in their community and constantly meeting with their neighbours and growers in their care.

Buhle Graduation Class of 2021







Trainees learning planting technique

## Planned activities in 2022

Many of the community members in informal housing have been visiting family members in rural South Africa over December. Therefore, Kids Haven has scheduled to run the finance and nutrition workshops in February and March 2022.

The workshop content is adapted from the University of Johannesburg's Sihleng'imizi family strengthening programme. The workshops are very interactive and encourage discussion and contributions from the participants. Kids Haven will run 16 workshops in February and March 2022

for all 410 gardeners. Kids Haven will print and distribute certificates of attendance. Kids Haven will monitor the implementation of the training on the relationships and support provided by the Garden Champions. They are all highly motivated following the training. Kids Haven will track any grower who is able to sell produce for profit.

This system of community involvement and community-led direction is working well, and it is anticipated that it will positively impact the sustainability of these gardens beyond the financial involvement. The community has full ownership of the project and is self-directed.

As one of the key customers of the PGM producer Sibanye-Stillwater (formerly Lonmin), BASF is connected to Marikana. Find out more about how BASF assumes responsibility: Marikana ([basf.com](https://www.basf.com))

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