

KAGISANO



January 2024 Kagisano Newsletter for Gauteng and North West.

Introduction

As we embarked on the year 2024, the Kagisano Peacebuilding Teams in our Gauteng and North West sites remained steadfast in their mission to foster social cohesion, build peace and address collective violence. January has been a month of vibrant activities and significant progress across various communities. In this newsletter, we delve into the specifics of each of these activities, reflecting on how they contribute to our core objectives as Kagisano; which include strengthening local conflict resolution mechanisms, empowering communities, fostering unity, supporting safe spaces in schools, and healing communities.

Gauteng Province

1. **Makause** – Peacebuilders Meeting on Community Visioning (18 January)
 - Objective: To galvanize local stakeholders and peacebuilders towards a community vision for peace.





The inaugural meeting for the Community Visioning initiative in Makause aimed to outline the visioning exercise, discuss methodologies, and engage with various community stakeholders to gather initial inputs and insights for the initiative. The meeting brought together representatives from different sectors – including local government, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and community groups – to collaborate and contribute their unique perspectives. This collaborative approach was instrumental in establishing a shared understanding and commitment to the initiative's objectives. Through facilitated discussions, the meeting served as a dynamic platform for the participants to voice their concerns, aspirations, and ideas, thereby laying the groundwork for a cohesive and inclusive community vision that resonates with all members of Makause.

2. **Alexandra** – Working with Schools: Developing Safe Spaces (31 January)

- Objective: To galvanise learners for collective peacebuilding efforts.



This activity was strategically timed to coincide with the commencement of the 2024 academic year, offering an invaluable opportunity to inspire and energize the learners as they embarked on their educational journey. The session focused not only on fostering a sense of optimism and enthusiasm for the year ahead but also on instilling key principles of peace, empathy, and collaboration among the students. Through interactive discussions, group activities, and motivational talks, the engagement aimed to create a supportive and harmonious atmosphere within the school, laying the groundwork for a productive and peaceful academic year. This initiative also served as a platform to reinforce the school's commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment, where every student is valued and empowered to contribute positively to their community.

3. Orange Farm – Peacebuilders Meeting on Community and School Collaboration

- Objective: To bridge community efforts with educational institutions for comprehensive peacebuilding.



In Orange Farm, the peacebuilding team undertook a significant activity in collaboration with the drug awareness campaign led by SANCA. This involved organizing an interactive workshop series in local schools, aimed at educating students about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of making healthy life choices. These workshops were designed to be age-appropriate and engaging, employing a mix of presentations, real-life stories, and interactive discussions to resonate effectively with the students. Additionally, the team facilitated the creation of student-led peer support groups within the schools, providing a platform for open dialogue and mutual support among students. This initiative not only raised awareness but also actively involved students in the peacebuilding process, empowering them to be change agents within their community. By integrating these educational activities within the school curriculum, the initiative aimed to create a sustainable impact that extends beyond the classroom and into the wider community of Orange Farm.

4. Diepsloot – Stakeholder Mapping on School Peacebuilding Activities (20 January)
- Objective: To strategize future actions of Diepsloot Peacebuilders, revisit stakeholder mapping, and discuss the planned school peacebuilding activities.



In response to the critical need for addressing bullying in schools, a comprehensive anti-bullying programme was meticulously designed and set to be implemented in Diepsloot schools from January 26th to November 26th, 2024. The programme's initial phase, which was planned to span from mid to end of January, served as an introduction to the core values and principles of the programme, establishing a strong foundation in empathy and understanding.

5. Mamelodi - Peacebuilders Meeting on Community and School Activities (25 January 2024)

- Objective: To establish a sustainable framework for ongoing dialogue and partnership between schools and the wider community, focusing on creating safe and supportive spaces for youth development.



The peacebuilding team in Mamelodi have been developing and strengthening collaborative strategies between community leaders and school authorities in order to integrate peacebuilding and social cohesion activities into school curriculums and community programs.

North West Province

1. Marikana – Peacebuilders Meeting on Community Visioning (17 January)

- Objective: To brainstorm as part of efforts to gather preliminary ideas for the mural's theme, reflecting the community's identity and aspirations.



During the engagement positive feedback was received regarding the inclusive nature of the initiative. Suggestions were made to involve local schools and youth groups more actively in the visioning process. Concerns were raised about maintaining momentum and ensuring that the initiative results in sustainable improvements for the community.

Emerging Issues

As we reflect on our January activities, a few emerging issues warrant attention. In Orange Farm, the Kagisano peace-building team's recent involvement in a drug awareness campaign led by SANCA has brought to light several emerging issues within the community.



The primary purpose of this campaign was to educate and mobilize community members about the dangers of drug abuse and the available support services. However, this initiative has uncovered a deeper, more systemic problem – a pervasive lack of awareness and understanding about drug addiction and its impact on individuals and families. The campaign revealed not only the need for increased education on substance abuse but also highlighted the critical demand for more accessible rehabilitation and support services. This has emphasized the necessity for ongoing community engagement and education to effectively address the complexities of drug addiction and foster a supportive environment for those affected.

In Marikana, a different but equally pressing issue has emerged, pertaining to the failure of some learners to enroll in school due to the lack of identity documents. The Kagisano Peacebuilding Team scheduled meetings with the intermediate school authorities, as well as representatives from the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Social Development and the circuit managers to address this critical barrier to education.



This problem highlights a significant gap in the accessibility of basic education for all children, as mandated by law. The lack of identity documents prevents these learners from accessing not only education but also other essential services, leading to their marginalization and potential vulnerability. The intervention by the team therefore aimed to bring various stakeholders together to find immediate and sustainable solutions to ensure that all children, regardless of their documentation status, have access to education. This involved exploring ways to streamline the process of enrolling learners without identity documents thereby safeguarding the right to education for every child in the community.

