

KAGISANO



Kagisano February 2024 Newsletter: Embracing Community and School Initiatives for Peace and Cohesion

Introduction

This February has been a month filled with impactful activities and progress within the Kagisano programme. Through our concerted efforts in all six of our sites, we've made significant strides towards our objectives of creating safe spaces for learners and facilitating community visioning for common concerns. Here's a highlight of our work:

Community Visioning in Marikana and Makause: We continued with our Community Visioning workshops in Marikana and Makause, engaging local stakeholders as part preparations for a community vision launch in both sites. This initiative has successfully brought together approximately 150 participants, including representatives from various government departments, to foster a shared understanding and set expectations for building a cohesive community vision.



This aligns with our objective to create organic opportunities that bring people together around common concerns and aspirations.



Safe Spaces for Learners:

- **Diepsloot West Secondary School:** We introduced the Kagisano School Program, aiming to equip learners with conflict prevention and management skills. This program supports the development of 'safe spaces' where learners can find reprieve from violence and learn vital conflict management skills.



-Isikhumbuzo Secondary School (Orange Farm): Our activities at Isikhumbuzo focused on empowering learners with practical conflict resolution skills. Through interactive exercises, we emphasized the importance of understanding, compromise, and the ability to navigate conflicts peacefully.



-Siyaphambili Secondary School (Orange Farm): Our session focused on understanding conflict, bullying behavior, and its drivers. By empowering learners with skills to address and reduce bullying, we're working towards our goal of creating safe and supportive school environments.



In Alexandra and Mamelodi the schools engaged were **Eastbank High School, Minerva High School, Pholosho Primary School, Carter Primary School (Alexandra) and Morigi High School (Mamelodi).**



The approach to fostering 'safe spaces' for learners involved a carefully structured engagement with the concepts of conflict. Through a homework assignment focused on the nuances of surface, latent, and open conflicts, students were encouraged to reflect deeply on the dynamics of interpersonal and group disagreements.




This reflective process was designed not just to educate but to empower learners with a nuanced understanding of how conflicts evolve and manifest in various scenarios.



The exercise encouraged learners to explore real-life scenarios where these types of conflicts could arise, promoting a critical thinking approach to conflict resolution. By identifying the characteristics and triggers of different conflicts, learners were equipped with the foresight needed to navigate and de-escalate potentially volatile situations. This skill set is invaluable in creating environments where violence is not seen as a recourse for dispute resolution.





Each of these activities directly contributes to our overarching goals of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and fostering environments where community members, especially young learners, feel safe, supported, and equipped to manage conflicts constructively.

We're deeply grateful for the support and participation of all stakeholders, including educators, learners, and community members, in these initiatives. Together, we're building the foundation for more peaceful, understanding, and cohesive communities.

ACTION Support Centre