



gold Youth Development Agency (**gold-youth**)
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Report back to EuRA for the period December 2016 – June 2017

gold-youth mentors and trains youth, giving them the support and positive guidance that they need in order to develop skills, leadership, to stay in school, make wise choices and inspire change within their schools and communities. The **gold-youth** programme assists them to navigate the pathway of adolescence and increases their employability, connecting them to opportunities post school. Over the past decade **gold** has reached thousands of young people, and created jobs for 100's of youth leaders, in communities in South Africa, Botswana and Zambia.

The funding received from EuRA contributed towards the implementation of the **gold** Model in Southern Africa. In the period December 2016 to June 2017 the **gold-youth** Model was implemented in 54 schools and their communities. 2,160 adolescent 'peer educators' were trained and mentored and 54 jobs were created through the **gold** Facilitator internship programme. Peer educators were trained in a number of topics and empowered to then share this information with their peers:

Topics covered: Being a Peer Educator, My Values, My Self Esteem & Vision, My Sexuality, Reasons, Choices and Influences, Becoming Leaders, Real Men - Real Women, HIV/AIDS & Me, Getting Peer Education out there

A snapshot of one of the communities in which gold is working:

gold-youth is implementing the gold model in three schools in the Masoyi Community, a small tribal area consisting of six villages located within the Ehlanzeni District in Mpumalanga province. The area has a population of approximately 220 000 people, of which 28% of the sexually active population are believed to be HIV positive. There are sometimes as many as forty funerals each week most of which are AIDS related deaths. The area is characterized by low levels of infrastructure and high levels of unemployment (currently standing at 75%). There is a growing number of granny and child-headed households emerging. Increasing numbers of households are afflicted by poverty due to loss of breadwinners to diseases like HIV/AIDS and others and families are absorbing the costs of caring for the sick.



gold Peer Educators from Masoyi, Mpumalanga arranged a community event on June 16 to address the issues of drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and school drop-out rates in their community.

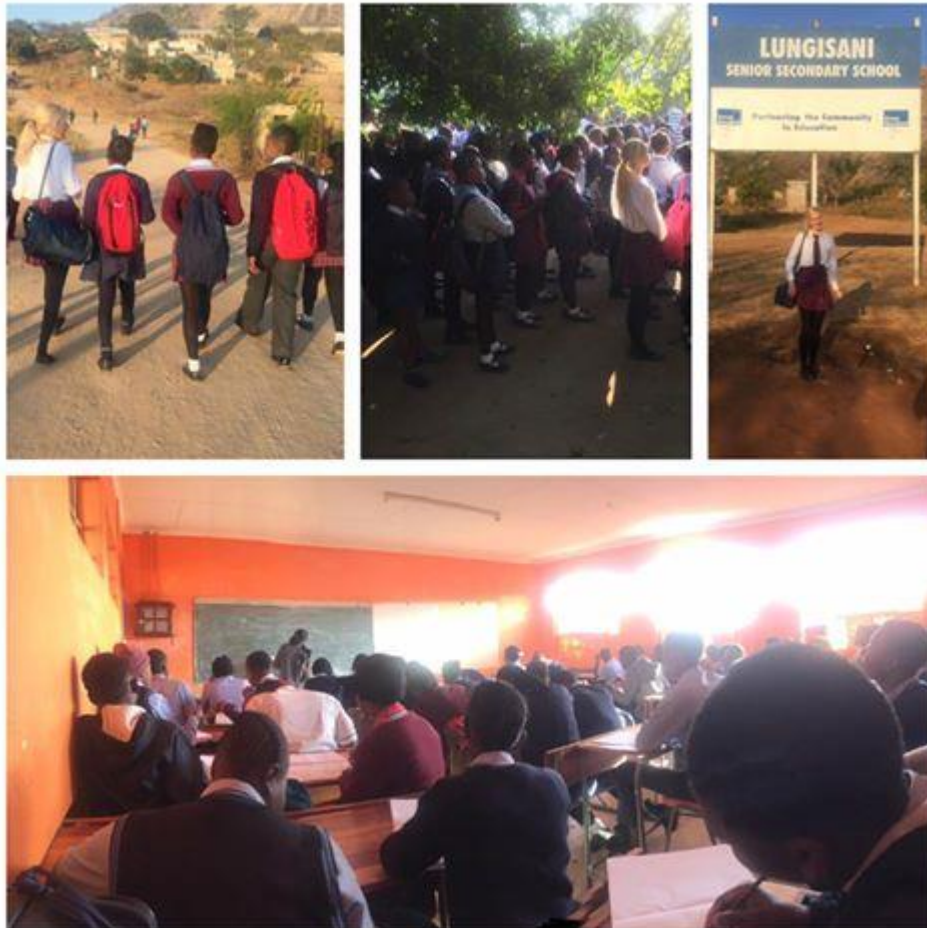
Susannah Farr, the **gold-youth** founder and CEO, chose to spend her birthday away from her young family as a way to raise awareness of the work that **gold-youth** is doing and also to share her message with the young people of Masoyi,

Susannah's message, which she shared at assembly (she spoke in Swati, the local language), is at the heart of what **gold-youth** believes in and fights for every day.

"Youth make up just under half of the population in Southern Africa which is increasing every year. Most of you are probably growing up in challenged communities, lacking positive role models and parental support. Many of you are facing the reality of orphanhood, some of you are finding it hard to stay in school, some of you have experienced abuse. Poverty and unemployment are daily struggles for many here....."

I have a dream to see a generation of young people – like you - given the support and told the truth about what you can be so that no matter what your circumstances you can make choices today to begin to come into your full potential. I believe in young people. You are our future. You need to lead today and not just tomorrow. Your small decisions to keep on choosing the higher road will get you to where you will be in the years from now. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't make it.

You are valuable. When you believe that you have value - you will start to value others too. And you HAVE to start to fight to be part of a movement of positive change that is bigger than yourself. We cannot see our community or country or continent shine until YOU begin to let the gold that is inside of you SHINE.”



gold-youth thanks EuRA for your contribution to the **gold** Vision. Your support has allowed our youth to SHINE.

Success stories and quotes:

Feedback from Mr Banda, a father of a gold Peer Educator in Zambia after attending a gold activity:
"I came to see who the facilitators of this programme are because I have seen some tremendous change in the behaviour of my son since the time he joined this programme. What I was expecting to see were people with Degrees in psychology who are teaching our children. But I am encouraged to see that these facilitators are just their fellow youths and believe me - I am encouraged. I had a lot of

problems with my child and time and again I was calling him names but today he is an angel in the house. So, continue with the same spirit so that a lot more youth can be reached. We have lost quite a lot of potential young ones because there is no one to help and offer a lasting solution to them, but this programme will be able to help as a lasting solution to the many issues affecting the youths today."



Success Story:1

My name is S. I am a learner at Paulus Joubert High School. I come from a community where poverty, unemployment and substance abuse are the social issues that we face. When I was younger I was sexually molested by a family member. This happened three times. This ordeal made me lose my identity and my vision. I joined the peer education program this year because I have decided that I want to make something positive of my life. The session that really touched me was "My Self Esteem and Vision" because it touched on some of the things I went through. It taught me to become more confident. This session also made me realize that I am more than my circumstances and that I am destined for so much greater. Today I can stand in front of my peers and motivate them to not allow their circumstances to keep them from reaching their goals. I am also a motivational speaker in our youth at church now.

Success Story:2

My name is X. I stay in Lantana, a community where gangsterism is very high and where shootings happen daily. I always thought that because of me staying in this community I am also going to be a gangster. I started hanging out with the wrong crowd. We smoked dagga and stood on the street corners robbing people. This also made me not concentrate on my school work and I failed in the first term. One day one of my friends got into a fight and they stabbed him. He landed in hospital because his injuries were severe. I joined the program just because two of my

friends joined. I attended the first two sessions and thought that this was not for me. My friends kept on encouraging me to attend more sessions. 'My Values' was the session that I enjoyed the most because the session made me realize that smoking dagga and hanging out with the wrong people will stand in my way of reaching my full potential. I am more focused now. I chose friends that can influence me in a positive way because I want to finish my grade 12, go to a tertiary institution and study to become a Business Manager. I want make something of my life because I want to support my family.