

ABALIMI

1. Project Title: *provision of targeted services to organic micro-farming and gardening associations among the poor in Cape Town, to improve community project and community association sustainability and movement spread in and beyond Cape Town.*

1.2. Applicant:

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1.3. Legal Holder: ABALIMI Voluntary Association & registered with Dept Social Services as 015-337 NPO –

1.4. Affiliations: ABALIMI is an independent affiliate of Catholic Welfare & Development (CWD). CWD has a right to sit on our Board and vote at our AGM.

2. Background:

2.1. Location: the Cape Flats townships to the N/E of Cape Town which contain approximately 1 million inhabitants, the majority of whom are Xhosa speaking from the Eastern Cape

2.2. Situation: The last national census updated the population of Cape Town from 3 million to 4 million, largely to incorporate the previously unregistered Xhosa speaking population in the Cape Flats townships. **New arrivals** are still estimated as minimum 1200 families per month, largely from the Eastern Cape. **Unemployment** remains at an official average of between 30%-40%. **Basic food prices:** have stabilised - basic cost of living increase (excluding property) is now set at about 4% . **Politics, social grants, social services & rights:** there has been a relative period of political stability in Cape Town the last three years, despite various political circus acts. However, the **local City Government elections in March** has resulted in ongoing political power-sharing stalemate situations, the consequences of which remain to be seen. These energy-sapping antics have a direct impact on delivery efficiencies. Overall, however, delivery of **Social Grants** in the city seem to be effective and are having a significant impact on basic poverty levels, enabling many thousands to start on a road of recovery from severe poverty. Government driven **Housing Delivery** remains below target, evidenced by the unmet delivery deadlines of the N2 Gateway Project, which is reported to be many millions in the red. The backlog of some 300 000 houses remains unchanged since 2003, while delivery of new houses just matches the amount of new families (1200/m) pouring into the city monthly. **Other infrastructure improvements** however, are noticable- new schools, halls and shopping centres are popping up in many places. Free education for primary school children is technically available, although school leavers face slim prospects of getting higher education if they have no income, as bursaries are not universally accessible. **Core road, sewage, water and electricity infrastructure** is adequate, though often under severe strain. For example, early in 2006 Cape Town – indeed the Western Cape as a whole - has suffered from rolling blackouts due to breakdown of electricity generating equipment **Family structure:** Stats SA reports that up to 70% of young black women (between ages of 25-35) are opting for single parent status,

rather than deal with the issues of relationship with men. However, the traditional Xhosa culture remains powerful, and there are many efforts to maintain cultural integrity- witness the many hundreds of young male initiates who camp out on the sides of the highway every year. But, overall, young people seem to be breaking away from tradition and embracing individualism. Unemployment is putting severe strain on family relations and it is more often than not that women are the de-facto “family heads”, while men wander. Among the poor, women are noticeably taking possession of grassroots community leadership. **Health:** TB & HIV-Aids remain major challenges, underpinned and aggravated by poor diet. Permanent good nutrition is seldom provided nor understood and social grants tend to cater for only low cost (and shallow nutritional value) food. In general, good health among the poor is tenuous and is aggravated by lack of good nutrition, leading to poor motivation. The **Natural Environment** both within and outside Cape Town remains seriously under threat. Efforts to conserve the natural environment through tourism or through exclusion are proving only partly effective and cannot be guaranteed without local community-based support. The Western Cape Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town, while putting in place some excellent policies and plans, and collaborating in externally funded macro-programmes like C.A.P.E.-Cape Action Plan for the Environment, remain divided over coherent implementation at community level, plans for which (like the Integrated Development Programme-IDP and the City Urban Agriculture programme) still remain “under development” and seriously under-resourced, and generally unheard of and opaque to the average person.

2.3. Domains of proposed impact : Abalimi continues to aim to positively influence the areas of **nutritional security and health (with impact on treatment support for and mitigation of chronic illness), food security, income generation , job creation, community building and community-based nature conservation** through organic micro-farming and gardening among the poor. Regeneration and conservation of indigenous natural resources (nature conservation) is a fundamental cross-cutting understanding to our approach, and is radically linked to direct benefit motivations among our target group.

2.3.1. Situational impact on Target Group: in the simplest terms, our Target Group are largely people who seek solutions to poverty & inequity in their personal lives. While, on the one hand, there is genuine recognition for the fact that great advances have been made by the state on behalf of the people, on the other hand (and this is the flip-side) there is also a time bomb of increasing frustration, which is almost certain to explode should the next years not produce the promised prosperity “for all”.

Intransigent leadership, while tolerated to a high degree in the past, is being challenged at all levels. In our Target Group, over the last three years, women (in particular mothers) have openly assumed full leadership of the Urban Agriculture and Urban Greening movement. The result is (on the whole) a developmental movement driven by family values in the hands of women, rather than a crass profit-driven movement. This movement is linking to other development-oriented formations provincially and, to a certain extent, nationally.

2.3.2. Other players in the field: there are a range of emerging players. Please refer to KRA 5 and Roll of Honour in Newsletter 32 & 33 and associated Activities Reports for a list of current close (to ABALIMI) networks and partners. Government agencies such as City of Cape Town (CoCT), Dept of Agriculture (DoA) and Dept of Social Services & Poverty Alleviation (DoSSPA) are coming more strongly into the field, but to date have operated unilaterally with little consistent on-ground reference to Voluntary Service Providers. We expect, however, to collaborate more intensively in future.

3. Target group: the target group remain poor, unemployed women and their families – and therefore also the whole community, inclusive men, youth, elders and children.

The Target group **selected themselves**, as being the most able and willing to carry genuine community development impulses over long periods of time.

The Target Group are self-organising as increasingly formalised voluntary micro-associations (individual gardener formations & group-driven gardening initiatives) linked under voluntary meso-association umbrellas, which have the potential to federate or link to macro-association umbrellas.

The Target Group – with facilitation support from ABALIMI - assume complete responsibility for the aims and running arrangements of their micro and meso associations.

4. Work done to date:

4.1. Activities directly linked to planned project: please read the narrative and activities reports already submitted in March 05, covering Dec 04-Nov 05, together with Newsletters # 32 & 33. These reports give an accurate overview of activities done to date which underpin, and are linked to the planned project.

4.2 Other organisations who support or may support ABALIMI: a full list is provided under KRA 5 and KRA 7 in Newsletter 32 and 33 and Progress & Activities reports, already supplied in March 05

4.3 . Goals the work has pursued to date: these have not essentially changed, although they have become better articulated. They can be broadly described as “ *the improvement of income and food situation of the poor in Cape Town (and beyond), through organic gardening and micro-farming initiatives, which renew, build and conserve nature, social organisation and self-responsibility.*”

The same goals are captured in ABALIMI’s Vision and Mission statements, expressed in different words.

The new Project Title (Point # 1 above) is a new synthesis, which expresses ABALIMI’s intended emphasis out of the same Vision and Mission over the next three years.

4.4. Measures so far implemented: All measures listed in the previous project contract have been substantially met, or are substantially and sufficiently in the pipeline, except perhaps for numbers of direct-interface on-ground projects. ABALIMI now realises that its capacity limit has been reached with regard to supply of all the services needed to deliver on-ground projects.

Since 1991, ABALIMI delivered its services mainly through Infrastructure delivery (KRA 1) and bulk Resource Supply (Key Result Area 2) as it’s leading interventions, supported intensively by Training (Key Result Area 3) and then also increasingly by Organisation Building (Key Result Area 4), Networking & Partnerships (Key Result Area 5), Research Monitoring & Evaluation (Key Result Area 6).

Because of ABALIMI’s interventions which were led by KRA 1 & 2 and supported intensively (through Basic Training) by KRA 3 (and increasingly the other KRA’s) an organic micro-farming and gardening movement among the poor in Cape Town has been launched.

In other words, on-ground project infrastructure establishment with bulk resources and intensive basic training, capable of producing abundant food and some income at Survival and Subsistence level, has been sufficient incentive among the poor to launch a movement.

Thankfully, (City and Provincial) Government agencies – observing the rise of the movement – have started to intervene in Key Result Area’s 1 & 2, leaving ABALIMI freer to focus on what is now most needed. This intervention is an expanded and further intensified Training-Key Result Area 3 programme, which over the next three years must lead the way to inculcate higher and wider skills competencies within the movement, which is currently at “Basic Skills Competency” level. ABALIMI, in anticipation of this moment, has developed the basis for a ground breaking new Training Continuum, capable of further catalysing the movement through skills development. This is the community project Development Continuum and Sustainability Index.

4.5. Some results and further key impacts generated: besides delivering an active and self-motivated Movement and a unique community project Development Continuum and Sustainability Index with associated farmer/gardener/fieldworker Training Continuum (now under development), ABALIMI was invited, and agreed, to co-direct the agriBusiness Place Phillipi (aBPP), which is part of the national Business Place network, the lead model for entrepreneur development in South Africa. The aBPP & ABALIMI have now secured funding to develop a dedicated organic Pack Shed with organic accreditation and marketing systems, for the movement.

4.6. Some important conclusions drawn from previous project/s for new project: associative **movement building** which seeks to secure human and environmental sustainability within a community context – if it is to be done properly - **is slow work**. All-round sustainability – which recognises and properly values the natural environment as the very foundation of existence – **must be driven and must be viable at the micro-level, if true scale is ever to be reached**. This is THE critical issue. Any movement aiming to impact on sustainable development will certainly falter at meso and macro level at some stage if it is not driven by freely motivated individuals, in collaborative groups within local communities, at micro-level.

Movement building with regard to community-based organic gardening, farming and nature conservation is, furthermore, more complicated than with building houses or saving money, although many of the same tools (eg Horizontal Learning & Savings Mobilisation) are directly applicable and transferrable into the community agriculture and greening movements.

Formal entry-level Urban Agriculture **jobs can be created on 500m² of wasteland**, or less. This fact puts to bed the notion that there is a limited amount of land. There is only a limit to the amount of willpower, skills and cooperation available to make this possible for hundreds of thousands of people. However, the “500m² job” cannot normally be created in isolation. It has to be embedded in an associative structure capable of sharing and spreading certain resources and costs.

Access to free or very cheap (ie: subsidised) land, water and bulk fertility **resources is** – and will remain – **an essential precondition** for the sustainability of the community agriculture and greening movement among the poor at all levels of the Development Continuum-including the Commercial level. However, the nature and mix of the subsidies differs at each level. There is no agricultural or nature conservation system on the planet which survives without ongoing free investment or subsidy in one form or another. This is particularly true of so-called “commercial agriculture” today, which consumes infinitely more (subsidised) energy than it produces, despite the apparently vast volumes which are harvested in quick-time.

Provided the above (access to free and cheap land, water, bulk fertility resources) continues to become increasingly available (at this time via government agencies) ABALIMI’s **direct-impact targets can now be significantly enhanced and advanced through** intensification

of a **properly designed Development and Training Continuum**, which provides all round quality of life improvements (including jobs and money) to the existing movement.

As application of the Development and Training Continuums take effect and a greater number of community projects start to realise increased all-round benefits, it is confidently anticipated that **young people (and men) start to take up the work alongside the women and mothers** in greater numbers. Increasing - and even abundant - employment opportunities exist for qualified and competent individuals within the domestic gardening, organic agriculture, landscaping and community based nature conservation sectors.

The **Livelihood Level Model** (the “upper mid-point” in the development Continuum) has emerged as the **main motivator** for the movement. It realises organic vegetable and indigenous flora gardening and micro-farming as a permanent (and profitable) activity within the lives of project members, while also allowing for, and indeed encouraging, many other activities around the garden/micro-farm, which can enhance income, status, the environment, health and community well-being.

The movement is thus being founded upon independent micro Livelihood Associations of home and community based gardens/micro-farms. These associations are naturally led by women and mothers because they are founded upon “family & community scale” concerns, which naturally **and spontaneously includes care for the aged, the children, the youth, the sick and unemployed**.

5. Goals and Objectives:

5.1. Vision & Mission: remain as stated since 2003. These can also be summarised as the overall Aim of the previous project period, as follows: *the improvement of income and food situation of the poor in Cape Town (and beyond), through organic gardening and micro-farming initiatives, which renew, build and conserve social organisation, self-responsibility and the natural environment.*

The Aim and Title of the new proposed project – a revised formulation incorporating ABALIMI’s Vision and Mission adapted to ABALIMI’s intentions for the next three years - is expressed in Point 1 above.

5.2. Project Objectives: In order to further capacitate, strengthen and spread the community based organic gardening, farming and nature conservation movement, ABALIMI proposes to

- Launch an expanded and intensified training programme capable of inculcating measurable on-ground sustainability into community-based projects at all levels of ABALIMI’s proven community project Development Continuum.
- Launch the (multi-impact) Livelihood Level model as the main driver for movement spread and all-round social, economic and environmental benefits.
- Further research and development towards a community based Commercial Level model which retains and enhances wider social and nature conservation benefits , while at the same time realising viable profit.

6. Measures, Cost & Financing Plan

6.1 Measures: ABALIMI will continue to supply the movement (or that part of the movement with which ABALIMI directly interfaces) with essential services as listed below. The portion of the movement which ABALIMI directly services is made up at any one time of approximately 2500 families (and impacting directly on about 15 000 individuals), spread between 60-70 projects and approximately 2000 single households.

- Key Result Area 1-Project Delivery : support approximately 60-70 on-ground community-based UA and UG group projects per annum with targeted infrastructure or land design and layout improvements.
- Key Result Area 2 – Resource Supply : supply organic agriculture and horticulture inputs to the movement valued between R100 000/annum-R500 000.00 per annum depending on contributions channelled through ABALIMI by outside sources. Through the Training Programme, improve the movement’s ability to self-supply its own resources (through a mixture of on-project activities and appropriately calibrated subsidised external inputs) to the point where projects at every level of the development continuum are able to ensure their sustainability.
- Key Result Area 3-Training: will become, from April 06, ABALIMI’s leading KRA/intervention (supported by all other KRA’s) and will be intensified and expanded as per the following measures:

(a) increase training places by approximately 33% per annum and by 100% over 3 Years in the existing (and to be developed) Training courses (Basic Vegetable Gardening, Basic Horticulture, AgriPlanner and Master Gardener/Farmer), from approximately 200-300 trainees per annum, to minimum 600 trainees per annum, representing approximately 70 projects p/annum, of which between 20% -50% are highly likely (based on applications for training already processed) to be projects not directly serviced by ABALIMI in other ways.

(b) In Year 2, be in a position to produce approximately 60 qualified Trainers per annum, able to act as contracted Animators, at Survival, Subsistence and Livelihood level. Each trainer will be capable- if supported to do so- of training a further minimum of 100-200 trainees each per annum.

(c) From Year 2, launch an organically accredited Pack Shed training programme (linked to the Development Continuum and targeted at Subsistence, Livelihood and Commercial Level projects) as a collaborative project with the Movement, to supply the growing demands of the organic produce market in Cape Town and beyond.

All training will be accredited or accreditation-ready by Year 3. All gardening and agriculture training includes on-site field-support (extension) over two seasons

- Key Result Area 4-Organisation Building: ABALIMI will facilitate rolling Organisation Building-OB events and interventions in partnership with the movement representative structures (eg Vukuzenzela Urban Farmers Association-VUFA & School Environmental Teachers Association-SETA) and with any other agency or actor willing to enable an independent, women & mother-led movement. The main measures used will be:
 - (a) Facilitation of engagement opportunities with appropriate private and government forums, workshops and expo’s to build understanding and mobilisation capacity.
 - (b) Horizontal learning events and processes using Action Learning approach
 - (c) Savings mobilisation vehicles appropriate to each development level.

A minimum of 10 OB/movement building interventions and events will be facilitated per annum.

A detailed operational plan for Organisation Building-Key Result Area 4 is yet to be devised and will be linked to and grow out of ABALIMI’s understanding of the community project Development Continuum and Sustainability Index. We aim to agree on a draft Ops Plan for KRA 4 during and after our July 06 evaluation.

- Key Result Area 5-Networking and Partnerships: Besides continuing to engage with our extensive Friends (supporter) base of over 2000 individuals, companies, trusts, service clubs and funding agencies, ABALIMI will continue to associate with between approximately 12 to 24 effective development and lobbying networks and partners (see

Newsletter 32 & Activities Report for Dec04-Nov05 already submitted, under KRA 5 and KRA 7 Roll of Honour) to deliver value-added services and products to the movement.

- Key Result Area 6-Research Monitoring & Evaluation: (see also impacts and monitoring below). Finalise field testing and fine tuning of the community project Development Continuum and Sustainability Index in Year 1 and fully deploy from Yr 2, linked to and driven by a revised and expanded Training Programme (see KRA 3) . Find, test, import and deploy all existing technologies and training modules which are appropriate at each development level to secure sustainability at each development level.
- Key Result Area 7- ABALIMI's organisational and financial sustainability: continue to develop ABALIMI as a leading, innovative, best practice Voluntary Service Provider which “delivers the goods” to its Target Group. Continue to develop ABALIMI as an associative, mandate-group managed Voluntary Association, which is transparent and accountable primarily to its Target Group and to its external Friends and supporters, thus securing continued support for its programmes and activities.

6.2. Cost Plan, Financing Plan: a budget and financing plan (2006- 2009) – **available**

Please note that the distribution of core budgeted expenditure per Key Result Area is currently **calculated annually**, based on a distribution formula at management level, taking into account Activities Reports in retrospect. This system will become increasingly more finely calibrated , as ABALIMI's new performance-based Field Reporting System (based on the community project Development Continuum and Sustainability Index) takes hold after April 2006.

7. Impacts & Monitoring

7.1. Impacts: besides the existing and visible positive impact that ABALIMI's work is having with regard to poverty alleviation, nutritional security, food security, family health improvements, income generation, conservation of the natural environment, and empowerment of women and mothers as leaders of a movement, many other positive impacts are expected. Not least of these should be Chronic illness (HIV-Aids & TB) treatment mitigation through greater availability of affordable organic vegetables and greater involvement of youth and men as real jobs and careers come into view.

In a movement based on free, community level, associative micro-projects who are committed to learning and striving for self-sustainability within, and in support of, the existing natural and social context, negative impacts can only be due to inadequate vision, skills and commitment. The current world consumer culture of individuals who insist and act upon a cherished notion that its “kill or be killed” and “everything is for number one and his/her close family, friends etc while others can starve and the world go to hell” is perhaps the greatest challenge to our work. This world view is probably responsible for most of the negative impacts which could conceivably occur, and these are limited only by such people's self-centred imaginations. Therefore, future negative impacts are difficult to predict.

Some negative impacts we have encountered were/are:

- men feeling disempowered as women take their own personal power up (but this has not been an issue for awhile and men seem – at least publicly and in the open – to have accepted women's new role as leaders in the movement),
- over-usage of water and leaching of organic nutrients leading to unrealistic running costs and consequent negative perception of such work as being “unprofitable”. This impact can only be overcome through further intensified and targeted training.
- projects who clear existing indigenous natural flora instead of incorporating it. Once again, must be solved through training.

7.2. Monitoring: now that the community project Development Continuum and Sustainability Index has been more or less fully unpacked and elaborated (report available) , ABALIMI has the correct measurement framework for understanding and evaluating progress. Only the indicators will need some refining and re-calibrating from time to time against evolving real situations and what is actually possible on the ground at any given time.

ABALIMI intends to have this monitoring system fully operational from 2007, linked to and driven through its by-products – the Gardener/Farmer/Fieldworker Training continuums.

ABALIMI will continue to evaluate its progress formally every year in July, but also through the application of the Sustainability Index at community project level, at least on a 12 monthly basis but preferably on a six-monthly or quarterly basis.

8. Project Personnel: In line with strategic decisions taken in previous years, ABALIMI's core staff requirements are not likely to go beyond 12 full-time employees, 3 of whom are management level and thus work in all Key Result Area's, three pure administrative working in KRA 7 and six dedicated Field Staff, working mainly in KRA's 1,2,3 but also in different ways according to their capabilities in KRA's 4,5,6. Additional resources are contracted in as needed – for instance ABALIMI now has a Specialist Technical Expertise fund, which currently employs a number of experts in different fields as needed, as well as an Animators Fund to employ competent field support workers and trainers from the movement on a seasonal basis.

9. Other Actors: please refer to Activities Reports and Newsletters under KRA 5. Beside its networking and partnerships with good civil society Service Providers, ABALIMI hopes that in future the various key government departments (particularly Dept of Agriculture and Dept of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation) who are currently still acting largely independently and unilaterally, will find a way to work in an above-board and transparent partnership with civil society. In the mean time, ABALIMI continues to work closely with elements within each relevant government structure (eg the City of Cape Town-Aachen Local Agenda 21 project) and cooperates wherever possible..

10 Future prospects/Sustainability:

10.1. Will further external support be required for the project after Year 3/2009 and will the positive impacts continue unsupported from outside the movement?

ABALIMI believes that, within 3 years, the current Training objectives will have been met and there will be the basis of a sufficient understanding within the movement of the Development Continuum and Sustainability Index, to guarantee an ongoing spread and wide range of competent services to the movement, or provided by the movement to itself.

It is difficult – perhaps impossible - to predict what the 3 year period beyond 2009 (2010-1012) will demand of us. However, if things progress the way that are right now, and if South Africa remains relatively untroubled by sudden natural disasters or other sudden catastrophies, we remain certain that the movement for organic gardening and farming and nature conservation among the poor will grow steadily and produce enormous – and sustainable - results.

As already stated, there is no known agricultural or nature conservation operation on the planet which is not “externally subsidised or supported” in one form or another. The least subsidised and supported forms of agriculture are those which are labled “organic” or “bio-dynamic” and have achieved a genuine balance in relation to their whole context and

environment, with respect to the sustenance of all the complex living relationships between each element in the natural system- including human beings.

ABALIMI also takes the position that – until poverty is completely overcome – its current programme, emphasising different Key Result Area’s depending on the situation at any given time, will have to continue in one form or another. The terms “self-sustaining” and “zero external support” are perhaps too simplified and subject to one-sided interpretation to be applied precisely as they stand to community-based development work, but are indeed useful guiding statements, if they are properly qualified in every case.

With all of the above in mind, we continue to believe that- as the core movement grows and becomes more competent, ABALIMI’s role will increasingly be to provide high level technical and professional support to the wider movement in various forms. We expect that Government agencies will more frequently seek to contract with ABALIMI to provide training services to “their” projects. This should provide a significant and potentially consistent source of core income for ABALIMI in future. Furthermore, ABALIMI’s vision-led delivery programme, executed through clearly defined Key Result Area’s which cater to the full range of development requirements for any developing community project, and the Key Result Area’s targeted application within a well-understood Development Continuum, which measures sustainability in a realistic manner, is itself a product which can be replicated and further adapted and developed to good effect. ABALIMI may well attract investment in future to do so.

Whatever happens however, ABALIMI will continue to maintain and further develop its diverse and loyal support base as a free Voluntary Service Provider to the community-based organic agriculture and environmental movement in order to achieve its Vision. Members of the Anglo & De Beers Group of Funds as well as First Rand Foundation/FNB Fund and WesBank Fund, linked to TSI have been partners in one form or another for many years, and we trust that they will continue with ABALIMI into the future.