



2025-2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A YEAR OF FLOWING FORWARD



THIS REPORT IS A CELEBRATION OF OUR FIRST YEAR OF ASILINDI RURAL EMPOWERMENT.
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED US AND HELPED US TO UPLIFT THE LIVES OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

OUR VISION

**A WORLD WHERE MARGINALISED RURAL AND INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER,
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, AND THE POWER TO PROTECT
THEIR ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

OUR MISSION

**TO CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BY EMPOWERING
MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES, ADVOCATING FOR FAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, DRIVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS THAT PROTECT BOTH PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.**



**"OUR ORGANISATION HONOURS
THE GENERATIONS—WOMEN,
MEN, AND CHILDREN—WHOSE
RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER AND
DIGNIFIED SANITATION HAS
TOO OFTEN BEEN
OVERLOOKED.**

**THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO
FIRST FOUND THE SPRINGS,
SAFEGUARDED THE WATER
SOURCES, AND SHARED THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT KEPT
WHOLE VILLAGES THRIVING.
YET THE BENEFITS OF THESE
RESOURCES HAVE NOT
ALWAYS REACHED THEM.**

**THEIR STRENGTH, STORIES,
AND WISDOM INSPIRE OUR
COMMITMENT TO MAKING
WATER JUSTICE A REALITY
FOR EVERY HOME
"**

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR PARTNERS, COMMUNITIES AND SUPPORTERS,

This first year has been a journey of turning intention into action—of taking the vision of water justice and giving it shape, structure, and momentum. Flowing Forward captures exactly what this year has meant for us: movement, direction, and the steady building of a current that will only grow stronger with time.

In twelve short months, we laid the foundations for long-term impact. We built systems that will sustain our work, forged partnerships rooted in trust and witnessed early wins that affirm why this mission matters. Most importantly, we stood alongside communities whose lived experiences continue to guide our purpose and sharpen our goals.

Water justice is not achieved in a single year. It is a long river shaped by persistence, collaboration, and courage. But this milestone—small as it may seem—is significant. It marks the moment our vision began to flow outward, touching lives, influencing policy conversations, and strengthening collective action.

As we reflect on this first chapter, we do so with gratitude for everyone who has walked with us. And as we look ahead, we remain committed to ensuring that every community has the dignity, security, and opportunity that equitable access to water makes possible. We remain steadfast in defending more than the environment, but women's dignity, safety, and constitutional rights.



Thank you for believing in this work. Thank you for helping us move water justice from vision to reality.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N/P Haas".

Executive Director -Asilindi Rural
Empowerment
Nkosazana Haas

100% WOMEN-LED - MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Ms. Nonkululeko Shezi
Chairperson



Ms. Mdali Zulu
Deputy Chairperson



Ms. Nombuso Majozi
Secretary



Ms. Zandile Nxumalo
Deputy Secretary



Ms. Lulama Vuso
Treasurer



Ms. Nkosazana Haas
Executive Director

FLOWING FORWARD: WHERE THE VISION BEGAN...

Water is life, dignity, and possibility. In rural communities, it is also the thin line between health and illness, time and lost opportunity, hope and hardship. While Section 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa affirms the right of everyone to have access to sufficient water, for many villages, particularly those dependent on natural springs—this right remains unevenly realized.

The distance between policy and lived experience is where water justice must be fought for, protected, and made real. Asilindi Rural Empowerment exists to close that distance. Our purpose is rooted in urgency: to ensure that the constitutional promise of access to water is not merely written but felt flowing daily through homesteads and livelihoods in rural communities.

Our journey began not in abundance, but in courage. In the midst of hardship, six women saw a way forward where circumstances suggested none. Guided by shared resilience and a deep commitment to community wellbeing, they laid the first stones of what would become Asilindi Rural Empowerment. Under the leadership of Nonkululeko Shezi, these women transformed lived struggle into collective action—planting a vision that water justice is achievable when communities lead their own solutions.

From these beginnings, momentum gathered. The Board played an instrumental role in shaping the organisation's foundations—strengthening governance, clarifying purpose, and anchoring our work in accountability and community trust.

Asilindi's early growth was strengthened by partners who believed in its mission, with the Environmental Justice Fund providing crucial early validation and Elton Nkwane our Coordinator offering guidance that opened new pathways for impact. Their support enabled a key milestone:

- training the first community water scientists and returning knowledge to the communities themselves.
- Through WaterCAN we started testing our springs and continue to monitor water quality of our streams.

This year marks the organization's shift from vision to movement, grounded in justice, partnership, and the commitment to make access to clean water a lived right for all.



SYSTEMS THAT STRENGTHEN OUR WORK

In twelve short months, we laid the foundations for long-term impact. We built systems that will sustain our work, forged partnerships rooted in trust, and witnessed early wins that affirm why this mission matters. Most importantly, we stood alongside communities whose lived experiences continue to guide our purpose and sharpen our resolve.

Capacity Building training and events that took place marking the moment of our vision began to flow outward, touching lives, influencing policy conversations, and strengthening collective action. Collectively we achieved the following



**WATERCAN
COMMUNITY WATER
SCIENTIST TRAINING**



**E3F
CONVENER 2026**



**FINANCE
AND
ADMINISTRATION TRAINING**

COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK

During the reporting period, Asilindi was supported by many community members who volunteered their time across various activities, alongside nine stable community volunteers who provided daily, consistent support and played an active role in shaping the direction of the work. Asilindi is powered by these community volunteers—individuals who live with the realities of water scarcity, rely on natural water sources such as springs, and have experienced the challenges of sharing water with livestock. Their lived experience informs our approach, strengthens community ownership, and ensures that our work remains grounded in local realities. The contribution of community volunteers is invaluable to the advancement of water justice and remains central to Asilindi's effectiveness and sustainability.



OUR PROGRAMMES AND COMMUNAL IMPACT

01 

Spring Protection & River Clean-Ups

Our river clean-up programs mobilise community members, volunteers, and youth to remove pollutants and debris from local rivers and streams. Spring protection works divert and shelter natural water sources, ensuring safer collection for the women and children who visit them daily.

80+

RIVER CLEAN-UPS

13

SPRINGS IN HYDROCENSUS

02 

Eco-Education Group Activities

Teaching the next generation about environmental stewardship — through field walks, planting circles, and indigenous-knowledge dialogues led by elders, women, and youth peer educators. Each cohort leaves with the tools and certification to lead their own communities forward.

10+

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Youth-led

PEER EDUCATION

03 

Community Environmental Sensitisations

Educating rural communities on climate change and environmental issues. We carry these conversations into village halls, the eMachubeni Tribal Court, and homestead gatherings — meeting people where they already gather, hand-in-hand.

15+

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

650+

MEMBERS REACHED

04 

Water Quality Testing

Ensuring safe and clean water for all community members. We test for total hardness, chlorine, bromine, alkalinity, and pH — translating chemistry into language households can act on.

25+

WATER QUALITY TESTS

6 in 1

CHEMICAL PARAMETERS

05 

Community Citizen Training

Training community members as water-quality monitors. Each trained citizen scientist becomes a node of trustworthy information for their neighbours — a quiet, durable infrastructure.

30+

SCIENTISTS TRAINED

100%

WOMEN-LED

06 

Social Justice Advocacy

Core to everything we do: amplifying the voices of rural women, defending environmental rights, and challenging systems that put girls in harm's way at the river. Advocacy is not a programme apart — it threads through all of our work.

Always

MOVEMENT-BUILDING

Forever

WITH THE COMMUNITY

PROGRAMMES AND COMMUNAL IMPACT



Behind every number in this infographic is a story of care, commitment, and community. Each spring mapped, each clean-up completed, and every engagement held reflects neighbours coming together to protect what sustains us all—water. From elders sharing their wisdom to young volunteers stepping forward with hope, these achievements show a community choosing action over despair.

Our work is a testament to resilience, unity, and the belief that safe, clean water is a right every household deserves. These milestones remind us that when people stand together, even the smallest efforts ripple outward, creating lasting change for generations

13

NATURAL SPRINGS
HYDROCENSUS



80+

SPRING WATER/RIVER
CLEAN-UPS



15

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENTS



2

CHIEF
CONSULTATIONS



4

ECO-EDUCATION
SESSIONS



10

ACTIVE COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS



25+

WATER QUALITY
TESTS DONE



4

SPRINGS RENOVATED,
FENCED & TESTED



STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY



At Asilindi Rural Empowerment, stewardship and sustainability are at the centre of our work and future vision. We believe that protecting natural spring water resources requires long-term community ownership, environmental responsibility, and inclusive leadership led by rural women and youth.

Our future plans include strengthening local leadership development, expanding community environmental sensitization programmes, and deepening grassroots participation in natural resource governance. We also aim to launch a Spring First Policy Campaign that advocates for increased representation of rural women in Natural Spring Water Resource Management and decision-making processes at local government level.

In addition, Asilindi seeks to introduce environmental art programmes for children to promote eco-awareness, creativity, and stewardship from an early age, helping to nurture a new generation that values environmental justice, sustainability, and collective responsibility for protecting natural water resources.

TO THOSE WHO WALKED WITH US

Thank you to iNduna uShezi for your guidance and unwavering support, and to our herdsman, Mr. Majozi, whose dedication continues to ground our work in the spirit of service. We extend our deep appreciation to our Board Members, the staff, and the volunteers of Asilindi Rural Empowerment for carrying this vision with commitment and heart.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Environmental Justice Fund, whose belief in our mission has made so much of our progress possible. We also thank the community members who came forward with their hands and their strength during the renovation of our local springs, and Mathiya Primary School for walking alongside us in partnership.

Lastly, we acknowledge our Community Development Worker and the municipal team assigned to our projects for their consistent support and collaboration. Together, you have uplifted our village and amplified its voice in ways that will be remembered for years to come.



OUR ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025/2026



2025/2026 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Together, we advance water justice
and protect rural communities.



OUR IMPACT IN 2025/2026



13

NATURAL SPRINGS
HYDROCENSUS



80+

SPRING/RIVER
CLEAN-UPS



15

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENTS



2

CHIEF
CONSULTATIONS



4

ECO-EDUCATION
SESSIONS



10

ACTIVE COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS



25+

WATER QUALITY
TESTS DONE

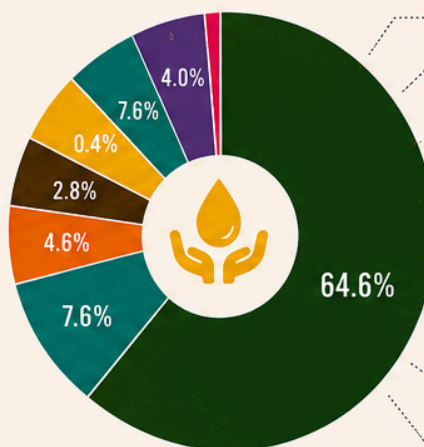


4

SPRINGS RENOVATED,
FENCED & TESTED

HOW WE USED OUR FUNDS

TOTAL EXPENDITURE
R 52 653,65



TOTAL EXPENDITURE	R 52 653,65
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	R 7 093,75
PETTY CASH	R 252,32



Infrastructural Expense
R 34 007,33

64.6%



Digital Expense
R 3 999,00

7.6%



Transport
R 2 410,00

4.6%



Bank Charges
R 1 473,10

2.8%



Volunteer Expense
R 1 100,00

2.1%



Operational expenses –
Community Empowerment
and engagement
R 2 083,95

4.0%



Stationery
R 232,20

0.4%



Petty Cash
R 252,32

0.5%

WHERE OUR FUNDS CAME FROM



Environment Justice Fund

R 50 000,00

94.9%



Individual Funder Cost

R 1 000,00

1.9%



Community Fund / Contribution

R 1 320,00

2.5%



Interest Income

R 333,65

0.7%

TOTAL INCOME R 52 653,65

SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) R 7 093,75

PETTY CASH R 252,32

Total Income = Total Expenditure
(Including Surplus and Petty Cash)

EVERY DROP COUNTS. EVERY ACTION MATTERS. EVERY COMMUNITY THRIVES.



We protect
our springs.



We empower
our communities.



We promote gender
equality & inclusion.



We educate for
a sustainable future.



We advocate for
environmental justice.

“ Every spring we protect,
every woman we empower,
every child we inspire –
we secure our future. ”