

"Broad-Based Livelihoods (BBL) Program in Merafong Empowers Thousands, Celebrated by Industry Leaders"

In a world where mining is often synonymous with environmental degradation and social upheaval, one company is rewriting the script. DRDGOLD, a South African gold mining company, has not only transitioned completely from deep level underground mining to large-scale retreatment of mine dumps and tailings dams, but they're doing it profitably and sustainably. This innovative approach not only restores the environment and frees up previously sterilised land, but also enhances the quality of life for those living in close proximity to their installations. And now, with a promising partnership with Sibanye-Stillwater, DRDGOLD is poised to expand into other minerals, such as PGMs, and continue unlocking value in their non-core surface assets. DRDGOLD is a shining example of how responsible mining practices can benefit everyone involved.

As a responsible corporate citizen, DRDGOLD's commitment to sustainable development extends beyond its core business operations. Through their FWGR SLP, they have successfully implemented a Livelihoods programme, empowering thousands of willing participants in the communities around their operations.



Site visit at BBL households in Khutsong

However, DRDGOLD's impact has been even greater through their collaborative partnerships with industry leaders like Sibanye-Stillwater and the World Gold Council, further strengthening their efforts towards sustainable development.

The Broad-Based Livelihoods (BBL) programme in Merafong, a region in the North West Province of South Africa, has been a resounding success, and its impact was celebrated by representatives of DRDGold, Sibanye-Stillwater, the World Gold Council, the Minerals Council, and other partners and stakeholders. The event was organized to acknowledge the BBL's impact in empowering Merafong residents through horticultural and business skills.



The BBL programme was designed and initiated in 2018 by Umsizi Sustainable Social Solutions and SocioTech, with DRDGold as the main sponsor. Since then, the programme has empowered hundreds, if not thousands, of residents to become economically productive and alleviate poverty in their local context.

The positive results of the BBL programme attracted the attention of Sibanye-Stillwater, which subsequently brought the World Gold Council on board. The Council contributed additional funding to expand the BBL in the area through the provision of 40 productive horticultural tunnel infrastructures.

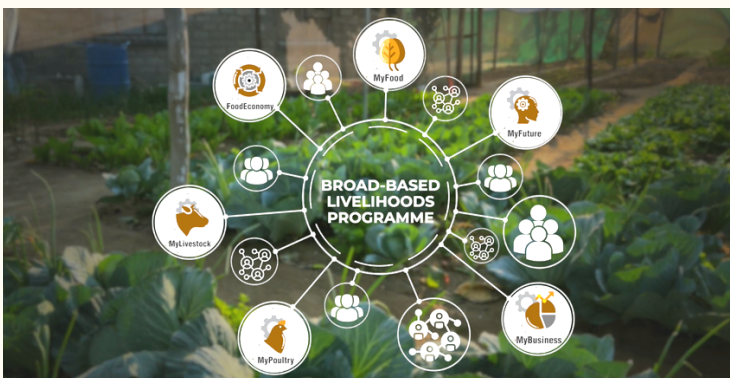


GROUP PHOTO

Community: DRDGold, Sibnaye, World Gold Council, Minerals councils, Umsizi, Socio Tech and Facilitators

Thabisile Phumo of Sibanye-Stillwater discussed future plans for a food revolution that will require sponsorship and investment to roll out one million food gardens across Southern Africa, highlighting the potential of the BBL for socio-economic development.

Overall, the collaboration between FWGR (DRDGOLD Far West Gold Recoveries), Sibanye-Stillwater, the World Gold Council, Umsizi, and SocioTech has been a wonderful success in empowering Merafong residents through the BBL programme. Those interested in learning more about the BBL programme or getting involved can visit www.umsizi.co.za



ABOUT THE BROAD-BASED LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

The Broad-Based Livelihoods Programme (BBL) is a sustainable development initiative implemented by Socio Tech and Umsizi in rural communities of South Africa. The program focuses on empowering marginalized communities by improving livelihoods and promoting economic development, food security, and skills training. It uses a participatory approach, where communities are actively involved in identifying their own needs, setting priorities, and implementing solutions. The program uses a range of strategies, including agricultural development, enterprise development, natural resource management, and community capacity building. The BBL program has had a significant impact on the lives of people it has reached, leading to increased incomes, improved food security, and greater resilience to shocks like droughts and economic downturns.



THABISILE PHUMO

Sibanye Stillwater Executive Vice President:
Stakeholder Relations • Social Performance

ABOUT UMSIZI

Umsizi specializes in the design and implementation of large-scale Socio-Economic Development programmes. We assist companies with legislative compliance, Local Economic Development programmes, and highly effective Corporate Social Investment solutions.

Umsizi have a proven track record of successful implementation of Socio-Economic Development programmes in rural areas throughout Southern Africa. Umsizi have compiled over 300 Socio-Economic Development Programmes, including Social and Labour Plans, Community Development, Corporate Social Investment, Social Impact Assessment, Enterprise Development, Skills Development, Charter Compliance and Reporting.

Our team consists of leading experts in sustainable social development. We are ready to provide solutions to your company for any requirement in the field of socio-economic development.

