



Abalimi Bezekhaya (*meaning farmers of the home in isiXhosa*) is a non-profit urban-farming organization, established in 1982, that supports individuals and groups from disadvantaged communities in Cape Town through providing facilitation and training on **organic food production** for food security, nutrition, health and income generation.



Our Mission is to empower the disadvantaged in the Cape Flats through organic urban agriculture programs and projects.

What we do

Abalimi provides the following support services, which are our four main pillars of development:

- 1) **Training and mentoring**, as well as professional extension services (e.g. organisation building, research, soil testing, monitoring and evaluation, management and accounting services).
- 2) Supply of **agricultural inputs for production** (e.g. manure, seeds and seedlings) via our garden centres.
- 3) **Soil and infrastructure capital input**, which the farmers cannot build up on their own. This includes the major part of their manure to improve soil infrastructure within the harsh dune sand environment and extreme weather conditions and irrigation infrastructure.
- 4) Support in **market access** to allow farmers to sell their produce for income generation.

Our Projects include a focus on home and community gardens to encourage food security, while providing support to production gardens for income generation. The vendor project provides support to local vendors who sell manure and seedlings within the community. We also support Early Development Childhood centres and schools.



Our Target Group is the urban poor living in informal settlements, often referred to as townships, where over a million people live with an unemployment rate of over 40%.

Our Target Area is the greater Cape Flats, including Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Philippi, Browns Farm, Crossroads and Gugulethu. The sandy soil makes it difficult for growing vegetables, thus we strive through all our activities and projects to conserve and enhance the soil and natural vegetation, while promoting organic farming.



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Our Garden Centres are the only nurseries in Nyanga and Khayelitsha that provide seeds, seedlings, manure and utensils for sale to the local community at an affordable cost. They are also used as training and demonstration centres, and the community can buy organically grown vegetables for consumption.

Harvest of Hope was established 2008 to create market access so that farmers could sell their produce. The operational side of Harvest of Hope ceased end 2019 as it had achieved its goal of establishing a market. The farmers have taken over direct engagement with previous clients and are selling via additional new markets, while Abalimi continues to provide support to the farmers.