

VOICES FOR CHANGE STORY REPORT FORM

This form should accompany the stories of challenge / change that you collected from your partners, stakeholders, staff, community members and volunteers (one form for each story). The stories themselves can be written up or take the form of photos, short videos, drawings, poetry, etc.

Name of the organisation and person collecting the story:

The story was collected for CCIVS by Banele Zwane who is volunteer at SAVWA (South Africa Volunteer Work Camp Association. Banele started volunteering at SAVWA in November 2024 after his friend recommended SAVWA to him and after going through the application process he finally joined SAVWA and on his first work camp he met two female volunteers from Belgium named, Ignés and Azeline who joined SAVWA for a Climate Justice work camp.

Who provided the story and in which form:

This story was shared in a form of an interview. The individual who shared this story is Banele Zwane, a young man from South Africa who lives in a well-known township called Soshanguve. Banele is a volunteer who is passionate about making a change in his community and he participated in Climate Justice Campaign which was organised by SAVWA and the two volunteers from Belgium (Ignés & Azeline). The Climate Justice Campaign focused on educating the children of SAVWA about Climate Change and also to raise aware in the community of Soshanguve Block NN.

When and where did the challenges/changes illustrated in the story take place:

This event took place in Soshanguve Block NN whereby littering and dumping is one of the biggest challenges we face in our community. It didn't take much to identify the issue of littering on our community after realising that within every kilometre we walk past an estimated amount of +/- 7 kilograms of trash and it keeps on getting worse because no one is doing anything about it and that's when realised that this is a big issue and as it also contributes to Climate Injustice and affects our planet. We the thought that, Enough is enough something needs to done about it.

We then decided to implement a "STOP LITTERING" Campaign with the aim of educating the children and raising awareness about Climate Injustice. The duration of this event was 2 weeks, starting from 04 November to 15 November.

What kind of projects were implemented by your organisation in the place the story refers to :

SAVWA worked alongside the Belgian volunteers to implement a “STOP LITTERING” Campaign whereby the children from the SAVWA After School Programme were firstly educated about climate change. The children were instilled with knowledge like, what is climate change, how does it affect us, how can we fight against climate injustice etc.

During the process of teaching the children about climate injustice we stumbled upon a couple of challenges, we were quick to realise that the children had very little knowledge about climate change. It was so sad to also see that some of the children were not interested in learning about climate change, while some would listen but then they would be ignorant and continue to litter but on the positive side, some children actually realised how serious the issue of littering is, as they would be seen picking litter and throwing it in the trash bags and reprimanding those who would litter around them, and that gave us hope that we can still educate more children so they can realise how serious this issue is, then we can have a big army to fight against littering in our community.

After spending two weeks educating the children about climate change, we were happy to know that majority of the children were now fully involved in the fight against Climate Injustice and we were now ready to implement the final phase of the “STOP LITTERING” campaign. On the last day of the campaign, 15 November, we organised a peaceful protest against littering in the community of Soshanguve Block NN.

We took the children and walked around the area while they were holding placards of which they designed themselves prior the event and chanting “Stop littering, Stop littering!!” while also picking up litter using, litter pickers and garbage bags.

During the protest we were amazed by the amount of litter we picked up in the 500 metres that we walked. That’s when we felt that this campaign was very much necessary and we felt really proud to have pulled this off to have made the difference in the community and in the children’s lives.

What does the storyteller believe is the significance of the events described in the story?

The storyteller believes that the campaign was very important because, we learnt that many people don’t know about climate, including Banele who had very little knowledge about climate change and after participating in the campaign he felt that this was very educational and saw the need to join the fight against climate injustice.

The significance of this event is that we managed to educate not just children from our organisation but also raised awareness during our protest while we

simultaneously educated the people who witnessed our protest and we managed to reduce the waste in the streets and we were very happy to have done that playing a significant role in keeping the community clean so we can live in a healthy environment.

Even though we haven't fully conquered the littering challenge due to some of the people being ignorant and are not willing to protect their community and to have a cleaner and beautiful environment, we're very glad to have played a role in the fight of climate injustice and it does not end there, we are still continuing the fight against littering in our community as we are planning on doing a campaign that'll help reduce litter in our community of which will be launched soon.

PHOTOGALLERY



