

## 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 by the South Africa Volunteer Work Camp Association (SAVWA) through a climate justice survey conducted by Dorcas, a full-time volunteer at SAVWA.

**Who provided the story and in which form:**

This story was shared in the form of an interview by Pholoso, an 18-year-old boy passionate about changing lives. As a volunteer engaged in community service and peer facilitation, Pholoso believes deeply in the power of knowledge and critical thinking.

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

Pholoso's transformation began five years ago when he joined a peer book club. Initially skeptical about volunteering, he grew to embrace it through leadership trainings that reshaped his worldview. As part of the GBEM program, he facilitated campaigns in his community and school addressing overlooked challenges. Notably, he organized a cleaning campaign at his school to combat littering, involving peers from local school in Atteridgeville, Pretoria. The recyclable waste collected was sold, generating funds for the school. Inspired by growing drug use and mental health issues among learners, Pholoso led a drug awareness campaign and initiated a petition that resulted in the school hiring professional social workers. With their presence, he identified further issues such as abuse and bullying, prompting another awareness campaign to support affected learners and promote reporting mechanisms.

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

SAVWA has been running campaigns like this ever since it was founded. SAVWA educates the community about climate change and do community services to ensure that the environment is clean and they take care of the welfare of the community. This organization builds people of the community and shapes them into leaders for them to change the world and tackle all global issues. Pholoso joined SAVWA and he is now a facilitator to the kids of the community who come to the after-school program. Pholoso along with other volunteers at SAVWA, they basically educate kids about daily challenges,

help them with homework, help them improve academically and they also help them with sports development. SAVWA is a space where all of these kids can learn, have fun and be protected from indulging in illegal activities.

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

Pholoso believes strongly in the power of diversity and education. He asserts that informed and morally guided youth are essential to achieving community transformation and environmental sustainability. According to him, nurturing children with values, responsibility, and awareness will lead to a better world. He emphasizes the urgent need to protect our planet, reminding us that Earth is our only home.

## PHOTOGALLERY

