

BI-ANNUAL

VOL 1

NEWSLETTER

THE STRENGTH OF A COMMUNITY LIES IN ITS PEOPLE.



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HIGHLIGHT

ROSIE FROM UTUSEB, ERONGO

One inspiring voice is Rosie, a youth from Utuseb, who spoke passionately about the need for a secondary school in the Topnaar community. Her words have fueled our advocacy for education infrastructure in rural areas, and we're committed to supporting her vision.

[Read More on our website](#)

From RuralRise

Greetings to all our stakeholders. We've had an incredible year, working together to empower Namibia's rural communities. From insightful dialogues to strategic partnerships, we've made significant strides towards our mission.

This newsletter celebrates our achievements, highlights the voices of rural youth, and previews our exciting plans for the future. Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to get involved.

Together, we're building a brighter future for rural Namibia!



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

From the Ground Up (FTGU) Initiative.

The "From the Ground Up" (FTGU) project has been actively working to empower rural youth in Namibia by addressing the significant barriers they face in participating in decision-making processes and accessing opportunities for economic and social advancement. Recently, we held community dialogues and advocacy workshops in three rural communities (Utuseb, Uis, and Okombahe) in the Erongo region and captured rural youth stories in a documentary to substantiate a policy brief addressed to the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

[Read More on our website](#)



Media Highlights

Eslien Tsuses

Our CEO, Ms. Eslien Tsuses, was among the esteemed panelists, for This year's Youthquake event, themed Next Generation Democracy: Inspiring Youth to Lead and Innovate, hosted by Namibia Media Trust where she emphasized the importance of amplifying the efforts of existing institutions and stakeholders dedicated to rural community empowerment and training. Aligned with RuralRise's mission, these collaborations are vital for equipping the next generation with the tools to lead and transform rural areas.

[Read More on our website](#)



Utuseb Community Dialogue

Utuseb with 38 participants discussed the lack of a secondary school, with residents strongly advocating for better educational opportunities.



Okombahe Community Dialogue

Okombahe with 58 participants identified teenage pregnancy as a significant challenge faced by the youth in the area.



Uis Community Dialogue

Uis with 48 participants highlighted alcohol and drug abuse as the community's primary concern.

Youth and Community Spotlights



ISSASKAR TJANDERO

Issaskar Tjandero has been an outstanding force behind the 'From the Ground Up' project at RuralRise. His passion for uplifting communities shone through when he gave an interview on NBC, talking about the project's impact. He also stepped up as the MC for the Utuseb community dialogue and was the moderator for our Ignite Talk Series, showing his natural leadership and communication skills. Beyond his work with RuralRise, Issaskar ran for SRC President for 2025 at NUST, putting himself forward to be a voice for students. Though he didn't win this time, his dedication to making a difference and his drive to lead are truly inspiring.

[Read More on our website](#)

Victory April is our current Project Coordinator at RuralRise, she brings to the team reliable expertise in administration and management. a role she took on after completing her internship as a marketing and communications intern where shaped communication strategies at the organization, ensuring that our story is told and that the voices of rural youth are heard all over Namibia.

She was invited to speak about the FTGU project by Kaisames FM in October 2024.

Ms. April, was also featured in an Eswatini newspaper, where she spoke about her incredible experience at the NXT Podcast Bootcamp! hosted by the Namibia Media Trust in collaboration with DW Akademie!

Victory gained invaluable insights on effective storytelling, audience engagement, and advanced editing techniques. She learned the latest trends in podcasting, explored innovative content creation strategies, and networked with industry experts. skills that are being put to used in the development of the Ignite Rural Development Vodcast Series hosted by RuralRise.



Victory April



Youth and Community Spotlights

Strengthening Namibia's Electoral Environment!

It was a privilege for RuralRise to have represented rural youth and engaged with the African Centre for Governance Election Observation Mission to Namibia. During the meeting, the focus was on Namibia's readiness to conduct elections, with particular emphasis on youth inclusivity, given that over 70% of the population is young. The discussions also addressed the inclusion of people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in civic education.

The discussions highlighted the efforts of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), Civil Society Organizations, and the private sector in promoting civic education ahead of the elections. Proposed recommendations aim to help these stakeholders enhance their efforts and outline how the African Centre for Governance can assist in these initiatives.

In the photo: Community Liaison Officer Issaskar Tjandero and RuralRise Board member Ms. Jessica Uiras, who served as the Human Rights Analyst on the mission.



[Read More on our website](#)



The year has been filled with numerous engagements for the RuralRise team. We believe that investing in our team's capacity is essential to effectively implement projects and achieve our goals of empowering rural communities.

[Read More on our website](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ignite Rural Development Panel Discussion

Be part of this thought-provoking discussion that brings together stakeholders from various sectors to explore actionable strategies for sustainable rural development. Together, we'll tackle challenges, uncover opportunities, and drive solutions to empower rural communities in Namibia.

[Read More on our website](#)



SO FAR, WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY FILMED TWO EPISODES:



Episode 1: Featuring Ms. Chloe Brandt, Admitted Legal Practitioner & Researcher, **discussing Small-Scale Mining in Namibia: Hazards to Industrialization & Necessary Changes.**

Additional topics: Legal frameworks, land rights, and community empowerment initiatives in rural areas.



Episode 2: Featuring Ms. Kapena Tjombonde, CEO of Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP), **addressing Healthcare Access and Infrastructure Development in Rural Areas.**

Additional focus: NIP's pivotal role in mitigating the impact of COVID-19.

Stay tuned for these igniting conversations!

SPONSORS CORNER

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THOSE WHO MAKE OUR WORK WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES POSSIBLE.

The **"From the Ground Up"** initiative is a comprehensive policy intervention aimed at empowering rural youth in Namibia. Through a series of community dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and advocacy efforts, we have engaged over 150 youth in the communities of Utuseb, Uis and Okombahe. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for their generous support of the "From the Ground Up" initiative. Your investment in rural youth development has made a significant difference in the lives of countless young people in Namibia.

We are committed to using these funds responsibly and effectively to achieve our project goals. We will continue to monitor and evaluate our progress to ensure that our efforts are making a tangible impact.

[Read More on our website](#)

New Voices, New Narratives in Public Policy Discourse



Funded by
the European Union



RuralRise is excited to announce its new vodcast series titled **"The Ignite Rural Development Series"** that delves into the heart of rural development in Namibia. This innovative series brings together influential stakeholders to discuss critical issues and develop practical solutions.

With the generous support of Candino Mining and Construction, the first two episodes of this five-part series have been successfully filmed. These episodes explore vital topics such as youth empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and infrastructure development.

By leveraging the power of visual storytelling, this vodcast series aims to inspire and motivate viewers to take action and contribute to the development of rural Namibia.

[Read More on our website](#)



RuralRise is committed to empowering the people of rural Namibia to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.
Join us in empowering rural Namibia

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE RURALRISE FAMILY.



Stay connected and follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and our other platforms for real-time updates on our initiatives. We welcome support from organization and individuals who share our mission. Reach us on the contact details below.