



“My name is Mlungisi Phungula and I am 35 years old. I come from a very rural area in Msinga, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa called Mbangwani where there are not many job opportunities for youth. However, I have my own thriving animal health business thanks to the Goat Agribusiness Project.”

The Goat Agribusiness Project (GAP) is a partnership between two organisations (HPSA-Heifer Project South Africa and Mdukatshani Rural Development Project). GAP has a common goal and mission to address rural poverty, food insecurity and lack of income in rural households in KwaZulu Natal (KZN), Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga in South Africa. The project is currently based in four districts (UMzinyathi, UThukela, UMkhanyakude and Zululand) in KwaZulu Natal and the is planning to scale up to Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga based on piloted

programs done in KZN with a particular focus on women farmers and youth and livestock.

Mlungisi has a son who is 9 years old and lives at home with a family of three. He started working with GAP as a Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) in 2017 and has steadily grown his business since. He was recently part of the Youth in Agriculture project funded by the Jobs Fund and received a stipend for six months alongside 3000 other youth to support 27000 farmers across KZN.

Mlungisi says “before I started working as a CAHW and receiving hands on animal health training from GAP, I was clueless about medicines or taking the animal’s weight before dosing it. I learnt from the CAHW programme how to have my own business and how to dose sick animals. Before I never new how to even inject an animal, now I am very good at it.”

When asked about farmers’ biggest animal health challenges, he says, “worms are a big problem, as well as heartwater, diarrhoea and external parasites. I treat animals but I also have a very good business selling medicines. I buy my medicines at TWK in a town called Greytown. I either go to livestock dip days or go house to house selling. The farmers also call me and ask me to bring them medicines. I add a small amount for profit.”

“With money from my business, I re-invest and buy more medicines. I have bought clothes for my son, a fridge for my mom and I buy groceries. I have also been able to invest long term and buy three goats of my own.”



“My dream for the future would be to have a spaza shop where I can sell my medicines and also have other things to sell like airtime and snacks so when people come to buy medicines, they are able to buy other things. I would also like to get more training in business skills.”

For more information about GAP and the many successes like Mlungisi go to [www.gapkzn.co.za](http://www.gapkzn.co.za) or send us a message at [hpsa@hpsa.org.za](mailto:hpsa@hpsa.org.za) to find out how you can help.

