SaveAct News | A New Chapter in Sharing Our Story



From left to right: *Gugu Ngubane (Chairperson) and Gcwalisile Gubeni (Record Keeper) transact with members during a savings group meeting in rural KwaZulu-Natal. (Photo: Anton Krone)*

Welcome Back

SaveAct has always believed that meaningful change happens through relationships, trust, and consistent work within communities. While our communication with supporters and partners has been quieter than we would

Our organisation has adapted to staff changes and new opportunities, and much of our energy has been focused on supporting savings groups, strengthening partnerships, and developing new ways to extend our impact. We are excited to reconnect with our supporters and partners more regularly once again.

Rather than filling inboxes with frequent updates, our commitment is to share thoughtful, meaningful news that reflects the people, partnerships and communities at the heart of SaveAct's work.

We are sharing our news with you because we have engaged with you in the past. If you are happy to keep receiving these updates, there is no need to take any action. Should you no longer be interested, please click on the unsubscribe link in the footer of this email, and you will be removed from the mailing list.

Celebrating 20 years of Building Resilience

2025 marked 20 years since SaveAct was founded in 2005.

What began as a simple belief, that people can create lasting change when they save together, learn together and support one another, has grown into a movement reaching more than 115,000 members across South Africa. Today, savings groups supported by SaveAct and our partners have collectively saved hundreds of millions of rand while creating stronger households, more resilient communities and greater opportunities for women and youth.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are filled with gratitude for the many community members, partners, staff, funders and supporters who have contributed to this journey. The impact belongs to all of you.



Gcobani Qina from Cabazana location in Mt Ayliff, Eastern Cape, a member of a SaveAct income generating activity, shares his farming experience. (Photo: SaveAct)

But anniversaries are not only a time for reflection. They are also an opportunity to look ahead. The challenges facing rural communities remain significant, and the demand for practical, community-owned solutions continues to grow.

We have learned that lasting change is rarely driven by outside solutions alone. It grows when people come together, build trust and invest in one another. Savings groups are a living, breathing example of communities that already possess the knowledge, resilience and determination needed to shape their own futures.



SaveAct staff, board and key members at the 2025 Annual Planning Meeting. (Photo: SaveAct)

Growing Impact through Partnership

Spring Impact. The programme supports organisations to expand their impact in ways that remain sustainable, effective and true to their values.

For SaveAct, scaling is not simply about reaching more people ourselves. Instead, it is about strengthening a growing network of partners who understand their communities and can adapt the savings group methodology to local realities. By sharing knowledge, building capacity and creating spaces for learning, we are helping to develop a community of practice that can carry this work further than any single organisation could achieve alone.

We have seen increasing interest from organisations across South Africa that want to use the SaveAct methodology. This demand is encouraging, but it also comes with responsibility.

As we grow, we remain committed to safeguarding the quality and integrity of the approach. Through formal partnership agreements, shared standards, training processes and ongoing support, we are creating the guardrails needed to ensure that communities continue to benefit from a methodology that is proven, ethical and centred on people's wellbeing.

Our goal is not growth for its own sake. It is growth that strengthens communities and protects what makes the model effective.

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Growing Knowledge, Growing Harvests: Training Women Farmers in Eshowe



Women from a savings group in Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal interact during an agricultural planning exercise. (Photo: Mbhe Mdlalose)

Supporting savings groups goes beyond building financial resilience. It is also about creating opportunities for members to strengthen their livelihoods and develop new skills that benefit their families and communities.

Women from SaveAct savings groups in Eshowe recently participated in a practical agroecology and business skills training programme, funded by the WWF Nedbank Green Trust. The training strengthened participants' knowledge of sustainable farming practices while supporting more resilient livelihoods and improved food security. **Read the full story on our website.**



Looking Ahead

As we enter our third decade, SaveAct remains focused on expanding opportunities for women and youth, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that more communities have access to practical tools for building economic resilience.

As we reconnect through this newsletter, we look forward to bringing you more stories from savings group members, introducing some of our partner organisations, highlighting innovations emerging from our network, and exploring how communities are responding to the challenges and opportunities shaping rural South Africa today.

While we are busy preparing the next newsletter, you can read more about our work in this recent Daily Maverick article that highlighted the remarkable role that savings groups play in strengthening social cohesion, advancing gender equality and building resilience in South Africa.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to staying connected with you.



NoWinile Lungiswa Mangquzana is a smallholder and SaveAct member from Ntabankulu Mabofu, Eastern Cape. (Photo: Nolufefe Nonjeke-Dlanjwa)

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