Burial Societies
Informal Life Policy

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Context.
It is very expensive to give the beloved ones a decent burial ceremony in Botswana. For the poor and unemployed families who live in rural areas and have limited sources of income, it becomes a challenge to bury their beloved ones. In an effort to mitigate this challenge, families in rural areas form Burial Societies and contribute a small token every month.
The project.  
The objective of the case seeks to mitigate the high cost family members undergo during hard times such as death in the family. The contributions made assist the bereaved family to cover all the funeral expenses.
The design process.
Co-create a system to enhance the operations of burial societies. It might be in terms of record keeping, subscription collection and payment. Co-creating communication tools to disseminate the value of burial societies to urban dwellers or other users.
The project assist people at semi-urban and rural areas be have an informal life insurance. The project is a grassroots initiative as formal life insurance policies are expensive. The societies are run by self elected committees.
Activism and Civic Participation

All active members participate freely and the committee then implement the agreed resolutions to foster change in the society. Decision making in this initiative is through the participatory approach by all members (consensus decision making).
Families at grassroots level have collaborated to solve the challenge they encounter when burying their beloved ones. They can’t afford an insurance policy but burial societies are flexible, effective and affordable ‘life policies’. The project bonds the community through collaboration sharing experiences and assisting each other. During meetings, members also share other matters of concern to them. Emeritus Bishop Desmond Tutu once said, “My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together”.

Bonding the community
In raising funds, some burial societies engage in such initiatives as purchasing, selling, and leasing any movable property e.g. tents, chairs, big pots to be used in big occasions and making grave stands. This brings services closer to the people.
Storytelling and Visualisation

envisioning in co-design sessions
ideas sharing

Each member monthly subscription is written in a booklet. There is possibility of co-creating better service provision within the burial societies so that they are administered effectively and efficiently.