



**Sikhula  
Sonke**

Early  
Childhood  
Development



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

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# Kude kwalapha uThixo Enathi .

**God has been with us.**







# About Sikhula Sonke ECD .

Sikhula Sonke ECD is a community-based organisation addressing the need for early childhood development in Khayelitsha by providing access to quality ECD training and resources since 2001.

We believe that every child in Khayelitsha should have the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a safe, stimulating and loving environment.

We work closely with parents, caregivers, registered and unregistered preschools, playgroups, community leaders, government, health practitioners and other partners to ensure these young children reach their development milestones and thrive. Our programmes include:

- Coaching, support and accredited training for ECD practitioners within the context of their preschools and on-site at the Harare library resource centre.
- Training and support for families and caregivers in their homes and by using community spaces - the Family and Community Motivator (FCM) Programme.
- Emthonjeni playgroup outreach programme to children not in preschool and their caregivers, conducted in the public spaces.
- Toy library services - taking toys and learning to communities who do not have toys, facilitators, educators and/or play facilities available.
- Fatherhood Network - engaging fathers to be active participants in their children's lives and development.



Early childhood development is defined as  
“the processes by which children from birth to  
nine years grow and thrive physically, mentally,  
emotionally, morally and socially.”

- Education White Paper March 1995

## Khayelitsha

Khayelitsha (meaning: new home) is a township established by the apartheid government in 1985 on the Cape Flats just outside Cape Town. It is reputed to be the largest and fastest growing township in South Africa.

Officially established in 1983, Khayelitsha was originally constructed to resettle African residents from the Western Cape. Site B, Site C, Green Point, Litha Park, Mandela Park, Makaza and Harare sprang up around the first settlements. The most recent informal settlements in Khayelitsha include QQ Section, TR Section, RR Section, Mew Way and Enkanini.

In 2021 the population of Khayelitsha was estimated at 2.4 million people (Wikipedia).

Approximately 75% of residents still live in shacks in informal settlements. One in three people has to walk 200 metres or further to access water, while 89% of households are either moderately or severely food insecure.

Only 46% of Khayelitsha's total working age population is employed; 73% of the adults of the community have not completed Grade 12. The five most common forms of employment are domestic work (19.4%), service work (15.2%), skilled manual labour (15.2%), unskilled manual labour (11%) and security services (10.4%).

Khayelitsha is a young community, with 76% of its inhabitants under the age of 29.

Extrapolating growth data from STATS SA for 2021, it's estimated that Khayelitsha is home to approximately 196,000 children under the age of six. It's also estimated that, collectively, the formal and informal ECD facilities are only reaching 30% of preschool-age children.

This means that 70% of children under the age of six are not enrolled in any form of early childhood development programme.



## Our Story

In the '80s and '90s there was a dire need for housing, education and health facilities in Khayelitsha. Claremont Methodist Church responded through its Social Impact Ministry and began building houses in Harare. The plight of young, unschooled and vulnerable children quickly became apparent to church members working in the township.

Sikhula Sonke ECD was formed as a community-based organisation with a mandate to meet the need for quality early childhood development interventions in Khayelitsha. Our vision is that every child in Khayelitsha has the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a safe, stimulating and loving environment.

In the 20 years that Sikhula Sonke ECD has been in operation, we have seen much change. Our first young learners are now adults.

From the first small team of three we grew to five for a few years, until we were joined by two EPWP (Extended Public Works Programme) volunteers. Today our team comprises 30 full time staff and 15 paid EPWP volunteers. Our offices and training centre are located in Harare Square in Khayelitsha.

All of our employees live in Khayelitsha and many have studied and gained their qualifications while working for Sikhula Sonke. Today we have a social work team, office team, outreach teams and a coaching team. We have a Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, are POPI-compliant and work on continuous improvement in leadership, processes, learning and strategy.

We are humbled to be the recipients of several awards for our work, and take great pride in the good long term relationships with our generous-hearted funders, donors and partners.

Truly, it takes a village to raise a child.

**"We see the parents, caregivers, community members and preschool teachers in Khayelitsha being trained and supported to provide a safe, stimulating and loving environment where children can learn and thrive."**

**- Sikhula Sonke Mission Statement**

## We believe ...

All children have the right to be loved, cared for and developed physically, intellectually, emotionally, morally and socially.

By nurturing and building our children, we nurture and build our nation.

All parents and caregivers of young children should be knowledgeable about early childhood development so that they can play an active role in nurturing and enhancing the development of the children in their care.

That our united efforts will significantly and positively impact on the future of our young children and afford them the opportunity to realise their potential, and in so doing, secure the future of our country.



## Letter from the Chairperson

In March 2020, as I wrote about the threat of navigating a pandemic, I didn't think that more than a year later we'd still be dealing with COVID-19. Yet here we are, in our 20th year, in what should be a celebratory moment, reflecting on bigger mountains than we've faced before.

In the past year thousands of lives have been lost and many organizations have struggled to sustain themselves or support their beneficiaries, but within Sikhula Sonke, I'm so pleased to report that despite a few team members contracting COVID-19, all have returned to full health, and we've continued to offer our learners a level of service that I didn't think was possible given the challenges we've faced as a country.

The pandemic, food insecurity, unemployment, taxi violence and other challenges continue to make our work more difficult than it needs to be, and sometimes constrain our programs. We remain committed to engaging with stakeholders and the community at large to navigate whatever comes our way in support of our learners and students.

As in previous years, I cannot miss the opportunity to express, on behalf of the board, our deep sense of thankfulness and appreciation for the consistent and generous funders and partners who continue to journey with us; our dedicated team who, as always, are led by the patient, wise and hard-working Mdebuka Mthwazi; for Janet, Sindi, Thembi, Jenny and Kerry for their hard work. To all, I offer you a heartfelt thank you. Without you, we would not be in the position that we are.

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika.

- Evan Torrance, Chairperson  
Sikhula Sonke ECD

## Summing up 2021.

**This year we celebrate 20 years of good community stewardship, service delivery, learning and excellence.**

It is clear that the non-state sector has experienced a huge demand and increase in its services because of the unprecedented arrival of COVID-19 to our shores. This is the first time our country has experienced a pandemic that has impacted health, education, commerce and tourism simultaneously. In fact, every sector of our society has been affected, rendering communities vulnerable and at times hopeless.

The non-state sector were the first to respond as front-liners while our government was trying to figure out how to deal with the health issues. Much of our annual report deals with the actions taken in response to COVID-19 in our communities.

The biggest threat to our sector in achieving the desired outcomes/results has been the impact of COVID-19 on businesses who were financially supporting NPOs. As businesses were locked down, adjusted to government restrictions and lost employees, all had to limit their trade and many ended up closing down. This hit our sector hard in funding losses. We are most grateful for the ongoing support from our partners and funders despite their own struggles.



There are several keys to Sikhula Sonke's ongoing relevancy and service to our Khayelitsha communities this year as the health crisis quickly translated into an education crisis when schools shut down. Quickly summed up, these keys included diversification, adaptability, creativity and innovation.

Health, education and nutrition were foremost in our initial response for our vulnerable communities. We immediately applied for front line certificates and sourced basic home medicines (Vitamin C effervescent, cough mixtures etc.) for our beneficiaries. At the same time we provided soaps, masks and information to the communities. An unexpected spin-off was the improved hygiene in the informal settlements where there is little clean and running water. The communities quickly onboarded and followed all the COVID-19 protocols. We are so proud of these achievements by the communities.

A second challenge was food insecurity. Many families rely on the food their children receive in the preschool programmes. With partners like Joint Aid Management we were able to distribute nutritious porridge for young children, and thanks to generous donors and funders, food parcels were handed to struggling families.

Lack of access to educational and developmental stimulation was another challenge we tackled. Preschools were only allowed to open in August/September of 2020 which meant six months of lost learning. To overcome this, our teams went door-to-door to take books, games and toys to the beneficiaries in our programmes, teaching parents how to become active educators of their own children. At the same time, we were able to screen homes for food insecurity, neglect and health issues, passing contacts to our social work team for follow up.

Amongst many challenges was the move from using traditional methods of teaching and connecting to doing more through digital

platforms. Again, we are grateful to our partners and funders who generously assisted us through funding to move online. Our "new normal" moved to telephonic counselling, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and even WhatsApp meetings after hours to assist our beneficiaries and support our staff in whatever way possible. We learnt to run training sessions on virtual platforms – this was a first for us. Online tech also allowed our staff to expand their own learning/knowledge by accessing courses formerly only available in person.

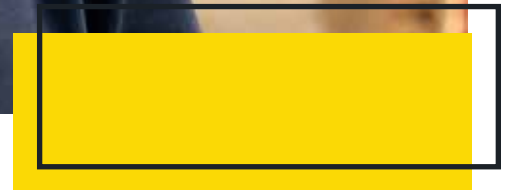
COVID-19 has had a harsh and long lasting impact in the South African townships. This includes loss of life, an increase in poverty and unemployment, increased crime rates and food insecurity and a demand for psychosocial support for gender based violence, depression, family conflict and more. Although I'm an optimist, I know that the hard pinch and the effects of COVID-19 are still going to live with us for many more years to come.

Sikhula Sonke has shown a high level of resilience and demonstrated huge sustainability in all its pillars. 2021 has taught us that in order to maximise our effectiveness and efficiency in our services, we need to get out of our comfort zones. I am so proud to be leading this team in this year.

As we move into our 21st year of operation, we are looking towards the broader sustainable developmental goals. As we work more efficiently using technology, encourage the involvement of fathers in the development of young children, creatively educate young children and explore ways of building more sustainable communities, we are seeing vibrant community-engaging change happen. Watch this space!

I say: "Ndiyabulela, Maz'enethole".

Mdebuka Mthwazi.



# Operations Report.



The 2020-2021 financial year will be long-remembered in world history. No one could have anticipated how COVID-19 would upset our everyday lives and affect every part of society.

Sikhula Sonke learnt afresh how to re-strategise and come up with creative solutions to adapt and then adapt again to the ever-changing “new normal”. While our own programmes remained closed for nearly 5 months, Essential Services permits allowed our teams to remain active; food and personal protection could be distributed, toy library games and books shared, parents equipped to educate.

Achievements and notable activities from the past year include:

- All programmes continued including Imbewu training and coaching of our ECD practitioners.
- Education and stimulation at the sites continued and was extended to a whole week instead of 4 days to increase contact time; when the third wave arrived, our children were further ahead in the curriculum.
- One innovation this year was the additional of communal food gardens attached to Emthonjeni playgroups for parents in households owning small vegetable gardens in their backyards.
- The Mew Way Emthonjeni site has been tightly fenced in, thanks to the fathers who volunteered to undertake this project.
- The number of children from outreach programmes has increased significantly despite the fact that an Emthonjeni site in A section was closed.
- We maintained having almost 500 children in the outreach programmes.

Sikhula Sonke has proven to be resilient. The service to our people continues. Aluta continua!



## Staff development

Our staff members were undeterred in ensuring that they uplift their careers despite the difficult conditions of the pandemic.

We applaud the following employees for their determination and progress in 2020:

- Phumeza Lubuzo and Bongiswa Mthwazi completed ECD NQF level 4.
- Nolitha Gana, Bukiwe Genu, Mellisa Jonkers and Makhosazana Padi completed ECD NQF level 5.
- Babalwa Ndim and Mphokazi Malangeni completed their ECD Diplomas.
- Ntombovuyo Bongoza is continuing with her Social Work degree.
- Nomabhaca Mthwazi and Phaphama Mateza are working towards finishing their Diplomas in Community Development.
- Zingisa Ngcolo is in her second year of doing her Bachelor of Education.

## Internships

Yamkela Lwana shares:

*"Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development invited us to be part of their 2020-2021 internship programme.*

*What an honor and a privilege to be given a chance to work for such an amazing organization deep in the Township, making wonders in developing young children and helping families!*

*This experience is very valuable, and I have learnt a lot from this kind of work that this organization does.*

*Thank you very much for your guidance and supervision. Your advice and experience have been truly invaluable and helpful to me. By selecting me for this internship you showed confidence in my abilities, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity.*

*On behalf of all the SISO Interns, thank you for journeying with us towards our professional growth and career development."*

## Highlights

- Distribution of food parcels, learning material and health supplements to over 400 families.
- COVID-19 champions bolstered the role played by the Sikhula Sonke Health and Hygiene committee.
- The pandemic brought about a revolutionary paradigm shift from physical communication to digital communication in almost all sectors of our society. Meetings are not run the same way anymore.
- Sikhula Sonke explored new ways of working, including the option of working from home for older employees and those with comorbidities.
- Sikhula Sonke celebrated a successful joint graduation of 139 learners in the fourth quarter, with the hard work and extra input into learning paying off in children ready to enter primary schools. The ECD centres celebrated 52 children graduating and Sikhula Sonke's Emthonjeni programme had 87 graduates.

## Challenges

- Communication with communities who confused SISO food distribution with government food distribution. Community authorities required explanations and people were desperate to get aid in any form.
- Radio Khaltsha started operating online only (not as a broadcast station) to reduce their operating costs. It became a challenge to reach out to families because while many families have radios, most families could not afford data to stream radio programmes online.
- New families wanted to register in the programmes just to access food parcels, reflecting the increased levels of poverty in our society.
- Staff development has been delayed by the Lockdown.
- The Toy Library closed for most of 2020.
- Increased gender based violence, child neglect, unemployment and food insecurity.



# Emthonjeni & FCM .

## Emthonjeni Outreach Programme Family and Community Motivator Programme

The Emthonjeni playgroup outreach programme offers free ECD access using public spaces as safe spaces to interact and run interventions.

Informal communities suffer from lack of access to resources and few children attend or receive early childhood development services. While children play and learn with our facilitators, their caregivers and parents have the opportunity to participate in discussions, learn more about ECD and basic healthcare, and talk to our counsellors.

Imbiza FCM is a family and community motivator programme that informs and equips caregivers and parents to nurture and enhance the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of their children.

FCM takes place in areas like Enkanini, Site B and Site C. We facilitate educational interventions and programmes reaching out to parents and caregivers throughout the year. With a range of speakers and topics, the FCM programme is well received and attended. We run the 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 Days programme supporting children/mothers from conception to 2 years of age. Our team also offers family support, counselling and assists participants to access resources for their children and families.



### EMTHONJENI & FCM PROGRAMME STATS

	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	GIRLS	BOYS	SESSIONS HELD	FOOD PARCELS	MEDICAL PACKS
Monwabisi A Section	42	42	14	28	2	160	38
Monwabisi C Section	80	80	42	38	2	200	75
Enkanini	75	77	41	36	2	101	52
UT Gardens & K2 Section	99	126	49	57	2	180	54
Mew Way	31	36	21	15	2	150	36
Taiwan	53	60	30	30	2	106	60
Khunqu	42	46	25	21	2	155	46
TOTALS	422	467	222	225	2	1052	361



This year the Emthonjeni and FCM report is presented together due to the restrictions experienced in adhering to COVID-19 regulations.

The first quarter of our financial year was closed due to the initial hard lockdowns at the end of March. There was a total shutdown of all activities for 21 days, and then an extended 2 weeks (Level 5). South Africa moved to Level 4 in the middle of the second quarter.

Along with our application for the Essential Services Permit, the team strategized new ways to keep in contact with both the Emthonjeni and FCM families and children, brainstorming ways to keep education and childhood development opportunities alive. The team also worked on what should be included with care packages and how families could be practically supported.

Sikhula Sonke distributed 1465 food parcels to the Emthonjeni and FCM families and the ECD centres; 1052 parcels went to families in the reach out programme and 413 parcels were distributed to ECD centres. These were also packaged with health and hygiene items like flu packs and personal sanitisers.

Our deep thanks to the many donors and organisations for funding for food, medicines and personal protection. A full list is found at the end of this report.

Families were also supported through home and face-to-face visits where possible. Our social work team did a lot of telephonic support and counselling for struggling families and intervened in cases of child neglect, gender-based violence and child safety.

Sikhula Sonke also assisted families to apply for the R350 COVID-19 social grant offered by the government, filling in SASSA documentation and following up on applications. This went a long way to sustain families who were

traumatized through losing jobs and having to face food insecurity.

We were unable to run our usual Child Protection Week activities this year due to prohibition on gatherings. Instead, we embarked on a media awareness drive with community radio station Radio Khaltsha on child protection issues and to address gender-based violence.

We were unable to offer our World Play Day annual event due to Lockdown restrictions.

The teams ran FCM and Emthonjeni cluster workshops when the country moved to Lockdown Level 4 in the third quarter. The main themes of the workshops were gender-based violence and awareness of COVID-19 protocols. Many of the caregivers attending the cluster workshops shared about their emotional scars and anger against men as survivors of lockdown-related gender-based violence.

Despite the challenges and always-changing regulations, our Emthonjeni team worked hard to ensure that young learners caught up missed learning time and were ready to progress to primary schools.

A joyful graduation took place at the end of the year for 87 excited graduates from the Emthonjeni outreach programmes, attended by their parents and members of the community.





# Supporting ECD Practitioners .

## Imbewu Coaching and Support Programme

The Imbewu ECD Practitioner Coaching and Support Programme provides coaching and support to both registered and informal early childhood development practitioners, principals of ECD Centres, teachers and assistants.

Sikhula Sonke facilitates ECD training which is accredited with the South African government at NQF levels 2 and 4 respectively. These programmes typically require a one-year commitment.

Sikhula Sonke supports ECD practitioners in meeting the minimum standards for ECD Centres as defined by the Department of Social

Development: from child care protocols to health and safety regulations.

Sikhula Sonke also offers ongoing short courses on relevant child development topics, and where possible, assists ECDs with resources including books, toys, play equipment. ECDs also make use of our Toy Library situated within the Harare Public Library.

Our ECD coaching and mentoring team visits the ECDs to assist with lesson development, answer questions and provide coaching. We currently support 169 formal and informal centres.

COVID-19 restrictions made it impossible for the coaching team to conduct the usual training and ECD visits as planned. ECD centres were closed for the whole of the second and third quarters (from March until September). In Level 4 some ECD principals still did not allow visits at their centres.

To maximise the year, the coaching team innovated and found new ways to support and train ECD practitioners. Online coaching took place via WhatsApp groups and Zoom.

Regular calls to the principals were scheduled. Sikhula Sonke also sourced and shared Unlimited Child material through WhatsApp for principals to distribute to parents for home learning.

The 30 practitioners who enrolled for the one-year ECD Training finally started their learning in September, but the course was moved to 2021 due to the time limitations.



### IMBEWU COACHING & SUPPORT PROGRAMME STATS

	ECD CENTRES	VISITS BY SISO TEAM	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL CHILDREN	SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN
October	169	51	938	1021	1959	10
November	169	46	114	138	252	10
TOTALS	169	97	1052	1159	2211	10







# Funda Udlale Toy Library.

## Learning through play and interaction

Recognising that children learn through play and exploration, Sikhula Sonke offers a toy library service to the preschools and wider community of Khayelitsha.

The Library has a three-fold outreach:

1. Children and preschools can visit the permanent Toy Library hosted at City of Cape Town’s Harare Library, where they play with toys and games, listen to stories, interact with our team, and also visit the community library.

2. Facilitators take educational toys and equipment out into the community for use in public spaces with the aim of encouraging early childhood development of fine and gross motor skills, spatial awareness, literacy, body awareness and collaboration.

3. The Toy Library Bus is a mobile resource that moves between preschools and/or communities who have no access to ECD toys and resources. Staff facilitate play, offer story telling and reach out to caregivers and parents.

The Toy Library programme which usually hosts ECDs and children from the outreach programmes at our centre in Harare Library was closed for the first half of the financial year, only reopening in the last quarter of 2020.

When children were denied access to learning and play opportunities, the Toy Library team packed up play parcels containing books, paper and crayons and activity ideas which our teams then distributed to families registered in our outreach programmes.

In October the Toy Library was able to start up again as the main Toy Library and the reading bus became active during the week.

Unfortunately we were not able to run family sessions and parent training due to lockdown regulations.

Our specialised play times with children who have special needs were also halted, and we were not allowed to keep the library open for play on weekends.

Despite this, an incredible total of 1,101 child play sessions were hosted in just the last two months of 2020.



TOY LIBRARY STATS FOR THE YEAR

	ECD CENTRES PLAY SESSIONS	EMTHONJENI OUTREACH PLAY SESSIONS	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL CHILDREN	TRAINING SESSIONS
October	5	2	268	332	600	1
November	4	3	239	262	501	0
TOTALS	9	5	507	594	1101	1



# Social Work Report.

Social work is an academic discipline and practice-based profession that concerns itself with individuals, families, groups, communities, and society as a whole in an effort to meet basic needs and enhance social functioning, self-determination, collective responsibility, optimal health, and overall well-being.

Sikhula Sonke's social workers typically do the following:

- Identify people who need help
- Assess clients' needs, situations, strengths, and support networks to determine their goals and develop plans to improve their clients' well-being
- Help clients adjust to changes and challenges in their lives, such as illness, divorce or unemployment
- Research and refer clients to community resources like grants, child care and healthcare as well as assisting clients to apply for and receive benefits from government
- Respond to crisis situations, such as abuse
- Follow up with clients to ensure that their situations have improved
- Evaluate services provided to ensure that they are effective



## Team report

The Sikhula Sonke Social Work team consists of one Senior Social Worker and two Social Auxiliary Workers, who must be commended for working under the severe conditions induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In executing our duties and responding to the impact of the pandemic, the team provided a comprehensive basket of social work services with a range of psychosocial interventions that included parenting skills, referrals, family support, counselling, fatherhood programme implementation and cluster workshops for mothers.

Our programmes were structured to address the neglect, exploitation, abuse or inadequate supervision of children and prevent other failures in the family environment to meet children's needs, in accordance with Sections 143-144 of the Children's Act and the regulations of Act 38 of 2005.

In this year under review, we noted an increase in psychosocial and socio-economic challenges, particularly in the informal settlements.

Our cases included children abandoned by their birth parents, absentee fathers, undocumented children who did not have Child Support/ Foster Care Grants, lack of parenting skills, substance abuse, child neglect, sexual abuse, domestic violence and more.

Our main focus was on prevention and early intervention programmes with the aim of preserving family structures. We worked with families to develop appropriate parenting skills and to increase the capacity of parents/ caregivers to safeguard the wellbeing and best interest of their children, including the promotion of positive and non-violent forms of discipline.

The team solidified its partnerships with service providers like FAMSA, SANCA and other government departments with the aim of sourcing their services on behalf of our beneficiaries.

We provided psychological and therapeutic programmes for children and caregivers. We are grateful for FAMSA's positive parenting skills training and for the intervention of SANCA for caregivers who were lacking parenting skills and abusing substances.

Our social workers also participated in radio interviews to address challenges the community was facing.

Much of our counselling moved to WhatsApp and online platforms due to COVID-19 restrictions. This made access to social work support both easier and more difficult for our beneficiaries - easier as there was no requirement to travel, more difficult as data is expensive.

While many cases were not concluded and are ongoing, the impact of the social work team has been widespread.

Our thanks to the Sikhula Sonke team at large and to all our stakeholders who made it possible for us to support the children and families of Khayelitsha's most vulnerable communities, especially through the hard lockdowns of the pandemic.

## Case 1: Surviving rape

In November 2020 a SISO fieldworker at K2 Section reported the case of three minors allegedly raped by a man living in their neighbourhood. Two of the minors were 7 years old and the other was 8 years old.

The Social Worker arranged to have sessions with the caregivers and the three minors (individually and collectively) to make an assessment. In the sessions, the children shared what had happened. As they live in the informal settlement they normally use the toilets of people who are residing in brick houses in their neighbourhood. The alleged rapist lived in one of the brick houses and was targeting the children when they were going to relieve themselves in those toilets. He had repeatedly raped the girls and threatened to kill them if they told their parents.

The children and the caregivers were very emotional and traumatised. The Social Worker provided counselling and accompanied them to the police station to open a rape case against the alleged perpetrator. The man was immediately arrested.

The children were taken to Thuthuzela Centre for medical assessment and then referred to Nonceba Centre for ongoing trauma counselling. The SISO Social Worker has also provided ongoing counselling and created a supportive space for the caregivers. The children and their caregivers are now in a healing process through the intervention of Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development and other service providers who made (and who are still making) their interventions to the case of the children concerned.

## Case 2: Putting a stop to neglect

Fieldworkers at UT Section reported the ongoing neglect and abandonment of a physically challenged 5-year old child.

The child had been diagnosed with epilepsy at Tygerberg Hospital when she was two and was currently unable to walk or speak.

The child was found to be in the care of her maternal grandmother, who was abusing substances and neglecting her. She was not being given her epilepsy medication, nappies were unchanged, she was unbathed and not receiving nutritious meals.

On investigation, the birth mother was located in another township in Cape Town where she had a newborn baby and two other young boys. She was serving a sentence for assault through community service and was unable to take care of her daughter. The child's father was deceased. The mother refused to take on the responsibility of the child.

With some persuasion, the maternal grandmother took the child to Tygerberg Hospital to fetch her treatment. The treating doctor reported that the child had previously been referred for speech therapy and physiotherapy in 2018 - because the mother had neglected the child she now needed a wheelchair. It was decided that the child's current care situation was insufficient for her needs.

The case was referred to the Department of Social Development who chose to remove the child to a place of safety.



# Financial Report.



The Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 28 February 2021 are now available, together with this Annual Report.

Our programmatic endeavours had to be largely put on hold so that we could become Essential Services providers, raising money for, buying and distributing food, hygiene items and basic medicines, supplying psycho-social support to families, as well as making learning materials available to parents to continue stimulating their children.

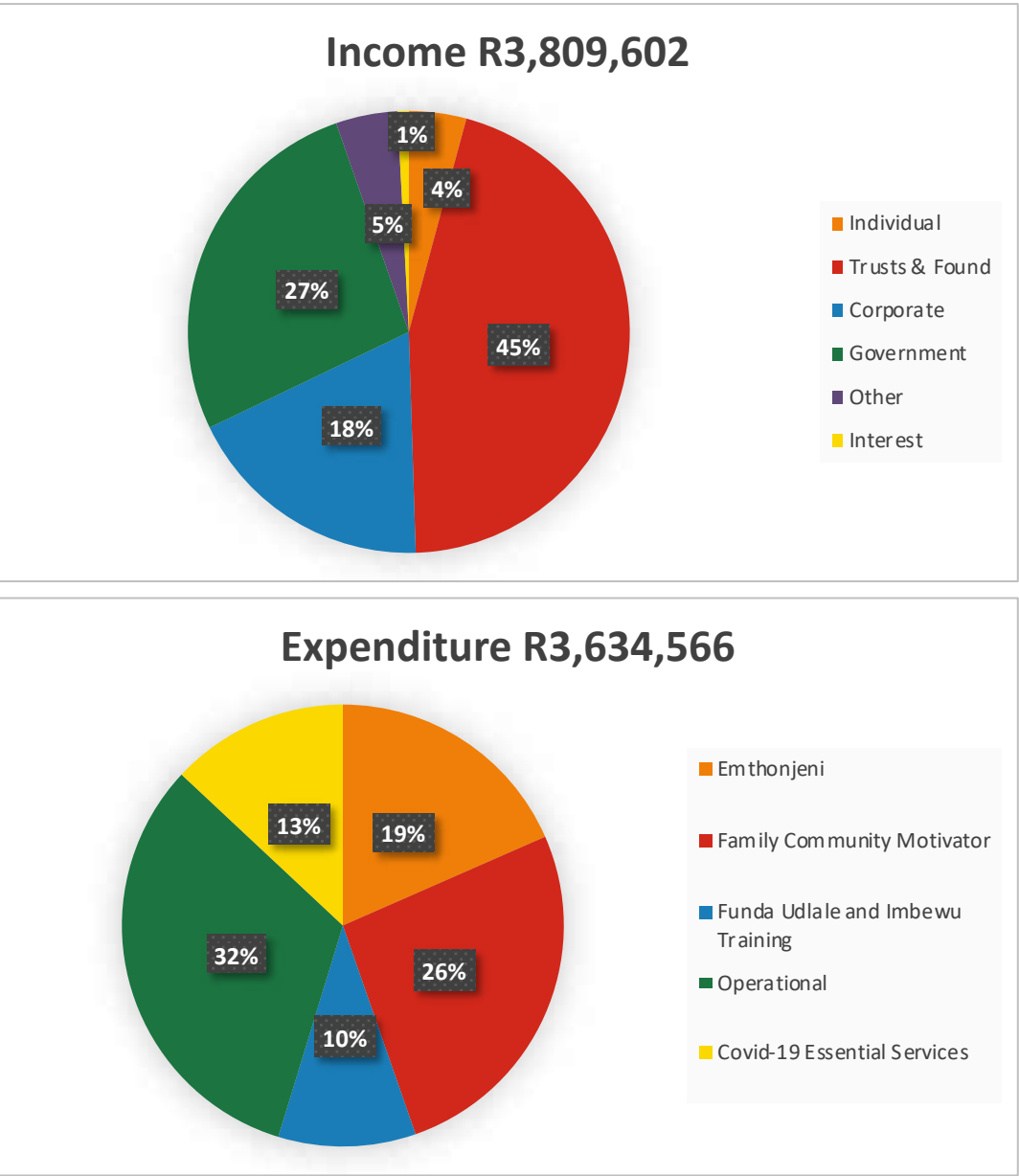
This year, even more than ever before, we are so grateful to our funding partners for their continued support, faith in us and their acceptance of the flexibility in the role we played during the pandemic and hard lockdowns. You have all been acknowledged in Note 10 to the Annual Financial Statements and your names and logos (where available) are also on our website [www.sikhulasonke.org.za](http://www.sikhulasonke.org.za).

Due to legacy funders and recurring funding, plus thankfully, a few new funders too, (together with the much-appreciated support from the government TERS programme) our funding needs were met and slightly exceeded, resulting in a small profit for the year.

Our Cash Reserves at year end were only slightly down from last year at R708,440.

Note 4 to the Financial Statements shows the Cash held at year end, and Note 5 shows how much of these funds are Retained Funding (R285,000), which is funding received in advance and to be used in the 2021/22 Financial Year.

Expenses incurred per specific programmes may be useful information for donors. Note 13 relates to spending on the Funda Udlale and Imbewu Training Programme, Note 14 to Emthonjeni and Note 15 to Family Community Motivator. The following charts show which proportion of Income and Expenditure can be attributed to specific sectors of funding and programmes respectively:



# Looking to our financial future

The pandemic was and still is a sobering experience for us as staff and service providers in a vulnerable community.

We have been pro-active in starting a food garden in one of the areas where we work and hope to expand this to other areas too, so that we can somewhat mitigate the food insecurity that we see around us.

It's time consuming and challenging to reach outside of the scope of our focus, but this fits so well with Early Childhood Development: good and consistent nutrition.

Our funders have once again stepped up to help and Sikhula Sonke keeps expanding its influence and reaches higher and higher to provide a holistic and excellent service to its beneficiaries.

Financially we need to work towards 3 months' savings to cover Operational Expenses, which means we require unallocated Cash Reserves of approximate R1,000,000. We currently have less than half of that sum in untethered funds. This R1,000,000 target would ensure sustainability of the organization in lean times going forward.





# Our deepest thanks .



“It takes a village to raise a child.”

This old African proverb has never been more true than in 2020/2021. As hardship took us to our knees both literally and figuratively, it was through linking arms, working together and pooling resources that we were able to rise and stand.

Every year we include a list of funders, donors and partners in our annual report. And we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

This year is no exception.

We are so grateful, blessed and strengthened by all you have entrusted to us and invested through us.

Raising tomorrow's leaders is not for the faint-hearted. It is for those who choose to believe, those who will commit to the journey and those who will not lose hope.

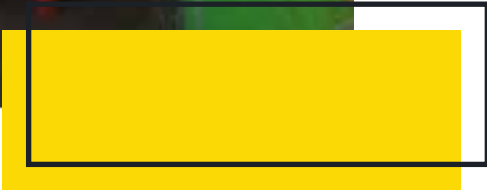
From the children - for the children - we say “Siyabonga”. Thank you.

Partners

Allan and Gill Gray Philanthropy Initiative  
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Facebook: [@SikhulaSonkeECD](https://www.facebook.com/SikhulaSonkeECD)

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### **REGISTRATION DETAILS**

Non Profit Company Number: 2003/010956/08  
Date Established: 2001  
NPO Registration Number: 030-217 NPO  
SARS PBO Registration Number: 930 004 377  
Section 18A Registration: Yes  
B-BBEE compliant: Yes