



## #SISONEWS: Q1 2018

*"It takes the whole village to raise a child"*  
Old African saying

REACHING OUT TO **5000+** INDIVIDUALS  
THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES IN Q1

### BOOK SHARING FACILITATORS

Mikhulu Trust trained 6 facilitators in early March to conduct booksharing in our children's circles. This is a tool that we will take into our parenting and caregiver training programmes.



### DONATIONS

Thank you to all who have support SISO with donations this quarter!



### SIKHULA SONKE MAKEOVER

Sikhula Sonke's offices received a makeover at the beginning of the year with fresh paint and a donation of smart new office furniture.



### READING IN ENKANINI

Children enjoy stories for the first time in our new satellite library which is operating on the premises of Happy Child Foundation. Thank you Little Libraries for the lovely books!

## Highlights of Q1

**An eager and motivated team** took part in our annual operational planning which lays out the plan for the year and encourages input from all the staff.

**We started with reconnecting** with parents and ECD practitioners who took part in our programmes in 2017. We currently have 200 families in playgroups (225 children).

**1st 1000 Days group** has recruited 156 families (195 children); we are hoping to reach 200 families this year.

The **non-centre based programme** has a total of 420 children registered.

The **toy library programme** has also started well with good registration and attendance from the preschools.

The **NECDA parenting programme** has trained 125 parents to date, 125 parents are currently in training. Our target is 266 families trained in 2018.

**47 children received Immunisations** in K2 Section and Monwabisi Park.

**Committed Enkanini parents** are voluntarily registering their children; children also come to school tidy and are fetched on time.

**UT Gardens caregivers** are very excited about the introduction of the 1000 days programme, they are also cooperating well in the home visit activity.

**78 children have started their formal schooling** in Grade 1 at various primary schools around Khayelitsha in 2018.

**More principals** are attending cluster workshops.





### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

This year started on a note of high uncertainty due to political uncertainty. Early childhood development needs strong political support in order to achieve its objectives; local communities were very unsettled.

A sign of relief was observed when Jacob Zuma finally stepped down and Cyril Ramaphosa took the reins, and we began to see some stability in our currency. In his state of the nation address (SONA), the new President emphasised the importance of the role that is played by the NPO sector, therefore we would like to see a difference in how the sector is being funded to do the work that we do. Mr Ramaphosa also put a strong emphasis on job creation which means a development of more sustainable families that will also allow children to flourish.

Early Childhood Development spend in the budget remains low, and we cannot afford to provide poor foundations to our children. I do believe that Early Childhood Development stands to benefit across consolidated spending in health, social development, learning and culture, economic/community development and other general public services.

In this newsletter, we would also like add our voices to those who are urging the President to prioritise the development and safety of young children in SA.

### 1ST QUARTER UNDER REVIEW

One of our key responsibilities in Sikhula Sonke is to remove hindrances and barriers that hinder young children to explore, develop and create their learning opportunities. I believe that we need to assist parents through our parenting programmes to thrive and create opportunities for their young children to learn and develop appropriately.

Some of our activities started early in the year but due to a delay in annual planning Sikhula Sonke only got up to full speed later in the quarter once we had a strong and coherent structure for the programmes.

I am excited to share that we have seen the creation of opportunities for families and young children through stimulation of children in public spaces, provision of developmentally appropriate materials, *First 1000 Days* home visiting, training of educare practitioners, training of facilitators, staff development, training of parents through our parenting workshops, screening of children, construction of ECD facilities and provision of nutritious meals for young children.

Our online beneficiary and services tracking system has also gone live.

### #SISO'S PARTNERSHIPS

Sikhula Sonke works closely with key partner organisations to collaboratively bring change and development.



Working with **Breadline Africa** we've seen the development and erection of five beautiful prefabricated/container ECD facilities that more than meet the standard minimum requirements by the government.

**Mikhulu Trust** trained 6 Sikhula Sonke facilitators to run Selemela book-sharing training sessions for ECD practitioners in the local ECD facilities. Book sharing promotes literacy and the development of emotional and executive functioning. The first phase of this partnership went well in the first quarter and we are looking forward to implementations in Q2.



**Joint Aid Management South Africa (JAM SA)** have increased their commitment to provide nutritious porridge to over 83 ECD facilities and 10 outreach programs - through Sikhula Sonke - across Khayelitsha. This partnership has also seen Sikhula Sonke identifying an ECD facility for a Make Over by JAMSA friends and volunteers.

In our journey with **Inclusive Education South Africa**, we have learnt much about inclusive education in the context of ECD service provision. This had been made possible through a 5-phase project model which has led to Sikhula Sonke's own inclusive policies.

**Little Libraries** made a wonderful donation of books for the Toy Library in Enkanini to promote storytelling and vocabulary of young children.



**A VERY big thank you to our valued funding partners who, together with our implementation partners, have made all this work possible!**

Our newest partnership with **Carel Du Toit** organisation has had teams visiting a significant number of ECD facilities to screen and identify children with hearing and vision impairment and assist them. Sikhula Sonke's local relationships and database has provided guidance and input into this project.

Sikhula Sonke together with **Dignity Campaign, Think Twice** and other partners have collaborated under **Connect Network** to design a Pro-literacy Manual for parents. We are excited about this project which is currently in development, demonstrating the power of collaborating and partnerships towards community and early childhood development.

Working closely with **City Of Cape Town Health**, we have run health campaigns from three different communities on immunisation, listeriosis, health and hygiene.

### IN SUMMARY

The organisational programmes in this quarter went fairly well, a lot has been achieved with high spirits and there is still a lot more to be achieved throughout the year. The confidence that we have in the partners which we collaborate with gives us confidence to continue to do more. As an organisation, it is our strongest belief that we stand to create an enabling environment for families to thrive and for children to reach their full potential through the programmes that we provide.

In this first quarter, through our Imbewu toy training, Funda Udlale library services, Imbiza Family Community Motivator and parenting programme and the Emthonjeni outreach playgroup programme, Sikhula Sonke has reached out to more than 5000 beneficiaries.

Much has been achieved in quarter one of 2018. Well done to the SISO team!

- Mdebuka Mtwazi

### Challenges

The biggest challenge the programmes face is the shortage of staff in non-centre programmes. Sikhula Sonke has taken the strategic decision not to begin with the 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 days programme in new areas until we have volunteers or available staff to run the programmes.

Child neglect and unemployment are very high in the communities we work in.

Parents are reluctant and even refuse to give out documents.

A space that was identified for children at Khunkqu has been occupied by a shebeen (informal pub) owner.

Many parents are defaulting on their children's immunization dates.



### TEAM LEADER REPORT BACK

This year has started on a high note! We are running on a fast lane. We are proud to be in the line management of Sikhula Sonke. We are learning so much as we are about to finish the Inclusive Education Journey that we started in September last year. It is an eye opening to us and helped us to see things with an inclusive eye and become an inclusive education organisation.

Our team leaders are busy with/have participated in the following courses: Emerging Leadership, Book sharing Training of trainers, an online course called Play SA, Social Workers Auxiliary course and NQF level 5 with the local FET College. Thanks to senior management for always inspiring and encouraging us towards our professional development.

On a practical note, we appreciate the donation of macaroni that we received from Hilltop Spar; it was a great relief to our playgroup sessions.

We cannot wait to kick start with the cloud based beneficiary tracking system which is currently being tested by two fieldworkers in *First 1000 days* and two in Playgroup sessions. Full roll-out will happen in Q2/Q3 after the pilot groups give feedback.



Wishing you a  
blessed Easter  
and safe travels  
over the school  
holidays!



### READ ALOUD DAY

In partnership with Nal'ibali, Sikhula Sonke conducts many "Read Aloud Day" activities in different ECD facilities, public spaces, and children's parks every quarter.

**Right:** The children in A-Section in Monwabisi Park loved being part of a "Read Aloud Day" with Nothemba and Paphama in February earlier this year.

### BOOK & TOY BOX DONATIONS

A huge thank you to Biblionef and Jim Joel Foundation who donated boxes of books and toys to 20 ECD facilities.

Not only did they provide great resources to the ECDs, they also trained the educators on the different activities they could implement. Thank you for equipping these ECDs.



## MORE ABOUT SIKHULA SONKE ECD

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

Sikhula Sonke has four active early childhood development-related programmes, reaching out to and supporting Khayelitsha's children, caregivers and families.

- The **Funda Udlale Library Project** provides a range of educational toys and books - via a Toy Library, a mobile Library bus and Library workers - to individuals, families and ECD centres;
- **Emthonjeni** is a community-based programme, offering ECD interactions in public spaces and at the communal water taps of Khayelitsha's informal settlements (hence the name, which means 'well');
- The **Family and Community Motivators Programme** takes ECD interventions into individual households, with its main goal being a reduction in the number of children who have no access to early childhood development services;
- The **Imbewu Training, Coaching and Support Programme** actively train:



Sikhula Sonke is wholly funded by donations and we have a track record of faith donations can be EFT'd directly to our account; tax certificates are available on request.

Sikhula Sonke ECD  
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