

## **NEW CLASSROOM FOR SITE C AND TAIWAN CHILDREN**

There was much celebration amongst the children (and caregivers) in Site C-Taiwan at the end of March at the opening of the first classroom!

In enriching our program in Site C-Taiwan, one of the community members has given us her shack to conduct playgroups for the little ones. Papama, Siphon and Sinazo (SISO volunteers) dedicated their time over weekends to do a shack make-over so that the space is more attractive and livable.

We have put basic furniture in the room which is now being used not only as a playgroup classroom but also as an office space for planning after the program finishes, kitchen for cooking and a place of storage for learning materials.

The space is also available for counselling as needed.

What a great resource for the children and families in this community!



*RIGHT: Story time on the new carpet is a favourite time of the day for everyone!*



*ABOVE: Playing stimulates learning and brain development - children are building shapes using giant building blocks, learning to thread and do simple puzzles at the new colourful tables.*

## **LIBRARY WEEK CELEBRATIONS REACH OUT TO MORE ECDS**



*ABOVE AND LEFT: Future architects, engineers and project managers in training! Tactile play like this teaches children about spacial planning, future thinking, design principles and also teamwork and sharing.*

Sikhula Sonke celebrated Library Week by visiting Khayelitsha ECD centres that are not exposed to the work of Sikhula Sonke.

Our library assistants took Toy Library materials and had lots of fun playing with the children and introducing them to new games and toys.

Our hope is that these ECDs will make use of our bigger Toy Library and that their teachers will be encouraged to join our teacher training programme where they can be supported in the good work they are already doing, and also meet other teachers for peer-to-peer learning.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development warmly welcomes you to this first newsletter of 2019.

It is a great pleasure to remind you of our vision and what we stand for as the Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development team. Our vision is that "Every child in Khayelitsha's communities has the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a safe, caring, loving, stimulating and creative environment". We see parents, caregivers, community structures and preschool teachers being trained and supported to provide such an environment.

### Starting strong

2019 started with some exciting opportunities within the organization in terms of partnerships, staff development and funding opportunities. We really appreciate these opportunities and plan to make the most of them for the vulnerable children and less privileged families in Khayelitsha's communities.

### Education in South Africa

In this year's State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ramaphosa made an announcement that Early Childhood Development will be migrated from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education. Having been in this field for more than 15 years, it remains unclear to me how effective this will be and how long the process will take. The National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy is already falling behind on its implementation as per government targets.

The education crisis also continues; already in 2019 we have seen a huge number of children who were left out by the system and could not be accommodated by over-subscribed government schools. Amongst those children are Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8 children who are denied access to schooling because they are unable to access proper identification documents.

Historically, we have seen many families struggle to access education. The state has however made a fresh commitment towards our children and we are hopeful of change. As an



Photo credit: AFP

organization, we stand to be counted to assist in whatever way possible as long as young children ultimately benefit.

### First quarter review

The team has worked hard to catch up with the late start in its operations, prioritizing the children who were starting Grade R and Grade 1 in mainstream schooling, reconnecting with families and recruiting new children. All those have come with their own challenges.

At the end of this first quarter, operations are in full swing and we have observed some significant difference in regards to children's developmental milestones. The toy library leads in terms of the number of children that we reach daily.

We celebrated the opening of a new classroom in Taiwan-Site C (you can read this story on page 1).

Our Fatherhood Network seeks to increase the involvement of fathers in early childhood development. We are excited to see young men engaging with their children and participating in our "First Dads Training".

### Enkanini challenges

When we came back from holidays, we arrived to the news that our lovely Enkanini playgroup and toy library site had been vandalized. This is the site where we are partnering with Happy Child Foundation.

The locks in the admin/kitchen container were broken, gates detached, jungle gyms broken, windows broken and Mshengu

movable toilets stolen. Fortunately the container where we house our toy library operations was not affected. We didn't lock the site during holidays because the community children needed a place of safety to play in during the December holidays.

After meetings with with the Community Coordinator for the site we have agreed that we will fix everything for the sake of our playgroup children, and going forward the community children will only be on site at prescribed times under the supervision of an adult.



ABOVE: Bukiwe Genu, Team leader of Enkanini site inspecting the vandalized Happy Child Foundation facility

### Conclusion

The success of this quarter has been made possible by impact investments by our generous funders, donors, grant makers, corporate social investments, trusts, foundations and individual donors, including our employees who also give from their minimum salaries because they believe in what they do.

Thanks to you, Sikhula Sonke will continue to thrive and make a long-lasting impact.

- Mdebuka Mthwazi

## COMMITTED AND COURAGEOUS FATHERS

Sikhula Sonke is extremely proud of the first time fathers who took part in and completed our First Dads Training this quarter.

These young men graduated after completing a number of modules covering topics including emotional intelligence, parenting skills and baby gym.



## THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2019 IN PICTURES



An immunisation drive in Site C and Khunqu enabled parents to catch up on their children's immunisations. Road to Health cards were issued, updated and stamped.

Our thanks to City of Cape Town's health teams and especially Sister Eleanor Sopili.



Our IMBEWU training course for ECD practitioners has started. Twenty five ECD teachers have registered for the programme for 2019.

We look forward to learning together this year and seeing these committed practitioners flourish.



Sikhula Sonke's whole team spent four days together in Gansbaai for our annual strategic planning and teambuilding in preparation for 2019.

## Q1 PROGRAMME STATS

### Imbewu Coaching

- ~ 24 ECDs have registered for coaching support
- ~ 33 practitioners have registered for basic ECD programme

### Emthonjeni Playgroup

- ~ Reaching out to 218 families in Nkanini, Khunqu, UT Gardens, K2 Section, Taaian and Monwabisi Park
- ~ Interacted with 237 children
- ~ Assisted 16 special needs children

### FCM (First 1000 days group)

- ~ Reaching out to 223 families in Nkanini, Khunqu, UT Gardens, Taaian and Monwabisi Park
- ~ Impacting 240 children

### Funda Udlale (Toy Library)

- ~ 10 ECDs with 311 children have registered to use the Toy Library
- ~ 218 children from playgroup programs have used the library



Read Aloud Day is celebrated on 1 Feb each year. This year four of our SISO teams visited four ECDs to read aloud to their children.



## SISO IS ON THE AIR!

Tune in to Radio Khaltsha 97.1fm every Wednesday between 10h00 and 12h00 for great discussions on early childhood development.

## TEAM LEADERS REPORT

This quarter started later than usual but our annual plans were quickly completed and signed off by the Community Development Manager and filed in each program's master files.

Project operations started well. Our first task was to ensure kids from our 2018 programs have settled into/secured placement in local primary schools. Then we followed with reconnection and recruitment of new families.

Playgroup sessions and FCM home visits have been conducted well in this quarter, along with continuous assessment after each session.

Funda Udlale has been the star program in terms of attracting and impacting lots of community children. The young stars working in the Toy Library have really outdone themselves in this quarter!

TEAM LEADERS: Winkie, Babalwa, Nomathemba, Bukiwe, Bongiswa, Ntombovuyo & Nolitha

## OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR Q1

The organization resumed its services a bit late than the other years due to the December Checkers/Shoprite fundraising drive, but, after a wonderful operations annual planning time in Gansbaai, the year started quickly.

### Highlights

- SISO's 2018 playgroup program saw 69 of 79 children registered for Grade 1 in primary schools
- Parents and caregivers show interest in the learning program
- During holidays there is high attendance by children
- 174 children were immunised
- 12 practitioners participated in Nal'ibali training
- Practitioners and Principals orientation for our Basic ECD training went well
- Attendance in Toy Library has increased so much that the Centers cannot attend weekly but have to book fortnightly

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: Thembi Nxesi

### Challenges

- The lack of basic hygiene
- Substance abuse is high in the informal settlements. This impacts cluster workshop attendance and negatively affects caregivers and parents
- Water and ablution services are still a problem in areas like Monwabisi Park (there are little to no services)
- The hall we use in Khunqu as a play space is not big enough for two groups
- Only 36 parents attended the first cluster workshops out of the 202 registered. We do expect more parents to attend in Q2.



**OFFERING QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO THE PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND PRESCHOOL TEACHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN KHAYELITSHA SINCE 2001**



### IMBEWU TRAINING COACHING & SUPPORT

Actively training and supporting ECD practitioners to achieve full government registration and meet the standards required for running early childhood development centres.

### IMBIZA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MOTIVATORS

Taking ECD interventions into individual households and reducing the number of young children who have no access to early childhood development services.

### FUNDA UDLALE TOY LIBRARY

Providing a range of educational toys and books, individually and through ECD centres, also using a Toy Library bus to take the library to remoter areas.

### EMTHONJENI - MEETING AT THE WELLS

A community-based programme which offers ECD services to children and reaches out to parents and caregivers at the safe open areas of the communal water taps in informal settlements.

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