



A community-based organisation addressing the need for
early childhood development in Khayelitsha
by providing access to quality ECD training and resources

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”

Nelson Mandela,
Special session of UN for
Children, New York, 2002

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW & HISTORY

WHO WE ARE

A community-based organisation with a mandate to meet the need for quality early childhood development interventions in Khayelitsha.

OUR HISTORY

In the eighties and nineties Khayelitsha's communities were in turmoil and there was a dire need for proper housing, in addition to health and educational facilities.

In the early 1990's Claremont Methodist Church responded to these needs. The church established its Social Impact Ministry and began building houses in the Harare area of Khayelitsha.

At this time the plight of young, unschooled and vulnerable children became apparent to members of the church who were working in the township, and Sikhula Sonke came into being in 2001 with the specific purpose of addressing these needs.

Now, nearly 20 years later, Khayelitsha remains one of the 22 identified Presidential Poverty nodes in South Africa, and we remain focused on seeing Khayelitsha's communities empowered.

OUR VISION

To see every pre-school child in Khayelitsha given the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a safe, stimulating and loving environment.

OUR MISSION

To offer early childhood development training and support to the parents, caregivers and pre-school teachers of young children in the Khayelitsha township of Cape Town, South Africa.

Our programmes include:

- **Teacher training**, providing registered training to ECD practitioners who run their own pre-schools.

- **Coaching and support for ECD practitioners** within the context of their own preschools and on-site at the Harare library resource centre.
- **Training and support for families and care-givers** in their homes and by using community spaces.
- **Community outreach projects** in specific communities in Khayelitsha, with an emphasis on reaching children who do not go to pre-school.
- **Toy library services** taking toys and learning to communities who do not have toys, facilitators, educators and play facilities available.
- **A Fatherhood network** which equips and encourages fathers to take an active role in their children's lives and development.

BELIEFS THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

We believe that all children have the right to be loved, cared for and developed physically, intellectually, emotionally, morally and socially.

We believe that women are uniquely placed to protect and enforce the rights of children - and that women need to be supported, encouraged and equipped with the necessary skills to do so.

We believe that by nurturing and building our children, we nurture and build our nation.

We believe that 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.

We believe 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, to secure the future of our country.





ABOUT KHAYELITSHA

Khayelitsha, or 'new home' in isiXhosa, is the second largest township in South Africa after Soweto in Johannesburg. It is situated on the periphery of the city of Cape Town (30-35km from the CBD) and next to the N2 leading into Cape Town. Officially established in 1983, Khayelitsha was constructed to resettle African residents from the Western Cape. Khayelitsha currently consists of a minimum of 22 separate settlements. It has the largest single concentration of informal settlements in the City, many of which are located on land that is unsuitable for housing as a result of flooding.

Khayelitsha is characterized by both formal areas and informal areas. The newer areas have been built up around the older areas and include Site B, Site C, Green Point, Litha Park, Mandela Park, Makaza and Harare. Other notable informal settlements in Khayelitsha include QQ Section, TR Section, RR Section and Enkanini, and a new area called Nkandla.

The original planned population size was 200,000 people; in the last 10 years the population has gone from 400,000 to an estimated 1.2 million, 50% of which are under 19 years of age. Over 70% of Khayelitsha's residents live in shacks and 89% of homes are considered moderately to severely food insecure. The unemployment rate is 73%. The extreme poverty, coupled with poor community infrastructure (many shacks, inadequate sanitation and water), leads to high crime rates, the formation of gangs, violence, drug abuse and other societal ills.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



“Our work stands out and we are proud of the impact that our programmes have had in the development of young children in this year.”

***- Mdebuka Mthwazi
Executive Director***

INTRODUCTION

What an honour it is for us in presenting this report to reflect on the 2018/19 financial year. The Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development team can walk tall with pride on its delivery of meaningful and sustainable early childhood development work in the community of Khayelitsha. The team believes that the road ahead of us is still very long and there is a lot that needs to be done in the Early Childhood Development field but we cannot underestimate what has been achieved so far, most especially in communities that fall in the lower economic index.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Sikhula Sonke has again embarked on a meaningful growth of its interventions of reaching out to children, families, households and communities who are at the receiving end of our economy: the less privileged, poor and those who are highly marginalised. Throughout this financial year, all the programs that served the underprivileged have shown a steady growth and development with lots of innovations amongst the teams.

BUY-IN FROM COMMUNITIES

We have seen rising commitment from the communities where we run outreach programs, e.g. a parent in Taiwan has given us his shack to use for cooking and storage. We also run a playgroup from the shack on rainy/bad weather days. It is very encouraging to see members of the communities taking ownership of initiatives like these.

IMPACT AND GROWTH

Our work stands out and we are proud of the impact that our programmes have had in the development of young children. We have seen outstanding results in the children who attended our programs during the last financial year – they are doing so well at primary school!

EVALUATION AND LEARNING

Our programmes have demonstrated massive growth in the Early Learning Outcome Measure (ELOM) programme evaluation tool. We pride ourselves with this achievement and we are also proud of our ELOM assessors: Papama Mateza, Nomathemba Peter and Mphokazi Malngeni.

PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN US

Again in this year under review, we recognize the value of operational partnerships and building strong relationships. Key operational partnerships included working with Joint Aid Management (JAM) who at all times efficiently provided children with nutritious porridge. The City Of Cape Town's health team partnered closely with us, especially Kuyasa Clinic, Zakhele Clinic and

Nolungile Clinic, who always supported us in conducting outreach in our Emthonjeni spaces for immunisations, public awareness and 1st 1000 days women's outreaches.

Another operational partner who has been very instrumental in children's audio and visual screening and referring of children is Carel du Toit: thank you to their fieldworkers who have always been ever ready to assist.

WORKING CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENT

I would also like to extend our greatest appreciation to all the government departments who were so instrumental in making our International World Play Day event and Child Protection Week so successful. These partners include the South African Police Service, Amandla Football, Traffic / Road Safety Management, City Of Cape Town Sports and Recreation, Environmental Health, the Police's K9 Units, Fire and Safety and many more.

Thank you also to our key stakeholders: the Children, Parents, Caregivers and the communities at large who played a huge role in the success of this financial year.

THANK YOU

Our greatest appreciation goes to the Extended Public Works Programme volunteers who have, at all times, shown commitment and confidence in doing their work. Thank you to Grassroots Educare Trust who administers this programme, allowing us to recruit our own EPWP volunteers according to our needs. This has given us the opportunity to recruit highly skilled and committed volunteers, some of whom have Early Childhood and Social Work degrees and diplomas. The

EPWP volunteers have really lifted our early childhood development delivery standards.

“My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the Lord.” Jud 5:9

A special thank you to the management team led by Ms Thembi Nxesi: Senior Social Worker Mrs Elizabeth Ntshuntshe, Office Manager Ms Lindiswa Ngwendu, Office and Library Administrator Ms Nomabaca Mthwazi, Events and Campaigns Coordinator Ms Winkie Cebisa, team leaders Mrs Babalwa Ndim-Momoti, Mrs Bongiswa Malunga, Ms Ntombovuyo Bongoza, Miss Nolitha Gana, Miss Bukiwe Genu and Miss Nomathemba Peter.

So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership and lay your hand in him.” Numbers 27:18.

To the whole team of fieldworkers: without you we would have never achieved this milestone. Thank you and thank you!

“The Lord will indeed give what is good and our land will yield its harvest” Psalm 85:12

To our Board of Directors: thank you for your time and your attention to detail in ensuring that the entire organization runs smoothly as set by its laws of governance and also the rules that govern the country.

“Sibamba ngozo zozibini.”

Last but not least, the funding partners - both old and new - have made our work easy; you have ensured that all the programmes are fully funded for the entire year, thank you, thank you, thank you!

“Ukwanda kwaliwa ngumthakathi.”



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



“We celebrate 18 years of early childhood development services in Khayelitsha this year.”

- Evan Torrance

Chairman of the Board

AN OPEN LETTER

To our beneficiaries, supporters, loyal stakeholders, funders, team members, parents and friends:

It's time for us to reflect once again on the work of Sikhula Sonke - the community education organisation of which we are a part - that is so cherished and deeply respected by those who serve it or are fortunate to be beneficiaries of it.

Over the past 18 years Sikhula Sonke has grown, expanded and withstood many challenges, and ultimately delivered services and support to more than 30,000 children and families in the Khayelitsha area.

That service delivery is not possible without the on-going support of our network of funders, and the hard work and commitment of our team and their leader, Mdebuka.

So on behalf of the board and management team, please accept our deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation for your contribution - be it time, a financial investment, or your counsel.

To the team in Khayelitsha, thank you for another successful year and for taking a step closer to achieving our goal of uplifting the community and investing in the education of the youth of our country.

And to Mdebuka, congratulations on yet another successful year under your leadership, and thank you for your continued passion to lead Sikhula Sonke.

The members of the board remain committed to investing their time to grow and support Sikhula Sonke, and we are proud of all that we've achieved over the past while.

There remain challenges ahead, but in the face of adversity, only hard work, commitment and the wise stewardship of our resources will ensure that we remain relevant and successful.



OPERATIONS REPORT 2018/2019

OVERVIEW

The financial year 2018-2019 was tough in the Western Cape with a severe drought and strict water rationing. As dam levels kept dropping and rain became more and more scarce, Capetonians lived under the threat of “Day Zero” when our water would run out. Rich and poor stood in queues at public springs. Every rain drop was celebrated and when the rains finally came, we all rejoiced.

Sikhula Sonke was fortunate to have funding in an otherwise drought-stricken sector and we faced the challenges of this financial year with thankfulness to our funders and donors. All our programmes were active with the expected number of targeted beneficiaries.

THE IMBIZA FAMILY & COMMUNITY MOTIVATOR (FCM) PROGRAMME

The Family Community Motivator (FCM) Programme focused implementing the First Thousand Days programme, which focuses on the development of a child from pregnancy to two years. The programme provides pregnant mothers with essential information and support for their babies and own health. Four bouncing babies were born to pregnant mothers in the programme and received their immunizations at the correct times.

Our FCM facilitators were also trained in the Brain Boosters programme, which educates parents and caregivers about how to teach and educationally stimulate their children's development through reading and play, with the assistance of the FCM facilitators. All the children in the programme reached their developmental milestones.

213
FAMILIES
PARTICIPATED

2310
HOME VISITS
THIS YEAR

CHILDREN
REACHED
236

SPECIAL
NEEDS KIDS
24

39
REFERRALS TO
SPECIALISTS



IMBEWU COACHING & SUPPORT PROGRAMME

This programme identifies ECD practitioners in Khayelitsha who would like to either obtain and/or update their qualifications. In 2018 34 ECD practitioners were recruited and registered from 34 centres.

30 ECD centres were trained and mentored in the Unlimited Child material and 34 centres were trained in the Inclusive Education. Principals also received an intense workshop in the use of the assessment tool.

40 CLASS
SESSIONS

142
PARTICIPATING
ECDs

ECD VISITS
THIS YEAR
311

3438
BOYS IN
ECDs

3282
GIRLS IN
ECDs



FUNDA UDLALE TOY LIBRARY PROGRAMME

The Funda Udlale Toy Library had a very good year in terms of attendance and learning. In the second quarter of the year the toy library was engaged in different national and world activities. These included Child Protection Week and World Play Day. The Toy Library team assisted the outreach programmes in improving the implementation of learning programmes. Special emphasis was placed on fine motor and cognitive development.

The Funda Udlale programme has helped many children in their development. Many children in our programmes are from the poorest areas of Khayelitsha, where parents simply cannot afford to buy toys, let alone educational toys. The Toy Library helps these children to learn through play and broadens their environment through access to and interaction with different educational toys, games and books.

73
TOYS & BOOKS
BORROWED

7369
CHILDREN
VISITED THE
LIBRARY

101 PLAY
SESSIONS FOR
EMTHONJENI
GROUPS

47
ECD VISITS



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

VISITS DONE
THIS YEAR

1641

150 BOYS
REACHED BY
EMTHONJENI

267 GIRLS
REACHED BY
EMTHONJENI

351
PARENTS &
CAREGIVERS

38
REFERRALS TO
SPECIALISTS

EMTHONJENI 'WELLSPRING OF LEARNING' PROGRAMME

The Emthonjeni programme is executed at designed community spaces next to communal water taps and in community parks like that of UT-Gardens. The main goal of this programme is to provide ECD stimulation to children who cannot access formal ECD learning or preschools due to lack of access to finance, transport or for other reasons. During the year these children were introduced to different themes of ECD learning.

A real highlight for Emthonjeni kids was an outing to Green Point Park in Cape Town where they could run on real grass, enjoy the swings and creative play equipment, as well as a picnic.



We had a wonderful year in terms of the playgroups. We had challenges but generally all the activities of the year were covered. One of the highlights in this programme is that our children participated in ELOM assessments; an initial baseline assessment and, later in the year, a final assessment. The first assessment assisted us to improve our learning programme and continuous assessment tools when we discovered that the children were struggling in almost all areas of development other than language development. After team discussions, reworking our strategies and improving our learning tools, we saw improvement in all areas of development at the second assessment.



Sikhula Sonke also ran several immunisation and health campaigns for the Emthonjeni children during the year.

Working parents often cannot get to clinics to do the vaccinations offered freely by the Department of Health.

By taking health professionals into the informal settlements and providing basic healthcare and screening, we can lessen the impact of childhood illnesses and also have the opportunity to educate parents and caregivers about health.

ECD TRAINING & EQUIPPING

30 ECD centers were trained in the Unlimited Child programme, receiving 20 toy boxes to use in their centres. ECD principals were also trained on how to use and understand the assessment checklist and 18 centres received story books from Biblionef.



FATHERHOOD NETWORK

Some fathers started participating in the parent cluster workshops. This was an encouragement that the radio awareness campaign about fatherhood is steadily yielding fruit.



SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

It is always exciting to see children graduating from preschool to primary school. It's not always easy to find a school though.

Young Onele was struggling to get admission at a local primary school due to family problems. His parents requested help. With the intervention of Sikhula Sonke's social work team, working closely with the family and primary school, Onele was able to start Grade One.



NEW CLASSROOMS FOR ECDS

Nceduluntu Educare received three classrooms thanks to a partnership between Blue Door, Breadline Africa and Sikhula Sonke.

In total, 17 ECD centres around Khayelitsha received container classroom facilities through a partnership between Breadline Africa and Sikhula Sonke. These included Umzomhle ECD, Khomamanani ECD, Little Angels, Little Acorn, Born Again, Iminathi, Yizani Sakhe Educare Centre and others.



HEARING & SIGHT SCREENING

Sikhula Sonke has worked closely with Carel Du Toit from Tygerberg Hospital to bring hearing and sight screening to children who are not in formal ECDs.

Using mobile phones, wall charts and headphones, teams can quickly test children to identify any hearing or sight problems. The children are then referred for specialist treatment.



DONATIONS

Sikhula Sonke was privileged to have several donations this year. Many thanks to Johnson & Johnson, Home Choice, Hilltop Spar, Community Chest and individuals who donated beanies, food, toys, clothes, bath products and more to families and children in our programmes.



PARENT TRAINING

266 parents graduated in the National ECD Alliance parent training as part of the psychosocial support activity. Parents were elated to receive certificates in the parent training - this boosted their self-esteem.

SANTA SHOEBOX

The Santa Shoebox project saw 111 children receiving gifts. Parents thanked Sikhula Sonke and Santa Shoebox as some children would not otherwise have received Christmas clothes.

The number of children increased at Monwabisi Park due to a new informal residence called Nkandla.

FUN-DRAISING!

Sikhula Sonke, together with Gcogco Designs and Hiring Studio, a young local entrepreneur, hosted a fundraiser in a form of a fashion show, beauty contest and other entertainment activities including singing and dancing. The public hall in front of our offices was packed to capacity.

A special thank you to the ECD practitioners from different ECD sites who entered in different categories and made the event a success, as well as the choir who joined us for the day and sang beautifully.



SPEAKING ABOUT CHILD PROTECTION

This annual national campaign raises awareness of the rights of children to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse and degradation as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Children's Act (Act 38 of 2005). It also mobilizes stakeholders and communities towards understanding the perspective of holistic development, care and protection of children. The campaign includes Children's Play Day and community dialogues which are conducted throughout the week.

SUSTAINABLE PLAY & WORLD PLAY DAY

Sikhula Sonke held a World Play Day event which emphasised children's rights, how to create safe learning environments and the importance of play in children's development. Despite heavy rain, the Play Day was lots of fun and we hosted 1,266 children from Khayelitsha ECD Centres and the outreach projects at a local church next to Makhaza Wetlands Park.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

Sikhula Sonke hosted community dialogues in Enkanine, Site B, Site C, Taiwan, Khunqu and Monwabisi, in partnership with other stakeholders.

A total of 204 community members sat at the forefront of change, taking advantage of the community dialogues which provided opportunities for caregivers to understand, discuss, decide and act on issues affecting children's lives. Local stakeholders could listen to and understand caregivers' concerns in relation to protection of children and also educate and mobilize communities to put children first.



NATIONAL READ ALOUD DAY

Every year, on World Read Aloud Day, people all around the globe read aloud together and share stories to advocate for literacy as a human right that belongs to all people.

Research shows that "78% of Grade 4 learners in South Africa cannot read for meaning in any language" - Progress In International Reading Literacy, 2016.

At Sikhula Sonke, we actively work to change that statistic by bringing reading materials to under-resourced communities in Khayelitsha, focusing on preschoolers and their caregivers. Literacy IS a human right! That's why our team goes out into the community to Read Aloud and engage children through stories.



TEAM FEEDBACK

IMAGINE AWARDS

In November 2018 Mr Mdebuka Mthwazi, Executive Director of Sikhula Sonke ECD, was awarded the Imagine Award for Education, with an additional award of funding from Survé Philanthropies toward the work of Sikhula Sonke ECD.

“People continue to do good work for the greater good in spite of desperate times, and despite cuts in funding from donors. However, they are often not honoured for the work they do. At the Imagine Awards, we will recognise those who work tirelessly to put the needs of others above their own. If we support and celebrate those who diligently work to make a difference, it all adds up,” said the director of Survé Philanthropies, Saarah Survé.

Nearly 100 nominations were received from across the country. Of these, 33 individuals and organisations made it to the short list in various categories including arts and culture; disability; technology; human rights; media; education; women; children and poverty alleviation.

It was a great honour for Sikhula Sonke ECD to see our Executive Director publicly recognised for the work he has done for 15+ years in Khayelitsha’s communities.



PARTNERING WITH JAM

Joint Aid Management South Africa trained all the Sikhula Sonke playgroup facilitators on how to measure food and feed children so that they meet all their development milestones (e.g. the correct height or weight for proper growth).



RADIO KHALTSHA

Sikhula Sonke continues to partner with local Khayelitsha community radio station, Radio Khaltsha 97.1fm, where we have been given a platform to promote our campaigns and communicate with Khayelitsha community listeners about early childhood development topics.

Our weekly slot is on Wednesdays from 10h00-12h00. Community feedback and engagement continues to be encouraging. Our team interviews subject matter experts from different fields to keep the conversations relevant and engaging.



OPERATIONS FEEDBACK

Despite challenges like the sudden drop out of families from programmes (especially in the last quarter of the year) and parents who were reluctant to share essential child information, our teams persevered and really played a huge part in the positive development of children.

Ongoing issues we face include rife child neglect, increasing populations as more people move to the city, limited sanitation services in informal settlements and escalating poverty.

However, despite tough circumstances, we are thankful that there are parents who availed their children for the early preparation of their futures. The Operations Manager is also appreciative to the Board of Directors of Sikhula Sonke who tirelessly and voluntarily keep the organization alive: your work will forever be rewarded by the Almighty.

To the community developers and activists who support our work: thank you for giving us the opportunity to be who we are today. May God bless Khayelitsha.

- Ms Thembi Nxesi

TEAM LEADER FEEDBACK

Working with people in teams is a life changing experience. This year our team leaders dealt with people from different backgrounds, with differing attitudes and sometimes very different values. They learnt to work under immense pressure to meet deadlines and achieve outcomes. Our team leaders experienced successes, realizations and challenges. Each of these experiences brought professional and personal growth to each individual as well as to the team members and indeed, the organization.

Our team leaders appreciated the opportunity to contribute towards accomplishing the mission and vision of Sikhula Sonke and are grateful for the professional, personal and organizational growth that was part of this year’s “package”.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Nine new volunteers joined the organization which helped with a staff shortage.

Four staff members completed their NQF Level 4 at False Bay College: congratulations to Amanda Mkoko, Phelisa Phenduka, Mellissa Jonkers and Yandiswa Solinzima.

Two staff members completed NQF Level 5 at False Bay College; well done to Xoliswaa Dingiswayo and Nomathemba Peter.

Congratulations to Noluvuyo Makeleni and Vathiswa Combi who completed a Diploma in ECD at False Bay College.

15 volunteers received Inclusive Education Training for their career development.

Ntombovuyo Bongoza, one of our staff members, was promoted to become a team leader.

INCREASING LITERACY

Solon Foundation donated 1012 book titles through Book Dash to the play groups, promoting literacy and encouraging book ownership at a young age.

PARTNERING WITH THE CITY

Sikhula Sonke has worked closely with the City of Cape Town who have supported and assisted with different events during the year.

Our thanks to Metro Police, City of Cape Town Fire and Rescue, SAPS, Khayelitsha Hospital.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

INVESTING WISELY

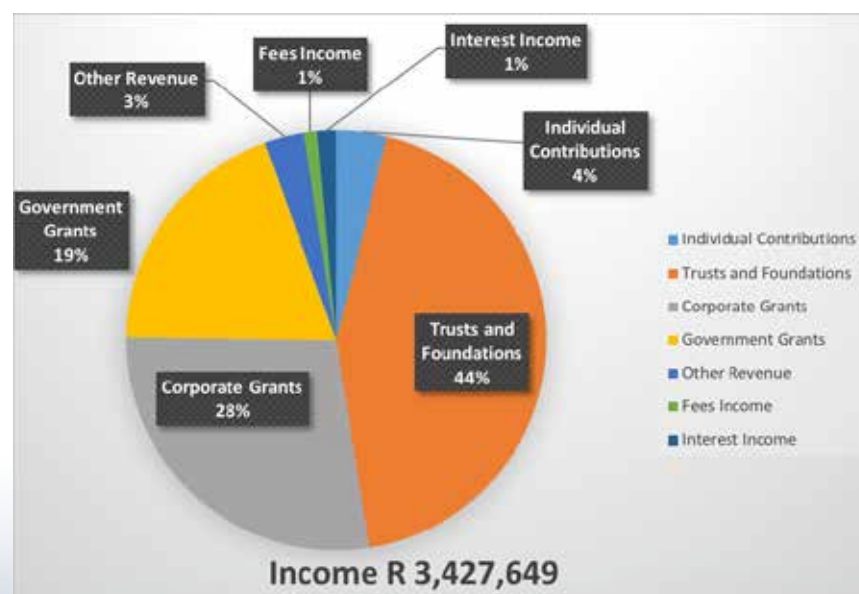
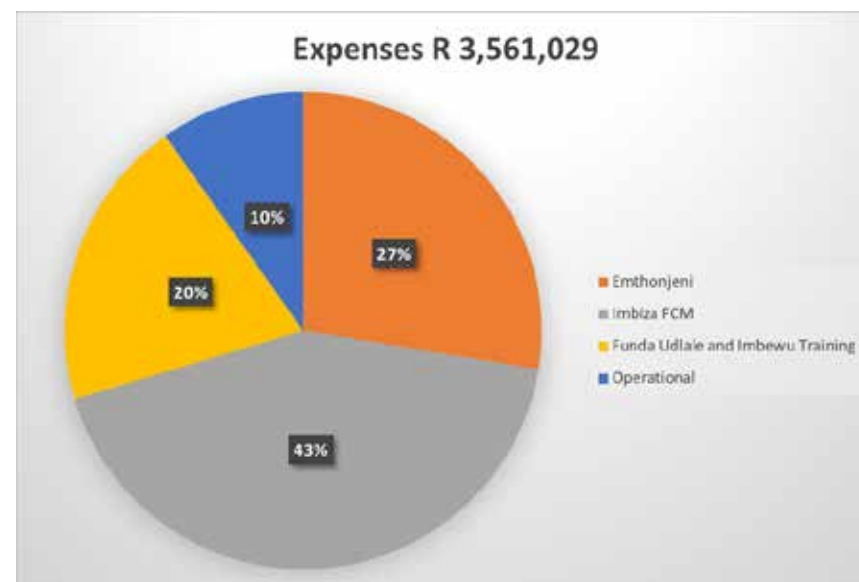
The Audited Financial Statements (AFS) for the year ending 28 February 2019 are now available together with this Annual Report.

We would like to thank all our funding partners for their support and faith in us and the work we do. You have all been acknowledged in Note 13 to the Annual Financial Statements and your names and logos (where appropriate) are also on our website (www.sikhulasonke.org.za).

Once again, remaining fully funded has been a challenge this year, but we have managed our cashflow in line with funding received. Even though we needed to take advantage of a small part of our retained funds built up over several years, our Cash Fund at year end was a healthy R798,985. Notes 4 and 5 to the Financial Statements show the Cash movement and also which retained funds are being held in Cash going into the next financial year.

Expenses incurred per specific programmes may be useful information for donors. These are specifically: Note 14 for Funda Udlale Library Services and Training, Note 15 for Emthonjeni Outreach, Note 16 for Family Community Motivator.

The charts to the right show which proportion of Income and Expenditure can be attributed to specific sectors of funding and programmes respectively.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

It is important to acknowledge the contribution that has been made by our **partners in development**. They have made sure that they are available to support us in many different ways.

We are so grateful to our funders (see below) who have trusted their investment into our hands for our communities. We trust that this report finds you satisfied and we hope just a little bit proud of what your generosity has helped to accomplish.

A heartfelt thank you especially to the individual **donors (both South African and international), friends and employees** of Sikhula Sonke.

You have contributed to uplifting Khayelitsha's communities and making early childhood development services possible.

We salute you: *Maqobo nani maqobokazana - ukwanda kwaliwa ngumthakathi.*

- Breadline Africa
- Department of Social Development
- First National Bank Trust
- Harare Hilltop Spar
- HomeChoice Development Trust
- Iqraa Trust
- Joint Aid Management SA
- JH Richards Will Trust
- Jim Joel Foundation
- LF & DA Duncan Will Trust
- MAID Foundation
- Mapula Trust
- Percy Fox Foundation
- Santa Shoebox
- Shoprite Checkers
- Solon Foundation
- Surve Philanthropies

And lastly, thank you to the communities in which we work. Thank you for opening your doors and trusting us with your children.

"It takes a village to raise a child."

- Old African quote





GET IN TOUCH WITH SIKHULA SONKE ECD

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