



**#SISONNEWS: Q1 2020**

**“IT TAKES THE WHOLE VILLAGE  
TO RAISE A CHILD”  
AN OLD AFRICAN SAYING**

## **UNLIMITED CHILD TRAINING**



Thuli Makhathini of The Unlimited Child conducted four days of training for 31 ECD principals and practitioners in February, which included teaching packs and curriculums.

Research has proven that unless children aged 0 to six years are exposed to the correct inputs such as learning colours and shapes through educational toys, their potential in life is severely limited.

We're grateful to have partners like The Unlimited Child with great material to equip Khayelitsha's ECDs!

## **BIBLIONEF EMPOWERS ECDs**

Our fantastic partner Biblionef conducted a session with 20 ECD centres on 21 February. They also donated a box of toys and books to each ECD Centre at the conclusion of the training. What a great training and wonderful resource to receive!



## **EQUIPPING FATHERS IN MEW WAY**



Our Fatherhood Network hosted their first workshop this quarter in Mew Way with 35 men in attendance, a real milestone for this outreach programme.

Topics included being involved in your children's growth, book sharing activities and how to protect children.

It's great to see men taking action!

## **MEET THE 2020 DREAM TEAM!**



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The first quarter of year 2020 has come to an end. By now all our programmes are usually in full swing but I write this from lockdown. Business as usual has ended for the foreseeable future due to the surprise of coronavirus.

### Opportunities and partnerships

This year started with some exciting opportunities within the organization in terms of partnerships, funding and staff development.

Sikhula Sonke won a large shopping voucher for Shoprite-Checkers to purchase food and supplies for our programmes and beneficiaries, thanks to the partnership between *Take My Hand*, *Umhlobo Wenene Radio station* and *Shoprite-Act for Change*. The whole office team ululated when I presented Sikhula Sonke in a live radio broadcast and won!

We were also filled with excitement when a young star from Gauteng province decided to donate his winnings to Sikhula Sonke.

Our support base has grown and we welcome the increase in the number of overseas friends and supporters of the organization.

We are excited for Papama Mateza who received a full bursary to study Community Development with Cornerstone Institute. Papama is one of the leading Assessors in Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) and always serves SISO, the children and other organizations/stakeholders with a great attitude and humility. He works hard to ensure Sikhula Sonke is on top of our game in all the programs that we are involved in.

Phumeza and two new members on the team, Wandu and Khosi, were trained by Curriculum Development Trust in creative arts and quality early childhood development mathematics and science. This partnership was facilitated by the Funder and CDP project and brings fresh ideas to our offering.

### Transitioning children to Grade R

While South Africa has made commitments towards ECD and primary schooling, we really struggled to secure spaces and register children for Grade R again this year. A huge number of children were left out by the system and could not

be accommodated by government schools, including Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8 children due to lack of identification documents and school overcrowding. Our Social Work team has been very robust in engaging all the departments for smooth transition but some children only found places as late as March.

As a country we remain puzzled about how the migration of Grade R to the Department of Education is going to affect or shape the current status quo of the education system. Our country still has lots of imbalances and inequalities in terms of service provision. I believe that we need comprehensive and effective coordination of ECD services, with nonprofit and community development organizations at the center.

### Facing COVID-19

At the first announcement of coronavirus in South Africa, Sikhula Sonke quickly rolled relevant information to all the ECDs and posted information posters in public areas. A few days later schools were closed and South Africa entered a lockdown which effectively closed our programmes.

Sikhula Sonke has had to make difficult decisions. We work in informal settlements entrenched in deep poverty with appalling hygiene conditions, communal sanitation services and open sewerage, very little or sometimes no running water for a certain number of hours during a day, limited electricity, few nutritious meals and many individuals out of work, bringing another level of social danger. In contrast, at playgroups children receive education and nutritious meals, can wash their hands, have access to running water and are able to play in safety.

In preparation for the lockdown, SISO teams distributed all the Joint Aid Management porridge we could find to children most at risk to tide them over until families receive their child support grants. While we have tried to equip caregivers and families as best we can, closing any facility that looks after young children at short notice immediately compromises child protection protocols within Khayelitsha's communities. As we enter the lockdown our prayers are



for children who may be more at risk at home than they might have been in ECD facilities and playgroups.

### Special thanks

Our first special quarterly note goes to Mr Xololwabantu Madikizela who directed his winnings with Capitec Finance as a donation to SISO. This is highly appreciated! Thank you Mr Madikizela, Inkosi Ikusikelele.

We had the great pleasure of a visit by our German friends Dr Monika Fierus and her husband Udo, Gundula Koltz-Marz, Gerda and Jochem. They brought in monetary donations and styled sneakers and shoes for the team and the children. Dr Monika also works tirelessly to make sure that there are strong relationships between Sikhula Sonke and German citizens. Thank you!

Thank you to Nomathemba Peter and Mphokazi Malangeni (staff members) who successfully conducted baseline Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) assessments at two centers based in Khayelitsha that are mentored by Blue Door.

Especially thanks to *Shoprite Act for Change* for the donation, together with *Umhlobo Wenene Radio Station* and *Take My Hand NPC*.

### In closing

As we finalise this newsletter, there is much to thank God for this quarter. We are so grateful to our team, volunteers, the board and the impactful investments by our generous funders, donors, grant makers, corporate social investments, trusts, foundations and individual donors, including our employees through payroll giving. Thanks to you, Sikhula Sonke will continue to thrive and make a long-lasting impact.

- Mdebuka



ABOVE: Mdebuka Mthwazi (Executive Director of Sikhula Sonke ECD) and Winkie Cebisa (Team Leader) receive the gift card from Shoprite Khayelitsha, with thanks to Umhlobo Wenene Radio Station and Take My Hand NPC.



### 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.

### Q1 PROGRAMME IMPACT

#### Imbewu - ECD Coaching

Supporting 136 early childhood development centres  
Facilitating 97 ECD visits  
Impacting 4513 children

#### Emthonjeni - Playgroup outreaches

Reaching out to 222 families and children in Nkanini, Taiwan, Khunqu, UT Gardens, K2, Monwabisi Park and Mew Way

#### Family & Community Motivator Programmes

Reaching a total of 198 families  
Hosted 7 workshops  
Facilitated immunisation drives inoculating 85 children

#### Funda Udlale (Toy Library)

Hosted 26 group sessions for Emthonjeni learners  
Hosted 17 sessions for formal preschools/ECD centres  
1336 children enjoyed using Toy Library resources this quarter

### TEAM & PROGRAMME NEWS IN THE FIRST QUARTER

Sikhula Sonke started 2020 with our **Annual Planning** by taking a few days away at Monwabisi Park Resort.

This time was used to reconnect, refresh our mission and vision in the team's minds, and work on the annual strategic plan which then determines the direction for our day-to-day activities. Sikhula Sonke currently has 45 staff members: 30 full-time individuals plus twelve Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) volunteers and two Community Work Programme volunteers.

The **school admission drive** for SISO's graduates saw 88 of the 103 children settled in primary schools.

**Basic ECD Training** has a full complement of practitioners registered.

There is also a steady increase in centres registering for the **Toy Library (Funda Udlale) programme** with 15 centres currently registered.

Seven healthy babies were born in

January to mothers who are part of **First 1000 Days programme**.

We had a successful **Read Aloud Day**.

Many of our **staff have chosen to study** to further their education in addition to their daily responsibilities. Seven new applicants have applied for different levels in different FET colleges. Twelve staff members are continuing with their Level 4, Level 5 and Diploma in Early Childhood Development courses. Papama and Nomabhaca are studying *Community Development* at Cornerstone Institute. Zingisa Ngcolo is working on a *B.Ed* through Unisa.

Sixteen participants attended **training on *The Unlimited Child***, three staff members attended the *Curriculum Development Project (CDP)* training and another six team members attended *Singakwenza Waste 2 Toys* training.

We purchased five laptops and also

a printer for the office which makes it easy for us to do our **administration work** and monthly reports.

It has been a full and busy quarter in terms of the programmes!



ABOVE: Children from the outreach programmes learn the 20 second rule for washing hands



ABOVE: Future world changers at our Mew Way Emthonjeni programme behind their wheels!



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

**CONTACT SIKHULA SONKE ECD**

Offices and Training Centre  
35-903 Cephe Crescent, Harare Square  
Khayelitsha 7784, Cape Town, South Africa

Postal address  
P O Box 23122, Claremont, 7735, South Africa

Office telephone  
+27 (0) 21 224 0807 or +27 (0) 81 258 7359

Find us on Facebook  
SikhulaSonkeECD

Visit our website  
www.sikhulasonke.org.za

Key contacts  
Mdebuka Mtwazi: Executive Director  
+27 (0) 72 626 0565  
mdebuka@sikhulasonke.org.za  
Thembi Nxesi: Community Development Manager  
+27 (0) 73 586 3133  
thembi@sikhulasonke.org.za

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**SUPPORT THE WORK OF SIKHULA SONKE TODAY!**

**DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO**

**SIKHULA SONKE ECD  
ABSA BANK, CLAREMONT  
CURRENT ACCOUNT: 4058 2047 65  
BRANCH CODE: 632005**



**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.

**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.

**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.



Sikhula Sonke ECD is a member of ...

