



Play is the most important work of childhood.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2021: LET'S PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2021 had to be held in accordance with COVID regulations. Our staff came up with a number of events and creative solutions to get the important message of "Child Protection is Everyone's Business" out to the communities we work in across Khayelitsha.

WORLD PLAY DAY was attended by 144 children and 11 stakeholders, including ECD centres. This event, always held as part of Child Protection Week, is a huge highlight each year bringing together more than 1000 children. Despite 2021's limited numbers, the children enjoyed

play time, snacks and face painting, and their caregivers/teachers had an opportunity to connect and be spoiled too.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUES AND ACTIVITIES took place during the week in different communities including UT Gardens, Site B, Mew Way, Enkanini, Monwabisi Park and Harare. Parents and caregivers had the opportunity to discuss issues they face and learn more about child development and child safety.



FUNDA UDLALE TOY LIBRARY

Based in Harare Library, Harare Square

85 ECD play sessions

Hosted 2703 child play opportunities in Q2

IMBEWU COACHING & MENTORING

50 ECD practitioners enrolled in Basic Teacher Training

Two cluster workshops held in communities

Open to caregivers

Focus on Gr 12s to help develop their careers

FAMILY & COMMUNITY MOTIVATOR PROGRAMME

Working in UT Gardens, C Section, A15 Section, Taiwan, Khunkqu, Enkanini

Support for 203 families through 1220 home visits

8 children referred to specialists

5 special needs children supported

EMTHONJENI PLAYGROUP OUTREACH TO CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL

Reaching out to 263 families in Mew Way, Enkanini, Khunkqu, UT Gardens, K2 Section, Monwabisi A Section, Site C, Taiwan

290 children registered in our playgroups & preschools

299 play sessions held in Q2

17 special needs children assisted

WHAT HAS SIKHULA SONKE BEEN BUSY WITH IN THIS SECOND QUARTER?

Winter greetings from Khayelitsha!

Many of South African Townships are becoming “no go” areas because of crime, a direct result of youth unemployment and rife poverty.

Khayelitsha is one of the country's toughest areas. While the official South African unemployment rate among youth (15-34 years) was 46,3% in Quarter 1 2021 according to STATSSA's Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) – Q1:2021, it's estimated that unemployment in Khayelitsha is well over 50%.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Sikhula Sonke continues to defend the rights of disadvantaged children and ensure that each child reaches his or her potential in the comfort of their own spaces, rather than shipping them out to new spaces.

We believe in investing in the empowerment and development of local people so that they can be developers of their own communities. Our facilitators, practitioners, coaching staff and office staff are locals. In this way we empower our communities to find solutions to their own challenges.

SERVING THROUGH COVID

I would like to applaud all of our partners, key stakeholders and funders who have committed themselves towards assisting or partnering with us to:

- Implement sustainable means of addressing instant needs of early childhood development in our own communities.
- Address our own challenges and find suitable community solutions that will take children far in regards to their own development.
- Use our own differentiated strategic approach towards tackling and addressing COVID-19 pandemic effects within the community.
- Allow us to spread the resources at our disposal as thinly as possible to reach more beneficiaries who are struggling with deep poverty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Raise funds with their funding in order to increase our funding base during this difficult time in our country.

PARTNERSHIPS

Our Donor community continues to fund our programs, but we appeal for new funding as some of the funding partners have themselves been hit hard by this pandemic.

- JAM SA continues to look at the wellness of our children and caregivers. Our thanks for the donation of seeds and a 5200L Jojo water tank for the Mew Way community garden that is attached to our Emthonjeni site.
- FAMSA has taken another group of parents on a 5-day Positive Parenting training.
- City Health is conducting child immunisation clinics.
- We're grateful for the Equal Education partnership which advocates for children to get into primary schools.

ECD STIMULUS RELIEF FUNDS STILL MISSING

R496 million was allocated to the ECD sector through the Presidential Stimulus Package as a relief package for ECD workers during the first quarter of 2021. Our team - together with DG Murray Trust - assisted many ECDs to apply timeously, but no funds have been forthcoming yet. This is concerning.

CALL FOR VACCINATIONS FOR ECD TEACHERS

Sikhula Sonke calls for the vaccination of ECD teachers who seem to have been skipped in the mass teacher vaccination programme underway.

Despite being kept open throughout closures of both schools and universities, our sector remains vulnerable to COVID-19. We note with concern that more children are being infected with the Delta variant now rife in South Africa. It is of crucial importance to ensure that ECD practitioners are protected too.

CONTINUING NONTHELESS

Sikhula Sonke continues despite the current 14 day lockdown. In Q2 we've worked hard to ensure all children are ahead in the learning curve and milestones, taking into account possible lack of access to schooling.

We continued with information

sessions, cluster workshops and hand holding to fulfil children's needs. Our social work team works tirelessly to support families and ensure child protection.

Let us continue in our good work - we will reap a bountiful harvest if we do not give up!



Mdebuka Mthwazi preparing for a talk



Thanks to Ackermans for their donation of plasters to caregivers and facilitators this quarter



Immunisation drive in Emthonjeni spaces

SISO IN ACTION THIS QUARTER



Clockwise from top: Advocating for the ECD Stimulus Grant, staff en route to World Play Day, pregnant moms at Flourish training, SISO's Child Protection Message

IMBEWU: TEACHER TRAINING & COACHING

The Coaching team has done well this quarter with 50 practitioners registered. The training is continuing with two classes in action.

The Basic Teacher Training Course has taken a step further this year to include caregivers in our programme, prioritising caregivers with Grade 12 who have the potential to proceed to the next level with a career in ECD.

Two general cluster workshops were run this quarter, but due to COVID-19 attendance was poor.

An Unlimited Child Cluster workshop held for ECD principals which was well attended by 49 principals.



SISO HIGHLIGHTS

- SISO Fieldworkers received training from Waves of Change on an app called TEAMPACT which is used for attendance of children and capturing the work done for monitoring purposes. The TEAMPACT training was boosted by the purchasing of 5 tablets and 5 laptops which is making operations and monitoring more efficient.
- JAM visited K2 and Enkanini to measure children's height, weight and arm circumference: no cases of malnutrition or stunting were found.
- Team leaders attended a team building workshop - this has helped them to understand each other much better and work even more effectively in programs.
- The Social Work team has played a vital role in different areas in making sure that caregivers are informed on issues affecting children, and where they can find assistance or help.
- Papama Mateza, our M&E officer, attended a workshop about new trends in monitoring and evaluation.
- The Team Leaders and the Social Work department are excited about the strengthened relations with new stakeholders like FAMSA and Flourish Franchise under Phumza Gqwaka that empowers pregnant mothers with critical skills in the 1st 1000 days of their children's lives.
- Our interns (the EPWP team) are growing in self confidence, independence and taking initiative to accomplish their work with the supervision of their team leaders, which greatly benefits the children they work with.
- 26 caregivers were trained by FAMSA on psychosocial support issues.
- 43 children were immunised at Enkanini by the Department of Health
- A group of pregnant mothers attended Flourish training, which focuses on issues of pregnancy and motherhood.
- Hygiene has improved: children are coming clean to the spaces.
- With the sudden increase in COVID-19 in June, SISO's teams have quickly developed solutions and adjusted to a new working schedule to continue all the programmes while meeting the required protocols.

TOY LIBRARY UPDATE

ECDs that registered in the first quarter continue to make use of the Toy Library, despite cold winter weather.

The Emthonjeni children are using the library more this quarter. This helps to reinforce what they have been taught in the spaces and also to identify learning barriers that would or could not have been identified in the playgroups. Once identified, the toy librarians work hard to assist in dealing with such barriers.

STAFF EDUCATION

Sikhula Sonke encourages our employees to develop their skills and commit to lifelong learning.

Staff continue to invest in their own education through courses at False Bay College: 2 staff members have registered for a Diploma in ECD, 3 have registered for level 5 and 3 for level 4.

FOOD GARDENS IN MEW WAY - THANKS DADS!



Fathers in Mew Way have jumped in to help get community food gardens established to feed the ECD and local families. From fencing the land to tilling soil and now planting, they've put a huge amount of effort in.

Thanks to JAM for the donation of a water tank, seed and farming implements, the hard manual work of local fathers and encouragement from leadership, we're excited about this new project to improve nutrition!

SOCIAL WORK REPORT BACK

Child neglect, abuse, exploitation, maltreatment and abandonment seems to be on the increase in Khayelitsha; we receive reports of serious cases every week. The Social Work team provided therapeutic services to many children and caregivers this quarter. In our interventions we referred some of the cases to Social Development, Department of Health, Home Affairs, SASSA, and SANCA, Child Welfare, FAMSA, and more. The team follows up on each case to ensure that children/caregivers receive the help and support that they need, including removal to places of safety (where available).

Other services included assistance with Grants, Birth Certificates, counselling, referrals, awareness and education campaigns and more. While we deal with tough challenges, we are grateful to be uniquely positioned to make a difference.



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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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.



Sikhula Sonke ECD is a member of ...

