



**Sikhula
Sonke**

Early
Childhood
Development

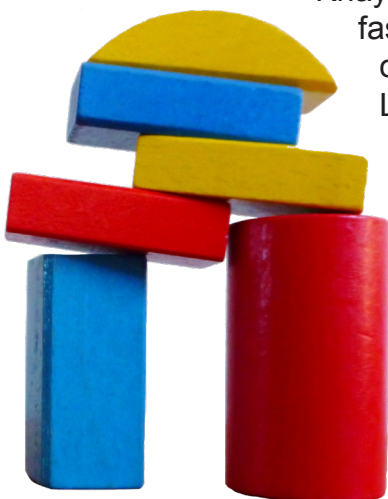


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ABOUT KHAYELITSHA

Khayelitsha was established in 1983 just outside Cape Town and is the fastest growing township in South Africa with a population estimate of 2.4 million. Sikhula Sonke works in Site B, Site C, Green Point, Litha Park, Mandela Park, Makaza and Harare, as well as the recent informal settlements: QQ Section, TR Section, RR Section, Mew Way and Enkanini.



Population statistics show a 54% unemployment rate and that 89% of households are moderately or severely food-insecure. 76% of population is under 29 and 75% of residents live in informal shacks, having to walk 200m or more to get water.

Khayelitsha is home to approximately 196,000 children between the ages of 0 and 6 years old. Only 30% of preschool-age children attend early childhood development facilities.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Another year to reflect on! This should be a time that non profit organisations are excited about, because annual reports are an opportunity to brag about our triumphs and how we have been instrumental in uplifting the lives of the less privileged.

If I look back, however, I see many factors in the social sector that have impeded progress. The last 12 months feel as though they were just a couple of weeks.

Although there were some signs of relief, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic meant not all was clear and safe. As a result some of our previously-compromised activities from the last financial year were still in a state of recovery.

In this year I have spent time not only on our many activities and programmes, reporting to funders and serving the community, but also thinking deeply about mankind, humanity, the universe and all that it carries.

The first question I asked was: "How have our beneficiaries, vulnerable communities, our programmes and so many other organisations managed to survive and recover to such a large extent, although not fully?"

An immediate answer is that God has sustained us.

Akawalibali Amadinga.

Putting on a different lens, I looked at our funding partners and, secondly, asked myself: "Who are these people?"

I couldn't find a simple answer to this question. I do know that our funding partners are "just" human beings who want to show practical kindness by sharing what they have with the less privileged and doing that out of love of humanity. These people are not looking for any gain but believe that the world we live in can be a better place with some kindness shown to less fortunate communities.

I admire these foundations, trusts, the funding entities and individuals greatly. You are not just giving out of pity, but you are real philanthropies and philanthropists. Thank you so much: we are still here because of your sizable contributions and acts of kindness to humanity.

Ukwanda Kwaliwa ngumthakathi.

To our beneficiaries and the communities that we serve, I would like to say that the world without you would be boring and the universe would have nothing to carry and admire.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you. Our privilege is to know that your young children are the ones who will be making world decisions in the future. Thank you for allowing us to stimulate, teach and support them to achieve their potential.

Inkunzi Isematholeni.

I have vowed not to write too much in this year's report but I cannot end this conversation without applauding my board for their guidance towards and participation in strategic decision-making processes. So many great social development entities have gone down because of poor choices. Sikhula Sonke is now in our 21st year and still running strong because you are part of us.

To my team, the entire team, this was again another year of success although it was clouded by lot of uncertainties, but you pulled through. You are such a wonderful bunch.

Lithi ilizwi, Mazi lo uhamba naye.

Keep up the good work.

All the best!

- Mdebuka Mthwazi, Executive Director



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SIKHULA SONKE'S VISION, MISSION & IMPACT

OUR IMPACT

Psychosocial and practical parenting support for 200+ families.

3900+ home visits annually to families in our FCM programme.

Assistance with formal documentation, vaccinations and health referrals.

5700+ child interactions at our Toy Library each year.

Training, coaching and mentoring of practitioners from 169 formal and informal early childhood development centres in Khayelitsha.

Innovative preschool and early childhood development interventions for children not in school - using public spaces close to water points.

1500+ individual child, parent & caregiver interactions hosted in public spaces each year.

87 of our Emthonjeni outreach learners graduated to start primary school after meeting all their developmental milestones.

Fatherhood Network empowers men to play an active role in their children's lives.

Sikhula Sonke's team are all residents of Khayelitsha - we employ and empower individuals to impact their own communities.

OUR VISION

We believe that every child in Khayelitsha should have the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a safe, stimulating and loving environment.

OUR MISSION

We work closely with parents, caregivers, registered and unregistered preschools, playgroups, community leaders, government, health practitioners and other partners to ensure these young children reach their development milestones and thrive.

OUR PROGRAMMES

- The **Imbewu Coaching, Support and Accredited Training Programme** for ECD practitioners within the context of their preschools and on-site at the Harare library resource centre.
- The **Imbiza Family and Community Motivator Programme** which offers training and support to families and caregivers in their homes and by using community spaces.
- The **Emthonjeni Playgroup Outreach Programme** to children not in preschool and their caregivers, conducted in the public spaces.
- The **Funda Udlale Toy Library Programme** provides early childhood development opportunities through access to educational toys, games and play resources.
- The **Fatherhood Network** engages fathers to be active participants in their children's lives and early childhood development.

THE SIKHULA SONKE TEAM

Sikhula Sonke ECD has a staff complement of approximately 40, all resident in Khayelitsha. We meet the BBE-EE requirements with approximately 80% of our team being women.

We are a learning organisation and our staff are encouraged to further their own education, share what they have learnt and embrace a lifestyle of curiosity and self-development.

BELIEFS THAT GUIDE THE WORK WE DO

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

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 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 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.

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



OUR PROGRAMMES IN ACTION

In the recovering post-pandemic environment, Sikhula Sonke moved back towards the robust delivery of our usual programmes, and at the same time continued to support families challenged by the economic downturn through psychosocial support services and practical interventions, including delivery of food parcels.

In this year we have seen the continuous educational development of children, renewed engagement of fathers, establishment of food gardens, many referrals, ongoing parenting activities and joyful graduation celebrations for successful learners.

Our teams remain flexible, creative, innovative and deeply committed to doing their best at all times. Our partners have been steadfast and we thank them for their faithfulness, encouragement and ongoing support.

IMBIZA FAMILY COMMUNITY MOTIVATOR (FCM)

HOME VISITS	3901
FAMILIES	212
CHILDREN	235
<i>GIRLS</i>	<i>109</i>
<i>BOYS</i>	<i>126</i>
SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN	7
REFERRALS TO SPECIALISTS	21

Sikhula Sonke believes that all caregivers and parents should be informed and involved in nurturing and enhancing the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of their children.

FCM takes place in areas like Enkanini, Site B and Site C. We facilitate educational interventions and programmes reaching out to parents and caregivers throughout the year. With a range of speakers and topics, the FCM programme is well received and attended. Our team also offers family support, counselling and helps participants to access resources for their children and families.

FCM also implements the First 1000 Days programme which focuses on the development of a child from pregnancy to two years of age, providing pregnant mothers with essential information and support for their babies and own health.

Our FCM facilitators are trained in the BrainBoosters programme. This material helps to educate parents and caregivers about how to teach and educationally stimulate their children's development through play and reading.

HIGHLIGHTS

26 parents attended psycho-social support through a group session workshop facilitated by FAMSA and participated in one-on-one counselling sessions.

A group of FCM pregnant mothers attended a programme called FLOURISH.

There is a good volunteering spirit shown by the caregivers.

The community is willing to report cases of vulnerability, abuse and neglect so that our social workers can assist.



IMBEWU ECD PRACTITIONER TRAINING & SUPPORT

Sikhula Sonke provides training to Early Childhood Development practitioners, both for the principals of ECD Centres and to their assistants. This training is accredited with the South African government at NQF levels 2 and 4 respectively.

From our early beginnings with just a few ECDs, today Sikhula Sonke supports 169 ECD centres in meeting the minimum standards for ECD Centres as defined by the Department of Social Development. We are committed to providing comprehensive quality programmes that are in line with the National Department of Education requirements and to NQF standards.

In addition to our formal ECD qualifications, Sikhula Sonke runs courses to equip teachers in the classroom: the practical skills of running a classroom learning environment, how to engage children to learn using Persona Dolls, basic counselling and inclusive education for children with special needs.

We also offer a mentoring programme where we visit ECDs and provide on-the-job support and coaching.

HIGHLIGHTS

Four Emthonjeni parents completed the Imbewu Basic training and graduated.

The ECD practitioners showed very good and consistent attendance of the basic class and library visits.

The ECD centres followed strict COVID 19 rules.

59 children from eight of the ECD centres took part in the end of year graduation ceremony hosted by Sikhula Sonke.

ECD CENTRES SUPPORTED	169
COACHING VISITS TO ECD CENTRES	241
CHILD INTERACTIONS	4066
<i>GIRLS</i>	<i>2100</i>
<i>BOYS</i>	<i>1966</i>
SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN	28



FUNDA UDLALE TOY LIBRARY

BORROWED TOYS	96
EMTHONJENI PLAY GROUP SESSIONS	83
ECD CENTRE SESSIONS	38
CHILD PLAY INTERACTIONS	5778
<i>GIRLS</i>	<i>2921</i>
<i>BOYS</i>	<i>2857</i>
SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN	3
PARENT TRAINING SESSIONS	2

The Funda Udlale Toy Library has seen expansion of its activities. Located at the formal Harare Square Library, our play and toy library facilities continue to be a resource centre for ECD centres and for participants in Sikhula Sonke's family and community programmes, as well as the local community in Harare itself.

The Funda Udlale programme has helped many children in their development. The children in our programmes are from the poorest areas of Khayelitsha, where parents simply cannot afford to buy nice-to-have items when food is scarce. The Toy Library helps these children to learn through both fine and gross motor play. Structured and unstructured play also broadens the children's environment and stimulates neural development through access to and interaction with different educational toys, games and books.

HIGHLIGHTS

This year we hosted 38 ECD sessions where practitioners brought their learners to the Toy Library for play sessions. During this time our facilitators assisted the teachers, screened for learning difficulties or special needs, and supported the ECD staff practically.

In our community sessions, we lent toy items to families to take home and play with in their own home.

We offered two parenting skills workshops which were well attended.

CHALLENGES

There were less interactions than usual due to post-pandemic precautions.

Quite a few toys were not returned.



EMTHONJENI PLAYGROUP OUTREACH

Many of the informal communities of Khayelitsha suffer from lack of resources because of the high rate of unemployment, quick expansion of informal settlements, migrant communities and young residents. In 2015 Sikhula Sonke piloted a play group outreach programme in Monwabisi Park, Khayelitsha, using the local water points and public areas as safe spaces. Today our facilitators run Emthonjeni playgroups in eight of Khayelitsha's most vulnerable informal settlements: Mew Way, Monwabisi CO-4, Monwabisi A-Section, Taiwan, UT Gardens, Enkanini, K2 Section and Khunqu.

Emthonjeni offers free ECD access and a meal: while children play and learn with our facilitators, their caregivers and parents have the opportunity to participate in discussions, learn more about ECD and basic healthcare, and talk to our social workers. In addition, we have set up two community food gardens to combat food-insecurity.

HIGHLIGHTS

230 children were immunised in partnership with City of Cape Town's Health Department.

The response from the caregivers has been amazing; helping to identify possible new families and recruit children.

The Enkanini and Mew Way Community gardens are thriving.

At first children struggled with fine motor skills, as the year progressed they did well in all activities. 87 children met their milestones and graduated to Grade R at local primary schools.

Seven parents from the Outreach programmes attended the Imbewu Basic training.

ForAfrika provided nutritional porridge for children, reducing stunting and malnutrition.

Caregivers received food parcels.

Children enjoyed a beach outing to Monwabisi Beach.

CHALLENGES

No water at our Monwabisi sites.

Influx of older siblings to spaces due to closed schools/COVID-19.

Socio-economic disruptions including poverty, GBV, food insecurity at home and trauma.

NUMBER OF SITES	8
NUMBER OF PLAY-GROUP SESSIONS	209
FAMILIES	284
CHILDREN	294
<i>GIRLS</i>	<i>162</i>
<i>BOYS</i>	<i>132</i>
<i>3-4 YEARS</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>5-6 YEARS</i>	<i>128</i>
SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN	8
REFERRALS TO SPECIALISTS	20



THE FATHERHOOD NETWORK

FATHERS	30
FOOD GARDENS STARTED	2
<i>MEW WAY</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>K2 SECTION</i>	<i>1</i>
FAMSA WORKSHOP	1

Sikhula Sonke started The Fatherhood Network in 2016. The aim of the Fatherhood Network is to recognise and affirm the importance of fathers in their children's early education and development.

The Fatherhood Network works within Khayelitsha to actively create community networks of men who will advocate for the issues of child protection, safety and health; empower fathers with knowledge and resources so that they can play an active role in their children's education (especially for special needs children); and encourage men to be active supporters and the heroes of their women and children.

HIGHLIGHTS

We held a one-week FAMSA training that was attended by 30 fathers. Topics included gender-based violence, substance abuse, the importance of taking care of children, the role of fathers and more.

Fathers from K2 Section took the initiative to clear and create an outdoor play space for the Emthonjeni children.

Fathers in Mew Way continue to care for the community food garden that was started, weeding, watering and planting new crops.

More young men are joining the Network, volunteering at Sikhula Sonke and becoming involved in various activities.



SOCIAL WORK SUPPORT SERVICES

OVERVIEW

The year under review has not been easy with the loss of two social workers at the end of 2021. Our small team has excelled in their service offering however, thanks to the commitment of our Social Auxiliary workers.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1. Creating safe spaces for families and children in need of play therapy services - reducing abuse, neglect and trauma and providing spaces for healing, love and play.
2. Child protection - 70% of cases that were related to child abuse, neglect, issues of hygiene, late registration of birth certificates, misuse of Child Support Grant (CSG) were closed successfully.
3. Psycho social support services – providing counselling services to caregivers who were experiencing traumatic events. 60% of these cases were resolved. In partnership with FAMSA, we also provided psycho-social services to vulnerable communities of Khayelitsha and generated a set of sustainable solutions to reduce GBV.
4. Assistance with official documentation - assisting caregivers with Identity Documents, birth certificates for children and child support grants.
5. Registration for primary schools - advocating for families who were unable to enrol their children at primary schools and assisted them with the appeals. 97% of our late applications were successful.

We have been privileged to walk with our beneficiaries. In many cases, we are celebrating as they overcome difficulties by empowering themselves, developing coping strategies and finding ways to generate income in order to eradicate poverty.

CASE STUDY: MPHO FAMILY

In February 2021 one of the SISO fieldworkers from UT Section asked the Social Work team to investigate the case of the Mpho children who were in the care of their maternal grandmother. Five siblings had been sleeping outside their family home for two days and were afraid to enter the house. In addition, one of the children was physically challenged, epileptic and could not speak.

The Social Work team paid a home visit the next day, meeting with the grandmother Ms N. Mpho and her daughter Ms Z. Mpho, the children's mother. The story that unfolded was tragic: the birth father was deceased, mom had a criminal record and was serving her sentence through community work and could not care for the children, granny was unable to help little Lila* with her special needs. The family was struggling and were glad to receive help.

The Social Work team had several follow up sessions with the family including practical interventions and counselling. Lila was taken to Tygerberg Hospital for several treatments over the next few weeks, including speech therapy. On motivation by the attending doctors and professors, and because of her family's inability to care for her at home, Lila was moved to a care facility where she will be able to receive the love and ongoing treatment she needs.

Thank you to the UT Gardens fieldworker, SISO social workers, the Department of Social Development and Tygerberg Hospital for your partnership in ensuring the Mpho family received the support that they need, and that little Lila is now safe and cared for.

** Note: names have been changed*



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS

World Play Day and Child Protection Week activities took place at the end of May with a smaller child event and community dialogues in the informal settlements.

We had an active 16 days of activism campaign where we hosted a guest from Simameleni to speak on gender based violence.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Sikhula Sonke team received training in a digital monitoring tool called TeamPact which tracks beneficiaries. Five tablets were purchased for use by the teams.

Very hearty congratulations to Ntombovuyo Bongoza who has completed her degree in Social Studies at UNISA and was appointed our new Senior Social Worker.

Two staff members are continuing with their diploma in ECD at False Bay college, while another two other staff members will complete their ECD level 4 studies in the course of 2022. Zingisa Ngcolo, part of our Imbewu Coaching team, is in her third year in Bachelor of Education with Unisa. Wandisiwe Mzinyathi from the toy library team is continuing with online toy library studies in new venture creation. Papama Mateza, our M&E officer, is working on the last two modules to complete his diploma in Community Development.

BrainBooster (refresher) training took place for all Emthonjeni playgroup and FCM facilitators/interns.

OFFICE UPDATES

Sikhula Sonke received a donation of office desks and two new laptops were purchased for key staff, while the office kitchen was refurbished to meet the ongoing catering needs for events and training.



TEAM LEADER REPORT

2021 was not an easy year because of Covid-19. Our Team Leaders tried by all means to oversee all the activities in the field concerning child development and families. We had to lead by example as some of our practitioners felt so uneasy going out to families and spaces to conduct child development activities because of ongoing sickness.

As a result of the challenges we faced, we find that we have grown in many different ways, including our people and facilitation skills, in leadership development and more. We've also taken the opportunity to share what we have learnt with our teams so that they benefitted from our experience.

With the guidance of our Community Development Manager, we have taken many decisions around programme implementation and monitoring processes. We really applaud and appreciate our Senior Management for supporting us, stretching us and allowing us to learn in the process.

This year we welcomed Mrs Mphokazi Malangeni as the Team Leader for Khunqu. She is also an Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) Assessor and we value her experience and skills.



FINANCIALS



Most of 2021 saw South Africa, and in fact the rest of the world, still firmly in the grips of the global pandemic with its legal regulations, social distancing, educational challenges and ongoing health scares.

Sikhula Sonke's programmes started operating more 'normally' but with the added burden of increasing hunger, more socio-economic fallout (loss of jobs, transport crises) and greater need for many of our interventions. Many of Khayelitsha's communities were left unable to feed their families and could not afford any form of paid preschool education for their children.

While Sikhula Sonke started to return to a more "normal" model of operation, our services remained flexible and had to expand to meet basic needs as well as fulfil our key mission, to provide early childhood development resources and services.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

SUMMARY

We are so grateful to our funding partners for their continued support, to new funders who have come on board and a special thanks to the Department of Social Development which funds a large proportion of our expenditure, specifically for the Emthonjeni and FCM programmes.

This year proved harder to raise new funding. The huge need in our country coupled with rising unemployment figures and families suffering as a result means that the resources that are available for CSI funding are spread more thinly.

We are indeed blessed to have a number of legacy funders and recurring funding. This ensured that we could keep providing our services, even building a new classroom at one of our Emthonjeni sites and creating a food garden too, with the fledgling view of sustainable food provisions for communities going forward.

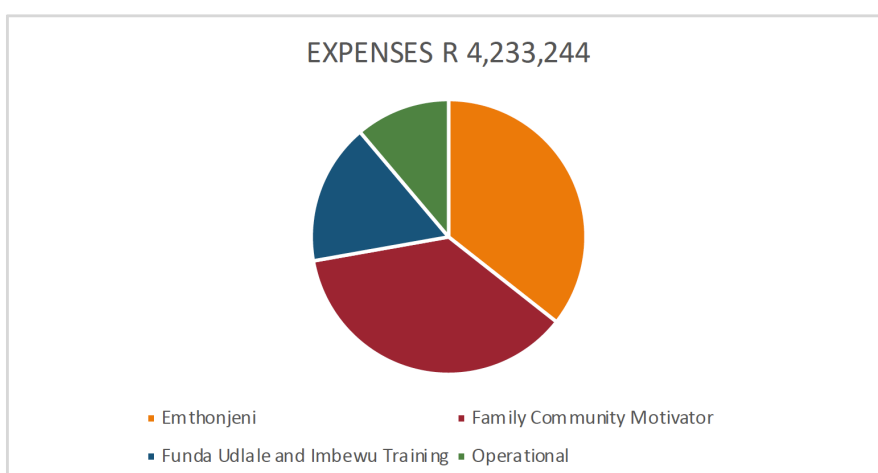
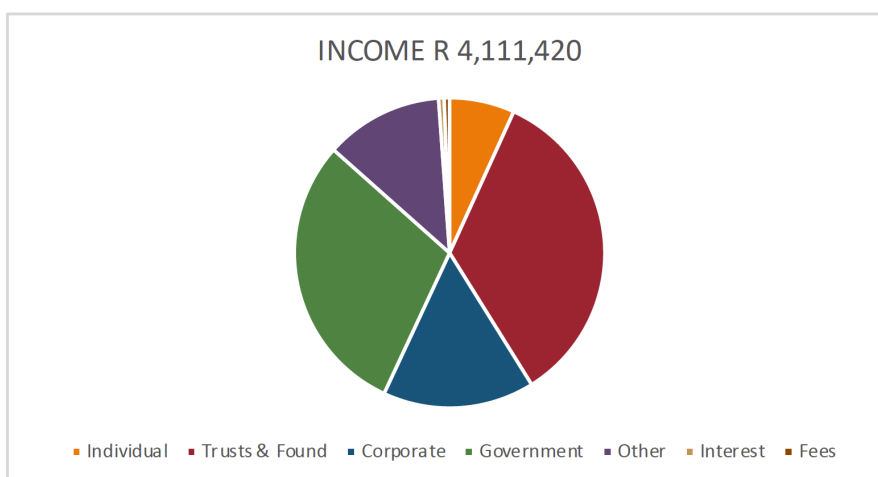
We have invested in our communities this year, which meant dipping into our reserves, and thus we have ended the year with a small deficit.

Our Cash Reserves at year end were only slightly down from last year at R618,514. Note 4 to the Financial Statements shows the Cash held at year end and Note 5 shows how much of these funds are Deferred Income (R361,240), which is funding received in advance and to be used in the 2022/23 Financial Year.

Expenses incurred per specific programmes may be useful information for donors:

- Note 13 relates to spending on the Funda Udlale Library Services and Training Programme,
- Note 14 to Emthonjeni Outreach, and
- Note 15 to Family Community Motivator.

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



THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PARTNERS

Allan and Gill Gray Philanthropy Initiative: Orbis Foundation
Breadline Africa
Connect Network
Department of Health
Department of Social Development
DG Murray Trust
Drive for Excellence
Early Bird
ELRU
FAMSA
Gcogco Studio Sewing
HCI Foundation
HomeChoice Development Trust
Ikamva Labantu
Inclusive Education SA
Innovation Edge
ForAfrika (formerly Joint Aid Management or JAM)
Jim Joel Fund
MAID Foundation
Mapula Trust
Nal'ibali
Oppenheimer Memorial Trust
Percy Fox Foundation
Persona Dolls
Scottie Dog Enterprises
Shoprite / Checkers
South African Education Project
SOLON Foundation
Unlimited Child
VPUU
WordWorks

INDIVIDUALS

Caroline Petersen
David & Cheryl Rennie
David & Natasha Jeffrey
Dr B Fierus & friends
Fatherhood Network fathers
Frank & Abi Daubenton
Gerard Adema
Martin & Lesley Mostert
R Cameron
R Bruno
Staff of Sikhula Sonke through payroll giving



SIKHULA SONKE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Office & Training Centre
35-903 Cephe Crescent Harare Square
Khayelitsha, 7784, Cape Town

Tel: +27 (21) 224 0807 or +27 (0) 81 258 7359

Email: info@sikhulasonke.org.za

Website: www.sikhulasonke.org.za
Facebook: @SikhulaSonkeECD

Postal Address:
P O Box 23122
Claremont, 7735
Cape Town
SOUTH AFRICA

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Non Profit Company Number: 2003/010956/08
Date Established: 2001
NPO Registration Number: 030-217 NPO
SARS PBO Registration Number: 930 004 377
Section 18A Registration: Yes
B-BBEE compliant: Yes