

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

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## CHILDREN'S OUTING ON 31 MARCH

235 of our Emthonjeni children visited a farm in Melkbosstrand at the end of March. Outings are an important part of our outreach programme, giving children new experiences and opportunities they would normally never access. This was the best outing ever!



## WHAT IS FCM?

FCM, also known as Imbiza, is a family and community motivator programme which reaches out to parents and caregivers. SISO facilitators run Cluster Workshops in eight areas across Khayelitsha.

Topics include safety, nutrition, health, GBV, parenting, discipline, early childhood development and more.



FCM is supported by the social work team who offer counselling, assistance with government grants and referrals to specialists where needed.



Above: Fatherhood Network meetings in Harare



**FUNDA UDLALE**  
TOY LIBRARY SERVICES

Toy library services to families, communities and preschools.

Toy library services used by 793 children this quarter



**IMBIZA FCM**  
FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Family and community support for early childhood development

250 parents and 235 children registered (reaching 8 settlements)



**IMBEWU**  
ECD TRAINING

Coaching and mentoring preschool and playgroup teachers

33 ECD practitioners enrolled for the one-year Basic ECD training



**FATHERHOOD NETWORK**

Supporting fathers to be present in their children's development

25 fathers registered and participating in activities and mentoring



**EMTHONJENI**  
PLAYGROUP OUTREACH

Playgroup outreach to children not in school by using public spaces

276 parents and 297 children enrolled in Emthonjeni playgroups



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

At the end of this first quarter of 2023, we are full of hope, yet filled many uncertainties engulf our society. Loadshedding is heavily crippling our economic growth and development, criminal activities are escalating due to power outages (Sikhula Sonke's fence around the offices was stolen this month) and we note an increase in Gender-Based Violence cases that are mostly unreported.

I must state that even in those darkest moments there is always a silver lining or an array of hope that we can attest to. We keep on walking tall under the circumstances to ensure that the poorest of the poor receive good quality early childhood development foundations.

We remain committed to our vision and we have already celebrated a few milestones: we have met new prospects, started partnerships, grown friendships, taken on some volunteers and embarked on new ventures for organizational growth. All these have been achieved this quarter in the ECD provisioning around poor communities.

In reinforcing our hope in 2023, we are closing this quarter with a National Celebration of Human Rights. As an organization we are not afraid to say: "Children's rights are human rights".

Sikhula Sonke ECD stands strong in continuing to advocate for children's rights.

Mdebuka Mthwazi



Mr Mdebuka Mthwazi (Executive Director) and Ms. Thembi Nxesi (Community Development Manager) at the SISO Strategic Planning breakaway early in 2023

**Ms. Thembi Nxesi, Community Development Manager, reports:**

*"The first of quarter of 2023 has been filled with intense planning by the team and by the realization that we are growing as a team and as an organization. This requires maturity and consistent hard work.*

*I am proud to share that the team quickly reached our two primary targets for Q1: recruiting and registering children. Developmental interventions for the children have started well. In addition, we are heartened by the high number of children who entered primary schools amidst the daunting environment of childhood in informal settlements.*

*We are again looking forward to a fruitful and a blessed year where our children will develop holistically and find themselves on solid ground to step into a challenging but surmountable journey to the future."*

## PARTNERING WITH TYGERVALLEY CENTRE

It has been wonderful to partner with Tygervalley Centre who ran a Back to School drive collecting school bags, stationery and clothing for our young learners who graduated to Grade R and formal schooling. Thank you to all the shoppers who generously donated to this drive.

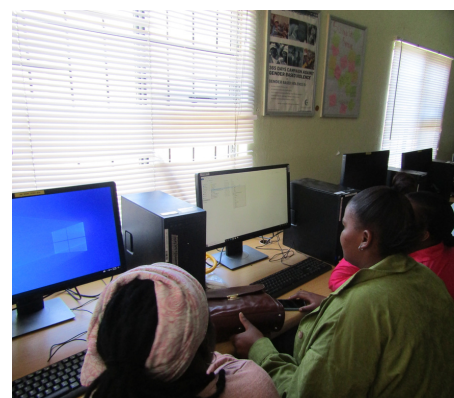


## BASIC ECD TRAINING HAS STARTED

Every year SISO runs a Basic ECD Training course for ECD practitioners teaching them foundational principles of early childhood development, providing various resources and familiarising them with the latest research and findings. This course also covers legal requirements of running an ECD - it is a very practical course. We are delighted to have 33 participants registered this year.

An extra bonus is our new computer centre which allows us to provide additional training opportunities.

Thanks to our donors:  
**The Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment and Allan Gray Philanthropies.**





## SOCIAL WORK REPORT



The provisioning of Early Childhood Development is the basic fundamental children's right in order for children to thrive. Sikhula Sonke's Social Work department continues to provide a holistic approach to taking care of the needs of the children, families and the communities at large.

Some of the highlights for this quarter included:

- providing therapeutic services and assisting beneficiaries who are experiencing abuse, trauma, neglect and maltreatment and many forms of social ills
- assistance with children's access to primary schools
- reprinting of maternity certificates/proof of births & late registration of birth certificates
- access to Child Support Grants
- assisting caregivers who do not have an access to Identity Documents
- successful interventions in cases of GBV and advocating for families' needs

The SW department also created synergy in terms of working relationships within SISO by supporting employees, strengthening the teams and fostering positive interactions. This made things much easier in terms of meeting deadlines of case, group and community work projects. The team is full of energy and this quarter has kept us on our toes!

## TEAM LEADER UPDATE

Team leadership roles in our organisation are always very exciting, exploratory and stretching as we are encouraged to acquire new leadership skills.

We started on a positive note and activities have been rolling out according to plan. This quarter was a bit shorter, but it has been fully packed with ensuring that the children who moved to Grade R had smooth transitions, fun activities, engaging with new children, running developmental stimulation interventions, children's outings and more.

There have been some challenges as we took on new staff members. This meant coaching and mentoring them, learning and understanding their different backgrounds, attitudes and all kinds of dynamics involved. Constant communication keeps us going as a team and we find ourselves getting stronger each day. It's been a good quarter.



Above (clockwise from top left): Toy Library team, FCM team, Fatherhood Network team, Emthonjeni team



## CAUGHT BY OUR CAMERAS



Thank you **VPUU** for the fresh paint job for our Harare Toy Library premises



Congrats to SISO social workers Ntombovuyo & Zubenathi on graduating from Connect Network's one-year Child Wellbeing course



Fire safety training with CoCT Fire & Rescue Services



We welcomed **Charles Scheltema & Claudia Scherer-Scheltema** (above) who visited us with SISO friends & supporters **Udo & Monika Fierus**



Thank you **Wynberg Girls High School** for sandwiches and Easter eggs this term