

Sikhula Sonke

Early
Childhood
Development

Annual Report 2013



Offices and Training Centre
35-903 Cephe Crescent
Harare Square, Khayelitsha, 7784
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Registration information

Name:	Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development
Non Profit Company Number:	2003/010956/08
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Message from the Chairman



*"All that is gold does not glitter, not all those who wander are lost;
the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken, a light from the shadows shall spring;
renewed shall be blade that was broken, the crownless again shall be king."*

— J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring.

From Strength to Strength

It is with joy and a deep sense of thankfulness that I report back on the successful achievements of another year that has passed. Having experienced a few really challenging years in the recent past, it is a blessing to know that we've turned the corner and are in a far stronger position than ever before, both organisationally and financially.

I hope that, in time, 2013 will be remembered as a watershed year for Sikhula Sonke. The organisation has grown in a number of areas including: a) headcount of the organisation, b) funding secured from government and funders, c) total beneficiaries being impacted and d) number of projects undertaken. More importantly, I believe that Sikhula Sonke has grown in maturity as we're finally starting to deal with issues of organisational development, professional staff management and financial sustainability. With our mandate to meet the need for quality ECD education in Khayelitsha, I believe that we remain very well positioned to offer ECD practitioners, caregivers and parents the information and resources that they require in order to ensure that their children receive the input that they deserve.



A year of much growth

Sikhula Sonke's programmes have developed in many respects and still offer educational services and opportunities to previously disadvantaged children and families in Khayelitsha communities through our Emthonjeni, Family and Community Motivators (FCM) programmes and other exciting initiatives. The team, ably led by Mdebuka and Thembi, now comprises more than 20 staff who engage directly with beneficiaries and provide valuable support, knowledge and input to parents and caregivers in need.

Key focus areas

As previously reported, Sikhula Sonke's major areas of focus are:

- The provision of basic Early Childhood Development (ECD) education, coaching and support pre-school teachers / caregivers in Khayelitsha on an annual basis.
- The management of the FCM and Emthonjeni programs as outreach services to children and families outside of the formal ECD sites in the Khayelitsha informal settlements.
- The training of parents and caregivers annually in various topics related to development and child care using mechanisms through cluster workshops and formal training sessions from other training service providers.
- The upgrading of physical structures and educational facilities each year by installing fire-resistant structures for pre-schools that meet stringent safety criteria.
- The collection and distribution of toys, puzzles, books, stationery and other equipment from interested parties to ECD centres.
- The comprehensive resource and toy library service to expand ECD provisioning to Khayelitsha children each year.



Continuing partnerships

It is encouraging to see how our partnerships have grown with funders and partners over the past 12 months. Many of our partners have long-standing relationships with Sikhula Sonke and it is with deep gratitude that I'd like to acknowledge them for their support and contribution to our efforts:

- Tshikululu Social Investments (FNB and Apex-HI)
- The Jim Joel Foundation (Childwick Trust)
- Violence Prevention Through Urban Upgrading
- The Percy Fox Foundation
- Nedbank Private Wealth (The R.B.Hagart Trust and Helping Hand)
- The River's Edge Community Church, Canada
- Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum foundation
- National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF)
- The Western Cape Department of Social Development

The many who serve



I'd like to extend a word of thanks to my colleagues on the board who continue to make a significant contribution to the work of Sikhula Sonke. Janet, Jenny, Deborah, Sindi and Gloria, thank you for sacrificing your time and for being willing to involve yourself in the work that we undertake. I know that our discussions and decisions are not always easy, but I admire and respect the perspective that you each bring to our discussions and I value your contribution deeply. Janet, you deserve a special mention for the long hours that you invest in overseeing our finances and ensuring that we remain an organisation of financial trust and integrity. Thank you.

To our faithful and long-serving Executive Director and board member, Mdebuka, you are the personification of the Tolkien quote that I used to begin this report. You are like gold to us as an organisation: you endure some really challenging circumstances on a daily basis and don't receive much in return, but remain the heartbeat of all that we do. You are a peacemaker, a humble leader, a generous team member and a hard worker, and we salute you for all that you do for Sikhula Sonke. Thank you.

It has been said that behind every great man is a great woman, and Thembi, in our organisation, we acknowledge you for the incredible role that you play in working alongside and supporting Mdebuka, for leading and developing many staff, for training our beneficiaries and for much, much more. You are a pillar of strength and a foundation of strength from which we are fortunate to grow. Thank you.

To the other long-standing staff of Sikhula Sonke and the new additions to our team, we'd like to thank you for remaining committed to our work and for playing such a positive role in shaping the future of our organisation. It is through your hard work and dedication that we are able to achieve what we do. Thank you.

A special word of thanks also needs to go to Anja who took on a role in a step of faith with us and became an instrumental part of our organisation very quickly. We were sad to hear of your plans to work internationally and to assist other organisations in need, but are deeply appreciative of the mark that you left on us and the fine foundation that you laid for us in our fundraising and marketing endeavours. We wish you everything of the best as you engage in these new activities.

Moving forward

I look forward to another productive year ahead and hope to share good news with you in our next annual report.

Yours in service,

Evan Torrance : Chairman



From the Executive Director's Desk



Grow a child, raise a nation

It has been and remains my strongest belief that 'It takes the whole village to raise a child'. It is also for this reason that Sikhula Sonke strongly acknowledges the great work that our partners have done over the years.

This true art of collaboration and partnerships has made all our programmes possible again in this financial year. It is very important to mention and thank our individual partners as well for all their different ways of involvement in taking this organisation further; our appreciation and gratitude also goes to Lynn Swart, Estelle Hopkins and friends, our private monthly donors, Accessorise, Truworthe, Metropolitan Health and many more.



I'm also proud to acknowledge that Sikhula Sonke has experienced a tremendous growth both professionally as well as in programmes and staff. Sikhula Sonke has remained committed in development of its team to provide best ECD practices. Our team members have participated and achieved certificates in different institutions, including NQF Level 4 at False Bay College, Accredited NQF Level 2 with Early Inspiration, Khululeka Workshops, Inclusive Education training, ECD Management from Regenesys Business School, etc. In all these developments, our staff members are capacitated for the best to provide quality service and remain best stewards in the communities that they serve.

The growth and empowering of our team has enabled us to reach more children and families who have been deprived of the opportunity to participate in early childhood development services.

The organisation also feels honoured and privileged to be allowed an opportunity by the families and Khayelitsha Community at large to serve these children in the best of our ability. This really means that if we rally together behind our communities, we can make a huge difference.

"Umntwana wakho ngowam, owam ngowakho, Makube chosi kube hele mawethu"

Mdebuka Mtwazi : Executive Director



Organization details

About Sikhula Sonke

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

Early childhood development is defined as the “processes by which children from birth to nine years grow and thrive physically, mentally, emotionally, morally and socially.” (Education White Paper March 1995)

Our vision

Our vision is that every child in Khayelitsha has the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a safe, stimulating and loving environment. We see the parents, care-givers, community members and pre-school teachers in Khayelitsha being trained and supported to provide such an environment.

Our mission

Sikhula Sonke offers free 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 accredited training to ECD practitioners who run their own pre-schools
- Coaching and support - For ECD practitioners, within the context of their pre-schools and at the Harare library resource centre
- Family and care-giver support - Providing training and support for families and care-givers in their homes - the Family and Community Motivator (FCM) Programme
- Community outreach projects - in specific communities in Khayelitsha, and for children who do not go to pre-schools



Funding



Sikhula Sonke is 100% dependent on donations in order to provide its vital services to the children and families of Khayelitsha. We appreciate any gift, large or small.

All donations are eligible for tax deduction by companies and individuals.

South African companies that donate will receive points towards their BBB-EE scorecard as all our beneficiaries are Black South Africans.

Donations

Direct deposits or recurring internet payments can be easily set up using the Sikhula Sonke bank account details:

Name of Account Holder:	Sikhula Sonke
Bank:	ABSA Bank
Account Number:	405 820 4765
Account Type:	Current
Branch:	Claremont
Branch Code:	632005



Donations can also be made online through Greater Good SA:

http://www.myggsa.co.za/connect/receivers/sikhula_sonke_we_grow_together

Financial accountability

Sikhula Sonke believes in full financial accountability, and is regular audited. All donations are tracked and the funds fully invested in Early Childhood Development opportunities and training for the children, caregivers and families of Khayelitsha, Western Cape, South Africa.



Operations in full review

(By Thembi Nxesi: Operations Manager)



The FCM programme

The main goal of the Family and Community Motivators (FCM) programme is to reduce the number of children who do not access early childhood development services; this is done through different activities: we primarily hold **one-on-one sessions** with caregivers at their homes; we facilitate **cluster workshops** with the caregivers; and **playgroups** are run twice a week at chosen open spaces.



FCM playgroup

The FCM team did a brilliant job in this financial year. We recruited and enrolled **50 families and 69 children**.

All of these children received ECD stimulation and were assisted to develop holistically during the one-on-one sessions. In the playgroups, children were exposed to group interactions and learning experiences; it can be reported that the children showed considerable improvement on their development.



Income generating training at a cluster workshop

In the cluster workshops different themes were covered with the aim of enhancing parenting and caregiver skills in the areas of hygiene, children's rights, discipline, nutrition, etc.

The summary of the FCM programme statistics is as follows:

Quarters	Number of families	Number of children	Number of boys	Number of girls	Number of visits	Number of cluster workshops	Number of referrals
1 st quarter	50	61	33	28	82	1	1
2 nd quarter	50	69	39	30	111	2	2
3 rd quarter	50	69	39	30	111	3	1
4 th quarter	50	69	39	30	82	1	2
TOTAL	50	69	39	30	386	7	4

Emthonjeni Outreach Programme

The Emthonjeni programme is a **community-based programme** that also reaches out to children who do not get formal preschool services.

The activities offered include stimulation of children through **planned age-appropriate activities** for four days in a week. These are done through participation in playgroups for three days and also visiting the ECD library once a week where children are given the opportunity to experience various educational activities.

The **caregivers attend cluster workshops** once a month; **children also visit the toy library** twice a week, and play with advanced educational toys that enhance numeracy and literacy skills.

We have seen a **noticeable change** in the children's development due to this time, and parents have given **good feedback about their children's development**.

In the cluster workshop the caregivers gained valuable parenting skills similar to those of the FCM. We initially had 70 children registered for the two sections; later the number grew to **96 children**.

Children were also able to participate in **educational outings** including an end-of-year beach outing.

A quick overview of the programme:

Total number of children	Number of boys	Number of girls	Number of caregivers	Number of playgroup sessions	Number of cluster workshops	Number of graduates
96	46	50	52	111	10	4



Playgroup session at Emthonjeni



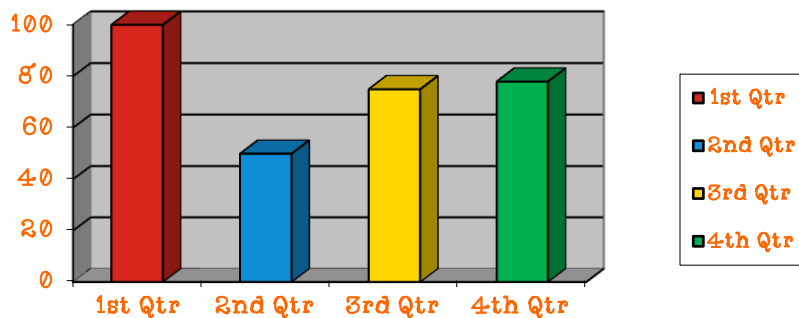
Emthonjeni children graduating to primary school

Basic training, coaching and support programme



The basic training, coaching and support programme is done through **training and support of enrolled ECD practitioners**. Activities in this programme include registration, admission, orientation, training and support of practitioners. In this financial year we registered **86 learners**, of which **58 graduated and received a certificate**.

At the beginning of the year there is usually a high turn out on registration, but as the year goes by attendance levels fall to around 50% (attributable in part to winter). In the third quarter of the year we saw attendance rising a little as the winter season subsided, in the fourth quarter the number rose further as everybody sought to get a certificate. The graph below illustrates the attendance levels in each quarter for 2012.



Christmas party with practitioners



Graduating children from the centres

Many of the centres that are supported by Sikhula Sonke are in the process of registration. Through Sikhula Sonke's support we have seen many getting their NPO status of registration; while other centres are in the process of being registered with social development. We have **assisted centres with classroom set-up, creating safe and healthy ECD environments** and also in getting their **policies and procedures** in place.

Sikhula Sonke has also received positive comments that **those who have passed through the basic training at Sikhula Sonke tend to do very well at level 4 in any FET college**. Many ECD centres seem to hunt the services of practitioners who have done the Sikhula Sonke basic training.

Eight centres participated in the Sikhula Sonke joint graduation this year, with **79 children** graduating in total, including children from the outreach programmes.

Toy Library Programme

The goal of the Toy Library programme is to **provide a range of educational toys and books** to children (individually and through ECD centres) so that they can enhance their ECD skills through play. The Toy Library activities include: registering new library members; processing the issuing and returning of books and toys; collecting fines; checking existing stock and purchasing new stock.

In the beginning, the Toy Library team struggled to get centres to register and borrow toys but towards the end of this financial year **we have seen a steady increase and interest in the Toy Library.**

The Monwabisi Park children use the Library once a week. The caregivers used it once a month during the Cluster Workshops. Children have had the experience of listening to educational videos, seeing puppet shows and reading books in the Toy Library.

We have seen children grow in the **key developmental skill of being explorative**, and I can confidently say that the children's resource Library is **one of the best things that has ever happened to Khayelitsha children.**



Children developing physical, numeracy and concentration skills at the ECD Toy Library



Highlights of the year

Much has happened this year, but key highlights include:

- **Impressive school reports** from children who graduated from Outreach programs.
- Conducted **successful children assessments** and results shared with caregivers.
- **58 ECD practitioners trained** in Basic ECD course and received certificates.
- Approximately **80 parents were reached** through cluster workshops.
- Volunteers from Norway conducted a successful comparative study of the Outreach programs.
- The blankets and Easter eggs donations by Accessorize.
- Approximately **60% of caregiver referrals** achieved.
- Outreach children participated in **educational outings**.
- **New Emthonjeni site opened**, with 30 outreach children given the opportunity of ECD stimulation.
- **SISO recruited and trained 7 new staff members** to strengthen the team.

Challenges

Every year has its challenges, and this year some of our challenges included:

- Harsh Cape Town Weather made it difficult to achieve the monthly goals in terms of the number of sessions we planned to run; rain and flooding made some workshops impossible.
- The ECD forum felt threatened by the outreach program which resulted in a backlog.
- Mobility of children: i.e. children are being moved between the Eastern and Western Cape.
- Lack of basic needs at homes makes stimulation difficult.
- High practitioner turnover in ECD sites creates coaching and support backlogs.
- No proper Teacher–Child resources and curriculum in ECD sites.



Comments from our team



SISO has made me to understand children's world and working with vulnerable families shared light on different societies we have in SA. **Zandile Mahola**

I always get inspiration from people that I work with, to encourage caregivers. **Bukiwe Genu**

SISO has contributed tremendously to my professional development.

This organisation has taken me out of mud and gave me life. **Nosiphiwo Marwanqa**

My work has given me experience, strength and wisdom to uplift my community and its children. **Bongiswa Malunga**

I started as caregivers but I'm helping other parents with skills acquired in the program. **Nokufika Mhlonto.**

I'm encouraged and motivated by people and children every day in my work life. **Babalwa Ndim**

I feel honoured to serve the little ones in this country and I humble myself so that they become better citizens in future. **Nonzame Gazi**

SISO has made me a better person through these children's programs. I'm happy to make a difference in my country. **Nolita Gana**

Believing in myself has earned me confidence to build young children; I connect with them very well. **Nomathemba Peter**

I wish I can't stop bringing smile, love and hope to children. I salute you SISO. **Mpho Malangeni**

Never thought of my contribution to community, but today I'm educating children. **Buyiswa Balani**

Working with vulnerable families has made me to love and cherish my family. **Ziyanda Kalolo.**

My involvement in introducing library to children at the young age and parents makes me to realise the significant that the father had to play in a child's development. **Abonga Qongqo**

SISO has brought in light in my life and it is my wish that I can also bring light to the children. **Nothemba Nkolweni**

From the Operations Manager



Together with the Sikhula Sonke team, I would like to thank all those who have partnered with and supported the organisation in making the programmes that we run possible.

It has never been an easy journey, but through Christ who strengthens us, all things are possible. Well done!!!

"Makubenjalo MaAfrika."

Thembi Nxesi : Community Development Manager

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