

2020

ACTIVITY REPORT



ZERO2FIVE TRUST IS DELIGHTED TO SHARE OUR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT WITH YOU.

Last year was a year like no other for NPOs and individuals alike. It was a testing year on many levels. What we knew and had been accustomed to all but evaporated and our way of being and operating had to be altered significantly.

We started 2020 with the plan to focus and further develop our education programme - little did we know that the year would turn into one of a manic feeding frenzy in our poor communities. As children were housebound from March and no longer able to attend ECD programmes, our attention shifted to focus on ways to support and continue the feeding, learning, nurturing, care and stimulation of young children whilst at home for much of the remainder of the year.

We restructured most of our operations and for this reason hope you will forgive our delay in sharing this report and trust you will enjoy reading about our highlights and the many milestones reached in our 8th year of operation.

Even if the pandemic starts to wind down from a biomedical point of view, as predicted, the knock-on social and economic consequences will be with us for a long time to come.

It is with great pride that we present our 2020 activity report. Not only have we managed to continue supporting “our children” throughout this crisis, but we also additionally assisted numerous households during the hard lockdown and assisted several partner organisations with food donations for areas beyond our reach.

We have no doubt that 2020 will leave a deep mark in everybody’s memory for the extraordinary circumstances people found themselves in all over the world during the different lockdown levels and restrictions.

Throughout the year, we were grateful to be guided by our team of 8 trustees: Nicolas Kinsley, Chairperson; Michael Dos Santos, David Sweidan, Vice Chairperson; Evidence Neliswe Ntaka, Belinda Scott, Treasurer; Nathi Ngubane.



“For us from Zero2Five, it was a year of massive support from individuals and corporations alike; a year of countless home visits and one where the wheels of our treasured Toyota bakkie hardly stood still. Logistics became key and had to be fine-tuned very quickly to reach the rural communities we serve. The highlight of the year was without doubt our community soup kitchen at Bellevue Café, a 12- week project which was so uplifting and inspiring, that no one involved will ever forget it.”



OUR NUTRITION & WASH PROGRAMME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

OUR NUTRITION PROGRAMME got off to a super start in 2020 with 12 000 children at 347 unfunded ECD Centres on our breakfast programme and 7 000 of them on our lunch programme.

We were able to roll out our large scale nutrition & WASH programme in Mbizana at the end of January and identified a sample of 5 ECD centres where we collected anthropometric measurements of the children attending in February and March 2020.

The most significant finding from the baseline assessment of 155 children in Mbizana is the high prevalence of stunting in all forms (23%) and a corresponding increase in risk and prevalence of overweight and obesity due to diminished growth in stature. The children attending these 5 ECD Centres reside in a community with poor socio-economic status and limited access to the minimum requirements to meet basic needs.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sudden school closure on March 17th brought a significant challenge in providing nutritional support to in excess of 12 000 children on our nutrition programme. For KZN, We had to restructure and reach all these children and their families at their homes during the 6-8 months of school closures. The main challenges of such restructure are the exorbitant transport costs involved to reach households as opposed to ECD Centres and the time factor traveling dirt roads in rural areas. It soon proved we have funders who truly believe in our work. Funds were increased and existing funds re-allocated to transport, an impromptu crowd fundraiser on Different.Org filled the remaining gap. For the Eastern Cape, in the level 5 & 4 lockdown months of April, May, June and July, the Port Edward Build-It and Bizana SPAR served as storage and distribution points and we organized the stock to reach the provincial border. The Impande intern and field worker team, in a massive campaign on the ground, then delivered a total of 3 000 soap bars and 9 tons of the nutrition supplements every month to the 168 centres for further distribution to the children and their families; 4 000 children spread out over 2 500 km². Incredible efforts all around.



We are thrilled to say that we were able to boost our nutrition programme in 2020 and more than doubled the meals we were able to provide for children under the age of 5, plus the extra meals for their families.

This looks as follows in numbers:

IMPACT NUTRITION & WASH PROGRAMME



5.4 MILLION
PORTIONS OF FORTIFIED
BREAKFAST PORRIDGE



725 760 LUNCHES
FROM RISE AGAINST
HUNGER SERVED IN
UTHUKELA & ALFRED NZO



85 600 PORTIONS OF
COOKED LUNCH SERVED
IN UMGUNGUNDOLOVU



1 421 EMEDIA/HCI
FOUNDATION COVID-19
FOOD BOXES FOR A
1-MONTH SUPPLY,
FAMILY OF 4



1 750 LOAVES OF
BROWN BREAD
2 000 LUNCHBOXES
DONATED



19 200
BARS OF SOAP
DONATED



OUR PLAY & LEARN PROGRAMME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

OUR PLAY & LEARN PROGRAMME at over 400 unfunded ECD Centres focuses on training ECD facilitators and strengthening support for them so they are able to create and facilitate stimulating activities for the children in their care.

The programme assists ECD facilitators by providing them with well-developed early learning resources and training programmes to develop their own practical ways of involving children in hands-on activities. We see the adults and children at our centres flourish with the combination of Wordworks' early literacy programme "Every Word Counts", BookDash books in English, isiZulu and isiXhosa to send home, Biblionef books for the classrooms and the well-developed Care For Education LEGO Play & Learn programme with much loved LEGO Duplo bricks. All of these programmes have been designed to ignite the child's potential through play by enhancing social-emotional development and cognitive skills which include creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. We observe ECD Centres integrate the programmes and resources into their work in different manners, as their group sizes and individual settings allow and see their education programmes grow from strength to strength. We are confident that we are setting these children up for a promising start into their formal schooling.



Despite fundamental disruptions, workshop cancellations, postponements and a total closure for about 5 months of most centres, we facilitated many training modules in 2020. As soon as small groups were allowed and centres still closed, our ECD facilitators were very interested to return to training and complete their modules while “their” children still had to stay at home. In numbers, this presents itself as follows:



IMPACT PLAY & LEARN PROGRAMME



7 TRAINING WORKSHOPS
HOSTED AND **87** ON-SITE
FOLLOW UP SESSIONS
CONDUCTED



73 ECD PRACTITIONERS
TRAINED IN WORDWORKS
“EVERY WORD COUNTS”
MODULES 1-6



2 296 CHILDREN JOINED
THE EARLY LITERACY
PROGRAMME IN THESE
CENTRES



176 ECD PRACTITIONERS
TRAINED
IN LEGO PLAY&LEARN



4 800 LEGO PLAY SETS
AND **400** STATIONARY
KITS DONATED
INTO HOMES



386 CLASSROOMS WERE
EQUIPPED WITH **16094**
BARROWS ECD LEARN &
PLAY BOARDS



6 146 BOOK DASH
BOOKS WERE SENT HOME
FOR CHILDREN TO START
THEIR LIBRARIES



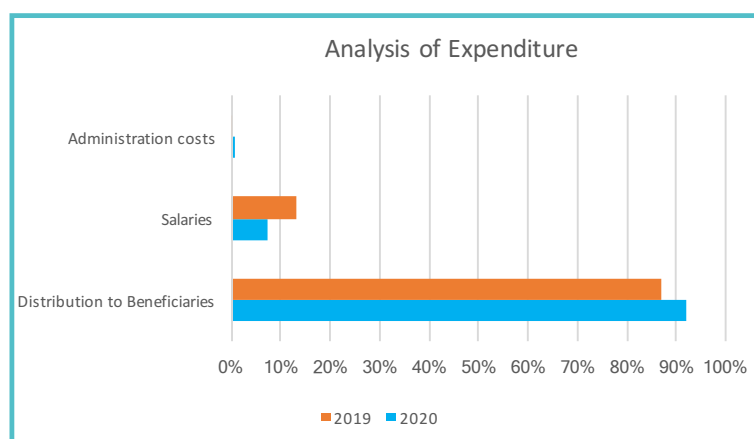
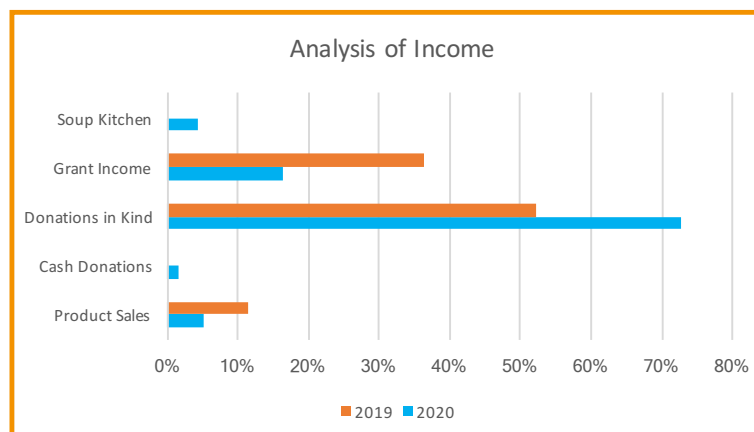
11 PLAYGROUNDS
INSTALLED



FINANCES

OUR FINANCES FOR THE YEAR 2020 REFLECT A GREAT SUCCESS in the donations we were able to secure and distribute to our beneficiaries in this period of extreme and special need. In terms of our income, donations in kind increased by 166%, from over 2,2 million Rand to over 6 million Rand. This huge rise allowed us to significantly increase the value we deliver to our beneficiaries by over 84%, from roughly 4 million Rand to over 7 million Rand.

We exist as a trust to deliver value to the beneficiaries in the communities we serve, and these values reflect the amazing drive and desire by our team and supporters to continue to deliver this value in difficult times. We also collected additional income for the Soup Kitchen Project. Despite added complexity, with closed schools and other pandemic related considerations, that saw a considerable rise in administration costs, we were able to keep all other costs stable and are happy to have kept our percentage of income received to value distributed to beneficiaries consistent to our goal of 90%, whilst also increasing the retained funds for our next year of operation.



OUR SUPPORT STRUCTURE

A MASSIVE THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, DONORS AND NPO PARTNERS WHO HELP US FULFIL OUR MISSION!

2020 saw an entire army of compassionate individuals donate to our causes and was as well the year of supporting soup kitchens and food relief programmes. We were very well positioned for this trend and put the extra funding to good use. Newly won partners always bring opportunities for programme improvement and growth. The core, long-term partnerships keep our ship afloat and allow us to plan. In a growing team of 4 core staff, we continued to work together to increase the quality of Early Childhood Development Services in largely marginalised communities in two of the three poorest of South Africa's provinces.

Our education and play programme would not be possible without the regular donations from our German partner **INHLANHLA e.V.** which has been supporting us since 2007. In 2020, our German friends donated towards the repair and maintenance of 9 playgrounds and 11 newly built jungle gyms at selected ECD sites in KZN.



Inhlanhla contributions furthermore enabled us to install 2 fully fenced, horticultural food gardens at Luthando Pre-School and Vumelani Orphan Care Centre as part of our new "GROWING HOPE" project. Our German friends are regular contributors to our "READERS ARE LEADERS" project as well and their regular support enables us to plan ahead and schedule literacy workshops and resources for the years to come.

Our treasured partner **NETWORK ACTION GROUP** rebranded to **IMPANDE SOUTH AFRICA** and without them, we would not be able to reach out to the communities in the Alfred Nzo District in the Eastern Cape that we support. Our collaborative work at the Mbizana centres ensures a holistic programme for all centres, offering all services. For us, as a team it is of immeasurable value to have a partner who is able to make things happen and often only a crisis will show. 2020 has clearly shown that Impande can get it done.



DGMT has been the catalyst for our growth with their operation strengthening grant in 2018 which was extended to November 2019. Early in 2020, we started a 2 year project with their support in the Mbizana Local Municipality for over 4 500 children. They also blessed us with well received CoCare food vouchers for our poorest communities during lockdown.



The Income Specialists, **MARRIOTT**, one of our longest standing corporate donors, continued to support our nutrition and education programmes in 2020 for which we are most grateful. They also support us with core operating costs such as rent and bookkeeping services to keep us afloat.



We are very proud to announce that the **VICTOR DAITZ FOUNDATION** joined our group of funders last year and has become a beacon of strength for our nutrition programme. Child nutrition is close to their hearts and we found a solid, reliable partner in them. Not only do they support our ECD Centre on-site nutrition programme, they also fund a large-scale holiday feeding initiative.



Our much valued nutrition partner **RISE AGAINST HUNGER AFRICA (RAHA)**, the African branch of the US NGO Rise Against Hunger continued supporting us in uThukela and Mbizana right through 2020 managing supply during all lockdown levels and overcoming all logistical hurdles. They truly live by the SDG #NoHungerBy2030 and their soup packs have proven to be an ideal lunch choice for the ECD Centre kitchens.

A highly nutritious breakfast for 5 000 children on our Mbizana programme has been donated every month by our NPO partner, the **SOUTHERN LODESTAR FOUNDATION**. Their passion is to feed, nurture and grow communities through knowledge and nutrition and they had an immeasurable impact on the development and growth of the children in Mbizana in 2020.



Pietermaritzburg based **WILLOWTON GROUP** also didn't let COVID-19 get in their way of manufacturing and dispatching all the goods for our nutrition and WASH programme in uMgungundlovu and Mbizana and their monthly soap donations have been a saving grace during the pandemic.



Our crowdfunding partner **DIFFERENT.ORG** allowed us early into the COVID-19 lockdown to launch a special "Fill the School Meal Gap" campaign on their wonderful platform. With charming and passionate SA Hockey stars Tim Drummond and Eva de Goede as ambassadors, we reached the target in a record few weeks, matched by the ever generous Different.Org team to maximize the relief impact.



We found a new funder in the **JOAN ST. LEGER LINDBERGH CHARITABLE TRUST**. Their first grant allows us to develop a large scale food garden, a water harvesting system and food security workshops for the entire community around a selected ECD site.

None of these outreach initiatives would have been possible without our logistics partner **CITY LOGISTICS**, absolute angels on the road. Many food items and learning resources have to be collected all over the country and it takes a company like City Logistics to make these programmes possible.



Non-profit organisation **CARE FOR EDUCATION** has continued to supply us with LEGO brick donations for training and distribution to unfunded ECD Centres and for our disaster food relief programme, they added 6-bricks LEGO packs for over 4 800 children to play with at home, what a joy for homebound children.



Our partner **WORDWORKS** came quickly out of the starting blocks in 2020 and early into the school closure period offering most exciting lockdown activities, free stories, games, and info sheets which suited us well.



BOOKDASH has supported us with the most beautiful books for the children to take home this year. Book Dash is a South African social impact publisher of free books for very young children. Their vision is that "Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five" and we are happy to help these books find their home libraries.



Our free and beautifully shelved unit at **LOCK-UP STORAGE** in Goshawk Road, New Germany, has been an absolute bonus this year and thankfully remained open right through all stages of lockdown. It has been a very busy place indeed with shelves filled and emptied each week.

Our artfully branded Toyota Hilux sponsored by the **THEKWINI TOYOTA GROUP** was replaced in August this year with an equally beautiful vehicle. We cannot remember how we ever managed without it. Children come running when they spot the happy bakkie. It has become a beacon of hope in the areas we serve.



BARROWS GLOBAL continued to support our education programme with their versatile ECD learning boards. They produce thousands of retail display units for companies all over South Africa. Whenever the printing of those units results in 'waste' in the form of blank space - areas of cardboard or paper not covered with artwork, the team at Barrows finds a way of repurposing that waste to generate educational material for young children.

This was the fifth year in a row for us to receive a bakkie load full of 256 "love" Christmas gift boxes from the learners, parents and staff of **THOMAS MORE COLLEGE**, the highlight of our festive season. These were handed out to children in a community in Ilembe.

The **HCI FOUNDATION** came on board this year with well assembled food relief boxes from the eMedia campaign during levels 4 and 5 lockdown for 1 421 families in our care.

Professionals who work at no or reduced charge form the backbone of our support system, without whom we would not be able to function.

Gavin Von Der Heyden from **VONDESIGN** looks after our website and everything else IT related, with never failing enthusiasm. We need him regularly and he treats us like a top dollar, paying client. He also organised a month-long, electronic billboard campaign for us in December. What an absolute star.

Having outsourced the bookkeeping to the team from **PATACC** in Hillcrest not only streamlined and improved our systems, it also freed much needed time. We are hugely appreciative of their professional services.

Our friend and accountant **ASHLEY FOXON** is always there to help and set time aside this year to account for the Bellevue Soup Kitchen project.

We enjoyed publicity like never before this year, mainly our very popular Bellevue Soup Kitchen. All PR work has been initiated and closely monitored by **SHIRLEY WILLIAMS COMMUNICATION SERVICES**. With all the unusual limelight, in particular the TV and Radio stations, it was fundamentally important to have Shirley and her team on our side for support.

Our friend **ROGAN WARD** has photographed our launch in 2014 and has been at our side capturing our work with his magic eye and cameras since then.

Whenever an exciting social media post pops up, the clever creative team from **SIMPLY BLACK MEDIA** was behind it and we love their contributions. And if we need help with printed materials, Jocelyn Gray from **ZENITH DESIGNS** transforms our statistics, ideas and photos into wonderful stories.



SPECIAL EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MEALS DAY (ISMD) | 14TH March 2020

ISMD is a unique campaign with the aim of raising awareness of good nutrition for all children, regardless of their circumstances. This year's theme was 'Sharing our Successes', which encouraged young people to think about their favourite food and nutrition projects they've been part of. They were asked where their food comes from and who provides it. Worldwide there is an unprecedented understanding and development of school meal programs as an economic investment strategy for country governments. Efficient school feeding programs serve social protection and development goals by feeding hungry children. This year, we partnered with the inspirational sport coaches from PeacePlayers South Africa to host a morning of good food and fun at Lamula Primary School in Molweni.



BELLEVUE CAFÉ SOUP KITCHEN | April - July 2020

This project was so special it deserves a whole 24 page report on its own. In an collaborative initiative between the ever efficient restaurateurs Guy and Shelley Cluver of Bellevue Café and us, which met with overwhelming support, we cooked 32 500 litres of chicken stew, filled and sealed 51 buckets, added 1 kg rice packs and distributed to the poorest pockets of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. We featured on prime news, several radio shows and newspaper articles over months. Work was created for 15 staff and with that, their families' worries during level 5 lockdown laid to rest. For all of us organisers involved it was clear: getting out of our homes right at the commencement of the hard lockdown was a game changer, not only for our beneficiaries, but also for many of us. It paved the rest of the path for 2020; we had an operating license, we were not going to let our people down, we were on the road, we were going to master this, all of it, and nobody was going to let the pandemic get to them. The Bellevue Soup Kitchen project marks a milestone in our community work, the hope we spread and the smiles we received shall never be forgotten.



MADIBA WEEK | 13 - 18 July 2020

Nelson Mandela's birthday is on 18 July and people everywhere celebrate his birthday by acting on the idea that every person has the power to change the world by spending time on a charitable project. As everything was different in 2020, we scheduled a whole week of special outreaches to celebrate Madiba's legacy. We had a special packing event at "The Kitchen" restaurant at Cotsworld and spoiled 670 households in need with: chicken stew buckets; bread, rice, hand sanitizers, blankets, beanies, LEGO, towels, peanut butter, tea, water bottles. Much of these much appreciated items came in goodie bags from the lovely Sport Department of St. Mary's DSG, Kloof which had been prepared for their annual hockey tournament which they sadly had to cancel. The St. Mary's family can be ensured that their players' disappointment would have been eased by the smiles of all the beneficiaries receiving their filled goodie bags.



WORLD FOOD DAY | 16 October 2020

Friday 16th October 2020 marked World Food Day, a day Zero2Five commemorates each year. Collective action across 150 countries is what makes World Food Day one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. Hundreds of events and outreach activities bring together governments, businesses, NGOs, the media, and general public. They promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all. This year, we assembled a wonderful group of 68 volunteers outside our offices on Bellevue Campus who managed to make 2 000 polony and cheese sandwiches, cut apple slices from The Juice Kitchen and fill 2 000 lunchboxes with the treats.

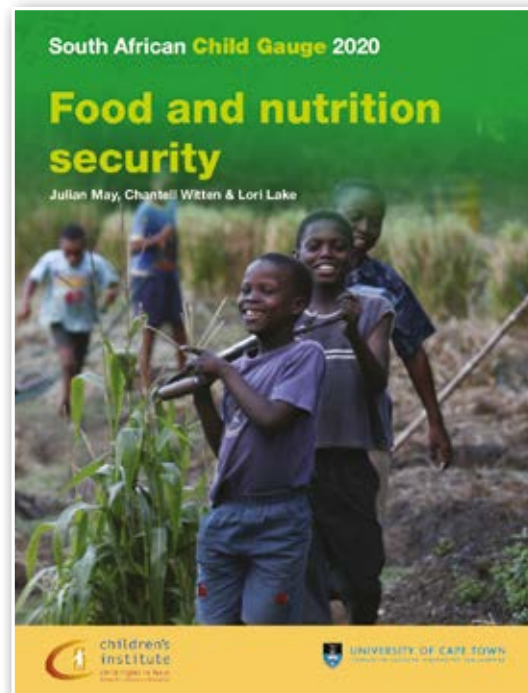


CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICAN CHILD GAUGE 2020

Each year, the South African Child Gauge is published by the Children's Institute. It tracks -progress towards the full protection of children's rights. This year's report was launched on 18 February and shone the spotlight on the "slow violence" of malnutrition and its intergenerational destruction. The report was dedicated to all those children who have had to endure this "attack". South Africa has made little to no progress in eradicating the "slow violence" of child malnutrition in the past 20 years, according to the third edition of the Child Gauge. Its 63 authors - and partners such as UNICEF and the Human Rights Commission of South Africa - are calling for the government to take the report seriously. It calls for it to take action on malnutrition by increasing the child support grant, establishing the National Food and Nutrition Security Council and drawing up a roadmap of how the constitutional rights of children will be fulfilled.

We were delighted to see that our Mbizana "Stop Stunting Campaign" in partnership with Impande is featured as a case study on page 108.

We are hopeful that the loud calls for Early Child Development (ECD) subsidies, national campaigns for exclusive breastfeeding, food fortification and supplementation, as well as social protection policies will be effectively implemented and adequately resourced in the near future.



THANK YOU



MANAGEMENT

Julika Falconer | CEO

Nokubonga Hlongwane | ECD Programme Coordinator

Sinegugu Zulu | Field Worker

Linda Mhlongo | Driver

2019/2020 AUDIT by Turningpoint Consultants

The continued support and input of our Board of Trustees, Partner NPOs and Funders made this monumental growth and success possible. Zero2Five extends a heartfelt thank you to each of you for the role you have played in contributing to the effectiveness of our work.

