

2022

# ACTIVITY REPORT





## CEO'S OVERVIEW

We are pleased to share with you our annual report for 2022 - showcasing the important impact that Zero2Five Trust has made and our achievements in some of the most turbulent 12 months in living history in KwaZulu-Natal.

In 2020 we accepted the interruption of life and learned resilience, compromise, and perseverance. Many of you will join the sentiment that we thought 2020 was a tough, challenging year. Little did we know what 2021 had in store for us. Not only did we overcome the second year of Covid-19 pandemic disruptions, but we also endured the July 2021 violence and most destructive social unrest, followed by the disastrous April 2022 floods. It seems that the ability of the people in KwaZulu-Natal to overcome hardship, already intensively challenged in 2020, was put to another rough and long-lasting test throughout the year that followed.

As a result, Zero2Five was forced, yet again, to swiftly transform in response to rapidly changing circumstances. We repeatedly revisited our strategies, adjusted budgets, and reallocated much-needed resources to suit this change. We have furthermore actively sought and capitalised on new opportunities presented out of adversity and disaster response. As the KZN community continued to face the various challenges brought on, side by side with many local, partnering NPOs, we persevered and helped where we could to continue to respond with life-saving relief to the children enrolled at the ECD centres we support, along with their families and neighbours.

With regard to the extraordinarily disruptive 12-month period starting July 2021, we see our greatest strengths in our ability to swiftly connect those in dire need with immediate disaster response and access to ever willing donors and resources, our ongoing push to continue the early education programs at ECD Centres as best as possible and not least, our unshakable commitment to the communities in our care. As a result, 2021 has been the most significant year of growth and impact for the Zero2Five Trust.

Our staff are skilled, energetic, and committed to making a difference in the lives of young children, their families and the ECD workforce. We thank everyone that has made the past year at Zero2Five a great success.

This includes donors, our non-profit partner organisations, communities and individuals throughout South Africa.

The closing of one financial year brings the start of another, and with that transition comes hope, new goals, and optimism.

We thank you for your support, friendship and guidance this past year.

- Julika Falconer





# THE LONG AND DARK SHADOW OF TWO SHORT-TERM SHOCKS IN KWAZULU-NATAL

## KZN JULY 2021 SOCIAL UNREST RELIEF

Following the July unrest in KwaZulu-Natal, we were asked by several funders to revert on the consequences on the ground for the Early Childhood Development sector. Our assessment was that the unrest has had no direct impact on the infrastructure of any of the 198 KZN ECD centres on our support system insofar as they were spared from any break-ins or looting incidents. The unrest however had a direct impact for most centres in regards to the costs of food, the availability of food and the accessibility thereof. 68% of the ECD centres were not able to get their regular food supplies.

The July unrest exacerbated an already critical situation in terms of extremely high levels of food insecurity due to Covid-19 lockdowns, inaccessibility of National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) meals, high levels of unemployment and widespread poverty, especially in the rural areas of 4 KZN Districts Zero2Five serves. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only crushed under-resourced, fragile health systems, but has been attacking the way children access their education, the way their families earn an income to cover their immediate needs, and how safe they feel in their homes, communities and countries alike.

A massive pledge from the LEGO Foundation in August came just at the right time to boost our nutrition programme for KZN's young children for 6 months of on-site feeding. We also packed 3.500 food parcels for the recipients to send home for their December holidays.

Durban's Victor Daitz Foundation came on board and added a 5 kg bag of highly fortified breakfast porridge for 3.500 families. The Solon Foundation strengthened our team and funded an extra salary for this massive, 6-month campaign and Willowton Group ensured that soaps were added for the supported households to keep up hygiene standards during the holidays and brace for the fourth wave of Covid-19. Marriott Investment Managers provided much needed extra protein in the form of peanut butter jars. This support assisted well over 3.500 families in rural KZN and helped bridge the gap of missing school meals during the long December holidays.





## KZN APRIL 2022 FLOOD RELIEF

Little did we know that we would find ourselves in the next disaster only 9 months later, when the devastating April floods claimed hundreds of lives and left entire communities washed away. With immediate relief grants from the LEGO Foundation, DGMT, Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project, Standard Bank's Tutuwa Foundation, JT Ross Charitable Trust, Illovo Sugar SA and the Grindrod Family Centenary Trust, we assisted affected areas throughout KZN from April. Our initial response was a large-scale assessment, clean-up operation plus the distribution of food donations and warm blankets in eThekweni, Ilembe, uMlalazi and uThukela. Thousands of residents were without safe drinking water due to the floods. Rise Against Hunger KZN assisted with much needed 10l containers of drinking water.

The second phase of Zero2Five's response throughout May and June was to ensure that all 350 unfunded ECD sites on their nutrition program were open and offering a safe and comforting environment for the children enrolled. Vital early learning - which already suffered during the COVID-19 lockdowns - was at risk of being lost again as some pre-schools initially remained closed and affected children who had lost everything at their homes were unable to return to school. By the end of July, over 2.000 families left particularly destitute after the floods had received a food parcel to help through the tough winter months.

Zero2Five's contractor for all playgrounds since 2008, Jungle Gems Hillcrest, repaired 22 playgrounds in eThekweni and replaced 2 broken ones. Smashed plastic furniture has been replaced, 1.000 PVC covered mattresses supplied in 2 Districts and throughout May and June and a warm breakfast and lunch was served to over 10.000 children at these centres. 20.000 Book Dash books for ECD centres were furthermore sourced, all full of inspiring stories of hope and upliftment. Storytime at school will be the only trauma counseling most children in KZN have access to.

The floods are a stark reminder that climate change is happening now, leading to disasters such as torrential rains and floods.

The final, still ongoing phase of our flood disaster relief, therefore, has a stark focus on food security in the ECD Sector. Of the 23 ECD Centres based food gardens installed during 2021, only 3 were spared by the heavy rains and much work was needed to repair and replace fencing, prepare beds and plant new seedlings.

In the uMlalazi Local Municipality, over 50 keen ECD practitioners have enjoyed 3 day hands-on, practical workshops in 'ECD Centre based Sustainable Food Gardens'. These workshops comprise climate adaptation measures, ECD site assessments, skills training, food garden design, water-wise planting, composting etc. As of September 2022, 45 new food gardens have been installed at these centres around Eshowe. To our great delight, Rotary Hillcrest and their partners for the '1000 Survival Gardens Project', assisted us with 45 Hippo Rollers, tools and seed packs for our Eshowe food gardens to date.

With our recent opening of satellite offices in Estcourt and Eshowe, we are now able to implement this large scale ECD food garden project to better safeguard communities against the effects of climate change, with the goal to secure a brighter future for every child. The wonderful experts in the agriculture field, the Siyazisiza Trust from Mtunzini, have been facilitating all the training and follow up mentoring. In addition to providing basic supplies in times of crisis, we continued our focus on 'Project Grow', our ECD centre based food gardens, to empower communities by working with them to create sustainable solutions that have a positive impact on future generations.

The long-term impact that the social unrest in KZN, the devastating April floods and COVID-19 lockdowns will have on the children is of great concern to us. Our hope is that the recent return to our "normal" work and programmes will ensure that the youngest members of our communities will be able to get back to being continuously developing children at thriving ECD centres again.

Our special thank goes to Thekwini Toyota, our longstanding partner for transport. We received the third, brand new bakkie this year. This super practical and reliable vehicle, beautifully branded, is not only a beacon of hope in our poor communities, it also enables us to work where we are needed most: in marginalized, outlying communities.





# ECD FUNCTION SHIFT APRIL 2022

The ECD Function Shift from Department of Social Development (DSD) to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) took place on 1 April 2022. We have been busy supporting National DSD in partnership with Nelson Mandela Foundation and Impande South Africa to roll out the Vangasali campaign seeking to find and register every ECD service in the country. This is an exciting opportunity to embed all the learning and work we have been doing on ECD registration over the past 4 years in all the districts we serve. We work closely with the district offices of the DBE to limit the service delivery interruptions to ECD services and to ensure that the sector continues to grow in government support. Ultimately, it can only be Government support to ECD centres that ensures sustainability and child protection on a large scale.

We take great pride in having assisted over 150 unfunded ECD centres through the registration and subsidy application process since 2018. In the period July 2021- June 2022, **Eight (8) rural ECD centres in the UThukela District have successfully registered, four (4) of which started receiving the conditional grant. In the King Cetshwayo District, fifteen (15) of the rural ECD sites we assisted in the process have successfully registered and eight (8) of the centres are now conditionally funded.**

## AS PART OF OUR ASSISTANCE WITH COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION WE WERE ABLE TO FUND:



**23 ECD CENTRES  
FULLY REGISTERED**



**12 ECD CENTRES  
RECEIVING SUBSIDIES**



**3 CHILD-FRIENDLY  
TOILETS**



**FENCING OF 15  
ECD CENTRES**



**3 NEW  
PLAYGROUNDS**



**22  
PLAYGROUNDS REPAIRS**



*New swing brings great joy for  
Ndalo Mkhize at Luthando Daycare*

All such interventions are rooted in a solid ECD Network that promotes the capacity building of the ECD workforce, shared experiences, exchange of information, collective voice and collaboration.

## TWO NEW SATELLITE OFFICES FOR HELPDESK SERVICES AND RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

In May 2022 we started implementing our partner organisation Impande's model and rolled out our profiling and helpdesk campaign with the goal to improve our service to three of our main areas of outreach. This required us to open two satellite offices, one being in the centre of Eshowe and one in the Public Library in Estcourt. The Solon Foundation and Airlink have made this huge step possible and enabled us to identify and profile unknown ECD services and all those recorded on the 2021 ECD Census report. We now service 145 ECD Centres in Inkosi Langalibalele LM and 126 in uMlalazi LM. The Okhahlamba LM (Bergville) profiling is in process. From our new helpdesk offices, we assist ECD centres with registration and offer training and coaching to build capacity.



# NUTRITION & WASH PROGRAMME

Zero2Five has made great strides in the fight against child hunger and malnutrition in the past 8 years and we continue to seek prevention measures for malnutrition in young children, so that they can thrive and have their best start in formal schooling. We are actively campaigning for adequate nutrition for young children on ECD and community levels and host training workshops for practitioners and parents on an ongoing basis.

A huge part of this is our administration of nutritional support to ECD centres that are not subsidised by the DSD, now DBE, to improve child nutrition and health. This goes hand in hand with regular training on nutrition and WASH, a resource booklet for each centre and the regular supply of soap bars. Our search for the most effective ways of preventing stunting and obesity amongst young children has led us to pilot the inclusion of 8 ECD practitioners in our Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) program in the Alfred Nzo District, Eastern Cape. The practitioners enjoy bi-weekly training in measuring the height, weight and upper arm circumference (MUAC) of the children at their ECD centres, working closely with the local clinics for referrals of at-risk children. We are looking forward to taking our learnings from this pilot further in 2023 when we will scale up this programme.

It is with great pride that we share the following statistics in the areas of nourishing lives, responding to crises and creating sustainable solutions to hunger in our annual report.



**286 636** RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEALS



**36 720** BARS OF SOAP



**2 100 000** INSTANT, FORTIFIED BREAKFASTS



**5300** FOOD PARCELS



**300 000** COOKED LUNCHES



**17** NUTRITION WORKSHOPS



**234** ECD PRACTITIONERS TRAINED



**25** ECD BASED FOOD GARDENS INSTALLED



**11 750** LOAVES OF B&B BREAD

We had 17 full day workshops for 234 ECD practitioners between November 2021 and March 2022.

Topics and revision training included the following:

Covid Q&A, ECD census preparation, Compliance with DSD-ECD revised SOP, LEGO Duplo Playbox activities, WordWorks recap, Nutrition&WASH and Sustainable ECD Food Gardens.

This is what 2 of our workshops participants took away from the workshops...

Slindile Cebekhulu from King Cetshwayo District, uMlalazi LM, Umzamo Crèche said "Wordworks training helps us to teach children easily and they know how to do comparing activities. The Animal charts help us to teach children different types of animals and to do memory games. The children enjoy learning using LEGO because they can learn while playing".

Sibongile Xulu from uMgungundlovu District, Thamboville Area, Masakhane Crèche said: "We learnt about the importance of communication with children that helps them to learn their home language. We learnt about different types of play and how we can use them as learning time. What I liked the most is Storytelling techniques that were introduced to us and the children are loving every minute of it".

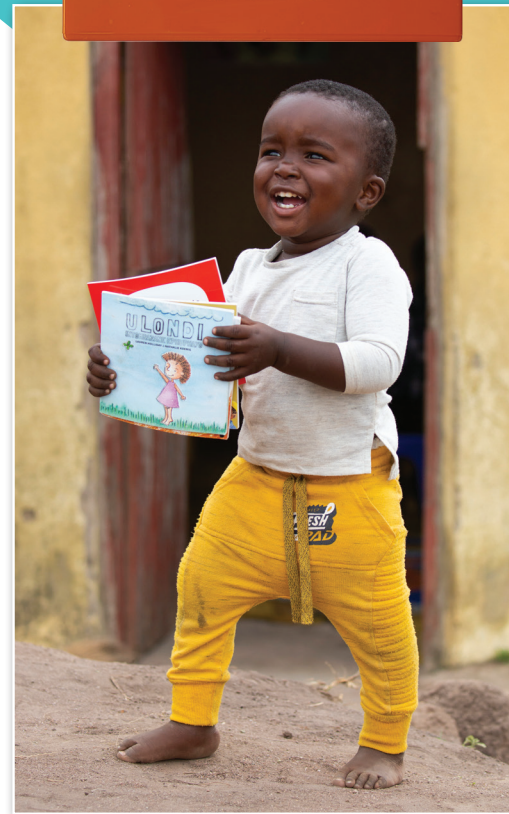


# PLAY & LEARN PROGRAMME

Education plays a fundamental role in community development as it provides a set of basic skills for development, creativity and innovative abilities within individuals. The South African Constitution states that everyone has a right to education. We have continued ECD practitioner training and mentoring for our core, resource-based early learning programmes **Wordworks** 'Every Word Counts' and 'Little Stars' and **LEGO Duplo Play Box**. We integrate the isiZulu programme and resources into our work with ECD practitioners, providing practical ideas for supporting the development of early language and literacy. 139 ECD Practitioners have been trained on EWC this year and 41 of these Practitioners have progressed to "Little Stars", a program designed to strengthen language and emergent literacy in pre-Grade R classrooms. It is interactive, activity-rich, NCF-aligned and is built around a 2-week story-based framework in isiZulu. The ECD teacher training integrates the 'Every Word Counts' core training so that the Little Stars focused teaching time is part of a holistic approach to building strong language across the daily program. This programme is well supported with super resources developed by our partners in early literacy, Biblionef and Book Dash. Our education wizard friends from Biblionef are adding the most valuable ECD Resources boxes with innovative, hands-on educational toys to this program for indoor as well as outdoor activities.

Our much valued partner Care for Education enabled us to further scale up our second and much enjoyed resource program, the Lego Duplo Play Box. Each Play Box contains a variety of elements which are valuable as teaching and learning tools in any curriculum, from early childhood to adulthood. A Play Box provides opportunities for activities which promote skills development and learning through play. DUPLO can be used to support a wide range of early learning domains. A lot of time is spent playing and practicing DUPLO activities that help children to understand direction, location, spaces, shapes, colours, numbers, quantity, sequence, dimension, size and similarities, differences and much more.

It is a happy talent to know how to play.  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Basanda Cebekhulu; Umzamo Crèche



**317** LEGO DUPLO  
PLAY BOXES DONATED



**5190**  
LEGO 6-BRICKS PACKS



**26 000**  
BOOK DASH BOOKS



**17** ECD TRAINING  
WORKSHOPS



**7** BIBLIONEF ECD  
RESOURCE BOXES



**15** PLAY@HOME  
PARENTING WORKSHOPS



**139** PRACTITIONERS  
TRAINED FOR EWC



**41** PRACTITIONERS  
TRAINED FOR LITTLE STARS



**9984** CHILDREN  
LEARNT THROUGH PLAY



# PLAY@HOME PARENTING PROGRAMME

In 2021, we were fortunate to be invited by Care for Education to join several other NPOs in the ECD space to develop a hands-on parenting programme. It is a well-known fact that focused, parent-child engagement is critical for a child's holistic development and that educating a child should be a team effort and all three members of the team, child, parent and teacher. In the rural, poor setting we work in, this is not always understood and/or possible. A triangle beautifully illustrates this relationship where all 3 have to play their part. Parenting is an ongoing process that should advocate for active participation, communication and relationship building between parent and child. The Play@Home workshops have been designed to provide a positive behaviour strategy for parents so that they can engage at a physical (hands-on) level with their child. We rolled out the Play@Home pilot early 2022 at 3 rural ECD centres in the uThukela District, hosting monthly workshops at each of the 3 centres for a total of 50 parents and caregivers of all ages and are looking forward to scaling this up in the years to come. These well attended parenting workshops present a perfect opportunity for book donations to assist our most creative friends from Book Dash with their mission: Book Dash believes that **every child should own one hundred books by the age of five**.



Omphile and Ntombi Mazibuko walking home, Malottas Kraal Bergville

## NEDBANK / WILDLANDS YES for YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

The Zero2Five team has been strengthened with YES Youth interns from 1. May 2021 thanks to a collaboration with Wildlands and Nedbank. It is widely known that South Africa faces numerous economic and social challenges, not the least of which is the unemployment crisis. The Covid-19 pandemic has compounded this situation and latest official statistics show the unemployment rate

has reached 35,3%. Of great concern, 66,5% of this number is composed of our youth, **making this group the most vulnerable in the South African labour market**. In addition, it is estimated two thirds of unemployed youths reside in impoverished communities and that women are more likely to be employed than men. Alarming, **black women make up a huge majority (90%) of unemployed women from all groups in the country**. In summary, our unemployment numbers are disturbingly high and have been rising consistently with the pandemic. Aware of the fact that all sectors of society have been impacted, the poor and marginalised have been hardest hit, and black women have suffered the most.



Poppy Hlongwane, T. Yende, Z. Mazibuko, Z. Ndlovu, N. Dubazane, Z. Madondo, N. Hlongwane, Sne Zulu

One of the leading initiatives to alleviate youth employment is the Youth Employment Services (YES) 4 Youth Initiative, a joint government and private sector partnership aimed at combating youth unemployment, launched in 2018. Zero2Five has enjoyed the placement of 6 young ladies in the recruitment circle from May 2021 until April 2022 and a further 5 YES recruits from June 2022. This is a "learn and earn" initiative as participants receive a stipend during this period. On completion of the program, our YES recruits have developed a good understanding of the ECD sector, obtained general business skills and an enhanced chance of finding employment, in particular in the ECD sector. Once trained for all our resource-based programs, our YES Youth continues to strengthen our team on the ground with widespread on-site mentoring at ECD sites in two of our main impact areas, the uThukela and King Cethswayo Districts.



# SPECIAL EVENTS 2021

## FOOD PARCEL PACKING NOVEMBER 2021

Using the wonderful, leafy space around our offices at Bellevue Campus, in November we packed **3500 food parcels** to the rim to help families bridge the gap of missing school meals during the December break. Over 150 volunteers had their hands on deck, many of them are fabulous co-tenants and personal friends. What a day filled with gratitude, banter and hard work.



## THOMAS MORE ANNUAL LOVE BOXES DECEMBER 2021

Regardless of the number of centres we scaled our programme support to, the centre where it all started will always have a special place in our hearts. And without fail, every year Little Stars Playschool in Asheville, Ilembe, enjoys a special **Christmas party** we host for them and a flood of “love boxes” from the wonderful Thomas More College community. A heartfelt and special THANK YOU goes to the learners, parents and staff at Thomas More College for their continued support of beautifully wrapped and well sourced

love boxes for well over 450 children, all marked for certain ages and many containing beautiful messages of love and hope. Every year, we are blown away by this exemplary school outreach and the smiles on the faces of the lucky recipients in several rural communities.





# FINANCES

Zero2Five Trust is committed to maintaining financial integrity and transparency. Our operations are conducted pursuant to an annual operating budget that is reviewed and approved by our Board of 6 Directors.

Our total income for the year was R 11 229 283.00, made up of R 6.5 Million in donations in-kind.

The majority of this funding was for the delivery of our 3 core ECD programmes Nutrition & WASH, Education & Play and Capacity Building of the ECD workforce.

R 2.5 Million was allocated to the two disaster relief campaigns. In light of the pandemic, the two disruptive disasters and the associated economic hardships, we are very pleased that we have been able to deliver significant investments for the ECD centres on our various programmes during this year.

Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions related to our finances or request a copy of our audited financial statements for a more detailed overview of our finances.



Isibani Crèche in Winterton  
exploring LEGO Duplo



L. Sbiya, A. Zondi, L. Shabalala, M. Bhangi and ECD  
practitioner Yolanda Shabalala, Hammarsdale



# DONORS

OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF DONORS AND OUR NPO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS WHO PARTNER WITH US TO ENHANCE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ACCESS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED.

As Zero2Five has grown, we have committed to investing in and improving Early Childhood Development programs in marginalized, rural communities and highlight the important issues that still need to be tackled.

This year's contributions have been instrumental in helping us implement large-scale disaster relief, on one hand, and to enrich and develop our programmes and organisational capacity on the other. We are grateful for our amazing donors, partner associations and supporters who, over the past 8 years, have helped us realize our mission of helping those who are materially poor.

THANK YOU!

## INSTITUTIONAL:

The LEGO Foundation

Standard Bank  
**tutuwa**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SUGAR  
**ILLOVO**  
AFRICA

**WILLOWTON**  
GROUP  
A better way of living

**DG MT**

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**AFRICA OUTREACH PROJECT**

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**AIRLINK**  
Freedom of the African Sky

**DIVERENT**  
.ORG

**PREMIER FOODS**

**GRINDROD FAMILY**  
Centenary Trust  
— Anchored in Education —

**B B**  
FINEST QUALITY BAKERIES  
SINCE 1993  
BORN IN BREAD IN KZN

**JT ROSS**  
PROPERTY GROUP



THE VICTOR DAITZ FOUNDATION

## NON-PROFIT PARTNERS:

**impende**

**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER  
food • community • sustainability

**CARE FOR EDUCATION**

**Wordworks**  
Changing lives through literacy

**book dash**

**BIBLIONE**

**UZWELO**  
EST. 2016

**Inhlanhla e.V.**

**Lulamaphiko**  
New pathways for young children

**rollahuppo**  
FOUNDATION

**GAGA**  
GOODWILL & GROWTH  
FOR AFRICA UK

**Rotary**  
Club of Gibsons

**WILDLANDS™**

**Robin hood**  
FOUNDATION

**1000 Survival Gardens**  
PROJECT

**SIYAZISIZA**  
TRUST

**INANI Start Well**  
FOUNDATION

## STRATEGIC/ PRO-BONO:

**Thekwini Toyota**  
the king of Toyota dealers

**LOCK UP STORAGE**  
SELF STORAGE GARAGES FOR RENT

**VonD**

**SW**  
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

**bigen**

**TMC**  
Thomas More College

**CITY LOGISTICS**  
"Customer focused, solutions driven..."

**RW**

**BELLEVUE CAFE**

**Catalyx**

**Zenith designs**  
WEBSITE DESIGN  
ADVERTISING & BRANDING

**QINFOTECH**  
BUSINESS IT SOLUTIONS



## OUR TRUSTEES

Nicolas Kinsley | Attorney | Chairman  
David Sweidan | Vice Chairman  
Evidence Neliswe Ntaka | Project Co-ordinator  
Michael Dos Santos  
Belinda Francis Scott | Treasurer  
Nathi Ngubane | Sport Programme Co-ordinator

## MANAGEMENT

Julika Falconer | CEO  
Nokubonga Hlongwane | ECD Programme Co-ordinator  
Sinegugu Zulu | Field Worker  
Nokukhanya Zulu | Field Worker  
Linda Mhlongo | Driver

**ACCOUNTS:** Turningpoint CA (SA), Durban

## 2021/2022 AUDIT:

Chris Steyn, CA (SA), Hillcrest

Malotta Kraal Network Nonhlanhla Sibiya,  
Lethiwe Mthambu, Tholakele Ntsingila,  
Nomusa Nsunthsha, Mirroam Dlamini  
and Thandi Cindi

