

Sawabona Africa e.V.

Blog Posts Archive

Compiled 24 September 2026, before retirement of the original live pages during the website rebuild.

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Blog Posts

Christmas time - in the southern Hemisphere

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

Christmas in South Africa: When I was young, I thought that everyone celebrates Christmas just like we did. We were not exposed to how it could be to be poor, however there were Christmas donation drives for food and gift parcels. Then moving to Germany, every Christmas time the question came up, how is it to celebrate Christmas in the summer. In this blog I will share how it is to celebrate Christmas in South Africa, and how the beneficiaries of Sawabona Africa celebrate and what their biggest wish for Christmas is.

Christmas is in summer. We do not drink glühwein and have Christmas markets. As a child of a British mother, our Christmas was rather 'traditional', our Christmas tree was surrounded by presents, our stockings were put outside our bedroom door, waiting for Santa Claus (we called him Father Christmas) to fill it up for us to unpack on Christmas Day (25. December). A feast full of turkey, ham, Christmas pudding filled with coins and laced with brandy butter and cream. As we grew older, the practical side of my parents kicked in, and they settled for a South African Braai (barbecue) or a table filled with cold meats and salads. The day after Christmas (26. December) is a beach day. Thousands upon thousands of holiday-makers flock to the beach.

Unaware of the differences in cultures and income levels, I have to confess, I did not ask the question how is it to have very few resources and whether black South Africans celebrated in the same way as we did. Beaches were divided until the end of apartheid. We lived separate lives.

How do our beneficiaries celebrate Christmas?

I asked our beneficiaries to share with me how they celebrate Christmas. A similar theme runs through Christmas: FOOD! However, no ham, turkey and Christmas pudding to be found on the list. Meat of all kinds – chicken, boerewors (sausage) and all types of meat specifically grilled, with rice and dumplings and sometimes salad, seem to be particular favourite. Children are excited about the amount of sweets, cake and deserts that are on offer particularly jelly and custard. Being together with family, playing loud music and dancing is the order of the day.

What about Christmas gifts?

Santa Claus seems not to visit our beneficiaries families, children do not wake up to stockings, however gifts are exchanged. Learners wish for clothes. They long for the latest Converse, Nike, or adidas shoes – brands out of their reach due to the price tag. Some gift clothes before christmas so they have something special on christmas day. Many children dream of receiving electronic gifts, new phones, laptops, play stations and games. Sadly for most families these are completely out of reach. I wish I had a magic wand and could grant them all their wishes. There are however many in South Africa who have big charitable hearts.

Giving back

Christmas is a time of giving, throughout South Africa, charities, schools and caring individuals rally together to collect food, toys, clothes and stationery to put together into boxes and packages to gift to those who are less fortunate. I recently received a bag of second-hand soft toys which I squeezed into my bag and donated to an orphanage for Christmas. For many these are the only gifts they receive.

Can we make a difference

The projects we support, all supporting disadvantaged children in their communities, do what they can to support the most vulnerable. They gather donations, host a Christmas event to celebrate the end of the school year and wish them well for their holidays. Children are treated and honoured.

Through Sawabona Africa we offer the opportunity for you to gift a friend a Christmas voucher which is a donation to our projects. This ensures that more children can be supported and be gifted the gift of education, a truly precious gift.

Old URL: /christmas-in-the-southern-hemisphere/

Falling in love with PYMA – supporting township After School Programmes

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

Imagine going to school in a class that is overcrowded. Hungry. You have started school without the basic fine motor skills, or entry level language skills and you just can't keep up. When you go home after school, you have nobody to help you with your homework, or your caregiver can not read. Your neighbourhood is rife with gangs, drugs, alcohol abuse, crime and high unemployment. As a young woman, you may have been exposed to Gender Based Violence and cannot go to school when you have a monthly cycle as you have no sanitary products. This is the reality faced by the majority of black children growing up in the townships of South Africa. But there is hope for many children. In this blog you will learn about my encounter with PYMA and opportunities offered to children through afterschool academies such as PYMA.

In my blog 'Growing up under apartheid'. I wrote about the state of education in South Africa. It goes without saying that those who have resources have a safe space to study, have access to books, internet, receive support with homework and a plethora of extra mural activities. The remaining children attending no fee-paying schools are those that fall behind in school and do not have a safe space to go to afterschool. This structural inequality gap can be successfully bridged through After School Programmes.

What is the inequality gap experienced by disadvantaged learners?

Students in no fee-paying schools face a plethora of challenges: On an academic level, they attend overcrowded classes, their teachers lack full knowledge of the subject matter they teach, and higher teacher absenteeism. On a health and safety level, many children go to school hungry, are exposed to risky behaviour such as Gender Based Violence, drugs and gangs. Many caregivers have long commutes to work, and lack time to support them with homework after class and often limited literacy levels. Many schools lack resources such as books, e-learning and do not offer extra mural activities (art, sport, games). It is no surprise that the learners attending these schools fall behind academically in so many ways or drop out of school early.

What do afterschool programmes offer?

After School Programmes (ASP's) are more than a safe space for children to come to after school. They 'fill the gaps between kinds of support middle-and working-class children receive by providing targeted support to schools, teachers, caregivers and learners.' Interventions can differ between programmes, however in South Africa a key focus is on the school curriculum for learners, where children have

targeted lessons to supplement the learning gaps at school. In addition, ASP's provide opportunities for e-learning, mentoring, tutoring, extra mural activities (arts and crafts, sport) and school leavers are assisted in applying for university and accessing student grants.

Love at first sight

When starting Sawabona Africa, I came across Phakamani Young Minds Academy (PYMA), conducting an After School Programme in the heart of Soweto a township in South Africa. PYMA offers all the above support to learners in the local community. After a fruitful email exchange with Mthandazo Khumalo executive director, I decided to go with my husband Claus to do a site visit and meet the team. Claus was nervous driving into a township after all the bad press about crime in South Africa, but we were assured that there would be no problem. What we experienced will stay with us for ever. We were welcomed by locals on the street and received only positive vibes from the community. The PYMA team was sharing a tiny room at the back of a house, there was no space for us to sit. They shared with us how the academy started in a garage at the home of the founder's grandmothers house and how it has grown. We drove together, squashed in our car to the academy, and were blown away. One container classroom, 4 – 5 classes happening simultaneously, school children eager to learn undistracted by the other lessons. The energy of staff, tutors, all students was enchanting. We were hooked.

We asked what was their most pressing need. A new classroom. They had more learners interested in attending the academy, but 1 classroom was not sufficient. We agreed after the due diligence was completed to raise funds for a new container classroom to help them reach more children. Fast track to the delivery of the first container, the joy I experienced receiving videos and pictures all day of the truck arriving to the completion of the classroom is still felt today. On video, we can hear Mthandazo say 'Wow it is big' as they had expected a classroom half the size.

Celebrating with the community.

We flew in to Soweto for a beautiful celebration with learners, tutors, parents and staff. Paving stones were still being layed, Claus had to dig a hole in a stony ground to plant a lemon tree and the chorus of joy ran far and wide throughout the community so much that the waiting list for the academy continues to grow.

We are on a mission to purchase as many classrooms as PYMA needs. The more classrooms they have, the more children they can support to get the quality after school support they deserve. Every euro donated goes directly to this project.

Old URL: /falling-in-love-with-pyma/

Being educated in apartheid South Africa to founding Sawabona Africa

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

What was it like growing up under apartheid? Was there a difference in the education you received as a white person compared to the rest of the population? What was your reality? These are the questions I reflect on even more since starting Sawabona Africa.

Growing up as a white person in South Africa under apartheid (a system that institutionalised racial segregation) gave you access to privileges that the majority of South Africans were denied. When apartheid came to an end in 1994, the promise of hope for the millions of South Africans under the leadership of Nelson Mandela was high. As Mandela was champion for children's rights, we hoped that this imbalance would change. Did it? In this blog you will learn about my experience of education, what is the reality now and the driving force behind starting the Non-Profit-Organisation Sawabona Africa.

Under apartheid South Africa was segregated. Whites lived in the best areas, black and coloured communities were forcibly removed from their homes to live in townships and Pass laws were applied

where blacks needed permission to enter a 'white only' neighbourhood. Even though I attended a public school with exceptionally low (almost free) school fees, I had access to world class education, schools with endless sports fields, excellent teachers and facilities. We were banned from talking about politics, information was censored or banned and what we heard was controlled too. While in my final year of school a friend was jailed without trial for carrying banned literature.

I was set up to gain a top university degree in law and psychology, and had a wealth of career opportunities I took for granted when I was younger.

In contrast, the majority of Black South Africans lived in extreme poverty, received inferior education, often not in their home language, teachers were less qualified, schools were overcrowded leaving the majority many illiterate, uneducated and received minimal wages to do menial jobs.

Change was needed

I was part of the crowds in Cape Town welcoming the release of Nelson Mandela, the first democratically elected president of South Africa who spent 27 years as a political prisoner in jail. I joined the chorus celebrating the end of apartheid at our first democratic elections in 1994. South Africa finally had the chance to change what was so inherently wrong with the education system. The white only schools I attended were now available to black South Africans, however their subsidies were reduced and they had to charge fees which poor South Africans could not afford. Policies and frameworks were written and budgets were allocated.

How does the education system look nearly 30 years on?

In 2020 Amnesty International wrote a report on education in South Africa: 'Broken and Unequal'. This report highlighted what I had personally observed: "A child's experience of education in South Africa still very much depends on where they are born, how wealthy they are, and the colour of their skin."

This report details the shocking state of education in South Africa, how many schools are even lacking basic sanitary facilities such as running water or latrines, and many schools in a complete state of disrepair. A recent survey revealed that 81 percent of grade 4 learners (aged 10) can not read for meaning in South Africa.

My mission to make a meaningful difference in South Africa

I moved to Germany in 2006 and wanted to do something meaningful to help disadvantaged South Africans. The IEA's PIRLS report came out at the same time as I made a decision to finally follow my childhood dream of starting a non-profit to help poor South Africans receive quality education. I have always had a fierce drive for justice, equality and fairness and this report confirmed and validated my journey to start Sawabona Africa.

I am saddened by the state of education in South Africa and we cannot wait for the government to act on empty promises, and if they do it will be too slow or not enough as the need is far too big.

Supporting education is the only way to make meaningful change in lives of communities. We together can work with a few handpicked charities on the ground in South Africa who are changing lives, and equipping people to gain meaningful work and break the cycle of poverty.

Would you like to join me and give hope for a better future through education? Learn more and donate to one of our projects.

Sources cited: Amnesty International 2020: BROKEN AND UNEQUAL – THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA (Index: AFR 53/1706/2020); PIRLS 2021 International Results in Reading.

Old URL: /blog-journey-to-sawabona-africa/

Back to School in South Africa: School readiness gaps for children in South Africa

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

When I moved to Germany, I learnt about the 'Schultüte'. This is a cone given to children when they start the first class filled with everything children need for school and loads of sweets. In South Africa, learners start their school year in January without a 'Schultüte'. In this blog I explore the pressing issue of inadequate school readiness for the vast majority of South Africans.

When I started school in South Africa, I was well prepared. After 2 years of pre-school (Kindergarten), I was well equipped with my school uniform (still mandatory in South Africa), school books and stationery. I had the required baseline to start school: I could recognise pictures, count, and had all the required level of fine motor coordination required to set me up for my 12 years of schooling. This is still the reality for privileged South Africans, however for the many underprivileged children this is not the case. The beginning of their educational journey starts with a continuing lack of resources and comes with significant challenges due to a lack of adequate preparation in early childhood.

Understanding the school readiness gap and the lack of resources:

Before starting school at age 6 or 7, children attend a Pre-School, called Early Learning Programme (ELP) officially. The expectation is that children are all ready to start with formal schooling. Is this the case?

Statistics paint a concerning reality: A staggering 65% of children in South Africa who attend an Early Learning Programme (ELP) are not adequately prepared to start school due to inadequate Early Childhood Development (ECD) opportunities.

Why do these gaps exist?

Sadly, in South Africa there is a lack of high-quality ELPs. Many don't have educational toys (or any toys), care givers are untrained, and children are often malnourished. The lack of learning of basic skills results in a significant portion of children being ill-equipped for formal schooling. This perpetuates a cycle of academic challenges and limits opportunities for these young learners.

The gap continues throughout schooling

The gap is also experienced by learners throughout their school years. Whether children are starting school for the first time, or just starting a new year, children are ill-equipped. Families cannot afford school uniforms, children continue to go to school hungry, and do not have the required stationery or resources (e.g. school books) required to help them succeed. It is a luxury to own a laptop, which is now required for most school learners for their homework, school projects and on-line learning. This paints a bleak reality for the majority of South African children.

Empowering South Africa's youth

Recognizing the urgency of addressing this gap, Non-profit organizations and local communities are stepping up to bridge the gap in school readiness. Sawabona Africa's mission is clear: to equip underprivileged children with the necessary tools for a successful start to their educational journey and support local charities that are providing the necessary interventions. We partner with charities who deliver high quality ECD to children, and / or support children afterschool with supplementary educational resources. We aim to empower these children and level the playing field.

How can you help

You too can play a pivotal role in transforming the educational landscape for these children. Your support, whether through donations, sponsoring a child's education, or spreading awareness, contributes to ensuring every child's readiness for school and for their success in life.

Join us in this mission to unlock the potential of South Africa's youth through education and support one of our partner charities.

Source cited: Thrive By Five Index Report, April 2022.

Old URL: /back-to-school-south-africa/

A small contribution – a large impact: Child Sponsorship in South Africa

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

Do you still remember your first day at school? How excited you were, what your classroom looked like and how quickly you learned to read and write or learn maths? This is not a matter of course everywhere.

In South Africa, a good school education usually depends on the financial means of the parents. Unfortunately, the colour of your skin and where you were born still largely determines which school a child attends. Bright Start not only provides poorer children with a good education through sponsorships, it also supports them in their overall long term development. In this blog you will learn more about the school situation in South Africa and how you can help a child receive a better education by sponsoring a child.

Free government schools in South Africa often do not provide children and youth with an adequate education. Children's literacy has been declining in recent years. The number of school dropouts is also increasing rapidly, due to teenage pregnancy, early exposure to drugs and gangs, among other factors. All of this affects the majority of children in South Africa and results in a low education outcomes.

The root lies in the system

If parents wish to send their children to a school that will provide them with a good education, they have to be able to afford to pay the school fees. The reason for this lies in the system:

Government (public) schools are subsidized, the same as in Germany, however the amount of the subsidy the school receives depends on the poverty of the neighbourhood where the school is located – the poorer the neighbourhood, the more support they receive. What sounds good at first impression, this actually turns out to be a disadvantage for poorer children when one looks deeper, because these subsidies cannot cover the entire cost of education. Schools in affluent areas therefore charge high fees to cover the costs of operation, employ more teachers, pay their salaries and keep the learner – teacher ratio lower. In contrast to schools in poorer areas, who rely 100% on the subsidy resulting in overcrowded classes and minimal resources available to the children.

Bright Start: holistic development and support for disadvantaged children

Through a good friend of mine, I became aware of Bright Start. He was raising money for charity for the Cape Epic, a challenging mountain bike race in South Africa, and I learnt more about the child sponsorship programme. This caught my attention.

Their model convinced me from the start, because they not only pay the school fees, but also support the children in their everyday lives and encourage their educational and personal development. This is crucial, as most of the time these support structures are lacking. Often, the children's parents or caregivers can barely read, if at all, and are therefore unable to help them with their studies or homework. They can not afford health checks or extra mural activities and do not have structures for the children in place. This is exactly where the Bright Start model comes in and supports parents and children.

Bright Start's holistic program offers after-school care, sports and recreational activities, an open ear for all problems and concerns, and trains children to take responsibility for their own learning.

Thus, it is completely focused on the all round development of the child above and beyond a good education. This fosters self-confidence and independence they need as they grow up.

From mission to vision

Sharon, the co-founder of Bright Start, explains why she started Bright Start:

“My daughter and I were financially supporting two students from the local poor community for some time. We quickly realized that we needed to focus on more than just paying the school fees. For the children to succeed at school, they need tutoring, help with homework, they need to be healthy and so much more. That’s when we came up with the idea for Bright Start.”

We support Bright Start by offering sponsorships from Germany for children from the first to twelfth grade.

Would you also like to sponsor a child? Learn more via our Bright Start Sponsorship Programme.

Sources cited: PIRLS 2021 Overview of Key Findings (Quelle: Zenex Foundation, 2023); Increase in number of out-of-school children and youth in SA in 2020 (Quelle: Statistics South Africa, 2022).

Old URL: /child-sponsorship-south-africa/

On the road in South Africa: A Journey of impact

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

South Africa, a popular tourist destination. Breathtaking scenery, the famous winelands, Michelin quality dining at a small price, a beautiful friendly rainbow nation that welcomes tourists with open arms are just some of the reasons that people visit South Africa and keep coming back. I visit South Africa with a different purpose. Apart from visiting old friends and family, I now have new Sawabona Africa friends and partners who make my visit so memorable and full of joy and hope. Join me in this blog as I take you behind the tourist spots to meet some of our remarkable partner charities.

Hout Bay and Bright Start: A spark of potential

Hout Bay is the most magnificent Bay, on one side the starting point of the spectacular Chapman's Peak Drive. On the other side, the magnificent mountain 'Sentinel'. Also home to Bright Start, one of our partner charities who offer child sponsorships for children of the 2 townships in Hout Bay. This visit, I was accompanied by Coco, one of our dedicated volunteers and certified South Africa fan, to meet the team at Bright Start. This was Coco's first visit to Bright Start. We met with the staff Virginia (the Programme Coordinator) and Phiwe (educational support specialist) who shared their insights into the challenges children face in their communities, and the efforts they make to keep learners on track in their studies, despite many challenges they face at home.

In burst the new high school learners, eager to meet Virginia who was conducting self-reflection sessions with the students as their first year at school year had just started. Their excitement was electric and they looked fabulous in their new school uniforms. The children really do appreciate being given a chance to attend a good school and shared their dreams with us.

Moving moments:

Later on that week, I received a message from Qama, our Sawabona Africa sponsored learner that her mother would love to meet me and thank me in person for all Sawabona Africa does. I could not miss this opportunity, and it was really worth it! It was very humbling to hear her story and her determination for her 2 daughters to have a good education so they can have a better life!

Nurturing Connections with Uthando (Love)

A short rendezvous with James from Uthando (love) SA is a must-do in Cape Town. Despite his

incredibly busy calendar he always makes time for me. Uthando (love) offers Philanthropic Educational Tours. I did not join a tour this time, but took the time to connect one to one. Our conversations are open, loving and supportive. One of the pillars of our relationship is transparency. Even though our partnership with Uthando (Love) SA is new, our shared wish to support projects in under-resourced communities is aligned and we share the same passion for the work we do!

Uthando (Love) Project: 'Learn to Earn'

One of our Uthando (Love) projects we support is 'Learn to Earn'. They were delighted to receive their first donation from Sawabona Africa and we were welcomed with open hearts to their learning centre. The centre was buzzing with activity. The new intake of eager adults learning skills that will hopefully help them earn an income, were starting their new courses. We were sorry to arrive too early to purchase freshly baked muffins, and the first lesson at the sewing class was underway where they were learning how to thread a sewing machine. What impresses me as always is the eagerness and focus of everyone attending their skills development courses. The walls were filled with notes and drawings from their workshops.

Leaving Cape Town for Soweto

Many visitors to South Africa spend their time in Cape Town, and when they head up north, they skirt through Johannesburg on their way to a Safari to see the Big 5. Johannesburg is a city of overfull highways, which seem to go on forever. Loadshedding (when the electricity provider cuts supply for up to 12 hours a day) at traffic lights has activated the creative spirit of unemployed locals trying to make some money directing traffic or doing acrobats while you wait your turn. I am petrified watching these dare-devils do their stunts.

I head to Freedom Park, the home of PYMA.

Pioneering Progress with PYMA

This trip was extra special, as we have received Grant funding to support 3 projects with PYMA. Bokang (founder of PYMA) took a day off work to help us brainstorm and drill deeper into the project scope of these projects. Our day was filled with good laughs, wise words while the energy of planning for these projects kept us going in the hot Johannesburg summer heat. Our classrooms are needing a coat of paint after the move, and the new venue also needs to find its shape. This is not a deterrent to the learners. The place is bursting at the seams and there is need for more container classrooms, as the waiting list just gets longer and longer. It was heartbreaking to see them turn away an eager father wishing to enrol his child at the academy.

Embracing the power of impact!

As I reflect on the faces, the stories, the moments shared, I am reminded of the incredible significance of our work. Every life we support with our donations is changed in ways we cannot imagine. I am the lucky one to receive their heartfelt gratitude for flying the flag for their work in Germany. I wish every reader of this blog to see and feel this gratitude.

There is power in human connection, our donations and support have such impact in under resourced poor communities, and despite all the bad press and challenges in South Africa, we are touching lives and we can create a ripple of hope and meaningful impact that resonates beyond our borders.

Join me and let's do more.

Old URL: /on-the-road/

Sawabona Africa and Uthando (love): our partnership

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

Flying into Cape Town International Airport gives you the first glance of the breadth of experience, which awaits you. The pilots often give you an aerial view of the coastline and Table Mountain, and as you get closer to the airport you catch a glimpse of the massive townships almost backing onto the runway. This is where our partner charity Uthando (love) South Africa is making a meaningful contribution. Read this blog to find out more.

In South Africa, the terms “township” or “location” usually refer to the often underdeveloped racially segregated urban areas that, from the late 19th century until the end of apartheid, were reserved for non-whites, namely Black Africans, Coloureds and Indians. Townships were usually built on the periphery of towns and cities. Many townships are under-resourced and face many social challenges and obstacles e.g. high unemployment and food insecurity.

Uthando (love)’s work in the townships of Cape Town

Uthando (love) South Africa (hereafter Uthando (love)), founded by James Fernie, is a Cape Town based non-profit and an award-winning model of Responsible Tourism and Philanthropy. Uthando (love) is connecting an extensive network of international tourism partnerships to meaningful local community development initiatives in the townships of Cape Town.

Uthando (love) takes tourists on an alternative to the classic township tour – Philanthropic Educational Excursions. Their philanthropic educational excursions shine a light and raise funds for community development projects to which they can donate.

James speaks of how incredibly proud he is of the truly resilient, courageous, kind, inspiring and innovative community development projects and social entrepreneurs who are building their respective communities in Cape Town despite enormous challenges and obstacles. He has a deep and sincere desire to share these stories with the world, touching people’s hearts and motivating investment so that they can flourish and expand their impact.

Our partnership with Uthando

With Uthando we have found an organisation that shares our values and helps where help is needed – directly in the Townships of Cape Town. Currently Sawabona Africa supports 5 projects focussed on education and skills development:

The **Pebbles Project** provides children from farming communities access to quality education programmes, health, nutrition and social work services.

Abalimi Bezekhaya develops small scale urban organic farming skills to locals in townships to help them grow their own vegetables and tackle food insecurity.

Learn to Earn is a skills development and job creation organisation that develops skills to help unemployed people find meaningful employment and build life skills. Such skills include sewing, baking and office admin skills.

The Amy Foundation develops and empowers youth through afterschool and skills development programmes.

The **Goal50 ECD (Early Childhood Development) Centre** will be built from tyres, plastic bottles filled with rubbish (eco bricks), polyurethane film set waste blocks and recycled materials.

Donors in Germany can also visit all the projects and book philanthropic excursions with Uthando through tour operators. One such organisation is Wild Life Culture Tours who actively support our projects.

Together, we can make a lasting difference. Join us in supporting these worthy causes today.

Old URL: /sawabona-africa-uthando-partnership/

Maths and Science score in South Africa close to lowest globally

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa

When I was first introduced to algebra, I could not get my head around it. I struggled to follow the pace of my teacher. My parents supported me with extra maths tutoring to help bridge the small learning gaps. Eventually it made sense and I performed well in Matric (final year of high school).

Many children in South Africa don't have this privilege. As we look at the state of maths and science in South Africa today, the picture is staggering. In this blog I explore the status of maths and science of the vast majority of South Africans and how we can help.

Only 16% of school leavers achieve the grades to start STEM studies

In the international TIMSS Assessment of Maths and Science achievement South Africa received close to the lowest score among participants in 2019 – just 370 points compared to 600 achieved by leading Singapore or Japan. Only 1% of those measured performed at an advanced level.

Over the past 14 years, the percentage of matrics writing science has dropped from 40% to 30%. Only 38% of matrics wrote maths, of which only 16% achieved a grade higher than 60%, which is required to study a Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM) degree.

Many learners are under-prepared despite passing at school, to even complete their first year at university. Professor Kakoma Luneta, professor of Mathematics at the University of Johannesburg, says "In every single maths and science exam in which South Africa has taken part, we have performed dismally. We might get distinctions because candidates have been drilled and coached in after-hours clinics and programmes, but the underlying conceptual understanding is not there, and this is why these students then find courses which require analysis at university level difficult."

Unfortunately, most schools do not have the resources, teachers or capacity to help learners navigate their maths and science curriculum, and learners are left stranded.

New math tutoring programme supported by Sawabona Africa

Children living in townships, and attending no-fee schools have an added disadvantage to succeeding in Maths and Science. In 2021 45% of children from these schools failed Maths. Note a mark of 30% is considered a pass. This is why we support PYMA, our partner charity, to help learners with maths and science. Last year we piloted a maths tutoring programme, offering matrics from Freedom Park to attend Saturday classes to help them prepare for their matric.

Phindile Nkosi from PYMA's Matric class 2023 says, "PYMA walked my academic journey with me and supported me to improve my grades. I attended the Maths and Sciences programme every Saturday. We received the best guidance from experts in maths and this made learning more effective". Phindile passed with two distinctions, and has been accepted at university.

Make maths and science approachable

Ritwika Chatterjee, PhD student in molecular biology, volunteers at Sawabona Africa to support PYMA's Math and Science programme. She sees the increase in STEM students as a way to support the development of South Africa.

This is how Ritwika describes the goal of the tutoring material: "Every student has a different learning pace. Often, many learners feel lost in the vast range of difficult topics taught in class and gradually lose interest in science and maths. By presenting concepts in a creative and easy to digest manner, students can benefit immensely especially while tackling their matric syllabus. Our goal is to make STEM subjects approachable and exciting to young learners, who could eventually drive South Africa towards a brighter future!"

Our wish for PYMA and the learners in Freedom Park

Our wish is to reach more learners and to create a learning hub for math and science. Thanks to a generous donation from EOS this year, PYMA has been able to hire 2 skilled tutors to provide extra tutoring to matrics with their maths and science studies.

In addition to creating learning materials, PYMA needs equipment for the maths and science hub. Most importantly computers so learners can access on line study materials. PYMA also plans to host maths and science career workshops to motivate learners to study maths and study STEM courses after school.

Join us in making a meaningful impact and help more children in South Africa enter STEM careers. Your help can come in many ways: join Ritwika and create learning materials for students, sign up as a sponsor of a tutor, or donate to our Maths and Science fundraising campaign.

Old URL: /maths-and-science/

Help for Lesotho's children – “My greatest wish: I want to go to school!”

Ulrike Völkmann: Member of Sawabona Africa e.V. and former board member of Yes we care! e.V. – Help for Lesotho's children (2011 – 2022)

If you ask children in Lesotho about their greatest wish, they almost always say: “I want to go to school!” – then their eyes light up with hope!

They really want to learn – but not only that: for many children in Lesotho, school is the only place where they can live in decent conditions, where they get food and clothing ... And they also learn for life (and survival): for themselves, for their classmates, their families and their communities.

In this blog I take a closer look at the situation in Lesotho, one of the poorest countries in the world and how we support local children in partnership with Help Lesotho.

Lesotho, “the kingdom in the sky”, is one of the poorest countries in the world. The state can therefore only finance the (rudimentary) elementary school – students have to pay to attend secondary school, as well as exam fees. Only a very small percentage of the population – especially in rural areas – can afford this.

Highest Aids Orphans

Lesotho's poverty is also reflected in the population's health. Many adults and children are HIV positive and suffer from AIDS. Lesotho has one of the highest rates of AIDS orphans in the world.

Many of these children have experienced unspeakable suffering and many of them can hardly or no longer be cared for by their other relatives. They therefore benefit enormously from being able to attend secondary school after elementary school. And: it is not uncommon for children supported by donations and/or school sponsorships to go on to set up social and innovative projects in their own country.

Anyone who – like me – has experienced the heart-warming gratitude and unbridled joy of life that attending a secondary school awakens in these children who have been shaken by life, knows deep down what it means to help these children.

From Yes we care! To Help Lesotho

I was privileged to be on the board of the association Yes we care! e.V. – Help for Lesotho's children. In addition to annual transport aid, improving nutrition with purchasing farm animals and the establishment of school vegetable gardens, construction of boarding school buildings, hunger relief campaigns during the Corona crisis, the largest project of Yes we care e.V. was the child sponsorship programme that enabled hundreds of children to attend high school and receive required psychosocial support. These

children would otherwise have had no chance at all.

Unfortunately, the activities of the association Yes we care! e.V. had to be terminated in 2021 – so I am infinitely grateful that Sawabona Africa is now continuing this commitment with its local partner organization Help Lesotho!

Help Lesotho is a Canadian aid organization that is permanently active on the ground in many regions of Lesotho. The employees of Help Lesotho therefore know exactly what is most urgently needed. In addition to school attendance (and basic medical care), this is often primarily psychosocial help. Sponsored children are regularly visited by trained supporters.

Leadership Camps

In addition, Help Lesotho regularly offers “leadership camps”. The camps focus on topics such as coping with trauma, dealing with sexualized violence, preventing HIV/AIDS, gender inequality, bullying, responsibility and soft skills training.

For the children sponsored by Yes we care! e.V., these camps were always the highlight of the year!

Sawabona Africa is currently supporting what I consider to be Help Lesotho’s three most important projects: school sponsorships, an education fund and the financing of leadership camps.

Would you also like to help the children in Lesotho? Please go to our donation page.

Old URL: /help-lesotho-blog/

No child should go to school hungry

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa e.V.

Hunger: A major challenge to learning

When asking children at our charity partner, PYMA, about one of the biggest challenges to learning, the first answer was hunger. Children cannot concentrate or learn on an empty stomach.

Thousands of children in South Africa go to school hungry every day. In this blog, I share some of the challenges faced in South Africa and how we are supporting children.

Given the overall growth of the economy, is South Africa really affected by child hunger? In the poorest areas of South Africa, children still die due to malnutrition. This is not just in rural areas, but food poverty also affects families living in townships. Our partner charity Phakamani Young Minds Academy (PYMA) runs its afterschool programme at Freedom Park, Soweto, one of these hotspots on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Child food poverty is particularly damaging in early childhood. Insufficient dietary intake of essential nutrients can severely impact child survival, physical growth, and cognitive development. The consequences last a lifetime: children deprived of good nutrition in early childhood do less well at school and have lower earning capacity in adulthood, and are trapped with their families in a cycle of poverty and deprivation.

For many children, the only meal is at school

For many children, the only meal they receive is at school. Unfortunately, many schools in South Africa do not provide meals, or if they do, it may be just a peanut butter sandwich – far from the nutritious food groups needed for development. Many children attending PYMA’s afterschool program arrive hungry and are unable to focus and take in their lessons with tutors.

To complicate matters, many children living in poverty are missing out on nutrient-rich foods, with unhealthy foods becoming entrenched in their diets. I have observed in South Africa, when children

attend a workshop, they receive a packet of chips, candy, and a sweet fizzy drink. While tasty and alluring, these are not recommended as the only meal a child may eat.

Nutritious meals for PYMA Learners

When we were invited to apply for grant funding for a kitchen, I jumped at the opportunity to offer all the learners at PYMA a nutritious meal once a day. Learners (aged 6 – 18) who attend the academy can arrive afterschool to the academy, and receive a nutritious meal and then attend their tutoring sessions. This meal will help them focus at their afternoon tutoring sessions and go home with a full belly. Tutors (some of whom receive only a small stipend) and staff, are also welcome to tuck in. With the grant being approved, and the kitchen in planning, all this will become a reality!

When asked how they felt about the new kitchen, one young learner said, “I am excited as I will no longer be hungry.”

Winnie, the Project Manager rolling out the kitchen project, says: “Having a kitchen at our afterschool programme means more than just meals; it means nourishing young minds, fostering a sense of community and providing the essential foundation for our learners to grow, learn and thrive each day”

Join Us in Making a Difference

I am excited to attend the kitchen’s opening, share a nutritious meal with the learners, and see a significant impact on their learning outcomes.

If you would like to support our work with PYMA, visit our PYMA page and support one of our projects. Thank you for considering our cause and for helping to bring meaningful support to the children of South Africa.

Old URL: /no-child-should-go-to-school-hungry/

From Germany to Soweto: An internship at PYMA

Diane Arvanitakis: Member of Sawabona Africa e.V.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” (Nelson Mandela)

Those most likely to be disadvantaged by low levels of literacy are children born into low-income households. Households with less disposable income have less exposure to the broad range of instruments that aid rich literacy such as books, cultural activities, storytelling, imaginative play and embodied games. In this blog Diane writes about her daughter Veyda’s internship at PYMA and how she helped with supporting school literacy challenges.

Phakamani Young Minds Academy (PYMA) was established in 2014 by Bokang Mokoena (then 19 years old) who recognised that literacy is a result of a wider community contribution to each child. PYMA lifts the burden of education from the shoulders of school teachers and parents. It helps hold and carry the curious young minds through its broad range of after school facilities and activities.

PYMA addresses the educational gap among disadvantaged learners and enriches their literacy through homework supervision, exam preparation with tutors, extra mural activities, career development guidance, and offers books and play equipment and a safe environment. It is a youth-led organisation that offers support to learners throughout their schooling career – from their foundation phase up to their final years of secondary schooling. Mentorship programme provides avenues for work readiness as high school graduates return to PYMA as tutors and mentors to continue the cycle of giving and receiving education.

PYMA is located in Devland, Freedom Park, Soweto. The township has a population of 1.92 million people, of which 98.5% are black and 0.1% each are indian, asian, and white. 60% of Sowetans (213

211) earn less than €164 per month, 20% of Sowetan households (71 070) have no income whatsoever and rely on the monthly social grant of €18 per month (R350). 37% of Sowetan households (131 480) earn up to €1313 per month are considered low income to emerging middle class households. Many rely on informal livelihoods including begging on street corners, waste collection, street trading, parking attendants to earn some income.

An opportunity for an internship at PYMA

At PYMA there is so much to do, and an extra head, heart and set of hands is welcomed. Being open to pioneering new approaches, PYMA piloted an internship experimenting with international cooperation. The concept of an internship during the high school years, so familiar to German scholars and their parents, is not common in South Africa. Only teachers and medical doctors are required to do internships during their studies. Sawabona Africa facilitated the placement of Veyda, a German learner from the Open Waldorf School Munich South-west as part of her Grade curriculum.

Veyda Magg (17 years) completed her three weeks internship at PYMA in April 2024. She is “born-free” in South Africa and she immigrated with her family to Munich in 2017. Born-free is a term used for all persons born after 1994 into the free and democratic nation after the long overdue demise of Apartheid.

Veyda chose to immerse herself in the Sowetan context by living with the founder of PYMA – Bokang Mokoena – and his 17 year old sister Teboho. Living in their home meant Veyda was treated to local delicacies including brains and mieliepap, oxtail stew and baked beans, the trending music on their drive in their car to and from the academy.

Veyda was motivated to work at PYMA by a need to “feel alive”, and be confronted with what it is like to live without the services many of us take for granted in our everyday lives, like uninterrupted electrical and water supply, public transport, and safety. In South Africa – due to the limited maintenance and development of the infrastructure that cannot keep up with the growing population and rapid urbanisation – loadshedding (rolling blackouts) is common since 2008.

In the midst of these challenges, the academy successfully operates out of five shipping containers that have been converted to classrooms (3 donated by Sawabona Africa e.V). Five staff members share two desks in one small office space. The 230 learners share 4 toilets (two for each gender) and newly installed play equipment. Funds for a kitchen have been secured by Sawabona Africa e.V, which can support a daily feeding programme.

Veyda occupied one of these seats in the mornings before learners arrived, and supported the PYMA team with administrative tasks. In the afternoons with the support of her mentor Thembi, she played a game of flash cards with the weakest readers in the primary school group with the aim of improving their reading. On Friday mornings she visited the neighbouring pre-school for story-time with the young children.

But, what made the biggest impression on Veyda is how PYMA achieves so much with the limited resources it has, largely because of its dedicated people.

“I am so happy to have been able to contribute in a small way to supporting literacy of children in Soweto. I am so grateful for the education opportunities I have received and wish the same for all children in South Africa” says Veyda.

Support PYMA in its efforts to bring equity and ultimately justice to children disadvantaged by a flawed education system. The ultimate goal as an organisation is to produce prominent members of society and young people lifting themselves out of the cycle of poverty and into tertiary education and/or employment.

Equal chances to start school in South Africa – an impactful visit to Impande

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa e.V.

“We will only see an equal tomorrow if children are given a fair chance in life.” This is the core focus of Impande who works in the poorest areas of South Africa, working at giving children who attend pre-school in the poorest communities in South Africa the best possible chances to start school on an equal footing. It was a true blessing to visit these rural areas of Kwa-Zulu Natal South Africa, and see the meaningful work of Impande. In this blog I share more.

A 2020 report issued by Unicef, analysing multi-dimensional poverty in South African children, revealed horrific results. The findings are such that 6 out of 10 children in South Africa are multidimensionally poor. These dimensions include access to water, sanitation, housing, nutrition, protection, health, child development and information. Among the most affected are children living in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo provinces. Children who live in households where the head has no formal schooling are overwhelmingly deprived.

The first 6 years of a child's life are critical to the wellbeing of a child's development. In my recent blog: School Start in South Africa, I discussed the findings from the THRIVEby5 report, reporting that 65% of children in South Africa who attend an Early Learning Programme (ELP) are not adequately prepared to start school due to inadequate Early Childhood Development (ECD) opportunities.

Making a meaningful impact in these communities.

It was with great delight that I was introduced to Impande by a friend, a charity working in Early Childhood Development in 2 of the most vulnerable provinces in South Africa – Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal (KZN).

Impande offers a wholistic approach to Early Childhood Development (ECD). This includes the provision of infrastructure to existing preschools – many operating out of a basic shack, training of teachers, equipping the schools with appropriate educational toys and books, provision of a nutritious meal to children. Impande supports ECD centres get registered so they can benefit from government grants and tracks their impact.

Seeing it with our own eyes

It is only real when one sees this with one's own eyes. My husband Claus and I gladly took up the invitation to visit Impande and see their work first hand in rural KZN.

KZN is a magnificent province, following the East Coast of South Africa (towards Mozambique) with rolling green hills which go as far as the eye can see. Communities are scattered across these hills. Impande is located in Port Shepstone, a small coastal town on the Southern Coast of KZN. We were greeted with a warm welcome from staff and were presented with the facts, figures and overview of the work Impande does.

The next day, our hosts drove us to a pre-school which is urgently in need of a new building. A tiny shack, a small kitchen and 1 toilet – which we call a long drop in South Africa as it does not flush. There was no playground for the children to play in when they take a break. Children have a few toys, and a very small dark space inside.

The contrast to a well-equipped pre-school built by Impande, which was our next stop, is astounding. A beautiful bright building with 2 classrooms, a porch to stay dry and eat meals, a kitchen, sickbay / office and a playground with a slide, see-saws and engaged children.

We wanted to see more. On the following day we were invited to take a drive to another pre-school to witness the coaching and teaching in action. I received my biggest welcome, reading classes, active play, valuable input provided to teachers on their teaching methods, a healthy meal. Children cleared up

their toys and put their empty dishes away.

Lasting Impressions

We left Impande and the beautiful landscapes of KZN imprinted on our brains, along with impressions that will stay for life: the engagement and benefit to children receiving quality pre-school education, and the sharp contrast of how it is when not. And mostly, a clear focus and intention to onboard Impande as one of our partner charities and get right onto start fundraising to build many more pre-schools in these under-resourced communities where help will go a long way.

Support our first classroom fundraiser.

Sources cited: UNICEF, ZAF multidimensional child poverty analysis policy brief, 7 July 2020; The Guardian, "Early years support for parents", 3 April 2023; Thrive by Five Index Report, thrivebyfive.co.za.

Old URL: /equal-chances-to-start-school-in-south-africa/

Breaking down sexual health barriers in Soweto South Africa

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa e.V. with Thembi Mahlunga and Winnie Mphafudi, PYMA staff

Many girls and women around the world suffer from the taboo surrounding sexuality, sexual health and sexual violence. They are left alone with questions about puberty, menstruation, contraception and gender-based violence. They often lack the knowledge and financial means to buy hygiene products or contraceptives. The consequences: Girls stay away from school during their periods and the rate of teenage pregnancies is high. In this blog, we show how PYMA in Soweto, South Africa, supported by Sawabona Africa, fights stigmatization and taboo with sexual health workshops, provides girls with urgently needed hygiene products and thus enables them to attend school regularly.

Globally, 650 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to sexual violence as children. This includes 1 in 8 who have experienced rape or sexual assault in childhood. Sub Saharan Africa (including South Africa) ranks high on this list.

In Freedom Park Soweto, home of PYMA, the reality faced by young women is no different and the impact is far reaching. We take a closer look into the real issues facing young women attending the afterschool programme and what we are doing to address this.

Breaking the Silence on Period Poverty

In communities around Soweto, many young girls are forced to stay home during their menstrual cycle because they cannot afford sanitary products. Period poverty affects their confidence, education, and overall well-being. Without access to basic hygiene, they fall behind in school, feel isolated, and struggle with their self-esteem.

Our sexual health workshops aim to break the silence around menstruation and provide education and resources. By offering sanitary products and addressing the shame attached to menstruation, we are helping young women take control of their health and dignity and to attend school.

Overcoming Bullying and Body Image Challenges

Bullying is a painful reality for many young girls in Soweto. Whether it's based on body image, personal hygiene, or social standing, bullying chips away at their self-esteem and often forces them into isolation. The effects of this social exclusion are long-lasting, leading to anxiety and a loss of confidence.

Our workshops don't just focus on sexual health; they also emphasize self-worth, body positivity, and respectful peer interactions. By creating safe spaces where girls can share their stories, we are fostering a supportive community that celebrates individuality. Every young girl deserves to feel valued,

no matter what she looks like.

The Hidden Crisis of Early Sexual Relationships

Peer pressure and the cultural environment in some parts of Soweto push many young women into early sexual relationships, exposing them to a range of sexual health risks. This pressure can lead to unplanned pregnancies, Sexually Transmitted Infections and emotional trauma.

The workshops provide vital education on consent, safe sex, and the importance of making informed decisions. By equipping young women with knowledge, we empower them to set boundaries and protect their futures. Every girl has the right to make choices about her own body without feeling coerced. Young men in the community also attend workshops educating them about women's rights and impulse control.

Combating Misinformation in Sexual Health

The stigma around sexual health in many communities leads to misinformation and harmful behaviors. In some cases, girls are afraid to seek out accurate information due to fear of judgment or backlash from their families or peers. This gap in knowledge puts them at greater risk of poor sexual health outcomes.

The purpose of the workshops is to dispel myths and promote accurate, open discussions around sexual health. We offer young women the tools to make informed decisions, ensuring that they have a clear understanding of their bodies and health. When we break down taboos, we help build healthier, more confident communities and an opportunity to talk to a social worker when a young girl needs counselling.

Balancing Domestic Responsibilities and Education

Many young girls in Soweto are expected to take on household chores and care for younger siblings, which limits their time and energy for school and to do homework. This imbalance hinders their academic performance and personal growth, making it difficult for them to envision a future beyond their immediate responsibilities.

Through our workshops, we not only address sexual health but also focus on life skills and goal setting. We want to help these girls prioritize their education, develop self-advocacy, and build the confidence to pursue their dreams.

Education the key to change lives

Through empowering the girls and boys who attend PYMA we can work together to change the dialogue, create a safe space to talk about issues that are mostly taboo in their communities. Empowering girls is only one part of the solution, young boys must be taught at an early age to understand the rights of women, and how to exercise restraint, and that no means no. Most importantly, education should be a priority for every girl, no matter what she faces at home, she should be empowered to attend school, have a voice to say no, and be given the best chance to grow and succeed to her full potential, and we are working on changing this for the young minds at PYMA.

Join us at Sawabona Africa and support these young women, by donating to PYMA, we can continue to host more workshops and touch more lives!

Source cited: UNICEF, "When Numbers Demand Action: Confronting the global scale of sexual violence against children".

Old URL: /sexual-health/

Celebrating project deliveries

Zilla Stekhoven: Founder of Sawabona Africa e.V.

It is a beautiful feeling when a year of hard work comes together and we can celebrate our successes. It is certainly a first for me, that on one visit to South Africa, I am gifted with 2 launch celebrations in one week.

In this blog, I invite you to join me to celebrate the handover of two incredible projects with our partner organisations PYMA and Impande.

Major changes were on the agenda for our partner organization PYMA this year. A kitchen was to be built to provide the pupils and staff with fresh food every day. A real luxury for many of PYMA's beneficiaries, as many families send their children to school with inadequate or no food, which leads to concentration problems and has a negative impact on learning and school success.

Once the excitement of the approval of the grant funding wears off, the real work to build the kitchen started. Everything was running smoothly until suddenly the neighboring building site announced they needed to lay their pipes through our land. After heated discussions and tears shed, eventually a commitment was reached to expedite the laying of pipes so we could continue. I could hear the shrieks of delight by the local project team when the truck rolled up with the kitchen components.

The kitchen is open

Along the way we bumped through gas compliance, water and sewerage connections, hiring a cook and planning a menu. Our brief was clear – school feeding guidelines to be followed, vegetables and healthy food should be served so learners would be nourished before they start their afterschool classes. For some children this is the only nutritious meal of the day.

As soon as I arrived from Germany, I went directly to PYMA to see the kitchen with my own eyes for the first time. It was amazing. The vegetable garden at the back was not fully set up, but the spinach was flourishing. I was so curious what Princess the cook would serve. This was kept a secret although I kept trying to tease this information out of Winnie, the project manager.

The next morning on Saturday, we were back on site and the preparations were well under way. While the food was being prepared, the children were celebrating by dancing and singing. The joy of the staff in the kitchen to serve their first meal using the new equipment was palpable.

I had the chance to join the parents of the learners and other guests to participate in an art class. Speeches spoke of what the kitchen means for PYMA afternoon classes. One of the biggest challenges so far, was that learners came hungry after school and struggled to concentrate in class as they were hungry. This will now change.

The food was incredible. We were served vegetarian mince, butternut, rice, mashed potatoes, creamed spinach and beetroot. What a feast! Learners kept coming back for more and more.

A few days later I heard that learners came early to the academy in anticipation of their meal.

What will stay with me is the silence and pure enjoyment of everyone eating the food, it was nourishing and delicious. The children ate as much as adults or even more. This kitchen was launched just in time for the preparation for final exams of the year. Learning with a full stomach will make studying so much easier for learners.

The project does not stop here, continually training children on the need to eat nutritious food, trying to change eating habits and building up the own supply of the kitchen with vegetables from the garden does not happen overnight. But, how much easier is it when the nutritious food actually tastes that good and is not dependent on expensive ingredients.

Next stop after PYMA was Impande where I would be able to celebrate the opening of a Pre-School in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

A pre-school in Kwa-Zulu Natal

One of the biggest challenges in South Africa is the lack of or inadequacy of Early Childhood Development facilities. I wrote about this in earlier blogs. Our new partner charity, Impande, is working at changing this. As a pilot for the Sawabona Africa on-boarding, I worked with donors in South Africa to build a new pre-school in Slindakuhle.

At my visit at the beginning of the year, the pre-school consisted of a corrugated sheeting shack, where children sat listless on the floor in a dark room, there were no playgrounds and only a pit toilet.

Thanks to the efficient infrastructure model of Impande, the time from the release of funds to completion took less than 6 months. The timing of my visit was perfect, as the classroom had now been completed. The pre-school, I learned, was the first to have pour-flush toilets integrated in the school building. A kitchen to prepare food, outside playground equipment and a covered balcony for outside activities completed the set up. The energy of the children had changed: They were engaged, had more energy. Their interaction with the teachers was more attentive and engaged.

In the opening speech, the school principal could hardly speak as she was so emotional. I was overwhelmed with feelings, too. We were able to enjoy time with children in the playground before setting off to visit new sites that require the same transformation.

With a new building, the work is not yet finished. Impande sends their staff to mentor, tutor and support the Slindakuhle pre-school. They will monitor and report the learning outcomes according to their impact goals.

I am super excited to be able to keep going back for more such launches as we collectively raise funds for many more such Pre-Schools with Impande.

Support our meaningful work.

Old URL: /celebrating-projects/
