

Sawabona Africa e.V.

Press Releases Archive

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

A note on this document: These entries are preserved in plain text form only — not the original page layout, images, or formatting. This archive exists as a safety net: if anyone ever needs to verify Sawabona Africa's public history or statements, the substance is documented here even after the original web pages are gone.

Press Releases

PR-COM takes on PR work for Sawabona Africa

19 July 2023 — Munich

The Munich-based communications agency PR-COM is now serving Sawabona Africa as a pro bono client. The non-profit organization cares for disadvantaged children in South Africa as well as Lesotho and provides them with access to education. The cooperation covers a wide range of communication measures – from classic PR work to social media activities.

In the last three years, there has been a lot of discussion in Germany about educational equality and equal opportunities. In the process, it has often been overlooked that in many parts of the world children are denied the start to a better life through education. In South Africa, the era of apartheid is now more than 30 years old – yet the social differences in schools are still immanent. 80 percent of all fourth graders cannot read properly and most children and young people leave school without an educational qualification. As a result, two-thirds of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are unemployed and nearly 50 percent of people of color live below the poverty line, according to Amnesty International.

Sawabona Africa – Sawabona stands for the African greeting “I respect you. I value you. You are important to me.” – aims to give disadvantaged children access to a good education. The non-profit organization works locally with carefully selected charitable organizations, which Sawabona Africa helps to raise funds and organize partnerships. The funds are passed on directly to the individual programs of the organizations. To prevent abuse and corruption, Sawabona Africa subjects the charities it supports to a multi-stage due diligence process: This includes a detailed initial screening as well as regular checks after the partnership has been concluded. Currently supported organizations include Bright Start's education and mentoring programmes, PYMA (Phakamani Young Minds Academy) after-school education programme in Soweto, Help Lesotho's school sponsorship and learning support programme and Uthando (Love), which raises funds for the community through fair trade tourism.

“Thanks to my family environment and my education, all opportunities were open to me. I would like to give something back from that and give South Africans who don't have those opportunities the chance for a better future,” explains Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa e.V. A South African-educated lawyer with postgraduate studies in psychology, Stekhoven has worked internationally in many fields, including as a director at adidas in Germany, before founding Sawabona Africa in 2021. “Corruption in South Africa is pervasive and leads to a lot of negative press. At the same time, there is a great willingness to support those who urgently need help. My goal was to create a platform where people could donate to South African charities without hesitation and without any administrative fees being withheld. Together with PR-COM, we want to raise awareness of Sawabona Africa.”

“Good ideas simply deserve to be heard. That's why we are now supporting Sawabona Africa with customized concepts for successful communications and public relations work,” adds PR-COM

Managing Director Alain Blaes. "If a non-profit organization wants to reach more people and thus fulfill its social mission, consulting by experienced experts is important. However, this advice costs money – money that is then missing elsewhere. We look forward to creating pro bono awareness for Sawabona Africa and thus making our contribution to greater educational justice."

About PR-COM

PR-COM in Munich is an expert in PR, social media and communications and focuses on the high-tech and IT industry in the B2B environment. Unconditionally high quality is the top priority for all 45 colleagues. As a result, our consultants inspire their clients with the success they achieve month after month in the media and the trust that makes collaboration so valuable. Our 9-strong editorial team impresses with its many years of IT expertise coupled with journalistic skills. Because we find nothing more boring than conventional communication, we always go the extra mile and put our heart and soul into working on new strategies and ideas for our 45 customers. We know: Behind every strong agency is a strong team. That's why we do everything we can to ensure that our employees feel comfortable and can develop further. For us, standing still is not an option.

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No future without school: Sawabona Africa gives children access to education

20 September 2023 — Munich

The motto of this year's World Children's Day on 20 September is "Every child needs a future". The fact is that hundreds of millions of girls and boys are not in school because they are excluded. In South Africa, too, a good education is an unattainable dream for many children. The non-profit organisation Sawabona Africa wants to change this and supports local aid organisations to give young people a future.

The first day of school is a very special occasion for both children and parents. For the little ones, the adventure of school begins. But while hundreds of thousands of children in Germany have taken their first steps into a new life in recent weeks, the situation in South Africa is very different. The government is investing money in education and trying to redress the injustices that still exist between black and white children. But there exist still huge problems in the country. There are schools without water, toilets or electricity. In many places, children do not receive school books and materials. In addition, teachers are poorly trained, poorly paid and regularly go on strike. As a result, the standard of education continues to decrease.

The numbers are dramatic

At the beginning of the year, the UN warned of an education crisis. 41 million of the 165 million school-age children in eastern and southern Africa are not receiving an adequate education. The consequences are dramatic: only a tenth of 10-year-olds can read and understand a simple text, the lowest reading level in the world. And this deplorable state of affairs runs like a thread through the rest of their lives: According to the World Bank, South Africa has the highest unemployment rate in the world. According to official statistics, the rate for 15 to 24-year-olds is 61 per cent, and 71 per cent if all those who are not economically active are included.

Every cent directly supports the education of the children

Sawabona Africa – Sawabona is the African greeting "I respect you. I appreciate you. You are important to me." – aims to give disadvantaged children access to a good education. The non-profit organisation works with carefully selected local charities. The funds go directly to the individual programmes. To prevent abuse and corruption, Sawabona Africa subjects the charities it supports to a multi-stage due diligence process: This includes a detailed initial screening as well as regular checks after the

partnership has been established.

Organisations currently supported include Bright Start's education and mentoring programmes, PYMA (Phakamani Young Minds Academy) after-school education programme in Soweto, Help Lesotho's school sponsorship and learning support, and Uthando (Love), which raises money for the community through fair trade tourism.

"Time is running out. We need to invest much more in the education, development and protection of young people," says Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa e.V. The South African-educated lawyer has worked internationally in many fields, including as a director at adidas in Germany, before founding Sawabona Africa in 2021. "Corruption in South Africa is widespread and leads to a lot of negative press. At the same time, there is a great willingness to help those in need. My goal was to create a platform where people can donate to South African charities without hesitation and without any administrative fees."

Old URL: /no-future-without-school/

Sawabona Africa and PYMA launch third container classroom

2 November 2023 — Munich

The non-profit organisation Sawabona Africa has launched a third container classroom together with Phakamani Young Minds Academy (PYMA), an after-school facility for disadvantaged children in Soweto. Containers are a quick and easy solution to give more girls and boys a better life through education.

While in Germany, containers are used as a short-term but unpopular solution for increased student numbers or during reconstruction, in other regions of the world, these 'mobile classrooms' are the only way to provide additional learning space relatively quickly and easily. With the help of donations, Sawabona Africa and PYMA have put a new container classroom into use, complete with equipment. For the people of Soweto, the largest township in South Africa, the "new building" is of great significance: Just in time for the last term and the final exams, it offers the children supported by PYMA more space to prepare. In addition, 50 girls and boys can now enrol for the 2024 school year. The number of tutors, who are graduates of the programme or students at the University of Johannesburg and receive a paid stipend for tutoring, will also increase.

No education without after-school programmes

In South Africa today, almost every girl and boy is enrolled in school. But one in two children drops out before Grade 12 without completing their education. Literacy and numeracy levels are appallingly low by international standards due to catastrophic learning conditions: Overcrowded classrooms, lack of materials and poorly qualified teachers are common in public institutions. In addition, many children come from homes where they receive no educational support.

Against this background, it is unrealistic to expect that good education can be achieved through public schools alone. After School Programmes (ASPs) fill the gap by supplementing public school education with academic and psychosocial support, and by providing a safe place for children to learn and play. The Phakamani Young Minds Academy (PYMA) targets disadvantaged children in Soweto, South Africa. In addition to state education, girls and boys of all grades receive tutoring with a focus on literacy and numeracy, homework help and mentorship. Parallel support for parents also plays an important role in promoting the children's success at school.

"The new classroom will enhance the future of the students in our after-school programme. It will unlock their knowledge and dreams. And we can continue to increase the number of children who benefit," says Mthandazo Khumalo, Executive Director of PYMA. "We look forward to the wondrous journey this

classroom will enable us to take. We are very grateful to Sawabona Africa for their support”.

“Seeing children excited about learning and seizing their opportunities has fascinated us. An investment in the ASP sector is an investment in the future, in order to eliminate inequalities and promote social justice,” adds Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa e.V. A South African-educated lawyer, she has worked internationally in many fields, including as a director at adidas in Germany, before founding Sawabona Africa in 2021. “Two years ago we financed a classroom for PYMA with donations. But it quickly became too small, and the new container has given us more space. But we haven’t reached our goal yet – we are already raising funds for another classroom to give all the children on the waiting list a good education.”

More impressions from students, tutors and staff

“This new classroom is a real change - especially for us students who benefit from the PYMA programme. It will improve our learning environment and allow us to work effectively with our teachers.”
— Tshidi Januarie

“This classroom means a lot to me because it gives us an additional opportunity to improve our educational opportunities. Also, other children who want to participate in PYMA’s programmes will now have the opportunity to do so”. — Ntokozo Fakude

“The young people now have enough space to learn, before the classes were held in a very small space”. — Keketso Poo

“The new classroom makes it easier for us to create a quality learning environment. The children have enough space to work together and develop both academically and socially.” — Khanyisa Dokolwane

“The new classroom will enable us to reach even more young people who need our support. In this place of learning, creativity and inspiration, children can pursue their passions, receive academic support and develop important skills for their future.” — Luthando Ntantiso

“With this new classroom we want to create an inspiring environment that encourages creativity and a love of learning.” — Khotso Ramushu

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South Africa’s unequal fight for education

12 December 2023 — Munich

The apartheid era is almost 30 years old. But the social differences in South Africa’s schools are still glaring and the figures on the quality of education are dramatic. The non-profit organisation Sawabona Africa has compiled the key facts.

In 1953, the Bantu Education Act was passed – a law that cemented racist ideology in South African schools. Blacks were to receive only a rudimentary education: Apart from basic reading, writing and arithmetic, the emphasis was on practical skills such as cooking, cleaning, handicrafts and gardening. The idea was to learn only what the regime deemed necessary to work as unskilled labourers. Those days are long gone – but there is still no equality in education. Sawabona Africa explains why:

Many do not have access to a good education. The good news is that South Africa has one of the highest school enrolment rates on the continent, at almost 100 per cent. However, the majority of children, around 75 per cent, depend on public institutions. Most of these charge little or no fees and are therefore the only option for socially disadvantaged families – but they are nowhere near the level of the well-resourced educational institutions, whether private or state. The South African government’s massive funding programmes have done nothing to change this: It invests about 20 per cent of public funds in education to address inequalities, but without much success. Another problem is that there are no uniform educational standards, as each province supports its schools differently, depending on its economic viability and prosperity.

South Africa is at the bottom of the education league table. The quality of education is disproportionate to the amount of money the state invests in the school system. Children usually start school at the age of seven and remain in primary school until grade seven. They then move on to secondary school, which ends after the twelfth grade and allows them to go to university if they pass their exams. However, due to poor learning conditions, poverty and lack of support at home, every second child drops out of school without a qualification. Reading, writing and arithmetic skills are also shockingly low by international standards: according to the PIRLS report, only 19 per cent of fourth graders can read and understand a text. Conversely, this means that 81 per cent of children are unable to cope. The situation is not much better when it comes to mathematical and scientific literacy. According to the latest TIMSS rankings, a significant proportion of South African students do not even have the basic skills required for the next level of schooling. It doesn't help that the already low matric standards are lowered in bad years to allow more students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pass.

Poorly equipped classrooms make learning difficult. The fact that the standard of education in South Africa is still so low is due to the disastrous learning conditions in public schools. Buildings are usually in a dilapidated state and there are still schools without electricity, water or toilets. Classrooms are also overcrowded, with up to 100 children per classroom. In many places there are no textbooks, classes are often cancelled, there are no back-up classes and homework is rare. Another problem is that the best teachers tend to work in government schools or institutions, where school fees are higher and salaries better. As a result, it is almost impossible for socially disadvantaged students to break the cycle of poor education and poor future prospects. However, numerous studies show that there is a causal link between well-funded schools and good results: in financially strong provinces, significantly more children complete their schooling and do so with significantly better grades. In other educational institutions, however, not a single student passes the matriculation exam.

Without an education, the path to a better future is blocked. The quality of schooling has a significant impact on the future development opportunities of young people. A school-leaving qualification gives better access to the labour market. School leavers with qualifications are twice as likely to find a job as those without. A university degree even triples the chances of finding a well-paid job. However, South Africa is still a long way from achieving this: according to the World Bank, the country has the highest unemployment rate in the world. According to official statistics, the rate is 61 per cent for 15- to 24-year-olds, and 71 per cent if all economically inactive people are included. As a result, almost half of the population lives below the poverty line.

“The South African education system is an unfair two-tier system. Families who can afford it send their children to fee-paying institutions or expensive private schools. For the majority of the population, however, the costs are far too high and they can only access the generally poorly equipped public school system. As you can see, far too many children drop out of school prematurely and without any qualifications. This shatters their dreams of a better future,” says Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa e.V. A graduate lawyer in South Africa, she worked internationally in many fields before founding Sawabona Africa in 2021. “We urgently need a far-reaching transformation of the school system in South Africa. This includes standardised training for all teachers, equal distribution of funding and the rapid expansion of schools with the necessary infrastructure. In the meantime, container classrooms for extra-curricular programmes are an important and quick solution to compensate for the lack of education in many areas of South Africa: After their regular lessons, the children receive tuition in writing, reading and maths.”

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School education in Germany and South Africa: a comparison

11 January 2024 — Munich

The education systems in South Africa and Germany are as different as the children themselves. The two countries differ significantly when it comes to starting school or the type of school. But what about the level of education or home schooling? Sawabona Africa makes a comparison.

In Germany, people like to complain about the lack of education. It is true that the Scandinavians have been at the forefront of digital learning for years – teaching with PCs, tablets and interactive apps. But the international perspective makes it clear that, despite the recent Pisa debacle, the local school system is not in such a bad position. The non-profit organisation Sawabona Africa, which campaigns for better education in South Africa, highlights the differences and similarities between the two countries.

Start of school. As in all countries in the southern hemisphere, the school year begins in January and ends in December. Specifically, South African children start in mid-January and finish in the first week of December. The winter holidays are in July and August. In Germany, school starts are staggered: in 2024, Thuringia will be the first German state to start school on 1 August, with Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg bringing up the rear in mid-September.

In South Africa, children between the ages of five and six can attend pre-school. The government plans to make this grade R (or 0) compulsory in the future. The serious side of life then begins with primary school, which, unlike in Germany, runs from Grade 1 to Grade 7. Secondary school, from Year 8 to Year 12 (Year 13 in some private institutions), is known as high school. In Germany, after primary school, which usually ends with Year 4, children can attend a secondary school called a Hauptschule or Gesamtschule, a Realschule or Gymnasium, depending on the federal state. The final choice of school depends on the child's current level of learning.

Level of education. At the turn of the year there was a huge uproar: German pupils performed worse than ever before in the Pisa study. In reading, maths and science, the country's schools achieved the lowest scores ever measured for Germany by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Nevertheless, the level of education in Germany is very high by international standards: In South Africa, poor facilities in many schools, poverty and a lack of support at home mean that every second child leaves school without a certificate. According to the PIRLS report, four out of five fourth graders are unable to read and comprehend a text. According to the latest TIMSS ranking, many students lack even basic knowledge in mathematics and science.

Compulsory schooling. In South Africa, schooling is compulsory from the age of seven (Grade 1) to the age of 15 (Grade 9). However, compulsory education is not enforced and the government is considering penalising parents for non-compliance. In Germany, compulsory schooling begins in the following school year for all children who have reached the age of six on the reference date of a given year. Compulsory schooling lasts nine or ten years, depending on the federal state, including the repetition of one grade. A breach of compulsory school attendance is considered a misdemeanour and is punishable by a fine. In some federal states, such as Hamburg, Hesse or Saarland, parents can be prosecuted with a prison sentence of up to six months.

Homeschooling is allowed in South Africa. Parents register their children for exams at a school. In Germany, on the other hand, apart from distance learning during the Corona period, homeschooling in the sense of permanent schooling by parents is not permitted. There are frequent legal disputes, but exemption is only possible in strictly regulated special cases, such as illness.

Single-sex schools. Schools for boys or girls only are common in many parts of South Africa. In the 1960s and 1970s, coeducation became the norm, with a few exceptions. Coeducation was intended to improve equal opportunities. In recent years, this approach has been increasingly questioned – with the argument that boys are pushing girls into the background, especially in maths and science. Although experts disagree on this point, there are still schools that separate certain subjects by gender.

School Uniform. Wearing a school uniform is compulsory in all public schools in South Africa. The dress code is set by the institutions themselves – for example, a combination of white shirt, vest, knee-length skirt and black shoes is required for girls. Boys, on the other hand, often wear long grey trousers in winter and short grey trousers in summer, as well as a white shirt, tie, waistcoat, black shoes and blazer. In Germany, school uniforms are a recurring topic of discussion. However, the Association for Education and Training (VBE) sees uniforms as an encroachment on parents' and children's right to self-determination. In addition, school uniforms would not prevent social exclusion and would place an unnecessary burden on financially weak households.

Getting to school. Although parents in this country complain, students in South Africa generally have a much harder time getting to school. There are few privately funded school buses and public transport is unreliable. In poorer areas in particular, there is no transport, meaning that children have to walk an hour or more to get to school. In Germany, guidelines such as the School Transport Ordinance (SchBefV) apply: As a rule, a distance of one kilometre to school is considered reasonable for first graders. Otherwise, transport is compulsory, even if the route is particularly dangerous or the child's health is impaired. According to a recent ADAC study, half of German schoolchildren almost always walk to school, or at least to the bus stop. A quarter use the school bus and one in five use the public bus. Depending on the weather, this is followed by cycling or parental taxis.

School meals. With the increase in all-day schooling in Germany, more and more children are eating lunch at school. Canteen meals do not have the best reputation, even though many school authorities set high quality standards, for example by demanding regional products in organic quality. Children in South Africa can only dream of this: schools in low-income areas offer special meal programmes. However, the combination of a peanut butter sandwich and oros (concentrated orange syrup mixed with water) is not a prime example of a healthy eating and is still the only meal of the day for many children.

"The education system in South Africa is facing major problems. Parents who can afford it send their children to public schools. These offer a much higher level of education than most state institutions. But this also means that the children's future is linked to the wealth of their parents," explains Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa. Trained as a lawyer in South Africa, Stekhoven worked internationally in many fields before founding Sawabona Africa in 2021. "The children still enjoy going to school. They have high hopes of eventually getting a well-paid job. Enormous efforts are needed to really improve the standard of education in South Africa. The financial requirements – whether from the government or private donations – are also enormous."

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Sawabona Africa funds educational projects in Soweto, South Africa

11 April 2024 — Munich

A canteen kitchen with a vegetable garden, educational equipment for training centres and workshops on sexual health – these are the projects supported by the non-profit organization Sawabona Africa in Freedom Park, a township in Soweto, South Africa. A donation of almost €100,000 has come at just the right time.

Education and healthy nutrition are key to enabling children to participate in society. Sawabona Africa is supporting the Phakamani Young Minds Academy (PYMA) in Freedom Park, a township in South Africa, with a donation of almost €100,000.

Construction of a canteen kitchen and vegetable garden

The construction of a fully equipped canteen kitchen and vegetable garden will provide healthy food for 250 students and 20 staff members. In the future, the capacity can be expanded to serve a further 500

people. Approximately €56,000 has been budgeted for the construction, employment of two cooks and food for one year.

Educational equipment for 24 ECD centres for young children

Local Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres often lack educational materials. Books and educational toys will be purchased with a budget of approximately €16,000. These are important to support children in their early childhood development (fine motor skills, reading and math). More than 1,500 children in 24 ECD centres will benefit from improved equipment.

Quarterly workshops on sexual health

Gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy and a lack of knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases – workshops for students in grades seven to twelve address these common issues in South Africa. Working with an external workshop provider cost around €20,000. As part of the workshops, students have the opportunity to interact with social workers. They also receive a care package containing hygiene products and contraceptives.

“Many children and young people in Soweto are excluded from quality education,” says Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa e.V. “The donations that we now use in PYMA’s projects improve many of the conditions that determine learning success.”

“The construction of the kitchen is a very important milestone for us,” says Bokang Mokoena, founder and board member of PYMA. “We will be able to prepare healthy meals for 250 students and create jobs in our community.”

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A fair start in life: Sawabona Africa launches new partner charity for early childhood development classrooms

23 June 2024 — Munich

Sawabona Africa is now supporting the charity Impande to provide children in the poorest regions of South Africa with better educational opportunities. The new partnership will kick off with a fundraising campaign to raise money for infrastructure projects.

Promoting early child development (ECD) plays an important role, especially in countries where girls and boys are denied access to good education due to poverty. ECD centers are critical in the provision of learning and play environments in which society’s youngest children are prepared for the start of school. In South Africa, nearly two-thirds of children 0-5 years (3.3 million) do not have access to an Early Learning Programme. (ECD Census, South Africa, 2021).

Mission: A fair start in life

An important player in this environment is Impande Yotshani (Impande). The charity operates in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, both of which are among the poorest regions in South Africa. Impande supports local ECD centres to provide quality learning programmes to ensure greater educational equality. To fully qualify based on government standards and to receive subsidies for learning centres, appropriate and safe infrastructure needs to be provided. This ranges from a classroom with age-appropriate learning materials and toys, a hygienic food preparation area (kitchen), an area where a sick child may be temporarily isolated from others, safe, toilet facilities, and fencing to enclose outdoor areas.

Goal: Building new classrooms

As part of the partnership with Impande, Sawabona Africa is seeking donations for infrastructure projects. The goal is to build new, suitably equipped classrooms and the required infrastructure.

In line with Sawabona Africa's specially developed due diligence process, Impande's model was fully examined and verified. All donations collected go directly to the program. Sawabona Africa charges no administration fees and reports regularly and transparently on the progress of donations.

"This partnership is another important step towards our goal of giving disadvantaged children in South Africa a better life," explains Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa. The South African-trained lawyer worked internationally in many areas before founding Sawabona Africa in 2021. "With Impande's expertise, influence and capabilities, we can ensure that financial resources are used effectively and achieve long-term impact in the education of Africa's youngest children."

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Allianz Children's Foundation donates to a school project in South Africa

October 2024 — Munich

The Allianz Children's Foundation gGmbH is supporting a school project in Heideveld, a previously under-resourced community in Cape Town in South Africa. The donation will go towards the building of an Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD). Children from socially disadvantaged families will be supported at this pre-school. The project is backed by the non-profit organisations Uthando (Love) South Africa und Sawabona Africa.

In the poorer regions of the world, particularly in the townships of South Africa, access to high-quality early childhood education is severely limited. The newly Early Childhood Development Centre / Pre-school in Heideveld will close this gap. The ECD centre will provide 100 children under the age of six a high-quality learning and play environment in which the youngest members of society are prepared for the start of school.

The donation from the Allianz Children's foundation will go towards the development of the centre. This includes a playground with climbing frames to provide girls and boys with child-friendly exercise opportunities. Another focus is the training teachers according to Montessori principles. The funds are used both for further training and for the provision of appropriate educational materials. The programme will be professionally monitored to ensure that the investments have a long-term positive impact on the children's development.

The construction is environmentally friendly and creates jobs

As part of the Goal50 project, the ECD centre is built from sustainable materials that are sourced locally. These include car tyres filled with building rubble for the exterior walls, plastic bottles filled with waste for the interior walls, as well as polyurethane sheeting, film set waste and other recycled materials. Not only are natural buildings more sustainable, the project also supports the local economy and provides work for local residents. As part of the Montessori programme, unemployed women from the community will also be trained and employed as ECD teachers.

On site in Cape Town, the project is overseen by Uthando (Love) South Africa. This non-profit organisation offers an award-winning model for responsible tourism and philanthropy: as part of a half-day excursion, visitors get to know various community projects and the people behind them personally. These are projects in different townships: Day care centres and pre-schools, environmental and agricultural programmes, youth development and care, retirement homes and animal welfare. The organisation uses its global networks to generate donations and facilitate exchange between local initiatives and international supporters. The central project partner is Sawabona Africa. The non-profit organisation acts as a communication interface, takes care of all contractual aspects and ensures that every cent of a donation reaches the project. Sawabona Africa supports various charitable organisations in southern Africa, which are checked and verified.

Feedback from Project Partners

'We are very proud to support the construction of a brand-new centre for early childhood development in Cape Town. Early education and support are the key to giving disadvantaged children in South Africa better opportunities for the future. In addition to providing a good start in life with a good pre-school education, it is also about offering the girls and boys a protected space in which they can develop freely,' explains Dr Hans-Christoph Dölle, Managing Director of Allianz Children's Foundation gGmbH.

'Many children in South Africa grow up in difficult social and economic circumstances. We want to give them hope and prospects with this project,' emphasises James Fernie, founder of Uthando (Love) South Africa. 'The boys and girls can prepare for the start of school in a safe and stimulating learning environment. Parents can rest assured that their children are well looked after. The local residents get work. In addition, the ecological design also protects the environment.'

'We are grateful for the trust and support we have received from the Alliance Children's Foundation gGmbH foundation,' says Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Sawabona Africa. The South African-educated lawyer worked internationally in many fields before founding Sawabona Africa in 2021. 'This project shows once again how international cooperation can lead to positive change in local communities. With Uthando (Love) South Africa, we have an organisation at our side that shares our values and helps where help is needed – directly in the townships of Cape Town.'

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Impact at record level: Sawabona Africa publishes Annual Report 2024

30 April 2025 — Munich

Swababona Africa presents its 2024 Annual Report. Launched three years earlier, the association raised a total of €384,000 in donations in 2024, funding: a kitchen (236 children no longer learn on an empty stomach); learning materials for 24 ECD centres benefiting 1,847 children, with 48 teachers trained; a sustainable kindergarten under Goal50 serving 100 pre-school children; and continued mathematics/science and Lesotho graduation programmes (100 pupils).

Swababona Africa works with five partner charities: PYMA, Help Lesotho, Bright Start, Uthando (Love) South Africa, and Impande.

"In just three years, we have managed not only to mobilize impressive financial resources, but also to create real educational opportunities... because every cent counts," explains Zilla Stekhoven, founder of Swababona Africa.

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